

Nottingham and the Weekleys

Although University College did not provide Lawrence with the intellectual stimulus for which he had hoped, his two years as a student were critical years, both in terms of his personal development and his career as a writer. This was a period of prolific writing in which he not only continued to write poetry (his college notebooks include drafts of many of the poems later published in *Love poems and others*, 1913 and *Amores*, 1916) but also completed the second draft of his first novel, (published as *The White Peacock*, 1911) and wrote his first short stories. One of these, *A Prelude*, marked his first appearance in print, in the *Nottinghamshire Guardian*, December 1907, where it was published under the name of Jessie Chambers. Two other stories, submitted at the same time but rejected, were *Legend* (later *A Fragment of Stained Glass*) and *The White Stocking*.

Lawrence's circle of friends and acquaintances expanded at University College. It was here that he met Louie Burrows, to whom he became engaged, and others on whom he would later draw in creating fictional characters. Most significantly, it was at University College that he met Professor Ernest Weekley (1865-1954), Professor of Modern Languages. Later, in 1912, he was to elope with Weekley's wife, Frieda.

Lawrence's experience of his college years is described in some of the early poems (From a College Window, Study) but most vividly perhaps through the character of Ursula in *The Rainbow*. His fictional account of his early relationship with the Weekleys and his elopement with Frieda are described in the novel, *Mr Noon*.

Lawrence's genius was not formally recognised by the University during his lifetime. As a student, his poem, Study, had been rejected by the college magazine and even after his reputation as a writer was firmly established, the University's continuing loyalty to Professor Weekley made it difficult to honour this controversial former student.

Location

Manuscripts and Special Collections have moved to:

University of Nottingham
King's Meadow Campus
Lenton Lane
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NG7 2NR
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Directions

From M1 Motorway:

Leave motorway at Junction 25 to join the A52 to Nottingham. Turn right at the Queens Medical Centre roundabout (about 5 miles from M1) following signs to Grantham. After going over the flyover get into the left hand lane marked A453 City Centre then turn left after the footbridge, signposted Lenton Lane Industrial Estate. Turn left at the T-junction and King's Meadow Campus is about a quarter of a mile on the right.

From Nottingham (approximately 3 miles):

There are regular Link 1 buses from the Victoria Centre, the Broadmarsh bus station or Nottingham train station. Allight at the Clifton Bridge North stop, then walk north along Lenton Lane via the subway. The Campus is about half a mile on the right. Nottingham City Transport's website provides timetables and information about other routes.

There are taxi ranks throughout the City Centre and immediately adjacent to the main railway and bus stations. The journey to the campus takes about 15 minutes.

From the main University Campus:

The University runs free Hopper bus services between its main Campuses. Timetables are available on the University website: <http://www.nottingham.ac.uk>

Access

Access is allowed to all bona fide researchers at the discretion of the Keeper. The University reserves the right to refuse admission. Applicants must provide proof of identity and complete a registration form.

It is strongly recommended that researchers make an appointment in advance of their proposed visit to ensure that the material they wish to consult is available.

Facilities

Light refreshments are available from the coffee bar and vending machines on Level 2.

Facilities for the disabled

Wheelchair access to the Department is possible, with assistance, via the Library lift. Special toilet facilities are available on Level 2. Advance notice of other special needs is advisable.



D H Lawrence

Resources



D H Lawrence 1885 – 1930: biographical sketch

David Herbert Lawrence was born in 1885 in Eastwood, Nottinghamshire, the fourth child of Arthur Lawrence and Lydia Beardsall. After attending Beauvale Board School he won a scholarship to Nottingham High School. On leaving school in 1901 he was employed for a short time as a clerk at the Nottingham firm of Haywards, manufacturers of surgical appliances, and from 1902 as a pupil teacher at the British School in Eastwood. He attended the Pupil-Teacher Centre in Ilkeston from 1904 and in 1906 took up a teacher-training scholarship at University College, Nottingham. After qualifying in 1908 he took up a teaching post at the Davidson School in Croydon, remaining there until 1912.

In early 1912, after a period of serious illness, Lawrence left his teaching post at Croydon to return to Nottinghamshire, shortly afterwards eloping to Germany with Frieda Weekley, the wife of Professor Ernest Weekley. They returned to England in 1914 prior to the outbreak of war and were married at Kensington Register Office on 14 July. Confined to England during the war years, the Lawrences spent much of this time at Tregerthen in Cornwall. In 1919 they left England once more, embarking on a period of extensive travelling within Europe and then further afield to Ceylon, Australia, Mexico and New Mexico.

His health continued to deteriorate and Lawrence returned to Europe with Frieda in 1925. During his last years Lawrence spent much of his time in Italy making only brief visits to England, the last in 1926. He died on 2 March 1930 at Vence in the south of France.

Lawrence was a prolific writer – of poetry, novels, short stories, plays, essays, and criticism. His works are heavily autobiographical and the experiences of his early years in Nottinghamshire continued to exert a profound influence throughout his life.



Background to the collections

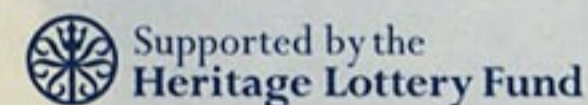
The University of Nottingham's support for the study of D H Lawrence as a literary figure dates from the 1950s and is particularly associated with Professor Vivian de Sola Pinto and Professor J D Chambers, brother of Jessie Wood (née Chambers).

