



Bodleian Libraries  
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

## Sassoon Visiting Fellowships in South Asian and Black History, 2019-20

### Visiting Fellows Programme

Bodleian Libraries  
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Oxford OX1 3BG  
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TELEPHONE: 01865 277006  
[www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/csb/fellowships](http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/csb/fellowships)

### Further Particulars

The Bodleian's collections reflect the fact of Britain's imperial and colonial past and the role that the University of Oxford played in that history. These Fellowships encourage researchers to come to Oxford and use the resources collected by the Libraries to research the histories of South Asia, Africa, and the Caribbean, as well as their diasporas broadly defined. The research may relate to any period of time. In addition to the partial list below, all of the materials within Bodleian Special Collections are open to examination by holders of these Fellowships. Fellowships may be awarded for a period of up to 3 months.

General information about the Bodleian Visiting Fellowships programme can be found at: <https://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/csb/fellowships>.

The appointed Fellow will be recommended for an Academic Visitorship at Somerville College. The Fellowship funding will support single-occupancy accommodation and part-board (i.e. some meals) at Somerville College (if available during the Fellowship visit) or part-board at Somerville College plus a grant of £1,800 per month for non-college accommodation, if preferred.

Applicants for these Fellowships are advised to read the [Terms for all Fellowships](#), including the selection criteria which are:

- The potential of the candidate to contribute to the research culture of the Libraries and the University.
- The demonstrated need to consult specific items or collections within the Bodleian Libraries' Special Collections.
- The potential of the project to increase public understanding of the materials consulted, through publication or public dissemination, or to develop innovative research methods for the study of these materials.

Applicants for Bodleian Visiting Fellowships must submit a research proposal which includes a statement, as detailed as possible, of the Special Collections of the Bodleian to be searched or consulted as part of the project. Guidance on the contents of Special Collections is available from our webpages: <https://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/weston/finding-resources/guides> Printed books, including rare and antiquarian materials, are listed in the online catalogue, SOLO: [solo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk](http://solo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk). Forms and further guidance for applications are available on the 'How to Apply' webpage: <https://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/csb/fellowships/how-to-apply>.



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## Partial list of Resources

### Archives relating to British politics

The Libraries' holdings in modern British politics are extensive. The papers of William Wilberforce will be of interest to scholars studying the abolition of slavery in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, while the archives of politicians active in the late twentieth century – especially those of prime ministers and home secretaries – may provide research material for scholars of race relations and immigration during this period. Collections of possible interest include the archives of Clement Attlee, James Callaghan, [Roy Jenkins](#), and [Harold Wilson](#), as well as the archive of the Conservative Party.

See the Guide for political archives: <https://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/weston/finding-resources/guides/political>.

### Archives relating to South Asian studies

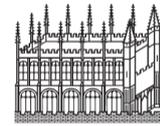
The Bodleian Libraries has acquired manuscripts from South Asia since its early years. The first South Asian acquisitions came to the Libraries in a series of gifts given by Archbishop William Laud between 1635 and 1640 and consist of a **Telegu almanac** for the year 1632 A.D. (MS. Laud Or. Rolls e. 1) and a set of 18 **Rāgamāla paintings** illustrating the mood and sentiment behind the traditional forms of Indian music (MS. Laud Or. 149). Later materials reflect the history of British trade and colonial intervention. [A LibGuide to the manuscripts from South Asia can be found on the Bodleian's website.](#)

Potentially relevant archive holdings include the collections of [Sir Louis Stuart \(1870-1949\)](#), [Indian Civil Servant](#), [William Henry Gregory \(1816-1892\)](#), [Governor-General of Ceylon](#), [Indian States Enquiry Committee Papers of John Davidson \(1889-1970\)](#), [Alexander Garden Fraser \(b. 1873\)](#), [missionary teacher in Ceylon](#), and [Rev. Charles Kingsley Williams, missionary teacher in Madras](#).

### Archives relating to African studies

These include a number of organisational archives: the [Anti-Slavery Society](#) (dating from the 1820s to the late 20th century), the [Overseas Nursing Association](#), the [Africa Bureau](#), the [Fabian Colonial Bureau](#) and the [Anti-Apartheid Movement](#) (AAM). The single largest collection is that of the Anglican missionary organisation, the [United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel](#), which was founded in 1701 and still exists. It was involved in educational and medical work in many parts of the world and the archive is a rich resource for many areas of research.

