



**YORK
MINSTER**

**Collections Development Policy
for the
Museum and Archive &
Manuscript Collections of the
Chapter of York**

Produced: February 2023

Adopted: 27 April 2023

Date of Review: April 2028



This Collections Development Policy is for the museum and archive & manuscript collections of the Chapter of York, the governing body of York Minster.

Name of service: York Minster Undercroft and Treasury (Museum Accreditation No. 293); and York Minster Archives (ARCHON code: 195)

Name of governing body: The Chapter of York, Registered Charity Number 1201499, of 8-10 Minster Yard, York, YO1 7HH

Date on which this policy was approved by governing body: April 2023

Policy review procedure: The Collections Development Policy will be published and reviewed from time to time, at least once every five years.

Date at which this policy is due for review: April 2028

Arts Council England and The National Archives will be notified of any changes to the collections development policy, and the implications of any such changes for the future of collections.

1. Relationship to other relevant policies / plans of the organisation:

1.1. Statement of Purpose:-

The Charitable Purpose of the Chapter of York

The charitable purpose of the Chapter of York is—

- (a) to advance the Christian religion in accordance with the faith and practice of the Church of England, in particular by furthering the mission of the Church of England;
- (b) to care for and conserve the fabric and structure of the Cathedral Church building;
- (c) to advance any other charitable purposes which are ancillary to the furtherance of the purpose referred to in sub-paragraph (a) or (b).

Extracted from Constitution of York Minster, revised with effect from 29 September 2022, p.1, Article 3(1)

Statement of Purpose for the Collections

The museum, library and archive services seek to preserve, develop, interpret and make accessible to all the collections of the Chapter of York, supporting Chapter's mission and charitable purposes, and enriching people's lives through enabling participation, learning, understanding, inspiration and enjoyment.

The Collections are referred to in the *Statutes of York Minster, revised with effect from 29 September 2022, p.17, Article 40 (1)-(4)*

40. (1) The Chapter shall maintain a Library and Archives whose purpose shall include the promotion of sacred learning.

(2) The Chapter shall make appropriate provision for the direction and oversight of the Library and Archives and for the care and conservation of the historic and working collections of the Cathedral.

(3) Where it may in the opinion of the Chapter assist the Chapter in fulfilling requirements imposed upon it by the Measure or by the Care of Cathedrals Measure 2011 or where it may otherwise further the

Chapter's charitable objects as set out in the Constitution, the Chapter may at its discretion operate an Accredited Museum, as defined by the applicable Arts Council England national quality standards, within the Cathedral or within such other precinct property of the Cathedral as the Chapter may from time to time determine.

(4) The Chapter may enter into agreements with the University of York ... or any other institution of Higher Education concerning the management and administration of the Library and Archives and concerning the care and use of the historic collections of the Cathedral.

- 1.2. The Chapter of York will ensure that both acquisition and disposal are carried out openly and with transparency.
- 1.3. By definition, the museum and archives have a long-term purpose and hold collections in trust for the benefit of the public in relation to their stated objectives. The Chapter of York therefore accepts the principle that sound curatorial reasons must be established before consideration is given to any acquisition to the collections, or the disposal of any items in the Chapter of York's museum and archive & manuscript collections.
- 1.4. Acquisitions outside the current stated policy will only be made in exceptional circumstances and will require the specific prior approval of the Chapter of York.
- 1.5. The Chapter of York recognises its responsibility, when acquiring additions to its collections, to ensure that care of collections, documentation arrangements and use of collections will meet the requirements of the Museum Accreditation Standard and Archive Service Accreditation standards. This includes using SPECTRUM primary procedures for collections management. It will take into account limitations on collecting imposed by such factors as staffing, storage and care of collection arrangements.
- 1.6. The museum and archives will undertake due diligence and make every effort not to acquire, whether by purchase, gift, bequest or exchange, any material, object or specimen unless the governing body, Head of Collections & Interpretation, Archivist or other delegated responsible officer is satisfied that the Chapter of York can acquire a valid title to the item in question.
- 1.7. **Museum Collections:** in exceptional cases, disposal may be motivated principally by financial reasons. The method of disposal will therefore be by sale and the procedures outlined below will be followed. In cases where disposal is motivated by financial reasons, the governing body will not undertake disposal unless it can be demonstrated that all the following exceptional circumstances are met in full:
 - the disposal will significantly improve the long-term public benefit derived from the remaining collection
 - the disposal will not be undertaken to generate short-term revenue (for example to meet a budget deficit)
 - the disposal will be undertaken as a last resort after other sources of funding have been thoroughly explored
 - extensive prior consultation with sector bodies has been undertaken
 - the item under consideration lies outside the museum's established core collection

Archive & manuscript collections: the service will not undertake disposal motivated principally by financial reasons or lack of physical space. The sale of material will only be undertaken if

- the material consists of ephemera that do not have archival value or duplicates that do not have archival value;
- the material does not meet the current collections development policy; and
- it has not been possible to transfer the material to another service or return it to the donor.

- 1.8. NB: As a cathedral collection, the Collections are subject to the legislative framework of the Care of Cathedrals Measure 2011 and The Care of Cathedrals (Amendment) Rules 2020. Material works relating to care, conservation, repair or development of the cathedral fabric or collection are subject to advice and consent from the Cathedrals Fabric Commission for England (CFCE) or the cathedral's own Fabric Advisory Committee (FAC). Works deemed by the Fabric Advisory Committee to be of 'architectural, archaeological, artistic or historic interest' must be recorded on the cathedral's Inventory. The cathedral's Fabric Advisory Committee will identify which works are of 'outstanding' interest and will assist Chapter more generally with advice on Inventory-related matters. New accessions should be added to the inventory as they are collected, if they are deemed by the FAC to be of 'architectural, archaeological, artistic or historic interest' (*Cathedral Inventories*, CFCE, 2021 p. 27). Application for disposal (including by sale) of 'outstanding' items must be made to CFCE, whereas applications in respect of all other items on the Inventory must be made to the FAC (*ibid*, p.20)

Not every item on the Inventory is necessarily part of the Museum, Archive & Manuscript or Library Collections, and vice versa. However, there is much overlap, and the legal requirements of the Care of Cathedrals Measure 2011 and The Care of Cathedrals (Amendment) Rules 2020 must be taken into account. The CFCE guidance *Cathedral Inventories*, 2021, acknowledges Museum Accreditation and Archive Service Accreditation standards and is designed to intersect with these.

