

from the Literary Collections at the University of Nottingham

INTRODUCTION

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The Portland Literary Collection features manuscript poems, plays, and 17th and 18th century satire.

his exhibition is drawn from the rich collections of literary archives and printed books held by Manuscripts and Special Collections at the University of Nottingham. These collections originate from diverse sources including the libraries of local aristocratic families, the research materials of academics, and donations from novelists, poets and playwrights themselves. The University's DH Lawrence Collections and Portland Literary Collection have been designated as being of outstanding international significance.

The documents and books in the collections are used by academics, students, members of the public, and media production companies in the Reading Room at King's Meadow Campus.

The exhibition highlights the work of a selection of Nottinghamshire writers and the literary treasures to be found in the historic collections of local literature lovers. It also looks at the University's role in shaping the reputations and inspiring the early careers of local writers. It uses the drafts, proofs, typescripts, scrapbooks and rejection letters to be found in writers' archives to show the trials of getting published, and

also examines the changing fortunes of published authors.



Lecturers bring small groups of students to experience working with primary sources.



The archive store. The converted television studio houses over 3.5 million documents and 80,000 printed volumes.

The display examines how Nottinghamshire itself – in everything from the beauty of its countryside to the harsh realities of its industrial working life – has acted as a source of inspiration for writers through the centuries.

This exhibition aims to celebrate Nottingham's designation as a UNESCO City of Literature in 2015 (one of only 20 such cities around the world), and reflects upon the city's unique literary creativity and heritage. It has been curated by staff from Manuscripts and Special Collections.







