



# Heythrop Library

at the London Jesuit Centre

## A Guide for Readers

2026

Version 3

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<https://shorturl.at/TDe9c>

**Website:** <https://heythroplibrary.co.uk>

**Catalogue:** <https://search.heythroplibrary.co.uk>

**Blog:** <https://heythroplibrary.co.uk/page-blog/>

**Bluesky:** <https://bsky.app/profile/heythroplib.bsky.social>

**LinkedIn:** <https://www.linkedin.com/company/heythrop-library>

## Opening hours

LJC teaching terms for 2025-26 are

**Summer 2026: Monday 27 April – Friday 10 July 2026**

*Awaiting new 2026-27 LJC term dates. See our web page, later this summer.*

**[Autumn 2025: Monday 22 September – Friday 5 December 2025**

**Spring 2026: Monday 12 January – Friday 27 March 2026]**

	Non-teaching time*	LJC teaching time*
Monday:	9.30 am – 1.00 pm & 2.00 pm – 5.30 pm	9.30 am – 6.30 pm
Tuesday:	9.30 am – 1.00 pm & 2.00 pm – 6.30 pm	9.30 am – 6.30 pm
Wednesday:	9.30 am – 1.00 pm & 2.00 pm – 5.30 pm	9.30 am – 6.30 pm
Thursday:	9.30 am – 1.00 pm & 2.00 pm – 5.30 pm	9.30 am – 6.30 pm
Friday:	9.30 am – 1.00 pm & 2.00 pm – 4.30 pm	9.30 am – 6.00 pm
Saturday	Closed	9.30 am – 2.00 pm
Sunday:	Closed	Closed

\* No admittance during the 15 minutes before closing time. Please always check

<https://heythroplibrary.co.uk/opening-hours/> before travelling, especially if you are coming from a distance.

The Heythrop Library is a work of the Jesuits in Britain CIO,  
a registered charity in England and Wales (1207742) and Scotland (SC053495)

*Ad maiorem Dei gloriam | For the greater glory of God*

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## Accessing the Heythrop Library collection & membership



Figure 1: Entrance to the London Jesuit Centre, Mayfair, London (UK).

You will either need be a member of the Heythrop Library, or pay for reference-only access. More details about your options are below.

The Heythrop Library welcomes applications for membership from anyone with a serious interest in theology and philosophy. The contents of this *Guide for Readers*, revised from time to time, constitute the terms and conditions of membership of the Heythrop Library. Failure to observe these terms and conditions may lead to exclusion from the library or termination of membership.

### Membership fees

The **full library membership fee is £100 per year for borrowing any of our borrowable books** (on-site at the London Jesuit Centre, ca. 8,000+ books), as well as over 140,000 modern volumes. Membership is valid for 12 months from the point of issuing a card, and may be renewed annually. The **half library membership fee is £50 if you would only like to borrow from our reading room at the London Jesuit Centre (ca. 8,000+ books) only**, and consult the latest issues of our 140 serials (not borrowable).

**Reference-only access for just using the reading room at Mount Street**, with its ca. 8,000 books (plus the latest issues of ca. 200 journals), we also offer the following reference-only membership

fees: **£5 per day, £15 per week, or £30 per month**. Reference-only memberships do not entitle the member to borrow any books or request books from the offsite store (ca. 200,000 volumes).

## **Exemption of fees**

At the discretion of the Library, an exemption from the membership fee is available to:

- members of the Society of Jesus
- any other member of the clergy or of an Institute of Consecrated Life
- Christian priests and seminarians
- former Heythrop College Faculty staff
- those enrolled on courses taught at the London Jesuit Centre, for the duration of their course
- current HE or FE students
- sixth-form students
- the unwaged

**For those exempt from the annual fees:  
we ask for a one-off admin fee of £5 for creating a card for free membership.**

**It is crucial that you live in easy travelling distance to the Centre**, and that you have permanent residency in the UK (non-UK students may become members if they are registered at a UK institution for the whole duration of their course).

Upon joining the library, you will be issued with a reader card. Readers must not share or allow any other person to use their reader card or online membership credentials, and must report any loss of their reader card to the library without delay.

