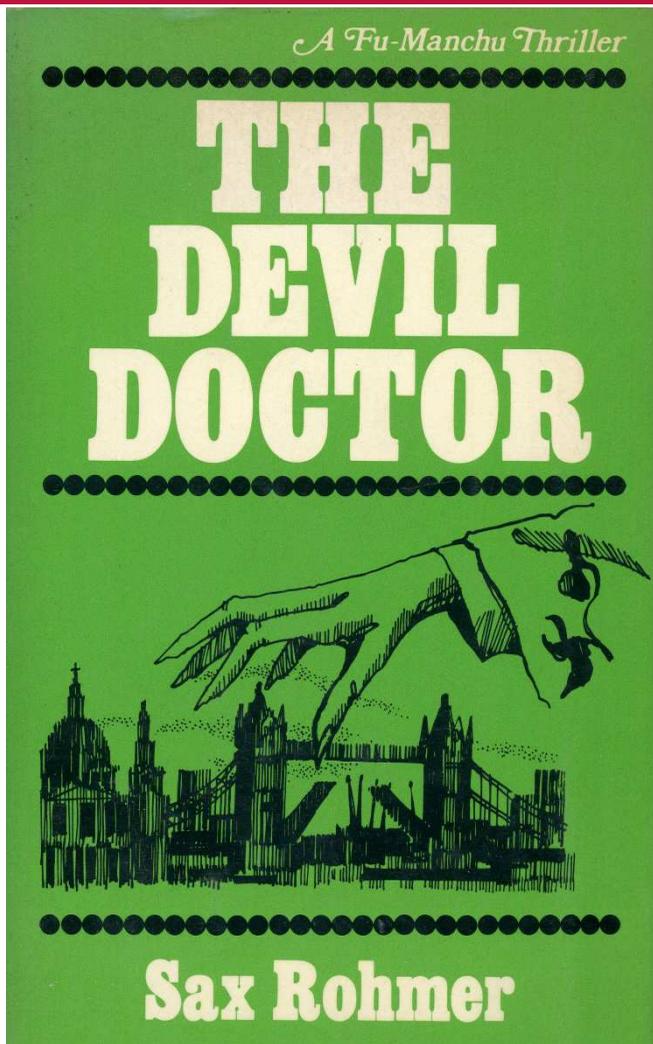
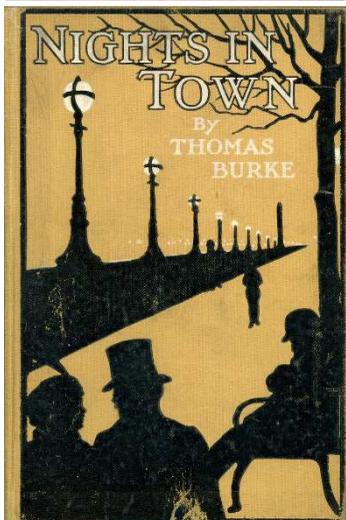
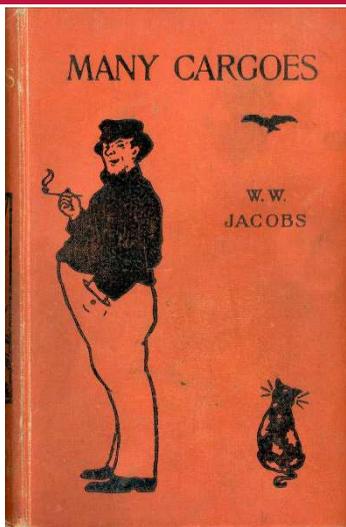


Local Authors and Literature

Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives



Tower Hamlets Local History Library & Archives holds an extensive collection of fiction and non-fiction books by writers who were born or lived in the borough. Some authors have only one or two publications, others have many. It also covers authors who wrote about the area in their fiction, for example Sax Rohmer. This guide gives a bit of background of the authors whose works are in the greatest quantities.

Clement Richard Attlee, first Earl Attlee (1883–1967),

Prime Minister, was born on 3 January 1883 at Westcott, in Putney, London. In 1905 he visited Stepney Boys' Club and in 1907 became their Resident Manager. His work in the East End led him to an interest in politics, he joined the Stepney branch of the Independent Labour Party in 1908. After serving in World War I he decided to enter politics. In 1919 he was co-opted as mayor of Stepney, and was then elected as an alderman in November 1920 by the other borough councillors, which meant a further five years in office. He was the MP for Limehouse from 1922 to February 1950. He served as Prime Minister from 1945 to 1951, and as the Leader of the Labour Party from 1935 to 1955.

