



Royal Library of the Monastery of El Escorial, San Lorenzo de El Escorial, Madrid, Spain, 1575, Juan de Herrera, Royal Monastery Library, www.patrimonionacional.es/en/presenta/servicio/bibesc.htm, Copyright © Patrimonio Nacional

Real Biblioteca del Monasterio de El Escorial

#### Visiting Address

Avda. D. Juan de Borbon, 1, 28200 San Lorenzo de El Escorial, Madrid, Spain

## **Opening Hours**

The Main Hall is open every day, except Monday, 10.00 - 19.00 Summer, 10.00 - 18.00 Winter Researchers Room: Tuesday to Saturday, 10.00 to 14.00

#### **Brief History**

The Royal Monastery of San Lorenzo de El Escorial lies north west of Madrid. Its construction was begun in 1563, on the orders of Felipe II, to commemorate the Spanish victory over the French at St. Quinten in 1557. In 1984, UNESCO declared the monastery a Monument of Worldwide Interest.

The Library, located on the second floor, was designed by architect, Juan de Herrera, as a great hall. The Salon Principal is 19 metres long, 10 metres wide and 8 metres high. The floor is grey marble, and the large bookcases (armaria) are of wood. The books are placed with the spines toward the inside, so that the pages can air. The vaulted ceiling is decorated with Renaissance frescoes by Pellegrino Tibaldi.

#### Special Interest

Apart from its great beauty, the library of the Escorial was also renowned for the size and quality of its collection of codices and incunabula. The collection suffered badly in 1671, when a great fire destroyed nearly 4,000 codices, including 2,000 Arabic manuscripts.

But the library still has an extremely rich collection, which includes Arab and Hebrew manuscripts, and the personal library of Felipe II. Alfonso X's *Cantigas de Santa María*, the Book of Hours of the Catholic monarchs, Santa Teresa's manuscripts and diary, the gold-scrolled *Aureus Codex* (1039), and an 11th century *Commentary on the Apocalypse* by Beato de Liébana are just a few of the manuscripts.



City Library of Antwerp, Belgium, 1883, Pieter Dens, Scientific Research Library, http://stadsbibliotheek.antwerpen.be/, @Michel Wuyts

Stadsbibliotheek Antwerpen

#### **Visiting Address**

Hendrik Conscienceplein 4, B-2000 Antwerpen, Belgium Public entrance: Korte Nieuwstraat

#### **Opening Hours**

15th September to 15th June: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday 09.00 - 18.00, Wednesday 09.00 - 20.00, Friday 09.00 - 17.00, Saturday 09.00 - 13.00. 16th June to 14th September: Monday to Friday 09.00 - 17.00. Guided tours to Nottebohm Hall available through Antwerp Tourist Office

#### **Brief History**

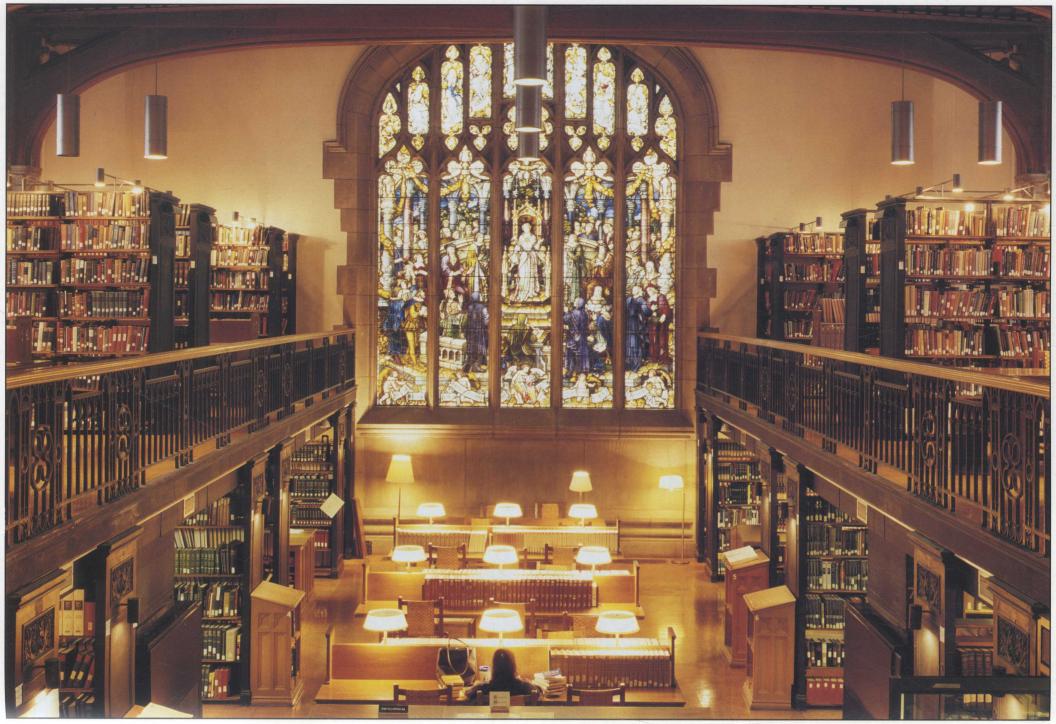
The origins of the City Library date back to 1481, when Antwerp lawyer Willem Pauwels bequeathed his collection of 41 books to the city of Antwerp. After receiving this gift, it was some 25 years before the first official library was established in the city hall in 1505. It is considered to be the oldest library in the Low Countries.

