

The RCP collections and people with links to the UK eugenics movement

This list includes people with links to the UK eugenics movement who feature in the RCP collections.

Name	Summary	Link to RCP collections	Source
Sir James Barr (1849-1938)	Barr was an associate member of the UK Eugenics Society in 1908 and vice-president in 1911.	Fellow, entry in obituary series Letter ALS/B79 in archives Portrait X46 in museum	Wellcome collection, Eugenics Society papers RCP museum and archives catalogue RCP obituary series entry
Thomas Izod Bennett (1887-1946)	Bennett was an associate member of the UK Eugenics Society in 1908.	Fellow, entry in obituary series Letter ALS/B143 in archives	Wellcome collection, Eugenics Society papers RCP museum and archives catalogue RCP obituary series entry
Henry Havelock Ellis (1859-1939)	Ellis was an associate member of the UK Eugenics Society in 1908 and vice-president in 1911.	Fellow, entry in obituary series Portraits X232, X259 in museum	Wellcome collection, Eugenics Society papers RCP museum and archives catalogue RCP obituary series entry
William Gordon (1863-1929)	Gordon was an associate member of the UK Eugenics Society in 1908.	Fellow, entry in obituary series Letter MS2434/239 in archives	Wellcome collection, Eugenics Society papers RCP museum and archives catalogue RCP obituary series entry

Name	Summary	Link to RCP collections	Source
Thomas Crawford Hayes (1843-1909)	Hayes was an associate member of the UK Eugenics Society in 1908.	Fellow, entry in obituary series Letters ALS/H110-2 in archives Silver salver donated by widow X415 in museum	Wellcome collection, Eugenics Society papers RCP museum and archives catalogue RCP obituary series entry
George Ernest Herman (1849-1914)	Herman was an associate member of the UK Eugenics Society in 1908 and vice-president in 1911.	Fellow, entry in obituary series Letter ALS/H141 in archives Photo PH4669 in museum	Wellcome collection, Eugenics Society papers RCP museum and archives catalogue RCP obituary series entry
Wilfred James Hadley (1862-1944)	Hadley was an associate member of the UK Eugenics Society in 1908 and vice-president in 1911	Fellow, entry in obituary series Letter ALS/D448 in archives	Wellcome collection, Eugenics Society papers RCP museum and archives catalogue RCP obituary series entry
Bertrand Edward Dawson, Lord Dawson of Penn (1864-1945)	Dawson was an associate member of the UK Eugenics Society in 1908 and the chair of the RCP voluntary sterilisation committee in 1934, 1938.	Fellow, president, entry in obituary series Committee records MS5074-5, letters ALS/D39-45, various official records, in archives Photo PH4583, portrait X146, print PR4782, silver bell donated by Dawson X317, silver cup donated by wife X1049, in museum	Wellcome collection, Eugenics Society papers RCP museum and archives catalogue RCP obituary series entry
Sir Frederick Walker Mott (1853-1926)	Mott was a council member of the UK Eugenics Society in 1911.	Fellow, examiner, entry in obituary series Letters ALS/M222-3, MS799, MS1012/23, MS1024/9, in archives Photo PH4685, silver salver donated by Mott X336, in museum	Wellcome collection, Eugenics Society papers RCP museum and archives catalogue RCP obituary series entry

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Robert Alexander Gibbons (1854-1934)	Gibbons was a council member of the UK Eugenics Society in 1930-1.	Fellow, entry in obituary series	Wellcome collection, Eugenics Society papers RCP obituary series entry
John Alfred Ryle (1889-1950)	Ryle was a council member of the UK Eugenics Society in 1930-1 and a member of the RCP voluntary sterilisation committee in 1938.	Fellow, entry in obituary series Committee records MS5074-5, Letters MS2434/157, ALS/B82, in archives	Wellcome collection, Eugenics Society papers RCP museum and archives catalogue RCP obituary series entry
Edmund Briscoe Ford (1901-1986)	Ford was a council member of the UK Eugenics Society in 1933-4.	Fellow, entry in obituary series	Wellcome collection, Eugenics Society papers RCP obituary series entry
Robert Dick Gillespie (1897-1945)	Gillespie was a council member of the UK Eugenics Society in 1933-4.	Fellow, entry in obituary series Letter ALS/G55 in archives	Wellcome collection, Eugenics Society papers RCP museum and archives catalogue RCP obituary series entry
Sir Aubrey Julian Lewis (1900-1975)	Lewis was a council member of the UK Eugenics Society 1933-50 and a member of the RCP voluntary sterilisation committee in 1938.	Fellow, entry in obituary series Committee records MS5074-5, report MS5955/9, in archives	Wellcome collection, Eugenics Society papers RCP museum and archives catalogue RCP obituary series entry
John Alexander Fraser Roberts (1899-1987)	Roberts was a council member of the UK Eugenics Society 1933-57.	Fellow, entry in obituary series	Wellcome collection, Eugenics Society papers RCP obituary series entry

