



Befriend a Book at Gladstone's Library

Book list 2024



What is Befriend a Book?

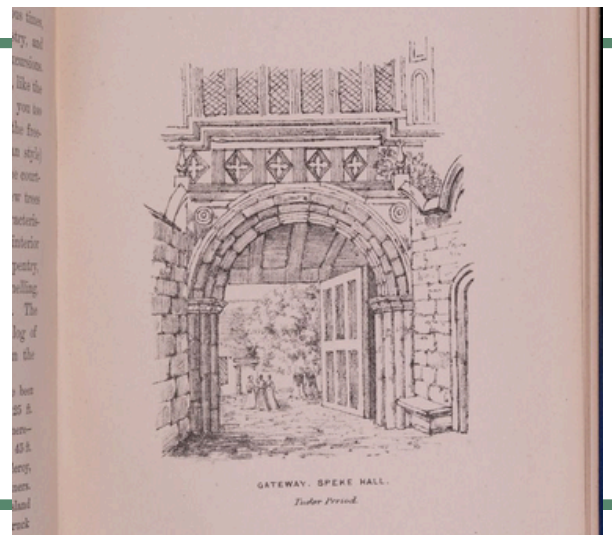


The Befriend a Book scheme at Gladstone's Library gives you the chance to support the conservation of one of the UK's most significant nineteenth-century collections.

Based around the personal library of prime minister William Ewart Gladstone, our collection of books, manuscripts, images and illustrations was first brought together in the 1880s.

The average book in our collections is 150 years old, so it is understandable that some of them need a little TLC.

You can support the conservation of a book in our collection by donating to our Befriend a Book campaign.

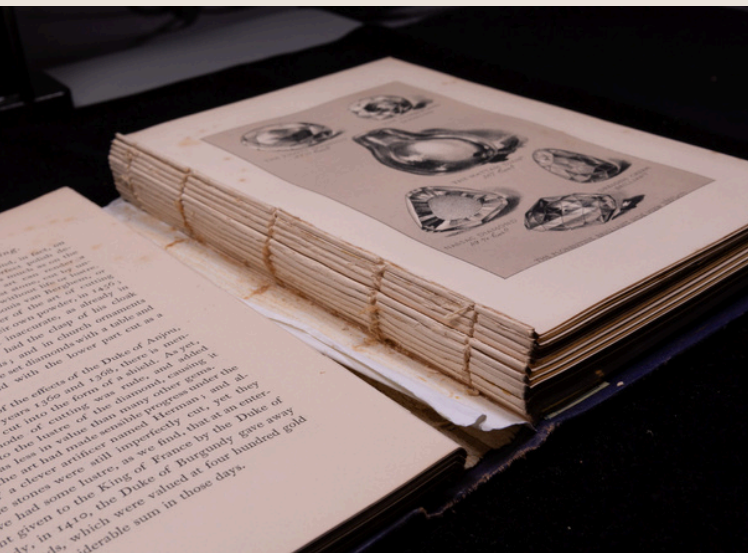




Befriending a Book

We have identified some specific books that are in need of repair, listed in this guide.

The cost of befriending a book in need depends on the level of conservation required. Donation costs start at £150.



Your donation will help Gladstone's Library to have your chosen book repaired by a qualified bookbinder. This could include repairs to pages and bindings, and reattaching covers or spines.

To visit our donation page and Befriend a Book please scan the QR code or visit:
<https://www.gladstoneslibrary.org/befriend-a-book>



Befriend a book: how it works

- Choose a book to conserve from the guide (each book is individually priced)
- Visit our Befriend a Book donation page:
<https://gladstoneslibrary.enthuse.com/befriendabook>



- Select your chosen book from the list
- Complete your details and make your donation
- We will send you your certificate and print
- The book will then be sent off for conservation!



When you befriend a book by making a donation, you will receive:

A print and e-certificate in the name of your choice detailing the book you've chosen

A chance to book an informal meeting with our Librarian, to visit your book and discuss the work that has been completed

A note in the Library's catalogue, marking you as the Friend of that book

A print of a page, illustration, or binding of your chosen book

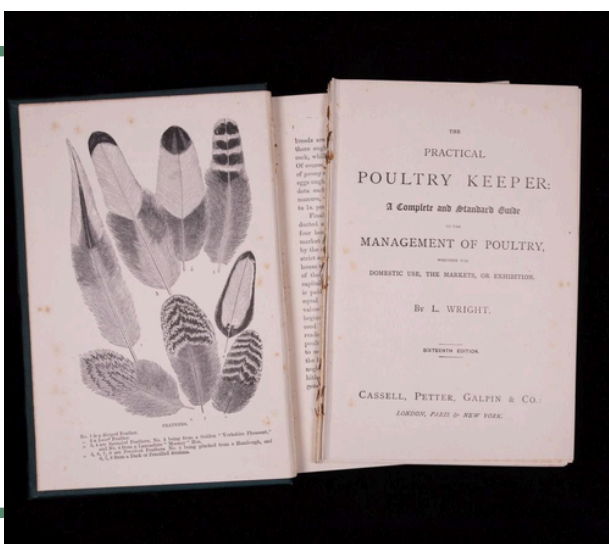


Why these books?




The books on this list are all from our historic special collections. Many of them come from William Gladstone's own collection of books which he gave as the foundation of the library. He wanted his books to be accessible to read by anyone, and we hope to continue to fulfil that wish by conserving these items.

We also hold a large number of nineteenth-century items in other special collections, and some of these are in need of repair. We need your help to make sure that these historic books are available for years to come.

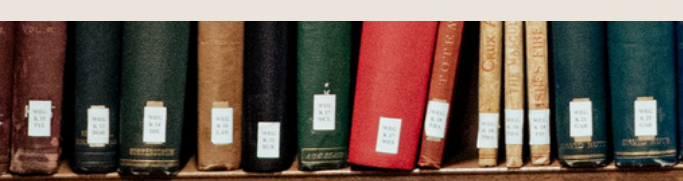





What is conservation?



Here at the Library, we work every day to preserve the books in our collection and make them available to readers 100 years from now. In some instances, though, individual items need more intensive repair, for example, to fix a damaged binding. This work is called **conservation**, and requires specialist skills.



The books in this list are of historic importance beyond just the text they contain: their covers and endpapers can tell us so much about the history of reading, their former owners, or the path they took to get here.

