

G. K. Chesterton

A Mount Angel Abbey Library Subject Guide

Thanks especially to the donations of Joseph Sprug and Archbishop Robert Dwyer, Mount Angel Abbey Library has a large collection of materials by and about Gilbert Keith Chesterton. What follows is a guide to this collection and to research on Chesterton.

Most of these materials can be found on the lowest floor of the library, in the Chesterton section (PR 4453).

Gilbert Keith (G.K.) Chesterton (1874-1936) was an English writer, literary critic and author of the Father Brown detective stories. He was born in London and educated at St. Paul's School before studying art at the Slade. But art was always secondary to letters. He wrote regular articles for many newspapers and magazines, took over the New Witness on the death of his brother, Cecil, in 1918 and revived it as G.K.'s Weekly in 1924. He was a man of much geniality but he had a strong antipathy for the squalor of industrialism and disliked both capitalism and socialism, yearning, like his great friend Hilaire Belloc (whose books he amusingly illustrated), for a return to the distributivist economics of the Middle Ages. He sought to undermine secularism with an apologia that took religion as the guide and goal of all thought and action. He found sanity and creativity in a God-centered, not man-centered, universe; in an informed heart, not in rationalism or irrationalism. His 111 books (with about a dozen pamphlets) including essays, poetry, novels, and literary, social and religious studies (he converted to Roman Catholicism in 1922), reveal his tremendous energy, robust humor and mastery of paradox.

Books by Chesterton

This is a relatively small sampling of what is available. Look in the online catalog for specific location and call number information or click on the titles that have links.

- Novels:
 - The Man Who Was Thursday
 - The Ball and the Cross
 - The Return of Don Quixote
- Short Fiction and Poetry:
 - the Father Brown stories
 - The Queen of Seven Swords, Wine, Water and Song
- Nonfiction:
 - Orthodoxy
 - What's Wrong With the World
 - St. Thomas Aquinas
 - Charles Dickens
 - Where all Roads Lead, The Spice of Life.

The Autobiography of G. K. Chesterton. New York: Sheed and Ward, 1936. (PR4453 .C4 A8 1936)

The Collected Works of G.K. Chesterton. San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1986. Many volumes.
(PR4453 .C4 1986)

G.K.'s Weekly, a Sampler. Ed. Lyle W. Dorsett. Chicago: Loyola University Press, 1986. Thirty issues of the journal published by Chesterton from 1925 to 1936. (PR4453 .C4 A16 Z6474 1986)

The Man Who Was Orthodox : a Selection from the Uncollected Writings of G.K. Chesterton. Arranged and introduced by A.L. Maycock. London: P. Dobson, 1963. (PR4453 .C4 A16 M36 1963)

Books and Resources about Chesterton

Index and Bibliography

Sprug, Joseph W. An Index to G.K. Chesterton. Washington, D.C.: Catholic University of America Press, 1966. (PR4453 .C4 Z76 1966)

Sullivan, John. G.K. Chesterton: A Bibliography. Westport, Connecticut: Greenwood Press, 1974. (Originally published: 1958) (PR4452 .C4 Z5 S81 1974)

Sullivan, John. Chesterton Continued: A Bibliographical Supplement. New York: Barnes & Noble, Inc., 1969. (PR4453 .C4 Z5 S82 1969)

Books about Chesterton

Conlon, D.J. G.K. Chesterton: a Half Century of Views. New York: Oxford UP, 1987. (PR4453 .C4 Z64625 1987)

Coren, Michael. Gilbert, the Man Who Was G.K. Chesterton. New York: Paragon, 1990. (PR4453 .C4 Z5 C6 1990)

Dale, Alzina Stone. The Outline of Sanity: a Biography of G.K. Chesterton. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1982. (PR4453 .C4 Z588 1982)

Ffinch, Michael. G. K. Chesterton. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1987. (PR4453 .C4 Z63 1987)

Kenner, Hugh. Paradox in Chesterton. New York: Sheed and Ward, 1947. (PR4453 .C4 Z5 K4 1947)

Lauer, Quentin. G. K. Chesterton: Philosopher Without Portfolio. New York: Fordham UP, 1991. (PR4453 .C4 Z5 L38 1991)

Ward, Maisie. Gilbert Keith Chesterton. New York: Sheed and Ward, 1943. (PR4453 .C4 Z5 W32 1943)

Wills, Garry. Chesterton, Man and Mask. New York: Sheed and Ward, 1961. (PR4453 .C4 Z5 W5 1961)

Selected Articles about Chesterton

Blackstock, Alan. "Redeeming the fallen giants : Chesterton on Newman, Carlyle, and Ruskin." Religion & Literature :36(2): 25-49.

Boyd, Ian. "Finding a Safe Place." Canadian Catholic Review 12: 9-10 (Feb. 1994)

Body, Ian. "No Limits for GKC." Tablet 249: 1252-1254 (Sept 30 1995)

Elkink, Deb. "Genius with a Message." Christian History 21(3):23

Elshtain, Jean Bethke. "G.K. Chesterton, a Curmudgeon for our Time." New Oxford Review 61: 16-17 (Mar 1994)

Hitchcock, James. "Apologists -- With Angst and Without." Crisis 14: 34-38 (March 1996)

Isley, William L. "Knowledge and Mystery in Chesterton's The Man Who Was Thursday." Christianity and Literature 42: 279-294 (Winter 1993)

Myers, Rawley. "The Great GKC." Homiletic and Pastoral Review 95: 70-72 (Aug-Sept 1995)

Zaleski, Carol "Generation GK." Christian Century 118(21): 30

Journals and Internet Resources

The Chesterton Review, located with the other journals on the top floor at the north end of the library.

There is a home page for the American Chesterton Society, (www.chesterton.org) whose mission is to "extend the influence of G.K. Chesterton by promoting an interest in his writings, primarily among a new generation of readers unfamiliar with the man and his work."