

THE PORTICO LIBRARY

January
— March, 2021

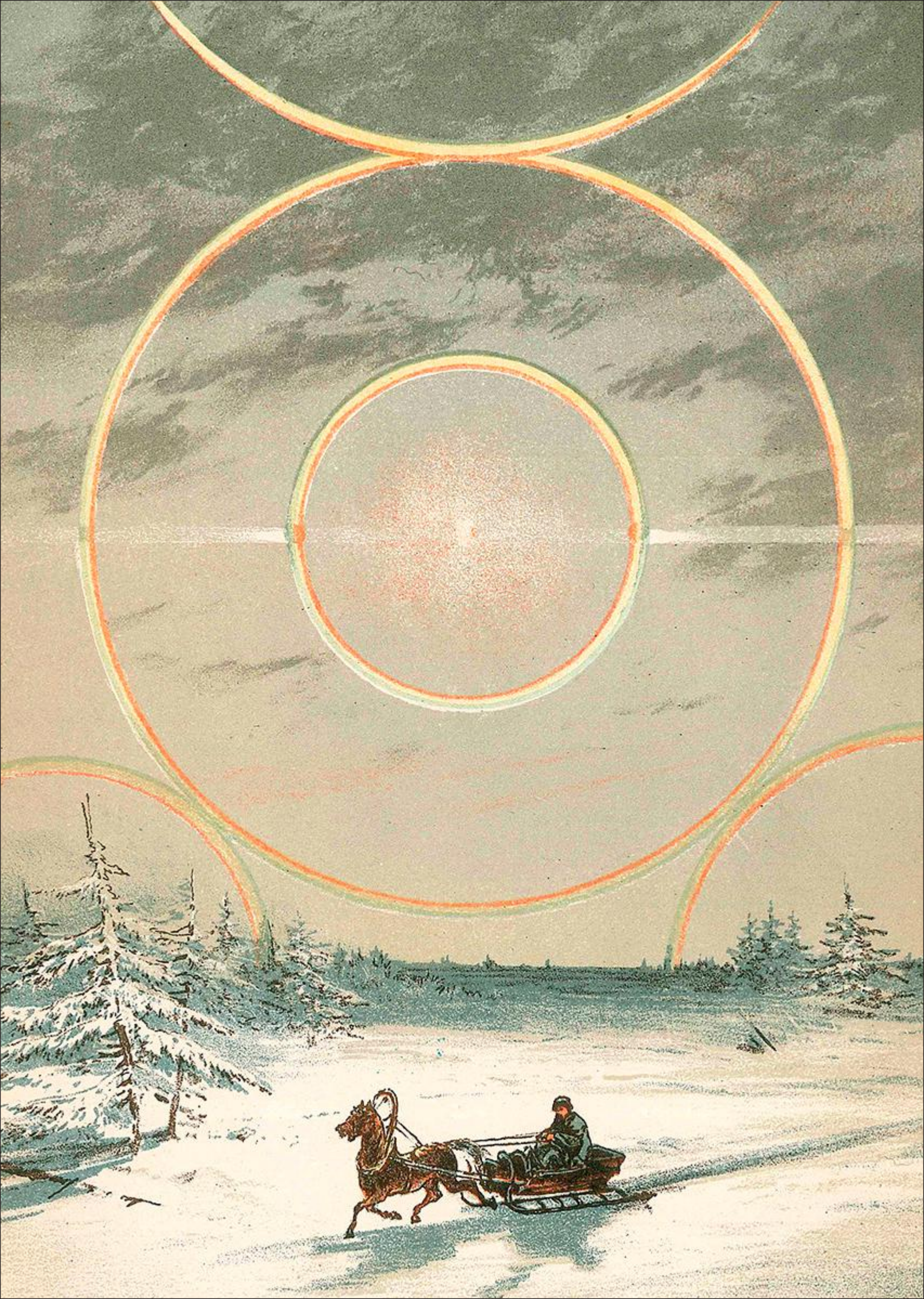
► Special Digital Edition

Click on the links inside
to discover more.