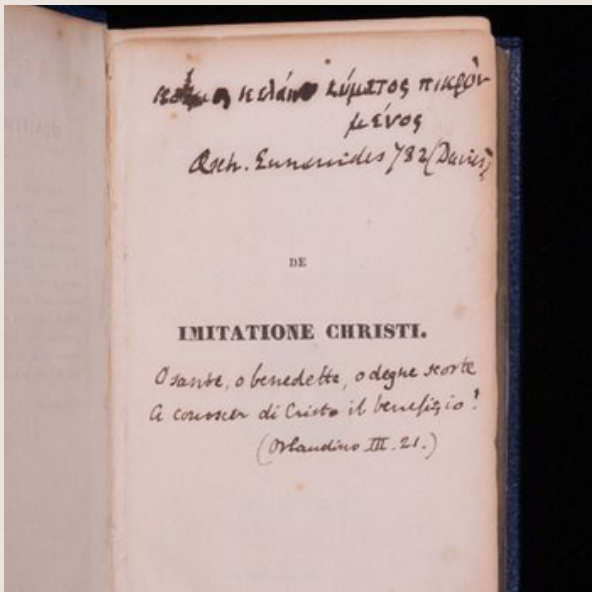


We are working with historic bookbinders to retain as much of the historic material as possible. This often requires specialist work, and can be more costly than simply replacing a binding with new materials, but we feel this is a small price to pay to maintain the historic nature of our collections.

De imitatione Christi, libri quator

by Thomas a Kempis

Thomas a Kempis was a Christian theologian living during the later medieval period. This text is the fourth book of The imitation of Christ, one of the most influential and popular Christian devotional works.



It was inspired by the Devotio Moderna spiritual movement, which encouraged a return to simple piety and internal reflection. William Gladstone owned multiple copies of this text, many of which he annotated, and he records reading Kempis throughout his life.

This copy is pocket-sized, making it ideal for taking with you on the move. The fourth book talks about the 'blessed Sacrament', so Gladstone may have taken this with him to chapel for Communion. This copy was printed in Mechelen, a town in Belgium which was the home of two late medieval bibliophiles, Margaret of York and Margaret of Austria, both of whom patronised early European printing.



Classmark: WEG/F 37.1/KEM

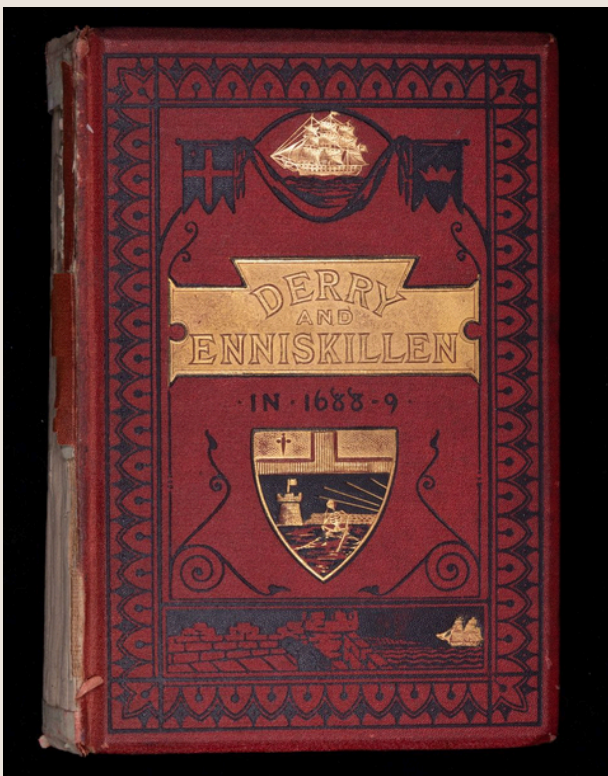
Cost to befriend: £150

Derry and Enniskillen

by Thomas Witherow



This book, a history of the Williamite War and battles in Derry and Enniskillen in the seventeenth century, was written by Thomas Witherow, a nineteenth-century Irish Presbyterian minister and historian.



We can tell from his annotations and diary entries that William Gladstone owned and read many books on different aspects of Irish history.

He often referred to these books as he prepared speeches or bills relating to Home Rule or Catholic Emancipation.

Gladstone read books written from a wide range of perspectives, and in this case, may have been interested to learn more about the history of conflict between Protestants and Catholics in Ireland.



Classmark: WEG/M 46.08/WIT

Cost to befriend: £330

History of Penrith

by William Furness



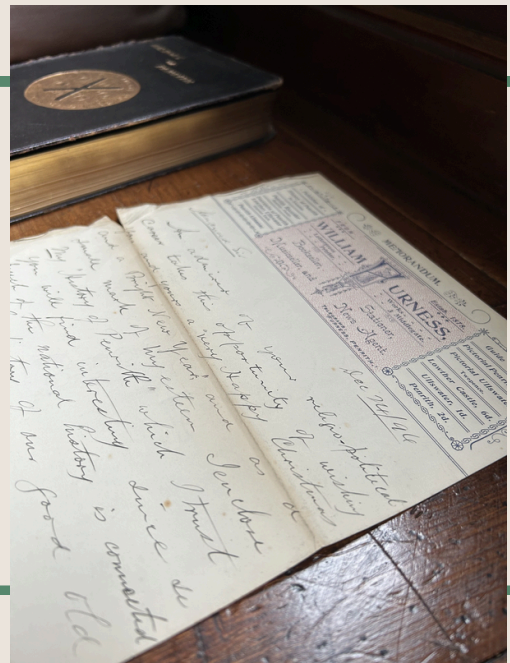
William Furness was a bookseller, stationer and local historian in Penrith, so was perfectly placed to write, print and publish this history of the town.



The book covers a wide period of time from the Roman Conquest right through to Furness' own time in the nineteenth century.

The author sent this copy to William Gladstone in 1896, and he takes care to highlight his important role in all aspects of the production of this book in his inscription.

Furness also sent a letter to Gladstone to accompany his gift, sent for Christmas 1896. In his letter, with a decorative header for his bookselling business, he takes the opportunity to wish Gladstone a "happy Christmas and bright New Year" as well as wishing him "many more happy returns" for his birthday.

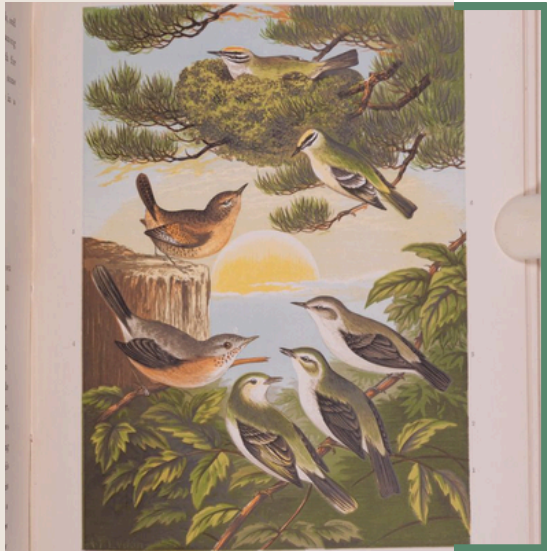


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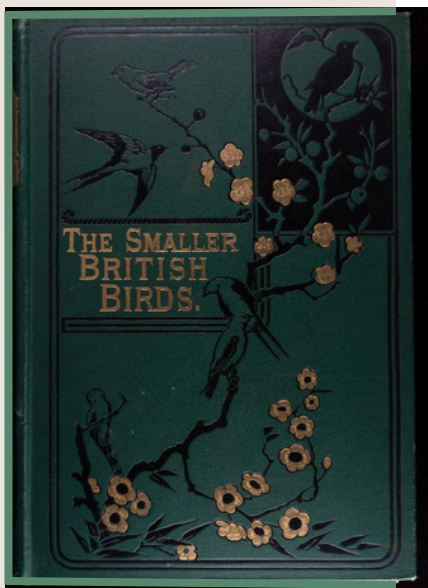
Cost to befriend: £330

Smaller British birds, with descriptions of their nests, eggs, habits etc.

by H.G. and H.B. Adams



William Gladstone owned a wide range of books on natural history. This book includes detailed descriptions of smaller breeds of British birds, with details of their nests, eggs, and habits.



