The Carnegie Libraries of Britain

A photographic chronicle

This work is supported by the Arts and Humanities Research Council Grant number [AH/P002587/1]
In memory of Willow Prizeman

This book is inspired by one published over a century ago. Having first read about it in Abigail Van Slyck’s seminal work on American Carnegie Libraries [1] I was delighted to discover a separate book of illustrations made in 1907 by the Michigan librarian, Theodore Wesley Koch. Literally published as an unbound portfolio, it allowed me to explore and ruminate upon the quality of these proud new buildings as they first arrived in America without commentary or explanation - much in the way that a public library is encountered and navigated at will by a new visitor. By seeing the collection together and even re-arranging it, it was possible to marvel at the contrast in external appearance between buildings in Florida and Wyoming as well as to recognise the similarity of their interiors. It triggered my focus on the emerging notion of a transatlantic standard for the experience of public spaces that the Carnegie Library Programme pioneered, the nuances of which are examined in depth in my 2012 book [2].

The intention here is simply to provide a means to reflect visually with minimal commentary on the quantity and characteristics of the 437 Carnegie Library buildings that remain in the UK. The book is ordered chronologically and alphabetically within each year in order to reveal the remarkable speed at which these buildings cropped up, right across the UK. Where a library is still in use as a library, the interior is photographed also. From a purely chronological perspective, as a consequence of their benefactor’s origin and sentiment, the particularly Scottish nature of their beginnings is particularly evident. However, within only a few years the rush to apply for these grants in all but one county of the UK can literally be seen as universal. The increasing discrepancy between economic contexts in the UK may be masked here by the similarity of the architecture. Ultimately, I hope that this sequence of images in its geographical dance can contribute to a wider acknowledgement of our shared experience. The impact of the lockdowns was to highlight the value of these publicly accessible interiors even further as people were temporarily deprived of these unique retreats across the country. In hindsight this quality of emptiness has added an unanticipated filter. It is inevitable that an explanation - much in the way that a public library is encountered and navigated at will by a new visitor - by seeing the collection together and even re-arranging it, it was possible to marvel at the contrast in external appearance between buildings in Florida and Wyoming as well as to recognise the similarity of their interiors. It triggered my focus on the emerging notion of a transatlantic standard for the experience of public spaces that the Carnegie Library Programme pioneered, the nuances of which are examined in depth in my 2012 book [2].

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Preface
Acknowledgements

This book is an output of the research project 'Shelf-Life: Re-imagining the future of Carnegie Public Libraries', funded by an Arts and Humanities Research Grant [AH/P002587/1] which ran from 2016-2021. I would like to thank the funders of this research for their support. I would also like to thank my institution, Cardiff University, The Welsh School of Architecture and the professional services staff for their support in managing this funding. I am particularly grateful to Cardiff University for my grant of a year’s research leave from 2019-20 during which I had time to put this book together. I would especially like to thank my esteemed co-investigators for their patience and support in developing the research proposal and collaborating on its delivery; Professor Alistair Black of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign School of Information Sciences for his collegial support and original publications and also Professor Christopher Jones of Cardiff University School of Computer Science and Informatics for his technical prompts.

I would also like to particularly thank the research assistants who worked on this project; Dr Camilla Pezzica and Mahdi Boughanmi, without whom the work could not have been completed. Thanks also to Manuela Pana and Julian Schmelter for their invaluable efforts. I would also like to acknowledge the contribution of Professor Paul Room of Cardiff University School of Computer Science and Informatics to the technical discussions throughout the project. In addition, I am very grateful to several brilliant people who as students also lent their time to co-author papers related to the project; Dr Ahmed Taher, Dr Clare Laurens Lorraine and especially to Giovanni Bruschi who assisted in undertaking the laser scans of 22 library buildings that appear on the project website. The project has also had an invaluable contribution from the local councils, libraries and supporting community organisations who agreed to admit me to photograph their buildings. In particular I would like to thank all those engaged in the Lister Steps community project, especially the inspirational Gaynor Williams and Olivia Johnson, also Vicky Vang at Braddock Carnegie Library, PA.

The roots of this project stem from my PhD at the University of Cambridge for which I was also funded by the AHRC under the project “Designing with Light in Libraries” led by my supervisors Mary Ann Steane and Professor Koen Steemers to whom I am also indebted. The sources of data for tracing these buildings have been derived initially from that early work which led to my book “Philanthropy and Light; Carnegie Libraries and the Advent of Transatlantic Standards for Public Space” (Ashgate 2013). The then archivist of the Carnegie UK Trust, Elizabeth East, had sent me a list from which I began the quest of tracing every building down and creating a simple GIS map at the start of my PhD in 2006. Later at Cardiff University a visiting student, Graziano Muratore helped to augment this using Kaye Bagshaw’s gazetteer in Alistair Black’s “Boothes Buildings and Social Engineering” (Ashgate 2009). The invaluable Columbia archive of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, which includes digitised record cards of the grants is now available online. In addition, I would like to thank the Carnegie UK trust for allowing me access to their records at the National Archives of Scotland. The British Library Newspaper archive proved essential in tracing the libraries that were hard to find as is evident in the number of articles cited here that were found there. I am grateful to the University of Cambridge University Library and Faculty of Architecture and History of Art for allowing me to access their unparalleled collections of journals of the period as well as those digital sources, namely.
Scottish-born American philanthropist, Andrew Carnegie offered over 2600 grants for the provision of Public Library buildings predominantly across the USA and UK at the turn of the twentieth century. The impact of providing society with freely-accessible interior public spaces was transformational and they proliferated in a relatively short space of time. In Britain, following the Public Libraries Act of 1850, which allowed councils to collect funding for their provision, the Public Library movement in was most rapidly accelerated by the gifts of Carnegie. Whether they are now open, closed, re-used or demolished, these buildings span the publicly accessible domain of UK. To date, however, the lists of grants given and libraries built have not been fully verified.

This book presents a complete survey of these public spaces in the UK for the first time. Of the 437 buildings that remain in Britain funded under the Carnegie Library Grant scheme, 225 are open as libraries. Whilst many have been relocated to newer buildings, the quality and character of the original ones is often cherished to a greater extent over time. One key observation from the national survey is the degree to which their interior spaces are recognisable as familiar havens, despite their geographical and stylistic disparity. In collating not just the recognisable external high street appearances of these buildings but also the interiors of the libraries that remain open today, it provokes reflection on the qualities of these shared experiences of public spaces across the country. The sequence of the visual narrative is designed to illustrate the emergence of the libraries, ordered chronologically by the year of their first opening, illustrating the rapid but clustered nature of their expansion from a predominantly Scottish starting point.

Although the buildings vary in scale considerably from central to branch libraries and village reading rooms, in England, Carnegie's library gifts were concentrated in industrialised areas, seeking to serve the working man in his potential for advancement through self-teaching and to some extent providing rooms or tables for ladies and admitting access for children. Today, the fortunes of post-industrial Britain have reversed this context, so to some extent, here the grandeur of the buildings is on occasion inversely proportionate to their current economic status. This makes their current vulnerability, both economically and physically, more critical. Moreover, in that they are not commercial entities, their value as retreats in post-industrial places today is arguably at its highest.

Economy

In the context of a study of American Carnegie libraries Abigail van Slyck has highlighted the focus of Carnegie's private secretary, James Bertram on the potential for advancement through self-teaching and seeking to serve the working man in his potential for advancement through self-teaching and to some extent providing rooms or tables for ladies and admitting access for children. Today, the fortunes of post-industrial Britain have reversed this context, so to some extent, here the grandeur of the buildings is on occasion inversely proportionate to their current economic status. This makes their current vulnerability, both economically and physically, more critical. Moreover, in that they are not commercial entities, their value as retreats in post-industrial places today is arguably at its highest. As libraries are under threat of closure across the UK, the scarcity and quality of these buildings puts them at risk when constrained budgets for maintenance and operation are at odds with human needs for physical accessibility, energy efficiency and security. Lord Bird, founder of the Big Issue, has lobbied government on Public Libraries, highlighting the unique role of such spaces in towns and cities for supporting vulnerable people.
the “utmost effectiv [sic] accommodation”. Commencing his job in 1897, Bertram responded to every grant application individually. Above all, they sought for economy to be provided in the design of the buildings. This pared-down ambition for functional delivery anticipates the modern movement in architecture of the inter-war years but was at odds with the sentiments of the Edwardian architectural profession at the time. Their work can be seen as disguising to some extent the leaner mission of the programme. Although an increasingly mechanised building industry was enabling significant advances with the use of cast concrete and expansive areas of plate-glass glazing, the general ambition was to dress buildings up stylistically to resemble often Gothic, Classical or Queen Anne styles, thus there is some justified confusion as to the actual modernity that these functional designs represent.

Scotland

Whilst Carnegie libraries are most numerous and well known in the USA, per capita their provision was at its most generous in the land of Carnegie’s birth. Indeed, the first Carnegie library in the world was built in his hometown, Dunfermline in 1883 and the majority of the first 80 library gifts in the UK were all built in Scotland. Although in urban centres the generally red sandstone buildings there are muscular, grand and robust, a significant number of Scottish Carnegie libraries and several were more humble village halls with reading rooms. What is notable in this is that James Bertram, also a Scot, evidently admired the humility and simplicity of these buildings above all, indeed he kept plans of Tullibody Public Hall and Library, the hometown of his Scottish born father-in-law as an exemplar. By 1911, he would publish a set of standard library plans for use across the USA. To date, these very minor buildings, designed by builders, surveyors and councillors, not always by architects, have not yet been recorded as a collective group, nor recognized to the same degree in heritage listings as the larger libraries. However, they were awarded grants through the same process of an application for a Library Grant. It is interesting to note that a greater number of these more flexible buildings have survived (albeit not as reading rooms but as multi-functional village halls) than have the more purpose-built library buildings.

Grants Refused

One aspect of this new review was to investigate all the listed grants wherein no obvious library building had been delivered. It was often the case that one member of a local council or indeed an existing librarian, might write passionately in application for a grant from Andrew Carnegie. The process of applying for grants was based on one of match funding, with a condition that the Libraries Act should be adopted for public funds to be raised for the subsequent maintenance of the buildings. Grants were processed by Bertram using one form whether the person had applied for a central city library or a village hall and reading room. The grant demanded as a condition, almost invariably, that the council should provide a site for the library and demonstrate fund raising for at least 50% of the building and to cover the costs of its maintenance. In order to provide this funding the council was obliged to sanction collecting the penny rate in taxation that the Public Libraries Act had allowed them the option to collect. For many councils, this increase in taxation was seen as too great a burden and so for this reason a significant number of grants that had been offered by Carnegie were rejected. This explains the disparity between grants offered – previously said to be 660 – and buildings built. There are also instances of significant disdian for the receipt of charity from a man perceived to have gained so much wealth from the subjection of working people for his own profit. There are one or two significantly protracted debates regarding who was to be seen as the key benefactor. The most lengthy of these was for The Hoswick library in Shetland, where a local man was determined that the village hall and reading room should be in his name. Evidently he lost his case and after pages of debate reported in the Shetland Times the Carnegie Hall was opened and remains open.

The arrival of a standardised level of experience of public interior space in these buildings pre-dates that of Lyons’ corner houses, McDonald’s or Starbucks. The provision of Public Library buildings gave people access at no cost and with no requirement to subscribe to any system of belief or association to environments in which they could “better themselves” through reading and intellectual exploration. It also enabled people to look for jobs by giving them access to newspapers that were incredibly expensive historically. Today these buildings continue to serve a very similar and unique purpose. The rapidity of their expansion when they were built is perhaps mirrored by the growth of the internet a century later. The need to keep these buildings open which provide bridges to such arenas is therefore as critical as ever.
The Shelf-Life project

Shelf-Life aimed at the uniquely controlled procurement of over 2600 public buildings across Britain and America around 100 years ago by the Carnegie Library Programme could benefit from some systematic thinking for their revalorisation at a time of crisis. Using and developing new techniques of Historic Building Information Modelling (HBIM), the proposal aimed to develop a parametric library of building components for Carnegie Libraries of the UK. A digital resource of common elements would enable better-informed, more sensitive and economic proposals for the rehabilitation and re-use of these buildings and set an example for other public buildings.

HBIM is limited by the availability of adequate object libraries because historic buildings do not generally have standard construction methods or components and 3D scans, although geometrically accurate, can capture surface information only. 3D scans cannot determine the actual materials or structural elements of existing buildings that lie behind the surface. The number of Carnegie Libraries designed under a very controlled regime provides a unique resource. The deeper cataloguing of available information and technical guidance that is proposed here aims to make a step forward in enabling HBIM to facilitate informed conservation design and within these existing buildings. Carnegie funding was critical to the public library movement in the UK and many of these features are common to libraries of the time also. The research focused upon British libraries but makes reference to the 2000+ US Carnegie libraries. For more information visit the project website: https://carnegielibrariesofbritain.com/.

Here a range of the common elements that have been identified are illustrated using illustrations and advertisements from contemporary technical indexes and journals.

Exterior Features:

Brick walls with stone or terracotta dressings

In the Midlands and South East of England, the most common materials used for Carnegie Library (and many other public and institutional) buildings of the time, were red brick with contrasting stone or terracotta dressings. Our detailed study of Toxteth library showed that hollow walls were used in its construction but that these were significantly more substantial than the single skin cavity walls that became the norm later in the century. Our study has identified 203 such buildings remaining in the UK. Meanwhile the most inventive use of stone dressings and terracotta was at Failsworth, Manchester (See Chapter 5 Fig 5.40). The design was designed by a Scottish architect, Adam Horsburgh Campbell who was later noted for his architectural highlight of the town, the most enterprising use of terracotta dressings for a Carnegie Library (and many other public and institutional) buildings of the time, were red brick with contrasting stone or terracotta dressings. Our detailed study of Toxteth library showed that hollow walls were used in its construction but that these were significantly more substantial than the single skin cavity walls that became the norm later in the century. Our study has identified 203 such buildings remaining in the UK.

The ventilation design of library buildings was so important that it was almost always noted in the briefest descriptions in the architectural press. The prominence of ventilating turrets is more evident in the National Archives of Scotland. The ventilation design of library buildings was so important that it was almost always noted in the briefest descriptions in the architectural press. The prominence of ventilating turrets is more evident in the National Archives of Scotland.
Interior Walls

In an effort to retain clear lines of sight as well as to maintain hygienic surfaces, glazed partitions and glazed ceramic wall tiles were used. The following pages illustrate the extent to which these norms prevailed. Previous work has identified the means by which maximum levels of daylight illumination were originally prioritised to enable internal surveillance. Previous work has identified the means by which maximum levels of daylight illumination were originally prioritised to enable internal surveillance. West Bromwich Library has possibly the most lavish combination of decorative architecture, facade, paint- works, mosaics and stained glass of all UK Carnegie Libraries but has recently suffered from theft and damage externally.

Turret Ventilators"

The turret here described and illustrated is intended to ventilate a large hall, and to improve the appearance of the roof. From numerous gratings in the ceiling, metal tubes lead to the turret, which they enter at the sides, to discharge foul air, and the turret, being closely boarded with air as the bases in 1 in. boarding, grooved and tongued, acts as a fin, and carries all the impure air away. The draught may be assisted by having a radiator fixed inside the turret, if this arrangement is deemed to be necessary. On plan, the turret is an irregular octagon and the height from base to top of fin is 4 ft 6 in. (the base being 7 ft 9 in. wide over the boarding and top 6 ft 3 in. over the boarding. The lower 20 ft 3 inches of height is perpendicular but the upper portion is battered 3 1/2 inches. A door 3 ft 9 inches wide by 7 ft high is placed at the lower portion of the turret. Beneath the turret there are two windows, one to each side, and beneath each window and behind each radiator, a series of cast terracotta vents admit fresh air to the room. The movement would have been powered by an electric fan housed in the ceiling beneath the turret such as the ones illustrated in Fig. vii. The aim was to ensure a continuous flow of fresh air in order to prevent the spread of disease.

Glazed wall tiles and architectural faience

The use of faience or glazed tiles and bricks in Carnegie Libraries and indeed all public buildings of the era is a familiar sight. It was a popular choice of finish for its decorative and hygienic properties. Earlier work has identified that the prevalence of green coloured tiles is partly explained by their being particularly recommended for libraries and other educational buildings as the colour was believed to prevent eye strain.

Transparent walls

Glazed partitions and internal windows were frequently used to separate areas of the libraries whilst maintaining the potential for the librarians to have adequate surveillance. They also enabled the “borrowing” of light from one space to another.

As buildings have been adapted and modernised over the years, many of these screens have been removed. Nevertheless we have recorded 138 buildings where they are still evident.

This section of an article described the construction of glazed screens and is transcribed from Building World: 1906

...The design is shown suitable for construction in yellow jow (to be finished in white enamel), or in oak, teak, or mahogany, French polished. Lighted Lights of simple rectangular design, with panelled margins (following the outline of the slots, and glazed in very pale tints of harmonious colours, will be bound to produce a satisfactory effect. The frame of the screen is rose moulded and rebated on each exposed edge, and is 4 1/2 in. by 6 in. material, with 4 1/2 in. by 4 in. Top and bottom rails, all framed together with double tenons (see Figs. 4 and 5). Where present the tenons pass through the rails or stiles. Are glass or double glazed in the usual manner joints in the frame, as at G and H (Fig. 1), are formed as shown in detail in Figs. 4 and 5. In Fig. 5, the tenons in the glazed rail, and screwed through the side, the screwing for the screw head being bored with the centre bit and punched up after drawing up the joint. Round Steel nails are often used for this purpose, and are sunk below the surface in the same way. Screwing into end grain is not considered good in general practice, but with a screw of good length and diameter the joint shown can be easily drawn tight. An alternative and superior method is shown in sectional plan at J and K, where a round screw set into a mortice and rabbet is used. The following notes are used, the rail being housed into the rail from the upper edge, and the screw turned in through the side. Fig. 4, Shows the tenon joints and the method the rail was joined to the frame, with moulding acting above and below. Dowel tenons are used (see dotted lines). The mortises to receive the tenons are made long enough just to allow the dovetails to enter, the extended mortice being cut with a bevelled end and the joint glued and wedged with single tenons. A portion of the end grain of the wedge is visible if it is placed within the rebate and covered with the sashes, which arrangement is only possible with the back tenon in the example shown. In polished hardwood, green grains like this is quite not to show, and the swelling would have to be omitted, unless the tenons could be placed entirely within the rebate. In
It is no coincidence that Carnegie had made his fortune manufacturing steel towards the end of the nineteenth century. The availability of broad spanning steel trusses, first used for Victorian agricultural and railway buildings, enabled uninterrupted spaces and vaulted ceilings as shown here in the cut away laser scan of Possilpark Library made by Camilla Pezzica, Mariangela Pairisi and Mahdi Boughanmi.

Whilst externally, they were often designed to appear to be traditionally constructed and designed buildings, the architects of Carnegie libraries (and many other public buildings at the time) were adept at exploring the potential of newfound patent structural opportunities using increasingly available standard steel sections. The possibilities offered by steel construction began to be superseded by advances in the development of reinforced concrete. The 1923 extension to Dunfermline Central Library (the first Carnegie Library in the world, built in 1883 in Carnegie’s home town) achieved a similar effect of providing a top-lit vaulted space by using reinforced concrete (See Fig 1.1).