Quarterly



Events,
Exhibitions
& Treasures
from the
Collection



Quarterly

January — March, 2021



Cover Image

Masquerade Habits and Gentlemen of the 15th Century, *Complete View of the Dress and Habits of the People of England*, Joseph Strutt, 1799. The Portico Library Collection.

Inside Cover Image

Halo, *The Atmosphere*, Camille Flammarion and James Glaisher, 1873. The Portico Library Collection.

Available to buy as exclusive Portico Library greetings cards and prints.

Above

Portico Library digital jigsaw — [*play online here.*](#)

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Edited by Sarah Hill

Designed by Birthday

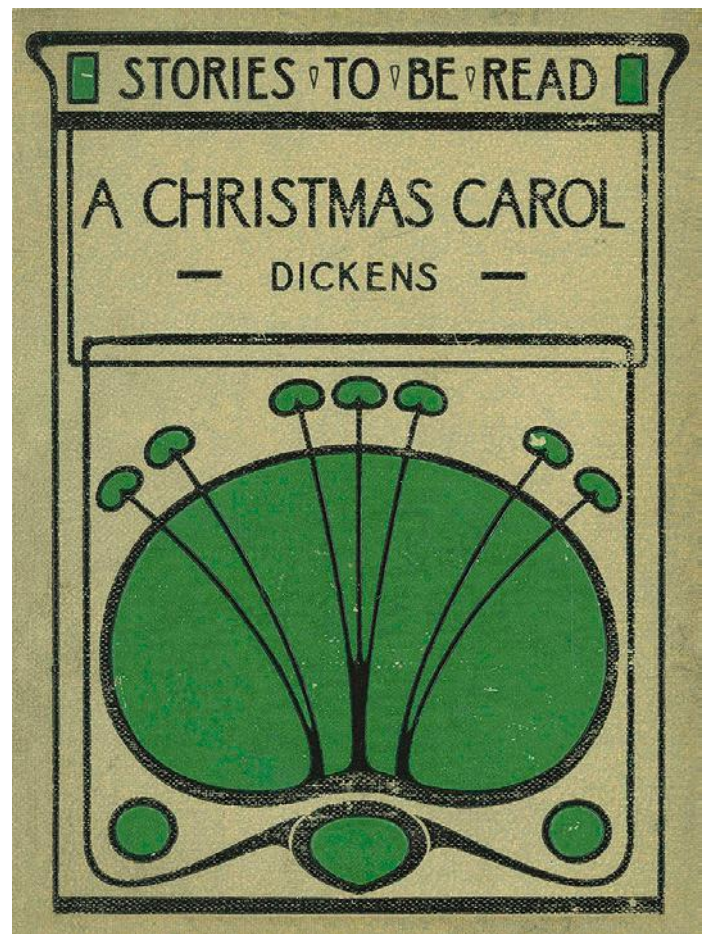
NOTE FROM THE LIBRARIAN

In March 1892, Manchester experienced a fierce cold snap. Temperatures dropped below zero and eight inches of snow blanketed the city streets. Perhaps it was this festive setting that led to a surge in requests for the Portico's copy of Dicken's *A Christmas Carol*. Unfortunately for these hopeful readers there was a slight problem, the book had disappeared like the ghost of Christmas past.

While the mystery of the missing book has never been solved, the Library now holds two early editions of *A Christmas Carol*. These books, along with thousands more volumes, five daily newspapers and 40 magazines can be read as part of a Portico Library Membership – the perfect gift for book lovers. To learn about Gift Memberships please [click here](#). As this Quarterly will attest, we love

books and they are central to everything we do at the Library. Read on to learn more.

Dr. Thom Keep
Librarian



Above
A Christmas Carol, Charles Dickens, 1908 (first published 1843). The Portico Library Collection.