It also includes numerous plates with beautiful, detailed images of the birds. The plates were drawn by Alexander F. Lydon, a proficient engraver who produced numerous natural history and landscape prints.

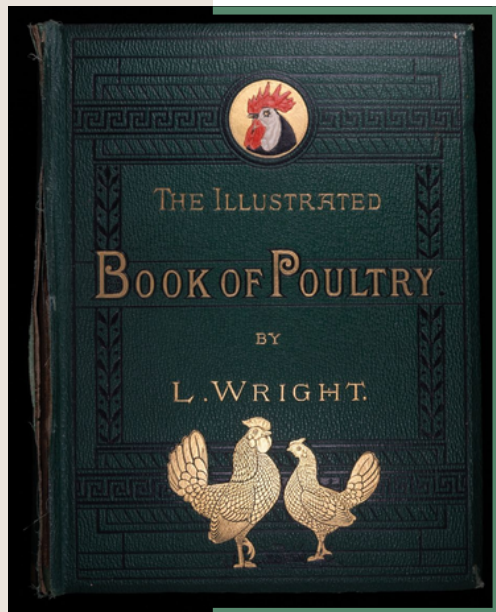


Cost to befriend: £330

Classmark: WEG/T 20/ADA

The illustrated book of poultry

by Lewis Wright



Lewis Wright was a well-known expert on poultry and poultry-keeping in the nineteenth century.

Poultry-keeping and showing poultry became a very popular hobby during the course of the century, and several books were published on the topic. Wright was one of the most well-known poultry experts of the time, and he wrote numerous books (including this one), and edited *The Fanciers' Gazette*.

This enormous book with beautiful coloured plates by J.W. Ludlow, was very popular, and it is easy to see why.

Cost to befriend: £330

Classmark: WEG/T 35/WRI



A popular account of the discoveries at Nineveh

by Austen Henry Layard



Layard was an Assyriologist and contemporary of William Gladstone.



This book is part of a Reading for the Rail series produced by John Murray. Travel publishing expanded greatly during the course of the nineteenth century, and although other types of writing went in and out of popularity, travel writing remained consistently one of the most popular genres. At the same time, the expansion of the railway meant that travel itself was more accessible.

Murray's publishing firm became well-known publishers of travel writing across the genre, but their innovative Reading for the Rail series made travel narratives accessible to read while on the go. These pocket size books were affordable, often abridged versions of popular travel texts, and capitalised on both the demand for travel narratives and increased availability of travel as they were easy to take with you when travelling.



Cost to befriend: £330

Classmark: WEG/A 17/LAY

Eton of old: or, 80 years since 1811-1822

by an old Colleger [William E. Tucker]



THE CLOCK TOWER SCHOOL YARD. P. 123.

*The Librarian on the title is the
flavour of the book
The 'Eton of today' very inadequate*

ETON OF OLD
OR
EIGHTY YEARS SINCE



THE SCHOOL YARD. P. 97.

William Gladstone attended Eton College from 1821-1828. He seems to have enjoyed his time there, and made many lifelong friends.

This book allows us to glimpse Gladstone as an active reader, as he has added extensive annotations throughout the volume. As well as his typical notice lines and 'v' symbols, we also find numerous marginal comments, and a note on the half-title page. His comments are quite critical of the author's account of his old school, describing the book as 'inadequate'!

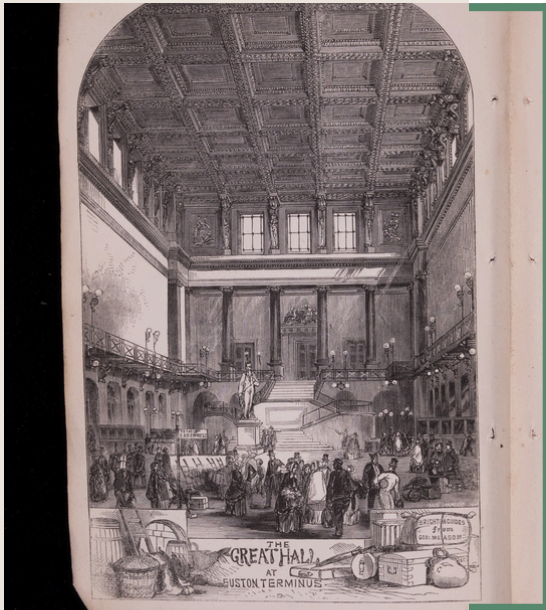
Although Gladstone may not have been impressed, the book does include several lovely plates depicting Eton.

Cost to befriend: £330

Classmark: WEG/U 65/TUC

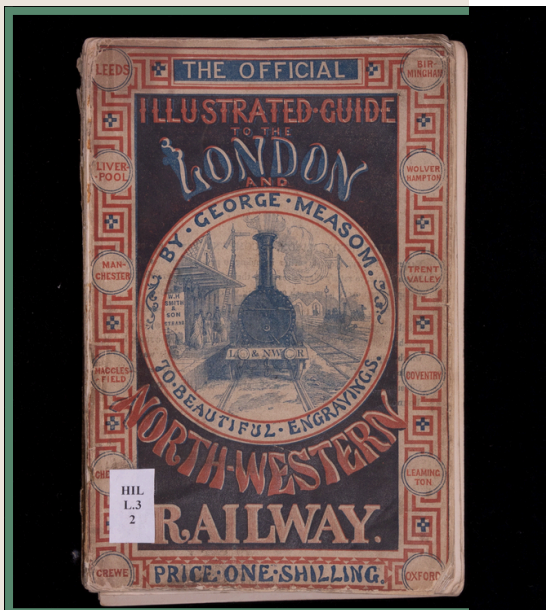
The official illustrated guide to the London and North-Western railway

by George Measom

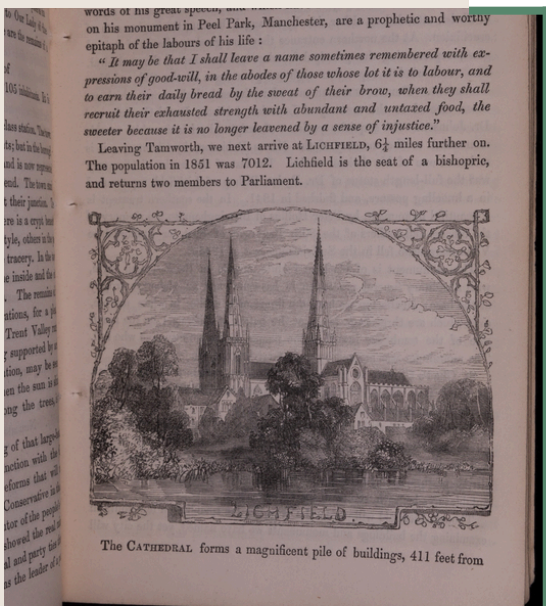


This book is from the Richard Hills History of Technology Collection.