Fibrous plaster

Fibrous plaster was used almost universally for the internal decoration of concave ceiling surfaces in Carnegie libraries. In their 1926 book, *Modern Plasterwork Construction*, contractors Bankart and Bankart noted that “The demand of present day fireproof, steel and concrete structures for more convenient, expeditious, clean and permanent methods of plastering and encasing skeleton structures, has made almost obsolete older methods of plastering with “solid” plaster on timber and lath foundation work.” Their notes describe how “the plain face and ribs are cast together in sections with lap joints as shown. 1” x 1/4” laths are used throughout the castings, with two layers of canvas turned at edges over 1”x 1/4” filling laths and back laths.”

Floors and stairs

Grand staircases connected ground and first floor rooms but used a relatively small palette of durable finishes, namely; parquet (or wood block), terrazzo, marble or encaustic tiles. Carnegie libraries were designed at a time when fireproof construction had become mandatory, as such the majority of intermittent floors are made up of various patent fireproof assemblies which
encased steel structures in concrete. These systems were installed and then finished by proprietary firms who offered a range of durable floor finishes suitable for public buildings. There were numerous patent fireproof flooring systems, predominantly using concrete as illustrated.

Floor finishes

Parquet or woodblock floors were used widely and a number of companies provided various patent interlocking systems. Many such as that featured above also offered terrazzo and mosaic finishes as well. Our research in creating a lifecycle analysis model for Toxteth library determined that the longevity of its parquet floors were a key feature in reducing CO2 emissions which would have been significantly greater if a finish such as carpet, which requires more frequent replacement had been used. Whereas parquet would be used for quietness in reading rooms and the lending library, mosaic, mural, encaustic tiles and terrazzo would be used in entrance halls.

Grand stairs

A typical feature of medium to large Carnegie libraries was the inclusion of a grand staircase leading members of the public to the privileged realm of the first floor reference rooms, galleries or sometimes exhibition or meeting rooms. The key architectural precedent for this is Michelangelo’s staircase at the Laurentian Library in Florence. These key architectural features are now often the cause of significant challenges for alteration in order to provide modern standards of public access to upper floors.

Glass and Glazing

In efforts to maximise daylight and enable visual surveillance large quantities of glazing characterise Carnegie Library interiors. The construction of glazed domes and rooflights using patent glazing systems as well as the decorative use of leaded lights were frequently used.

Rooflights and patent glazing

Patent glazing designs developed at a rapid pace at the turn of the twentieth century. There were numerous patent fireproof flooring systems, predominantly using concrete as illustrated.

libraries for larger areas of roof glazing in line with the pitched roofs. These were often concealed by an inner translucent but not transparent glass ceiling.

The potential for leaking is highlighted by the claim in this advertisement. Melvibes and Co.'s patent “Eclipse” roof glazing claimed to be “The only Absolutely Imperishable Glazing Unaffected by any atmospheric action.” “No maintenance or painting required.” Many libraries have since covered over their skylights since such promises proved to be unfounded. Nevertheless, our research has identified 135 open libraries that still have them.

Lantern lights, on the other hand, which also feature in many libraries, would not necessarily use patent components. Although the designs were effectively standards, they would be framed and constructed as bespoke carpentry items as shown in a suggested schedule from Building World; “SETTING OUT LANTERN LIGHT WITH FRAMED LININGS”. The materials specified are as follows: “The slats are of English oak or teak, the panels of American whitewood, the rest of the work being of yellow deal. Free from sap.”

Such lanterns were designed to be set into flat roofs, as shown. Acknowledging the potential vulnerability of low pitched roofs, Henry Adams' accompanying note comments that these are usually covered in lead although Ruberoid and asphalt were emerging as cheaper alternatives, he opines that they would not be “so long-lasting.”

Glazed domes and leaded lights

Glazed domes feature widely in Carnegie libraries. Although partly facilitated by an increasing availability of patent glazing bars, it is also evident from the following entry in Specification of 1899, that they might equally be “made up” using bent wrought iron “T” sections. Such rooflights are particularly vulnerable to leakage and the practice of creating a double skinned assembly with an inner decorative foil concealing a weather-proofed external layer of glazing as is visible in the small dome at Burnley.

The lending section of Stockport library has the largest glazed dome of all the Carnegie Libraries in the UK, measuring approximately 10.5m in diameter. As with the second largest glazed dome at Rutherglen, the decorative leaded lights of the interior dome are protected by a secondary roof which used curved patent glazing above it, as is detailed in extensive illustrations in the publication of the winning competition design Building News 8.12.1890. The purpose of leaded lights in these domes was not simply decorative, they were used to diffuse the brightness of sunlight and so maintain visual comfort.

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The vast majority of libraries have replaced their bookshelves over time for practical reasons. Only a handful of libraries retain any of their original bookcases. These include; Possilpark (ref Fig 6.64), Edinburgh Central Library (ref Fig 1.3), Milnrow, Fulham (behind glass - ref Fig 5.32), Ipswich (reference room ref Fig 7.27), Darwen (reference room - ref Fig 5.9), Wallasey (Ref Fig 6.46), King’s Norton (ref Fig 3.12) and Rawtenstall (ref Fig 3.53).

A. L. Champneys in his 1907 guidance noted that the rigidity of freestanding double-sided bookcases was essential but that doing so with wooden panels at the back of the shelves “materially affects the diffusion of light and air in the room generally”. He therefore recommended the use of steel stays and screens of wire netting “to prevent the books being pushed too far” as exemplified in the image of a book case at Possilpark library (Fig 6.64) and illustrated in Champney’s book.

The reference room shown at Rawtenstall library features radiators set within the bookcases. Champneys advocated the use of low pressure heating systems in Public Libraries (above high pressure systems or open fires). He noted that: “no pipes or radiators should be placed near books” yet acknowledged: “Occasionally it is impossible to avoid carrying pipes under the shelving, and when this is done they should always be covered with a slate slab, while there should be a board below the shelves projecting in front of the face of the shelving” ibid. p.25. The detail also shows that external inlets would serve to help circulate fresh air from outside and indicates the degree to which the cost of heating fuel was of relatively little concern.

Fig. xxii Plan of “Staff Enclosure” Source: CHAMPNEYS, A. L. (1907). Public Libraries, a treatise on their design, construction, and fittings. London, B.T. Batsford.
A picture book of Libraries

In 1901 in the UK Alfred Cotgreave published “Views and Memoranda of Public Libraries” - it provides a glimpse of the excitement at their arrival and also hints at the transformational potential of technology at the time with buildings represented interchangeably by engravings and photographs. In 1907 Theodore Wesley Koch, librarian at Michigan published “A Portfolio of Carnegie Libraries”. It was later accompanied by a short review of the library building program to date but alone it shows the scope and range of library buildings across America at that time from Southern California to New York in Architectural styles as varied as their climates. What remains consistent in these images is the arrangement and components of the interior spaces, particularly the provision made for children to inhabit autonomously a public realm they had previously never had access to. These publications are the key inspiration for the following work which illustrates to some extent a non-commercial public interior realm of Britain that will be part of a shared memory of today.

The libraries are presented in chronological order of their opening and then categorised alphabetically. One aim of this work is to illustrate the extraordinary geographical range and high speed at which these new public interiors were created. The libraries that are still open have been photographed internally as well. Although the buildings are old, they are inevitably images of our time. In years to come, the signage and furniture within these rooms will appear dated. The frequent prominence of directions towards books on “Crime” or “Romance” may appear distracting or incongruous with a record of building quality, however, they are an important characteristic illustrating how a public space is navigated visually today. The format of each photograph is deliberately orthogonal, a one-point perspective that shows how the library presented itself to the street and how its interior is presented to the visitor. Whilst more nuanced pictures are obviously possible, the aim here is specifically to present as far as possible a consistent standpoint and to enable the reader to reflect on the gentle undulating ubiquity of these places. By looking at almost identical interiors in Toxteth and Wolverhampton, in Stockport and Rutherglen, in Dumbarton and Teddington, it is unexpectedly possible to become disorientated.

Fig. xxiii Histogram showing dates of all buildings funded with a Carnegie Library grant in the UK, colour-coded by country. Source: OP
Chapter one:
1883-1904
Chapter 1

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Fig. 1.1
Dunfermline Carnegie Library - 1883
Fig. 1.2
Grangemouth Victoria Library - 1889


The first Carnegie Library in the world to open was a gift to the benefactor's birthplace, where his humble home now operates as a museum. It followed his first gift, aged 42, of £5000 in 1877 to provide public baths for his hometown which perhaps seemed the primary requirement. The library pre-dates the first Carnegie library to open in America, near his Edgar Thompson steelworks at Braddock, Pennsylvania, by six years. The library building at Dunfermline received relatively little attention in the architectural press of the time, described simply as "plain, neat, commodious structures". The library had "Let there be Light" inscribed above its door; this became a standard. Carnegie wrote to William Frew, then director of the Library Commission in Pittsburgh: "I always desire that there should be placed over the entrance to the libraries I build a representation of the rays of a rising sun, and above, "LET THERE BE LIGHT"." (Carnegie 1894).

The library has been extended twice since it was built, most recently with Richard Murphy's multiple award-winning museum and arts centre of 2017. The need for these additions could be read both as indicative of an idea that had yet to mature and one that held huge enduring potential. Although perhaps a little subtle to observe today, the first substantial extension (all to the left of the image) of 1914-21 by James Shearer (see interior image) was seen by contemporaries as taking a decisive step towards modernity: "it does not pretend to follow closely the style of the original building - an example of the sham Gothic architecture fashionable in the seventies and eighties of last century". This critical progression towards the inter-war dismissal of the stylistic profligacy of late nineteenth century architects would emerge in parallel through the whole period of building illustrated in this book.


Newly married Carnegies were invited to open Grangemouth's first Free Library on 14.9.1887 before the town had adopted the Free Libraries Act. It was Mrs Carnegie who made the offer to the town for half the value of a new public library building which opened three months before Braddock.

Fig. 1.2
Grangemouth Victoria Library - 1889
Fig. 1.2
Grangemouth's first Free Library on 14.9.1887 before the town had adopted the Free Libraries Act. It was Mrs Carnegie who made the offer to the town for half the value of a new public library building which opened three months before Braddock.

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Fig. 1.3
Edinburgh Central Library - 1890
Edinburgh, Scotland. Lat/Long 55.94805556 -3.19222222
Heritage designation Cat A, 1970. Purpose built library; Carnegie grant £50,000 8/12/1886. Open library, council managed.
"Edinburgh has a Public Library admirably designed, substantially built, of which not only Scotland but the whole library world may be reasonably proud."

Located on a corner to admit maximum daylight, at five storeys, it is the tallest Carnegie Library in Britain. Conditional on the city adopting the public library act, it received the largest Carnegie gift ever offered for a single building in the UK. Greenwood recounts the slowness of initial campaigns for the city to adopt the Free Libraries Act and commends The Scotsman for its "newspaper articles so pungent and so ably written, urging upon the citizens the advisability of adopting the Act."

The building's design and vertical organisation placing rooms accessible to the public at the higher levels was widely publicised and illustrated in key Public Library texts by Greenwood (below) and others. The reading room, shown here contained a "Technical Department" with books bought from the 1886 Great Exhibition surplus and selected to correspond with trades located in Edinburgh, "the New Athens." Having won the commission in competition, Sir George Washington Browne went on to become a pre-eminent supporter of library design exemplified through further Carnegie funded libraries at Annan in his own name as well as at Kelso, Jedburgh, Bo'ness and Castle Douglas in partnership with John More and Dick Peddie - all illustrated here.

Fig. 1.4
Aberdeen Central Library - 1892
Aberdeen, Scotland. Lat/Long 57.14777778 -2.10611111
Heritage designation Cat C, 1984. Purpose built library; Carnegie grant £5,000 29/01/1902. Open library, council managed.
"Big Carnegie Gift to Aberdeen." Original building to right hand side, designed with "scope for future extension" noted on the plans - this sets a precedent for the enormous scheme at Hamilton Library which was designed with a similar strategy. Subsequently over 98 Carnegie libraries in the UK were designed to form part of a larger civic unit connected to Town Halls and Municipal buildings but also to Public Baths, Police Stations and Technical Colleges.

The main reading room and lending department here were substantially remodelled with a mezzanine as shown.
Fig. 1.7 Ayr Carnegie Library - 1893
South Ayrshire, Scotland. Lat/Long 55.46583333 -4.63
Architects: Campbell Douglas & Morrison of Glasgow.
Heritage designation: Cat B, 1960. Purpose built library; Carnegie grant: £10,000 1890. Open library, council managed.
The significance and scale of the generous design of Ayr Library might be overlooked today and was not particularly picked up by the architectural press of its day. However, not only the magnitude of such significant grant awards but the design features of these early buildings emerging in Scotland were widely publicised in both local newspapers and Ayr was illustrated in books campaigning for the growth of public libraries by Cotgreave and Greenwood inspiring many to apply for funding. For example, news of the telegram announcing the Ayr grant in the Edinburgh Evening News on 24.7.1890[37] was reiterated the next day in local papers, not only all over Scotland, but also in Devon[38], Nottingham[39], Bolton[40], Sheffield[41], Durham[42], Hampshire[43], and London[44].

Subsequently, detailed reporting of design strategies was being circulated. For example, the first-floor reference room (pictured) was designed to allow careful surveillance of readers. Greenwood advocated the efficiency of the arrangement: “The attendant is within the counter at the middle of the north end, and in line with the lobby which connects this room with the ladies’ reading room, so that he can command a full view of every person who enters or leaves either room.”

Although Airdrie had been the first town in Scotland to adopt the Public Libraries Acts in 1856, it took 37 years to fund a building. The library moved around the corner to a second Carnegie UK Trust and locally funded building in 1924. See New Airdrie Library, ch.7
Fig. 1.9 Arbroath Academy and Public Library - 1898
Angus, Scotland. Lat/Long 56.55972222 -2.579444444
Architect: James Black of Dundee.

The symmetrical staircase that leads to the first floor, dividing at the half landing became a popular feature to be repeated – see particularly those at Coldside, Dundee, Dumfries (Ewart Library) and York. The entire precedent of providing public access to the first floor was an architectural reference that deliberately makes reference to the Italian renaissance designation of a palatial Piano Nobile. Michaelangelo’s Laurentian Library in Florence is the most obvious reference. At Arbroath Concealed behind a line of niches with statues, Cotgreave’s illustration shows that the first floor rooms were originally more obvious from the outside, being top lit by rooflights on the front elevation.

The most extraordinary feature of the dignified Arbroath library building, which was co-funded by a local benefactor, is the contents of one of its two first floor galleries. Within the left-hand room, two large paintings by Pieter Breugel gifted to the town in the nineteenth century provide visitors with a very unexpected transition from the quiet context of coastal town famous for making rope and smoked fish to the status of a world class museum. Although gift of the paintings was nothing to do with Carnegie, alongside the observatory at Airdrie new library (see ch 7), these emancipatory opportunities epitomise the potential of the public library as providing a direct channel from the apparent periphery to the cultural centre. A characteristic sentiment that is seemingly exemplified most clearly in the context of Scotland.

Fig. 1.8 Peterhead Public Library and Museum - 1893
Aberdeenshire, Scotland. Lat/Long 57.50694444 -1.781388889
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built library; Private gift £1,000 11/10/1899. Open library council managed.

The building was illustrated by both Cotgreave and Greenwood in their books on public libraries. Local press reports referred the flames of gratitude “Mr Carnegie’s name is already a household word all over Scotland, and by these acts of benevolence and, without doubt, wisdom, he further endeavours to every son of Scotia.” Meanwhile in quoting directly Carnegie’s personal response to the Peterhead grant application in 1899 the basis of a typical offer was made public:

“If Peterhead adopted the Free Library Act and raised a fund for a Library building I would give the last thousand pounds required for a suitable structure. In any other form the project would not interest me, for I believe the only sure means to secure permanent good from a Library is to make it an affair of the community and maintained by it officially.” 11.10.1899 New York.

The most extraordinary feature of the dignified Arbroath library building, which was co-funded by a local benefactor, is the contents of one of its two its first floor galleries. Within the left-hand room, two large paintings by Peter Breugel gifted to the town in the nineteenth century provide visitors with a very unexpected transition from the quiet context of coastal town famous for making rope and smoked fish to the status of a world class museum. Although gift of the paintings was nothing to do with Carnegie, alongside the observatory at Airdrie new library (see ch 7), these emancipatory opportunities epitomise the potential of the public library as providing a direct channel from the apparent periphery to the cultural centre. A characteristic sentiment that is seemingly exemplified most clearly in the context of Scotland.
The first of Shetland's libraries was opened in 1898 on Unst, the most northerly inhabited island in the British Isles. It remains carefully maintained albeit extended and over-clad to defend itself from the weather. The resilience of these buildings, which were originally serving as libraries and halls or institutes as opposed to just operating as libraries is markedly greater.

As was one of a family of six favoured Carnegie libraries in the Highlands which were all funded by private gifts; Bonar Bridge, Clashmore, Edderton, Tain and Portmahomack. Each were given their own stereoscopic views and stereoscopes. A rotating collection of slides showing the wonders of the world was shared between them.

Close to their new Scottish home at Skibo Castle, Spinningdale was opened by both Mr and Mrs Carnegie. The estate had been found for them by Dr Hew Morrison of Edinburgh Library. The image of the humble building "for the use of the villagers" was evidently regarded as providing a desirable and picturesque reflection of Carnegie's generosity and was photographed for use in a society magazine feature showing Carnegie at leisure at Skibo.

As was one of a family of six featured Carnegie libraries in the Highlands which were all funded by private gifts; Bonar Bridge, Clashmore, Edderton, Tain and Portmahomack. Each were given their own stereoscopic views and stereoscopes. A rotating collection of slides showing wonders of the world was shared between them.

Architects: Andrew Maitland & Sons of Tain.

Brydekirk - 1900
Dumfries and Galloway, Scotland. Lat/Long: 55.02194444 -3.278055556
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built village hall and reading room; Private gift: £40 24/10/1899. Remains a community hall.

Wick Library - 1898
Highland, Scotland. Lat/Long: 58.44027778 -3.093888889

A detailed history chronicles development of the design and that they sent Dr Hew Morrison (Edinburgh Librarian) to New York in 1895. A "deputation" presented revisions to Carnegie at Cluny Castle, Kinross. The fact that he personally participated in detailed consideration of numerous design iterations is an important precedent with respect to James Bertram’s later role in design control. Positioned on a corner the rooms of the library are arranged on the axial system, so as to allow of easy and direct ingress and egress to the various rooms, and also of complete supervision by the attendant in the lending room. The functional "shuttlecock" plan form later became a familiar device to be repeated in numerous subsequent buildings across the country.
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Fig. 1.15
Bonar Bridge Library - 1901
Highland, Scotland. Lat/Long 57.8927778 4.346388889
Architect: John Pond Macdonald of Inverness.
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built library; Private gift: £1,000 1900 and £25 18/06/1918 (alteration).
Open library, council managed.
As with Spinningdale, Bonar Bridge was also opened by the Carnegies and had a share in the stereoscopic views scheme.

