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Resources for family historians in the Huguenot Library

This sheet gives information about some of the resources which family historians visiting the Huguenot Library can use to investigate a possible Huguenot link. Other researchers interested in specific families or individuals may also find some of these useful.

Three points should be noted before consulting these sources:

- The appearance of a name in the sources does not necessarily mean the bearer was a Huguenot.
- It is recommended that family historians trace their family back to at least 1800 if possible, as many Huguenot records cease during the late eighteenth century.
- The Library is unable to carry out research on behalf of enquirers, but can do preliminary checks before a visit to see if a surname is indexed in the main sources listed below.

Quarto Series (QS)

This is the name given to the series of volumes, published from 1887 onwards by the Huguenot Society of Great Britain and Ireland (formerly Huguenot Society of London), of primary sources which have been transcribed and edited. They consist mainly of all extant registers for the Huguenot churches, but also include details of the inmates of the French Hospital up to 1957,¹ sources relating to denization and naturalization (these cover foreigners of all nationalities residing in Britain, not just Huguenots),² abstracts of many wills made by those of Huguenot descent,³ and additional church records.

Each individual volume is indexed and there is also a surname index on CD-ROM of volumes 1-61, published by the Society of Australian Genealogists (SAG). Many of the QS volumes have been digitized and the full text of these can be searched by visitors to the Library.

Limitations

There are inconsistencies in the indexing of earlier volumes, with varying levels of detail provided. The SAG surname index is not comprehensive for all the volumes. Full text searches are possible only on the digitized volumes and there are sometimes problems with faulty OCR during the digitization process. Any search needs to consider the many variant spellings of surnames and other words in the period covered.

Proceedings

Since 1885, the Huguenot Society has published a journal annually under varying titles (*Proceedings of the Huguenot Society of London* (1885-1986), *Proceedings of the Huguenot Society of Great Britain and Ireland* (1987-2012), *Huguenot Society Journal* (2013-)). Each issue contains articles and notes on all aspects of Huguenot history, including information on individuals and families which family historians may

¹ QS Volumes 52 and 53

² QS Volumes 8, 10, 18, 27, 35, 57

³ QS Volume 60

find useful. The journal also contains reports of the activities of the Huguenot Society, including lists of new members.

The Proceedings have been digitized, and the full text of these can be searched by visitors to the Library. They are also available online to Fellows of the Society. The New General Index provides a subject and name index, focusing on 1988-2007, although with some earlier entries.

Limitations

Authors in earlier volumes do not always give the sources from which they have derived information. Searching across the digitized volumes can sometimes encounter problems with faulty OCR during the digitization process.

Wagner Pedigrees

Henry Wagner (1840-1926) researched around 900 names with Huguenot connections over a period of half a century, and the resulting pedigrees and associated notes are held in the Huguenot Library archives. The pedigrees for some families were published in *Proceedings*, but most of them remain (in various states of completion) in manuscript form. A list of families can be found on the [Family History](#) page.

Limitations

Users should be aware that the contents of the pedigrees vary enormously – some are fully researched and contain substantial amounts of material while others remain in note form only and consist of a couple of pages.

Family Research Files

These contain reports of former Research Officers of the Huguenot Society of Great Britain and Ireland drawn up in response to commissions and other research carried out privately and deposited in the Library. A list of families can be found on the [Family History](#) page.

Limitations

Particular care should be taken when using these sources, as Library policy is not to monitor the accuracy of materials deposited. In some cases file contents simply record that research was carried out into the name but no Huguenot link was found, so users should also be aware that the existence of a file does not necessarily indicate a Huguenot connection or even that useful information is held. Some files may also be subject to data protection restrictions.

Other sources: printed

The above resources are those which are checked by the Library for an enquirer, as these are the most comprehensive sources of information. Family historians may wish to investigate additional references once they progress further in their research.

Huguenot Families is a journal published by the Huguenot Society of Great Britain and Ireland between 1999 and 2009 focussing specifically on Huguenot genealogical research. A full set is available in the Library (both in hard copy and electronic form). A CD-ROM of all twenty issues can be purchased from the Society.

The following works contain information on the more prominent Huguenot families:

Agnew, D. C. A., *Protestant exiles from France, chiefly in the reign of Louis XIV: or, The Huguenot refugees and their descendants in Great Britain and Ireland*, 3rd ed. (Edinburgh, 1886).

Haag, E. and E., *La France Protestante*, 2nd ed. (Paris, 1877-1888).

There are also published biographies and family histories, which can be found by searching the UCL Library catalogue **Explore**. This covers all UCL's libraries and also electronic material to which UCL users have access. To restrict your search to Huguenot Library material only:

- 1) add 'Huguenot' as one of your search terms. For example:
 - To search for books in the Huguenot Library on Portarlington, type in 'Huguenot' and 'Portarlington'
 - To search for books on your family surname (eg. Mercier), type in 'Huguenot' and 'Mercier'
 - To search for books in the Huguenot Library by a particular author (eg. Robin Gwynn), type in 'Huguenot' and 'Robin Gwynn'

- 2) When the results list appears, on the left-hand side there is an option to 'Refine my results'. Use the option 'Show only Physical items' to remove online material from the results, since such online material is not normally accessible to Huguenot Library readers.

For more precise searching of **Explore**, an 'Advanced search' option is available next to the main search box. The drop down options on the left of the screen allow to specify, for instance, if your search term should appear in the title or the author's name. You can also use the facility on the right hand side of the page to narrow your search by date or by language.

Other sources: archival material

The Archive contains sources which may possibly be useful to family historians, such as pedigrees and coats-of-arms.⁴ There are also collections of family papers. The Archive catalogue has been published in three volumes:

- **Smith, R.**, *Records of the Royal Bounty and connected funds, the Burn Donation, and the Savoy Church in the Huguenot Library, University College, London*, (Quarto Series volume 51), London: Huguenot Society of London, 1974.
- **Gray, I. E.**, *Huguenot Manuscripts: a descriptive catalogue of the remaining manuscripts in the Huguenot Library*, (Quarto Series volume 56), London: Huguenot Society of London, 1983.
- **Harcourt Williams, M.**, *Huguenot archives: a further catalogue of material held in the Huguenot Library*, (Quarto Series volume 61), London: Huguenot Society of Great Britain and Ireland, 2008.

An online version of the Archive catalogue is available through **Explore**.

⁴ For a list, see: **Harcourt Williams, M.**, 'Coats of Arms and Pedigrees', *Huguenot Families*, 11, 2004, pp. 21-27 or Quarto Series, 61, pp. 48-51.