



# THE JOHN JOHNSON COLLECTION

AN ARCHIVE OF PRINTED EPHEMERA

Over 65,000 documents from one of the world's most important collections of printed ephemera, providing a unique insight into everyday life in Britain in the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries.



## ABOUT THE JOHN JOHNSON COLLECTION

Housed in the *Bodleian Library* in Oxford, the *John Johnson Collection* is widely recognised as one of the most important collections of printed ephemera in the world, and generally regarded as the most significant single collection of ephemera in the UK. Containing more than 1.5 million items in total, ranging in date from 1508 to 1939, it spans a broad range of printing and social history. It was assembled by John de Monins Johnson (1882–1956), Printer to the University, who was visionary in his preservation of Britain's vulnerable paper heritage. It contains a high proportion of rare material, which has remained largely unknown to scholars and researchers.

## WHAT HAS BEEN DIGITISED TO CREATE THE JOHN JOHNSON COLLECTION: AN ARCHIVE OF PRINTED EPHEMERA?

The material selected for conservation, cataloguing and digitisation comprises a wide array of different types of printed document, including programmes, playbills and handbills for theatrical and non-theatrical entertainments, broadsides relating to murders and executions, book and journal prospectuses, popular prints, and a wealth of different kinds of printed advertising material. The resulting online collection will form an invaluable resource for researchers interested in the histories of consumption, leisure, gender, popular culture, commerce, technology, crime, and a host of other areas. With each item presented as a full-colour, high-resolution facsimile, the *John Johnson Collection: An Archive of Printed Ephemera* will also be indispensable for researchers studying the development of printing and visual culture in modern Britain.

On completion the *John Johnson Collection: An Archive of Printed Ephemera* will offer access to more than 65,000 documents (in excess of 150,000 high-resolution colour images) and will consist of five different categories of material:

**NINETEENTH-CENTURY ENTERTAINMENT** – which falls into two distinct groups: theatre material and non-theatrical entertainment material such as circuses, exhibitions and pleasure gardens. Both categories provide a wealth of insights into 19th century leisure activities, popular and high culture (especially the performing arts), and the development of different types of entertainment.

**THE BOOKTRADE** – examples include publishing material (eg prospectuses of books and journals) and bookplates. The former will be of interest to anyone studying the history of the publishing industry, or readers and reading during the period; the latter will prove invaluable to those interested in the provenance of books, or in design history.

**POPULAR PRINTS** – these items provide an invaluable record of locations and landscapes, architecture, humour and satire, popular tastes and appetites for artistic works, and the trade in prints and scraps.

**CRIME, MURDERS AND EXECUTIONS** – a mixture of broadsides and pamphlets that afford unique insights into the judicial system and its punishments, notably the application of the death penalty and of transportation. Crime materials are currently much used in a variety of research areas (eg women and crime, woodcut iconography).

**ADVERTISING** – social and economic historians, historians of popular culture, trades and industries, students of typographic design and many others will find that these items provide a fascinating insight into the development of consumerism.

The materials have been catalogued by dedicated specialist staff based at the *Bodleian Library*.



## HELPING USERS MAKE THE MOST OF THIS UNIQUE COLLECTION

The *John Johnson Collection: An Archive of Printed Ephemera* has been developed to maximise the research value of this valuable content through sophisticated cataloguing and search functionality. Users can:

- Narrow searches across the complete archive using 14 standard fields, including Keyword(s), Name, Document Type, Subject, Illustration Subject, Printing Process and Physical Form.
- Use additional search fields specific to each of the five categories of material in the collection (for example the Nineteenth-Century Entertainment search screen features extra fields for Date of Event and Venue).
- Browse the complete collection dynamically.
- Filter results by Collection, Document Type, Physical Form, Production Method and Date.
- View high-resolution colour images as PDFs or JPEGs and save them in a personalised Lightbox.
- Rotate images smoothly and use the zoom functionality to view documents in remarkable detail.
- View highlighted images to pinpoint instances of a keyword or phrase in the full text of documents.
- Personalise the resource by creating a password-protected My Archive account.



## ABOUT THE JOHN JOHNSON COLLECTION: AN ARCHIVE OF PRINTED EPHEMERA PROJECT

The *John Johnson Collection: An Archive of Printed Ephemera* is the product of a unique partnership between the Bodleian Library and ProQuest to conserve, catalogue and digitise more than 65,000 items from the *John Johnson Collection of Printed Ephemera*. The project, which has been funded by the *Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC)* through its Digitisation Programme, will broaden access to a wide array of rare or unusual archival materials documenting various aspects of everyday life in Britain in the 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries.



## ALSO AVAILABLE: *BRITISH PERIODICALS*

<http://britishperiodicals.chadwyck.co.uk>

*British Periodicals* traces the development and growth of the periodical press in Britain from its origins in the 17th century through to the Victorian 'age of periodicals' and beyond. On completion this unique digital archive will consist of almost 500 periodical runs published from the 1680s to the 1930s, comprising 6 million keyword-searchable pages and forming an unrivalled record of more than two centuries of British history and culture.

*British Periodicals* consists of two separate collections, *British Periodicals Collection I* and *British Periodicals Collection II*.

*British Periodicals Collection I* consists of more than 160 journals that comprise the UMI microfilm collection *Early British Periodicals*, the equivalent of 5,238 printed volumes containing approximately 3.1 million pages. Topics covered include literature, philosophy, history, science, the fine arts and the social sciences.

*British Periodicals Collection II* consists of more than 300 journals from the UMI microfilm collections *English Literary Periodicals* and *British Periodicals in the Creative Arts*, together with additional titles amounting to almost 3 million pages. Topics covered include literature, music, art, drama, archaeology and architecture.

## ORDERS AND ENQUIRIES

To request a free trial of the *John Johnson Collection: An Archive of Printed Ephemera* or any of our other products, email [marketing@proquest.co.uk](mailto:marketing@proquest.co.uk) and quote MKT 265 08.

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