Fig. 1.14
Jedburgh Library and Museum – 1900
Scottish Borders, Scotland. Lat/Long 55.47722222 -2.556111111
Heritage designation: Cat B, 1993. Purpose built library; Carnegie grant: £2,000 08/03/1900. Open library, agency managed.
The asymmetrical balance between domestic and public scales in the façade at Jedburgh is at first glance not quite matched by the inventiveness of the small library’s interior arrangement. Nevertheless, the sophistication of Washington Browne’s second Carnegie library building design after Edinburgh Central Library stands out not just for its early date but also for its individuality in comparison with many later and less pioneering offerings by others.
This is the first Carnegie Library to feature a two-storied front concealing a single-storey top-lit back room. It was an established practice as shown in the original 1890 Stoke Newington Library (See fig 1.71). The principle of an urban library design with an apparently elaborate, authoritative and sophisticated façade concealing the vulnerability and utility of a functional single-storey top-lit space, whether used for lending or closed stacks, becomes an enduring principle of public library design seen in the majority of urban Carnegie Library (and many other) public buildings henceforth.
Fig. 1.16
Rosehall (Altass) - 1901
Highland, Scotland. Lat/Long 57.96833333 -4.545

As with Spennymoor and Bonar Bridge above, nearby Rosehall was also opened by the Carnegies.

Fig. 1.17
Banbridge Free Library and Technical School - 1902
Banbridge, Northern Ireland. Lat/Long 54.35111111 -6.268888889

Grimes relates that the “working men” of Banbridge had first applied for grant in 1899 and received the offer in 1902. Although there were other offers that had been made by then, it is the first Carnegie Library in the UK to have opened outside Scotland. As a consequence, it is also the first to be built of red bricks and terracotta rather than stone.

Fig. 1.18
Aberdeen - Torry Branch Library – 1902
Aberdeen, Scotland. Lat/Long 57.13666667 -2.086388889
Architects: Arthur Cym, A. Brown, A. Watts of Aberdeen.
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built library; Carnegie grant: (£1,500 29/01/1902. Open library council managed.

Carnegie’s “Big Carnegie Gift to Aberdeen” was the first of a series of gifts in the UK whereby a set of branch libraries would be granted to a city at once. The first Carnegie Branch library in the world opened at Lawrenceville, Pittsburgh Pennsylvania USA in 1898 was one of a group designed by Alden and Harlow Architects. Their design developments would go on to influence the designs of library buildings in the UK not least by comparative design review through their shared funder.
Fig. 1.19 Falkirk Community Trust Library - 1902
Falkirk, Scotland. Lat/Long 56.00138889 -3.788333333


Developing the tall front and single storey back design initiated at Jedburgh by George Washington Browne, Falkirk library has highly glazed front and rear façades for a masonry building reflecting an increased understanding of the need for providing maximum natural light. The design may have been influenced by Carnegie’s contemporary systematic design reviews of 64 branch libraries in New York which was to be published in the RIBA journal of 1902.

Fig. 1.20 Greenock Central Library – 1902
Greenock, Scotland. Lat/Long 55.94805556 -4.757222222

Designed by Mr Matheson (original), Works managed by burgh electrical engineer, Mr WM Nelson and Master of Works of Greenock.
Heritage designation: none. Conversion of existing building; Carnegie grant: £8,000 1/7/1896 and 27/06/1900. Open library, council managed.

Opened by Dr Andrew Carnegie on 10th October - tenders were let to decorate in order to ‘have the promises spick and span for the opening. In reporting the opening the Dundee Observer noted that Carnegie had received 300 applications for library grants in the previous 3 months. The Carnegies travelled next to Liverpool.
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Fig. 1.21 Liverpool - Toxteth Library (South-end) - 1902
Liverpool, England Lat/Long 53.395 -2.971 38889
Designed by Thomas Sholander (Corporation Architect and Surveyor) of Liverpool.

At Toxteth, Carnegie described the model of the branch library as his “ideal library.” Toxteth was not funded by him but the building inspired an un- solicited gift of £13000 for a further branch library (West Derby) which was followed by further gifts.

An elaborate plaque records its opening by Carnegie on 14th October 1902 where he gave a widely reported speech on Libraries vs Public Houses.

It was reported that he had opened libraries at Falkirk, Greenock and one at Stirling en route and that he considered the funding of libraries in Scotland was “almost finished” and that he looked forward to making grants now in England. Earlier in the month it had been widely reported that Maybole had rejected his offer of £30000, the most substantial rejection of funding he would receive for a library grant in the UK.

Fig. 1.22 Portmahomack Carnegie Hall - 1902
Tar, Scotland Lat/Long 57.836/11/11 -3.826/666667
Architect: John Pond Macdonald of Inverness.
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built village hall and reading room; Private gift: £600 8/10/1898, Current use: Café.

Foundation stone laid by Mrs Carnegie - part of the six local libraries to be given stereoscopic views and stereoscopes with the influence of Dr Hew Morrison.

Fig. 1.23 Scalloway Library - 1902
Shetland, Scotland. Lat/Long 60.13833333 -1.276666667
Architects: Duncan and John Ross McMillan of Aberdeen.
Heritage designation Cat C, 2000. Purpose built village hall and reading room; Private gift: £200 06/01/1900, Current use: Community Centre.

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Fig. 1.24
Wolverhampton Library – 1902
Wolverhampton, England. Lat/Long 52.58305556-2.125
Architect: Henry Thomas Hare of London.
Heritage designation: LG II*, 1977 (1992). Purpose built library; Private gift: £1,000 16/6/1897 but reported also as £10,000 [76]. Open library, council managed.

The first Carnegie funded library in England. Although not noted in the Carnegie Trust records either in New York or Edinburgh, the gift is acknowledged in the building and in the contemporary press. If George Washington Browne is the star Carnegie library architect of Scotland, H.T. Hare became the English equivalent. The two-storey building is the only Carnegie library in England or Wales to be designated Grade II*. It is the first Carnegie library in the UK to feature red brick with contrasting Doulton’s yellow terracotta dressings, the “Queen Anne Style” with which many presume applies to them all. It features fireproof construction and ferro-concrete vaulted ceilings with inset cast glass paviours. The plan shows a significant development from the shuttlecock from first used in a Carnegie Library at Wick four years previously and is at an altogether larger scale. The envelopment of the oval stone staircase leading the public to the piano nobile provides a careful instruction to acknowledge admission to a certain privileged status. The balance between offering a theatrical opportunity and a calm command to hear your own footsteps and be quiet is effective.

Fig. 1.25
Aberdeen - Ferryhill Branch Library – 1903
Aberdeen, Scotland. Lat/Long 57.13722222-2.113055556
Architects: Arthur Clyne, A. Brown, A. Watt of Aberdeen.
Fig. 1.26  
Banff Library - 1903  
Aberdeenshire, Scotland Lat/Long 57.66333333-2.523055556  
Architect: C.W. Crosser of Banff.  
Heritage designation: Cat C, 1995. Purpose built library; Carnegie grant £1,000 07/06/1900. Open library, council managed.

Fig. 1.27  
Birmingham - Aston Cross – 1903  
Birmingham, England Lat/Long 52.49833333-1.883055556  
Designed by: Council Surveyor of Birmingham.  
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built library; Carnegie grant £2,000 30/10/1902. Service as a library ceased in 1994. Currently unused.

Fig. 1.28  
Dingwall Library – 1903  
Highland, Scotland Lat/Long 57.59722222-4.4275  
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Fig. 1.29
Clackmannan - 1903
Clackmannan, Scotland. Lat/Long 56.10722222-3.749444444

Heritage designation: none. Purpose built library; Carnegie grant £1,200 18/09/1901. Open library, council managed.

Fig. 1.30
Dudley - Brierley Hill Free Library and Technical Institute - 1903
Dudley, England. Lat/Long 52.48111111-2.124722222

Designed by: L.J. Harper (Town Surveyor) of Brierley Hill.

Fig. 1.31
Flint Library (Town Hall) - 1903
Flintshire, Wales. Lat/Long 53.25-3.133611111

Architect: John Webb (original building) of Flint.
Fig. 1.32
Kingston-upon-Thames Public Library
(Museum and Art Gallery) - 1903
Lat/Long 51.40916667-0.30027778
Architect: Alfred Cox of London.
Alfred Cox was a noted architect of the time and also designed Wakefield Drury Lane Library with his partner Trimmell. Kingston, although externally resembling the increasingly favoured theme of “late English renaissance” or an early Georgian house rather than a library, its internal arrangement received critical acclaim. Its plan together with interior and exterior photographs featuring as design guidance Amian Champneys 1907 Public Libraries, the key text of the decade on the subject in Britain. Notably, the competition judged by Basil Champneys, specified in its brief that there should be “no rooflights” in the scheme. It is the first of 61 Carnegie Libraries to be built in Greater London.

Fig. 1.33
Littleborough Library - 1903
Rochdale, England. Lat/Long 53.64694444-2.09777778
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built library; Carnegie grant: £2,688 11/7/1902 and 2/3/1903. Open library, council managed.
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Fig. 1.34
Lumphahan - 1903
Aberdeenshire, Scotland Lat/Long 57.12888893.688055556

Fig. 1.35
Lybster library – 1903
Highland, Scotland Lat/Long 58.30277778-3.285277778

Fig. 1.36
Merthyr Tydfil - Troedyrhiw Free Library - 1903
Merthyr Tydfil, Wales Lat/Long 51.71305556-3.344166667
Designed by: T.F Harvey (Borough Surveyor) of Merthyr Tydfil.

By contrast to nearby Caerphilly who rejected Carnegie's money on the basis that they wanted five libraries for the town, not three, Merthyr was swifter to take up the opportunity following an unsuccessful initial request, the local MP D.A. Thomas visited Carnegie at Skibo and offered for a central and six branch libraries followed Bertram's response apparently quoted Carnegie as saying 'they are great people, the Welsh' [81].

Fig. 1.37
Rhonehouse - 1903
Dumfries and Galloway, Scotland Lat/Long 54.91688893.983888889
Fig. 1.38  
Stratford-upon-Avon Library - 1903  
Warwickshire, England. Lat/Long 52.19361111 -1.7075  
Together with those in Stamford and Rothwell, these three historic towns in the Midlands are the only ones in Britain to adapt existing historic buildings to become Carnegie public libraries.

Fig. 1.39  
Tain Library - 1903  
Tain, Scotland. Lat/Long 57.81027778 -4.05333333  
Architects: Andrew Maitland & Sons of Tain.  
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built library; Private gift £1,250 31/5/1899 and 12/6/1902. Open library, council managed.
Same architect as Spinningsdale, also sharing access to stereoscopic views.
Fig. 1.40  Trecynon Public Hall and Library - 1903
Rhondda Cynon Taf/Wales, Lat/Long 51.721/14444 -3.457777778
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built village hall and reading room; Carnegie grant £1,500 17/10/1901. Service as a library ceased in 2009. Current use: Community centre.

Fig. 1.41  Twynholm Hall – 1903
Dumfries and Galloway, Scotland, Lat/Long 54.86722222 -4.078611111
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built village hall and reading room; Carnegie grant £100 16/1/1899. Remains a community hall.

Fig. 1.42  Bo’ness Carnegie Library - 1904
Falkirk, Scotland Lat/Long 56.01555556 -3.607777778

Although Clackmannan had also incorporated a Town Hall, it was fairly small. Many subsequent libraries after Bo’ness would be housed within larger schemes of municipal buildings.

Fig. 1.43  Buckley Library (Town Council) - 1904
Flintshire, Wales, Lat/Long 53.16813333 -3.081666667
Designed by: R. Cecil Davies (District Surveyor) of Chester.
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Fig. 1.44
Brentford Library – 1904
London, Hounslow, England Lat/Long 51.4868889 -0.3075
Designed by Thomas Henry Nowell Parr (Council Surveyor and Architect) of Brentford.

Fig. 1.45
Cardiff Whitchurch Library – 1904
Cardiff, Wales Lat/Long 51.51583333 -3.225
Architects: R & S Williams of Cardiff.
Heritage designation: LG II, 2002. Purpose built library; Carnegie grant: £2,000 30/12/1902. Open library, council managed.
Fig. 1.46
Castle Douglas Library – 1904
Kirkcudbrightshire, Scotland. Lat/Long 54.94194444-3.92722222
Heritage designation: Cat B, 2004. Purpose built library; Carnegie grant: £2,000 04/10/1902. Open library, council managed.

The smallest Carnegie library designed by George Washington Browne.

Fig. 1.47
Cockermouth Library – 1904
Cumbria, England. Lat/Long 54.66361111-3.36694444
Architect: A. Marsh (Son of Cockermouth District Surveyor) of Cockermouth.
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built library; Carnegie grant: £1,000 11/07/1902. Open library, council managed.

George Washington Brown judged the competition [84].
The first of fourteen Carnegie funded libraries to open in Glasgow from an initial total grant of £100,000 to the city. [85]
Fig. 1.51
Edinburgh - Corstorphine Library – 1904
Edinburgh, Scotland. Lat/Long: 55.94055556,-3.280833333
Heritage designation: Cat C, 1997. Purpose built library; Carnegie grant: £1,000, 14/08/1901. Open library, council managed.

The use of glazed wall tiles in libraries would become very common and the lobby at The Ewart Library, Dumfries, sets a fine precedent. The colour green was often selected for educational establishments and libraries. Burgoyne had promoted the use of glazed tiles in 1897[86] and Champneys in 1907 continued to recommend the use of tiles, particularly green or grey.

Fig. 1.52
Ewart Library (Dumfries) – 1904
Dumfries and Galloway, Scotland. Lat/Long: 55.07138889,-3.609166667
Architect: Alan B. Crombie of Dumfries.
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Fig. 1.53
Hartlepool Headland Library - 1904
Hartlepool, England. Lat/Long 54.69916667 -1.188611111

Designed by H.C. Crumack (Borough Engineer) of Hartlepool.

Fig. 1.54
Hatton (Cruden, Slains) - 1904
Aberdeenshire, Scotland Lat/Long 57.42444444 -1.915277778

Heritage designation: none. Purpose built village hall and reading room; Carnegie grant: £800 02/06/1904. Remains a community hall.

Fig. 1.55
Hawick Library - 1904
Scottish Borders, Scotland. Lat/Long 55.4275 -2.785

Heritage designation: Cat B, 2008. Purpose built library; Carnegie grant: £10,000 01/09/1900. Open library, agency managed for council.

The corner plan with articulated parts in elevation emphasises the means by which the distinct function of each space, entrance, reading room and reference room are being made legible externally. The two-storied “L” shelter a single storey top lit lending library behind, extending the idea initially used at Jedburgh. Although it borrows a vocabulary of architectural elements from historic buildings, such as its castle-like tower, the ensemble is new.
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Fig. 1.56
Ilkeston Library - 1904
Erewash, England Lat/Long 52.87-1.308888889
Architects: Hunter and Woodhouse of Belper.

Fig. 1.57
Innellan Library - 1904
Argyll and Bute, Scotland Lat/Long 55.89527778 -4.953333333
Heritage designation: none. Purpose-built village hall and reading room; Carnegie grant £100 14/08/1901. Remains a community hall.

Fig. 1.58
Kensal Rise Library – 1904
London, Brent, England Lat/Long 51.5336111111 -0.2261111111
Architects: Donne, Hunter & Co. of Cricklewood. Heritage designation: none. Funding for an extension (originally built in 1900); Carnegie grant £3,000 30/06/1903. Service as a library ceased in 2011. Coming back (community project).

Fig. 1.59
Kensal Rise Library – 1904
London, Brent, England Lat/Long 51.5336111111 -0.2261111111
Architects: Donne, Hunter & Co. of Cricklewood. Heritage designation: none. Funding for an extension (originally built in 1900); Carnegie grant £3,000 30/06/1903. Service as a library ceased in 2011. Coming back (community project).
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Fig. 1.60
Keighley Library - 1904
Bradford, England. Lat/Long 53.86805556 -1.91
Heritage designation: LG II, 1986. Purpose built library; Carnegie grant: £10,000, 1899. Open library, council managed.

The first grant offered for a library in England dating back to 1899 and won through personal request from Sir Swire Smith who had visited Carnegie at Skibo.

Whilst local papers boasted that it had the largest newsroom in the country, it made strong historic references in its design also. An excellent drawing of the building’s façade, which borrows its treatment of the piano nobile from that of the Palazzo Ducale in Venice, was exhibited in the Royal Academy exhibition in 1902. Its vaulted first floor reading room, shown here, makes direct reference to Michelozzo Michelozzo’s Biblioteca di San Marco in Florence, identified as “the archetype of the renaissance library.”

Fig. 1.59
Iona – 1904
Argyll and Bute, Scotland. Lat/Long 56.33083333 -6.394722222

The smallest Carnegie library in Britain.

The first grant offered for a library in England dating back to 1899 and won through personal request from Sir Swire Smith who had visited Carnegie at Skibo.

Whilst local papers boasted that it had the largest newsroom in the country, it made strong historic references in its design also. An excellent drawing of the building’s façade, which borrows its treatment of the piano nobile from that of the Palazzo Ducale in Venice, was exhibited in the Royal Academy exhibition in 1902. Its vaulted first floor reading room, shown here, makes direct reference to Michelozzo Michelozzo’s Biblioteca di San Marco in Florence, identified as “the archetype of the renaissance library.”
Fig. 1.61  Kettering Library – 1904
Northampton, England Lat/Long 53.80916667 -1.509722222
Heritage designation: LG II, 1976. Purpose built library; Carnegie grant: £8,000 10/06/1902. Open library,
council managed.
Kettering was widely publicized in the architectural press and illustrated by Champneys as an exemplar of library design and is comprehensively drawn on contemporary expertise. Building on the double gabled single storey plan of Tooleth it also developed vaulted and ventilated ceilings with more complex geometries. The plan includes a central radiating lending library. The principle of the lending desk with central oversight based on Jeremy Bentham’s Panopticon ideal prison plan is most recognizable at a grand scale in main reading room of the British Library in London. The idea was first applied to libraries by Delessert in 1835; it was promoted by Edward Edwards as a principal for the ideal plan of a small library in 1859 and had been used at a small scale in the first Carnegie Branch Library at Lawrenceville in Pittsburgh, USA in 1898. Carnegie’s secretary, James Bertram’s later guidance stated that “Small libraries should be planned (sic) so that one librarian can oversee the entire library from a central position”. In the UK the design was repeated widely in many small public libraries subsequently and was still being promoted in Briscoe’s library planning guidance of 1927.
The write up in the Builder makes reference to the stack room being “lighted from the North on the usual weaving-shed plan”. This note on functional design is interesting with respect to the debate on Public Library design “Workshop or Museum” in JW Clark’s Rede Lecture of 1894.

Fig. 1.62  Knutsford Library – 1904
Cheshire East, England Lat/Long 53.74388889 -0.3725
Architect: Alfred Darbyshire of Manchester.
Five Carnegie Libraries in the UK to date have been successfully repurposed as nurseries. This perhaps reflects their perceived suitability for holding regard as both trusted and familiar public spaces with good qualities for educational development.

Fig. 1.63  Larbert Library – 1904
Falkirk, Scotland Lat/Long 56.02472222 -3.82416667
Chapter 1

The Carnegie Libraries of Britain

Fig. 1.64
Lossiemouth Library - 1904
Moray, Scotland Lat/Lng 57.72111111-3.281388889
Architects: A & W Reid & Wittet of Elgin.
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built library; Carnegie grant: £1,500 02/10/1901. Open library, council managed.

Fig. 1.65
Levenshulme Library - 1904
Manchester, England Lat/Lng 53.445-2.185833333
Architect: James Jepson of Manchester.
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built library; Carnegie grant: £2,500 30/06/1902. Service as a library ceased in 2016. Coming back, (community project).

