

Section J a ~ British Institutions

J a a ~ The British Library

It should be noted that the BL is one of six legal deposit libraries for the UK, which means that a copy of any book published in the UK should be sent to each of the named libraries free of charge. These rules are occasionally breached, for example by print-on-demand publishers, and those non-commercial publishers not aware of the requirement. The six named libraries are:

The British Library	The National Library of Scotland, in Edinburgh
The Bodleian Library, Oxford	Cambridge University Library
Trinity College Library, Dublin	The National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth

By no means all the holdings of the BL are fully digitised, and much of its ‘hard-copy’ collection is held in locations outside London. Please be aware that if you intend to search for something on hard copy in the BL, which you assume will involve your travelling to the Library, you should check whether access to the relevant item will be more or less immediate, or by advance arrangement.

This may be of particular relevance to the Lord Chamberlain’s Plays material, which can be consulted in the Manuscripts Reading Room, and can be inspected by anybody with a current Reader’s Card.

J a a a ~ The Material loaned by Sir Edward Cazalet to the BL in 2016

To find the various links to access this material it is necessary to follow the following steps:

Enter www.bl.uk/help/guide-to-explore-the-british-library

Click on **Explore Archives and Manuscripts**

In the ‘Search’ box enter **Wodehouse Archive (1894-2016)**

Click on **Browse this collection** on the resulting page

This Archive includes 478 files and three volumes, and has a BL code ‘MS129’

J a a b ~ <https://www.bl.uk/collection-guides/lord-chamberlains-plays>

The British Library has the scripts of all new plays performed in Britain from 1824 to 1968. Until 1968, all plays intended for public performance in the UK had to be submitted to the Lord Chamberlain’s Office for examination and licensing under the Stage Licensing Act of 1737 and the Theatres Act of 1843.

The Lord Chamberlain’s Plays is the BL’s largest single manuscript collection, and in many cases offers the unique source for texts of plays performed in Britain from 1824-1968.

The Most Relevant Sections

The two sections of the Lord Chamberlain's Plays collection most likely to be relevant to our members comprise:

- a Plays submitted for licensing (1824-1968) - the vast majority of the collection, comprising plays which were granted licences, includes most of the plays for which PGW was author or joint-author; and
- b Correspondence files (1900-68) - a file for each play, containing an Examiner's report (known as a reader's report) summarising the play, expressing opinions as to its merits or demerits and advising whether or not it should be licensed. Files also contain details of any changes to the script demanded by the Examiner and associated correspondence with theatre managements where relevant.

What is available in BL's Reading Rooms?

You can consult the Lord Chamberlain's Plays in the BL's [Manuscripts Reading Room](#). Not all of the material in this collection is catalogued but there are resources in the Manuscripts Reading Room to help you [find and request Lord Chamberlain's Plays items](#).

You should assume that the information about PGW's plays has not yet been digitised, and that you will need to physically consult the resource described below:

How to find uncatalogued items

You can find lists and indexes in the theatre reference section of the Manuscripts Reading Room.

Before requesting items to the Manuscripts Reading Room, you'll need to find the reference number for the material you want to see.

The lists of plays are in licence number order, roughly chronological by date of receipt. There is a separate volume containing lists of unlicensed plays from 1897-1968. The lists were compiled in preparation for the collection's transfer to the British Library from the Lord Chamberlain's Office.

Near these lists are extensive card indexes (please note that some titles in the index were no longer in the collection at the time of its transfer to the British Library):

Lord Chamberlain's Plays, 1823-99 (by title)

Lord Chamberlain's Plays, 1900-68 (by title)

Lord Chamberlain's Plays Correspondence files, 1900-68 (by title)

Further information

The BL has identified the following books as being of potential interest to researchers of plays in the twentieth century:

- J Johnston *The Lord Chamberlain's Blue Pencil* (London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1990).
- S Nicholson *The Censorship of British Drama 1900-1968*, 4 vols (Exeter: University of Exeter: 2003-2015).
- D Shellard, S Nicholson and M Handley
The Lord Chamberlain Regrets: British Stage Censorship and Reader's Reports From 1824 to 1968 (London: The British Library, 2004).
- J P Wearing *The London Stage: A Calendar of Plays & Players: 1890-1959*, 18 vols. (The Scarecrow Press, 1976-1993).

J a b - Dulwich College

It is well known that Wodehouse spent the six years from 1894 to 1900 at Dulwich College, and maintained contact with the College throughout his life. It has named one of its three school libraries, the one used for its senior students, 'The Wodehouse Library'. More importantly from the point of view of the possibilities of research, is that Dulwich has had a number of bequests over the years to which it is willing, within strict limits, to provide access to genuine researchers.

