

**Special Collections subject guides**  
**subject: Knitting**

**Introduction**

With nearly 7 million manuscript items and 50,000 printed books, the Special Collections, Hartley Library, provide a resource of remarkable richness and depth. Within the Archives and Manuscripts are the papers of the first Duke of Wellington, third Viscount Palmerston, and papers for the foundation of the states of India and Pakistan in the archive of Earl Mountbatten of Burma. Southampton is also home to one of the largest Jewish archives in Western Europe. Printed collections of note are the Parkes Library on Jewish/non-Jewish relations, the Cope Collection on Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, the Perkins Agricultural Library and the Wellington Pamphlets.



**MS 332/4/17**

**Archival collections**

**History of knitting**

The Montse Stanley working papers

- Instructions and manuals as part of her research for projects or relating to interest groups of which she was a member, 1832-2000, MS 331/1
- Photographs and postcards reflecting world history of textiles and knitting from second century AD up to twentieth century, MS 331 2/1
- Slides showing examples of knitting dating from the 1970s-1990s, MS 331 2/2
- Collection of illustrations, 1786-1996, showing eighteenth and nineteenth century costume and dress, MS 331 2/3

Papers of Joan Thirsk and the Early Knitting History Group, 1993-9

- Correspondence with individuals involved in the Early Knitting History Group; newsletters; papers, MS 330/1

**Textiles and objects**

The Montse Stanley Collection includes samples of knitting (MS 331/2/4) and textiles, as well as objects.

Examples include:

- Soft toys, dolls, clothes, and purses, MS 332 Section A
- Ornaments, needles, yarns, and bobbins, MS 332 Section B
- Textile samples and rugs, MS 332 Section C

Knitted objects and crocheted items are also contained in our small textile collections, with examples including:

- A knitted object in blue wool shaped like bluebells, nineteenth century, part of Thomas Stanley material, MS 330/2
- Crocheted items, including cuffs and collars, MS 330/4

### **Small ephemera collections**

- Handy guide for knitting and crochet with needle gauge; postcards, MS 330/3
- A small memorandum book and a newspaper cutting containing knitting terms, knitting patterns or instructions for different stitches, n.d. c.nineteenth century, [one paper watermark 1817], MS 330/5
- Materials regarding Monste Stanley's commercial interests – plastic bags, 'true knit' graph paper designed by Stanley and knitwear designs, samples of knitting and promotional material, 1985-93, MS 331/2/4
- A collection of musical scores with a knitting, textile of Spanish theme of depicting people knitting or wearing knitwear, part of the Montse Stanley collection, MS 331/2/5

### **Printed collections**

Books relating to knitting can be found in the Winchester School Arts' Special Collection, the Knitting Reference Library. More information can be found at: <https://www.southampton.ac.uk/intheloop/>

### **Access**

Manuscript and rare book material is made available for consultation in the Archives and Manuscripts and Rare Books reading room. Information on access arrangements can be found at.

<http://www.southampton.ac.uk/archives/about/access.page?>

### **Further information**

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