Fig. 1.66
Nethy Bridge - 1904
Highland, Scotland Lat/Lng 57.26441 -3.6571747

Manchester - Levenshulme Library - 1904
Manchester, England. Lat/Long 53.445-2.185833333
Architect: James Jepson of Manchester.
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built library; Carnegie grant: £2,500 30/06/1902. Service as a library ceased in 2016. Coming back, (community project).

Nethy Bridge - 1904
Highland, Scotland. Lat/Long 57.26441 -3.6571747
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built institute; Carnegie grant: £300 06/10/1902. Current use: Community centre.
Fig. 1.67
Plumstead Public Library - 1904
London, Plumstead (Woolwich), England. Lat/Long 51.48611111 0.09611111
Architect: Frank Sumner (Borough Surveyor) of Plumstead.

Fig. 1.68
Ramsgate Library - 1904
Thanet, England. Lat/Long 51.33333333 1.415555556
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Fig. 1.69
Scarborough library refurbishment and extension - 1904
North Yorkshire, England. Lat/Long 52.44333333 -1.936388889
Architects: (of original 1840 building) J. Gibson and W. Johnson of Malton.

Fig. 1.70
Stirling – 1904
Stirling, Scotland. Lat/Long 56.11777778 -3.938888889
Peterborough Library
London, Peterborough, England. Lat/Long 52.42166667-0.544222222
Architect: H.H. Bridgman & Goss (both for original 1892 building and 1903 extension) of City of London.
The 1903 extension extended the original plan to provide a reading room, reference library, lending library, children's library and lecture hall on the ground floor, a later extension (to the left) was made in 1923.
Fig. 1.73
Templand – 1904
Dumfries and Galloway, Scotland. Lat/Long 55.16111111-3.439166667

Fig. 1.74
Thornaby-on-Tees library – 1904
North Yorkshire, England. Lat/Long 54.55638889-1.302777778

Fig. 1.75
Tongue – 1904
Highland, Scotland. Lat/Long 58.4775-4.413333333
Existing building (partial conversion); Carnegie grant: £12 15/10/1903. Remains a community hall.

Fig. 1.76
Wellington Carnegie – 1904
Shropshire, England. Lat/Long 52.699444444-2.519166667
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built library; Carnegie grant: £500 06/07/1903. Service as a library ceased in 2012. Current use unknown. Philip Larkin’s disdain at his first job as a librarian “handing out tripey novels” at Wellington is excellently documented by Andrew Motion.

Philip Larkin’s disdain at his first job as a librarian “handing out tripey novels” at Wellington is excellently documented by Andrew Motion.
Fig. 1.77
West Calder Library - 1904
West Lothian, Scotland. Lat/Long 55.85194444-3.567777778

Fig. 1.78
Workington Library - 1904
Workington, Cumbria. Lat/Long 54.6472222-3.548055556
Chapter two:
1905
Chapter 2 - 1905

The Carnegie Libraries of Britain

Fig. 2.1
Askam Library - 1905
Cumbria, England. Lat/Long: 54.188333 -3.2052778

g. Designed by W. Richardson (District Surveyor) of Dalton-in-Furness.
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built library; Carnegie grant: £1,000 02/07/1902. Open library, council managed.


Fig. 2.2
Atherton Library - 1905
Wigan, England. Lat/Long: 54.188333 -3.2052778
Architects: Arthur John Hope (Bradshaw, Gass and Hope) of Atherton.

Fig. 2.3
Beoley Carnegie reading room - 1905
Bromsgrove, England. Lat/Long: 52.323611 -1.8958333
Fig. 2.4

**Birmingham - Bartley Green Library**

- **1905**
- Birmingham, England Lat/Long 52.4355556 (-1.9977778)

The inclusion of a gym and snooker rooms at Carnegie’s steelworks library in Braddock USA is repeated for the first time in a Carnegie Library in Britain here. Although the building is no longer in use as a library and boxing club, its ongoing function as a gym demonstrates some continuity. The only other building in Britain with a similar dual purpose is Townhill Branch Library near Dunfermline which continues to host a Snooker and Billiard room with the library see Fig. 3.65.

Fig. 2.5

**Bolton upon Dearne (Dearne and Wombwell Boxing Club)**

- **1905**
- Bolton upon Dearne, England Lat/Long 53.518611 (-1.3141667)

The inclusion of a gym and snooker rooms at Carnegie’s steelworks library in Braddock USA is repeated for the first time in a Carnegie Library in Britain here. Although the building is no longer in use as a library and boxing club, its ongoing function as a gym demonstrates some continuity. The only other building in Britain with a similar dual purpose is Townhill Branch Library near Dunfermline which continues to host a Snooker and Billiard room with the library see Fig. 3.65.

Fig. 2.6

**Boston Library** - **1905**

- Lincolnshire, England Lat/Long 52.976111 (-0.0272222)
- Architect: James Rawell of Boston.
Fig. 2.7 Bristol: Shirehampton Library - 1905
Bristol, England. Lat/Long 51.4866667 -2.6752778
Architect: Frederick Bligh Bond of Bristol.

Fig. 2.8 Brynmawr Library - 1905
Brynmawr, Gwent, Wales. Lat/Long 51.798333 -3.1736111

Fig. 2.9 Burra (Hammavoe) - 1905
Shetland, Scotland. Lat/Long 60.105 -1.3322222

Old photographs show the original building as almost identical to Whalsay—see 5.5. The outline of the gable is still visible but now cloaked in a substantial new extension to enclose the elements. The appreciative report of its opening with fireworks on 23rd December 1905 was attended by 300 people: “The day was very stormy, with strong south-westerly wind and rain, and the Burra Isle men were afraid it would be almost impossible for anyone to come out to the island... It is built of stone slate-roofed. There is also fitted a belfry and bell, to be used on the sabbath for religious worship... The interior of the hall is lined with 3-in lining and varnished and provided with four large 50 candle-power lamps. A partition or panel folding doors, which divides the hall into two convenient divisions, can be taken out a moment’s notice. The south division intended to accommodate the library, which is already fitted up with bookcases and supplied with books, and will also be used as a reading room. It is provided with a mantle register grate with tile cheeks and kerb fender and also the necessary tables etc... Altogether the building is very pretty, being exceedingly well finished and handsome throughout... About 5.00pm, the first part of the programme commenced, when a large sky-rocket soared away into the heavens and burst, giving out a great variety of beautiful coloured lights. Another and another went off until 5.30 when the company assembled in the hall and took their seats. The building was crowded, nearly 300 people being present.”
Fig. 2.10  
Castleford Forum Library & Museum - 1905  
Castleford, England. Lat/Long 53.7263889-1.3505556  

Fig. 2.11  
Castleton Carnegie Library - 1905  
Greater Manchester, England. Lat/Long 53.589722-2.1766667  
Architect: Jesse Horsfall of Todmorden.  
Fig. 2.13
Chadderton Library - 1905
Oldham, England. Lat/Long 53.544444 -2.138333
Architect: Arthur Reginald Groome & James Lindsay Grant of Manchester.

Sight of the castle is also framed in the view from a round table in the first floor reading room of the compact library at Clitheroe. It provides its occupants with a visual delight that is probably unrivalled by any other Carnegie Library in Britain.

Fig. 2.14
Coatbridge Library - 1905
North Lanarkshire, Scotland. Lat/Long 55.863333 -4.028333
Architects: Alex Cullen, Lochhead & Brown of Glasgow.

Fig. 2.15
Clitheroe Library - 1905
Lancashire, England. Lat/Long 53.8727778 -2.3905556
Heritage designation: LG I, 1976. Purpose built library; Carnegie grant: £3,000 / 12/06/1903. Open library, council managed.

Sight of the castle is also framed in the view from a round table in the first floor reading room of the compact library at Clitheroe. It provides its occupants with a visual delight that is probably unrivalled by any other Carnegie Library in Britain.
Fig. 2.16
Coedfranc Carnegie Hall (ex) Skewen Library (Carnegie Hall) - 1905
Neath, Wales. Lat/Long 51.660278 -3.8452778
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built library Carnegie grant £2,000 01/06/1903. Service as a library ceased in 1960. Community centre (council managed).

Fig. 2.17
Criccieth Library - 1905
Gwynedd, Wales. Lat/Long 52.918889 -4.2375
Designed by Rowland Lloyd-Jones (County Architect) of Caernarfon.
Chapter 2 -1905

Fig. 2.19
Crofton Park Community Library - 1905
London, Lewisham, England. Lat/Long 51.4552778/-0.0363889
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built library; Carnegie grant £4,500 05/06/1902. Open library, community managed.

Fig. 2.20
Cubitt Town Library -1905
London, Tower Hamlets, England. Lat/Long 51.4958333/-0.0116667
Heritage designation: LG II, 2006. Purpose built library; Carnegie grant £5,000 10/06/1902. Open library, council managed.
Fig. 2.21: Custom House Library - 1905
Designed by John G. Morley (Borough Engineer) of West Ham.

Fig. 2.22: Dalton in Furness Library - 1905
Designed by John G. Morley (Borough Engineer) of West Ham.

Fig. 2.23: East Greenwich Library - 1905
Chapter 2 - 1905

The Carnegie Libraries of Britain

Fig. 2.24
Dundee - Arthurlstone Community Library - 1905
Dundee, Scotland. Lat/Long: 56.4691667 -2.9588889
Designed by William Alexander (City Architect) & James Thomson of Dundee.

Fig. 2.25
Eccleston Newtown Carnegie Library - 1905
Chorley, England. Lat/Long: 53.455556 -2.7525
Architects: Briggs & Wolstenholme of Liverpool.

Fig. 2.26
Fochabers Library (Bellie Parish) - 1905
Moray, Scotland. Lat/Long: 57.6125 -3.0925
Architects: Briggs & Wolstenholme of Liverpool.
Fig. 2.27  
Fraserburgh Library - 1905  
Aberdeenshire, Scotland. Lat/Long 57.6891667/-2.0105556  

Fig. 2.28  
Gainsborough Library - 1905  
Lincolnshire, England. Lat/Long 53.4/-0.7777778  

Cast plaster epigrams read: "Learn as if you were to live - for ever - live as if you were to die - tomorrow."
Rhind was also architect for Maryhill, Bridge- ton, Woodside, Parkhead, Govanhill and Huch- esontown Libraries - all funded under the single £300,000 Glasgow grant. His commission for seven Carnegie Buildings in the UK is matched only by that of Henry T Hare.
Fig. 2.31
Glasgow - Woodside District Library - 1905
Glasgow, Scotland. Lat/Long 55.8719444 -4.2669444

Unlike many other library buildings here, the grandeur of the elevations is not undermined by a humble and diminishing cross section.
Fig. 2.33
Hammersmith Library - 1905
London, Hammersmith & Fulham, England. Lat/Long 51.4944444 -0.2236111
Architect: Henry Thomas Hare of London.

Fig. 2.34
Hanwell Library - 1905
London, Ealing, England. Lat/Long 51.5097222 -0.3361111

Chapter 2 - 1905
The Carnegie Libraries of Britain
Fig. 2.35
Haslingden Library - 1905
Lancashire, England. Lat/Long: 53.7055556 -2.3252778
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built library; Carnegie grant: £2,500 10/9/1903 and 22/7/1904. Open library; council managed.

Fig. 2.36
Hoswick (Stove or Sandwick) (Carnegie Hall) Shetland - 1905
Shetland, Scotland. Lat/Long: 59.999444 -1.2472222
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built village hall and reading room; Private gift: £100 28/12/1903 + £50. Remains a community hall.

Extensive acrimonious debate over whether or not Carnegie’s philanthropy should be accepted ended with two halls being built and one being named the “Carnegie Hall”.

Fig. 2.37
Hull - Kingston-upon-Hull Carnegie Library - 1905
Hull, England. Lat/Long: 53.743889 -0.3725
Architect: Joseph Henry Hirst of Hull.

The generous park setting and semi-domestic character of the building resembles various Carnegie libraries by Liverpool City Architect, Thomas Shelmerdine. His libraries at West Derby (fig 2.43), Sefton Park (fig 6.37) and Garston (fig 5.37) are all surrounded by gardens.

The L-shaped corner plan arrangement is similar to that at West Derby although the entrance is in the sheltered as opposed the exposed side, anticipating the first full butterfly plan Carnegie Library at Ca-thays in Cardiff (fig 6.19).
Fig. 2.39
King’s Lynn Library - 1905
Norfolk, England. Lat/Long 50.6558333 -1.1502778
Architect: Herbert John Green of Norwich.
Heritage designation: LG II, 1982. Purpose built library;
Carnegie grant: £5,368 6/7/1903 and 23/11/1905
and 5/3/1906. Open library, council managed.

Built of local Carrstone, the description of how open
access was designed allowing adequate surveillance
is described in The Builder: “The staff, located
within the segmental enclosure in the centre of the
building, with the rows of shelves radiating from it,
will have a complete view of the lending department
(entrance and exit of which will be governed by
turnstiles), and will also be able to see through glass
partitions, all the other rooms allotted to the pub-
ic”. This is the first Carnegie library to have a grand
circular entrance space with a decorative dome
above. Others are found in St Anne’s on Sea (1906),
Bridgwater (1906), Darwen, (1908), Newton-le-Wil-
tons (1909) and Didsbury (1915).
Fig. 2.40
Leicester Central Library - 1905
Leicester, England. Lat/Long 53.036667 -2.8833333
Architect: Edward Burgess of Leicester.
Heritage designation: LG II, 1975. Purpose built library;
Carnegie grant: £12,000 26/06/1902. Open library,
council managed.

Fig. 2.41
Lindal & Marton Reading Room - 1905
Cumbria, England. Lat/Long 54.1725 -3.15
Designed by: W. Richardson (District Surveyor) of
Dalton-in-Furness.
Heritage designation: unknown. Purpose built library;
Carnegie grant: £1,500 02/07/1902. Service as a library

Fig. 2.42
Liverpool - Crosby Library - 1905
Liverpool, England. Lat/Long 53.486944 -3.0330556
Heritage designation: LG II, 1996. Purpose built library;
Carnegie grant: £4,000 31/10/1902 and 23/06/1903.
Service as a library ceased in 2014. Current use: Community centre.
Chapter 2 - 1905

**The Carnegie Libraries of Britain**

**Fig. 2.45**

Loughborough Library - 1905
Leicestershire, England. Lat/Long 52.770833 -1.209722

Loughborough library featured an exceptional octagonal main reading room, now used as a Children’s library. The original building also provided a galleried patent library to the rear reflecting the entrepreneurial prowess of the area. Its unique and substantial terracotta turrets are a particular celebration of local craftsmanship and industry.

**Fig. 2.43**

Liverpool - West Derby (T捂brook) - 1905
Liverpool, England. Lat/Long 53.420278 -2.925556
Designed by Thomas Shelmerdine (Corporation Architect and Surveyor) of Liverpool. Heritage designation: LG II, 1985. Purpose built library; An unsolicited gift for the full cost of the building £15,750 15.6.1903. Service as a library ceased in 2006. Coming back, community project – “Lister Steps”). Almost unique as a city library to be funded in full by Carnegie who having opened Toxteth, which he seemed as ideal, volunteered to offer to fund a duplicative (and other branches) for the city. Plans were actually already underway in 1899, so the first action was simply to tender the project. Completely derelict and vandalised since closure, a community group has succeeded in raising funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund to reinstate the building as a community centre.

**Fig. 2.44**

Lockerbie - 1905
Dumfries and Galloway, Scotland. Lat/Long 55.121389 -3.355
Fig. 2.46
Manor Park Library - 1905
London, Newham, England. Lat/Long 51.553056 -0.0536111

Campbell was articled in Edinburgh's city Engineer's office before working in municipal posts in Smethford and East Ham he returned to Edinburgh in 1910 and was noted for later experimental work in concrete. The façade of Manor Park Library resembles the three-storey stature of the red sandstone Kingston library in Glasgow (fig 1.49) and also unusually features projecting balconies but is built with bricks and terracotta from the south. Although such features are not unusual in contemporary buildings in the south, the multiple wide arched windows may reference George Washington Browne's both at Edinburgh central (fig 1.3) and Jedburgh (1.14) and set a precedent in London.

Fig. 2.47
Mansfield Library - 1905
Mansfield, England. Lat/Long 53.145833 -1.1941667

Built of White Mansfield stone with Silby red sand bricks and stone dressings. Originally single storey as described and illustrated in The Building News.

Fig. 2.48
Melton Mowbray Library - 1905
Leicestershire, England. Lat/Long 53.445 -2.185833

Fig. 2.49
Peterborough Library - 1905
Peterborough, England. Lat/Long 52.273833 -0.241389
Described as “Free Renaissance and Scots Baronial Style” – the detailed description in the Building News notes that stonework was carried out by contractors from London and Manchester and highlights its mechanical ventilation system: “pure air is secured by two electrical fans – one above the lending library, the other in the flèche above the recreation room, which effect a complete change of air every fifteen minutes without draught.”
Fig. 2.52  
Prestonpans Library – 1905  
East Lothian, Scotland. Lat/Long 55.9586111 -2.9825  

Fig. 2.53  
Portadown Library – 1905  
Portadown UDC, Northern Ireland. Lat/Long 54.421389 -6.4413889  
Architect: James William Walby of Portadown.  
During the summer of the infamous Homestead strike of 1892 at which Carnegie’s partner Frick famously called in the Pinkerton guards who shot at their striking workers, the Carnegies stayed for five months in the central Scottish highlands at Rannoch Lodge, Camusheugh, only accessible by train at the time. Wall states that Frick was initially keen to hide Carnegie from the press who widely disparaged his treachery in the UK and USA.

In writing to apply for a grant for their hall, Margaret McDairmid made reference to his stay and argued that the great many young men employed as “gillies and gardeners in the shooting lodges” had set up a literary society and a temperance society and both would benefit from the Hall. Through an exchange of 6 letters, Carnegie’s secretary, Bertram made no acknowledgement of the recollection and no exception to the conditions that they must provide a list of subscribers and that they would no more than match that total of £60 raised. The lean corrugated iron building along with those at Forss (now overclad) (6.30), Hermitage (6.13) and Ettrick (5.31), remains in use.

Fig. 2.56
Rawmarsh Carnegie Library - 1905
Rawmarsh, England. Lat/Long 53.454167 -1.3430556
Architect: Joseph Platts of Rawmarsh.
Fig. 2.58
Rushden Library - 1905
Northamptonshire, England. Lat/Long 52.2888889 -0.5961111
Architect: John Alfred Gough of Kettering.
Heritage designation: LG I, 1950. Existing building (partial conversion); Carnegie grant: £350 29/06/1904.

Funding to support locating library in old market house.

Fig. 2.59
Salisbury Library - 1905
Wiltshire, England. Lat/Long. 51.070556 -1.7952778
Architect: Alfred Champney Botham of Salisbury.

Fig. 2.60
Rushden Library - 1905
Northamptonshire, England. Lat/Long 52.2888889 -0.5961111
Designed by: William Beresford Madin (Town Surveyor) of Rushden.
Fig. 2.61
Sandown Library - 1905
Isle of Wight, England. Lat/Long 50.65583333 1.1502778
Architect: James Newman of Sandown.
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built library; Car-
negie grant £2,000 14/07/1903. Open library, council
managed.