2. History of the collections

The Collections of the Chapter of York largely relate to the cathedral, its history and heritage, its environs (the cathedral precinct) and its governing bodies and people (its clergy and lay office-holders, its worshipping congregations and the wider community connected to the cathedral). Many of the items in the collections were originally acquired for reasons of faith, liturgical or devotional use, practical use, decoration, memorialisation, record-keeping, study and research. Other material relates to archaeological investigations, development of the building and precinct and local and social history.

The Collections have been acquired over a millennium. The Anglo-Saxon York Gospels and the early-11th century Horn of Ulf have been held by York Minster for around a thousand years, while much other material has passed down through the centuries in the stewardship of the cathedral, including worked stone, furniture, monuments and statuary, early collections of books and the institutional archives. Archaeological excavations take the holdings back to the first century A.D., the Roman occupation of York and the military fortress below the cathedral.

From the mid-19th century, collecting included more material relevant to the wider county of Yorkshire. The combination of the institutional archives, antiquarian manuscripts, the library and collection of records bequeathed by Edward Hailstone (d.1890), and smaller collections acquired before and since Hailstone's benefaction have been described as 'the most comprehensive collection anywhere for Yorkshire local studies' (Bernard Barr, 'The Minster Library: Its History', *Friends of York Minster Annual Report*, 64 (1993), 27).

3. An overview of current collections

The Collections consist of three areas:-

- Museum Collections – artefacts, objects and specimens
- Archives & Manuscript Collections

- Library Collections – printed books, pamphlets and sheets, printed music, printed cartographic material, printed graphic material

Each area is headed by a professionally qualified specialist.

This Collections Development Policy relates to the Museum and Archive & Manuscript Collections.

There is a separate, but related, Collections Development Policy for York Minster Library.

The Museum Collections are broadly subdivided into the following categories of material:-

- Furniture
- Heritage Collections – including artefacts historically held within the Cathedral Treasury as ‘Treasures’
- Historic Textiles
- Monuments and Statuary
- Silver
- Worked Stone

The Archive & Manuscript Collections are broadly subdivided into the following categories of material:-

- Archival records, in a range of forms, including textual records, graphic and cartographic materials, architectural and technical drawings, moving images, sound recordings and records on microform. NB: digital records of the Chapter and its associated organisations who share its IT arrangements are stored on onsite servers and a cloud-computing platform, which are managed by the Chapter’s Finance & IT Department; while the archive service stores born-digital archives that it receives from external sources in a directory on one of the onsite servers. Born-digital archives received from external sources are documented using the electronic collections management system (CMS). A strategic review of records management and associated systems infrastructure is planned by the organisation, incorporating further development of digital preservation systems and protocols. The archive service will contribute to the development of the Chapter’s arrangements for the management, including documentation, of digital records and archives as required.
- Artificial collections of records - collections incorporating records of multiple creators that have been brought together because they relate to a particular theme
- Manuscript collections, including manuscript music

A further category, **Archaeological Archives**, encompasses both artefacts and specimens and records relating to archaeological excavations. In practical terms it is managed by the Head of Collections & Interpretation (the museum professional) and the Archivist respectively, under advice from the Cathedral Archaeologist.

An overview of the collections can be found in Appendix A.

4. Themes and priorities for future collecting

4.1 The collecting area will be **The Cathedral and Metropolitan Church of St Peter in York** (otherwise known as York Minster) and material relating to its history, heritage and archaeology; its liturgy and mission; its governing bodies and people (its clergy and lay office-holders, its worshipping congregations and the wider community connected to the cathedral); its Precinct and environs; and areas and themes represented by its existing collections, including local and social history.

4.2 Additions to the Collections may be made by donation, bequest, or through purchase, if financial resources are available and not used at the expense of maintaining the existing collections.

- 4.3** Items offered to the Collections as gifts or bequests will not normally be accepted if they are subject to any restrictive covenant or special conditions. In exceptional circumstances, if the items are assessed to be of overriding importance, the Head of Collections & Interpretation or Archivist may recommend that the Chapter of York approve the acquisition of a specific item(s) to which conditions are attached.
- 4.4** Where part of an acquisition to the Archive & Manuscript Collection is in a format for which, at the time of acquisition, the service cannot provide suitable conditions for preservation and access, the service will work with the donor or depositor to mitigate the effects of inappropriate storage and to provide access. Measures may include the sub-deposit of material in a specialist repository, with agreement of the donor or depositor.
- 4.5** The following records are routinely transferred to the archives, in accordance with the relevant retention and disposal schedules, for appraisal and, where appropriate, permanent retention in the archive:
- The records of the Chapter of York including records of the Surveyor of the Fabric and Archaeologist
 - The records of contractors, for example the York Glaziers' Trust, relating to major works to the fabric of York Minster or in its precinct. Digital records are transferred on removable media and uploaded to the appropriate system.
- 4.6** The following organisations, whose archives are currently on loan to the Chapter of York, are contacted routinely to ensure the regular deposit of further archival records.
- Friends of York Minster
 - York Minster Fabric Advisory Committee
 - York Minster Fund
 - York Minster Mystery Plays
 - Yorkshire Architectural and York Archaeological Society (YAYAS)
 - Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers (YACR)

Where relevant, digital records are transferred on removable media and uploaded to an appropriate system.

- 4.7** The acceptance of items on loan, normally for a finite period for display or specific study or examination, may be authorised by the Head of Collections & Interpretation, Archivist or their authorised deputy, acting on Chapter of York's behalf. No item will be received on 'permanent loan', a term which has no legal status. The period of all loans will normally be agreed in writing between the curatorial or archives staff and the owner of the item in advance of deposit. As the term of the loan expires, it may be renewed or extended for further finite periods, by mutual consent of the owner and the service.
- 4.8** Where parish silver from churches in the Diocese, or other material, is held for safe-keeping at York Minster, or when an organisation is unable to transfer ownership of its archive but the Chapter of York agrees to its deposit, this will be subject to finite loan agreements, which will be assessed for renewal on a regular cycle, usually five years. Renewal of loan agreements should not be assumed and cannot be guaranteed. There is an assumption that material owned by regiments, kept in the Minster's military chapels, and the archives of the organisations listed in paragraph 4.6, will be held long-term: however loan agreements are being put in place to support management of this material (usually on a five-year cycle for regimental material and a ten-year cycle for archival material).
- 4.9** Items offered to the Chapter of York as gifts or bequests that Chapter decides not to accept into its Museum, Library or Archive & Manuscript Collections shall be rejected or accepted, and retained or disposed of, by Chapter in accordance with its Donations Policy.

