

# About the Collections

## • Manuscript Archive

This collection consists of:

- material arising out of the conduct of Society business
- manuscripts relating to persons or subjects of special interest

Individual special collections may not be fully comprehensive but do complement those in other establishments.

The document collection includes a few papers from before the Society's foundation in 1830.

The collection is particularly useful to:

- biographers of nineteenth and early twentieth century travellers and geographers
- research into the development of geographical knowledge and the historical development of geography

The material is held in seven groups:

- Fellowship Certificates: These record the date of election and other relevant information about a candidate, eg names of proposers and seconders, qualifications, addresses
- Royal Geographical Society Administrative Papers: includes Council and Committee minutes, out-letter books, additional papers relating to the Society's history. Material dating to or before 1983 can be requested for viewing.
- correspondence files: letters to the officers of the Society from 1830 and, in many cases, copies of the outgoing replies
- Journal manuscripts: published, part-published and unpublished manuscripts submitted for publication in the Society's Journal or Proceedings, from 1830. Some of the material dates to before this time
- Institute of British Geographers records: includes Council and Committee minutes and correspondence of the Institute of British Geographers 1930-1995
- special collections;: eg papers of Dr David Livingstone and Henry Morton Stanley. There is a considerable amount of material relating to various polar journeys, in particular the 1900 National Antarctic Expedition. Other holdings include records of the Everest expeditions from the 1920s onwards; Easter Island data from Katherine Routledge's expeditions of the 1910s; news cuttings, reports/correspondence associated with David Livingstone and H M Stanley
- Library manuscripts: miscellaneous small groups of papers, diaries, log books, observations and letters which do not necessarily have any connection with the Society but which are of interest to historians of geography