As the railway expanded in the nineteenth century, guides like this began to appear, offering passengers details about different train lines, their stations and routes, as well as information to potential tourists on the various places to stop and visit.



George Measom started out as an engraver but later moved into producing railway guides like this. By 1867, he had produced an 'Official illustrated guide' for every line on the British network!



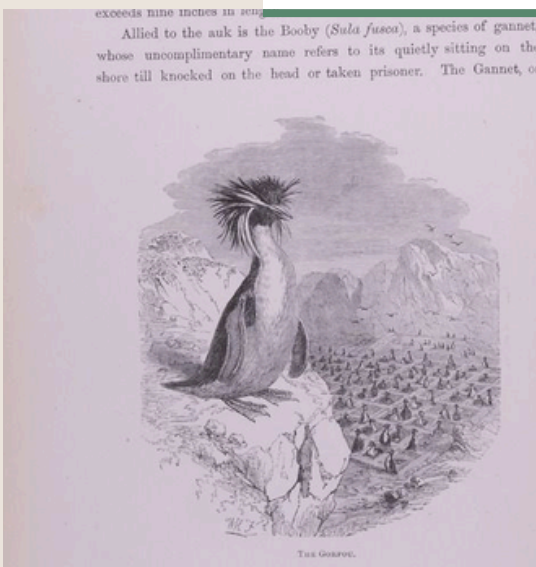
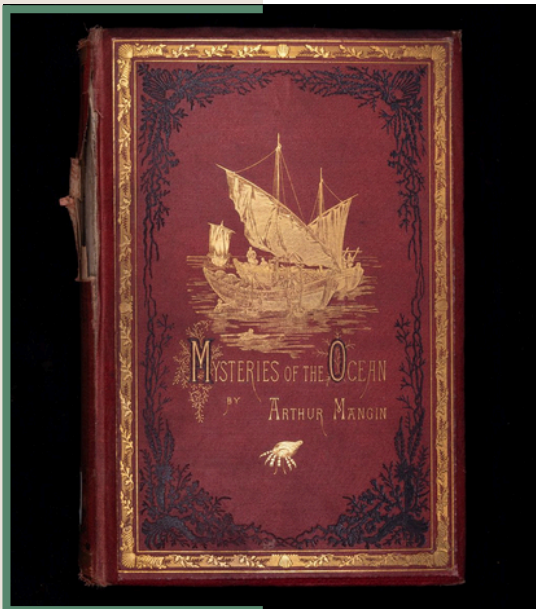
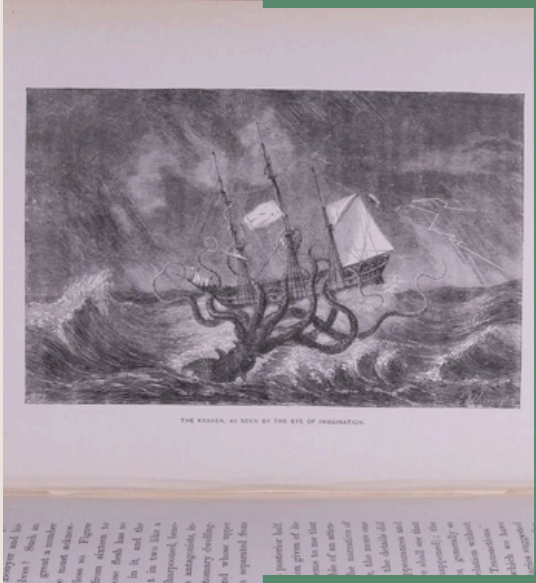
This volume features lovely engravings of places along the train route. Some places are still familiar today while others are completely unrecognisable.

Cost to befriend: £330

Classmark: HIL L.3/2

Mysteries of the ocean

by Arthur Mangin; translated by W.H. Davenport Adams



This book is a real 'deep dive' into everything to do with the ocean. It includes detailed information about the history of the ocean, the various creatures found within it (both real and mythical), and even a chapter on the impact of man upon the ocean. The book is illustrated with many detailed plates, including one showing a kraken!

Arthur Mangin was a French writer particularly known for his scientific knowledge and writing, and he is said to have inspired Jules Verne.

The translator, William Henry Davenport Adams, was also a prolific writer who wrote over 140 works in the course of his career, including several translations.

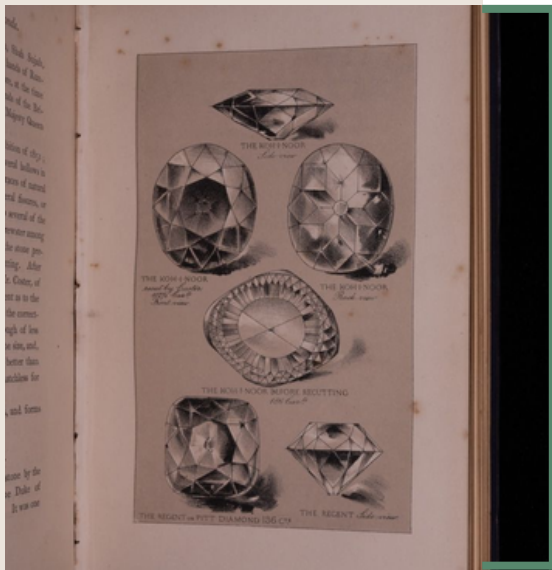
Cost to befriend: £330

Classmark: WEG/T 30/MAN

Diamonds and precious stones:

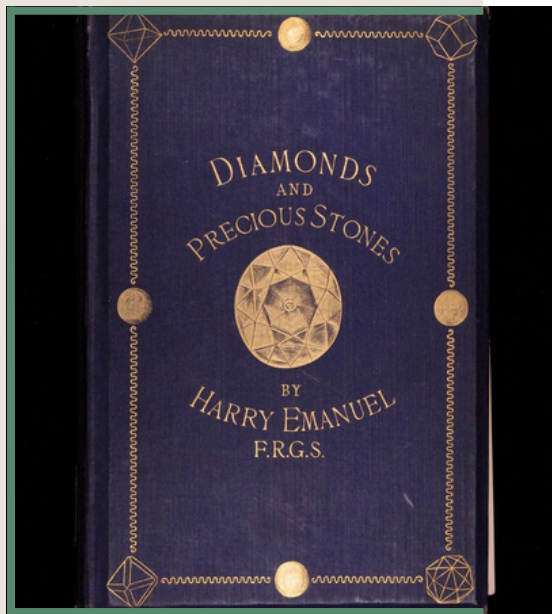
their history, value, and distinguishing characteristics

by Harry Emanuel

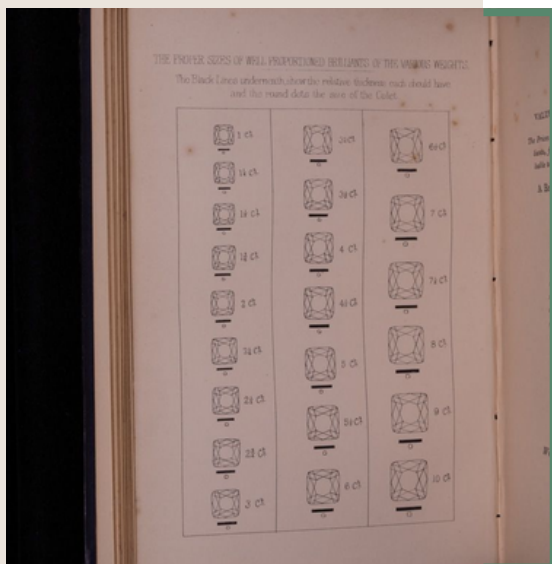


This book is very striking with its blue cover, endpapers and title page.

Harry Emanuel came from a family of jewellers of French descent. He took over the business from his father in 1855 and went on to become Gold and Silversmith to the Queen and Prince of Wales.



This comprehensive book gives details on a wide range of gemstones including diamonds, amber, emeralds, and topaz. He includes details for fashionable ways to cut the stones, as well as ways to detect counterfeit gems!



Cost to befriend: £360

Classmark: WEG/V 30/EMA

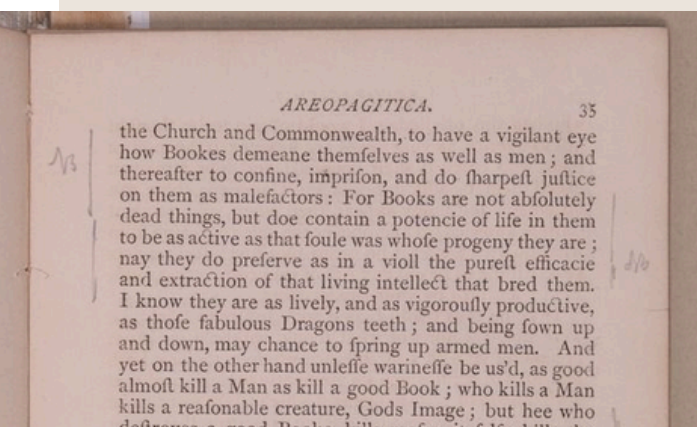
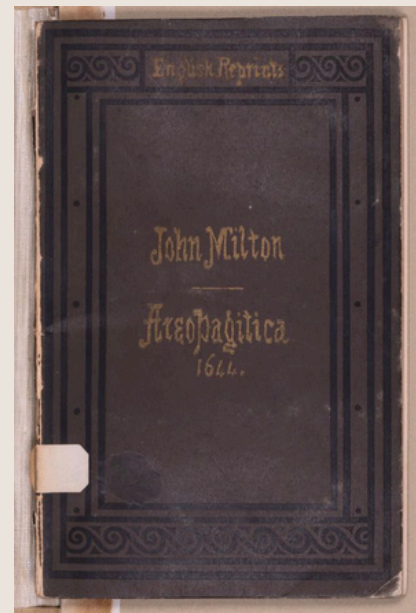


Areopagitica

by John Milton

This nineteenth-century edition of John Milton's famous text was sent to Gladstone by the editor in 1867.

This book may have been intended as a handy pocket edition, due to its small size and cheap paper covers. It was clearly well-read by Gladstone, as the binding is very worn, and most of the pages have been annotated in some way.



One quote that Gladstone has particularly highlighted gives a lovely insight into his thoughts regarding books:

“books are not absolutely dead things, but doe contain a potencie of life in them to be as active as that soule whose progeny they are”.

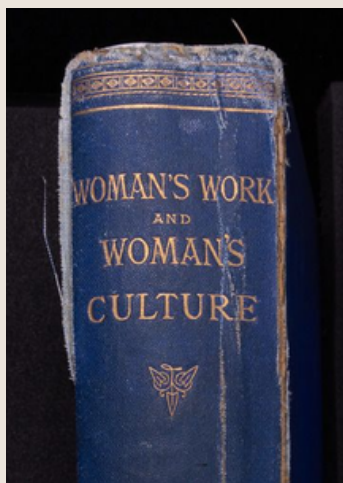
Cost to befriend: £360

Classmark: WEG/R 28/MIL

Woman's work and woman's culture

Edited by Josephine Butler

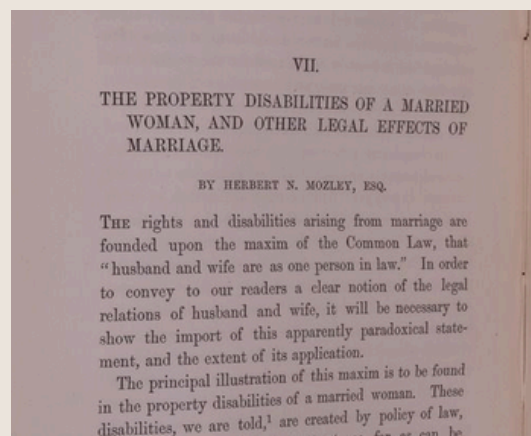
This volume contains several essays by reformers on topics relating to women in the 19th century.



Our copy was sent to Gladstone by the publisher. Perhaps they thought that the new prime minister might be interested in their arguments for better rights for women? Gladstone corresponded with several social reformers of the time including Millicent Garrett Fawcett, and he met Josephine Butler on at least one occasion. In a letter to the dean of Windsor in 1882, Gladstone wrote that she seemed "one who, wherever she goes, must win her way & carry all before her" [BL, Add MS 44545, f. 157]. She was certainly successful in many of her social reforms.

