

Treasures of the Central Library

You will find in the Liverpool Central Library many rare and beautiful books collected by the Library Service over the last 150 years, through special purchase or generous donation. These are kept mainly in the superb Edwardian Hornby library, gift of our most generous benefactor, Hugh Frederick Hornby, or in the adjacent atmospheric Oak Room.



The Hornby Library



Carolina Parakeets, from the Birds of America

Star of the collections is undoubtedly the astounding four volume *Birds of America*, by John James Audubon, rightly described as the world's greatest natural history book, which comprises 435 life size full colour engravings. One volume of this magnificent work is on permanent display in the Picton Library; a page is turned every week to enable regular visitors to see a different picture each time they come.

There are also many other fine illustrated natural history and travel books in the library.



From Monandrian plants..., by William Roscoe



From Travels to the Holy Land..., by David Roberts

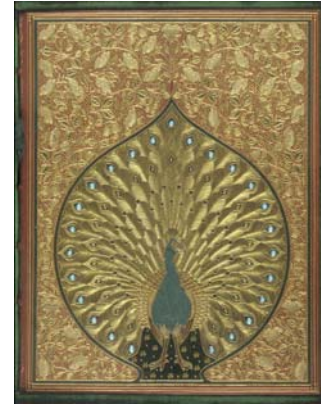
Also among the Central Library's treasures are beautiful medieval manuscripts, rare early printed books, exquisite fine bindings, charming children's picture books, superb craft printing, and much more.



Book of hours



Chaucer's Works, Kelmscott Press



Peacock Binding

In recent years we have continued to develop our rare and fine book collections by commissioning leading craftsmen and women to create designer bindings to mark Liverpool's designation as European Capital of Culture.



Fine binding by Andrew Brown, 2004

If you would like to view any of these treasures or the many thousand other items in our rare and fine book collections simply contact the Central library on: 0151 233 5844 or email Refhum.central.library@liverpool.gov.uk