## **Terms and conditions of membership**

**As a member, you agree**

- (a) that the primary purpose of being a member of the Library is to consult our materials;
- (b) to abide by the rules of the Heythrop Library (available online; see the latest version of our [Reader Guide](#), revised from time to time);
- (c) to pay the annual membership fee of £50 or £100 (unless you are exempt);
- (d) to pay the replacement costs for any books you lose or damage;
- (e) to return books within the specified time (especially if a book has been requested by another reader);
- (f) to the Jesuits in Britain keeping the personal details you have provided at registration on a database, and contacting you from time to time on Heythrop Library business (we will not pass your details to any other organization).

**Repeatedly not returning a book when asked to or violating these terms and conditions might result in your borrowing privileges being withdrawn.**

## Reading room



Figure 2: Part of the Mount Street Reading Room, London Jesuit Centre, Mayfair, London.

The Heythrop Library has a reading room at the London Jesuit Centre, 114 Mount Street, London W1K 3AH. **The reading room houses**

- **8,000+ books** in more regular use or which relate to London Jesuit Centre courses.
- **the most recent journal issues received.** Past issues of journals are stored in our off-site stores.

**Most of the collection is in off-site stores (over 200,000 volumes),** and such books need to be requested. You need full Library membership to request these books. See **page 9 of this guide on Requesting books from our off-site stores.** 700+ rare books are kept at Campion Hall, Oxford, and cannot be requested to the reading room in London.

**If you require special help to use the library, please**

**speak with the librarians** who will assist and guide you.

Readers shall not take into the reading room and/or use any prohibited item which could damage any content, including sticky notes, adhesive tape, food, drink, liquids, chewing gum, scissors, knives, blades, and adhesives. Please do not annotate or mark up any items in our collection, not even with pencil.

**For reasons of security, readers agree to allow library staff to inspect the contents of personal bags being carried out of the library.** Recorded closed-circuit television is used to monitor the reading room.

### **Bookrests for reading room use**

You can borrow a bookrest for use in the reading room. Please just ask one of the librarians. We have two of these.



Figure 3: two bookrests.

### **Height-adjustable desk**

We have a so-called yo-yo desk riser, which means that you can work standing, if you prefer to do so. It is in the section of the Biblical Studies section in the reading room. It cannot be booked, and is on a first-come, first-served basis.

## Considerate user behaviour

### **Consideration for others**

When in the reading room, readers must:

- talk only when necessary and then quietly;
- refrain from dictating notes;
- use personal headphones only at a level that does not leak sound;
- not take or make (video) phone calls;
- and switch off or turn to silent mode all personal devices.

## Use of Heythrop Library content

'Content' means any content in any format, including hard copy and digital versions, which the Heythrop Library subscribes to, acquires, creates, and makes available or accessible to readers. Currently, the Heythrop Library does not subscribe to any ebooks, or any other digital (bibliographic) databases. JSTOR's 'Religion' package (over 130 journals) is accessible in our reading room.

## Care of Heythrop Library content

**Readers must take utmost care of content and shall comply with directions and advice given by library staff regarding the use, care, and protection of content.**

Readers must **not write in, or otherwise make any mark on, content.**

Any deliberate damage, theft, or unauthorised use of content may constitute a criminal offence and result in prosecution.

## Borrowing

Readers must follow all library procedures for the issue and return of content and shall not remove any content from the reading room unless expressly permitted to do so. **Readers are responsible for content being used** by or issued personally to them. They shall not share or pass that content on to any other person. Journals are for reference use only.

Library members may borrow a **maximum of six books** at any one time for a loan period of four weeks. Books will be issued at the circulation desk on production of a valid library card. If you have **lost your card**, we will ask for **£1 in cash** for producing a **replacement card**.

### The following cannot be borrowed:

- Periodicals
- Reference books (with red spine labels on books in our reading room)
- Restricted or fragile items (for books from the off-site stores you will be informed as soon as we have assessed them)

Some items in the Heythrop Library collections are too fragile to leave the library. We cannot guarantee that all books ordered from the off-site store will be in a condition fit for borrowing until they arrive. The librarians will alert readers if fragile books need to be consulted as reference-only materials in the Mount Street reading room. Such decisions may be made at short notice. We are sorry for any inconvenience this causes and thank you for your understanding.