Since 1883 the library has been housed in the "Sodaliteit", a historic building (1622) that once belonged to the Jesuit monastery. A new wing was added in 1936. The Sodaliteit became a stack room, with a separate floor for the prestigious Nottebohm Hall (see picture). The Hall preserves the original library architecture elements of 1879.

#### Special Interest

The collection concentrates on Dutch and Flemish literature, arts and humanities, the (cultural) history of the Low Countries, works about the Flemish Movement, book history and "Antverpiana" (authors and imprints from and about the Antwerp region). There are more than 1,000,000 book volumes, 6,000 rare books from all centuries, 109 incunabula, 381 manuscripts, and a large collection of periodicals and newspapers.

The Egyptian cabinet in the centre of the picture is especially designed to preserve the 12 volumes of the *Denkmäler aus Aegypten und Aethiopien* by Karl Richard Lepsius (1810-1884), published in Berlin 1849-1859.



Frederick Ferris Thompson Memorial Library at Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY, USA, 1905, Allen & Collens, Academic Library, http://library.vassar.edu/ ©Vassar College, photographer Will Faller

Frederick Ferris Thompson Memorial Library at Vassar College

## **Visiting Address**

Vassar College Libraries, 124 Raymond Ave., Poughkeepsie, NY, 12604-0020, USA

#### **Opening Hours**

Monday - Friday, 08.30 - 17.00

#### **Brief History**

When Vassar College opened in 1865, the library was just a room in Main Building, with a collection of 3,000 books. The Frederick Ferris Thompson Memorial Library was dedicated on 12th June, 1905. It was a gift from Mary Clark Thompson, and was a memorial to her husband, who had been a Vassar trustee. The building had a seating capacity of 360 readers and a book capacity of 150,000 volumes.

Architecturally, the style of the building is English Perpendicular Gothic, with many embellishments. It has been called the "brightest jewel in Vassar's crown."

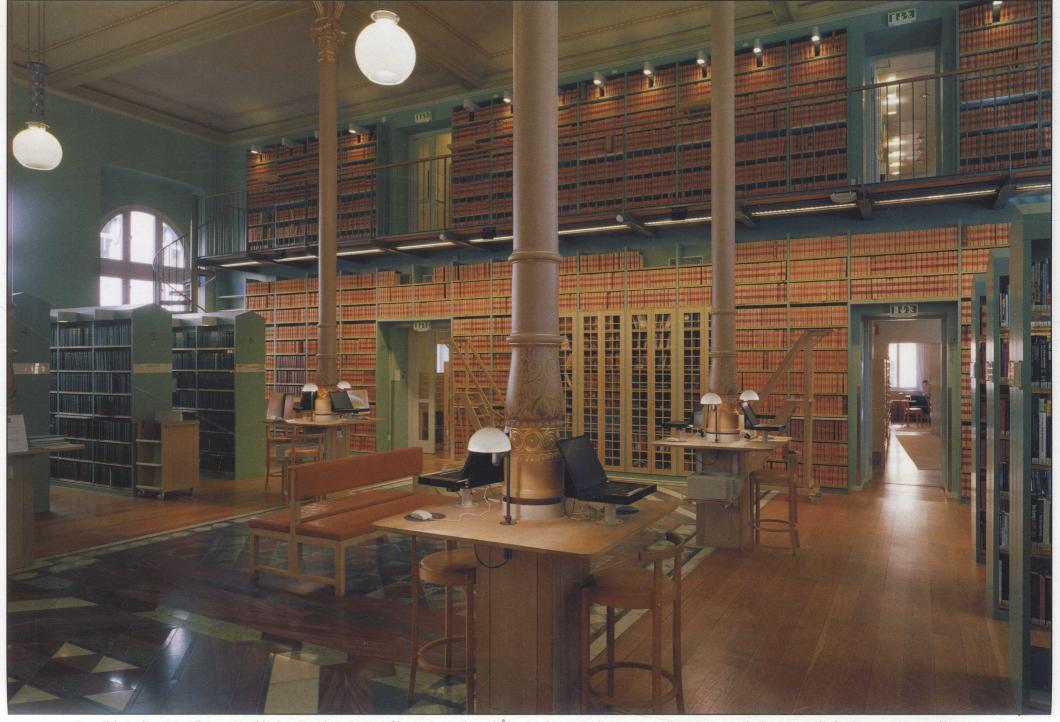
There have been a number of enlargements, additions and renovations to the Thompson Library over the years, including