Classmark: WEG/M 11.7/BUT

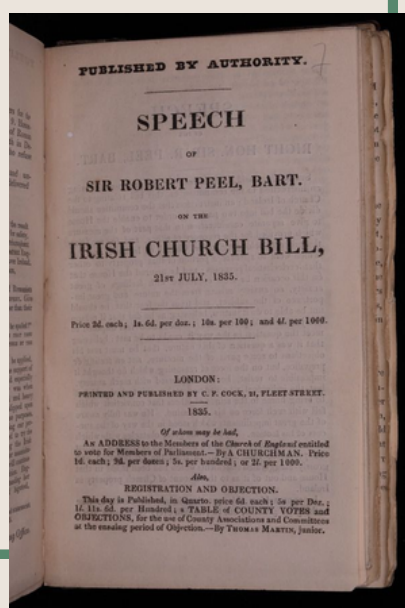
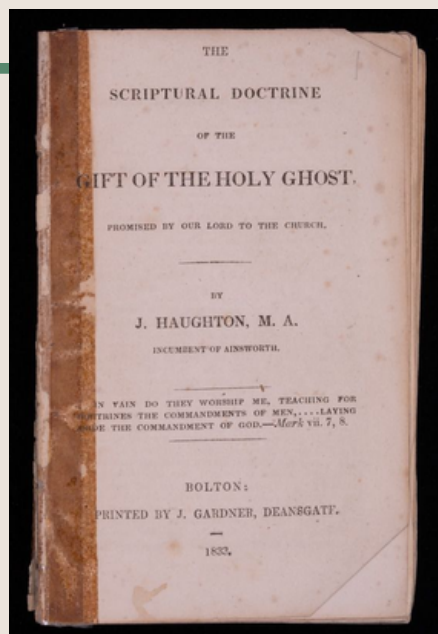
Topics include female suffrage, education for girls and women, and women taking medicine or teaching as a profession. There is even an essay on the subject of married women's property, which Gladstone's government was later involved in, passing the Married Women's Property Act in 1882. The editor of the volume, Josephine E. Butler, and the authors such as Frances Power Cobbe, Sophie Jex-Blake, and Julia Wedgwood, were all prominent social reformers.



Cost to befriend: £360

Miscellaneous pamphlets bound together

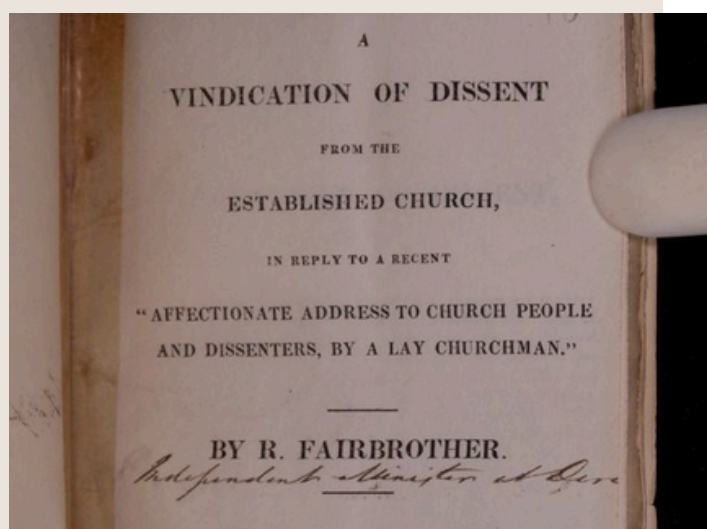
Pamphlets were a very popular form of printing in the nineteenth century. Gladstone and his family read hundreds of pamphlets as a way to keep up with the latest news, and we hold many volumes like this in the Library.



Pamphlets were quick and cheap to produce, and also frequently used to record recent events, particularly speeches or sermons. There were even 'pamphlet wars', in which multiple authors would write their own pamphlet responding to the arguments in another pamphlet.

Pamphlets are typically just made of paper and prone to damage, so collectors like the Gladstones would bind them together into one volume.

Sometimes they would bring together pamphlets on a similar theme, or sometimes, like this volume, they would be a more miscellaneous arrangement. This volume includes pamphlets on the Holy Ghost, Maynooth, and the Reformation, to name a few!



Classmark: HCC (Misc) 2

Cost to befriend: £390



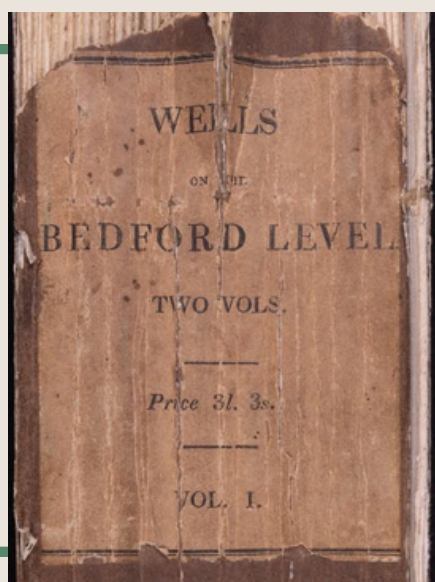
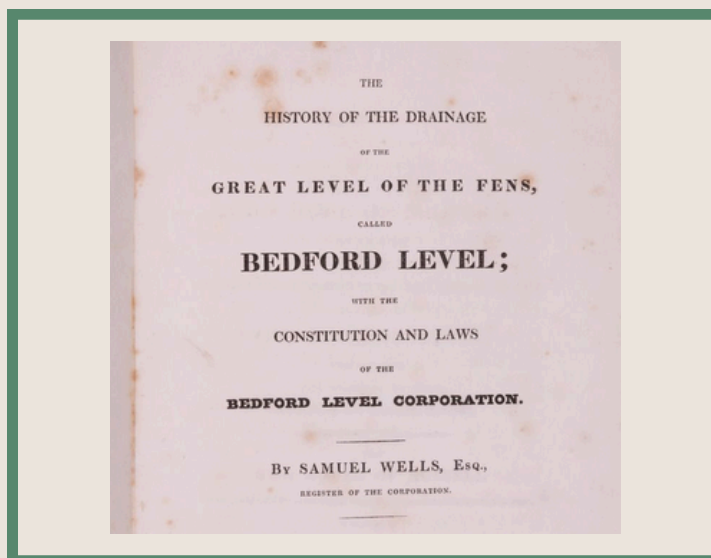
The history of the drainage of the great level of the Fens, called Bedford Level

by Samuel Wells

This book is from our History of Technology Collection, composed and donated by Richard Hills, Curator for the Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester.

The collection covers a wide range of technology, from paper making, to gas lighting, to railways, to land reclamation.

Samuel Wells was a historian employed by the Bedford Level Corporation. He wrote this extensive history of the drainage of the Fens in the early nineteenth century, and also produced several maps detailing the area.



This book is still bound in the paper boards that it would have been bought in from the printer. Up to the early nineteenth century (and sometimes beyond), buyers would purchase a book in these cheap wrappings, and then take it to a binder to have their own choice of cover added. These paper bindings were not intended to be permanent, so they do not survive in great numbers. It gives us a fascinating glimpse into the nineteenth-century book trade.

