

A Turner Bibliography

The list which follows is a select bibliography chosen from the vast body of literature on Turner.

With a few exceptions, more general and introductory works are omitted, as are many catalogues of exhibitions, especially those which provided general overviews of the artist.

Between 1982 and 1993 the journal *Turner Studies* (published by the Tate) carried many important articles on Turner. Others have appeared, and continue to appear, elsewhere, notably in [*Turner Society News*](#).

Reference Works

Evelyn Joll, Martin Butlin and Luke Herrmann (ed.), *The Oxford Companion to J.M.W. Turner*, 2001 (a Turner encyclopedia)*

Martin Butlin and Evelyn Joll, *The Paintings of J.M.W. Turner*, 1977; revised 1984 (the catalogue raisonné of Turner's oil paintings)*

Andrew Wilton, *The Life and Work of J.M.W. Turner*, 1979 (including the first methodical listing of Turner's finished watercolours)*

A.J. Finberg, *A Complete Inventory of the Drawings of the Turner Bequest*, 1909 (once the chief guide to the works on paper in the Turner Bequest, currently being superseded by the Tate on-line catalogue)

W.G. Rawlinson, *The Engraved Work of J.M.W. Turner, R.A. (1908-13)* (the catalogue of the prints engraved after Turner)

W.G. Rawlinson, *Turner's Liber Studiorum: A Description and a Catalogue*, 1878; revised 1906 (on Turner's artistic manifesto, issued as a series of prints)

A.J. Finberg, *J.M.W. Turner's Liber Studiorum, with a Catalogue Raisonné*, 1924

* Each of these works contains its own extensive bibliography

Public Collections

Luke Herrmann, *Ruskin and Turner: Turner Drawings in the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford*, 1968

Malcolm Cormack, *Turner Drawings and Watercolours in the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge*, 1975

Craig Hartley, *Turner Watercolours in the Whitworth Art Gallery*, 1984

Frank Milner, *J.M.W. Turner: Paintings in Merseyside Collections*, 1990

Martin F. Krause, *Turner in Indianapolis*, 1997

Kim Sloan, *J.M.W. Turner: Watercolours from the R.W. Lloyd Bequest to the British Museum*, 1998

Christopher Baker, *J.M.W. Turner: The Vaughan Bequest*, 2006, revised edition 2025

Joanna Selborne with Andrew Wilton and Cecilia Powell, *Paths to Fame: Turner Watercolours from The Courtauld*, 2008

Anne Hodge and Niamh MacNally, *The Works of J.M.W. Turner at the National Gallery of Ireland*, revised edition 2017

Biography and General Studies

A.J. Finberg, *The Life of J.M.W. Turner, R.A.*, 1939; revised 1961

John Gage, *Collected Correspondence of J.M.W. Turner*, 1980; supplementary letters were published in *Turner Studies* 6.1, 1986

Andrew Wilton, *Turner in his Time*, 1987; revised 2006

John Gage, *J.M.W. Turner: 'A Wonderful Range of Mind'*, 1987

Eric Shanes, *Turner: The Masterworks*, 1990; revised as *Turner: The Master Painter*, 1992; revised as *Turner: The Life and Masterworks*, 2004

Anthony Bailey, *Standing in the Sun: A Life of J.M.W. Turner*, 1997

James Hamilton, *Turner: A Life*, 1997, new edition 2025

Eric Shanes, *Turner: The Great Watercolours*, 2000

Barry Venning, *Turner*, 2003

Sam Smiles, *The Turner Book*, 2006

Ian Warrell (ed.), *J.M.W. Turner*, 2007

Eric Shanes, *Young Mr Turner*, 2016

Franny Moyle, *The Extraordinary Life and Momentous Times of J.M.W. Turner*, 2016

Andrew Loukes, *J.M.W. Turner*, 2024

Materials, Techniques and Processes

John Gage, *Colour in Turner: Poetry and Truth*, 1969

Peter Bower, *Turner's Papers 1787–1820*, 1990

Maurice Davies, *Turner as Professor: The Artist and Linear Perspective*, 1992

Joyce Townsend, *Turner's Painting Techniques*, 1993, 4th edition last reprinted 2007

