

History of Gender and Sexuality

Clark Library UCLA

1. **William Andrews Clark Jr.:** The private book collector and philanthropist who founded the Clark Library was himself a closeted gay man in 1920s Los Angeles. He had a romantic relationship with one of his library assistants, Harrison Post, whose face graces the male nudes painted in the library's vestibule.
2. **Oscar Wilde and 1890s Collection:** Containing over 65,000 items, the Clark Library's collection of material related to Oscar Wilde and his circle is one of the most important in the world. It includes extensive manuscript correspondence, literary manuscripts and forgeries, legal documents, and a vast collection of Wildeian iconography.
3. **Victorian and Early C20th Gay Poets:** Uranian Poetry of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries is also well represented by work from Charles Kains Jackson, Lord Alfred Douglas, John Francis Bloxam, William Johnson Cory, John Gambril Nicholson, John Addington Symonds, Edmund John, J.M. Stuart-Young, and Rennell Rodd, among others. A recently acquired print/manuscript album compiled by Gleeson White (1851–1898) features many of these writers.
4. **Seventeenth- and Eighteenth-Centuries:** The Clark also a large collection related to early modern libertinism and erotic fiction, including extensive French holdings and rare early English novels. Women writers are well represented, including the printed work of Aphra Behn, Margaret Cavendish, and Katherine Philips, as well as manuscript material related to the Porter sisters, Hannah More, Anna Palmer, and Jane Griffies Roscoe.
5. **Aretino Collection:** Large collection of sixteenth-, seventeenth-, eighteenth-, and nineteenth-century editions of works by Pietro Aretino (1492–1556), including editions of *Ragionamenti* and *Sonetti lussuriosi* in several European languages.