

# **BRITAIN'S LITERARY HERITAGE:**

**British Literary Manuscripts from  
the British Library, London**

**Series One**

**Part Two: Manuscripts selection from  
Additional Mss. 10306 - 30303**



*The Information Solutions Company*

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## **PUBLISHER'S NOTE**

Britain's Literary Heritage is making available a wide selection of literary manuscripts from the British Library. As the first series in this far-reaching programme Harvester Microform is offering generous coverage of the sixteenth and seventeenth century manuscripts in the Sloane and Additional series, which form the most extensive literary sources within the British Library.

We have attempted to employ the broadest possible criteria for selection. Our principal focus has been on creative literary forms, be they poetry, drama or prose. Purely in chronological terms this a project of enormous range. It also represents the variety of literary compositions during this period. It features the major authors and the most important texts, but also includes many works by lesser-known and anonymous writers.

This first series from the British Library consists of literary manuscripts from the Tudor period to the Restoration. It is divided into three parts: Part One contains manuscripts selected from Sloane Manuscripts 20-3943 and Additional Manuscripts 4228-10305; this second part includes material from Additional 4128-10305; the second part includes material from Additional Manuscripts 10306-30303; and Part Three completes the series with a selection from Additional Manuscripts 30982-61841.

Part Two includes literary documents from both the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, ranging from a manuscript of John Donne's elegies and sonnets to an autograph letter by John Dryden on the subject of his own poetry. As in Parts One and Three the inclusion of material by lesser-known authors ensures that wide range of literary achievement is represented. Jests, stories and alchemical verses appear alongside the more distinguished works to provide a revealing and uncanonical picture of Renaissance writing.

In addition to this manuscripts material Harvester Microform is providing informative aids to use, both on film and in the accompanying Guide. Scholars will be aware of the existing multi-volume catalogue of the British Library Additional Manuscripts which begins at Add Ms 4128. However, there is no printed catalogue available for the earliest manuscripts in the series, or for the most recently deposited manuscripts. To aid the user we have therefore typed up existing manuscripts entries from the British Library's handwritten Sloane catalogue (for the earlier items) and from the "Rough Registers" (for the later items). Sloane manuscripts form the greater part of Part One and for the sake of completeness we therefore provide descriptive entries for all items in Part One as Appendix 1 of the Guide. Appendix 2 contains descriptive entries for the small number of manuscripts most recently deposited taken from the "Rough Registers". As a further aid to user we have reproduced these on Reel One of the film, together with all descriptive entries from the printed catalogue. For ease of reference the appropriate catalogue entries are also reproduces at the beginning of each reel.

BRITISH LITERARY MANUSCRIPTS  
FROM THE BRITISH LIBRARY, LONDON

Series One: The English Renaissance:  
Literature from the Tudor period to  
the Restoration, c.1500-c.1700

PART TWO: Manuscripts selected from  
Additional MSS. 10306-30303 (Reels 19-36)

CONTENTS OF REELS

REEL NINETEEN

Additional MSS. 10306, 10307, 10308, 10309

REEL TWENTY

Additional MSS. 10310, 10311, 10312, 10419, 10420, 10422,  
10434

REEL TWENTY ONE

Additional MSS. 10449, 11503, 11743, 11744, 11811, 11812

REEL TWENTY TWO

Additional MSS. 12047, 12048, 12049

REEL TWENTY THREE

Additional MSS. 12067, 12112, 14047

REEL TWENTY FOUR

Additional MSS. 14824, 14825, 14826

REEL TWENTY FIVE

Additional MSS. 15225, 15226, 15227, 15228, 15232, 15233

REEL TWENTY SIX

Additional MSS. 17492, 18220, 18638, 18647

REEL TWENTY SEVEN

Additional MSS. 18653, 18920

REEL TWENTY EIGHT

Additional MSS. 19255, 19268

REEL TWENTY NINE

Additional MSS. 19333, 19863, 19864, 21433, 22147, 22309

REEL THIRTY

Additional MSS. 22472, 22583, 22601, 22602, 22603, 22725

REEL THIRTY ONE

Additional MSS. 23229, 23722, 24195, 24667, 24848

REEL THIRTY TWO

Additional MSS. 25303, 25304, 25348, 25707, 26782

REEL THIRTY THREE

Additional MSS. 27406, 27407, 27408, 27632

REEL THIRTY FOUR

Additional MSS. 27945, 28095, 28253, 28504, 28636

REEL THIRTY FIVE

Additional MSS. 28637, 28641, 28644, 28692, 28693, 28839,  
29280

REEL THIRTY SIX

Additional MSS. 29494, 29495, 29496, 29607, 29921, 29982,  
30259, 30303