We also ask you to take care when attempting to photocopy or scan pages from any of our materials. Fragile or damaged books should not be photocopied or scanned. Please never force a book open or damage the integrity of a book's spine to flatten it.

## Checking which books you have borrowed

### To check which books you have borrowed, you can

- log in to your library account at the Library Catalogue (via <https://search.heythroplibrary.co.uk>, the library card number (starting with 019...; see the back of your library card) as login,
- and then either use the password, you already created, or click on "Forget your password" and reset it.
- Once you are logged to your account, **you will see your loans.**

# Renewals

Each book you borrow will automatically renew up to 5 times (each time for 28 days), unless someone else requests it (see more under Recalls). You can log in to your library account, to see how often a book has been renewed:

Issued (1)

Search  ✕ Clear filter 📄 Copy 🖨 Print 📄 CSV 📅 iCal

1 Item(s) issued

	Title	Author	Due	Barcode	Class number	Renew	Fines
No cover image available	<b>The Christian ministry of spiritual direction /</b> ★★★★★ Average rating: 0.0 (0 votes)		26/08/2025	1921043172	BT2931 CHR	No renewal before 26/08/2025 ( 5 of 5 renewals remaining ) This item is scheduled for auto renewal.	No

Figure 4: Screenshot of a book on loan

The one-but-last column states for the above book: 'No renewal before [date] (5 of 5 renewals remaining) This item is scheduled for auto renewal.' Each book you borrow will auto-renew up to 5 times.

The system will also send you an email when it has renewed your book(s). Crucially, when it has reached the renewal limit, it should tell you so, see last line of the following email:

**From:** contact@heythroplibrary.co.uk <contact@heythroplibrary.co.uk>

**Sent:** [date]

**To:**[recipient]

**Subject:** Auto renewals (Digest)

Dear [first name surname],

There was 1 item that was renewed.

The Buddha and the Christ :

1915275159

was renewed until 02/03/2026

This item has reached the maximum number of automatic renewals and will no longer be renewed.

## Recalls

If someone requests a book you have borrowed, your due date for this book will be shortened. Normally, the system changes the due date to 5 days after generation of the email. Please return a book needed by someone else, asap, but by 5 days after receipt of the email, at the latest.

**Repeatedly returning recalled books late may result in your borrowing privileges being withdrawn.**

You can also place a Recall through the catalogue – it is an option if a book has been borrowed. Please note: library staff cannot recall a book for you, but only place a hold, i.e. the borrower will not be able to renew the book, and is asked to return it then.

## Returns

### In the Library during opening hours

**Please return borrowed books** directly to library staff at the circulation desk during the opening hours of the Library.

### Out of hours

You may be able to return books, during the opening hours of the London Jesuit Centre, to a colleague at the LJC's reception, if the reception is staffed.

**The London Jesuit Centre reception is usually open Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 7:30pm, on Saturday and Sunday it might be staffed from 10 am to 3pm.** You might want to ring the LJC reception (020 7529 4844) before setting off. Please do not leave books for return at the reception counter or in front of the Library, but hand them over to the LJC receptionist.

### Returning books by post

If you return books by post, please use recorded delivery. If books sent by post get lost in transit, we will need to ask you to pay the replacement costs.

**The late return of books will block your account.** Library staff may refuse to issue or renew loans to those who have very overdue or unreturned books. Please talk to us about any such issues so that we might help to resolve them.

## Postal service (charged separately)

The library also offers a **postal service** which delivers books to your registered **UK home address**: <https://bit.ly/hypost>



The following rules apply:

- **Readers must cover the cost of postage, both ways** (please see <https://www.royalmail.com/price-finder> for possible costs).
- The Library sends books by **tracked/recorded delivery**.
- **Borrowers should return books by tracked/recorded delivery.** The replacement cost of any books lost in transit will need to be covered by the borrower. If you would like to borrow by post, please email us (see front of this guide). Please be aware that we ask for an **initial BACS transfer of £50**; we will use this as credit for any postal loan costs.
- **Postal loans are not possible to locations outside the UK mainland.**
- **For our terms and conditions of this service, please see** <https://heythroplibrary.co.uk/faq/faq-for-current-members/heythrop-library-postal-service/>.

## Lost or damaged books

Borrowers are responsible for the care of our books and safe return of items borrowed. We expect borrowers to pay for the replacement of any lost or damaged items.