the Helen D. Lockwood Library in 1977 and the Martha Rivers and E. Bronson Ingram Library in 2001.

## Special Interest

In the west wing of the Thompson Library is the Cornaro stained glass window (see picture), which was commissioned from a studio in Birmingham, England, and installed in 1906. It depicts a memorable event in the history of the higher education of women - the conferring of the first Doctorate on a woman - at the University of Padua in 1678.

The main library collection today contains over 750,000 volumes and 3,500 serial, periodical and newspaper titles, as well as an extensive collection of microfilm and microfiche.



Swedish Parliament Library, Stockholm, Sweden, 1851, Håkan Langseth and Åke Axelsson, Parliamentary Library, www.riksdagen.se/rdinfo/rb.asp, @Mats Håkanson

Riksdagsbiblioteket

#### **Visiting Address**

Storkyrkobrinken 7, SE-100 12 Stockholm, Sweden

## **Opening Hours**

Monday, Wednesday to Friday 10.00 to 15.00 Tuesday 13.00 to 18.00 Closed to the public from 30th June to 1st August

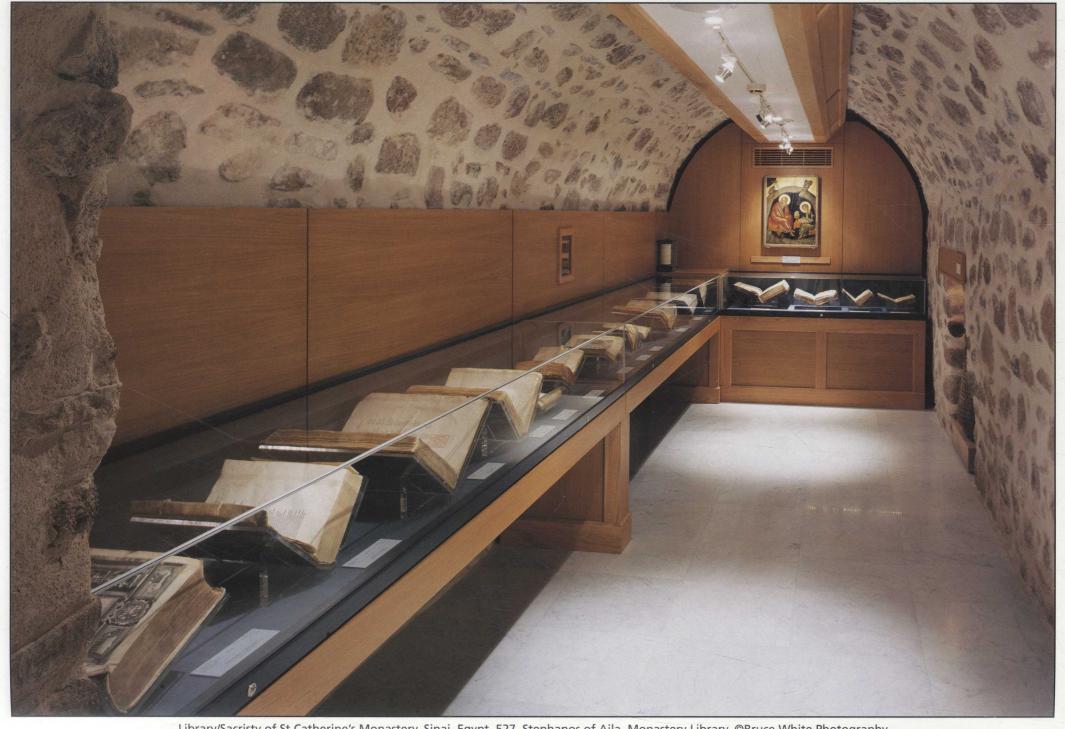
#### **Brief History**

The Swedish Parliament Library has existed since the time of the Riksdag of the Estates. In 1851, the parliamentary archives were set up in the old Parliament building on Riddarholmen in Stockholm. The Library remained there until 1905, when it moved with the Parliament to Helgeandsholmen.

From 1918 to 1976, the library was an independent body, but it has been part of the Parliament administration since 1977. The Library moved to Storkyrkobrinken 7 in Stockholm's Old Town in 1996. The building was constructed for a bank in 1875-1876, in a style influenced by the Italian renaissance. The architect for the Library alterations was Håkan Langseth and Åke Axelsson was interior designer.

## Special Interest

The Library of the Swedish Parliament is one of Sweden's largest social science and legal libraries. Its mission is to serve the members and staff of the Parliament, but it is also open to the public. Visitors have access to the library's 700,000 books and 2,000 periodicals, EU publications, the Parliament's Rixlex databases, and much more. There is a complete collection of Swedish parliamentary publications, the Swedish code of statutes, reports of official commissions of enquiry, and literature in social sciences, law, politics, international law, and history. The stone floor in the middle of the library was laid by artist Ulla Viotti, who called it "carpet of the nation."



Library/Sacristy of St Catherine's Monastery, Sinai, Egypt, 527, Stephanos of Aila, Monastery Library, @Bruce White Photography

Library/Sacristy of St Catherine's Monastery

