

# Library and Information History *Newsletter*



Winter 2009

# **LIBRARY AND INFORMATION HISTORY NEWSLETTER**

The official newsletter of the Library and Information History Group, a special interest group of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP)

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## **CONTENTS**

<b>1. News from the Chair</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2. Chair's Report for 2008/09</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3. Treasurer's Report for 2008/09</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>4. LIHG AGM notice</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>5. Umbrella 2009</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>6. LIHG meeting report: Bromley House Library, Nottingham</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>7. LIHG one-day conference report: London</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>8. 'A part time library historian's summer'</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>9. LIHG Committee Meetings</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>10. LIHG Newsletter copy and issue dates 2010</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>11. Library History Seminars</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>12. Reviews: 'Almonbury' &amp; 'Twelve Good and Lawful Men'</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>13. Library and Information History Contents September 2009</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>14. Forthcoming Events</b>	<b>30</b>

## News from the Chair

One of my first tasks as Chair is the very pleasant duty of welcoming Kathleen Ladizesky to the committee as our new Honorary Treasurer. We had two extremely well-qualified candidates for the post, and indeed a potential third candidate came forward shortly after nominations had closed. I would like to thank all those who expressed interest in the post and indeed all members who voted in the election. That such interest should be aroused by what is often considered to be an onerous role suggests that we have a highly active and motivated membership (either that or I just managed to make the job look unexpectedly glamorous, and that seems unlikely!) We are delighted to have Kathleen on the committee. She brings to the post valuable experience of acting as a Group Treasurer for ILIG. She also, quite incidentally, broadens the geographical spread of the committee, being our only current representative in Wales. While having a scattered committee has its drawbacks in organising meetings and incurring greater travel expenses, we benefit from links with CILIP branches countrywide, particularly when organising regional events. Committee members also keep us informed of the activities of local bibliographical societies and historic libraries in the regions.

As Chair I have a clear agenda. I aim to build on the valuable work already started by my two immediate predecessors, Toni Weller and John Crawford, in developing the regional activities of the Group. Thanks to the appointment of Sarah as Publicity Officer and Shauna as a Social Secretary dedicated to events management, a committee structure is now in place which enables us to allocate more resources to organising successful events throughout the country, with the aim of attracting new audiences as well as our existing membership. Library and information history has a broad appeal: to students of intellectual and social history, local historians, and 'Friends' of historic libraries, besides our core membership of librarians and library historians.

I also aim to work with other organisations in the UK and beyond to broaden awareness of library and information history. The Group has established links with the USA, Germany and Scandinavia. Preliminary discussions are underway to investigate the feasibility of participating in a joint international conference next year as well as organising our own one-day UK conference. (Watch the lis-libhist list and our website for calls for papers.) The LIHG committee has representation on the Historic Libraries Forum and a record of collaboration with them in advocacy on behalf of libraries under threat. Following on from presentations from

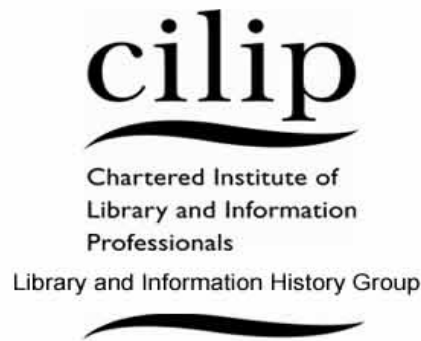
individual members at annual conferences, the Group now has an official representative at SHARP too.

I hope to make more effective use of electronic means to inform members of news and events in the library and information history world. CILIP's monthly email bulletin to groups is a useful new tool and I would urge all CILIP members to sign up to receive news from CILIP. For those of you who use Facebook, we now have a presence on the site. The lis-libhist list has been in existence for many years and continues to be a useful forum in which to disseminate news. If you don't wish to receive emails, the archive of messages may be freely viewed on the web. (<https://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/cgi-bin/webadmin?A0=lis-libhist>).

Our web manager, Hannah, is planning to implement a blog on our Group website, to keep members updated whilst CILIP makes major changes to the underlying content management system, during which time it may be difficult to keep the site itself updated. Yvonne, our newsletter editor, is looking at the format of the newsletter with the aim of providing both a more attractive electronic version and a more convenient format for printing. Those who prefer a paper copy can still request to receive one, and we will continue to send out an annual physical mailing to all members with information on events for the year to come.

I look forward to working with many of you in my new capacity as Chair. If you have ideas for events, activities, or projects in which you think the Group should be involved, please get in touch.

Kathryn McKee  
[km10007@cam.ac.uk](mailto:km10007@cam.ac.uk)



## **Annual Report 2008/2009**

**For presentation to 2009 AGM  
To be held on 11 November 2009  
At the John Rylands Library, University of Manchester**

This has been a positive one for the LIHG. This year, 2008/2009, has mainly been one of refocusing the Group's strategic direction and aims for the future, and we hope that these developments are becoming evident to members. We are taking steps to address the declining membership problem that has been an issue for many CILIP special interest groups by increasing publicity and raising our profile. We have increased the number of events we run each year and are continuing to develop on regional meetings to ensure as many members as possible can attend and benefit from Group activities. We are in the process of rejuvenating the LIHG website and our online presence on Facebook continues to be a useful resource for capturing younger members and promoting the Group. Relationships with like-minded bodies have continued to be developed, including a mutual promotion of events with SHARP. We have been active in scholarly events and projects this year and continue to be so into 2009/2010.