5. Themes and priorities for rationalisation and disposal

- 5.1** The museum and archive service recognise that the principles on which priorities for rationalisation and disposal are determined will be through a formal review process that identifies which collections are

included and excluded from the review. The outcome of review and any subsequent rationalisation will not reduce the quality or significance of the collection and will result in a more useable, well managed collection.

5.2.1 The procedures used will meet professional standards. The process will be documented, open and transparent. There will be clear communication with key stakeholders about the outcomes and the process.

5.2.2 Themes and priorities for rationalisation and disposal are:

- Objects containing materials (for example, asbestos) that present an unacceptable level of risk to health and safety, where their significance is not such as to warrant the processes and costs involved in decontamination or provision of specialist, segregated storage, or this is not found to be possible without unacceptable remaining risk.
- Items damaged beyond reasonable conservation or repair; items infested or contaminated beyond reasonable treatment or conservation, likely to put at risk other items in the collections – particularly where these are of low informational and evidential value. (NB As collections care and management procedures should prevent this situation from arising, this is anticipated to be an infrequent occurrence, perhaps arising from an emergency such as fire or flood. Deterioration caused by active neglect is not an acceptable reason for disposal).
- Duplicates of minor importance.
- Re-identified items, when accurate identification shows the item to have little or no importance or connection to the core collections and collecting areas.
- Minor items of no or remote connection to the core collections and collecting areas.
- Spoliation, repatriation or restitution, in accordance with sections 14 and 15 of this policy.

Within the cycle of this policy, it is anticipated that, in particular:-

- the archaeological holdings will be evaluated for rationalisation and disposal, especially the holdings of animal bones, in the context of their uniqueness, research value, associated information and the holdings of other museums and heritage institutions in York.
- a survey will be undertaken to determine the extent to which archives have been appraised to an approved standard and the extent to which retrospective appraisal is necessary

6. Legal and ethical framework for acquisition and disposal of items

6.1 The Chapter of York recognises its responsibility to work within the parameters of the Museums Association Code of Ethics, the CILIP Ethical Framework and the Archives & Records Association Code of Ethics when considering acquisition and disposal.

6.2 Acquisition and disposal will take place with due regard to the relevant regulations and legislation, in particular for archives:

- **The Law of Property Act 1922, the Law of Property (Amendment) Act 1924, and the Manorial Documents Rules 1959, as amended by the Manorial Documents (Amendment) Rules 1963 and the Manorial Documents (Amendment) Rules 1967**

- **The Tithe Act 1936, and Tithe (Copies of Instruments and Apportionments) Rules 1960, as amended by the Tithe (Copies of Instruments and Apportionments) (Amendment) Rules 1963**
- **The Public Records Act 1958** NB: the archives is a place of deposit for public records under section 4(1) of the act but has not acquired any public records since c.1900 and currently has no relationships with any public record bodies.
- **The Data Protection Act 2018**

7. Collecting policies of other museums and archives

- 7.1** The museum and archives service will take account of the collecting policies of other museums, archives, libraries and other organisations collecting in the same or related areas or subject fields. It will consult with these organisations where conflicts of interest may arise or to define areas of specialism, in order to avoid unnecessary duplication and waste of resources, and the dispersal of archives.
- 7.2** Specific reference is made to the following museums, archives, libraries and organisations:
- Other Cathedral collections, particularly Canterbury, Durham, Ripon, St Paul's, and Winchester
 - Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford
 - The British Library
 - Leeds University Library, Special Collections
 - York Archaeological Trust
 - York Civic Trust
 - York Explore Library and Archive
 - York Museums Trust
 - Yorkshire Film Archive
 - The University of York, including the Borthwick Institute for Archives
 - Archbishop Holgate's School, York
 - St Peter's School, York

Unless they also have a strong and significant connection with the Chapter of York or York Minster or otherwise fall within the collecting area, including areas and themes represented by existing collections (see paragraph 4.1), the following will not usually be collected: (a) records or manuscripts relating to the history, culture and identity of the City of York's communities, organisations and inhabitants; (b) records or manuscripts relating to religious organisations, institutions, communions, or societies other than the Chapter of York. In general, (a) will be directed to Explore York Libraries & Archives, and records and manuscripts relating to the Diocese of York, parishes within the Archdeaconry of York or Methodism in York will be directed to the Borthwick Institute for Archives: University of York.

8. Acquisition

- 8.1** The Head of Collections & Interpretation acting, where appropriate, on the advice of the Archivist, Minster Librarian and / or the Cathedral Archaeologist, will normally have delegated authority and responsibility for the acceptance or rejection of potential additions to the Museum, Library and Archive & Manuscript Collections, including gifts and bequests, and for soliciting gifts of material for the Collections within the terms of this policy, and for making recommendations and taking action on the purchase of material in accordance with this Policy and within the Chapter of York's normal standing orders and the annual budget set by the Chapter. The Archivist will normally have the same delegated authority and responsibility for the Archive & Manuscript Collections. Where the acquisition of any item would result in significant financial implications, including in respect of purchase, storage, conservation or display, or

other significant implications, including reputational impact, the proposal will be referred to the Senior Executive Team for scrutiny, and thereafter to the Chapter of York for a final decision.

A list of new acquisitions to the Collections will be presented regularly (at least annually) to the Fabric Advisory Committee of York Minster, currently through the FAC Inventory Sub-Committee. Items will be added to the Cathedral Inventory, in addition to the Museum or Archive & Manuscript Collections, if they are deemed by the Fabric Advisory Committee to be 'of architectural, archaeological, artistic or historic interest' under the terms of the Care of Cathedrals Measure 2011 and The Care of Cathedrals (Amendment) Rules 2020.

- 8.2** The museum and archives will not acquire any item, object or specimen unless it is satisfied that the item, object or specimen has not been acquired in, or exported from, its country of origin (or any intermediate country in which it may have been legally owned) in violation of that country's laws. (For the purposes of this paragraph 'country of origin' includes the United Kingdom).
- 8.3** In accordance with the provisions of the UNESCO 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, which the UK ratified with effect from November 1 2002, and the Dealing in Cultural Objects (Offences) Act 2003, the museum and archives will reject any items that have been illicitly traded. The Chapter of York will be guided by the national guidance on the responsible acquisition of cultural property issued by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport in 2005.

9. Human remains

- 9.1** The museum does not hold or intend to acquire any human remains.