## **Visiting Address**

St Catherine's Monastery, South Sinai, Egypt

## **Opening Hours**

09.00 to 11.45 daily, except Fridays, Sundays and a few ecclesiastical feastdays.

#### **Brief History**

St. Catherine's Monastery lies at the foot of the traditional Mount Sinai, where Moses is said to have received the Ten Commandments. Built between 527 and 565 AD, at the command of the Emperor Justinian, the monastery was constructed at the traditional site of the Burning Bush. Its granite walls are some 40 metres high. For centuries, the monastery was accessible only by a long camel ride of several days. It is thought to be the oldest continuously inhabited Christian monastery in

St. Catherine's has an incredible library, which holds the World's second largest collection of Greek manuscripts (after the Vatican). In total, there are 8,000 early books, 2,000 scrolls and 4,500 manuscripts, their good condition owing much to the arid climate. The monastery also contains many icons, religious artifacts and other works of art.

## Special Interest

The monastery now receives many tourists, and is working to make its unique collection even more accessible. It has recently created a small museum in the Sacristy (see picture). This has on display some of the finest items, including folios of the Codex Sinaiticus, one of the oldest surviving Bibles, from the 4th

The monastery is raising funds to create a research centre near Athens, which will contain digital copies of the entire collection. It also plans to create a computerised catalogue of the manuscripts and early books.



Cathedral Library, Kalocsa, Hungary, 1784, Adam Patachich (founder), Diocesan Library, www.asztrik.hu

Kalocsai Főszékesegyházi Könyvtár

## **Visiting Address**

Szentháromság tér 1, H-6300 Kalocsa, Hungary

## **Opening Hours**

Library is open 09.00 - 17.00 working days. The baroque Patachich room is open as follows: 1st April to 30th November, 09.00 - 12.00 and 14.00 - 17.00, every day except Monday

## **Brief History**

The Cathedral in Kalocsa had an impressive library, even in the Middle Ages, with over 300 codices and incunabula. Many of these were lost or destroyed when fleeing from Turkish invaders. But ecclesiastical life revived after the Turks were overthrown in 1715, and book collecting recommenced. The current Cathedral Library was founded by Archbishop Ádám Patachich in 1784. His first librarian was Jacob Mariosa, a former librarian of the Vatican. The Patachich room is on the first floor, with an oak floor and mighty oak shelves around the walls, containing 19,000 leather bound volumes. The present library functions not as a museum of books, but as an open scientific library.