### Replacement costs

We normally charge the **Recommend Retail Price for books we can replace**. For irreplaceable books we charge a **minimum of £50**; the exact charge is dependent on the perceived value of the book.

### Repeatedly not returning our books on time

**Not returning our books, or not paying for the replacement of lost books, can result in use of our collections, services, or provisions being suspended until the borrower has returned all books or paid for their replacement.** Please remember that we are only funded by the Jesuits in Britain – we do not obtain any other funding.

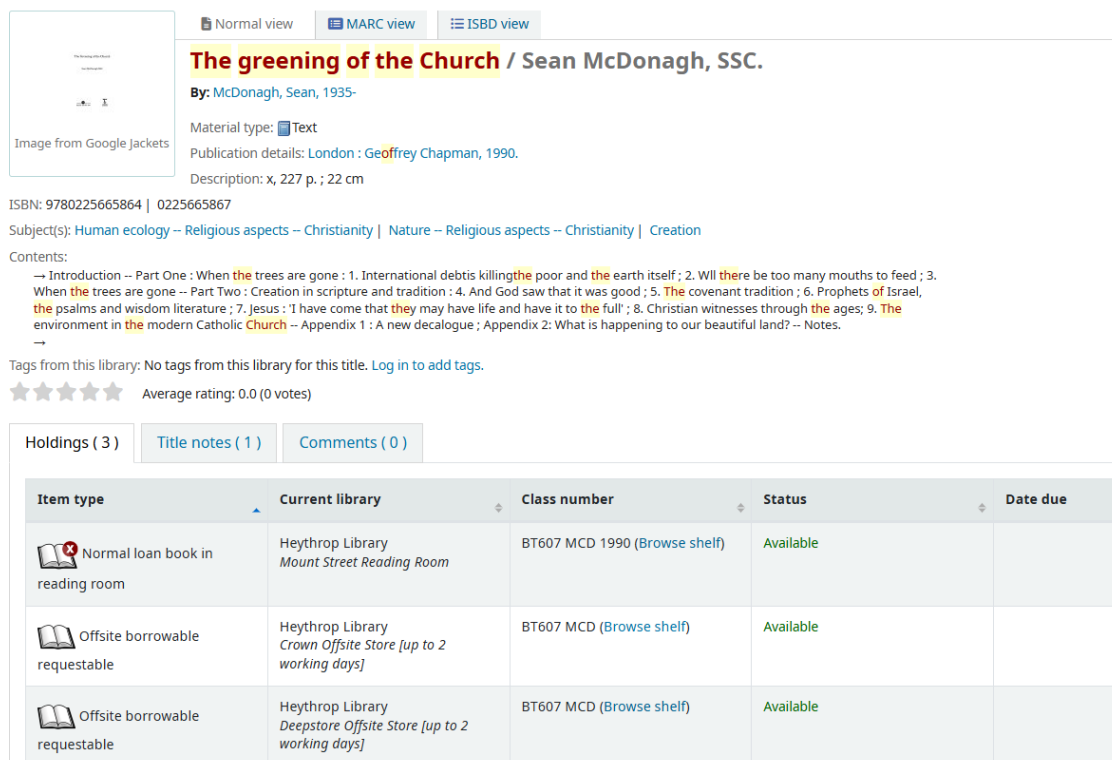
## Requesting books from our off-site stores

### Why is this important?

Of over 200,000 volumes only 8,000+ books are stored in our reading room. Most books are stored in our two off-site stores: 'Heythrop Crown', in west London, and 'Heythrop Deepstore', a storage facility in Cheshire.

### How to spot which books need to be requested

The following detailed result of a search for a book might help to spot where a book is held. The second column shows the 'Current library', i.e. the location where something is held:



The screenshot shows a library search result for the book "The greening of the Church" by Sean McDonagh, SSC. The book is available in three different locations:

Item type	Current library	Class number	Status	Date due
Normal loan book in reading room	Heythrop Library Mount Street Reading Room	BT607 MCD 1990 (Browse shelf)	Available	
Offsite borrowable requestable	Heythrop Library Crown Offsite Store [up to 2 working days]	BT607 MCD (Browse shelf)	Available	
Offsite borrowable requestable	Heythrop Library Deepstore Offsite Store [up to 2 working days]	BT607 MCD (Browse shelf)	Available	

Figure 5: Screenshot of the detailed search results for 1 book with 3 copies: 1 in our reading room, and 2 copies which need to be requested.