NB: Material from archaeological excavations, particularly those 1967-73 was placed temporarily in the care of the Collections team, and the 2014 Collections Development Policy therefore noted that 'the Chapter of York holds human remains'. These were not accessioned into the museum or archive collections, and the intention was that they should be re-interred in due course. These human remains have now been re-interred in the cathedral ossuary, their final resting place in terms of ecclesiastical law.

10. Biological and geological material

- 10.1** So far as biological and geological material is concerned, the Chapter of York will not acquire by any direct or indirect means any specimen that has been collected, sold or otherwise transferred in contravention of any national or international wildlife protection or natural history conservation law or treaty of the United Kingdom or any other country, except with the express consent of an appropriate outside authority.

11. Archaeological material

- 11.1** The museum will not acquire archaeological material (including excavated ceramics) in any case where the Chapter of York, Head of Collections & Interpretation or other responsible officers including the Cathedral Archaeologist have any suspicion that the circumstances of their recovery involved a failure to follow the appropriate legal procedures.

11.2 In England, Wales and Northern Ireland the procedures include reporting finds to the landowner or occupier of the land and to the proper authorities in the case of possible treasure (i.e. the Coroner for Treasure) as set out in the Treasure Act 1996 (as amended by the Coroners & Justice Act 2009).

12. Exceptions

- 12.1** Any exceptions to the above clauses will only be because the museum and archives are:
- acting as an externally approved repository of last resort for material of local (UK) origin
 - acting with the permission of authorities with the requisite jurisdiction in the country of origin

In these cases the Chapter of York will be open and transparent in the way it makes decisions and will act only with the express consent of an appropriate outside authority. The Chapter of York will document when these exceptions occur.

13. Spoliation

- 13.1** The museum and archives will use the statement of principles ‘Spoliation of Works of Art during the Nazi, Holocaust and World War II period’, issued for non-national museums in 1999 by the Museums and Galleries Commission.

14. The Repatriation and Restitution of objects and human remains

- 14.1** The Chapter of York, acting on the advice of the museum or archive’s professional staff, may take a decision to return human remains (unless covered by the ‘Guidance for the care of human remains in museums’ issued by DCMS in 2005), objects, specimens or other material to a country or people of origin. The Chapter of York will take such decisions on a case by case basis; within its legal position and taking into account all ethical implications and available guidance. This will mean that the procedures described in 15.1-5 will be followed but the remaining procedures are not appropriate.

15.0 Disposal procedures

- 15.1** All disposals will be undertaken with reference to the SPECTRUM primary procedures on disposal or, in the case of records and manuscripts, The National Archives’ guidance on deaccessioning and disposal for archive services.
- 15.2** The Chapter of York will confirm that it is legally free to dispose of an item. Agreements on disposal made with donors and depositors will also be taken into account.
- 15.3** When disposal of a museum object or record or manuscript item is being considered, the Chapter of York will establish if it was acquired with the aid of an external funding organisation. In such cases, any conditions attached to the original grant will be followed. This may include repayment of the original grant and a proportion of the proceeds if the item is disposed of by sale.

15.4 Museum Collections: when disposal is motivated by curatorial reasons the procedures outlined below will be followed and the method of disposal may be by gift, sale or as a last resort - destruction.

Archive & Manuscripts Collections: the procedures outlined below (except paragraph 15.9) will be followed and the method of disposal may be by transfer to another repository, return to the depositor or donor, sale or destruction.

15.5 The decision to dispose of material from the collections will be taken by the Chapter of York only after full consideration of the reasons for disposal. Other factors including public benefit, the implications for the Chapter of York's collections and collections held by museums, archives, libraries and other organisations collecting the same material or in related fields will be considered. Expert advice will be obtained and the views of stakeholders such as donors, researchers, local and source communities and others served by the museum and archive service will also be sought.

15.6 A decision to dispose of an item, specimen or object in the Museum Collections, whether by gift, sale or destruction (in the case of an item too badly damaged or deteriorated to be of any use for the purposes of the collections or for reasons of health and safety), or material in the Archive and Manuscript Collections, whether by transfer, return, sale or destruction (in the case of (a) material that is too badly damaged or deteriorated to be of any use for the purposes of the collections, that is of low informational and evidential value and that it has not been possible to return, or (b) ephemera that do not have archival value or duplicates that do not have archival value and that it has not been possible to transfer, return or sell) will be the responsibility of the Chapter of York acting on the advice of professional curatorial and archive staff and any other specialist whose advice may be sought, and not of the curator or manager of the collection acting alone. For items on the Cathedral Inventory, the decision would be subject to approval from:

- The Cathedrals Fabric Commission for England, for items designated 'outstanding' on the Cathedral Inventory
- The Fabric Advisory Committee, for all other items on the Cathedral Inventory

15.7 Once a decision to dispose of material in the Collection has been taken, priority will be given to retaining it within the public domain. It will therefore be offered in the first instance, by gift or sale, directly to other Church of England-related bodies or Accredited Museums likely to be interested in its acquisition or, in the case of record or manuscript material, to relevant appropriate archives or relevant professionally-run libraries likely to be interested in its acquisition.

15.8 Museum Collections: if the material is not acquired by any Accredited museum, to which it was offered as a gift or for sale, then the museum community at large will be advised of the intention to dispose of the material normally through a notice on the Museums Association's Find an Object web listing service, an announcement in the Museums Association's Museums Journal or in other specialist publications and websites where appropriate.

Archive & manuscript collections: If the material is not acquired by any appropriate archive or relevant professionally-run library to which it was offered, and it comprises ephemera that do not have archival value or duplicates that do not have archival value, the Chapter of York may undertake to – in order of preference – return it to the depositor or donor, sell it in accordance with paragraph 1.7, or destroy it in accordance with paragraphs 15.14–18.

15.9 Museum Collections: The announcement (paragraph 15.8) relating to gift or sale will indicate the number and nature of specimens, objects or items involved, and the basis on which the material will be transferred to another institution. Preference will be given to expressions of interest from other Accredited Museums. A period of at least two months will be allowed for an interest in acquiring the material to be expressed. At the end of this period, if no expressions of interest have been received, the Chapter of York may consider disposing of the material to other interested individuals and organisations giving priority to organisations in the public domain.

