

The Newcastle Collection

Photograph: Newcastle Chronicle and Journal.



The Newcastle Collection is displayed on the sixth floor of the City Library in Newcastle upon Tyne. For more information and images see the website at www.newcastle.gov.uk/newcastlecollection

If you wish to consult material from the special collections it is advisable to give advance notice.



City Library

Charles Avison Building, 33 New Bridge Street West
Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 8AX
0191 277 4100

Turn a new page



Newcastle Libraries



Avison



Bewick



Collinson



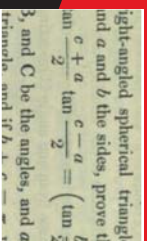
Crawhall



Gibson



Mackey



Merrifield



Thomlinson



Looking forward to Newcastle's past

In 1880 Newcastle upon Tyne established a public library service. It was thirty years after the Public Libraries Act of 1850, and the decision to provide a library service for the city was reached only after much debate and some opposition. One of the objections was that women might be tempted to waste their time in the library rather than concentrating on their household duties!



The reference library was officially opened in 1884, and from that time the Library Service has built up extensive collections of rare books and heritage material. Some of the items date back to the fifteenth century.

For many years, much of this material formed part of the City Library's general reference or local studies stock. However as time passed and certain items became rarer, and often irreplaceable, they were kept in special collections shelved behind the scenes at the Library.

The building of the new City Library presented the opportunity to display some of these treasures which belong to the people of Newcastle and reflect their proud cultural history. The new building has facilities for storing and displaying items from the Newcastle Collection in special environmentally controlled conditions and a two-year Heritage Lottery Funded project provided the means to conserve and promote some of this unique material.

The Newcastle Collection

The Avison Collection

Newcastle-born **Charles Avison** (1709 - 1770) is regarded as England's greatest eighteenth century concerto composer. The collection, formed in partnership with the Avison Society, contains workbooks with ideas for compositions and musical arrangements in Avison's own handwriting. They were bought with Heritage Lottery Fund support.

The Bewick Collection

John William Pease, a local businessman (1836 - 1901) spent forty years collecting the work of artist and engraver **Thomas Bewick** (1753 - 1828) and his pupils. When he died he left the collection to Newcastle Libraries. The original collection contained over three hundred volumes in fine bindings, of first and later editions of illustrated books. In addition to this the collection has over one thousand woodblocks by Thomas Bewick and his pupils. As well as letters, drawings, watercolours and Bewick's own tool chest and work table.

Nationally and internationally important, it has been described as the finest and most complete collection relating to Bewick now in existence.

Left: Bewick engravings of a tree and a tiger.



The Collinson Collection

Richard Collinson (1811 -1883), a naval officer and explorer donated three volumes of exquisitely detailed watercolour paintings of the plants of Northumberland and Durham to the library. It is not known who actually painted the works.



Primula elatior

Delphi - Great bowlepis, - Delphi Primrose

Perennial

Above:
Watercolours from the
Collinson Collection.

Below:
Paintings from the
Crawhall Collection.



The Crawhall Collection

Between the late eighteenth and early twentieth centuries three members of the Crawhall family were recognised as some of the most distinctive artists the region has produced. The collection contains the work of each of these artists.

Joseph Crawhall the first (1793 - 1853) amateur landscape painter, figure and animal artist, caricaturist, lithographer, etcher and wood engraver was apprenticed to a ropemaker as a young boy and subsequently became the owner of St Anne's Ropery in Newcastle upon Tyne and an affluent member of the Newcastle society of the time.

Joseph Crawhall the second (1821 - 1896) inherited his father's artistic talents. He was involved in writing and painting and his interests in angling, music and antiquarianism is reflected in his art. He was fascinated by the past and this led to a specific interest in reproducing the kind of woodcuts and engravings associated with ancient chapbooks and ballad sheets. Although medieval glass and manuscripts were part of his inspiration, other decisive influences included the work of Thomas Bewick, which he much admired.

Joseph Crawhall the third (1861 - 1913) one of Northumberland's most talented animal and bird painters would go on to distinguish himself as a member of the 'Glasgow Boys' by virtue of having studied and worked there. In addition to his work in oil and water-colour Crawhall was an accomplished illustrator in line drawing.

Collinson Collection - Northumberland & other leaves - May 15. 1893.



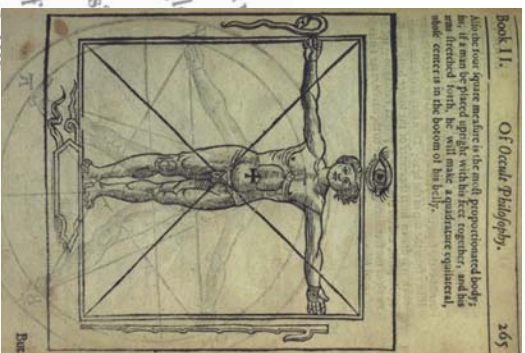
Gibson's Conch Collection

The collection consists of 7,260 watercolours of 3,025 species of sea-shells (above and right), painted in meticulous detail by local entrepreneur **George Gibson**.

They were bought by public subscription in 1890 and presented to Newcastle Public Library where they have been kept ever since.



Photograph: Newcastle Chronicle and Journal.



The Mackey Collection

This unique library of locally printed works focuses on pamphlets dating from 1640 -1660 and relating to the activities of the Scottish army in the North East of England. **Matthew Mackey** was a local businessman and member of the Public Libraries Committee.

The Merrifield Collection

In 1883 the Library Service bought over a thousand, seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth century books on science and mathematics from the collection of **C. W. Merrifield** reflecting the North East's continuing interest in science, engineering and technology.

The Thomlinson Collection

Dr Robert Thomlinson (1668 - 1748) left his private library to the people of Newcastle, creating the first 'public library' in the town. There are over 5,500 volumes in this collection with many rare items including two incunabula (early printed books) printed in 1489 and 1490.

10. The sum of two right angles and less than two right angles spherical triangle whereof c is the hypotenuse and a and b the sides, prove that $\cos \frac{a}{2} + \cos \frac{b}{2} = \cos \frac{c}{2}$.
 11. In a right-angled spherical triangle whereof c is the hypotenuse and a and b the sides, prove that $\tan \frac{a}{2} \tan \frac{b}{2} = \tan \frac{c}{2}$.