In this example, we have one copy in our reading room and two further copies at 'Heythrop Deepstore' or 'Heythrop Crown'.

If there is a copy in our reading room ('Mount Street Reading Room' you can only reserve this *if* it has already been borrowed by someone else. This *might* mean that a book you saw as 'available' when you searched the catalogue might have been borrowed by the time you come to the Library.

We normally **do not allow reservations for off-site store copies when a reading room copy is available**. This is to be kinder to the environment and saves us money, as every journey and every pick-up from the shelves costs us money. The following blown-up part of the holdings information will hopefully help:




Holdings ( 3 )		Title notes ( 1 )	Comments ( 0 )
Item type	Current library	Class number	Status
 Normal loan book in reading room	Heythrop Library Mount Street Reading Room	BT607 MCD 1990 ( <a href="#">Browse shelf</a> )	Available
 Offsite borrowable requestable	Heythrop Library Crown Offsite Store [up to 2 working days]	BT607 MCD ( <a href="#">Browse shelf</a> )	Available
 Offsite borrowable requestable	Heythrop Library Deepstore Offsite Store [up to 2 working days]	BT607 MCD ( <a href="#">Browse shelf</a> )	Available

Figure 6: Screenshot only showing detail of figure 3.

The copies at either Crown or Deepstore would need to be requested.

### How many requests can you make per day?

The **maximum number of off-site store requests per day is 6**; if you desperately need more, please contact us once you have requested 6 items.

### When to request a book from our main off-site stores

The 'Heythrop Mount Street' location is for books at the London Jesuit Centre - currently the copy can be borrowed by coming to the London Jesuit Centre. You cannot request this copy online, if it shows as 'Available'. Please come to the reading room at Mount Street, and be kind to the environment by saving the cost of getting an off-site copy when a copy is available on our open shelves.

### How long will my request for an off-site book take?

Such requests can take **up to 2 working days** to be delivered. The cut-off time for requests being processed is Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays at 2pm. The normal delivery time is then the next day:

Deadline for requests:	Processing of requests:	Standard delivery of items:
Tuesdays at 2pm	Tuesdays at 2pm	Wednesdays
Thursdays at 2pm	Thursdays at 2pm	Fridays
Fridays at 2pm	Fridays at 2pm	Mondays

Please wait for our email that a book has been delivered and is ready for you to consult or borrow (if applicable).

## How to make a request for an off-site book

For making a request you will need to have your library account number (starting 019...) and password. Watch a screencast on how to request books from the main off-site depository: <https://youtu.be/AWUadVgRkBE>



Please ask if the above does not make sense. We are happy to show you how to request a book.

## IT resources

Computers and a photocopier/scanner are available for reader use in the reading room. Readers must abide by copyright rules. You are welcome to bring your own laptop or tablet. Free wi-fi is available at the London Jesuit Centre: *LJC Visitors* (password required, please ask library staff when in the reading room).

## Library hours

For the standard Library opening hours, see the front of this guide. Please always check our web page at <https://heythroplibrary.co.uk/opening-hours/> before travelling, especially if you are coming from a distance. The library is closed on bank holidays and over the Christmas/New Year holiday.

## Acquisitions

The Heythrop Library is advised on acquisitions by an expert panel of academics and specialists. The Library also welcomes suggestions from readers. We add on average 60 books per month. To see our latest acquisitions, please see the front page of our catalogue (<https://search.heythroplibrary.co.uk>):

Welcome to the Heythrop Library catalogue...

We are a members-only Library in the heart of London, funded by the [Jesuits of Britain](#), who have been the owners since 1614. For more information on membership options, please see our web page. For enquiries, please email the Heythrop Library at [heythroplibrary@jesuit.org.uk](mailto:heythroplibrary@jesuit.org.uk).