[Available as a set of 5 Portico Library greetings cards.](#)

LIBRARY NEWS

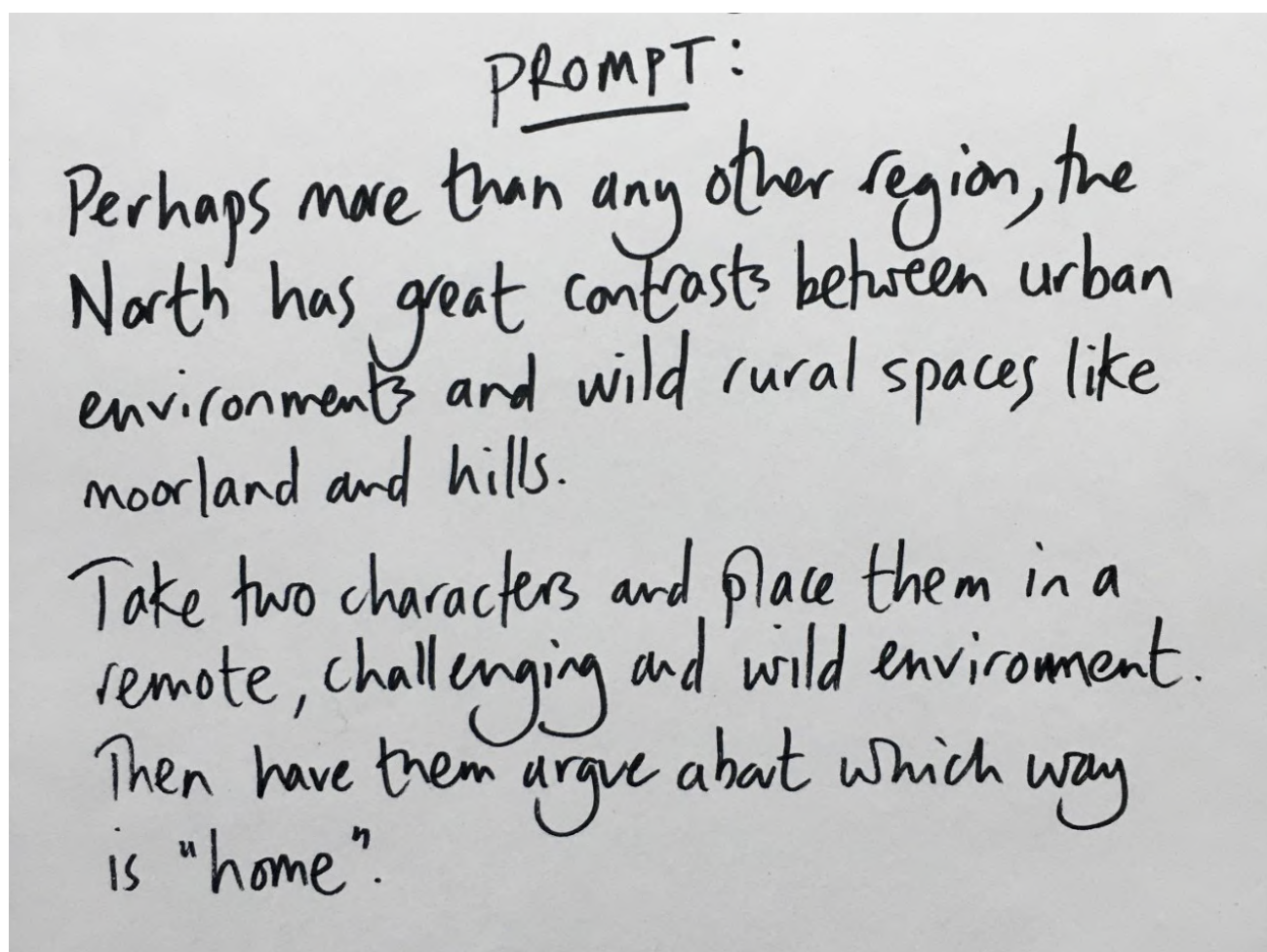
What's your story?

