Introduction

The Library’s temperance collections centre on the library and archives of the Friends’ Temperance and Moral Welfare Union, 1877-1980s and comprises books, pamphlets, archives, posters and lantern slides. With the support of the Wellcome Trust, all these items as well as other temperance related works were fully catalogued onto the Library’s online catalogue in 2010. The catalogue is available at www.quaker.org.uk/cat.

The Friends’ Temperance Union (FTU) was founded in the 1850s and expressed the Quaker witness for total abstinence. Archives are extant from 1877. The Union was reorganised by that date, having developed its official corporate existence during the 1870s; from 1875 it reported annually to Yearly Meeting. The Union was to consist of
Temperance, Moral and Social Welfare Collections

abstaining Friends and Attenders with a central committee, and branches throughout London Yearly Meeting.

In 1955 the additional words "Moral Welfare" were added to the organisation's title. By this time the Union had extended its focus to include gambling and sexual behaviour, with particular reference to single mothers and young people.

During 1987 the organisation's name changed to its current title of Quaker Action on Alcohol and Drugs (QAAD).

Published works

The Friends' Temperance and Moral Welfare Union's (FTMWU) library comprises over 500 books and pamphlets produced by various, mainly British, temperance organisations. These include the following organisations:

Ipswich Temperance Society
UK Temperance Alliance,
Temperance Council of the Christian Churches,
Temperance Collegiate Association,
Anglo-Indian Temperance Association,
British Women’s Temperance Association,
Churches Council on Gambling,
   Irish Temperance League,
Manchester Primitive Methodist Temperance Council,
   Rechabites,
Scandinavian Union for Non-Alcoholic
   Traffic and the World Prohibition Federation

There are also three collections of Friends' Temperance Union / Friends’ Temperance and Moral Welfare Union pamphlets for 1877-1956 at 058.4 [FTU 1-3]

Further printed material can be identified through the Library’s online catalogue at www.quaker.org.uk/cat

Periodicals

Friends Temperance Union. Annual report 1892-1955 Pers B/F7/TEMP
Friends Temperance Union bulletin 1934-1939 Pers U/F7/TEMP
Friends Temperance quarterly 1940-1955 Pers B/F7/TEMP
Friends Temperance Union. Notes, news & views 1950-1956 Pers U/F7/TEMP
Citizens of no mean city 1961-1966 Pers U/F7/TEMP/C
Temperance, Moral and Social Welfare Collections

Archives

The official archives of Friends' Temperance Union and its activities are held by the Library. They comprise minute books, correspondence, printed items, notices, minutes, agendas, memoranda, reports, press releases, financial papers, newspaper cuttings, newsletters, notes and other papers. These are available as Temp MSS 893. The archives are arranged in the following sections:

MIN: Minutes and related documents, 5th 2 mo [February] 1877-9th December 1989
PAP: General Papers, June 1877-1990
PAS: Personal Service Group/Personal Aid Section Papers, October 1961-January 1966
FIN: Financial Papers, 3rd November 1893-5th April 1989
ORG: Other Organisations' Papers, 1926-25th February 1975
PRT: Printed material, 1875-ca. 1968

Other archive and manuscript collections held include:

Betting and Gambling Committee Central Organisation records
Opium Traffic Committee, 1881-1931 Central Organisation records
Friends' Social Purity Association Central Organisation records
Society for the Suppression of the Opium Trade Temp. MSS 33/2
Newscuttings on temperance and missions Temp. MSS 555
Braithwaite papers on the Opium trade MS Vols 207-209

Posters

The Library holds over 100 temperance posters which were produced by Friends' Temperance Union. The posters are undated but appear to be mostly from the first quarter of the 20th century.

Lantern slides

As part of its educational programme Friends' Temperance Union undertook lantern slide presentations. Some of the medical slides were sourced from Alcohol and the human body: an introduction to the study of the subject / by Victor Horsley and Mary D. Sturje (1907) [Library reference 058 HOR]. Other slide presentations focussed upon 19th century art, depictions of urban and countryside views located in the United States and Canada, and scenes drawn from the Bible and folklore. The Library holds 1117 of these slides. It includes the following series:

Medical aspects of temperance (ref: 85/L 2801 to 85/L 2869)
Temperance, Moral and Social Welfare Collections

Sport (ref: 85/L 3009 to 85/L 3021)
Native Americans (ref: 85/L 3042 to 85/L 3053)
Prohibition in the United States (ref: 85/L 3068 to 85/L 3085)
American landscapes and cityscapes (ref: 85/L 3086 to 85/L 3185)
Depictions of rural life (ref: 85/L 3186 and 85/L 3210)
19th century art (ref: 85/L 3211 to 85/L 3261) and (ref: 85/L 3771 to 85/L 3820
Canadian landscapes and cityscapes (ref: 85/L 3262 to 85/L 3275)
Temperance statistics (ref: 85/L 3323 to 85/L 3351)
Scenes of everyday life (ref: 85/L 3848 to 85/L 3911)

Lantern slide of women drinking outside public house, pre-1914 [Lib ref 85/L3864]

Further information

Library opening hours
Tuesday- Friday 10.00am - 5.00pm

Please note the Library normally closes for one week in spring and in autumn. It is advisable to telephone or email prior to visiting. New library users will need to complete a registration form and show proof of permanent address. The registration form can be downloaded from our website www.quaker.org.uk/library or requested from the Library.

For further information or help in using the Library please contact us by either email to library@quaker.org.uk, or telephone 020 7663 1135 or write to:

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Friends House,
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London. NW1 2BJ
www.quaker.org.uk/library

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