Fig. 2.62
Sevenoaks Library - 1905
Kent, England. Lat/Long 51.273889 0.1922222
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built library; Car-
negie grant £3,000 14/07/1903. Service as a library

Fig. 2.63
Southall Library - 1905
London, Ealing, England. Lat/Long 51.5033333 0.3791667
Designed by: R. Brown (Council Surveyor) of Southall.
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built library; Car-
negie grants £4,543 12/06/1903, 10/4/1906 and
8/4/1907. Service as a library ceased in 2014. Current
use: Church.
Fig. 2.64 Sowerby Bridge Library - 1905
Sowerby Bridge, England. Lat/Long: 53.708333
-1.9125
Designed by C.L. Whitehead (council surveyor) of Sowerby Bridge.
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built library; Carnegie grant: £2,500 04/10/1902. Open library, council managed.

Fig. 2.65 Stromness Library - 1905
Orkney, Scotland. Lat/Long: 58.959167 -3.3005556
Plaque states only that it is funded by Marjorie Cortival.

Fig. 2.66 Tamworth Central Library - 1905
Staffordshire, England. Lat/Long: 52.634722 -1.6955556
Architect: Ernest Roberts Daftord of Rotherham.
Evidently once more colourful, the materials are described as Bright Orange-red sand stock bricks with intermixed red rubber window surrounds, white Hollington Stone dressings and a green slate roof.
Chapter 2 - 1905

The Carnegie Libraries of Britain

Fig. 2.67
Taunton Library - 1905
Somerset, England. Lat/Long 51.014444 -3.1044444
Architects: Alexander Colbourne Little & Ingreson
C Goodson of London.
Facing stone: red from the Bishop Lydeard or other Local quarries with Ham Hill Stone dressings.

Fig. 2.68
Taynuilt - 1905
Argyll and Bute, Scotland. Lat/Long 56.431667 -5.2375
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built village hall and reading room; Carnegie grant £125 30/10/1902.
Remains a community hall.

Fig. 2.69
Tingwall - 1905
Shetland, Scotland. Lat/Long 60.197778 -1.2205556
Current use: Residential.

Fig. 2.70
Tinsley Library - 1905
Sheffield, England. Lat/Long 53.413056 -1.3991667
Architects: E.S. Holmes & Adam Francis Watson of Sheffield.

Fig. 2.71
Taunton Library - 1905
Somerset, England. Lat/Long 51.014444 -3.1044444
Architects: Alexander Colbourne Little & Ingreson
C Goodson of London.
Facing stone: red from the Bishop Lydeard or other Local quarries with Ham Hill Stone dressings.

Fig. 2.68
Taynuilt - 1905
Argyll and Bute, Scotland. Lat/Long 56.431667 -5.2375
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built village hall and reading room; Carnegie grant £125 30/10/1902.
Remains a community hall.

Fig. 2.69
Tingwall - 1905
Shetland, Scotland. Lat/Long 60.197778 -1.2205556
Current use: Residential.

Fig. 2.70
Tinsley Library - 1905
Sheffield, England. Lat/Long 53.413056 -1.3991667
Architects: E.S. Holmes & Adam Francis Watson of Sheffield.
Chapter 2 - 1905

The Carnegie Libraries of Britain

Fig. 2.71
Tonbridge Library - 1905
Kent, England Lat/Long: 51.1922222 0.27166667
(Original Building 1900).
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built library; Carnegie grant to free the debt of the library building: £520 26/08/1903. Open library, council managed.

Fig. 2.72
Walkley Library - 1905
South Yorkshire, England Lat/Long: 53.3972222 -1.5027778

The building had a cupola that was removed in 1956, it is built of local stone from the Bole Hill Quarry.
Chapter three: 1906
Fig. 3.1
Abergavenny Library - 1906
Gwent, Wales. Lat/Long 51.668611 -4.036389
Heritage designation: LG II, 1974. Purpose built library; Carnegie grant: £2,000 30/10/1904.
Open library council managed.
Visited by Carnegie in 1907.

Fig. 3.2
Aberystwyth Library - 1906
Dyfed, Ceredigion, Wales. Lat/Long 52.415833 -4.085000

Only three other Carnegie libraries (Skipton, Northamptonshire Central and Beattock Summit) are set within a terrace, joined to buildings either side. The Building News noted: “The awkward site rendered planning difficult as light could only be obtained from the front”. Built of local rubble stone form the town quarry with Cefn stone dressings.

Fig. 3.3
Annan Library - 1906
Dumfries and Galloway, Scotland. Lat/Long 54.986667 -3.261667
Chapter 3 - 1906

Fig. 3.4
Almondbury Library - 1906
Kirklees, England. Lat/Long 53.631111 -1.748333
Designed by K.F. Campbell (Borough Engineer) of Huddersfield.
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built library; Carnegie grant £1,500 26/08/1903. Open library, council managed.
Huddersfield’s first purpose-built library built of local Elland Edge stone.

Fig. 3.5
Ashby Library - 1906
Scunthorpe, Lincolnshire, England. Lat/Long 53.566944 -0.639444
Architect: W.H. Buttrick of Scunthorpe.

Fig. 3.6
Barry Library - 1906
Vale of Glamorgan, Wales. Lat/Long 51.406667 -3.266389
Fig. 3.7 Ashton in Makerfield Library - 1906
Wigan, England. Lat/Long 53.4886/1-2.6388
Carnegie grant: £5,843 30/06/1903 and 16/12/1905.
Open library council managed.

Fig. 3.8 Belfast - Carnegie Old Park - 1906
Belfast, Northern Ireland. Lat/Long 54.610833/-5.948056
Architects: Watt and Tullock of Belfast.
Carnegie grant: £5,000 04/10/1902. Service as a library ceased in 2010.
Current use: Community centre.
Listed as “at risk”.

Fig. 3.9 Birmingham - Selly Oak Library - 1906
Birmingham, England. Lat/Long 52.443333/-1.936389
Architect: John P. Osbourne of Birmingham.
Carnegie grant: £3,000 17/06/1902. Service as a library ceased in 2017.
Currently unused.
Reinforced to withstand vibrations from the neighbouring railways. Selly Oak matches Stirchley, also by Osbourne and funded under the same grant covering Kings Norton, Kings Heath, Bartley Green, Bearley and Rubery. (Rednal and Rubery).
Chapter 3 - 1906

Fig. 3.10
Bideford Library and Museum - 1906
Devon, Torridge, England. Lat/Lng 51.016389 -4.205000

Fig. 3.11
Birmingham - Kings Heath (Moseley) Library - 1906
Birmingham, England. Lat/Lng 52.437500 -1.893056
Fig. 3.12  Birmingham - Kings Norton Library - 1906
Birmingham, England. Lat/Long 52.409167 -1.927778
Architect: Benjamin Bower of Birmingham.
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built library; Carnegie grant: £1,000 23/6/1903 and 5/7/1907. Open library, council managed.

Fig. 3.13  Bridgwater Library - 1906
Bridgwater, England. Lat/Long 51.127778 -3.000833
Architect: Ernest Godfrey Peg of Bridgwater.
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Fig. 3.14 Chelmsford Public Library - 1906
Chelmsford, England. Lat/Long 51.734722 0.468889
Architects: Frederic Chancellor & Son of Chelmsford.

Fig. 3.15 Elphin and Knockan (Lairg) - 1906
Highland, Scotland. Lat/Long 58.053056 -5.034167

Residents of Elphin and Knockan were asked to raise £80 towards the construction of the library “The usefulness of such an institution will appeal to the minds of all who are acquainted with the isolated condition of the district”. The final account submitted to Carnegie notes that the Duke of Sutherland donated £40 and that “Clearing stance, carting stones, sand, lime all wood and iron was done by local people free”. There is no clear note on any historic maps to help locate the reading room however its location between Elphin and Knockan and mention of iron and resemblance to that co-funded by Sutherland at Forss indicate that it could be.
Fig. 3.17
Eltham Central Library (Woolwich) - 1906
Greenwich, London, England. Lat/Long 51.450833 0.057778
Part of a suite of buildings: “The Carnegie Library, Electricity Station, Town Hall with Borough Offices and Public Baths” in which the neighbouring electricity station would feature a showroom.

Fig. 3.18
Erith Carnegie Library - 1906
Bexley and Bromley, London, England. Lat/Long 51.481111 0.177778

Fig. 3.19
Fenton Library - 1906
Staffordshire, England. Lat/Long 52.998333 -2.162778
Fig. 3.20
Fratton Carnegie Library (Portsmouth) - 1906
Portsmouth, England. Lat/Long 50.801944 -1.077500
Heritage designation: LG II, 2011. Purpose built library;
Carnegie grant: £4,500 18/11/1903. Open library,
council managed.
A southerly example of the decorative leaded lights
used in glazed screens which are well-preserved.

Fig. 3.21
Glasgow - Bridgeton District Library - 1906
Glasgow, Scotland. Lat/Long 55.848611 -4.227500
Architect: James Robert Reid of Glasgow.
Heritage designation: Cat B, 1993. Purpose built library;
Carnegie grant: £8,500 14/5/1901 and 29/8/1908.
Open library, community managed.
Glasgow Women's Library.
Fig. 3.22: Glasgow - Govanhill Library - 1906
Glasgow, Scotland. Lat/Long 55.837500 -4.261389
Open library, council managed.
“There was space on the ground available, and consequently all the rooms required were planned on the ground floor only. This is found by Librarians to be the most advantageous arrangement, because better work can be done at less cost.”

Fig. 3.23: Glasgow - Hutchesontown Library - 1906
Glasgow, Scotland. Lat/Long 55.845833 -4.241944
Current use: Unknown.

Fig. 3.24: Glasgow - Springburn Library - 1906
Glasgow, Scotland. Lat/Long 55.881389 -4.231111
Current use: Community centre.
Fig. 3.25 Glasgow - Parkhead Library - 1906
Glasgow, Scotland. Lat/Long 55.850278 -4.195556

Fig. 3.26 Harrogate Library - 1906
North Yorkshire, England. Lat/Long 53.990833 -1.538333
Architect: Henry Thomas Hare of London.
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Fig. 3.27
Heywood Library - 1906
Rochdale, England. Lat/Long 53.990833 -1.538333
Architects: North & Robin of London.
Carnegie grant: £6,380 14/1/1903 and 11/7/1904.
Open library, council managed.

Fig. 3.28
Highgate Library (Hampstead) - 1906
Camden, London, England. Lat/Long 51.563611 -0.143889
Designed by: William Nisbet Blair (Borough Engineer) of St Pancras.
Carnegie grant: £1,000 20/11/1908. Open library, council managed.
Fig. 3.29
Horbury Library - 1906
Wakefield, England. Lat/Long 53.661111 -1.559722
Architect: Benjamin Watson of Batley.
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built library.
Carnegie grant: £2,000 12/06/1903. Open library, council managed.

Fig. 3.30
Islington North Library - 1906
Islington, London, England. Lat/Long 51.560278 -0.121389
Architect: Henry Thomas Hare of London.
Carnegie grant: £3,000 24/08/1905, 12/09/1905, 8/08/1906. Open library, council managed.
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Fig. 3.31
Kelso Library - 1906
Scottish Borders, Scotland Lat/Long 55.599722 -2.434444
Open library agency managed by council.

Fig. 3.32
Kinross Library - 1906
Perth & Kinross, Scotland Lat/Long 56.202778 -3.421111

Fig. 3.33
Larne Carnegie Library - 1906
County Antrim, Northern Ireland Lat/Long 54.852222 -5.821389
Architect: Nicholas Fitzsimons of Belfast.

Listed in Buildings at Risk Register for Scotland.
Fig. 3.34
Lambeth Herne Hill Carnegie Library - 1906

Notably the authoritative Tate librarian of Brixton Oval, Frank J Burgoyne (Author of "Library Construction" 1897) applied for the Lambeth grant. In 2015 the Library was threatened with partial closure but a sustained campaign has resulted in its continued service.

Fig. 3.35
Lee Bridge Library - 1906
London, Waltham Forest, England. Lat/Long: 51.570556 -0.023333
In a post-industrial era, the proximity of the brick chimney to the left of the prim-stone-faced classical façade of the library is a reminder of the contrasting architectural context into which a large proportion of these buildings were placed in order to serve the "working man."
Fig. 3.38
Llantrisant Fardre Library - 1906
Rhondda Cynon Taf, Wales. Lat/Long 51.564722 -3.318611
Architect: Arthur Lloyd Thomas of Pontypridd. (Fig. 3.38)
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built village hall and reading room; Carnegie grant £1,500 29/06/1903. Library service moved into an extension. Remains a community centre.

Fig. 3.39
Manchester - Wardle library - 1906
Manchester, England. Lat/Long 53.638611 -2.135278

Fig. 3.40
Long Eaton Library - 1906
Derbyshire, England. Lat/Long 53.373611 -2.870556
Fig. 3.41
Lurgan Library - 1906
County Armagh, Northern Ireland. Lat/Long 54.461667 -6.332778
Heritage designation: B1, 1994. Purpose built library; Carnegie grant: £2,000 18/06/1903. Open library, council managed.

Fig. 3.42
Malvern Library - 1906
Worcestershire, England. Lat/Long 52.112778 -2.326389
Fig. 3.43
Maybole Library - 1906
South Ayrshire, Scotland. Lat/Long 55.354722 -4.680278
Architect: James Kennedy Hunter of Ayr.
Carnegie grant: £2,500 8/10/1903 and 7/2/1905.
Open library, council managed.

Fig. 3.44
Mile End Central Library (Tower Hamlets Local History Library and Archives)
Stepney - 1906
London, Tower Hamlets, England. Lat/Long 51.523611 -0.042500
Open library, council managed.

Open library, council managed.
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Fig. 3.45
Motherwell - 1906
North Lanarkshire, Scotland. Lat/Long: 55.78167 -3.994167
Architects: Greig, Fairbairn & Macniven of Edinburgh.

Fig. 3.46
Newbury Library - 1906
Berkshire, England. Lat/Long: 51.398889 -1.321389
Designed by S. James Lee Vincent (Borough Surveyor) of Newbury.

Fig. 3.47
Newmill Institute - 1906
Moray, Scotland. Lat/Long: 57.55860443 -2.944496
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built village hall and reading room; Carnegie grant: £300 20/09/1904. Remains as a village institute.

Fig. 3.48
Motherwell - 1906
North Lanarkshire, Scotland. Lat/Long: 55.78167 -3.994167
Architects: Greig, Fairbairn & Macniven of Edinburgh.

Fig. 3.49
Newbury Library - 1906
Berkshire, England. Lat/Long: 51.398889 -1.321389
Designed by S. James Lee Vincent (Borough Surveyor) of Newbury.

Fig. 3.50
Newmill Institute - 1906
Moray, Scotland. Lat/Long: 57.55860443 -2.944496
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built village hall and reading room; Carnegie grant: £300 20/09/1904. Remains as a village institute.
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Fig. 3.48
Nottingham - Carlton Library - 1906
Nottingham, England. Lat/Long 52.967222 -1.081111
Designed by: J.C. Haller (County Surveyor) at Nottingham.
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built library; Carnegie grants £12,000 2/7/1902 and 1/2/1905. Open library, agency managed by council.

Fig. 3.49
Penrith Library - 1906
Penrith, England. Lat/Long 54.666667 -2.754444

Fig. 3.50
Pleasley (Verney Institute) - 1906
Derbyshire, England. Lat/Long 53.172338 -1.248678

Although seemingly only a village hall less than 1.5 miles from the more conventional Pleasley Hill Library (4.34) which is also funded by Carnegie, the Verney Institute is a less obvious Carnegie gift. The Arts and Crafts building with hooded and asymmetrical features drawing domestic references into the public domain, is an early design by Parker and Unwin, later pioneers of the Garden City movement, whilst still based at Buxton.
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Fig. 3.51
Poplar Public Library - 1906
Tower Hamlets, London, England. Lat/Long 51.518843 -0.009605
Architects: Squire, Meyers & Petch of London.

Fig. 3.52
Runcorn Library - 1906
Cheshire, England. Lat/Long 53.341944 -2.737222
Architect: James Wadding of Runcorn.

Fig. 3.53
Rawtenstall Library - 1906
Lancashire, England. Lat/Long 53.700556 -2.288611
Architects: Crouch, Butler & Sons of Birmingham. 
Carnegie grant: £6,921. 11/02/1902 and 21/03/1908. Open library, council managed.

Rawtenstall Library occupies a dominant corner site. The architects used it to set out a two storey "open book" shaped plan featuring a single storey top lit radial arrangement of stacks to the rear set between two side lit reading rooms that could all be over seen from the lending desk. As with many others, the library was part of a scheme including municipal offices. The Birmingham based architects went on to win competitions for Carnegie libraries at Worthing and Wednesbury.
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The Carnegie Libraries of Britain

Fig. 3.54
Shipley - 1906
Shipley, West Yorkshire, England. Lat/Long: 53.833333 -1.768889

Fig. 3.55
Southend Library - 1906
Southend-on-Sea, England. Lat/Long: 51.542222 0.710278
Architect: Henry Thomas Hare of London.

Fig. 3.56
St Anne's on Sea Library - 1906
Architect: John Dent Harker of Manchester.
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Fig. 3.57
Stamford Library - 1906
Lincolnshire, England. Lat/Long 52.652778 -0.477222

Fig. 3.58
Stapleford Library - 1906
Nottingham, England. Lat/Long 52.929722 -1.276667

Fig. 3.59
Stourbridge Library - 1906
West Midlands, England. Lat/Long 52.454167 -2.143056
Designed by: Frederick Woodward (Council surveyor) of Stourbridge.

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Fig. 3.60
Swinton Library - 1906
Rotherham, England. Lat/Long 53.486389 -1.310556

Fig. 3.61
Thorne Library - 1906
Thorne, England. Lat/Long 53.613889 -0.967778

Fig. 3.62
Teddington Library - 1906
Richmond-upon-Thames, London, England. Lat/Long 51.427500 -0.334167

The cast plaster decorative interior of Teddington Library is more elaborate than any other.
Fig. 3.64  
Wakefield - Drury Lane Library - 1906  
Wakefield, England. Lat/Long 53.682500 -1.503611  
Architects: Trimmell, Cox & Co. of Woldingham.  

Funded by the Carnegie’s home town special Dunfermline Carnegie Trust, the design competition attracted 60 applicants, the “English Domestic” building included a smoking room, library, a room for playing draughts and chess as well as “four spray baths and a ladies’ retiring room”. It still features an immaculate Billiard and Snooker room.

Fig. 3.65  
Townhill Branch Library - 1906  
Townhill, Scotland. Lat/Long 56.089167 -3.438611  
Architects: Peter Lyon, Bruce Henderson With Mr Brown Inspector of Works of Edinburgh.  

Open library, community managed.
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Fig. 3.66
Walsall Central Library - 1906
West Midlands, England. Lat/Long 52.588833 -2.497877
Architect: James Glen Sivewright Gibson of London.
Heritage designation: LG II, 2015. Purpose built library; Carnegie grant £8,000 14/7/1903. Open library, council managed.
Refurbished in 2018.

Fig. 3.67
Westhoughton Library - 1906
Bolton, England. Lat/Long 53.548889 -2.520278
Architects: Halsall, Tonge & Campbell of Southport.
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built library; Carnegie grant £3,750 18/6/1903 and 23/6/1903. Open library, council managed.
Fig. 3.68
Whitehaven Library - 1906
Cumbria, England. Lat/Long 54.546111 -3.585556
Architects: Greig, Fairbairn & Macniven of Edinburgh.
Heritage designation: none. Purpose-built library; Carnegie grant: £5,000 18/06/1903. Open library, council-managed.