The Portico Sadie Massey Awards for young readers and writers is open for submissions! Submit a review of a book you enjoyed recently, or a piece of creative writing based on life in the North of England. Winners receive writing mentorships, prize bundles and more. The competitions are free to enter and open to everyone 7–16 years old.

Deadline: Midnight, Friday 26 March, 2021

Find details on how to enter [here](#) and follow us on Facebook [here](#).

Get some practice before you enter by responding to the writing prompt below from author Martin Griffin.



EXHIBITION



Above

Animation by Polly Tayarachakul, based on images in The Portico Library Collection.

In 2020, people all over the world have found themselves separated from friends and loved ones for long periods. Games and hobbies have provided comfort and

stimulation, offering fun and creative ways to pass the time alone or with our households, and opportunities to connect with others online.

The Portico Library first opened in 1806. Its books contain histories of games from that time, plus other volumes on play and pastimes that continue to have influence today. This exhibition presents these alongside artworks by *Birungi Kawooya*, *Bob Bicknell-Knight*, *Danielle Brathwaite-Shirley*, *Gray Wielebinski*, *Hope Strickland* and *Polly Tayarachakul*, plus activities inspired by the Library's history and collection.

Early-19th-century games reflected the evolving concept of childhood and innovations in printing technologies. Many were designed to reinforce cultural conventions and dominant attitudes, but playing games can also help us to learn about

relationships, probability, language, behaviour and society. While communal hobbies and pastimes can strengthen bonds and encourage creativity, the artists and writers in this exhibition also consider how games are used as social and ideological tools by those with power and privilege.

Exhibition Tours

Audio-described with Anne Hornsby of Mind's Eye Description Services

Mon 25 January 2021 5.30–7pm
Free, Drop-in

British Sign Language with Jennifer Little

Sat 6 March 2021, 11:30am–1pm
Free, Drop-in.

Click on the image below to begin your journey through the [online exhibition](#)



Above

'Game board' tiles based on The Game of Chance, or Harlequin Takes All, 1794, [Wellcome Collection](#).

LIBRARY RESEARCH

Most commonly known for its occult symbolism, the Tarot was originally a game, something like bridge, that was played amongst 15th-century Italian nobles. It was only in the late 18th century that origin stories were invented for the cards, imbuing them with mysterious histories. This fact rather takes the fun out of Tarot for some card-readers. But there's magic in the everyday, too.

Tarot is a tool for telling and questioning stories. Sometimes it's easier to see patterns when they're repeated on a smaller scale; it puts things into perspective. I see where the images logically lead, ask what sort of story it is I'm telling. The Empress can be a business woman, then a housewife, then a Goddess. The Hermit turns away from the world to cast the light from his lantern onto...? We could be

telling a story of spiritual enlightenment with The Heirophant, or if the next card is Death, a murder mystery. We can stick close to life — an elderly man looking for where all those years went, The Sun and Moon rising and falling in quick succession — or be as fantastical as we like; the next card is Judgement and he is face-to-face with an angel of many eyes and spinning wheels. Like the other writers who have come before us seeking inspiration from the Tarot, the simple images provide a place where all stories can be told.

Kym Deyn

Poet, playwright
and fortune teller.

Kym will be hosting two online workshops on Tarot for Creative Writing in January. See our [*Events Listings*](#) for more.



Researches into the History of Playing Cards, Samuel Weller Singer, illustrated by John Swaine, 1816. The Portico Library Collection. Read more about this book [here](#) and find these images and many more in the Portico's [Colouring the Collection activity book](#).

EVENT LISTING

Tarot for Creative Writing: Major Arcana



Wed 20 January 2021, 7–9pm
£20 / ► [Ticket Link](#)

Writer Kym Deyn leads two online workshops for The Portico using a selection of tarot decks as tools for storytelling. This one focuses on the **Major Arcana**.

