

## VICTORIAN COLLECTION

### I. Purpose and Program Description

#### A. Background

In 1969 the University administration approved the purchase of the Victorian Collection from David Magee. Magee's collection was the finest Victorian collection assembled since that of Michael Sadleir. No Victorian collection has been assembled to rival it since. In addition to the Victorian collection, Special Collections also houses the private collection of J.F.C. Harrison that contains over 5,400 books, pamphlets and serials published in England during the 19th century which cover social conditions, history, religion, politics and government.

#### B. Collection Development Objectives

The Victorian Collection seeks to support teaching and research through the graduate level in the following major areas of emphasis:

1. 19th Century English literature
  - a. Major literary figures
  - b. Minor literary figures
  - c. Women authors
  - d. Children's literature
  - e. Essays
  - f. Theater
2. 19th Century English History
  - a. Biography
  - b. Government
  - c. Religion
  - d. Intellectual, cultural and social history of England
  - e. Travel and exploration
  - f. Science
3. 19th Century Printing in England
  - a. Cloth bindings
  - b. Machine-made paper and machine-powered presses
  - c. Color printing (illustrations)
  - d. Serial publication (novels in parts)

#### B. New and Expanding Areas of Interest

1. The religious novel of 19th century England.
2. Women authors of 19th century England.
3. Popular reading in 19th century England.
4. The adventure novel of 19th century England.
5. Children's literature of 19th century England.

#### C. Areas of Specialization

1. Major works of 19th century English literary history.
2. Minor authors of 19th century English literary history.  
(Major resource material for research in those areas listed under Section I. A.)

#### D. Major Faculty Research Interests

1. English literature of the Victorian Period (Emphasis constantly changes from one author to another).
2. Intellectual and cultural history of England, 1831-1901.
3. 19th century religion in England.
4. Industrial revolution in Victorian England.
5. Scientific Literature

## II. General Selection Guidelines

### A. Treatment of Subject Depth

Special Collections librarians seek to maintain and collect for the Victorian Collection at a Level 4 (research).

### B. Specific Delimitations

#### 1. Type

- a. Collected extensively: First editions and significant editions of major and minor authors.
- b. Collected selectively: First and significant editions of major political, religious, scientific and historical figures of Victorian England.
- c. Excluded: Secondary and reference works that support the Victorian Collection are acquired for the general stacks by the Literature Librarian.

#### 2. Physical format

- a. Collected extensively: Monographs.
- b. Collected selectively: Serials, drawings, charts.
- c. Excluded: Microforms

3. Imprint date

- a. Collected extensively: Materials published from 1832-1901.
- b. Collected selectively: Materials published just prior to or just after the above dates which have been identified by scholars and belonging to the Victorian period.

4. Place of publication

- a. Collected extensively: Materials published in Great Britain, the first editions of Victorian authors which may have been published elsewhere in the world.

5. Languages

- a. Collected extensively: English.
- b. Collected selectively: Languages other than English.