It is from this period that most of the pamphlets and books that we hold written by Attlee come from. His work is mostly on political and social topics.

Fabian Tracts 1921-1929

Empire into Commonwealth the Chichele Lectures delivered at Oxford in May 1960

Labour's aims in war and peace 1940

Purpose and policy : selected speeches by the Rt. Hon. C.R. Attlee 1947

The Labour party in perspective 1937 and 1949

The social worker 1920

War comes to Britain, speeches of the Rt. Hon. C.R. Attlee, MP. 1940

The cry from the Street 1992



Samuel Augustus Barnett

(1844–1913) was a Church of England Clergyman and social reformer. He worked at St Jude's, Whitechapel in the late 19th century. He was interested in the education and social aspects of his parishioners' lives as well as their spiritual health. He founded Toynbee Hall in 1884 and helped to create the Whitechapel Art Gallery which opened in 1901. Barnett's connections with Whitechapel lasted throughout his life, though he returned to Bristol in 1893.

His works that the library holds reflect his interest in social reform

Perils of wealth and poverty 1920

Practical socialism : essays on social reform 1894

Towards social reform 1909

Worship and work : thoughts from the unpublished writings of the late Canon S.A. Barnett 1919

Matters that matter 1930

Vision and service : being sermons, papers, letters and aphorisms 1917



Walter Besant (1836-1901), was a writer and campaigner. He was born on 14 August 1836 at 3 St George's Square, Portsea. Besant wrote about social reform in the East End of London in his most famous novel, *All Sorts and Conditions of Men* (1882). He was also active in campaigning for sweatshop workers, the Ragged School Union, the London Hospital, and also worked to fund the building of the People's Palace. He continued to be involved in the People's Palace after it was built; he chaired the library committee, ran the literary club and edited the Palace's journal.

The Library holdings contain mostly his novels from the late 19th and early 20th century.

This son of Vulcan 1878

The seamy side 1880

The ten years' tenant 1881

All in a garden fair 1883

The golden butterfly 1885

Children of Gibeon 1886

Uncle Jack 1887

Herr Paulus 1888

For faith and freedom 1889

The bell of St Paul's 1889

With harp and crown 1890

The holy rose etc 1891

The revolt of man 1891

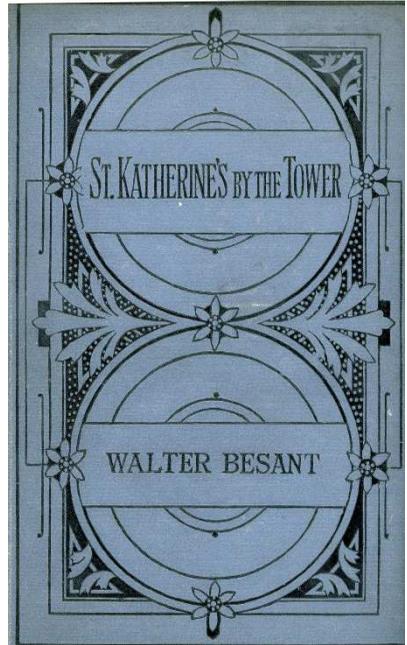
The world went very well then 1891

St Katerine's by the Tower 1892

The ivory gate 1893

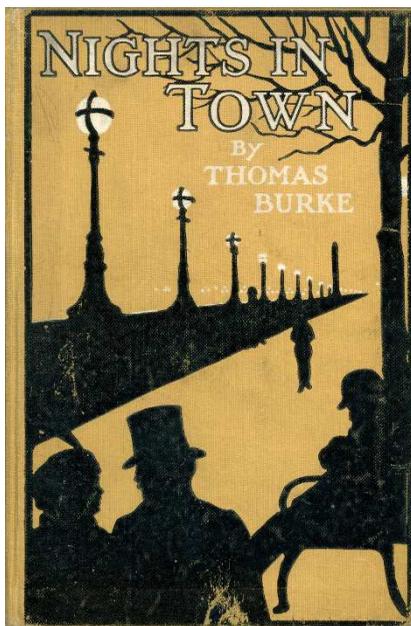
The case of Mr Lucraft and other tales 1892

A fountain sealed 1897
The master craftsman 1897
In deacon's orders, etc. 1897
The city of refuge 1897
The changeling 1898
All sorts and conditions of men 1898
The fourth generation 1900
The lady of Lynn 1901
The master craftsman 1901
A five year's tryst 1902
No other way 1902
Children of Gibeon 1903
To call her mine 1903
Be Cecilia's arbour 1904
Dorothy Foster 1910
The alabaster box 1911
The orange girl 1922
Ready-Money Mortiboy (undated)
The monks of Thelema (undated)
Amorel of Lyonesse (undated)



Thomas Burke (1887-1945)

was a writer who was most famous for his fictional stories about Limehouse Chinatown. He was born on 29 November 1886 in Clapham but after his father died was sent to live with his Uncle in Poplar, the setting for his most famous stories. When first published his books were banned because they depicted inter-racial relationships between white women and Chinese men. One story on this theme, given the rather unfortunate title, *The Chink and the Child*, was made into the highly successful film *Broken Blossoms* in 1919.