Tarot for Creative Writing: Minor Arcana



Wed 27 January 2021, 7–9pm
£20 / ► [Ticket Link](#)

Writer Kym Deyn leads two online workshops for The Portico using a selection of tarot decks as tools for storytelling. This one focuses on the **Minor Arcana**.

Opening Moves: The extraordinary origins of chess



Fri 19 February 2021, 6–7pm
Donation / ► [Ticket Link](#)

During Fun & Games, an exhibition about playtime, past and present, The Portico Library hosts an online event with MACFEST on the Indian, Persian and Arab roots of the world's most famous game of strategy.

Discover more at our [Events](#) webpage.

OFF THE SHELF

The Art of Love by *Nicola Dale*

Since 2019, I have been collaborating with Professor of English Literature, Adam Smyth, to research and develop a new body of work. Our focus is an 1813 copy of Ovid's *The Art of Love*. Adam has the book on long-term loan from a fellow professor — Katharine Hodgkin — who bought it from a flea market in Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire. Hers is the only signature in the book, dated Summer 1981. At first

glance, *The Art of Love* does not seem particularly unusual for its time. It is leather bound, marbled and gilded. Various poets, including John Dryden, have translated Ovid's original Latin poetry into English. The Portico Library's collection includes several books of Dryden's poetry and translations, notably a complete first edition set of *The works of John Dryden*, published in 1808...[continue reading online.](#)



Left
The Art of Love by Ovid, translated by Dryden, 1813. Private collection.

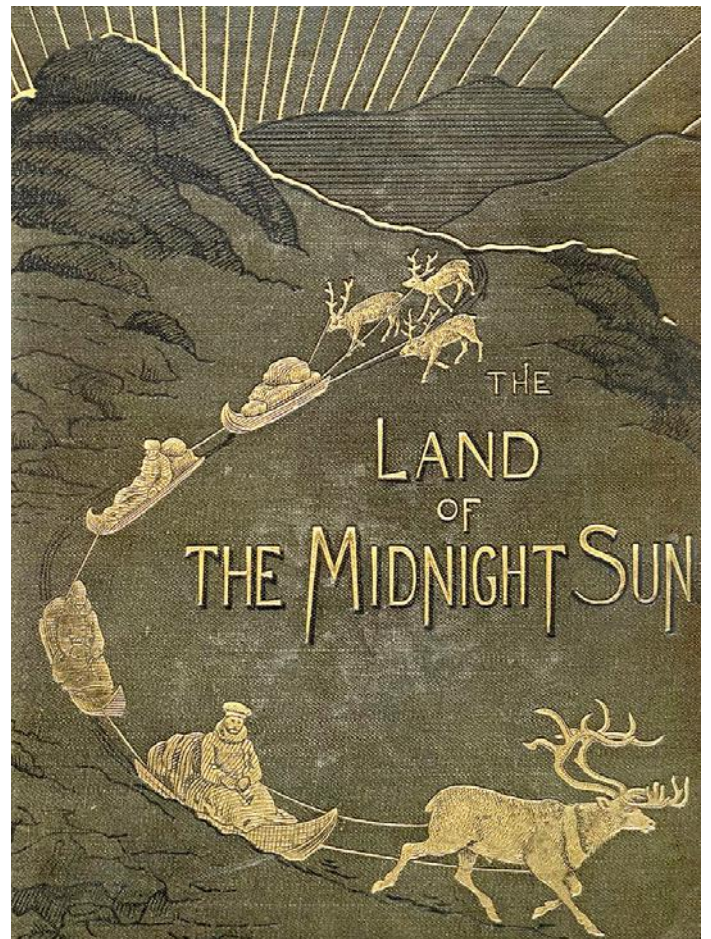
ADOPT-A-BOOK

Many of the books in The Portico Library's 19th-century collection are in urgent need of repair or rebinding, including our two volume first edition copies of *The Land of The Midnight Sun* by Paul B. Du Chaillu, published in 1881. It is vital that these items are preserved for future generations to learn from and enjoy.