## **Special Interest**

At present, the library takes up 12 rooms, containing about 130,000 volumes. By subject, the collection includes works on theology, philosophy (50%), history, law, natural science, geography and literature. 80% of the books are in Latin, Hungarian or German, the rest being in French, English, Italian, Slavic or Oriental languages.

There is a rich representation of codices, 508 incunabula, and many rare and antique specimens, together with ancient Hungarian works. These include the first Hungarian Bible translation, the famous *Bible of Vizsoly* by Gáspár Károly, as well as the Jesuit Péter Pázmány's *Hodoegus*.



Riggs Library, Georgetown University, Washington, DC, USA, 1891, Paul Pelz, University Library, @Georgetown University

Riggs Library

## **Visiting Address**

Healy Hall, Georgetown University, 37th and O Streets, N.W., Washington, D.C., 20057, USA

## **Opening Hours**

Access to Riggs Library is restricted to library staff and attendees at special events.

## **Brief History**

In 1889, E. Francis Riggs donated money, as a memorial to his father, for the fitting of the Healy Building's south tower as a modern central library for Georgetown. The room was completed in 1891. The architect was Paul Pelz, one of the original architects of the Healy Building, and also of the Thomas Jefferson Building of the Library of Congress.

Riggs Library served as the university library until Lauinger Library opened in 1970. At that time, Riggs may have held about 50,000 volumes. It remained vacant for several years after 1970, and sustained some damage to its skylight and stained glass windows during this period.

Riggs was refurbished in 1981/82, with great care being taken to maintain the original craftsmanship and match the original paint colours. Still much admired for its beauty, the library is one of only a few remaining cast iron libraries.

## Special Interest

Today, Riggs Library is used as a storage facility for older library materials, but only 35,000 volumes are permitted. It also serves as a reception area for official university events such as board meetings, honorary degree ceremonies, lectures, recitals and dinners.



Upper Lusatian Library of Sciences and Humanities, Görlitz, Germany, 1807, unknown, public science library, www.goerlitz.de, © Oberlausitzische Bibliothek der Wissenschaften

Oberlausitzische Bibliothek der Wissenschaften

## **Visiting Address**

D-02826 Görlitz, Neißstraße 30, Germany

## **Opening Hours**

Tuesday, Thursday 10.00-17.00, Friday 10.00-13.00

## **Brief History**

The Upper Lusatian Library of Sciences and Humanities is in Görlitz, the most easterly town of Germany, near the Polish border. The library, in its present form, dates from 1951, but it

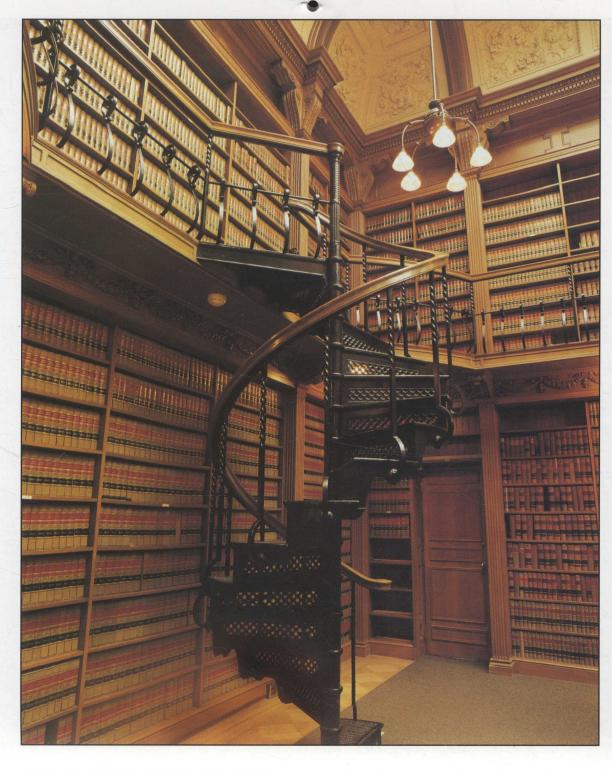
was a combination of two much older entities. The origins of the library lie in the collection of lawyer, J G Milich, a legacy to the Görlitz gymnasium in 1727. But perhaps the more important part was the library of the Oberlausitzischen Gesellschaft der Wissenschaften (OLGdW) or Upper Lusatian Society of Sciences and Humanities, which was founded in 1779.

