

What's New in 2026

Object image compilations

We have taken images of hundreds of objects held in our collection and are creating selected compilations on the Queen Square Archives (QSA) website https://queensquare.org.uk/archives :

- Objects: artwork and framed photographs :
  including ornaments, busts, drawings, prints, and portraits held in QSA.
- Objects: commemorative items :
  including badges, keys, belt buckles, brooches, coins, medals, medallions, plaques, and textiles.
- Objects: furniture, clocks and office equipment:
  including Hughlings Jackson's chair.
- Objects: medical Instruments and equipment.

New display in Queen Square Library : History of Queen Square Library and Archives 1888-2026

2026 is the 200th anniversary of the founding of UCL and the 75th anniversary of the UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology. As part of the UCL 200 and ION 75th celebrations we are celebrating the history of QS Library and Archives.

This display in QSL features photographs, objects, and documents from QSLA. See displays and events.

ION at 75

A celebration of 75 years of research, innovation and education with global patient impact. This short film series shows how Queen Square's unique combination of research, clinical care and collaboration has shaped major neurological breakthroughs and continues to drive future treatments.

Queen Square History Board Unveiled

After several years in the making, and liaising with Camden Local Authority, the new Queen Square History Board was unveiled on 8 July 2026. It includes images from QSA, and is located opposite St. George the Martyr Church.





E. Graeme Robertson

Collection of mostly black and white photographs of Queen Square staff at work and with their families, including Gordon Holmes, Francis Walsh, Denny-Brown, Charles Symonds, Denis Brinton, John Elkington and Graeme Robertson - who took some of the photographs. Donated by Denis Robertson, the son of E. Graeme Robertson, who completed his Postgraduate training in Queen Square in the 1930s. Selected images have been digitised and added to the Queen Square Archives website. See also New images and archive film footage.

Toodayan, N. (2026). Leonard Bell Cox (1894-1976), Edward Graeme Robertson (1903-1975), and the inauguration of the Australian Association of Neurologists (est. 1950). Journal of the History of the Neurosciences, 1–24. https://doi.org/10.1080/0964704X.2026.2677060.

Discoveries and Rediscoveries in Queen Square Archives

- **The daffodil is added to the National Hospital's emblem/logo**
  Historically the emblem consisted of only the English, Irish and Scottish national flowers of the rose, shamrock and thistle respectively. Around the National Hospital's centenary in 1960, Wales's national flower, the daffodil, was added. Today, the updated emblem is still in use and it appears around Queen Square and on many of the objects in our archives.

- **Amy Roberts Smith's bequest, 1924/5**
  The hidden life and background of a mystery benefactor who was known only as Mrs Amy Roberts Smith is brought to light. Mrs Roberts Smith bequeathed a vast legacy of about £3 million (in today's money) to the National Hospital, more than doubling the total of all other income to the Hospital in 1925.

- **Museums of Queen Square and Maida Vale Hospital**
  Whilst researching the history of Queen Square Library and Archives, evidence of museums of pathology and neurology for students and staff of the National Hospital and Maida Vale Hospital is collated for the first time. The earliest reference is from 1895, and the last one is in 2015.

- **Related archive collections held elsewhere**
  Following the review and update to our Objects Collection records and images, we have included an expanded list of items held in related archives, including the Science Museum (London), V&A Dundee, and London Borough of Camden.

- **Certificate-letter from the Hellenic Neurological and Psychiatric Society**
  Recently rediscovered in our Objects Collection, this certificate is a fascinating and joyful reply to an invitation to attend the National Hospital's centenary in 1960. It has been translated from Katharevousa, a formal precursor to Modern Greek.

Publicity and publications from 2026 citing Queen Square Archives

- ITV News (11 Nov. 2026). How psychological 'shell shock' of the First World War is being treated today. *Sarah Lawson, Head of QS Library, discusses shell shock cases*
- Compston, A. The Hexagon Club and British Neurology between the Wars. Routledge, 2026. *Available via UCL Explore*.
- Pollock, J. A Short History of Neurosurgery in the UK and Ireland: Influences, Founders and Units. CRC Press, 2026. *Available via UCL Explore*.
- Coutinho, L., Camargo, C.H.F. and Teive, H.A.G. (2026), Understanding Hereditary Ataxias: A Historical Quest for Definition and Classification. Mov Disord. https://doi.org/10.1002/mds.70448. *Available via UCL Explore*.
- Larner, A. The West Riding Asylum and the Origins of British Neurology 1866-1876: When Neurology Became a Science. Springer, 2026. *Available via UCL Explore*.
- St. George the Martyr Church website. (Accessed 21 July 2026).
- The Ladies' Samaritan Society. The story of early LSS member, Catherine "Kitty" Penfold. (Accessed 21 July 2026).
- The National Brain Appeal. (2026). Caroline Church. The National, Spring 2026, p.7.