Anyone can help restore The Portico Library's unique collection of rare and important books, illustrations and archives. Click on our [extended list](#) of endangered books to view some ideas. Over 50% of the Library's holdings require some form of repair, so you can also [search the online catalogue](#). You can get in touch to arrange a viewing of a book, choose which items you want to save and make your donation. In return for adopting a single book, you'll receive a commemorative plate in the front of the newly repaired

volume to memorialise your contribution, either in your name, or on behalf of a loved one.

Learn more about our Adopt-a-Book scheme and register your interest [here](#).

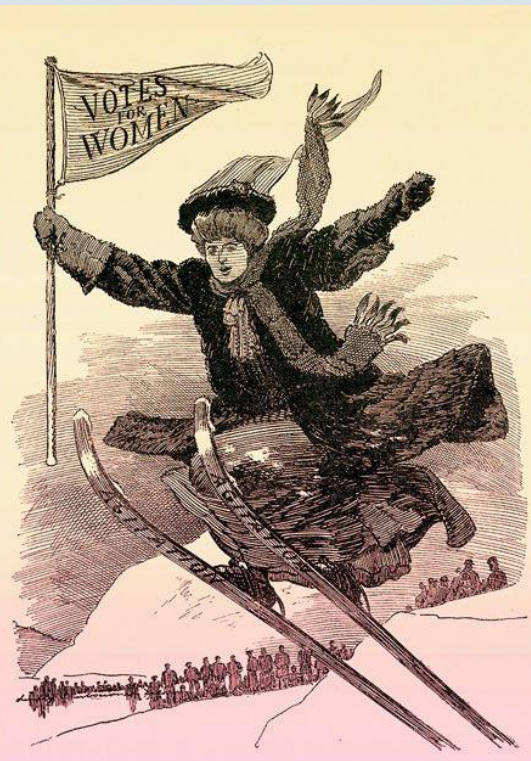


Above
This image is [available to buy as an exclusive Portico Library greetings card](#).

JANUARY SALE

From Monday 4th — Friday 22nd January, enjoy 65% off books and cards both in the Library and [online](#) via the images below. All purchases support the Library's charitable arts, education and conservation programmes.

Click [here](#) to browse items in our online shop.



VOLUNTEER'S STORY

In 2018, as I was searching for a place to volunteer related to my history degree, my Grandad suggested the Portico and I jumped at the chance. I was quite nervous for my initial interview, but quickly realised there was no need and I was instantly encouraged by the friendly, relaxed and supportive atmosphere. Since I started volunteering I've had a multitude of roles: from working with the beautiful book collection, to manning the front door for talks and events that I have learned a whole lot from. I have also

helped to install books and artworks for the Library's public exhibition programme. With every job that I have taken on it is always with the support of the permanent staff and the camaraderie of other volunteers. I envisage that as long as I am in Manchester I will continue to volunteer here at the Portico.

Erica Tucker
Volunteer

Discover more about volunteering at The Portico Library and register your interest [*here*](#).



Left
Erica (far right)
with Portico
Library staff.

The Manchester Lit and Phil



Spring 2021 Online Event Highlights

What Drives Russia To Confront The West?