Eric Shanes, *Turner's Watercolour Explorations 1810–1842*, 1997

Peter Bower, *Turner's Later Papers 1821–1851*, 1999

John Gage, the chapter on Turner in *Colour and Meaning: Art, Science and Symbolism*, 1999

Andrew Wilton, *Turner as Draughtsman*, 2006

Nicola Moorby and Ian Warrell (ed.), *How to Paint like Turner*, 2010

Michael Rosenthal and Anne Lyles, *Turner and Constable: Sketching from Nature*, 2013
Ian Warrell, *Turner's Sketchbooks*, 2014
Ian Warrell, Alexandra Loske *et al.*, *Turner et la Couleur*, 2016
Joyce H. Townsend (with Tony Smibert), *How Turner Painted: Materials & Techniques*, 2019

Turner Prints

Luke Herrmann, *Turner Prints: The Engraved Work of J.M.W. Turner*, 1990
Jan Piggott, *Turner's Vignettes*, 1994
Gillian Forrester, *Turner's 'Drawing Book': The Liber Studiorum*, 1996
Imogen Holmes-Roe (ed.), *Turner: In Light and Shade*, 2025
Hilary Gerrish (ed.) *J.M.W. Turner: Where Lines become the Language of Colours*, 2026

Turner's Britain

Eric Shanes, *Turner's Picturesque Views in England and Wales*, 1979
Gerald Finley, *Landscapes of Memory: Turner as Illustrator of Scott*, 1980
David Hill, *Turner in Yorkshire*, 1980
Francina Irwin and Andrew Wilton, *Turner in Scotland*, 1982
David Hill, *In Turner's Footsteps: Through the Hills and Dales of Northern England*, 1984
Eric Shanes, *Turner's Rivers, Harbours and Coasts*, 1984
Andrew Wilton, *Turner in Wales*, 1984
Martin Butlin, Mollie Luther and Ian Warrell, *Turner at Petworth*, 1989
Eric Shanes, *Turner's England*, 1990
David Hill, *Turner on the Thames*, 1993
David Hill, *Turner in the North*, 1996
Eric Shanes, *Turner in 1066 Country*, 1998
Katrina Thompson, *Turner and Sir Walter Scott*, 1999
Colin Harrison, *Turner's Oxford*, 2000
Christopher Rowell, Ian Warrell and David Blayney Brown, *Turner at Petworth*, 2002
James Hamilton, *Turner's Britain*, 2003
David Blayney Brown and Sam Smiles, *Light into Colour: Turner in the South West*, 2006
Emma House *et al.*, *Turner: Tours of Durham and Richmondshire*, 2006

David Blayney Brown *et al.*, *Coasting: Turner and Bonington on the Shores of the Channel*, 2008
Diana Cook and Dorothy Kirk, *Turner in the Tamar Valley*, 2009
Catherine Parry-Wingfield, *J.M.W. Turner; R.A., The Artist and his House at Twickenham*, 2012
Emma House *et al.*, *Rokeby: Poetry and Landscape: Walter Scott and Turner in Teesdale*, 2013
Andrew Loukes, *Turner's Sussex*, 2013
Ian Warrell, *Turner's Wessex*, 2015
Helen Cobby, *The Young Turner: Ambitions in Architecture and the Art of Perspective*, 2018

Turner Abroad

Andrew Wilton and John Russell, *Turner in Switzerland*, 1976
Andrew Wilton, *Turner Abroad: France, Italy, Germany, Switzerland*, 1982
Lindsay Stainton, *Turner's Venice*, 1985
Cecilia Powell, *Turner in the South: Rome, Naples, Florence*, 1987
Cecilia Powell, *Turner's Rivers of Europe: The Rhine, Meuse and Mosel*, 1991
David Hill, *Turner in the Alps*, 1992
A.G.H. Bachrach, *Turner's Holland*, 1994
Cecilia Powell, *Turner in Germany*, 1995
Ian Warrell, *Through Switzerland with Turner*, 1995
Ian Warrell, *Turner on the Loire*, 1997
David Blayney Brown, *Turner in the Alps, 1802*, 1998
Cecilia Powell, *Italy in the Age of Turner*, 1998
Ian Warrell, *Turner on the Seine*, 1999
David Hill, *Joseph Mallord William Turner: Le Mont-Blanc et la Vallée d'Aoste*, 2000
Ian Warrell, *Turner and Venice*, 2003
James Hamilton, *Turner and Italy*, 2008
David Blayney Brown (intro), *J.M.W. Turner: The 'Lucerne' Sketchbook*, 2018
David Blayney Brown, Cees Nooteboom, Fanni Fetzter and Beat Wismer, *Turner. The Sea and the Alps*, 2019
Ian Warrell, *Venice with Turner*, 2020
Christine Riding (ed.), *Turner on Tour*, 2022