Other useful resources include the personal archives of individuals connected with imperial expansion, business, and politics in Africa. The Libraries hold those of the imperialist and politician [Cecil Rhodes](#) (1853-1902), the soldier and colonial administrator [Frederick Lugard](#) (1858-1945), the statesman [Arthur Creech Jones](#) (1891-1965), the historian [Margery Perham](#) (1895-1982), the Prime Minister of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland [Sir Roy Welensky](#) (1907-1991) and [Archbishop Trevor Huddleston](#) (1913-1998) who was President of the Anti-Apartheid Movement.



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See also the African Studies LibGuide: <https://libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/african-studies>.

## Archives relating to Caribbean studies

Among the relevant manuscript materials are records from some families who were slaveholders in the West Indies. These include the [papers of the Barham family](#). The Libraries also hold [the archive of Jamaican-born poet Evan Jones](#).

See also the Caribbean Studies LibGuide: <https://libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/caribbeanstudies/>.

A Guide to African and Commonwealth materials within the archives and manuscripts in the Bodleian Libraries Special Collections is available from:

[https://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/weston/finding-resources/guides/commonwealth\\_african](https://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/weston/finding-resources/guides/commonwealth_african).

## End of empire transcripts

Relevant to both Asian and African studies are a series of [‘End of Empire’ transcripts](#) recording interviews with many of the emerging leaders in British colonies who became the senior politicians post-independence. For example, Indira Gandhi was interviewed.

## Archives of bodies working in the areas of migration and development

The Libraries hold the archives of a number of organisations active in policy and activities relating to migration. Examples include the archives of Oxfam GB, the Brookings Institution project on Internally Displaced Persons, and the Society for the Protection of Science and Learning.

- [Oxfam Archive: Appeals and Fundraising](#)
- [Oxfam Archive: Communications](#)
- [Oxfam Archive: Campaigns](#)
- [Oxfam Archive: Programme Policy, Management and Administration](#)
- [Oxfam Archive: Records of grants made by Oxfam \('project files'\)](#)
- [Oxfam Archive: Publishing](#)
- [Brookings Internationally Displaced Persons project archive](#)
- [Archive of the Society for the Protection of Science and Learning](#)

## Science archives

The archives of scientists, such as those of geneticists [Walter and Julia Bodmer](#) and Cyril Dean Darlington, could offer relevant sources.

See the Guide to scientific archives: <https://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/weston/finding-resources/guides/scientific>.

## Web archives

The UK Web Archive, of which the Bodleian Libraries is a partner, develops contemporary collections of web-based materials, as well as archiving the wider UK web. The [Black and Asian Britain collection](#)



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focuses on Black and Asian communities and culture in the UK as well as the history of the Black and Asian presence in the UK.

See the UK Web Archive: <https://www.webarchive.org.uk/en/ukwa/>.

## Rare printed material

The extensive collections of rare books, printed music and images, and ephemera in Bodleian collections include imagery and cultural expression from Britain during periods of colonial and imperial expansion.

See the John Johnson Collection of Printed Ephemera: <https://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/johnson>

The Bodleian's vast collections of rare books cover every topic imaginable, including materials relevant to the study of slavery, empire, exploration and travel, as well as depictions of black people in the UK (both text and image), and works related to celebrated individuals such as Mary Seacole and Ignatius Sancho.

The John Johnson Collection of Printed Ephemera (<https://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/johnson>) includes material on 'blackface minstrelsy' and other imagery of Black people in Britain (see also: <https://blogs.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/theconveyor/2018/10/02/portraying-a-black-african-scholar-at-oxford-in-the-1870s-and-reimagining-those-portrayals-today/>).

See also:

The Rare Books Guide: <https://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/weston/finding-resources/guides/rarebooks>.

The Guide to the John Johnson Collection of Printed Ephemera: <https://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/johnson>

## Getting help

If you have a research idea, but would like help exploring the collections, please contact [specialcollections.enquiries@bodleian.ox.ac.uk](mailto:specialcollections.enquiries@bodleian.ox.ac.uk) with details of your proposed research topic. We will direct your enquiry to the most relevant curatorial staff.