- 15.10** Any monies received by the Chapter of York from the disposal of items will be applied solely and directly for the benefit of the collections. This normally means the purchase of further acquisitions. In exceptional cases, improvements relating to the care of collections in order to meet or exceed Accreditation requirements relating to the risk of damage to and deterioration of the collections may be justifiable. Any monies received in compensation for the damage, loss or destruction of items will be applied in the same way. For the museum collections, advice on those cases where the monies are intended to be used for the care of collections will be sought from the Arts Council England.
- 15.11** The proceeds of a sale will be allocated so it can be demonstrated that they are spent in a manner compatible with the requirements of Accreditation standards. Money must be restricted to the long-term sustainability, use and development of the collections.
- 15.12** Full records will be kept of all decisions on disposals and the items involved and proper arrangements made for the preservation and/or transfer, as appropriate, of the documentation relating to the items concerned, including photographic records where practicable in accordance with SPECTRUM Procedure on deaccession and disposal or, in the case of records and manuscripts, The National Archives' guidance on deaccessioning and disposal for archive services.

Disposal by exchange

- 15.13** The museum and archive service will not dispose of items by exchange.

Disposal by destruction

- 15.14** If it is not possible to dispose of an object or item through transfer or sale or, in the case of archive & manuscript collections, return, the Chapter of York may decide to destroy it.
- 15.15** It is acceptable to destroy material of low intrinsic significance (duplicate mass-produced items or common specimens which lack significant provenance and do not have archival value) where no alternative method of disposal can be found.
- 15.16** Destruction is also an acceptable method of disposal in cases where an item is in extremely poor condition (and, in the case of record or manuscript material, where it has low informational and evidential value and it has not been possible to return it to the depositor or donor), has high associated health and safety risks or is part of an approved destructive testing request identified in an organisation's research policy.
- 15.17** Where necessary, specialist advice will be sought to establish the appropriate method of destruction. Health and safety risk assessments will be carried out by trained staff where required.
- 15.18** The destruction of objects and other material should be witnessed by an appropriate member of the museum or archive workforce. In circumstances where this is not possible, e.g. the destruction of controlled substances, a police certificate should be obtained and kept in the relevant object or item history file.

Descriptions of Museum and Archive & Manuscript Collections

Archaeological Archives

This collection is defined as materials (whether finds or written records) arising as a result of programmes of archaeological intervention. As a result, the 'archaeological archive' contains quantities of material that might otherwise be grouped under the subheadings of other collections, including finds of architectural stone, funerary monuments or displaced glass. Though some material was excavated before 1900, the vast majority dates from postwar programmes.

Very limited excavations were undertaken by antiquarians and the simply curious in the 18th and 19th centuries. The most significant of these was John Browne, whose work after the 1829 fire in the Quire uncovered the Norman column stumps visible today in the Western Crypt. Examples of items from these earlier excavations include:

- The Norman Doomstone unearthed in Dean's Park in 1904.
- The sculpture of the Virgin and Child (also known as the 'York Virgin'), about mid-12th century, found walled up and defaced (presumably during the Reformation) in the East End, during repair work following the 1829 fire.

The two main programmes of archaeological intervention have been the major programme of investigation in 1967-73, during engineering works to stabilise the Central Tower and foundations of the Minster, and the excavation at the Old Palace in 1997 for the creation of the modern extension. The bulk of the archaeological archive was created during the urgent rescue excavations of 1967-73. This generated a sometimes haphazard archive of plans, finds, photographs and written records; in particular, the contextual information which has been assigned to the collection does not conform to current archaeological methodologies. Recent work by the York Archaeological Trust (YAT) focussed on the 11th and 12th century finds, has included the creation of a digital catalogue documenting each contextual provenance assigned to the 11th century or later (a total of 1114), and the materials assigned to it; integration of records relating to this period into YAT's database is ongoing. Some indexing of ceramics has been carried out, detailing sherd-by-sherd the medieval ceramics from within the cathedral. The material from earlier strata has not been subject to this level of detailed study.

Further archives were created during the excavation at the Old Palace (York Minster Library) in 1997, and subsequent programmes of investigation and recording have also added to this archive. The physical material (consisting animal bone, ceramics, stone objects, samples, slag, glass, metalwork, plaster, wood and architectural stone) has been deposited with the Chapter of York. Results were published by Field Archaeology Services (FAS).

More recently, archaeological excavations have centred on preparation for major works, including the lift pit for the Undercroft lift and the piazza excavation. Object finds were minimal but included a charnel burial which adds to the Chapter of York's skeletal assemblages. Skeletal assemblages and other excavated human remains are re-interred in the Minster's ossuary once assessment work is complete and are not part of the museum or archive collections, though records of these are held in the archaeological archives.

Museum Collections

Furniture

York Minster is exquisitely furnished. Although any furnishings of 'architectural, archaeological, artistic or historic interest' are listed on the Inventory, for the most part these become part of the Museum Collections only when no longer in active day-to-day use. The Furniture Collection also contains historical material from other sites within the Minster Precinct.

The fires of 1829 and 1840 destroyed nearly all medieval and post medieval furnishings. The medieval furniture that does survive includes:

- A 13th century cope chest with notable ironwork

- Cope chest, c.14th-15th century, though with 12th (?) century elements. The surviving leather on top is extremely rare.
- Carved chest depicting St George and the Dragon legend, c. 1380
- Free-standing cupboard, c. 1400, in Consistory Court
- Oak collecting chest, late 15th – early 16th century
- Two remaining 15th century stalls from the Quire
- The ancient ‘Coronation’ chair on which Archbishops were traditionally enthroned
- Wall cupboards – five aumbries in the Zouche Chapel, 1395-1410
- A number of 16th and 17th century chairs, English and Continental
- Two 17th century dole cupboards
- 16th century Italian cabinet

Heritage Collections

NB: This collection includes items previously described on the 2014 Collections Development Policy as in the category of ‘Treasures’, for their significance and long association with York Minster, some of which were once kept in the Treasury of the cathedral. However, in the Care of Cathedrals Measure 2011, ‘Treasure’ is defined as ‘any object which would, but for an order under section 2(2) of the Treasure Act 1996 (c. 24), be treasure within the meaning of that Act and which is found in or under the cathedral church or within its precinct’. To avoid confusion with treasure trove and the Treasure Act, the former Collections Development Policy category of ‘Treasures’ has been incorporated into the new category of Heritage Collections.