The Society obtained the baroque house at Neißstraße 30 in 1804, and the library hall dates from 1807. The founders of OLGdW, Karl Gottlob Anton and Adolf Traugott von Gersdorf, donated their private libraries to the Society between 1806 and 1818. The OLGdW was liquidated in 1945, on instruction of the Soviet administration in Germany. But its library, together with the J G Milich collection, was reopened in 1951.

#### **Special Interest**

The Library holds about 125,000 volumes, of which 65,000 date from before 1900. The main focus is on history, science history and literature on the local region. Today, about 20-30% of the content is about the Upper Lusatian and Niederschlesischen regional culture and history.

The oldest work is an 11th Century Codex: Gaius Sallustius Crispus: *De coniuratione catiliniae/De bello jugurthinum*. The collection includes the *Gotische Stundenbuch*, a Book of Hours from 1502, and 16th century pamphlets. There are also many works on Jakob Böhme (1575-1624), who was from Görlitz, and was an important contributor of ideas in the field of philosophical theology.



American Room, Great Library, The Law Society of Upper Canada, Toronto, Canada, 1895, Burke & Horwood, Law Library, http://library.lsuc.on.ca/GL/home.htm, ©Law Society of Upper Canada

## Local Name

Great Library, The Law Society of Upper Canada

## **Visiting Address**

Osgoode Hall, 130 Queen Street West, Toronto, Ontario M5H 2N6, Canada

## **Opening Hours**

September to June Monday to Friday: 09.00 to 22.00, Saturday: 09.00 to 17.00, Sunday: 12.00 to 17.00 July and August

Monday to Thursday: 09.00 to 22.00, Friday: 09.00 to 17.00

## **Brief History**

The Law Society of Upper Canada was founded in 1797, its mandate being to ensure that persons seeking admission to the legal profession are competent and follow ethical guidelines.

The Great Library houses the largest private collection of legal material in Canada. The library's primary function is to meet the legal research and information needs of Law Society members by providing access to publications, documents and services necessary to the practice of law.

The American Room of the Great Library (see picture) dates from 1894-1895. It contains U.S. federal and selected state statutes, law reports, and digests.

## Special Interest

The Great Library currently holds over 120,000 volumes, the core of the collection consisting of statutes and law reports from Canada, the UK, the USA, Australia, New Zealand, and other common law jurisdictions. There is also a wide range of government documents, textbooks and law journals. The Library has a small collection of old and rare law books, including Canadian pre-confederation statutes, early Upper Canada imprints, and English nominate reports, yearbooks, abridgments, and treatises. The Riddell Collection contains information on local history, political life, religion, government, and the development of law in Canada.



John Rylands University Library of Manchester, Manchester, UK, 1900, Basil Champneys, University/Public Library, http://rylibweb.man.ac.uk/spcoll/, ©Gten, Reproduced by courtesy of the Director and Librarian, The John Rylands University Library of Manchester

John Rylands University Library of Manchester

## **Visiting Address**

150 Deansgate, Manchester M3 3EH, UK

#### **Opening Hours**

Monday to Friday, 10.00 to 17.30, Saturday, 10.00 to 13.00 Closed Sundays, public and University holidays

#### **Brief History**

The John Rylands Library is one of the finest examples of modern Gothic architecture in Europe. It was built during

the 1890s, in memory of Manchester cotton merchant John Rylands, who died in 1888. His widow commissioned Basil Champneys to design a building which would give Manchester one of the finest libraries in the country.

The Library opened on 1 January 1900. It remained an independent library until 1972, when it merged with Manchester University Library. The John Rylands Library now forms part of the John Rylands University Library of Manchester, housing the rare book and manuscript collections of the third largest academic library in the UK. The library's famous Reading Room (see picture) was built 30 feet (9 metres) above street level to minimize disturbance from the horse-drawn traffic on Deansgate's cobblestones.

#### Special Interest

The collection of printed books was established with the purchase of the Spencer Collection in 1892. The library holds some 4,000 incunabula, including the earliest European book produced with movable type, the 42-line Bible printed by Gutenberg in Mainz. The collection of Caxton's printings is the largest outside the British Library. The Library's manuscript collections cover more than 50 languages, from the third millennium BC to the present day. The most famous is the *St. John Fragment*, a small remnant of papyrus from the 2nd century AD, which is believed to be the earliest surviving text from the New Testament.