Fig. 3.69
Wythall Reading Room - 1906
Birmingham, England. Lat/Long 52.375008 -1.884741
Part of the King’s Norton grant.

Chapter four:
1907
Fig. 4.1 Bangor Public Library - 1907
Gwynedd, Wales. Lat/Long 53.227500 -4.127500
Architects: Dixon & Potter of Manchester.

Fig. 4.2 Batley Library - 1907
Kirklees, England. Lat/Long 53.713611 -1.634167
Architects: Walter Hansom & Son of Batley.

The superior elevated setting of Batley library with its commanding clocktower overlooking the market square is one of the most magnificent in Britain. Its status is noted in The Building News, describing it as built of ‘Crossland Moor ashlar with delph stone wall-stone filling and common brick linings’. It is a good example of a local architect specifying local Yorkshire stone (from within 12 miles of the site) whilst also meeting international design standards of the time. The generous height of its galleried internal volume and wide frontage to the square which allow it to be naturally lit, are also of an impressive scale, reflecting both the status of the town and its pride in its public library provision. The style of the architecture is noted to be in keeping with the nearby new town hall extensions.

The pattern of public library building designs in the UK at this time being increasingly architecturally associated with municipal authorities, either in manner, proximity or both, can be seen emerging here.
John P. Osborne succeeded in the competition for Erdington over Crouch Butler and Savage (architects of Worthing, Rawtenstall and Wednesbury Carnegie Libraries) who came second. Osborne also won competitions to design Stirchley and Selly Oak Carnegie libraries in Birmingham also. Whilst the latter are very similar to one another, Erdington is a much larger sprawling single storey, top-lit building. Originally briefed to be a council house and library its tower over the entrance was omitted as the scheme was reduced to a library only.
Fig. 4.5
Bournemouth - Winton Library - 1907
Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole, England. Lat/Long 50.746667 -1.878056
Architects: Harry E. Hawker & Victor Mitchell of Bournemouth

Fig. 4.6
Bridgend Library - 1907
Bridgend, Wales. Lat/Long 51.506944 -3.578333

Fig. 4.7
Chillaton - 1907
Devon, England. Lat/Long 50.615556 -4.215833

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Fig. 4.8  Burntisland Library - 1907
Fife. Scotland. Lat/Long 56.058889 -3.234167
Designed by: William Williamson (City Architect) of Bradford.

Fig. 4.9  Cardiff - Canton Library - 1907
Cardiff, Wales. Lat/Long 51.481944 -3.202778
Architect: Edwin Montgomery Bruce Vaughan of Cardiff.
Carnegie grant: £5,205 26/08/1903 and 16/9/1907. Open library, council managed.
Fig. 4.10 Cardiff - Cathays Library - 1907
Cardiff, Wales. Lat/Long 51.497222 -3.181944
Architects: Speir & Bevan of Cardiff.
Heritage designation: LG II*, 1975. Purpose built library; Carnegie grant: £5,205 26/08/1903 and 16/9/1907. Open library, council managed.

Cathays Library, which has been recently refurbished, is the first example of a “butterfly” plan used in a Carnegie Library in the UK. The symmetrical plan-form, also known as a “sun-trap” plan, was popularised through the domestic architecture of the Arts and Crafts movement. It is applied to the library here to admit as much light and air as possible to each of the public reading rooms. Following its domestic precedent, the central entrance embraces its visitors to visit the library and suggests they behave as if welcomed into a house.

Although an L-shaped plan had been used previously at Kingston-upon-Hull (1905), Cathays is the first and one of the best examples of a fully symmetrical butterfly arrangement. Set at 45 degrees to the road intersection in front of it, the library placement introduces Garden City planning principles to its immediate surroundings.

Fig. 4.11 Caversham Free Public Library (one of 2 branches for Reading) - 1907
Reading, England. Lat/Long 51.467778 -0.974167
Architect: W.G. Lewton of Reading.
As the closest library to their Scottish home, Skibo Castle, this handsome hall was built of the same stone from the estate's quarry and opened by its benefactors. Its design quality is explained by the established firm of architects who had also designed Carnegie funded libraries at Inverness, Elgin and Cromarty. Carnegie's speech betrays his view of a broader ambition for such public rooms in Scotland:

"…when we come to the question of churches in Scotland, and especially here in the Highlands, meet with a very difficult, and, some of us think, a deplorable state of affairs… Mrs Carnegie and myself and all connected with us hope that this beautiful hall may be found suitable all the different varieties of the same great Presbyterian faith and of all other denominations, for such church services they may desire. All are equally welcome. The general use of the hall all congregations will give us the greatest pleasure. The organ that we have here can easily be screened and kept silent where it is not desired in connection with the worship. There follow many other uses for this hall…"

Fig. 4.13
Clashmore - 1907
Highland, Scotland. Lat/Long 57.878333 -4.114722
Architects: Alexander Ross & Robert John Macbeth of Inverness

Fig. 4.14
Coalsnaughton - 1907
Clackmannanshire, Scotland. Lat/Long 56.142778 -3.738889
Architect: John Shaw Leishman of Alloa.
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built village hall and reading room; Carnegie grant £500 12/07/1906. Remains a community hall.
Fig. 4.15
Cleveleys - 1907
Lancashire, England. Lat/Long 53.855833 -2.176111
Existing building (partial conversion); Carnegie grant: £3,000 20/08/1904. Service as a library ceased in 1972. Current use: Residential.

Fig. 4.16
Costessey Library - 1907
Norfolk, England. Lat/Long 52.658889 1.210556
Architects: Postle and Webster of Norwich.

A good example of Carnegie’s secretary James Bertram enforcing the Scottish model of library economy in the design correspondence for this room added to an existing building he cites Scottish libraries as an exemplar of economic building for using “rolling partitions”.

Fig. 4.17
Crompton Library - 1907
Oldham, England. Lat/Long 53.576944 -2.091944
Architect: Jesse Horstall of Todmorden.

Fig. 4.18
Doncaster - Mexborough library - 1907
Doncaster, England. Lat/Long 53.492500 -1.285556
Dunrossness - 1907
Shetland, Scotland. Lat/Long 59.925000 -1.297778
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built village hall and reading room; Carnegie grant: £200 28/02/1906 and 6/10/1906. Remains a community hall.

Edinburgh - Balerno - 1907
Edinburgh, Scotland. Lat/Long 55.884444 -3.339167
Fig. 4.22
Eccles Gateway - 1907
Salford, England. Lat/Long 53.482778 -2.339167
Architect: Edward Potts (Potts Son & Hennings) of Oldham.
Open library, council managed.

Fig. 4.23
Glasgow - Pollokshields Library - 1907
Glasgow, Scotland. Lat/Long 55.841111 -4.272778
Architect: Thomas Gilchrist Gilmour revised by Alexander Beth McDonald of Glasgow.
Heritage designation: Cat B, 1984. Purpose built library; Carnegie grant £5,000 14/5/1901 and 29/8/1908.
Open library, council managed.
Fig. 4.24 Ilkley Library - 1907
Bradford, England. Lat/Long 53.924167 -1.820556

As with many the Carnegie funded library building was built adjacent to a new assembly hall and public offices. The design was exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1905, yet by the time of its opening its construction had become typical: “’The principals to the roofs and wagon-formed ceilings will be of wrought iron. The floors of the public rooms will be laid with wood blocks on concrete. The entrance hall, &c., will be paved with marble mosaic terrazzo. The ceilings of plaster will be panelled in simple forms”.

Fig. 4.25 Islington Central Library - 1907
London, Islington, England. Lat/Long 51.549167 -0.107222

The competition for the substantial Islington central and branch libraries grant was one of the most widely publicised in the Architectural Press. Building on his reputation for Wolverhampton library completed in 1902, when he was President of the Architectural Association, the well connected Henry Thomas Hare was also architect for Ilkley North branch, Fulham Central, Southend, Harrowworth and Peabody Carnegie funded libraries between 1905 and 1907. Later becoming president of the RIBA, he acted as judge for numerous Carnegie Library design competitions. Together with his capacity for drawing press attention, Hare can be credited with most effectively influencing the preferred architectural characteristics of Carnegie Library buildings in England.
Arthur Beresford Pite's unusually cosmopolitan Byzantine facades to the corner of a quiet London Square betray a thoughtful response. Following a presentation at the RIBA on Public Library design in America in 1902, the Professor of both Cambridge University and the Royal College of Art had ruminated: "they were accustomed to study architecture in temples and churches, to get back to the past and to get from archaeology almost all their art in the matter of planning. But when they came to books and libraries they found themselves in a progressive atmosphere and in a new field."
Fig. 4.28
Manchester - Radcliffe library - 1907
Manchester, England. Lat/Long: 53.483333 -2.241667
Architect: Henry Lord of Manchester.
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built library.
Carnegie grant: £5,000 04/10/1902. Open library, council managed.

Fig. 4.29
Merthyr Tydfil - Dowlais Library - 1907
Merthyr Tydfil, Wales. Lat/Long: 51.760833 -3.353889
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built library.
Carnegie grant: £1,000 17/6/1902, 29/5/1903 and 20/6/1905. Open library, council managed.
Fig. 4.30  
Neston Library - 1907  
Cheshire West and Chester, England. Lat/Long 53.290000 -3.066944  
Architects: Green Knowles & Russell of Liverpool.  

Fig. 4.31  
Newport Carnegie Library - 1907  
Newport, Wales. Lat/Long 51.580278 -2.970278  
Designed by: C.T. Ward (Borough Architect) of Newport.  

Fig. 4.32  
Normanton Library - 1907  
West Yorkshire, England. Lat/Long 53.700833 -1.412778  
Fig. 4.33
Pemberton Library - 1907
Wigan, England. Lat/Long 53.566667 -2.661111

Fig. 4.34
Pleasley Hill Library (Branch of Mansfield) - 1907
Mansfield, England. Lat/Long 53.146429 -1.289444
Architects: John Goodacre of Leicester.
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built library.

Fig. 4.35
Rhyl Carnegie Free Library (Rhyl Town Hall) - 1907
Denbighshire, Wales. Lat/Long 53.319722 -3.491111
Designed by A. A. Goodall (Town Surveyor) of Rhyl.

Fig. 4.36
Stornoway Library - 1907
Na h-Eileanan Siar / Outer Hebrides, Scotland. Lat/Long 58.208056 -6.388333
Architect: John Robertson of Inverness.

The illustrated report of the opening is extensive: “The whole of the furniture, shelving and counters in the library are of solid polished oak of the best workmanship... the very latest lighting fittings have been installed” and praise effusive as the building predated the National Library of Wales: “Henceforth every man and woman in the town of Rhyl rich and poor, learned and unlearned will own a library if not in their own houses, at least near their own doors” (applause).
Rutherglen is typical in having a tall three storey frontage with single-storey top lit rooms to the back. Alongside Stockport Library, it contains one of the best preserved large glazed domes over its reading room to the rear which evidently remains a popular spot to sit and read.
Fig. 4.39
Sandwell - West Bromwich Central Library - 1907
Sandwell, England. Lat/Long 52.520278 -1.997500

Fig. 4.40
Torquay Library - 1907
Torbay, England. Lat/Long 50.468333 -3.532222

Fig. 4.41
Tottenham Central Library - 1907
London, Haringey, England. Lat/Long 51.589444 -0.070833
Designed by Extension by Borough Engineer W.H. Prescott. Originally Edmeston & Gabriel 1896 of London.
Fig. 4.42
Torridon Library (Hither Green - Corbett Community Library) - 1907
Lewisham, England Lat/Long 51.442222 -0.001667

Fig. 4.43
Twickenham Library - 1907
London, Richmond-upon-Thames, England Lat/Long 51.447500 -0.327778
Architect: Howard Goadby of Twickenham.
The delightfully top-lit design for this deep plan interior was won in competition against 171 other entries and used newly available asphalt roofing to create a flat roof into which its large glazed lanterns could be placed. Most Carnegie library sites were less tight than this and few are set within a terrace, however many adopted this new roofing technology in order to maximise natural light. Poor maintenance and increasing energy bills for heat as opposed to artificial light would go on to reverse the imperatives of many councils. By the 1960s, such arrangements were often seen as leaking and freezing liabilities. The same architects would go on to win a competition for three further Carnegie branch libraries in Rowley Regis the following year (Cradley Heath, Blackheath and Tividale (demolished 2005)).
Fig. 4.46
Wombwell Library - 1907
South Yorkshire, England. Lat/Long: 53.521944 -1.397222
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built library; Carnegie grant: £3,000 10/09/1903. Open library, council managed.

Fig. 4.47
Wrexham Carnegie Library - 1907
Wrexham, Wales. Lat/Long: 53.046944 -2.993333
Chapter 5 - 1908-9

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Fig. 5.1
Aberdeen - Dyce Branch Library - 1908
Aberdeen, Scotland. Lat/Long 57.205000 -2.190000

Fig. 5.2
Croy near Golmanfield - 1908
Highland, Scotland. Lat/Long 57.521111 -4.005278
Architect: George Logie of Inverness.
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built library and institute; Carnegie grant £200 06/08/1907. Remains a community hall.

Fig. 5.3
Accrington Carnegie Public Library - 1908
Lancashire, England. Lat/Long 53.752222 -2.366389
Designed by: William J. Newton (Borough Engineer) of Accrington.

Fig. 5.4
Aberdeen - Dyce Branch Library - 1908
Aberdeen, Scotland. Lat/Long 57.205000 -2.190000

Fig. 5.2
Croy near Golmanfield - 1908
Highland, Scotland. Lat/Long 57.521111 -4.005278
Architect: George Logie of Inverness.
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built library and institute; Carnegie grant £200 06/08/1907. Remains a community hall.
Battle Library - 1908
Berkham, England Lat/Long 51 45 7778 - 0 1 1 99167
Architect: F.W.Albury of Reading.

One of 2 branches for Reading.

Annfield Plain Library 1908
Durham, England Lat/Long 51 45 7778 - 0 1 1 99167
Architect: Edward Cratney of Willington-upon-Tyne.

Durham's only Carnegie library design received ample publicity as did the architect for his Sunderland Carnegie Libraries at both Hendon and Monkwearmouth. The original interiors of each are unusually well illustrated in photographs by T. Lewis of Birmingham which appear in the architectural press.
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Fig. 5.6
Belfast - Falls Road Library - 1908
Belfast, Northern Ireland. Lat/Long: 54.598056 -5.952500
Architects: Watt and Tullock of Belfast.
Heritage designation: B1, 1987. Purpose built library; Carnegie grant: £5,000 04/10/1902. Open library, council managed.

Fig. 5.7
Cullivoe Shetland (North Yell) - 1908
Shetland, Scotland. Lat/Long: 60.711111 -1.013333
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built village hall and reading room; Carnegie grant: £125 13/12/1907. Current use: Community centre.

The most northerly Carnegie library in the UK, this appears to have been an extension to a smaller existing building dated 1855.

Fig. 5.8
East Ham Carnegie Library - 1908
London, Newham, England. Lat/Long: 51.532222 0.055278

The most northerly Carnegie library in the UK, this appears to have been an extension to a smaller existing building dated 1855.

As with Hamilton library near Glasgow, Ilkley in Yorkshire and Rhyl in North Wales and Ilford in London, East Ham Library is designed to belong to a massive imposing urban municipal block composed of council offices and public rooms.
Dundee - Blackness Library - 1908
Dundee, Scotland. Lat/Long 56.456667 -2.996111

Architects: James Thomson & Frank Drummond

Opened by Carnegie, Dundee commands the street corner and uses a familiar “drum” as an entrance lobby, it brings visitors to the reception desk. The buildings’ position on the windy hill secures its access to natural light and ventilation. The interior, although no longer incorporating a theatre, is altered very little and retains many of its original fixtures and fittings. These include glazed screens designed to enable the central librarian’s desk to maintain its commanding view of all spaces.

Darwen Library and Theatre - 1908

Architects: Fred Harrison & Charles Spencer Haywood of Accrington.

The “shuttlecock” plan here which admits maximum light from an imposing elevated corner site, is deftly adjusted to conceal its interior asymmetry. In both this scheme and the next, the generous dual flights of stairs leading to the first floor reading rooms borrow from Michelangelo’s extravagant and well-known precedent of the ascent to the reading room of the Laurentian Library in Florence.
Fig. 5.11
Dundee - Coldside Library - 1908
Dundee, Scotland. Lat/Lng: 56.474722 -2.980556
Architects: James Thomson & Frank Drummond Thomson of Dundee.
Heritage designation: Cat A, 1965. Purpose built library; Carnegie grant £7,400 19/10/1901. Open library, council managed.
The magnificently manipulated concave elevation of Coldside library adapts and refines what was becoming a standard deployment of a “butterfly” library plan with the aim of maximizing natural light.

Fig. 5.12
Hackney Library - 1908
London, Hackney, England. Lat/Lng: 51.544444 -0.055000

Fig. 5.13
Haugh of Urr Hall and Public Library - 1908
Dumfries and Galloway, Scotland. Lat/Lng: 54.976111 -3.860556
Heritage designation none. Purpose built village hall and reading room; Carnegie grant £100 13/02/1906. Remains a community hall.
The radial plan, by 1908 well-established for use in branch libraries in Britain, is exemplified here. However, it was not the emerging appetite for open-air libraries but a local by-law that had reputedly required a 25ft open-air space to be provided to the rear. The competition for Hove library was run twice; the first 71 entries being deemed "unsatisfactory" by their assessor, Mr Belcher. The winning architects, selected from just 10 for the second round, are almost unique in their distance from the site and their also in bringing their expertise from the North to the South of England.
Fig. 5.17
Milnrow Library - 1908
Rochdale, England. Lat/Long 53.605833 -2.104444

Fig. 5.18
Nelson Library - 1908
Pendle, England. Lat/Long 53.836111 -2.215833

Fig. 5.19
Mid Yell - 1908
Shetland, Scotland. Lat/Long 60.599444 -1.068333
Fig. 5.20
Pontypool Library - 1908
Torfaen, Wales. Lat/Long 51.701389 -3.039444
Architects: Speir & Bevan of Cardiff.

Fig. 5.21
Sandwell - Wednesbury Library - 1908
Sandwell, England. Lat/Long 52.553611 -2.016667
Architects: Crouch Butler and Savage of Birmingham.

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Sandwell - Wednesbury Library - 1908
Sandwell, England. Lat/Long 52.553611 -2.016667
Architects: Crouch Butler and Savage of Birmingham.
Fig. 5.22 Sunderland - Hendon Carnegie Library - 1908
Sunderland, England. Lat/Long 54.894444 -1.373889
Architects: Edward Cratney of Sunderland.

Hendon Branch Library was originally designed with efficiency in mind“ with a view to working the library with as small a staff as possible. They would sit behind the screen at the island service desk that remains in situ. Since it was taken over as a community run library and put "back on the map", in addition to securing HLF funding, it has used inventive means to secure sustainable revenue strategies in order to keep open as a community managed library including operating as a cinema and generating income from residential lettings to secure cashflow.

Fig. 5.23 Worthing Library - 1908
West Sussex, England. Lat/Long 50.813889 -0.371389
Architects: Crouch Butler & Sons of Birmingham.

Funded by the Dunfermline Trust, set up for Carnegie’s birthplace, Baldridgeburn was the first Carnegie Library to feature an associated bowling green to further promote wellbeing.

Fig. 5.24 Baldridgeburn Library - 1909
Fife, Scotland. Lat/Long 56.077222 -3.475556
Architects: Hugh & David Barclay of Glasgow.