Keir Giles - Wednesday 27th January, 6.30 pm

Dying Laughing - A Short Walk Around Romanian Culture

Jim Howell - Wednesday 24th February, 6.30 pm

Visual Literacy And Dermatology: From Natural History To Art History

Professor Chris Griffiths - Tuesday 9th March, 6.30 pm

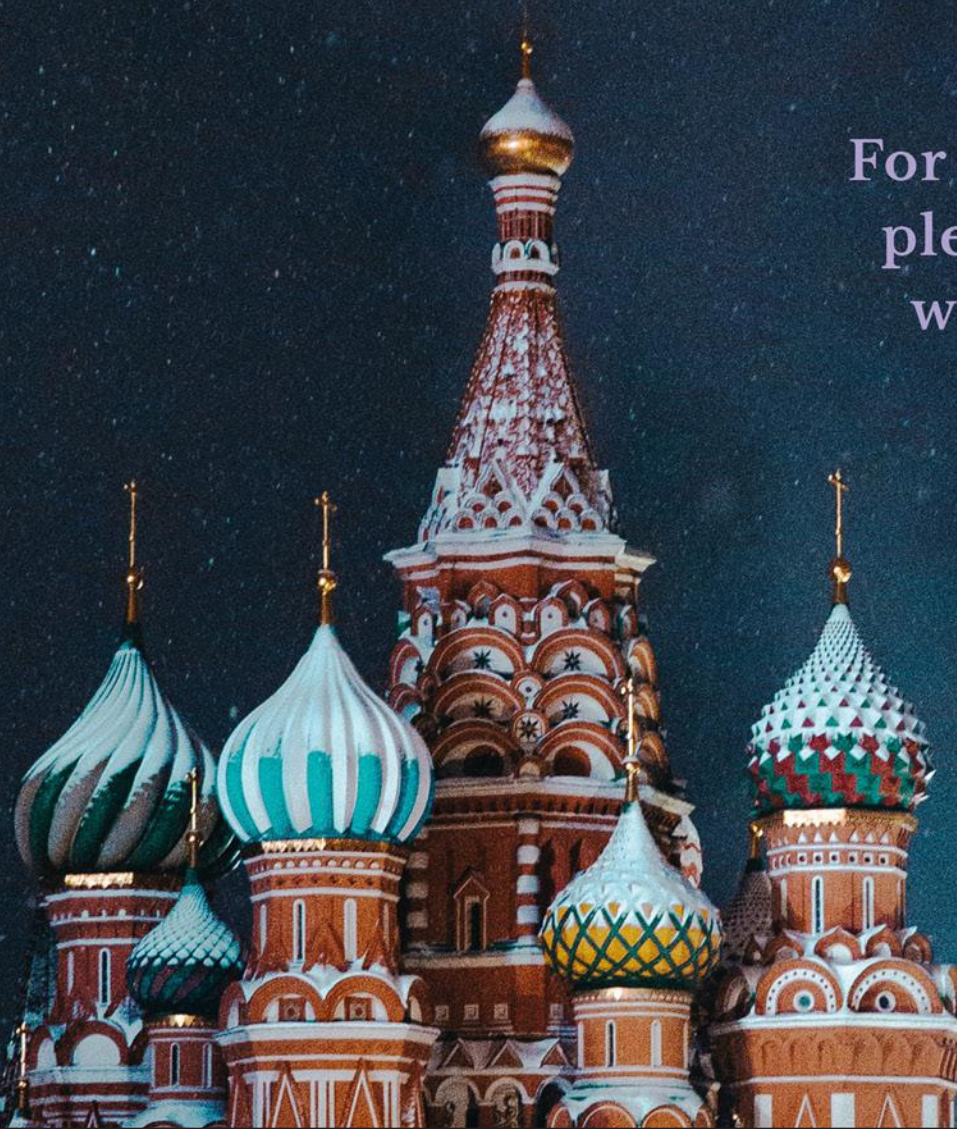
Change Your Diet: The Easiest Way To Help Reduce Your Climate Impact

Professor Sarah Bridle - Monday 15th March, 6.30 pm

For our full programme
please visit our website
www.manlitphil.ac.uk

Hope
Enlightenment
Knowledge
Community

Get in touch
events@manlitphil.ac.uk
[@manlitphil](https://twitter.com/manlitphil)



The Portico Library
57 Mosley Street
Manchester
M2 3HY
0161 236 6785
www.theportico.org.uk

New Opening Hours
Monday – Friday:
10am – 4pm.