The library's collections focus on his stories about Limehouse:

Limehouse nights, tales of Chinatown 1917

Nights in town 1917

Twinkletoes a tale of Chinatown 1917

The song book of Quong Lee of Limehouse 1920

The wind and the rain a book of confessions 1924

East of Mansion House 1928

The sun in splendour a London comedy 1929

Whispering windows tales of the waterside 1921

The pleasantries of old Quong 1931

Billy and Beryl in Chinatown 1935

Dark nights 1944

The best stories of Thomas Burke 1950

W. W. Jacobs (1863-1943),

was born in Wapping on 8 September 1863. His childhood in Wapping was one that he recollected fondly as an adult. He became a writer in the late 1890s. He was famous for his short stories and wrote seven novels.

The Library holds the following works of fiction, mostly focusing on his stories about the sailors and the docks:

Many cargoes 1897

A master of craft 1901

Light freights 1902

The skipper's wooing and the brown man's servant 1904

Captains all 1905

Sea Urchins 1908

Sailors' knots 1909

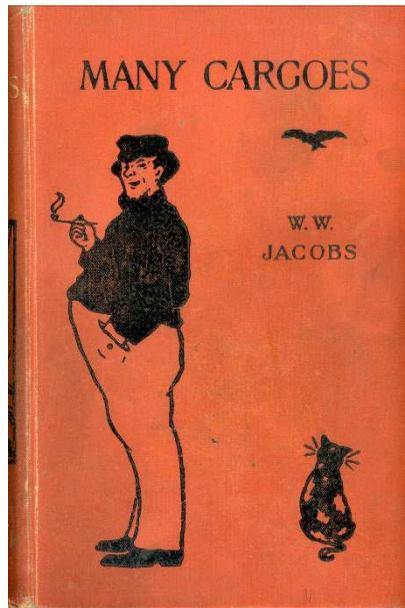
Ship's company 1911

Deep waters 1919

The castaways 1923

Sea whispers 1926

The night-watchman and other longshoremen 1932



Jerome K. Jerome (1859-1927), novelist and playwright, was born Jerome Clapp Jerome on 2 May 1859 at Bradford Street, Walsall, Staffordshire but moved to Poplar as a child where the family lived on Sussex Street. Jerome wrote plays, stories and novels as well as working as an editor. The library collection holds a selection of early editions of his fiction and non-fiction:

Diary of a pilgrimage and six essays 1891

John Ingerfiled and other stories 1894

Paul Kever 1902

All roads lead to Calvary 1919

The observation of Henry 1920

Sketches in lavender blue and green

Bernard Kops (1926-), was born 28 November 1926 in Stepney and educated at Stepney Jewish School. His first play, *The Hamlet of Stepney Green* (1959) has a local setting. His writing draws from his Jewish background. In addition to plays he also wrote poetry, novels and an autobiography as well as programmes for television including *It's a Lovely Day Tomorrow* about the Bethnal Green tube disaster.

The library has the following copies of his works.

Awake for mourning 1958

Poems and songs 1958

An anemone for Antigone 1959

The dream of Peter Mann 1960

Yes from no-man's land 1965

The dissent of Dominick Shapiro 1966

By the waters of Whitechapel 1969

For the record 1971

The passionate past of Gloria Gaye 1971

Settle down Simon Katz 1973

Arthur Morrison (1863-1945), writer and novelist, was born at 14 John Street, Poplar, in the East End of London, on 1 November 1863. Morrison worked for the charitable trust that administered the People's Palace, and was the sub-editor of the *Palace* journal, which he left in 1890 to join the staff of *The Globe*. His tales about the East End were collected and published as *Tales of the Mean Streets* in 1894. But it is his novel, *A child of the Jago* that he is most famous for. Most of his works in the library collection are later editions of his novels and stories but we also hold the original manuscript for *A child of the Jago* in the archive collections. Works held include:

To London town 1899

Divers Vanities 1905

The hole in the wall 1947

A child of the Jago 1967

Sax Rohmer (1883-1959) was the pen name of Arthur Henry Ward, writer, born in Ladywood, Birmingham, on 15 February 1883. He is most famous for his books on Fu Manchu which popularised the so-called Yellow Peril of Limehouse Chinatown. In addition to a collection of the '60s and '70s paperbacks of the Fu Manchu novels, the library also holds a series of letters between John Carroll and the Borough Librarian during 1972-1973 discussing the work.

