Ladybird Heritage Network

Ladybird Books Resource: History

The Ladybird Books Archive collection, owned by Ladybird Books, contains 20,000 original artworks, production proofs and documentation.

It forms part of the University of Reading's Archive of British Publishing and Printing, which is officially designated as an Outstanding Collection.

All loans are subject to approval and agreement by both parties, ensuring venues meet required environmental conditions.

In addition to artworks, Ladybird Books will include one marketing image (for venue's use only) to accompany capsule collection loans.

To find out more, please email specialcollections@reading.ac.uk

Ladybird Books Resource: History

- *Adventures from History* was the largest Ladybird Series.
- There are 49 titles, which were published between 1956 and 1978.
- The first 23 were written by Lawrence du Garde Peach and illustrated by John Kenney.
- John Theodore Eardley Kenney was born in 1911 and died in 1972.
- An alumnus of Leicester College of Art, Kenney illustrated 31 Ladybird Books between 1954 and his death in 1972.
- Kenney employed a distinctive, impasto style and due to his eyesight often worked on large boards that were scaled down for the books.

Please note that some artworks may not be available due to previous exhibitions / light exposure

Artworks:

- An early settlement, *Stone Age Man in Britain*, 1961
- Mary is angry with Elizabeth, *The Story of the First Queen Elizabeth*, 1958
- The coronation of Queen Elizabeth I, *The Story of the First Queen Elizabeth*, 1958
- Signing the Magna Carta, *King John and the Magna Carta*, 1969
- Napoleon with a cannon, *The Story of Napoleon*, 1968
- Burning houses between the Humber and the Tees, *William the Conqueror*, 1956
- Suetonius and Agricola, *Julius Caesar and Roman Britain*, 1959
- An unruly audience, *Charles Dickens*, 1965

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