Funded by the Dunfermline Trust; set up for Carnegie’s birthplace, Baldridgeburn was the first Carnegie Library to feature an associated bowling green to further promote wellbeing.
Fig. 5.25
Belfast - Donegall Road Carnegie Library - 1909
Belfast, Northern Ireland. Lat/Long 54.588889 -5.940278
Architect: Watt & Tullack of Belfast.

Fig. 5.26
Benwell and Fenham Library - 1909
Newcastle, England. Lat/Long 54.970000 -1.661389

Fig. 5.27
Birmingham - Rednal and Rubery Reading Room - 1909
Birmingham, England. Lat/Long 52.391111 -2.008889
Architect: Benjamin Bower of Birmingham.

Fig. 5.28
Bonnyrigg Library - 1909
Midlothian, Scotland. Lat/Long 55.875278 -3.105000
Architects: Greig, Fairbairn & Macniven of Edinburgh.
Fig. 5.29
Bournemouth - Springbourne Public Library - 1909
Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole, England. Lat/Long 50.731667 -1.852778
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built library; Carnegie grant £2,500 27/07/1903. Open library, council managed.

Fig. 5.30
Carron - 1909
Moray, Scotland. Lat/Long 57.456389 -3.300000
Architect: Charles Chree Dyg of Elgin.

Fig. 5.31
Ettrick - 1909
Scottish Borders, Scotland. Lat/Long 55.418611 -3.160556
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built village hall and reading room; Carnegie grant £150 06/08/1906. Remains a community hall.

“The Gala man that got his doug dippit for naething micht aye hae left a sma’ donation tae the Society. Five shillin’s covers a life membership, which is dirt cheap for the honour considérin’ that the dipper, unlikie sae mony libraries an’ kirk organs, is no a mement in pairt tae Andrew Carnegie.”

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Fig. 5.32
Fulham Central Library - 1909
London, Hammersmith & Fulham, England. Lat/Long 51.476944 / 0.202500
Architect: Henry Thomas Hour of London.
Open library, council managed.

Fig. 5.33
Great Holland - 1909
Essex, England. Lat/Long 51.828058 / 1.212094
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built village hall and institute; Carnegie grant £236 05/08/1909.
Remains a community hall.

Fig. 5.34
Kingston Devon - 1909
Devon, England. Lat/Long 50.314425 / -3.917707
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built village hall and reading room; Carnegie grant £54 18/08/1909.
Remains a community hall.
Fig. 5.35
Irchester Library - 1909
Northamptonshire, England. Lat/Long 52.058611, 1.156389
Architects: Edward Sharman & Caleb Archer of Wellingborough.
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built library; Carnegie grant: £1,000 14/01/1904. Open library, council managed.

Fig. 5.36
Kendal Library - 1909
Cumbria, England. Lat/Long 54.329167, -2.747500
Architect: T.F. Pennington of Kendal.
Fig. 5.37
Liverpool - Garston Library - 1909
Liverpool, England. Lat/Long 53.358056 -2.905833
Designed by Thomas Shelmerdine (Corporation Architect and Surveyor) of Liverpool.

With its engulfing roof slopes, low eaves, accentuated dormers externally and its rustic articulated timber frame internally, Garston follows Joseph Henry Hirst (City Architect)’s Kingston-Upon-Hull (1905) and Parker and Unwin at Pleasley’s Verney Institute (1906) in emulating an Arts and Crafts approach to the design of a Carnegie Library. This architectural experiment is restricted to the North of England.

Fig. 5.38
Low Row - 1909
N Yorkshire, England. Lat/Long 54.379254 -2.025665

Fig. 5.39
Orkney Library (Kirkwall) - 1909
Orkney, Scotland. Lat/Long 58.982778 -2.957500
Architect: James Malcolm Baikie of Kirkwall.
Fig. 5.40
Manchester - Failsworth Library - 1909
Manchester, England. Lat/Long 53.510278 -2.158333
Architects: Ernest Ogden & Percy Cartwright Hoy of Manchester.
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built library; Carnegie grant £3,350 14/7/1902 and 12/2/1903.
Open library, council managed.

Fig. 5.41
Merthyr Tydfil - Treharris Library - 1909
Merthyr Tydfil, Wales. Lat/Long 51.663889 -3.303889
Architect: William Dowdeswell of Treharris.
Open library, council managed.
Fig. 5.43
Sandwell - Blackheath Library (Rowley Regis) - 1909
Sandwell, England. Lat/Long 52.476667 -2.046944
Architects: Herbert Winkler Wills and John Anderson of London.

Fig. 5.44
Seven Kings Library (Ilford) - 1909
Redbridge, England. Lat/Long 51.566111 0.106389
Designed by: H. Shaw (District Surveyor) of Ilford.

Fig. 5.42
Newton-le-Willows Library (Newton in Makerfield, Earlestown) - 1909
St Helens, England. Lat/Long 53.455833 -2.637500
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built library; Carnegie grant £4,000 14/07/1903. Open library, council managed.
Fig. 5.45  
Sandwell - Cradley Heath Library (Rowley Regis) - 1909  
Sandwell, England Lat/Long 52.474722 -2.075833  
Architects: Herbert W. Wills and John Anderson of London.  

Seemingly strongly influenced by Michelangelo with its draped figures over the door representing “poetry and art” (Medici Chapel) as well as in the shallow ascending stairs in “Derbyshire marble” (Laurentian Library). Somewhat insensitively adapted with a suspended ceiling covering the original top lit central “borrowers space”. The reference library had originally made an unusually generous balance in its provision for “thirty lady readers and another room for sixty men.”

Fig. 5.46  
Sandwell - Dudley Library - 1909  
Sandwell, England Lat/Long 52.511667 -2.085000  
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Fig. 5.47
Sandwell - Langley Green Library (Oldbury & Langley) - 1909
Sandwell, England Lat/Lng 52.59972 -1.276667
Heritage designation: none. Purpose-built library; Carnegie grant £1,500 18/06/1897. Open library; council managed.

Fig. 5.48
Stisted Montefiore Institute - 1909
Braintree, England Lat/Lng 51.89277 0.614722
Heritage designation: LG II 1988. Existing building re-used as institute and meeting room; Carnegie grant £50 06/07/1909. Remains a community hall.

As with the Verney Institute at Pleasley and Hall at Granborough, as well as the Marquis of Stafford at Melness and Bettyhill, the named benefactor wrote personally to appeal for co-funding from Carnegie.

Fig. 5.49
Sunderland - Monkwearmouth Branch Library - 1909
Sunderland, England Lat/Lng 54.91527 -1.377222

Sunderland - Monkwearmouth Branch Library - 1909
Sunderland, England Lat/Lng 54.91527 -1.377222
Fig. 5.50
Sunderland - Kayll Road West Branch Library - 1909
Sunderland, England. Lat/Long 54.901111 -1.410278
Architect: Hugh Taylor Decimus Hedley of Sunder-
land.

Fig. 5.51
Symington - 1909
South Ayrshire, Scotland. Lat/Long 55.549722 -4.563889

Fig. 5.52
Tyldesley Library - 1909
Wigan, England. Lat/Long 53.514167 -2.467778
Architect: Col. Arthur John Hope (Bradshaw, Gass and Hope) of Ashton.
Fig. 5.55  
Walthamstow Central Library - 1909  
London, Waltham Forest, England. Lat/Long 51.584167 -0.020833  
Architect: J.Williams Dunford of Walthamstow.  
Heritage designation: LG II, 1973. Purpose built library; Carnegie grant: £10,000 10/02/1908.  
Open library, council managed.

Heritage designation: none. Purpose built village hall and reading room; Carnegie grant: £300 14/03/1905.  
Remains a community hall.

250 people attended the opening. The County Councillor’s speech betrays the extent of Carnegie’s design oversight: “The Hall is perhaps not as large as some of you may have desired; but Dr Carnegie, who is a good judge of each district’s requirements, suggested this size, with the folding partition in centre, and I think that after using it for some time you will all agree that it is most excellently arranged, and in every way suitable for your requirements, for you can have your library and reading room separate, and made very comfortable in the winter evenings with your two fires, sitting in your easy chair...”
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Chapter 6 - 1910-13

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Fig. 6.1
Adrie - 1910
Highland, Scotland. Lat/Lng 57.391389 -3.457500
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built village hall and meeting room; Carnegie grant £150 2/10/10. Remains a community hall. Community centre.

Fig. 6.2
Bolton - Astley Bridge Branch Library - 1910
Bolton, England. Lat/Lng 53.600833 -2.433611
Architects: Arthur John Hope (Bradshaw, Gass and Hope) of Atherton.

Competition for three branch libraries at Bolton judged by Henry T. Hare. Bradshaw, Gass and Hope’s designs for Astley Bridge and Great Lever were exhibited at the Royal Academy 1913.

Fig. 6.3
Bangor Carnegie Library - 1910
County Down, Northern Ireland. Lat/Lng 54.661111 -5.661389
Designed by: Ernest L. Woods (town surveyor) of Bangor.
Fig. 6.4
Bolton - Great Lever - 1910
Bolton, England. Lat/Long 53.562778 -2.420556
Architects: Arthur John Hope (Bradshaw, Gass and Hope) of Atherton.

In heated correspondence between Carnegie’s secretary, James Bertram in New York, the requirement for all building plans to be approved is re-asserted: “the plans had to be sent to Mr Carnegie because he would not pay any money until he was satisfied with the plans. There are practical reasons for this, any practical man will understand.”

The library was replaced by a mobile service in 1969. The conversion of the small building into a house was reported in the local press: “it was the interior decoration that proved the biggest headache for Mrs Wight.”

Fig. 6.5
Bolton – Halliwell – 1910
Bolton, England. Lat/Long 53.587778 -2.448889

Fig. 6.6
Dundee - St Roque's Library - 1910
Dundee, Scotland. Lat/Long 56.464722 -2.961389

Fig. 6.7
Dundee – St Roque’s Library – 1910
Dundee, Scotland. Lat/Long 56.447722 -2.961389
Architects: James Thomson with William Carless of Dundee.
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Fig. 6.8 Dumbarton Library - 1910
West Dunbartonshire, Scotland. Lat/Lon 55.945278 / -4.565833
Architect: William Reid of Dumbarton.
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built library. Carnegie grant £6,000 06/08/1904. Open library, council managed.

Dumbarton library maintains an excellent top lit interior.

Fig. 6.9 Ellesmere Port Library - 1910
Cheshire and Wirral, England. Lat/Lon 53.283611 / -2.894722
Architects: W. Edwardes Sproat & Eldon Warwick of Liverpool.
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built library; Carnegie grant £1,750 17/07/1907 and 31/1/1911. Service as a library ceased in 1962. Current use: Office.

Fig. 6.10 Enfield Highway Library - 1910
London, Enfield, England. Lat/Lon 51.658998 / -0.047774
Designed by Richard Collins (Borough Architect) of Enfield.
Fig 6.11  
Folkestone Library - 1910
Folkestone, England. Lat/Long 51.081667 / 1.180833
Architect: Brightwen Binyon of Ipswich.

Fig 6.12  
Harlesden Library - 1910
Harlesden, London, Brent, England. Lat/Long 51.538611 / -0.250556
Architect: John Cash Originally in 1894 of London.
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built library; Carnegie grant: £2,000 15/07/1909. Open library, council managed.
Carnegie funded an additional lecture hall.
Fig. 6.13
Hermistage Library and Hall - 1910
Scottish Borders, Scotland. Lat/Long 55.248515 -2.776833
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built village hall and meeting rooms; Carnegie grant £81 15/07/1909. Remains a community hall.

Fig. 6.14
Mary Tavy - 1910
Devon, England. Lat/Long 50.595814 -4.113768
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built village hall and institute; Carnegie grant £100 02/12/1909. Remains a community hall.

Fig. 6.15
Llandudno Library - 1910
Conwy, Wales. Lat/Long 53.323333 -3.829167
Architect: George Alfred Humphreys of Llandudno.
The town surveyor appears to have provided identical designs for the library at Troedyrhiw, (See Fig. 1.36), Abercanaid (demolished but evident in an old postcard) and possibly also for Pen-y-darren (also demolished).

Fig. 6.17
Newton Ferrers - 1910
Plymouth, England. Lat/Long 50.312778 -4.041389

Heritage designation: none.
Purpose built library.
Carnegie grant: £50 31/08/1909.
Service as a library ceased c. 1940.
Current use: Residential.

Fig. 6.16
Merthyr Tydfil - Aberfan - 1910
Merthyr Tydfil, Wales. Lat/Long 51.692222 -3.343889

Designed by T.F Harvey (Borough Surveyor) of Merthyr Tydfil.

Heritage designation: none.
Purpose built library.
Current use: Community centre.

Architect: T.F Harvey (Borough Surveyor) of Merthyr Tydfil.
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Fig. 6.19
Northamptonshire Central Library – 1910
Northamptonshire, England. Lat/Long: 53.781944 -1.782778
Architect: Herbert Norman of Northampton.

Fig. 6.20
Plymouth Library, Museum and Art Gallery – 1910
Plymouth, England. Lat/Long: 50.374167 -4.137500
Architects: Thornley & Rooke of Plymouth.

Fig. 6.21
Royal Four Towns – 1910
Dumfries and Galloway, Scotland. Lat/Long: 55.095603 -3.422448
In lengthy correspondence between Bertram and the vicar who applied to Carnegie for funding, Bertram questions the use of flat roofs in Shetland and the applicant relays how they have had to get a new architect and finally sends revised plans. The value of the actual drawing is evident in that he asked for it to be returned so that it could be sent out for tender in time for work to start before Autumn.[218] The “interesting and impressive ceremony of laying of the foundation stone” was attended by 125 people including 35 scholars. Written comments were collected on forms given to 40 ladies who were present. These were sealed in a bottle under the building “In this ceremonial act, Mrs Kay might be regarded as representing all womankind that will ever in any way or degree be connected with the Hall after its dedication to use.”[219]
The challenge of building at an altitude of over 1000ft is noted in correspondence with Bertram which states that building work cannot take place in Winter and includes the provision of “free labour and free carting” in listing its match funding.

The grant for Bettyhill and Melness was applied for by the Marquis of Stafford of Dunrobin Castle who offered match funding. Carnegie responded personally to the application from Skibo, anticipating his next visit to Skibo. “We are hoping to have [sic] you here with your talented mother on Monday.”
Fig. 6.28  Bolton - Farnworth Library - 1911  
Bolton, England. Lat/Long 53.551111 -2.396667  
Architect: W.J. Lomax of Bolton.  
Heritage designation: LG I. 1999. Purpose built library;  
Carnegie grant: £5,000 22/01/1903. Open library,  
council managed.

Fig. 6.29  Dundee Central Reading Room (The McManus Collections Unit / Barrack  
Street Museum) - 1911  
Dundee, Scotland. Lat/Long 56.461389 -2.974167  
Architects: James Thomson with William Carless  
of Dundee.  
Heritage designation: Cat B, 1987. Existing building (partial conversion); Carnegie grant: £7,400  
19/10/1901. Service as a library ceased in 1949.  
Current use: Museum.

Fig. 6.30  Forss - 1911  
Highland, Scotland. Lat/Long 58.598333 -3.639444  
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built village hall  
and reading room; Carnegie grant: £67 02/09/1911.  
Remains a community hall.  
Originally built of sheet metal as revealed in a pho-  
tograph of the building under construction, like  
several others in the far North of Scotland and the  
Islands; the building has since been overlaid and ren-  
dered.
Fig. 6.31  Ganarew Monmouthshire - 1911
Monmouthshire, Wales. Lat/Long 51.843841 -2.683232

Fig. 6.32  Granborough - 1911
Buckinghamshire, England. Lat/Long 51.91843901 -0.885946 -0.885946

As with the Montefiore Institute at Stisted, the main benefactor Mr FW Verney sought supplementary funding for his own benefaction from Carnegie.

Fig. 6.33  Guildtown - 1911
Perth & Kinross, Scotland. Lat/Long 56.469444 -3.407222

Fig. 6.34  Liverpool - Walton and Fazakerley Library - 1911
Liverpool, England. Lat/Long 53.455278 -2.961111
Architect: Arnold Thornely of Liverpool.
Heritage designation: none. Purpose-built library; Carnegie grant: £8,000 13/07/1909. Open library, Community centre.
Fig. 6.36
Inverurie Library - 1911
Aberdeenshire, Scotland. Lat/Long 57.284167 -2.374444
Heritage designation: Cat B, 1971. Purpose built library; Carnegie grant: £1,500 04/10/1902. Open library, council managed.

Fig. 6.35
Heckmondwike Library - 1911
Kirklees, England. Lat/Long 53.990833 -1.538333
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built library; Carnegie grant: £2,500 30/12/1903. Open library, council managed.
The first open access library in Liverpool was opened by Carnegie coinciding with being given the Honorary Freedom of the city. It was designed by the city’s architect, Thomas Shelmerdine. Following his first non-Carnegie library, Toxteth, Shelmerdine played with architectural styles at Garston, Old Swan and West Derby Libraries. With the exception of Old Swan, each had a double height galleried area. As with those designed by Manchester’s city architect Henry Price who used a similar plan form at Oldbury-Willington and Chorlton he played freely with architectural styles in branches across the city from baroque to Tudor-bethan as in this case.
Fig. 6.40
Oldmeldrum Hall - 1911
Aberdeenshire, Scotland. Lat/Long 57.335000, -2.319722

Fig. 6.41
St Albans Carnegie Library - 1911
Hertfordshire, England. Lat/Long 51.751944, -0.337778

Fig. 6.42
Stanley Road Reading Room (Kirkdale Library) - 1911
Liverpool, England. Lat/Long 53.432278, -2.983246

Fig. 6.43
Thankerton - 1911
South Lanarkshire, Scotland. Lat/Long 55.625531, -3.635860
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built village hall and reading room; Carnegie grant: £222 06/08/1910. Remains a community hall.
Wallasey (Liscard) Central Library - 1911
Wirral, England. Lat/Long 53.428889 -3.045833
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built library; Carnegie grant: £9,000 10/08/1908. Open library, council managed.

Wallasey or Liscard Library is mentioned but not described in Pevsner (Cheshire 1971) and has no heritage designation. However, it is one of the least altered and best-preserved examples of a substantial symmetrical Carnegie library in the UK. Sited in a park, it still provides users with a delightfully bright top-lit interior with views out. A significant proportion of its fixtures and fittings have been retained. Although the bookcases of the central lending department are no longer arranged in a radial pattern as designed, they are clearly original.

Waberthwaite and Corney Institute - 1911
Cumbria, England. Lat/Long 54.328424 -3.376650
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built village hall and institute; Carnegie grant: £100 07/12/1911. Remains a community hall.
Fig. 6.47
Whitelaws Library (Public Hall) - 1911
Aberdeenshire, Scotland. Lat/Long 57.876889 -2.50272
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built village hall and public rooms; Carnegie grant £283 20/11/1908. Remains a community hall.

Fig. 6.48
Worton - 1911
Wiltshire, England. Lat/Long 51.316190 -2.043644
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built village hall and public rooms; Carnegie grant £77 08/10/1910. Remains a community hall.

