

HOLLOWAY COLLECTION

The Library of Contemporary Culture Records, as it was originally called, was established in Cambridge in 1970 by John Holloway (then Reader, since 1972, Professor of Modern English) and his wife Joan, (at that time Librarian of the English Faculty Library). In 1981 the collection was transferred to the University of East Anglia and renamed the Holloway Collection. No further accessions were accepted after 2000.

Extent: 371 boxes.

Dates: 1960-2000

What does it contain?

The collection comprises printed material relating to, resulting from, or illustrating the organisation, promotion, funding, and dissemination of cultural activity, widely conceived, throughout the whole of the United Kingdom. The Holloways were led to begin the collection by the perception that individual items of such material were laborious to trace, and nowhere found together for purposes of comparison; so that an accurate view of the relationships they disclose was correspondingly difficult to attain.

The basic unit of the collection is the file: usually relating to a single organisation, national or local, and containing a variety of information in printed form about its activities. Characteristically, the material takes the form of brochures, pamphlets, leaflets, broadsheets and event cards. There are also posters, sample issues of magazines, book trade catalogues, and files of periodicals which constitute, rather than discuss or provide, cultural evidence (e.g. 'Radio Times', the Sunday supplements). The collection thus occupies the margin between creative production as such and the manner in which it is purveyed and consumed.

How is it arranged?

The basic principle of arrangement is by broad subject. Each appropriate subject division is allotted a letter of the alphabet, and within each, or a subdivision of each, the files are arranged alphabetically by organisation.

The collection remains partially sorted (60%).

Synopsis of arrangement (with examples)

A: General cultural activity

National organisations (e.g. Arts Council, British Council, Institute of Contemporary Arts); local and regional arts associations; a large range of local authority guides and news sheets; programmes of local festivals.

B: Fine Arts

National organisations (e.g. National Society for Art Education); local galleries and societies (e.g. Leeds City Art Gallery, Worcester Society of Artists); material on art education at various levels.

C: Music

National organisations (e.g. Society for the Promotion of New Music) local societies; local festivals (e.g. Cambridge Folk Festival).

D: Theatre and film (contains the NFT/[BFI] journal back copies).

National organisations (e.g. British Film Institute, British Theatre Association, Equity); over 100 provincial theatres, and some specialised or club theatres in London; local amateur societies.

E: Literary activity

National literary societies (e.g. Dickens Fellowship); local poetry clubs, writers' circles, etc.; professional organisations (e.g. Society of Authors).

F: Study (mainly non-vocational adult study)

National organisations (e.g. WEA); local authority adult education courses; provincial debating and lecture clubs; independent centres (e.g. Arvon Foundation).

G: Libraries and museums (including heritage sites)

Local authority services, with emphasis on "extension" work (e.g. exhibitions, meetings, recitals, information providers); some independent or specialised libraries and museums; relevant organisations.

H: Publishing and bookselling

National organisations (e.g. National Book League, New Fiction Society); publishers' and booksellers' catalogues.

I: Radio and television

Policy and programme documents from the BBC, the ITA, and the regional commercial networks; files of 'Radio Times' and 'TV Times'.

J: Ancillary:

Popular festivals; hobbies and pastimes; sightseeing and holidaying; preservation trusts; conservation; youth activities.

K: Newspaper cuttings