

SIR GEORGE EDWARD CORY (1862-1935)

The Cory Library for Historical Research was founded in 1931 when Sir George Edward Cory, first Professor of Chemistry at Rhodes University College, presented his extensive private collection to Rhodes University College Library on his retirement.

Cory, in addition to his academic commitments in the field of Chemistry, developed a strong interest in the history of Southern Africa and invested years of enthusiastic amateur research in this field.

This culminated in the publication of the multi-volume work *The Rise of South Africa (1910-1939)* which earned him a significant place in South African historiography.

Cory amassed a rich collection of books, pamphlets, private manuscripts (such as personal diaries and letters), photographs, maps, journals and newspapers, which form the nucleus of the present Cory Library for Historical Research.

The collection also includes his written records of 62 "conversations" he had with elderly people, both black and white, about the history of South Africa in general and of the Eastern Cape frontier area in particular. This was an early example of the collection of oral evidence as a method of historical research.

These interviews have been edited by J M Berning and published in the Graham's Town Series under the title: *The historical "conversations" of Sir George Cory.*

Read more about Cory Library publications
<http://www.ru.ac.za/corylibrary/publications>

OPENING HOURS AND CONTACTS

08h30 to 17h00
Monday to Fridays
Closed weekends and public holidays

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INFORMATION SERVICES STAFF

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We assist with reference enquiries by visitors to the Cory Library, as well as by phone, fax, e-mail and letters.

We provide an introduction to the Cory Library collections through instruction on the online and card catalogues.

We are closely linked to a number of research institutions, NGOs and other libraries, in Grahamstown and elsewhere. We will re-direct users if necessary.



RHODES UNIVERSITY

CORY LIBRARY FOR HISTORICAL RESEARCH



Sir George Cory on a collecting trip

ABOUT THE CORY LIBRARY

The Library collects material of all kinds to support research on the history of Southern Africa.

Topics covered include Xhosa history, mission and church history, as well as education, mining, commercial and agricultural history. The library has a strong collection of material on Lesotho.

There is a particular focus on the history of the Eastern Cape, and on Grahamstown itself.

Cory Library collections include:

- manuscripts and other documents
- Cape and other Government publications
- books, both rare and modern
- periodicals and newspapers
- maps
- pictorial materials
- microforms
- video and audio recordings
- digital records

The manuscript and archival collections include:

- personal documents such as diaries, autobiographies, family histories and farmers' diaries
- institutional collections of churches, local political and NGOs, business and professional bodies, service clubs and education institutions

THE MAIN COLLECTIONS

LOVEDALE COLLECTION

The Lovedale Collection was first deposited in Cory Library during 1961, by the Mission Council of the Free Church of Scotland. It covers the history of the Lovedale Missionary Institution and the Lovedale Press.

METHODIST CHURCH OF SOUTH AFRICA ARCHIVES

Cory Library is the official custodian of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa archives. Much of the material dates back to the early nineteenth century.

SIR GEORGE CORY SLIDES

270 lantern glass slides were made to accompany Cory's public lectures on Eastern Cape history and the 1820 Settler period of the Eastern Cape.

RHODES UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

The Rhodes University Archives is responsible for the preservation of the University's institutional memory, regardless of format.

GOLD FIELDS COLLECTION

Presented by Gold Fields of South Africa Ltd., This collection is the most complete collection of material on the mining history of South Africa.

ASSOCIATION OF ROUND TABLES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA (ARTSA)

The Cory Library has been the official custodian of the ARTSA archives since 1986.

Read more about Cory Library Collections
<http://www.ru.ac.za/corylibrary/collections>

SOME FAQs ANSWERED

WHO CAN USE THE LIBRARY?

The library is primarily for the use of Rhodes faculty and students. It is also open to visiting researchers, staff and students from other universities, as well as the general public. In fact, this reference and research library is open to any visitor to the University.

WHERE IS THE CORY LIBRARY?

We are situated on the ground floor of the Eden Grove Building, behind the Albany History Museum on Somerset St.

I KNOW THE BOOK IS IN CORY LIBRARY BUT I CAN'T FIND IT ON THE ONLINE CATALOGUE.

The Cory Library catalogue is on a separate database from the one at Rhodes Library. You can link to the Cory catalogue from the Rhodes Library catalogue home page under the heading **Search by collection**, or directly at <http://opac.seals.ac.za:81/search>

CAN I TAKE OUT BOOKS?

Yes. However, as this is a reference library, most of the material remains in the library so that it is always available to researchers.

CAN I MAKE PHOTOCOPIES?

There is a photocopier. You will have to load money on your card at the Rhodes Library.

CAN I USE A LAPTOP?

There are power points. Wireless connectivity is available to registered Rhodes University users.

WHEN ARE YOU OPEN?

For opening times and contact details, please take a look at the back of the brochure.