The insidious Dr Fu Manchu 1961

The return of Fu Manchu 1961

The bride of Fu Manchu 1962

The mask of Fu Manchu 1962

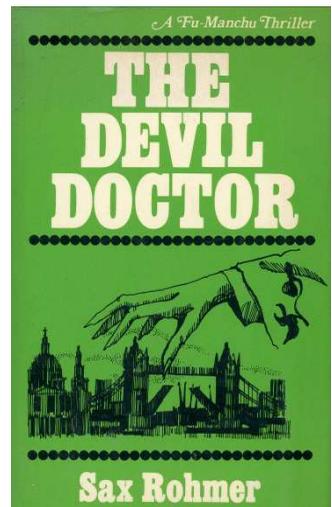
The hand of Fu Manchu 1962

Daughter of Fu Manchu 1964

The trial of Fu Manchu 1964

The golden scorpion 1972

President Fu Manchu 1973



The Devil Doctor 1973

Henry Major Tomlinson

(1873–1958) was a journalist and novelist, born at 41 Paynton Street, Poplar, London, on 21 June 1873. He grew up in Poplar and went to work for as a shipping clerk in the City.

The library collections hold many of his early twentieth century novels.

Waiting for daylight 1922

Old junk 1925

Under the red ensign 1926

Gallions Reach : a romance 1927

Tidemarks : some records of a journey to the beaches of the Moluccas and the forest of Malaya, in 1923 1928

Illusion : 1915 1929

Between the lines 1930

All our yesterdays 1930

Great sea stories of all nations 1930

Out of soundings 1931

The snows of Helicon 1933

South to Cadiz 1934

Mars his idiot 1935

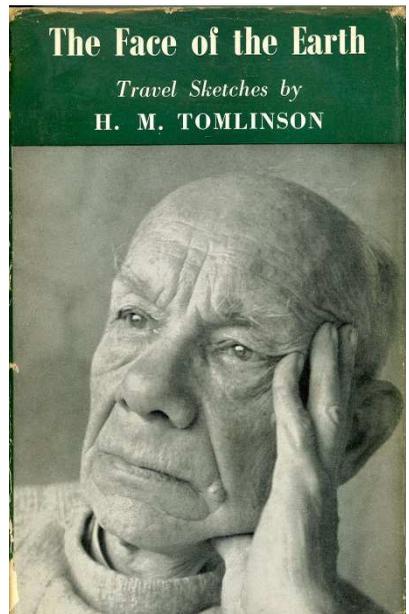
The day before : a romantic chronicle 1940

The wind is rising 1941

The turn of the tide 1945

Morning light : the islanders in the days of oak and hemp 1946

The haunted forest 1951



Israel Zangwill (1864-1926) writer and advocate of Jewish causes, was born on 21 January 1864 in Ebenezer Square, Whitechapel, London. He taught at the Jews' Free School, Bell Lane, Spitalfields until 1888 when he became a journalist on the newspaper the Jewish Standard. The Jewish Publication Society of America which commissioned him to write a Jewish novel, *Children of the Ghetto* (1892) which looked at the impoverished Jewish community.

The library collection holds many early editions of his novels and some of his plays.

The melting pot : a drama in four acts 1925

Speeches, articles and letters of Israel Zangwill 1937

The bachelors' club 1891

The big Bow mystery 1913

The celibates' club : being the united stories of the Bachelors' Club and the Old Maids' Club 1925

The old maids' club 1892

The voice of Jerusalem 1920

The grey wig : stories and novelettes 1920

The King of Schnorrers : a grotesques and fantasies 1925

The next religion : a play in three acts 1912

The war god : a tragedy in five acts ; The next religion : a play in three acts 1925

Without prejudice 1896

Ghetto comedies 1925

Jinny the carrier 1925

The premier and the painter : a fantastic romance 1889

They that walk in darkness : ghetto tragedies 1899

(Israel Zangwill books continued)

The forcing house, or, The cockpit continued 1925

The master 1925

The war for the world 1916

They that walk in darkness : ghetto tragedies 1925

Children of the ghetto : a study of a peculiar people 1899

Dreamers of the ghetto 1925

Italian fantasies 1910

Merely Mary Ann 1915

The cockpit : romantic drama in three acts 1925

The mantle of Elijah 1925

The principle of nationalities 1917