Fig. 6.49
Dolgellau Mill Street Free Library - 1912
Gwynedd Wales. Lat/Long 52.742500 -3.884722

Fig. 6.50
Enfield (central) Town Library - 1912
London, Enfield, England. Lat/Long 51.651667 -0.086111
Fig. 6.53
Middlesbrough Central Library - 1912

Middlesbrough, England. Lat/Long 54.574383 -1.233672

Middlesbrough has a formality and a stature that is greater than any other Carnegie Library in England. The fact that this was a heavily industrialised town fitted with Carnegie’s mission to help the working man to help himself. Its urban presence facing Victoria (now Central) Square in front of it, its long facade and barrel-vaulted reading room borrow from the precedents of Henri Labrouste’s Bibliothèque Ste Geneviève in Paris (1851) and McKim Meade and White’s Boston Public Library (1895). The quality of materials and craftsmanship reflects the prosperity of the town when it was built. It was built of “Pately Bridgestone with Leicestershire red facing bricks and Precely green slates. The staircase and its wall-linings will be in white and green marble. The reference room is to be finished in oak, with decorative fibrous plaster ceiling”. The reference room chairs all have monogrammed fretwork stretchers denoting that they belong to “MPL”.

Fig. 6.51
Middlesbrough Central Library - 1912

Fig. 6.52
Invergarry - 1912

Highland, Scotland. Lat/Long 57.071111 -4.778056
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built village hall and reading room; Carnegie grant: £50 02/08/1911. Service as a library ceased in 2006. Current use: B+B.

Fig. 6.51
Hull - Sproatley Institute - 1912
Hull, England. Lat/Long 53.791667 -0.190833

Fig. 6.52
Invergarry - 1912
Highland, Scotland. Lat/Long 57.071111 -4.778056
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built village hall and reading room; Carnegie grant: £50 02/08/1911. Service as a library ceased in 2006. Current use: B+B.
Fig. 6.54
Peebles Library - 1912
Peebles, Scotland. Lat/Long 55.651667 -3.189167

Fig. 6.55
St Cyrus - 1912
Aberdeenshire, Scotland. Lat/Long 56.774722 -2.415556

Fig. 6.56
Peatling Magna - 1912
Harborough, England. Lat/Long 52.528889 -1.126111
Designed by William Stapland Cowper (Surveyor) of Sittingbourne.
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Fig. 6.57
Barr - 1913
South Ayrshire, Scotland. Lat/Long 55.210556 -4.711944
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built village hall and reading room; Carnegie grants £600 / £700 / £901. Remains a community hall.

Fig. 6.58
Homerton Library - 1913
London, Hackney, England. Lat/Long 51.550278 -0.042500
Architect: Sir Thomas Edwin Cooper of London.

Fig. 6.59
Clapton Public Library - 1913
London, Hackney, England. Lat/Long 51.562500 -0.059722
Architect: Sir Thomas Edwin Cooper of London.
Fig. 6.60  
Clydebank Library - 1913  
West Dunbartonshire, Scotland. Lat/Long 55.901111 -4.408611  

Fig. 6.61  
Coventry - Earlsdon Library - 1913  
Coventry, England. Lat/Long 52.400000 -1.530278  
Designed by J.E. Swindlehurst (City Engineer and Surveyor) of Coventry.  
Fig. 6.62 Coventry - Foleshill Library - 1913
Coventry, England. Lat/Long 52.426667 -1.496111
Designed by: J.E. Swindlehurst (City Engineer and Surveyor) of Coventry.
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built library; Carnegie grant £3,330 05/08/1910. Open library, council managed.

Fig. 6.63 Coventry - Stoke Library - 1913
Coventry, England. Lat/Long 52.409444 -1.487222
Designed by: J.E. Swindlehurst (City Engineer and Surveyor) of Coventry.
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built library; Carnegie grant £3,330 05/08/1910. Open library, council managed.
Fig. 6.64  
Glasgow - Possilpark Library - 1913  
Glasgow, Scotland. Lat/Long 55.881944 -4.254444  
Architect: George Simpson of Glasgow.  
Open library, council managed.

Possilpark and Langside libraries were both designed by George Simpson. Both feature murals by Glasgow School of Art students under Professor Maurice Greiffenhagen and Robert Anning Bell. Initially designated as just a Reading room under the £100,000 grant to Glasgow in 1901, the funding was boosted by a further £6,000 in 1908 to designate it as a district library at a time of high unemployment in the city. It is the last of the pre-WW1 district libraries in Glasgow and as such synthesises many of the established features to date with glazed barrel vaults and dividing screens with leaded lights.

Fig. 6.65  
Huthwaite Library - 1913  
Nottinghamshire, England. Lat/Long 53.128056 -1.299722  
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built library; Carnegie grant: £2,000 20/11/1910. Open library, council managed.
Fig. 6.67
Stockport Library - 1913
Greater Manchester, England. Lat/Long 53.408056 -2.160556
Architect: Arthur John Hope (Bradshaw, Gass and Hope) of Atherton.
Heritage designation: LG II, 2017. Purpose built library; Carnegie grant: £15,000 08/10/1910. Open library, council managed.
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Fig. 6.68
Penistone Library - 1913
Sheffield, England, Lat/Long 53.525556 -1.628333
Chapter seven:
1914-1940
Chapter 7 - 1914-40

The Carnegie Libraries of Britain

Fig. 7.1 Catton, Allendale - 1914
Northumberland, England. Lat/Lon 54.914722 -2.269444

A plea was made by the village committee to counter the “evil influence of the public house” by providing a “reading room for men.”

Fig. 7.2 Deiniolen Carnegie Library - 1914
Gwynedd, Wales. Lat/Lon 53.147500 -4.127500
Architect: Albert Henry Fennell (Fennell and Baddeley) of Chester-le-Street.

Fig. 7.3 Deptford Library - 1914
London, Lewisham, England. Lat/Lon 51.471389 -0.030556
Architect: Sir Alfred Brumwell Thomas of London.

Fig. 7.4 Edinburgh - Juniper Green - 1914
Edinburgh. Lat/Lon 55.905278 -3.287222
Chapter 7 - 1914-40

The Carnegie Libraries of Britain

Fig. 7.5
Hamilton - 1914
South Lanarkshire, Scotland. Lat/Long 55.777500 -4.038333
Architects: Alex Cullen, Lochhead & Brown of Glasgow.
Following the precedent of Aberdeen Central Library (1892), Hamilton was designed with scope for extension and to be part of a much larger civic complex. Over 98 Carnegie libraries in the UK were designed to form part of a larger civic unit connected to Town Halls and Municipal buildings but also to Public Baths, Police Stations and Technical Colleges.

Fig. 7.6
Irigray Public Library and Hall (Shawhead Village) - 1914
Dumfries and Galloway, Scotland. Lat/Long 55.064722 -3.771667

Fig. 7.7
Stafford - 1914
Staffordshire, England. Lat/Long 52.803611 -2.115000
Architects: Briggs, Woolstenholme & Thornely of Liverpool.

Fig. 7.8
Stafford - 1914
Staffordshire, England. Lat/Long 52.803611 -2.115000
Architects: Briggs, Woolstenholme & Thornely of Liverpool.
Chapter 7 - 1914-40

The Carnegie Libraries of Britain

Fig. 7.9
Manchester - Chorlton Library - 1914
Manchester, England. Lat/Long 53.444444 -2.278889
Designed by Henry Price (City Architect) of Manchester.
Heritage designation: LG II,2013. Purpose built library; Carnegie and later the Carnegie UK Trust: £5,000 24/06/1912. Open library, agency managed for council.

According to its librarian, the design drawings for Chorlton were lost on the Titanic en-route for Carnegie approval and had to be re-sent to New York. Originally featuring a galleried and coffered dome which is now covered with a suspended ceiling. City architect Henry Price maintained the plan but played with styles between Didsbury, Withington and Chorlton.

Fig. 7.8
Lincoln Central Library - 1914
Lincolnshire, England. Lat/Long 53.229444 -0.537500

Built in brick faced with local Ancaster stone with Walmington slates on the roof, the library was deemed to “mark its position and purpose” in the city, with its dome and cupola below the cathedral to Photo with steeple. Its detailed drawings were exhibited at the Royal Academy in 1912.

Fig. 7.9
Manchester - Chorlton Library - 1914
Manchester, England. Lat/Long 53.444444 -2.278889
Designed by Henry Price (City Architect) of Manchester.
Heritage designation: LG II,2013. Purpose built library; Carnegie and later the Carnegie UK Trust: £5,000 24/06/1912. Open library, agency managed for council.

According to its librarian, the design drawings for Chorlton were lost on the Titanic en-route for Carnegie approval and had to be re-sent to New York. Originally featuring a galleried and coffered dome which is now covered with a suspended ceiling. City architect Henry Price maintained the plan but played with styles between Didsbury, Withington and Chorlton.
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The first open access library in Glasgow and the last Carnegie library to be built there.
Chapter 7 - 1914-40

Fig. 7.12
Manchester - Didsbury Library - 1915
Manchester, England. Lat/Long 53.418056 -2.232222
Designed by Henry Price (City Architect) of Manchester.

Fig. 7.13
Oswaldtwistle Carnegie Library - 1915
Lancashire, England. Lat/Long 53.742222 -2.398056
Architect: Frank Quenbery Farmer of Manchester.
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built library; Carnegie grant £3,000 12/01/1903. Open library, council managed.
Fig. 7.14
Thatto Heath Library - 1915
St Helens, England Lat/Long 53.437500 -2.758333
Designed by Arthur W. Bradley (Borough Engineer) of St Helens.
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built library; Carnegie grant £3,000 23/07/1903. Open library, council managed.

Fig. 7.15
Bournemouth - Westbourne Library - 1916
Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole, England Lat/Long 50.721667 -1.901944
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Fig. 7.16
Cunningsburgh Shetland - 1916
Shetland, Scotland. Lat/Long 60.048333 -1.228056

Fig. 7.17
Derby - Normanton Branch (Pear Tree) Library - 1916
Derby, England. Lat/Long 52.905000 -1.476389

Fig. 7.18
Dartford Central Library & Museum - 1916
Dartford, England. Lat/Long 51.443056 0.218889

A virtually unaltered top-lit exemplar built during the first world war to serve soldiers returning from trench warfare. It is set within a formal garden with its entrance under the gaze of a memorial statue.
Chapter 7 - 1914-40

Fig. 7.19
Taibach Port Talbot Margam Community Library - 1916
Neath Port Talbot Wales. Lat/Long 51.586111 -3.771667
Designed by John Cox (District Surveyor) of Margam.
Heritage designation: LG II,2000. Purpose built library; Carnegie grant: £2,500 30/12/1911 and 31/1/1911.
Open library, community managed.

Fig. 7.20
Yarlington - 1919
Somerset, England. Lat/Long 51.060524 -2.492199
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built village hall and reading room; Carnegie grant: £35 02/08/1911.
Remains a community hall.
Previously a brick building recently “restored” in stone.

City Librarian, Walter Briscoe, oversaw the design and procurement of four branch libraries for Nottingham along with Basford, Radford Lenton and Meadows libraries. He went on to publish an authoritative text, “Library Planning” in 1927 in which all four are extensively illustrated.

Bulwell was the first Carnegie Library building to open after the First World War, funded by the then Carnegie UK Trust. Although the Nottingham group grant dates to 1915, their delayed delivery and the systematic involvement of Briscoe “under post-war economic condition” sets them as the first ex-emplars of the immediate era post 1919 which was coincidentally the year of Carnegie’s death.
Fig. 7.22  
Islington South Library - 1921  
London, Islington, England. Lat/Long 51.538889 -0.098611  

Fig. 7.23  
Barrow in Furness Library - 1922  
Cumbria, England. Lat/Long 54.114444 -3.231389  
Fig. 7.24
Bethnal Green Library - 1922
London, Tower Hamlets, England. Lat/Long 51.526389 -0.053611
Architect: James Tolley of London.
Heritage designation: LG II, 2005. Purpose built library; Carnegie grant £20,000 09/01/1913 and 1919.
Open library, council managed.

Fig. 7.25
Strachur - 1923
Argyll and Bute, Scotland. Lat/Long 56.167995 -5.072351
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built village hall and reading room; Carnegie grant £600 28/09/1909.
Remains a community hall.

Fig. 7.26
Grantham Museum - 1926
Lincolnshire, England. Lat/Long 52.910278 -0.640000
Designed by: Gilbert A. Ballard (Borough Surveyor) of Grantham.
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built library; Carnegie UK Trust £4,000 06/12/1917.
Fig. 7.27
Ipswich County Library - 1924
Ipswich, England. Lat/Long 52.058611 -1.156389
Architect: Henry Munro Cautley of Ipswich.
Heritage designation: LG II,1977. Purpose built library;
Carnegie UK Trust: £22,500 1917 and 1919. Open
library, council managed.

The only public library in the UK to feature an ob-
servatory. Its clockwork telescope and roof were
funded by the neighbouring private bank as well as
Carnegie.

Fig. 7.28
Airdrie “new” Library - 1925
North Lanarkshire, Scotland. Lat/Long 55.866111 -3.982778
Architect: John Maurice Arthur of Airdrie.
Heritage designation: Cat C,1993. Purpose built library;
Carnegie grant: £5,500 31/01/1913. Open library,
council managed.
Fig. 7.29
Nottingham - Meadows Southern Branch Library - 1925
Nottingham, England. Lat/Long 52.940556 -1.145278
Designed by Arthur Dale (City Engineer’s Office) of Nottingham.

Nottingham City Librarian Walter Briscoe wrote: “Apart from the ‘standardising’ of certain fittings, librarians who wander round the country – visiting libraries in their peregrinations, like the proverbial busman’s holiday – are quick to note the numerous innovations by their colleagues. Every librarian is capable of bringing in some ‘gadget’ or other and likes to feel that he is the originator of one library appliance or another.”

Fig. 7.30
Gateshead Central Library - 1926
Gateshead, England. Lat/Long 54.951111 -1.601111
Architect: David William Ditchburn of London.
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built library; Carnegie UK Trust: £15,000 09/06/1917. Open library, council managed.
Fig. 7.31
Glasgow - Partick Library - 1926
Glasgow, Scotland. Lat/Long 55.870556 -4.304444
Designed by Office of Public Works of Glasgow.
Heritage designation: Cat C, 1970. Purpose built library;
Carnegie grant: £1,100 17/06/1902. Open library, council managed.

Fig. 7.32
Leeds - Burley Library - 1926
Leeds, England. Lat/Long 53.807778 -1.575000
Architect: Gilbert Burdett Howcroft of Uppermill.
Heritage designation: LG II, 2017. Purpose built library;

Fig. 7.33
Ilford Central Library - 1927
Redbridge, England. Lat/Long 51.558333 0.074444
Designed by H. Shaw (District Surveyor) of Ilford.
Fig. 7.34
Nottingham - Basford Branch Library - 1926
Nottingham, England. Lat/Long 52.983889 -1.180000
Architects: Ernest R. Sutton & Sons of Nottingham.
Open library, council managed.

Radford Lenton was identified as being designed in the “Elizabethan Style”, yet featured innovative materials. “The dressings, it is interesting to note, are composed of artificial stone made by the Empire Stone Co., whose works are at Narborough, and are a comparatively new thing.” The lending desk has moved and the Newspaper room now houses a Music archive, otherwise the building remains unaltered.

Fig. 7.35
Nottingham - Radford Lenton Library - 1926
Nottingham, England. Lat/Long 52.954722 -1.175833
Designed by: T. Walls Gordon (City Engineer) of Nottingham.
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built library; Carnegie UK Trust: £3,750 24/8/1915 and 8/7/1922.
Open library, council managed.
Fig. 7.36
Leeds - Bramley Library - 1927
Leeds, England. Lat/Long 53.743889 -0.372500
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built library.

Fig. 7.37
Leeds - Compton Road Library (Harehills) - 1927
Leeds, England. Lat/Long 53.809167 -1.509722
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built library.
Carnegie UK Trust: £6,200 25/03/1916. Open library, council managed.
York Central Library - 1927
York, England Lat/Long 53.961389 -1.086111
Architects: Brierley and Rutherford of York.
Heritage designation: LG II,1997. Purpose built library; Carnegie grant: 26500 (£total cost) 31/03/1905.
Open library, council managed.

Manchester - Withington Library - 1927
Manchester, England Lat/Long 53.435556 -2.226667
Designed by Henry Price (City Architect) of Manchester.
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built library; Carnegie and later the Carnegie UK Trust: £5,000 24/06/1912. Open library, council managed.
Fig. 7.40
Watford Central Library - 1928
Hertfordshire, England. Lat/Long 51.660278 -0.403333
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built library; Carnegie grant £4,750 30/08/1911. Open library, council managed.

Fig. 7.41
Hendon Library - 1929
London, Barnet, England. Lat/Long 51.588333 -0.228889
Heritage designation: LG II, 2002. Purpose built library; Carnegie grant £7,000 02/08/1911. Open library, council managed.
Fig. 7.42
Burnley Library - 1930
Burnley, England. Lat/Long 53.787500 -2.241389
Designed by George Hartley and Arthur Race (Borough Engineer) of Barrow-in-Furness.

Fig. 7.43
Exeter City Library - 1930
Exeter, England. Lat/Long 50.725278 -3.529444

Fig. 7.44
Craigellachie Village Hall - 1931
Moray, Scotland. Lat/Long 57.489490 -3.185818
Fig. 7.45
Kyle of Lochalsh Library - 1932
Highland, Scotland. Lat/Long 57.284722 -5.714167
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built village hall and reading room; Carnegie grant £100 08/12/1900. Current use: Office.

Fig. 7.46
Barnoldswick (Earby) Library - 1935
Pendle, England. Lat/Long 53.916944 -2.140556

Fig. 7.47
Eastleigh Library - 1935
Hampshire, England. Lat/Long 50.970000 -1.35558

Fig. 7.48
Johnstone Library - 1935
Renfrewshire, Scotland. Lat/Long 55.837222 -4.512500
Architects: Thomas Graham Abercrombie and James Steel Maitland of Paisley.
Heritage designation: none. Purpose built library; Carnegie grant £1,000 26/08/1901. Service as a library ceased in 2013. Current use: Hairdresser.
The last to be built had been first mooted 34 years previously. The interior proportions of its main reading room resemble those of Henry Hare’s widely publicized design for Kington Central (1907). However, the more austere external aesthetic with its smooth ashlar punctuated by heavy timbered leaded windows reveals a final departure from the Edwardian decorative norms of British Carnegie Libraries. Its shallow pitched roof with deep eaves reflects the influence of Arts and Crafts theories and their esteem for Japanese rational in construction.
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The civilizing, societal role of free public libraries cannot be under-estimated. Since Britain’s Public Libraries Act of 1850, this enduring national institution has provided universal access to information and literature that continue to enrich our lives and preserve our records. But local delivery of these cultural facilities would not have been so widely distributed across the country, or so splendidly furnished, without the extraordinary philanthropy of Scottish-American industrialist Andrew Carnegie (1835-1919) whose grants provided more than the 437 surviving Carnegie libraries in 57 years between 1883 and 1940.

This E-book’s scholarly photographic chronicle is complemented by extensive notation and analysis that reveal the breadth and depth of one of the most far-sighted and impactful acts of international charity on these shores, culminating in widely varying architectural forms, from modest sheds to grand Neo-Classical designs. Professor Dr Oriel Prizeman of the Welsh School of Architecture and her collaborators on this fascinating publication are to be congratulated for introducing readers to a less-studied building typology and its special patronage. The work is but one deliverable from the epic Arts and Humanities Research Council funded project, Shelf-Life: reimagining the future of Carnegie Public Libraries https://carnegielibrariesofbritain.com/ that I also commend to all those interested in the past and future of these temples of knowledge.

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