The library will be closed until late 2005, for major renovations. Stock will be available from the main University Library.



Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, DC, USA, 1932, Paul Philippe Cret, Independent Research Library, www.folger.edu/, @Folger Shakespeare Library

Folger Shakespeare Library

## **Visiting Address**

201 East Capitol Street, SE, Washington, DC 20003-1094, USA

## **Opening Hours**

Monday to Saturday, 10.00 - 16.00 Guided tours daily 11.00, no reservations necessary

## **Brief History**

The Folger Shakespeare Library was founded by Henry Clay

Folger and his wife, Emily Jordan Folger. Mr. Folger died in 1930, so he did not see the opening of the library on the anniversary of Shakespeare's birthday on 23rd April, 1932. The Folger is an important research centre for scholars interested in Shakespeare and the Renaissance. It is a lively venue for exhibitions and the performing and literary arts, and is also a leader in humanities education for grades K-12.

The building's architecture has earned it a listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Inside, the original reading room (see picture) replicates an Elizabethan great hall. An intimate theatre, designed in the spirit of an Elizabethan Innyard Theatre, is located at the east end of the building.

#### Special Interest

The Folger houses the world's largest collection of Shakespeare's printed works, as well as collections of other rare Renaissance books and manuscripts on all disciplines – history and politics, theology and exploration, law and the arts. It includes:

- 79 First Folios, the largest collection in the World
- 255,000 books and 55,000 manuscripts
- 250,000 playbills, and other theatrical memorabilia
- 27,000 paintings, drawings, engravings, and prints
- Theatrical porcelain, decorated papers, costumes, and film.



Library of the Benedictine Monastery of Admont, Admont, Austria, 1776, Joseph Hueber, Monastery Library, www.stiftadmont.at/, @Benediktinerstift Admont

Benediktinerstift Admont

#### **Visiting Address**

Stift Admont, A-8911 Admont 1, Austria

## **Opening Hours**

April - November, Daily 10.00 - 17.00, guided tours at 11.00 and 15.00 (from 5 Persons), Monday closed December - March, Thursday and Friday: 10.00 - 12.00 Christmas & Mid-Term Holidays, Daily: 10.00 - 12.00 (except Monday). Groups of 15 or more, prior reservation requested

#### **Brief History**

The Benedictine abbey of Admont, founded in 1074, is the oldest existing monastery in Styria. The abbey's library is probably its best-known treasure. Ranked among Austria's most important cultural monuments, it is one of Europe's great baroque pieces of art. The library was commissioned by Abbot Matthäus Ofner (in office 1751-1779) and the baroque library hall was finished in 1776 by architect Joseph Hueber (1715-1787). With a length of 70 metres, a width of 14 metres and a height of almost 13 metres, this three-part room constitutes the world's largest monastic library hall. Its architectural layout follows the example of the Austrian National library in Vienna.

Painter Bartolomeo Altomonte decorated the hall with seven ceiling frescos, and the sculptures are by Joseph Stammel.

#### Special Interest

The library contains about 200,000 books. The most valuable treasures are over 1,400 manuscripts (some dating back to the 8th century ) and 530 incunabula. The monastery serves 27 parishes, runs a private grammar school and a nursing home. In 2003, it opened a private museum, which includes a fine arts museum, a room displaying medieval manuscripts and incunabula, and a multimedia presentation on the monastery.

# 2004

# THE PENAISSANCE IBRARY ALENDAR

#### January



Royal Library of the Monastery of El Escorial, San Lorenzo de El Escorial, Madrid, Spain

## February



City Library of Antwerp, Belgium

#### March



Frederick Ferris Thompson Memorial Library at Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY, USA

#### April



Swedish Parliament Library, Stockholm, Sweden

#### May



Library/Sacristy of St Catherine's Monastery, Sinai, Egypt

June



Cathedral Library, Kalocsa, Hungary

#### July



Riggs Library, Georgtown University, Washington, DC, USA

## August



Upper Lusatian Library of Sciences and Humanities, Görlitz, Germany

September



American Room, Great Library, The Law Society of Upper Canada, Toronto, Canada

October



John Rylands University Library of Manchester, Manchester, UK

November



Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, DC, USA

December



Benedictine Monastery of Admont Library, Admont, Austria

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The Front Cover shows the Royal Library of the Monastery of El Escorial, San Lorenzo de El Escorial, Madrid, Spain, 1575.