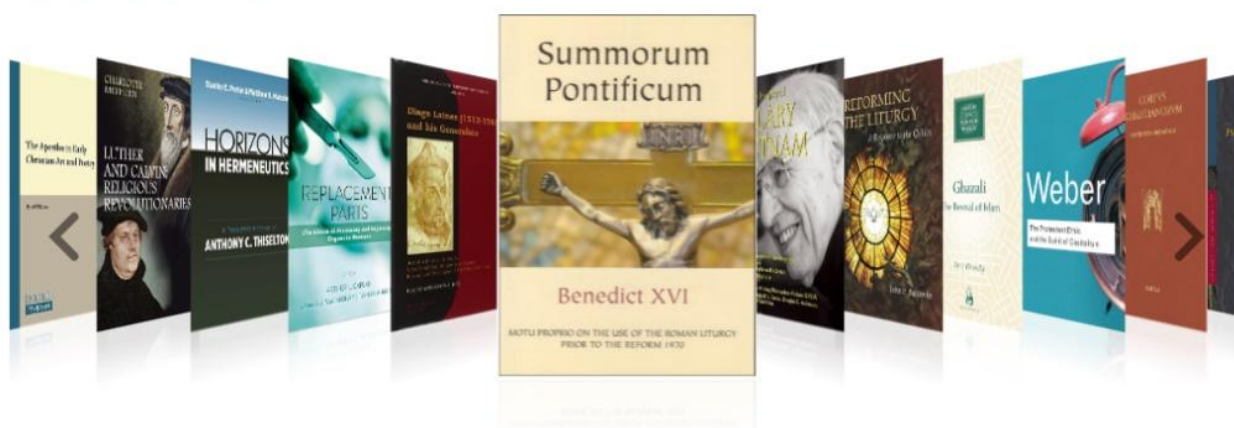


Figure 7: Screenshot the Heythrop Library's catalogue, which shows 10-15 of the latest books added.

## Accommodation

Readers and researchers travelling a distance to use the Heythrop Library, or wishing to work over a period of days, may be able to book a room in the bed and breakfast accommodation at the London Jesuit Centre; more details: <https://londonjesuitcentre.org/accommodation>.

## Can I bring family/friends with me to the library?

We are always very happy to talk to people who are interested in joining the library! However, the Heythrop Library is a members' library; currently, only members and Jesuits may use it. As it stands, the Library does not act as a lounge/social space. If you are visiting the building with family or friends, they may wait in the Cana Room at the end of the corridor.

## GDPR (data protection)

The London Jesuit Centre/Heythrop Library retains a small amount of members' personal data, including borrowing records, solely for the purposes of the administration of the Heythrop Library. This data is not shared with others. **Once an account has expired, we will delete it after 6 months of inactivity.** At any time, you can request for us to delete your data, except for when you still have books from us.

## Where can I find the latest version of this guide?

We share the latest version of our Reader's Guide on our web page, at <https://heythroplibrary.co.uk/readers-guide/> or [bit.ly/heythropguide](https://bit.ly/heythropguide)



## Any further questions?

We offer answers to some frequently asked questions on our web page, see <https://heythroplibrary.co.uk/faq/faq-for-current-members/> or <https://bit.ly/hyfaqcur>. Please ask if anything is not clear.

## About the Heythrop Library

### Overview

The Heythrop Library is a work of the Jesuits in Britain, and a specialist collection of well over 200,000 volumes of philosophy and theology, together with related disciplines including biblical studies, church history, and spirituality. The Library is widely regarded as one of the largest and finest collections of theology in the UK, covering all the principal areas of theology and philosophy with a particular emphasis on works in the Catholic tradition. It also has an extensive collection of journals, periodicals, and serials in its specialist areas, including complete runs, some of which are unique in this country. The Library continues to be owned and maintained by the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) as a resource for members of the Society of Jesus, the Catholic Church, and, more widely, for academics, researchers, and readers specializing in theology and philosophy.

