



Library & Information History Group

Addendum

with apologies for the incomplete description on p. 17

LIHG Library History Essay Prize 2019

Winner

Sophie Defrance, “‘He Was Always Fond of Books’: John Couch Adams’s Genesis as an Academic Collector”, in A. Bautz and J. Gregory (eds), *Libraries, Books, and Collectors of Texts, 1600-1900* (Routledge, 2018), ch. 7, pp. 119–36.

Born the son of a tenant farmer in Cornwall in 1819, John Couch Adams is known today as an astronomer and discoverer of the planet Neptune, but little has been written about his activities as a reader and collector of books. This essay explores Adams’s juvenile papers and diaries, account books, college bills, and lists of things to do. It examines the life of a young book lover in Cornwall and at Cambridge in the 1840s; and it questions the role of networks, friendships, and marriage in the building of the collection of a real nineteenth-century ‘book-man’ (to use Ina Ferris’s terminology). The Adams Papers present a rare and vivid testimony of the early life of a passionate reader and book-buyer.

Highly Recommended

Karen Attar, ‘Folios in Context: Collecting Shakespeare at the University of London’, *The Library*, 7th series, vol. 19, no. 1 (March 2018), pp. 39–62.

Most libraries with superb Shakespeare collections derive them from one major source, such as Henry Folger’s collection as the nucleus of the Folger Shakespeare Library, or the Malone Collection at the Bodleian Library. This essay explores how and why Shakespearean holdings more unusually developed from various sources at the University of London, to render a university library which was decidedly weak in Shakespeare at the beginning of the twentieth century one of Great Britain’s strongest centres for Shakespearean scholarship in by the mid-1960s.