The Minster has always had a concept of objects of particular importance or significance. In the medieval world the most important ‘treasures’ were the relics of saints, such as St William of York. They are recorded in an inventory of 1510, but most have vanished as a consequence of the Reformation, Civil War, liturgical change, fire and time. Following the Reformation items were, for the most part, no longer venerated as objects of spiritual or cultural power. However, care was taken to preserve objects of historic interest and value, or long association with the cathedral, such as the Horn of Ulf, an 11th century oliphant presented to the cathedral as a horn of tenure by a Viking nobleman; an ivory casket dating from the 11th or 12th century probably used as a reliquary; and the effigial head of Archbishop Thomas Rotherham (c. 1500).

The Heritage Collections encompasses material, including medieval tiles, a wooden mazer bowl, portraits and items of fine and decorative art, connected to the life and history of the cathedral, and not defined in other categories given here, such as ‘Historic Textiles’ or ‘Worked Stone’. The Heritage Collections includes military and numismatic material belonging to the Chapter of York, and miscellaneous items acquired over many centuries, to the present.

A notable area is funeral relics of medieval archbishops. Excavated from the 19th century onwards, but predominantly as part of the works of 1967–73, they include chalices, patens and rings and represent one of the most significant survivals of pre-Reformation ecclesiastical silver and jewel-work in this country. The exquisite walrus ivory crozier and the jewelled archiepiscopal ring of Archbishop Walter de Gray (d. 1254), found with outstanding textiles and a funerary silver-gilt chalice and paten, comprise one of the country’s most important medieval collections associated with a named individual.

Historic Textiles

This collection includes chasubles, stoles, copes and other vestments, altar frontals, banners, burses, carpets, cushions, dossals and kneelers. The majority date from the 19th and 20th centuries, though there are significant pieces from earlier centuries, many acquired for the Minster at a later date. However, these are few in number. The pre-Reformation Minster Inventory of 1510 recorded 475 vestments alone; the inventory of 1616 only 27 items in total. Today only a few fragments of pre-Reformation textiles survive: one set was discovered during the excavation of the tomb of Walter de Grey in 1968 and includes two tablet-woven braids and the remains of a cushion; a second set comprises three fragments almost certainly originating from 12 sets of hangings for the Quire presented to the Minster by John Scrope between 1426 and 1455. There is also a fragment of silk said to have come from the shrine of St William of York, which was dismantled at the Reformation.

The collection includes the Secker cope, made for Dr Thomas Secker, Archbishop of Canterbury, for the coronation of George III in 1760.

Regimental colours, though held in the Minster under the care of the Collections team, belong to the military regiments and are not part of the Museum Collections, though they are noted on the Cathedral Inventory.

Monuments and Statuary

The collection of funerary monuments ranges in date from the 13th to the 21st centuries, and comprises over 250 pieces. Among the medieval monuments, the earliest, and by far the most important, is that of Archbishop Walter de Grey who died in 1255. This has been described as the 'most shrine-like 13th century tomb anywhere in Europe'. Its innovative form coupled with the high quality of its workmanship makes it one of the finest medieval tombs in England.

Two other medieval monuments, those of the Archbishops who succeeded Walter de Grey, Archbishop de Boville and Archbishop de Ludham, also have a shrine-like feature. Both originally had 'table-tops' supported by an arcade of small columns. This would have allowed the devout to crawl into the space beneath the table in order to get closer to the buried remains. The de Ludham tomb has lost this feature but that of de Bovill still has its supporting columns. In St Nicholas Chapel is the impressive canopied tomb of Archbishop William Greenfield. The tomb chest belonging to this still retains a brass effigy of the archbishop that is one of the earliest in England. The later medieval tombs include that of Archbishop de Bowet, between the Lady Chapel and All Saints' Chapel, which has been heavily restored, a much decayed cadaver figure, and the alabaster effigy, said to be Prince William of Hatfield, in a niche in the South Quire Aisle.

Tudor monuments include the late 15th century wall tomb traditionally held to contain the remains of Archbishop Roger Pont L'Eveque who died in 1181, which was extensively restored in the Victorian period, and Archbishop Thomas Savage's large Perpendicular monument in the North Quire Aisle. The finest of the early Stuart monuments is that of Anne Bennet carved by Nicholas Stone. Pevsner describes it succinctly as "small, of alabaster; excellent". A dramatic change of style occurs at the time of the Restoration when Baroque art and architecture reach England. The Minster has three monuments made in the workshop of Grinling Gibbons all commemorating archbishops: Sterne, Lamplugh and Dolben. The monument of William Wentworth, 2nd Earl of Strafford, and Lady Henrietta Mary Wentworth, Countess of Strafford, possibly by John van Nost, is also notable.

Early Georgian monuments include that to Vice-Admiral Henry Medley in the north Quire aisle, designed by Sir Henry Cheere which, with its maritime trophies and garlands of flowers, is almost Rococo in style. On the opposite side of this aisle, the statue of Thomas Watson Wentworth, leaning against an urn and accompanied by a mourning woman, was designed by William Kent and executed by Giovanni Battista Guelfi. In the Romantic or late Georgian period the best monuments in the Minster were supplied by the Fishers, a local firm of stonemasons. These include Sir George Savile in the North Quire Aisle, Dr John Dealtry, Sir Thomas Davenport and members of the Sterne family. In the Victorian period, Dean Duncombe's tomb, designed by GE Street with the effigy carved by Sir Joseph Edgar Boehm, and Archbishop Thomson's tomb designed by GF Bodley with the effigy of the archbishop and his terrier 'Scamp' carved by Sir John Hamo Thornycroft are highly elaborate.

Of the monuments introduced in the 20th century, the bronze and marble memorial to Major Herbert Augustine Carter, VC, designed by the Australian sculptor, Sir Bertram Mackennel is unusual and arresting. Monuments continue to be added in the Minster, subject to advice from the CFCE and FAC.

Silver

Medieval plate was stripped from the Minster during the Reformation. The present collection, much of which was acquired through bequests and gifts, dates largely from the 16th century onwards, and predominantly from the 19th and 20th centuries. A notable donation was the silver-gilt, diamond-set, Forepaugh Chalice (made London, 1927) presented by Lily Deacon Forepaugh. Dean Milner-White was a particularly important collector, as part of his mission to restore the splendour of the Minster. A recent gift, from the Friends of the Minster in 2000, is the

Millennium Silver designed by Jocelyn Burton, Gerald Benney, Michael Lloyd, Lord Kelly, Toby Russell and Alex Brogden. The Millennium Silver, like much of the ecclesiastical silver collection, is actively used in services and ceremonies in York Minster, including Holy Communion.