### Brief history

The Heythrop Library began as the academic library of the English Jesuit College at Louvain, founded in 1614. The college prepared priests for work in the English Mission in times when the practice of the Catholic faith was unlawful and attracted severe penalties, including execution. The College moved to Liège in 1624 when it outgrew its accommodation in Louvain. Fleeing French revolutionary forces, it crossed the Channel in 1794 and found a new home at Stonyhurst in

Lancashire (surviving the worldwide suppression of the Society of Jesus from 1793 to 1814). The theology collection moved to St Beuno's near St Asaph in North Wales in 1848. The theology and philosophy collections were reunited at Heythrop in Oxfordshire in 1926. In 1970, what was now called Heythrop College moved to Cavendish Square, London, becoming part of the University of London, and then to Kensington Square, London. in 1993. In 2019, Heythrop College closed. Its library collection survived and is accessible through the reading room at the London Jesuit Centre. Over 700 rare and antiquarian books were deposited to Campion Hall, the Jesuits' private hall in Oxford. Between 2019 and April 2025 most of the collection was also available through the Senate House Library.

To explore the history more, please go to <https://heythroplibrary.co.uk/history/>.

## Want to explore our collections and services more?

Our blog at <https://heythroplibrary.co.uk/page-blog/> has posts on:

- Rare books -> <https://heythroplibrary.co.uk/tag/rare-books/>
- Recent acquisitions as subject lists -> <https://heythroplibrary.co.uk/tag/subject-lists/>
- Our journals -> <https://heythroplibrary.co.uk/tag/our-journals/>
- and much more!



February 13, 2026

### Philosophy Collection Development 2025-2026

During and continuing from my week of work experience at Heythrop Library, one of the projects I was allocated was the development of both logic and women philosophers, which I had been given due to my familiarity with the field of philosophy. This, however, ended up being a little more complex than simply finding a...

[Read more](#)



February 6, 2026

### Rare books at Campion Hall – fifth report

This is the fifth post in a series for our blog. It shares the reports written by Alison Felstead, Rare Books Cataloguer at Campion Hall, who has since April 2024 done sterling work on creating detailed records for those Heythrop Library rare books which are stored at Campion Hall. Below is the report received from Alison for the Heythrop...

[Read more](#)



January 30, 2026

### First officer's log #1

First officer's log #1. 30 January 2026. It has been decided that in addition to the Captain's log updates you have been enjoying so far, we will introduce a first officer's log to the rotation as well. As the designated first officer for the last 9 months – since the Heythrop Library's previous first officer...

[Read more](#)

Figure 8: Screenshot of 3 recent blog posts

Heythrop Library  
May 2026

# An overview of Heythrop Library Collections

The Heythrop Library is a specialist collection of theology and philosophy, and related academic disciplines. The main categories of the collections are:

## THEOLOGY

Biblical studies

Canon law

Christian writers - including theologians from the patristic period to the modern era

Church history

Ecclesiology

Environmental theology

Liturgy

Moral theology - including social ethics, Catholic social teaching, and medical ethics

Patristics

Pastoral theology

Political theology

Reformed theology

Roman Catholic theology

Spirituality

Study of religions - including Judaism, Islam, eastern religions, and interreligious dialogue

Systematic theology

## PHILOSOPHY

Aesthetics

Epistemology

Ethics

History of philosophy

Logic

Metaphysics

Philosophy of language

Philosophy of mind

Philosophy of religion

Philosophy of science - including relationships between science, religion, and ethics

Political philosophy

## PSYCHOLOGY

Psychology of religion

Psychology and theology

Philosophy of mind

Philosophy of psychology

## JESUITICA

The Heythrop Library holds an extensive collection relating to the Society of Jesus (Jesuits) including books on the foundation of the Society, history, biography, St Ignatius Loyola, Ignatian spirituality, missions, Jesuit education, the history of the English Mission and Jesuits in England, General Congregations, and Jesuit studies.

## EDUCATION

Catholic education

Jesuit education and schools

Jesuit drama

Religious education

## LANGUAGE & LITERATURE

Language material to support Biblical studies and patristics

Language material to support philosophy of language

Literary criticism to support Biblical studies and hermeneutics

Literature of theological and philosophical significance, especially Roman Catholic and other Christian writers

Literature relevant to the history of the Society of Jesus

## SERIALS

The Heythrop Library subscribes to over 300 serials in theology, philosophy, biblical studies, church history, spirituality, liturgy, Jesuitica, and other related fields. Of these, about 200 are journals. Monographs in series are normally catalogued separately.

Please see our web site at <https://heythroplibrary.co.uk/about/join-us/collections/journals-overview-2/> for complete lists of the periodicals and serials we subscribe to.

# Plan of the Mount Street reading room's shelves