Science, Industry and Technology

John Gage, *Turner: Rain, Steam and Speed*, 1972

Judy Egerton, *Turner: The Fighting Temeraire*, 1995

William S. Rodney, *J.M.W. Turner: Romantic Painter of the Industrial Revolution*, 1997

James Hamilton, *Turner and the Scientists*, 1998

David Hill, *Turner and Leeds: Images of Industry*, 2008

Turner and Other Artists

Robert Hewison, Ian Warrell and Stephen Wildman, *Ruskin, Turner and the Pre-Raphaelites*, 2000

Katharine Lochnan *et al.*, *Turner Whistler Monet*, 2004

Helen Dorey, *John Soane & J M W Turner: Illuminating a Friendship*, 2007

David Solkin *et al.*, *Turner and the Masters*, 2009

Jeremy Lewison, *Turner Monet Twombly: Later Paintings*, 2011

Ian Warrell *et al.*, *Turner Inspired: In the Light of Claude*, 2012

Francesca Vanke, *JMW Turner and Changing Visions of Landscape*, 2024

Nicola Moorby, *Turner & Constable: Art, Life, Landscape*, 2025

Simon Gregg (ed.), *Turner & Australia*, 2025

Impressions in Watercolour. Turner and His Contemporaries, with essays by Ian Warrell and Timothy Wilcox, 2025

Amy Concannon (ed.), *Turner & Constable: Rivals and Originals*, 2025

Melissa L. Gustin, *Turner: Always Contemporary*, 2025

Further Thematic Treatments

Andrew Wilton, *Turner and the Sublime*, 1980

Gerald Finley, *Turner and George IV in Edinburgh, 1822*, 1981

Kathleen Nicholson, *Turner's Classical Landscapes: Myth and Meaning*, 1990

Eric Shanes, *Turner's Human Landscape*, 1990

Andrew Wilton, *Painting and Poetry: Turner's 'Verse Book' and his Work of 1804–12*, 1990

David Blayney Brown, *Turner and Byron*, 1992

Gerald Finley, *Angel in the Sun: Turner's Vision of History*, 1999

James Hamilton, *Turner: The Late Seascapes*, 2003

Sam Smiles, *J.M.W. Turner: The Making of a Modern Artist*, 2007

Ortrud Westheider and Michael Philipp (ed.), *Turner and the Elements*, 2011

Leo Costello, *J.M.W. Turner and the Subject of History*, 2012

Ian Warrell, *Turner's Secret Sketches*, 2012

Christine Riding, Richard Johns *et al.*, *Turner and the Sea*, 2013

David Blayney Brown, Amy Concannon and Sam Smiles, *Late Turner: Painting Set Free*, 2014

David Blayney Brown (intro), *J.M.W. Turner: The 'Skies' Sketchbook*, 2016

Susan Grace Galassi, Ian Warrell, Joanna Sheers Seidenstein *et al.*, *Turner's Modern and Ancient Ports: Passages through Time*, 2017

Nicholas R. Bell (ed.), *Conversations with Turner: The Watercolors*, 2019

David Blayney Brown, Amy Concannon, James Finch and Sam Smiles, *Turner's Modern World*, 2020

Sam Smiles, *The Late Works of J.M.W. Turner: The Artist and his Critics*, 2020

Karin Althaus *et al.*, *Turner. Ein Lesebuch / Turner. A Reader*, 2023

Yale Center for British Art, *Turner's Last Sketchbook, with a Poem by Tracey Emin*, 2024

Katherine Gazzard, *J.M.W. Turner's The Battle of Trafalgar: Commemoration and Controversy*, 2025

Harewood House Trust, *Austen & Turner. A Country House Encounter*, with essays by many contributors, 2025

Sam Smiles, *Turner and the Slave Trade*, 2025