The collection also includes the William Lee Collection of York silver. William Lee collected examples of early or rare York silver, which were exhibited in the Undercroft of York Minster from 1972, and later donated to the Chapter of York. The collection is largely of domestic and secular silver, with the earliest piece, a spoon, dating from c. 1475-1500. The collection provides important evidence of the history and manufacture of silver in York, and of the styles popular in different periods.

The Minster also holds, on loan for safe-keeping and display, collections of plate from parish churches of the Diocese. Some of these pieces are of considerable antiquity and significance.

Worked Stone

Historically, stone and timber removed from the Minster during repair and restoration works was retained or disposed of on an *ad hoc* basis. Significant assemblages exist in the gardens around the Precinct, often built into rockeries; other stone was routinely sold off from the Stoneyard in auctions which raised funds for future work. The remains of St William's Shrine were given to the Yorkshire Philosophical Society around 1900.

Today all masonry which is removed from the Minster in the course of repair work is assessed by the Cathedral Archaeologist and also the Master Mason, Director of Works & Precinct and/or the Head of Collections for inclusion in the Worked Stone Collection. Pieces which are to be retained are entered on the Cathedral Inventory and become part of the Collections. All other pieces are recorded, marked and sold to raise funds for repairs to the fabric of the building.

Of the approximately 250 pieces in the collection, fragments include:

- An unprovenanced Green Man
- A figure of St William, previously in the niche over the door of St William's College
- Six angels from the old High Altar reredos
- 12th century Romanesque sculpture, elements of a statuary cycle, reused in the 14th century West End, and removed from the western towers in the 1970s for safety.

Archive & Manuscript Collections

Archival Records

The Chapter of York

The Chapter of York (est. c.1090) has an extensive archive dating back to c.1150 but the extent of the survival of its records through the centuries has not been comprehensively studied (see, however, Katharine M. Longley, 'Towards a History of Archive-Keeping in the Church of York', *Borthwick Institute Bulletin*, 1 (1975–8), 59–74, 103–18). Major components include:-

- the acts and minutes of the Chapter (1290–) with documents presented in its meetings (1570–);
- financial records, including the accounts of the fabric estate (c.1360–1937) and common estate (1370–1940), the former of which include expenditure on the construction of, and works to, York Minster and the Chapter's properties;
- papers relating to works to the Minster from 1692 onwards and to the Chapter's properties from the early 19th century onwards, including inspection reports, the earliest of which dates from 1770, and over 4,100 architectural and technical drawings (1726–) (see also Contractors to the Chapter, below);
- archaeological records, from 1966 onwards (see also Committees advisory to the Chapter, below);
- records of the Minster's collections, including a fine series of inventories showing the successive dispersals of Minster treasures and vestments in the Reformation and after, a register of donations of books to the library (1686–1924) and several early catalogues (1638, 1687, 1774, 1830);
- service records, including registers of baptisms, marriages and burials (1634–), orders of service (c.1859–), service registers (1872–), and schemes of service (1881–);
- records of the Chapter's estates (which, until the 19th century, included numerous churches and parishes, manors and properties throughout the city and county, and further afield) including two 14th-century cartularies and a series of large lease registers (1508–1894);
- records of the Chapter's spiritual jurisdiction, including court books (1316–1673) and registers of wills proved in the courts of the Chapter, the dignitaries and some of the prebendaries (1321–1558);
- records of the Chapter's temporal jurisdiction, in the Liberty of St Peter, including court papers (mainly 18th–19th c.) and a fine series of accounts of the bailiff of the Liberty (1487–1845);
- records of the Minster School (closed 2020), including admissions registers dating back to 1859 and school logbooks, 1903–52;
- records relating to the Chapter's involvement with numerous religious, educational and healthcare charities from 1557 onwards, some of whose records have been acquired by the Chapter (see Local organisations with religious, educational or healthcare objects, below);
- working papers of Chapter office holders (mainly late 19th c. onwards).

Other Organisations

The archives of other organisations have been acquired by the Chapter, usually in view of an official relationship.

Organisations subordinate to the Chapter

The Vicars Choral of York Minster

The Vicars Choral were a body of clergy that emerged in the late 12th century in order to provide trained musicians for services. Ownership of their archive passed to the Chapter on the dissolution of the Vicars' college in 1935, under the Cathedrals Measure 1931. Major components include estate records, with c.500 medieval title deeds and a 13th–14th-century cartulary, and accounts of the officers of the college, namely the chamberlain (1304–1642), bursar (c.1360–1642), subchanter (c.1369–1641), repairer (1383–1769), brasiator (1393–1564) and receiver of cubicle rents (1575–1639).

Other organisations with which the Chapter has had an official relationship

Committees advisory to the Chapter

- York Minster Excavations Committee, 1965–91;
- Fabric Advisory Committee, 1976–.

Organisations supportive of York Minster

- Friends of York Minster (founded 1928), 1912?–;
- York Minster Fund, 1967–;
- York Minster Mystery Plays, 1997–.

Contractors to the Chapter (records relating to works carried out for the Chapter)

- York Glaziers Trust (incorporated 1967), 12th–18th c. (glass samples), 1829–;
- Brown Matthews Architects, 1958–99;
- Field Archaeology Specialists Ltd, 1997?;
- NB: for photographs taken by Shepherds Building Group Ltd, see Officials of the Chapter and their families, below.

Diocesan organisations

- York Diocesan Church Choral Association (administered by the Chapter), 1933–98.

Local organisations with religious, educational or healthcare objects

- St Peter's School, York, 1347–20th c.;
- Archbishop Holgate's School, York, 18th c.–1977;
- Purey-Cust Hospital Incorporated (opened 1915), 1880–1984.

Organisations with which the Chapter has not had an official relationship

Diocesan organisations

- York Diocesan Council of the Girls Friendly Society, 1881–1971;
- York Diocesan Clergy Refresher Course, 1918–76;
- York Diocesan Sunday School Council, 1943–60.

Local organisations with religious or educational objects

- Yorkshire Association of Change Ringers, 1757– (YACR's library is in the Minster library);
- York College for Girls (est. 1908), 1827–1994 (printed books, etc.), 1890s?–1997 (archive), 1903–91 (artefacts);
- Yorkshire Architectural and York Archaeological Society (YAYAS), 1840s–;
- private photographic archives, 1903–93, deposited by YAYAS;
- York Women's Fellowship of the United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, 1933–87.

Persons

The private archives of persons have also been acquired by the Chapter, again usually in view of an official relationship.