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Sir Humphry Davy Rolleston (1862-1944)	Rolleston was president of the UK Eugenics Society 1933-5.	Fellow, president, entry in obituary series Manuscript MS526, various letters, in archives Photos PH4688, PH4715, print PR2257, silver rose bowl donated by Rolleston X322, in museum	Wellcome collection, Eugenics Society papers RCP museum and archives catalogue RCP obituary series entry
Sir Walter Langdon-Brown (1870-1946)	Langdon-Brown was a member of the RCP voluntary sterilisation committee in 1934 and 1938.	Fellow, entry in obituary series Committee records MS5074-5, letter ALS/L11, various records of eponymous lecture, in archives Photo PH4668, silver cigar lighter inscribed with name X2003 inscribed with name, in museum	RCP museum and archives catalogue RCP obituary series entry
Sir Maurice Craig (1866-1935)	Craig was a member of the RCP voluntary sterilisation committee in 1934.	Fellow, entry in obituary series Committee records MS5074-5 in archives	RCP museum and archives catalogue RCP obituary series entry
John Prescott Hedley (1876-1957)	Hedley was a member of the RCP voluntary sterilisation committee in 1934.	Fellow, entry in obituary series Committee records MS5074-5 in archives	RCP museum and archives catalogue RCP obituary series entry
Charles Edward Newman (1900-1989)	Newman was a member of the RCP voluntary sterilisation committee in 1934.	Fellow, officer, entry in obituary series Committee records MS5074-5, various official records, in archives Silver medicine spoon donated by wife X2002 in museum	RCP museum and archives catalogue RCP obituary series entry

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Lord Thomas Jeeves Horder Baron Horder of Ashford (1871-1955)	Horder was president of the UK Eugenics Society 1935-49.	Fellow, entry in obituary series Letters ALS/H213-5 in archives Medal awarded to him, donated by family X522, medal struck in memory X450, sculpture X41, in museum	Wellcome collection, Eugenics Society papers RCP museum and archives catalogue RCP obituary series entry
Edward Alfred Cockayne (1880-1956)	Cockayne was a member of the RCP voluntary sterilisation committee in 1938.	Fellow, entry in obituary series Committee records MS5074-5, personal collection MS203-5, in archives	RCP museum and archives catalogue RCP obituary series entry
Sir John Josias Conybeare (1888-1967)	Conybeare was a member of the RCP voluntary sterilisation committee in 1938.	Fellow, entry in obituary series Committee records MS5074-5, personal collection MS11, in archives KBE insignia & 7 war medals, portrait X161, in museum	RCP museum and archives catalogue RCP obituary series entry
Edmund Walter Neill Hobhouse (1888-1974)	Hobhouse was a member of the RCP voluntary sterilisation committee in 1938.	Fellow, entry in obituary series Committee records MS5074-5 in archives	RCP museum and archives catalogue RCP obituary series entry
Sir Eardley Launcelot Holland (1879-1967)	Holland was a member of the RCP voluntary sterilisation committee in 1938.	Fellow, entry in obituary series Committee records MS5074-5 in archives Photo PH14811[25] in museum	RCP museum and archives catalogue RCP obituary series entry
Reginald Charles Jewesbury (1878-1971)	Jewesbury was a member of the RCP voluntary sterilisation committee in 1938.	Fellow, entry in obituary series Committee records MS5074-5 in archives	RCP museum and archives catalogue RCP obituary series entry

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Reginald Hilton (1895-1969)	Hilton was a member of the RCP voluntary sterilisation committee in 1938.	Fellow, entry in obituary series Committee records MS5074-5 in archives Bronze medal donated by Hilton X550 in museum	RCP museum and archives catalogue RCP obituary series entry
Lord Walter Russell Brain Baron of Eynsham (1895-1966)	Brain was a member of the UK Eugenics Society 1949-50.	Fellow, president, entry in obituary series Personal collection in archives Medals awarded to Brain, portrait X189, Sculpture X156, in museum	Wellcome collection, Eugenics Society papers RCP museum and archives catalogue RCP obituary series entry
Carlos Paton Blacker (1895-1975)	Blacker was secretary to the UK Eugenics Society and a council member in 1957. He was a member of the RCP voluntary sterilisation committee in 1938.	Fellow, entry in obituary series Committee records MS5074-5, WWII eugenics report MS5955/3, in archives	Wellcome collection, Eugenics Society papers RCP museum and archives catalogue RCP obituary series entry
Cedric Oswald Carter (1917-1984)	Carter was a council member of the UK Eugenics Society in 1957 and a supporter of positive eugenics.	Fellow, entry in obituary series	Wellcome collection, Eugenics Society papers Inspiring Physicians entry
Sir Edward Charles Dodds (1899-1973)	Dodds was a council member of the UK Eugenics Society in 1957.	Fellow, president, entry in obituary series Personal collection in archives Medal collection donated by Dodds, portrait X64, in museum	Wellcome collection, Eugenics Society papers RCP museum and archives catalogue RCP obituary series entry
Sir Arthur William Mickle Ellis (1883-1966)	Ellis was a council member of the UK Eugenics Society in 1957.	Fellow, entry in obituary series	Wellcome collection, Eugenics Society papers RCP obituary series entry