Cost to befriend: £390

Classmark: HIL O.1/16a



Liverpool: history of the Mersey, ancient and modern

by Benjamin Blower

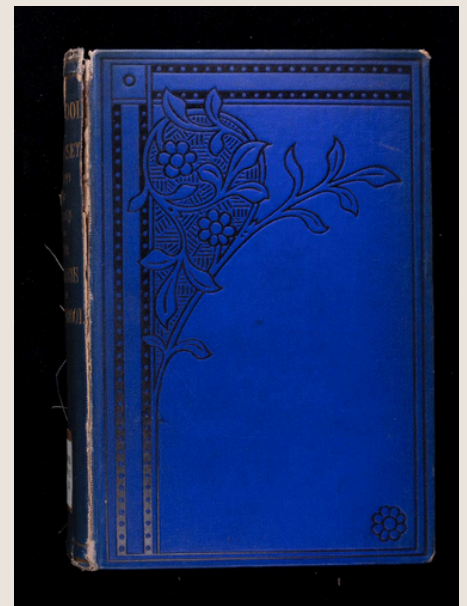
&

The streets of Liverpool

by James Stonehouse

This book is comprised of two nineteenth-century texts about Liverpool, written by contemporary local historians.

The Gladstone family called Liverpool home for several years after John Gladstone relocated there in 1787 to expand his mercantile business. William Gladstone was born there in 1809, and continued to have connections with the city throughout his life. This may explain why several histories and descriptions of the city appear in his book collection.



These books give a great insight into the Liverpool Gladstone would have known.

Blower's *History of the Mersey* is beautifully illustrated, while Stonehouse gives detailed and interesting descriptions of several prominent Liverpool streets, including Rodney Street where Gladstone was born, and the innovative 'tunnels' built by Joseph Williamson on Mason Street.

Cost to befriend: £420

Classmark: WEG/W 13/LIV

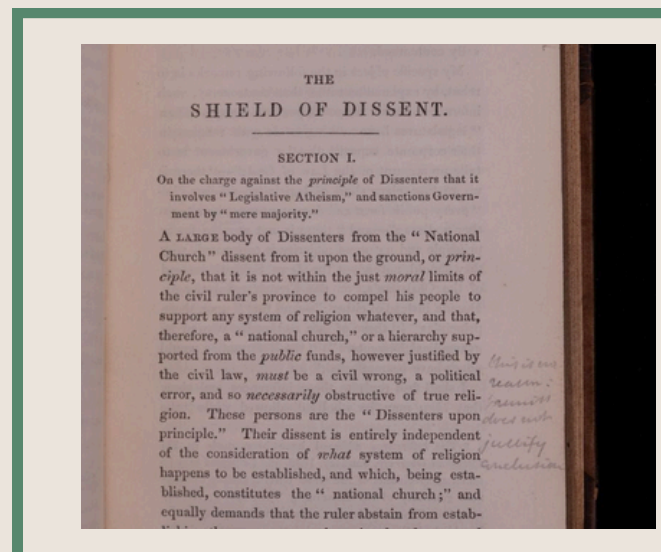


The shield of dissent

by Edward Swaine

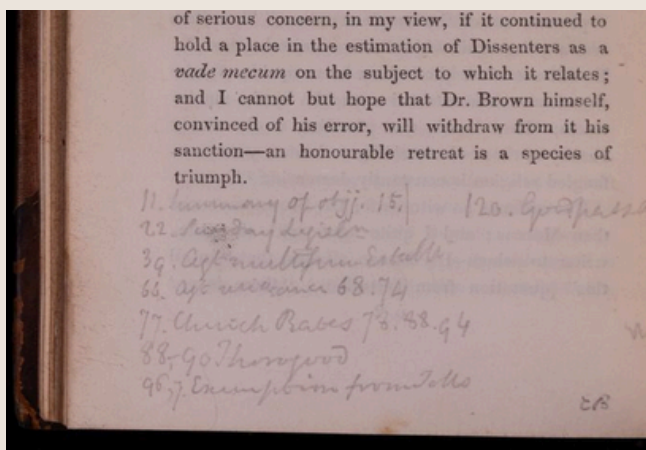
Religious dissent was a key area of discussion in nineteenth-century Britain, particularly on the topic of religion and parliament.

Nonconformists, (Protestants who dissent from the state Church of England), had existed in England for centuries, enjoying a large amount of freedom with the Toleration Act of 1689. However, there were still restrictions to their civil rights, and in the nineteenth century, non-Anglicans were still not permitted to hold public offices like the role of MP.



This issue came to the fore in the nineteenth century, as people of Nonconformist, Catholic and Jewish faiths fought for their civil rights.

It makes sense, then, that William Gladstone was reading books about dissenters, like this small volume by Edward Swaine. Gladstone records reading this in 1840, just a few years before the Religious Disabilities Act was passed in 1846.

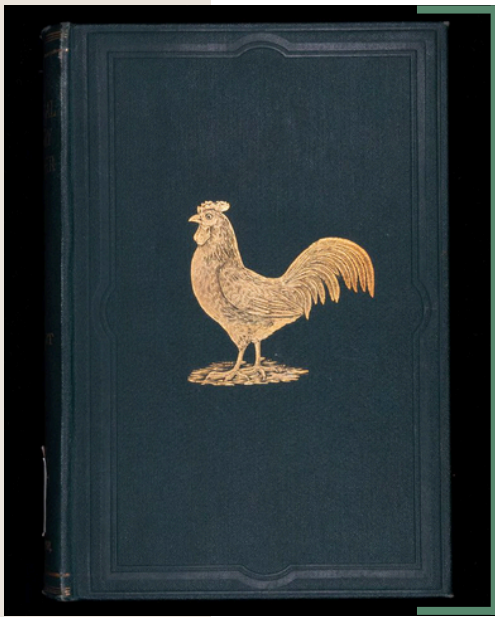


Cost to befriend: £480

Classmark: WEG/I 60/SWA

The practical poultry keeper

by Lewis Wright



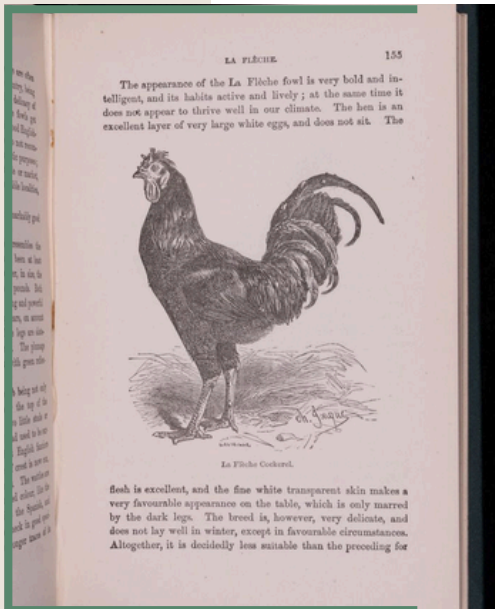
As well as his more lavish publication 'The Book of Poultry', Lewis Wright also wrote this more concise guide to poultry keeping.

