

The John Rylands Library

What's on

15 March 2018 – 27 August 2018

Free entry, open daily

www.manchester.ac.uk/rylands

“Your library is your paradise” Desiderius Erasmus

Welcome

Step into a world of imagination and learning at The John Rylands Library.

Free to visit and open seven days a week, it was created more than 100 years ago as a gift to Manchester and its people.

For some, the Library is a rare spot at the heart of the bustling city; a unique space where they can marvel at

its stunning neo-Gothic architecture, ornate stone decoration and magnificent stained glass.

For others, the Library's extraordinary, vast collections enable them to explore more than five millennia of writing, thinking and sharing from across the world.

For all it's a love story, representing Mrs Enriqueta Rylands' determination to keep her husband's name alive, to create a world-class literary resource and to give it to the city she adored.

Find out the best way to explore The John Rylands Library with this handy guide. Whether you have half an hour or a whole afternoon, it will help you make the most of your visit.

Get up close to some of the Library's most beautiful manuscripts in our new exhibition, The Alchemy of Colour. From chemical concoctions to burnished gold,

discover the weird and wonderful recipes for colour used by artists throughout history.

Throughout the year we hold regular events, library tours and family activities, and no visit is complete without a browse around our wonderful shop. Sign up for our e-newsletter via our website and you'll never miss out on the latest Library news.

The John Rylands Library is a working public library. Find out how to join as a reader for free on page 11.

Have a wonderful visit!

Other ways to find out what's on

Facebook: @JohnRylandsLibrary

Instagram and Twitter: @TheJohnRylands

Sign up to our e-newsletter:

www.manchester.ac.uk/rylands

Read our blogs on Special Collections:

rylandscollections.wordpress.com

The Alchemy of Colour

15 March – 27 August 2018

Unexpected recipes for extraordinary art

Poisonous paints, blackened bones, and beetles steeped in booze. Discover the strange and curious recipes that artists used to create some of history's most vivid colours in our latest exhibition, The Alchemy of Colour.

Throughout the ages, artists experimented with intriguing ingredients to concoct their colours. Often they turned to nature in their pursuit for the perfect pigment, as intent on their craft as alchemists hunting for gold. Gorgeous yellows were cooked up from the stinking urine of cows, tree growths dissolved in acid made inky blacks, and precious stones were crushed up in to vibrant shades of blue.

These skilled creators stopped at nothing to make their colours sing – even if it meant risking their own health. Orpiment, a golden yellow pigment, contained dangerous levels of arsenic. The rich red of cinnabar derived from lethal mercury. Yet the risks they took left a stunning legacy, as the spectacular items on display in The Alchemy of Colour reveal.

Take the French manuscript that's one of the stars of the show. Created in the 1430s, its blues and greens are still so bright they leap off the page almost 600 years later.

Elsewhere, marvel at rare and unusual manuscripts from across the world, from the intense yellow and soft green of an 18th-century Indian painting to the lavish gold leaf adorning an illustration of the planets from 15th-century Italy.

The Alchemy of Colour uncovers the bizarre stories behind artists' palettes through a display of some of the most striking manuscripts in our collection. An exhibition full of surprises, immerse yourself in a history of colour that's as remarkable in its inventiveness as it is in its beauty.

Open daily, free entry

Follow us @TheJohnRylands and tag your posts
#jrlColour

Making the most of your visit

Whether you've got a few minutes or a few hours, a trip to The John Rylands Library is always worthwhile.

Our recommendations are designed to help you make best use of the time you've got.

If you have...

20 minutes

Historic Reading Room

No visit is complete without it. Intricately-carved stone corridors lead you to the Library's magnificent centrepiece. Pore over rare books on display, watch the light stream through the stained glass window or simply absorb the spectacular neo-Gothic architecture.