Weekends:
Closed

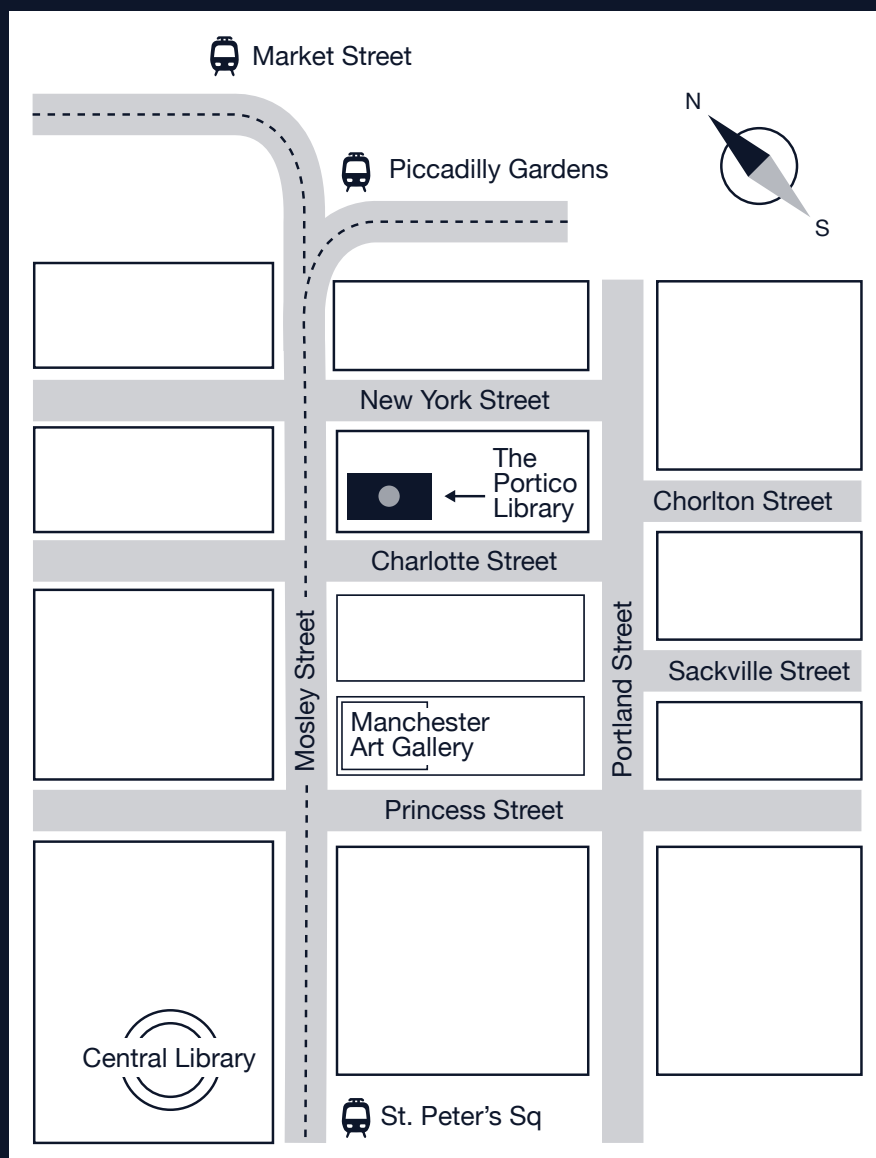
These times may change according to Government guidelines. Please check our website [here](#) for updates.

 [@ThePortico](https://twitter.com/ThePortico)

 [@ThePorticoLibrary](https://www.facebook.com/ThePorticoLibrary)

 [@PorticoLibrary](https://www.instagram.com/PorticoLibrary)

We want to make The Portico Library welcoming for everyone, but there is lots more to do to make our 200-year-old listed building accessible. In 2018, we commissioned an Access Audit, supported by the National Lottery, and are working towards implementing its recommendations.



To enter the Library, please press the intercom button next to the green door on Charlotte Street. Parking is available nearby.

Currently, there are 32 steps from the main entrance to the Library and no lift. A stairlift is available via a portable ramp. Staff are always available to help.