

The Pickford collection was bequeathed to the **Centre for Medieval Studies** in association with the British branch of the **International Arthurian Society** by the late **Prof. Cedric Pickford**. As the personal library of a Professor of French, with a special interest in Arthurian studies, it is especially strong in Arthurian and medieval French texts, modern French literature and the development of the English and French languages. It is a tangible reminder of the immense contribution he made to Arthurian and related studies, and the encouragement he gave fellow scholars.

The collection consists of approximately 1,200 books and journals, as well as a substantial amount of supporting material including maps, black & white and colour prints, transparencies, lecture notes, offprints, theses and memos. It also includes some very old and rare material and facsimiles of rare items. At the present time all the books in the collection and most of the journals have been added to the on-line catalogue. The rest of the collection requires a more careful and rigorous examination before final locations are decided on.

Most of the items in the collection are available for loan, with a small number considered more appropriate for reference and some of the rarer items available to consult in the King's Manor library only. A list of the complete collection can

be accessed by selecting **Quicksearch/Keyword** search on the library catalogue, entering **Pickford** as the search term and **provenance** as the search field. The list can then be organised alphabetically by author, title or year of publication.

Range and scope of the collection

The main subject areas in the collection are:

- Arthurian legend, literature and romance
eg. On the trail of Merlin; King Arthur and the Grail; Lancelot du Lac 1488; Camelot and the vision of Albion; The age of chivalry and legends of Charlemagne.
- Fables – English, French and German
eg. The fables of Aesop; Renard the Fox; Fabliaux; ribald tales from the Old French; Le Sauvage et le sot.
- Medieval French history and culture
eg. Life in medieval France; Manuscript painting at the court of France 1310-1380; Louis XI; Joan of Arc and the recovery of France.
- History and grammar of the French language – old and modern
eg. A concise history of the French language; Le bon usage: grammaire française; Handbook of French pronunciation.

- Medieval and modern French literature
eg. Works by Francois Villon, Chretien de Troyes, Rabelais, Racine, Montesquieu, Voltaire, Camus.
- Medieval drama
eg. Five comedies of medieval France; Early English stages, 1300-1660; Le jeu de Saint Nicolas; La farce de Maistre Pierre Pathelin.
- British history
eg. Age of chivalry: art and society in late medieval England; The history of the Kings of Britain; The Norman conquest; The buildings of Roman Britain.
- Old English language and grammar
eg. A history of the English language; A concise etymological dictionary of the English language (1894).
- Printing – history and development
eg. Caxton in focus; the beginning of printing in England; printing, selling and reading 1450-1550.
- Reference material – atlases, bibliographies, concordances and dictionaries
eg. Atlas of medieval man; The Arthurian bibliography; La France (Larousse).

Special Collection Material

These are items which are considered too old, rare or physically vulnerable to keep on the open shelves. They are kept in the Special Collection cabinets in the General Office and consist mainly of manuscript illustrations, some early publications and woodcuts, dating from the 17th century onwards.

Examples include the following:

- *Les oeuvres de feu M. Claude Faucher premier president en la cour des Monnoyes, (Paris, Le Clerc, 1610.)*
- *L'Abbé Tardy: An explanatory pronouncing dictionary of the French language in French and English. (London, Longman, 1811)*
- *H.N. Humphreys: The illuminated books of the Middle ages: an account of the development and progress of the art of illumination. (London, Longman, 1849)*
- *Campbell Dodgson: Woodcuts of the 15th century in the John Rylands library, Manchester. (Manchester, Longmans, Green & Co., 1915)*

The Library

The Library holds several valuable collections as part of its stock.

Those housed on the ground floor, which are available for loan and which primarily serve the Centre for Medieval Studies and the Centre for Eighteenth-Century Studies, consist of core texts in the fields of literature and history which are essential for post-graduate research.

The Pickford collection is augmented by over 300 books on related topics donated by Karen Hodder of the Department of English and Related Literature.

Another important collection is that of Stephen Copley which concentrates on the 'long' eighteenth-century, 1650-1850, and includes over 1,100 books.

The Wormald, Newbold and Newton collections, shelved in the Wormald Room and also on the ground floor, consist mainly of works on stained glass and illuminated manuscripts.

The Pickford Collection



at the Library
King's Manor