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Lady Hilda Lewis (1900-1966)	Lewis was a council member of the UK Eugenics Society in 1957 and represented the society on international committees.	Fellow, entry in obituary series	Wellcome collection, Eugenics Society papers RCP obituary series entry
Alexander Mills Kennedy (1885-1960)	Kennedy was a council member of the UK Eugenics Society in 1957.	Fellow, entry in obituary series	Wellcome collection, Eugenics Society papers RCP obituary series entry
Christopher Ounsted (1921-1992)	Ounsted was a council member of the UK Eugenics Society in 1957.	Fellow, entry in obituary series	Wellcome collection, Eugenics Society papers RCP obituary series entry
Sir John Peter Mills Tizard (1916-1993)	Tizard was a council member of the UK Eugenics Society in 1957.	Fellow, entry in obituary series	Wellcome collection, Eugenics Society papers RCP obituary series entry
Roger Francis Tredgold (1911-1975)	Tredgold was a council member of the UK Eugenics Society in 1957.	Fellow, entry in obituary series	Wellcome collection, Eugenics Society papers RCP obituary series entry
Lord Robert Platt Baron Platt of Grindleford (1900-1978)	Platt was president of the UK Eugenics Society in 1965-8.	Fellow, president, entry in obituary series Various official records in archives Portrait X163, silver basin given by Platt X1014, in museum	Wellcome collection, Eugenics Society papers RCP museum and archives catalogue RCP obituary series entry
James Mourilyan Tanner (1920-2010)	Tanner was a member of the UK Eugenics Society.	Fellow, entry in obituary series	Wellcome collection, Eugenics Society papers RCP obituary series entry

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Leonard Arthur (1926-1983)	Arthur was a member of the UK Eugenics Society.	Fellow, entry in obituary series	Wellcome collection, Eugenics Society papers RCP obituary series entry
Robert Cavil Wofinden (1914-1975)	Wofinden was elected an honorary member of the UK Eugenics Society due to his published work.	Fellow, entry in obituary series	RCP obituary series entry
Julia Bell (1879-1979)	Bell was a Galton Research Fellow and lifelong member of staff at the Galton Laboratory.	Fellow, entry in obituary series	RCP obituary series entry
Lionel Sharples Penrose (1898-1972)	Penrose was Galton professor of Eugenics at UCL 1945-65. The main Galton laboratory eugenics research happened pre WWII. He oversaw a change in research focus and had the name changed to Human Genetics in 1963.	Fellow, entry in obituary series	RCP obituary series entry
Harry Harris (1919-1994)	Harris was Galton professor of Human Genetics (formerly Eugenics) at UCL 1965-76. The main Galton laboratory eugenics research happened pre WWII.	Fellow, entry in obituary series	RCP obituary series entry

Information about the collection items and individuals referenced above can be found in the following places:

- > Library catalogue
- > Archive and museum catalogue
- > Inspiring Physicians obituary series
- > History website

Project scope

It is often difficult to source information about historic collections or individuals that have not previously been written widely about. In Spring 2023 a scoping exercise into eugenics history within the RCP historic collections set criteria for the depth to which links to eugenics would be investigated. These criteria were set to allow productive work to be completed within the resources available. Without the resources for in-depth original research, the Archive, Heritage Library and Museum services team is currently reliant on records within the collections, previously published online content and primary sources in the Wellcome Trust. As such, the work carried out here is not a comprehensive investigation into all eugenics links to the RCP collections.

Several criteria were determined to shape the investigations:

- > Collections that depict or have strong links to an individual (eg donor, author) would be flagged as having links to UK eugenics if that individual is featured in the sources mentioned above. Usually their current biographies do not mention eugenics.
- > Where biographical content currently references eugenics links, no additions will be made to the published text.
- > Individuals active primarily 1844-1989* were investigated for links to the UK eugenics movement. This date range was selected as being inclusive of the period of widespread scientific and societal activity in the UK. Although family links are still possible and the impact of Eugenics continues to be felt to this day, it is unlikely that links with individuals fitting the first criteria outside these dates would be found, within current resourcing for research.

* In 1989, the UK Eugenics Society changed its name to the Galton Institute and in 2021 to the Adelphi Genetics Forum. It rejects both the traditional theoretical basis of eugenics and coercive eugenics practices. ([Wikipedia entry](#))

Other individuals with an individual or direct connection to the UK eugenics movement, and who do not feature in the sources listed above, may be added from other sources as appropriate, as may individuals who were directly impacted by its activities, if they feature within the collections. If we receive enquiries highlighting links to eugenics in the collections that have not previously been identified, these will be dealt with in the same way that any other factual amendments would be, i.e. any relevant records or information will be updated based on evidence. You can contact us on history@rcp.ac.uk.

See the 'Our values' page [here](#) for more information about what how we are using the information contained in this document and about the wider project.

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