Primarily a practical text, Wright's work also played a key role in establishing accepted standards for poultry competitions. It was a best seller and ran to 20 editions! This book also included plates by J.W. Ludlow, and influenced the work of several other poultry writers.

As someone involved with the management of a rural estate, Gladstone owned several texts on animal husbandry and plant cultivation, so it is understandable that he would own a copy of this useful text.

Cost to befriend: £480

Classmark: WEG/T 35/WRI



Ordnance gazetteer of Scotland: a survey of Scottish topography

by Francis H. Groome



The Ordnance gazetteer of Scotland was a multi-volume work first published in 1882.



Dunottar Castle, Kincardineshire, in the 17th century. From Sizer's *Theatrum Scotiae* (1695).

A gazetteer is a geographical dictionary which gives details about places and the etymology of place names.

This gazetteer quickly became popular, and the standard reference gazetteer for Scotland.

This book is the final volume in a set of three, and covers entries from MAA to ZET. Entries include, for example, Perth, Mauchline, and Stornoway Castle. It also includes lovely detailed plates and maps to illustrate some of the many places named.



Classmark: WEG/W 20/GRO

Cost to befriend: £510

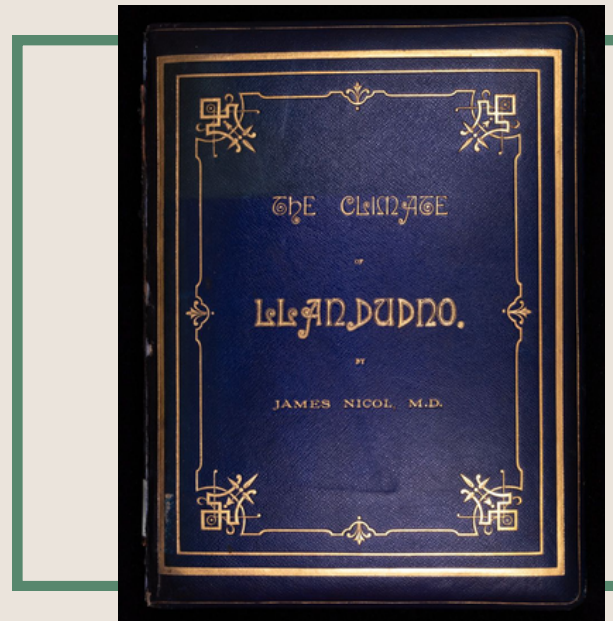
The climate of Llandudno

by James Nicol

James Nicol was a Medical Officer for Llandudno, who, along with his wife, Sarah Ann, pioneered the foundation of Llandudno's cottage hospital in 1885.

In the nineteenth century, a combination of the railways and Victorian taste for seaside resorts made Llandudno a very popular place to visit. But tourists visited for more than just pleasure: they also thought that the water cures and sea air had health benefits.

As a doctor and keen meteorologist, Nicol's book discusses the climate of the Welsh town, and its benefits as a health resort.



The book gives an insight into the role climate and travel played in nineteenth-century understandings of health and well-being, as well as showing how the climate and weather has changed over the last century.

This copy is also bound with an unusual padded cover, making it pleasantly squishy!

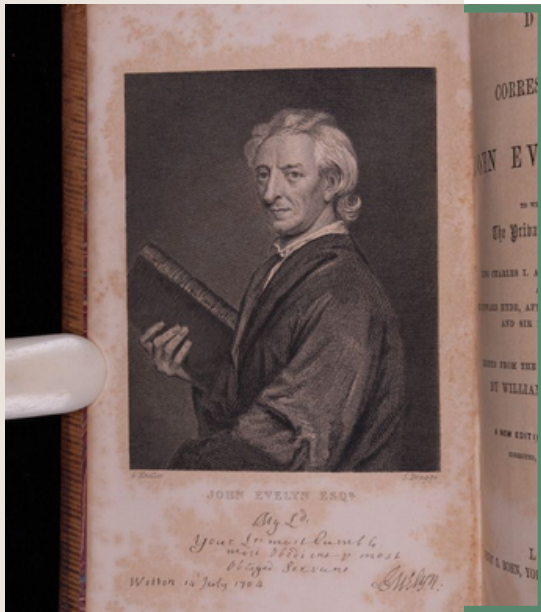


THE BAY AND PARADE.

Cost to befriend: £570

Classmark: WEG/W 19/NIC

Diary and correspondence of John Evelyn (4 volumes)



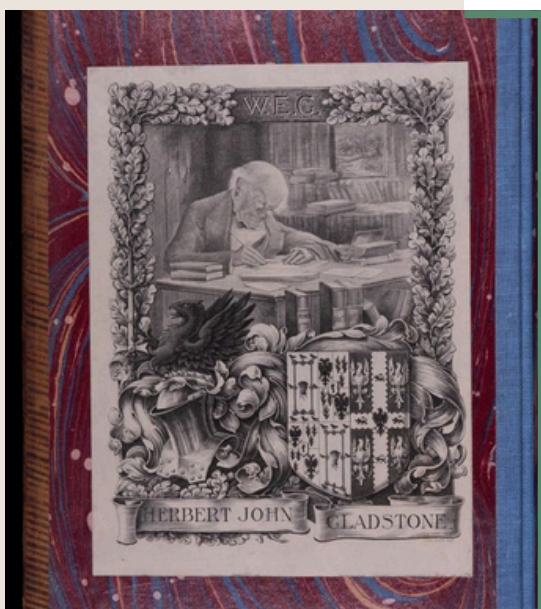
John Evelyn was an intellectual, writer and gardener in the seventeenth century.

His social standing meant that he knew all the key players in Restoration London, and so his writings give us an insider's perspective to the daily activities and events of the court and London.



Evelyn was clearly still viewed as a figure of interest in the nineteenth century when this multivolume set of his diary and correspondence was published. William Gladstone's son, Herbert John Gladstone, must have read this book as part of his studies at Eton, as he has added his bookplate and inscribed the endpaper.

**Cost to befriend
(4 volumes): £1,410**



Classmark: WEG/M 28.9/EVE

If you would like to Befriend a Book:

Visit our Befriend a Book donation page:

<https://gladstoneslibrary.enthuse.com/befriendabook>



and select your chosen book from the list.

Once you have completed your details and made your donation, we will send you your certificate and print.

The book will then be sent off for conservation!



When you befriend a book by making a donation, you will receive:

A print and e-certificate in the name of your choice detailing the book you've chosen

A chance to book an informal meeting with our Librarian, to visit your book and discuss the work that has been completed

A note in the Library's catalogue, marking you as the Friend of that book

A print of a page, illustration, or binding of your chosen book

Thank you

for supporting the work and collections of
Gladstone's Library