Dulwich College holds a large collection of books by P G Wodehouse both in English and in translation, short stories in periodicals (some bound), and printed musical scores. Some of this collection was gifted to the College by the late Barry Phelps and the rest has arrived because it is the Legal Deposit Library for P G Wodehouse.

It also has a varied archive of unpublished materials relating to Wodehouse's life and work, which can be broadly summarised in the following terms:

Selection of Press Cuttings from 1934 to date.

Wodehouse Notebooks including 'Money Received for Literary Work'.

Collections of correspondence between Wodehouse and various people, including Guy Bolton, William Townend, and publishers.

Boxes of material donated by the late Barry Phelps.

Material relating to exhibitions held in Dulwich and elsewhere.

A full set of the school magazine *The Alleynian* featuring Wodehouse references, editions he edited and his contributions.

Photographs.

Material concerning Jeeves.

Recordings of TV and Radio programmes 1981-2011, in various formats.

Society Newsletters and Journals.

The College welcomes researchers to the Archive by appointment to view and use the collection. The visitor day is Wednesday, and to book an appointment it is necessary to contact the Keeper of the Archive, Calista Lucy, to discuss desired research topics:

Dulwich College, London, SE21 7LD

Telephone: 020 8299 9201

Email: lucycm@dulwich.org.uk

You can also see a mock-up of P G Wodehouse's writing room with furniture and furnishings from his home on Long Island. This can also be viewed by appointment (see contact details above).

J a c - Emsworth Maritime and Historical Trust

Emsworth Museum is part of Emsworth Maritime and Historical Trust, and is on the south coast of England.

P G Wodehouse lived in at a house named Threepwood in Emsworth for a number of years before the First World War, and apart from using the name for one of his best-known characters, he included in his writing references to many local Hampshire and West Sussex places he knew very well such as Emsworth House School.

The Museum has a significant collection of Wodehouse material in its Main Hall around the impressive original period fireplace. This includes a small general library of Wodehouse literary works, concentrating on those which pertain in any way to the ten years 1904-1914 Plum spent here, to the names of several local individuals, and to local places which he was known to visit. It includes a newly-drawn map which highlights these locations, and is accompanied by both period and up-to-date photographs of many of the places and people mentioned. An old typewriter has attracted the interest of younger visitors, and there is a portrait of Plum by a local artist. The Museum has published a booklet describing Plum's time in Emsworth which is on sale.

Of special interest to researchers is the original collection of letters sent between P G Wodehouse and Lillian Barnett, his housekeeper at Threepwood. This originated between them because of the onset of WWI which occurred whilst he was in America, leaving him with many unfinished matters here in England which needed her assistance to resolve. The correspondence continued until after WW2 and lasted until she died. The Museum holds copies of this correspondence both in paper format and in digital form on a stand.

The Museum's opening hours are subject to minor change every summer, and those interested in visiting are advised to check the details on the Museum's website, <http://emsworthmuseum.org.uk> Generally, the Museum is open on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays between Easter Saturday and the end of October each year.

In addition, researchers are welcome to visit the Museum at other times by appointment. Please make contact through the Museum's website.

J a d - Kings College, Cambridge

The Kings College, Cambridge, archives have two original items by Wodehouse, one an early article for *Vanity Fair*, and the other an unpublished and unperformed sketch written jointly with Herbert Westbrook. Both are to be found through this link:

https://archivesearch.lib.cam.ac.uk/repositories/7/archival_objects/284788

using reference codes GBR/0272/JDH/10/1:‘The Muse and the Motor’,1905-03-02; and GBR/0272/JDH/10/2:‘After the Show,’1905-1930 to see the relevant item.

Kings College reading room is accessible from Mondays to Thursdays, preferably by explicit arrangement with an archivist (archivist@kings.cam.ac.uk)

J a e - Bodleian Library, Oxford,

https://solo.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/primo-explore/search?vid=SOLO&lang=en_US&sortby=rank

The Bodleian Library has over 8,000 items relating to Wodehouse, including 2,271 Peer-reviewed articles and over 500 ‘Physical resources’.

From the link above, enter ‘P G Wodehouse’ in the ‘Search here’ box, and click ‘Search Everything’ to get the complete list, or look at the box on the left to choose specific categories.

J a f - Eton College

The Eton College Library holds a Wodehouse manuscript given by Edward Cazalet:

This is catalogued under the reference:

MS 786: Autograph notes and manuscript drafts of *The Girl in Blue* by P. G. Wodehouse

It also has the archive of Robert McCrum, including his extensive research and working papers for his biography of Wodehouse. This includes some original Wodehouse material in the form of letters that McCrum acquired, as well an extensive collection of photocopies of original material.

The archive is catalogued under the reference:

MS 786: Robert McCrum archive - Papers relating to *P. G. Wodehouse: A Life* by Robert McCrum.

Details of how to access this material are available on the Eton College website:

<https://collections.etoncollege.com/resources-research/research-facilities/>