



## The Anthony Davis Book Collecting Prize: Procedures and Rules

The prize is offered by UCL Special Collections to any student studying for a degree at a University in London for a coherent collection of printed and/or manuscript materials. Its purpose is to encourage collectors among London's student body who are at an early stage of collecting books, printed materials, and/or manuscripts.

1. All current undergraduates and postgraduates studying for a degree at a London-based University, both part-time and full-time, are eligible to enter for the prize. The collection they enter must be owned and collected solely by them and must contain no fewer than 8 printed and/or manuscript items with a common theme. The items may be in any printed or manuscript formats, exclusively or in combination e.g. exclusively printed books or printed ephemera or manuscript letters, or a combination of these. It is possible to enter the prize more than once but it will not be awarded twice to the same person(s).

### 2. The prize

- £600 to the winner of the competition
- £300 for the purchase (within six months of the date of the award) of a book for UCL Special Collections to be selected by the winner in cooperation with the Head of Rare Books. If the winner does not select an item, UCL Special Collections staff will select an item for Special Collections themselves in keeping with the theme of the winning entry.
- The opportunity for the winner to give a talk on their collection as part of the UCL Special Collections events programme.
- The opportunity for the winner to display or exhibit part of their collection within UCL to inspire other collectors and encourage future applicants for this prize

### 3. To enter for the prize, entrants should submit:

- An application cover sheet
- An essay of not more than 500 words explaining the coherence and interest of their collection, and why and how it was assembled
- A bibliographic list of the items in the collection
- A list of the next five items the entrant realistically hopes to add to the collection, with a brief explanation.

In total these submissions should not exceed ten pages at a minimum of 12 point and 1.5 spacing. Submissions may be retained by UCL, which will be entitled to reproduce or make reference to them in any form it considers appropriate.

4. Entries will be opened on Monday 17 April 2023 and should be submitted by email to [spec.coll@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:spec.coll@ucl.ac.uk) by the end of the day on Sunday 4 June 2023.

5. Applicants will be judged by a panel with representatives from UCL Special Collections, the Antiquarian Booksellers' Association, the Bibliographical Society, and collectors.

6. The prize will be awarded at the judges' discretion, having regard to the purpose of the prize and the quality of the essay and other materials submitted by the entrant. The award will be based on the coherence, interest, originality, thoughtfulness, use and creativity of the collection, as well as the promise and persistence of the collector. The age, size, and monetary value of the collection will not be relevant criteria. The prize may be split among more than one entrant, at the judges' discretion.

7. The judges' decision on any matter is final.

8. Short-listed entrants will be invited to meet the judges virtually or face-to-face, depending on COVID precautions, and to make a brief presentation of their collections.