30 minutes

Historic Reading Room – Rylands Gallery

The Rylands Gallery holds rare and precious items from our collections. The Library's most famous artefact - a fragment of the Gospel of St John, one of the earliest surviving pieces of the New Testament - is on permanent display here.

60 minutes

Historic Reading Room – Rylands Gallery – Exhibitions

Our regularly changing exhibitions provide a unique insight into our vast collections and the stories they tell. Sign up to our e-newsletter or look at our website to see what you'll discover on your visit.

Over an hour

Take part in one of our activities. The Library's regular events programme (page 8) includes free tours, printing demonstrations, late night openings and close encounters with our collections. There's always extra fun

during the school holidays and our free family trail is great if you're bringing little ones.

“Beautifully curated exhibition and awe-inspiring architecture”

Don't forget to...

- Browse through our eclectic, collection-inspired shop for great presents and souvenirs.
- Spend a penny in one of the last original Victorian lavatories in Manchester. Look out for the 'bustle space' on the seats in the Ladies.
- Ask questions! We love helping people enjoy their visit.

Regular events

Introductory tours

An unmissable 30 minute tour: get an exclusive tour of the Library, discover the stories behind the building and collections and learn more about their history. Tours run

every **Wednesday and Friday, 3pm – 3.30pm**, and you can just turn up.

Thursday lates

The Library stays open until 7pm on the third Thursday of every month. Explore the building after hours and marvel at the magnificent architecture in a completely different light.

Collection encounters

Get up close to some of the Library's fascinating items at our collection encounters. Ask questions, share your own stories and come away feeling inspired. Everyone is welcome and no prior knowledge is needed. All dates are listed on our website.

Visit www.manchester.ac.uk/rylands/whats-on to view our current and upcoming events

“An inspiring place”

Family activities

Join us throughout the year for free family activities inspired by our collections and exhibitions, from mystical trails to magical story time. With extra events during the school holidays, there's always something fun to do at the Library! Find out more on our website.

“Simply a magnificent building”

Shop

Take home unusual souvenirs and unique gifts inspired by the Library and its vast collections. Look out for decorative postcards, unique jewellery and, of course, wonderful books, as well as handy stationery and ornate wrapping paper.

Plan your visit

Open:

Monday: 12 noon – 5pm

Tuesday – Saturday: 10am – 5pm

Sunday: 12 noon – 5pm

Take a picture

Feel free to take photos of our building – the wonderful architecture makes for a great picture. Please don't take photos of collection items on display, or use tripods.

Book on to one of our Aperture photography sessions to capture the beauty of our Historic Reading Room before the Library opens to the public. Find out more details on our website, or ask a member of staff.

Access

The modern entrance provides level access with power-assisted doors. An accessible toilet is located in the basement of the modern building, and a RADAR key is available at Reception. There is lift access to all public areas except the Historic Entrance and the Historic Toilets.

Guide dogs are welcome.

Join the Library

Anyone over the age of 16 is welcome to join the Library as a reader. Access to the collections is free and we can

advise you on how to find material. For details please contact the Reader Engagement team on 0161 275 3764 or uml.special-collections@manchester.ac.uk.

Getting here

Situated on Deansgate, in the heart of Manchester, The John Rylands Library is easily accessible by road, tram, train and foot.

Nearest Metrolink: St Peter's Square

Nearest car park: NCP on Watson Street

Nearest train station: Deansgate

Nearest bus stop: Albert Square / Metroshuttle 1 and 2
(stops directly outside the Library)

For information on nearby parking including blue badge parking, please visit

www.manchester.ac.uk/rylands/visit or contact our Visitor Engagement team on **0161 306 0555**.

The John Rylands Library

150 Deansgate

Manchester M3 3EH

jrl.visitors@manchester.ac.uk

www.manchester.ac.uk/rylands

0161 306 0555

Facebook: @JohnRylandsLibrary

Twitter and Instagram: @TheJohnRylands

Sign up to our e-newsletter via our website

rylandscollections.wordpress.com