The various collections making up the D H Lawrence Collections have been established over four decades. The key series include both published and manuscript material, and concern all aspects of Lawrence's creative life – as an author of fiction, a poet, dramatist, translator, travel writer, essayist, critic, artist and, significantly, as a correspondent.

The collections come from many sources, growing by gifts and purchases, of single items or entire series of papers. Many people and organisations have generously supported the acquisitions, giving the collections a particular strength in coverage of Lawrence's early life and works. Major exhibitions mounted over the years have encouraged wider contacts and led to further areas of growth. Most notably, in 1997 the University received by bequest the outstanding George Lazarus materials.

Cataloguing and conservation

A cataloguing and conservation programme for the Lawrence resources has been supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund.



AMORES

And the stars can chaff
simple / The ~~lone~~ moon at their ease, while the dim
church
Is peopled with shadows and sounds and ghosts that
lurch
To / In its cenotaph.



Overview of resources

The D H Lawrence Collections at the University of Nottingham Library today form one of the major international research resources for the study of the writer. The core series of manuscripts and printed works are supported by extensive holdings of secondary critical material concerning both Lawrence and his wider literary circle.

In addition to providing access to the University's own collections, the Department offers a Lawrence gateway, via its web site, to current resources elsewhere.

For students at Nottingham the School of English Studies offers an MA in D H Lawrence and the Modern Age. In addition, a programme of activities is hosted by the University's D H Lawrence Research Centre, established in 1991 to serve the interest of Lawrence scholars from all over the world.



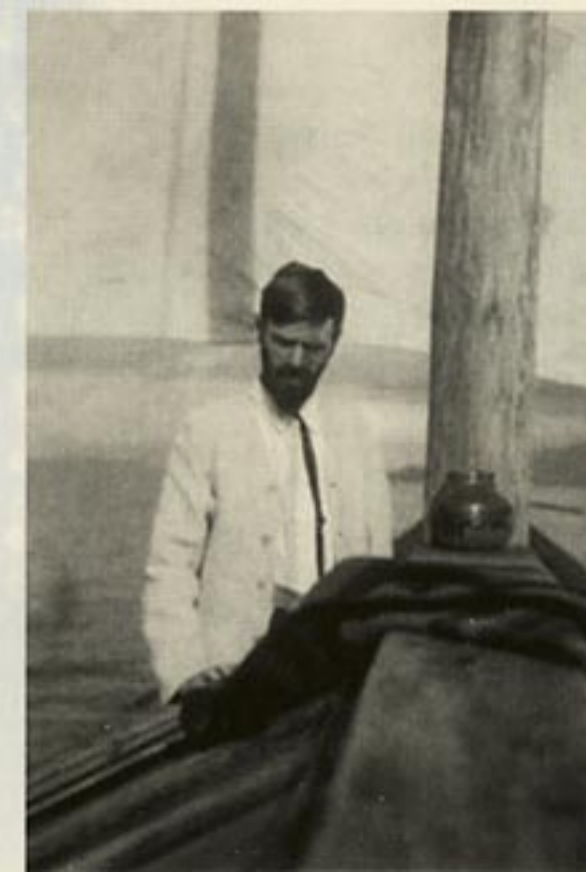
D H Lawrence Special Collection

The D H Lawrence Collection of printed books complements the rich Lawrence manuscripts, by providing essential reference copies for visiting researchers, and enriches the general English literature holdings in the Library. Users are advised that items of interest not found here may lie in the manuscript series. Newsprint, ephemera and publications with notable annotations or archival significance will all generally be located with the manuscripts.

The Collection's strength lies in its comprehensive coverage of published works by Lawrence, including all literary genres and various editions. His publications in journals and periodicals are fully represented. Reproductions of paintings, biographies, critical works, bibliographies and catalogues are also present.

In recent years, the acquisition of material about Lawrence in his circle and concerning his continuing literary influence has extended the breadth of the Collection.

Records for the Collection can be accessed via the Library's online catalogue (UNLOC).



D H Lawrence Manuscripts Collection

The D H Lawrence Collection consists of literary manuscripts, correspondence and artworks by D H Lawrence, enhanced by a wide variety of associated material, including photographs, research papers, and biographical material. It includes the following principal sub-groups:

- ◆ Audio-visual materials and associated papers relating to D H Lawrence
- ◆ Papers of Louie Burrows
- ◆ Correspondence of D H Lawrence
- ◆ Papers of J D Chambers
- ◆ Drawings and paintings by and connected with D H Lawrence
- ◆ Papers of Muriel May Holbrook
- ◆ Literary papers of D H Lawrence
- ◆ Correspondence and memoirs of D H Lawrence's contemporaries, and papers relating to the publication of his works
- ◆ Newspaper cuttings relating to D H Lawrence
- ◆ Reprographic copies of D H Lawrence material held by private individuals
- ◆ Photographic holdings on D H Lawrence
- ◆ Research papers of individual D H Lawrence scholars
- ◆ Papers relating to the commemoration, promotion and study of D H Lawrence
- ◆ Witter Bynner collection of photographs
- ◆ Papers of the Weekley family
- ◆ Miscellanea relating to D H Lawrence
- ◆ George Lazarus collection of literary papers and associated manuscripts

Several other distinct manuscript collections are also relevant:

- ◆ Papers of Catherine Carswell
- ◆ Papers of Enid Hilton
- ◆ Forster collection of newsprint and ephemera

In addition, the University archives include several items recording Lawrence's student experience.

Catalogues of the Collection are available in the Department of Manuscripts and Special Collections and via the D H Lawrence Resources web site. Work to create a searchable on-line catalogue is in hand.