Persons with whom the Chapter has had an official relationship

Officials of the Chapter and their families

- William Camidge (1828–1909, Methodist preacher, relative of organists 1756–1858), 1797–1911;
- R.C. and W.J. Green (clerks of works 1895–1967), viz c.7,600 photographs of the Minster and its precinct, 1870s?–c.1975, taken by them and other photographers, to which have been added more than 6,000 photographs taken by the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, the Minster archaeologists (see Committees Advisory to the Chapter, above) and Shepherds Building Group Ltd during the 1967–72 restoration of York Minster;

- Thomas Tertius Noble (organist 1897–1913), 1885–1967;
- Francis Alan Jackson (organist 1946–82), 1904–2019;
- Arthur Alfred Robert Gill (canon 1932–7, rector of All Saints Pavement parish, York and chaplain to the Merchant Taylors’ Company of York), 1915–38;
- Eric Arthur Gee (honorary architectural historian by 1977), 1970–84.

Archbishops of York and their families

- John Sharp (abp 1691–1714) and family, 1707–1889;
- William Thomson (abp 1863–90) and family, 1842–90 (ref.: COLL/1948/22);
- Cyril Forster Garbett (abp 1942–55), 1688 [sic]–1956 (refs: COLL/1973/1, COLL/1982/5, ACC/2011/1);
- Stuart Yaworth Blanch (abp 1975–83), 1974–85;
- NB: the Chapter has also collected stray papers of Thomson and family, 1845–95 (refs: COLL/1966/2, ACC/1985/10); Garbett, 1949 (ref.: 1992/23); and Thomas Lamplugh (abp 1688–91) and family, 17th–19th c.

Persons with whom the Chapter has not had an official relationship

Historians who have undertaken research on the Minster

- Philip Michael Stell, 1984–99.

Persons who have undertaken recording of church-related objects

- c.200 brass rubbings made by ? a member of the Lack family of Charles Lack and Sons Limited, agricultural engineers and brass-founders, Cambs (in business c.1875–1978?);
- over 400 casts of religious and secular official and private seals, unattributed.

Artificial Collections of Records

The Chapter holds some collections incorporating records of multiple creators that have been brought together because they relate to a particular theme:

York Minster

- York Minster Fires (relates to the fires of 1829, 1840 and 1984; collection created by the Chapter), 1829–1994.

Yorkshire

- Records collected by Edward Hailstone (1818–90) and bequeathed by him to the Chapter, comprising several thousand deeds and documents, including transcripts, accounts, letters and maps, mostly from the West Riding and especially the Bradford area, 12th–19th c. (Hailstone’s printed books, etc. are in the library);
- ‘Private Accessions’ (complementary to the other holdings of York Minster Archives), 1455–.

Uncategorised Photographs, Moving Images and Sound Recordings

The provenance of a large number of accumulations of photographs, comprising c.7,200 items in total, requires investigation. Most of these accumulations relate to York Minster, its precinct and collections; some are broader in scope, e.g. photographs under the head ‘Special Services’ which document services in other churches as well as the Minster; and some are entirely concerned with subjects other than the Minster, e.g. ‘York Churches and Other Windows and Glass’.

Similarly, the provenance of a modest accumulation of moving images and sound recordings under reference code AV (c.150 items, c.1935–2015) requires investigation. The recordings are mainly of services and performances in, and documentaries and features about, the Minster.

Manuscript Collections

Textual manuscripts

This collection (shelf marks MSS XVI and MSS Add.) comprises over 900 items in the form of literary and liturgical manuscripts, historical and antiquarian works, and records dating from the 10th/11th century onwards. Its origin may be seen to lie in the early 15th century, as it includes the small number of volumes that may be identified as having survived from the bequest of Treasurer John Neuton (1414), which was the first action towards re-founding a library at the cathedral. Neuton's bequest included a wide variety of scholarly books; the survivors are two 14th / 15th century legal texts in four volumes, and possibly a mid-12th century book of homilies. It is likely that the majority of his books were replaced by their reformed, revised and/or printed equivalents in the 16th century.

A number of the other medieval items in the collection have seen service in the Minster, namely the 10th/11th-century York Gospels, which has been used as an oath book by the Chapter since at least the 13th century; the second and third volumes of a mid-12th century multi-volume bible for lectern use; a 13th /14th century copy of Hugutio's *Magnae derivationes* (a 'Latin encyclopaedia'), said to have been specially written for the Minster and ordered to be chained in the quire; 14th / 15th century copies of historical narratives, including a history of the church of York, fastened to two folding 'tables', which were seen fixed up in the Minster in 1534 and were probably for the information of pilgrims and visitors; and a mid-15th century volume of saints' lives used in the vestry.

The collection has developed through bequests, gifts, purchases and deposits down the centuries. In 1715, the executors of Archbishop John Sharp presented nine volumes on ecclesiastical antiquities by James Torre (1649–99), one of which is an illustrated historical and architectural survey of the Minster that is an important source for planning work to the cathedral's fabric, including its glass. The gift in 1737 by the widow of non-juror Marmaduke Fothergill included five rare manuscript texts of the Use of York (14th–15th c.), providing the foundation on which has been built one of the most extensive collections of this class of material. Alongside missals, a ritual and breviaries are the highly-decorated early 15th-century Pavement and Bolton books of hours. A number of the other c.100 medieval literary and liturgical manuscripts now in the collection also feature elaborate decoration.

The records in the collection include all variety of deeds, diaries, letters, minute and account books, ranging from a mid-13th-century charter in favour of Rievaulx Abbey to the minute book of the finance committee of the 44th Yorkshire (North Riding) Voluntary Aid detachment of the British Red Cross Society (1939–45).

Manuscript music

This collection comprises over 250 manuscripts of vocal and instrumental music (16th c.–). It includes 62 volumes associated with the choir of York Minster and some that belonged to the Vicars Choral of York Minster in the 18th century. Most of the manuscripts, however, have been acquired from sources beyond the cathedral. For instance, a gift of German choral music given in the mid-19th century by William Priestley, a founder-member of Halifax Choral Society, constitutes over a quarter of the collection, and, in 1945, Dean Eric Milner-White purchased seven manuscripts of works by T.A. Walmisley (1832–55?, some autograph) on behalf of the Friends of York Minster. One of the most significant sets of manuscripts, for the music of the Restoration composers that it contains, is the Gostling Partbooks (1660s–90s), which were in the collection by 1850, although by what route they came is unclear.