NB. The annual returns period covers only until the end of March 2009, but since the AGM is being held later this year, the report will also mention developments to the Group since that period.

### **Continuing aims of the Group**

- To act as the historical conscience of CILIP
- To raise awareness of the importance of library and information history both in Britain and abroad

- To promote activities – conferences, regional meetings, lectures – in support of all objectives
- To communicate research and publication in library and information history

The LIHG aims to emphasise that although library and information history is about historic libraries and collections, it also covers:

- How information and knowledge were used and thought of in the past
- How information is preserved and collected in contemporary society
- How new technologies may be changing the way we interact with the past and how we safeguard the modern record

### **Areas of concern from last year's annual report**

Lack of strategic direction  
 Falling membership  
 No email distribution list of members

### **Committee changes**

The Group had a change of Chair in June 2009 with Toni Weller stepping down after a year and a half in the role, after moving to editor of the Group's journal, *Library & Information History*. She was succeeded by Kathryn McKee.

Since Kathryn was the existing Treasurer this necessitated an election for this position. We had two excellent candidates, but after the membership voted, Kathleen Ladizesky was elected into the role.

Anna Jones stepped down as Secretary after a very committed period in the role. It was decided that since the activities of the Group had grown so much that the role of Secretary should be split into two: a Committee Secretary to deal with committee meetings and CILIP business, and an Events Secretary, who would deal with the Groups conferences, social events and membership. Rob Westwood and Shauna Barrett have filled these roles and the new arrangement is working well.

Nicola Smith and Geoffrey Forster each stepped down from the committee after several years in their respective roles.

## **Membership**

In May 2007 membership was 621, plus four non-CILIP members. The Group had 656 members, as of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008. In August 2009, CILIP membership stood at 600, total membership 612. While it is disappointing that the number of CILIP members has fallen slightly, we are delighted to have recruited 12 new subscribing members as a result of the annual conference.

The Facebook Group set up at the start of 2008 continues to be a useful resource. As of October 2009 it has 58 members, up from 35 members last year and has helped stimulate interest regarding new committee members and conference papers. If you are a member of Facebook – or know anyone who is – please do add LIHG to your ‘friends’ list to be kept informed of upcoming events and points of interest.

There are currently (as of October 2009) 293 members of LIS-LIBHIST, its highest level ever, compared with 267 members in 2008, 256 in 2007, and 253 in 2006. The site is fully archived, has discussions going back nine years to 1998 and forms a strong research resource.

## **Publicity**

The Group now has a monthly email to members of its news and forthcoming events. This is hosted by CILIP and is a good interim measure until the Group has its own membership mailing list, on which we are working. The number of members receiving the monthly mailing is steadily increasing, from just 135 when the Group first used the service in May, to 242 by September.

The website is still undergoing renovation as CILIP changes their content management system.

We have regular mailings of events via LIS Lib-hist and SHARP-L and also via the Facebook group. We are in the process of establishing publicity material that can be used at events and conferences (LIHG and other).

The conference in March served as good promotion, as did the election for Treasurer which allowed hard copy mailing of the year card and other literature to all members. The year card is something with which we plan

to continue along with the annual mailing since feedback has been positive.

## **Newsletter**

Only 28 of our members still subscribed in hard copy in 2008. The change from paper to electronic has had a significant and positive effect upon the Group's finances. Although we are now publishing online there is still work to be done in ensuring the style and format of the Newsletter is as 'online' as possible. As always we welcome contributions from Group members.

## **Library & Information History**

The journal has managed its transition from Library History to Library & Information History well, under its new editor of Toni Weller, who succeeded Alistair Black at the end of 2008. Alistair continues as North American editor. A new books reviews editor, Karen Attar, has also joined the revamped editorial board.

The journal continues to be well supported by its publishers, Maney, who sponsored an evening reception for the LIHG conference and were in attendance to promote the journal. There will be a special issue of the journal based on the LIHG conference in early 2010.

Unsolicited contributions continue to be sent at a steady rate but there does need to be sustained efforts to increase this volume without decreasing quality. This is being done by regular reminders for calls for papers to the usual distribution lists, plus promotional material from Maney and a more active editorial board.

## **Awards**

### ***Library History Essay prize 2008:***

We received five excellent nominations for this Award. One of the judges declared that these were the "best collection of entries which I have seen since the prize was initiated 10 years ago". After much thought the judges chose two essays to share the Library History Essay Award for 2008:

Alistair Black, "'Arsenals of scientific and technical information': public technical libraries in Britain during and immediately after World War I", *Library trends*, Vol. 55, No. 3 (Winter 2007), 474-89.

K.A. Manley, “‘The road to Camelot’: the circle of learning and the ‘Circulatory’ Library of Samuel Fancourt”, *The Library*, Vol.8, No.4 (December 2007), 398-422.

### ***Ollé Award for 2008:***

Unfortunately we have not been able to make this award for 2008 due to a lack of entries.

The criteria for awarding both the Library History Essay Prize and the Ollé Award have been changed slightly in the hope that we will attract more entries. Full details can be found on the LIHG’s website.

### **Events**

LIHG Conference, March 2009. This was a one day conference held in London, featuring eleven speakers plus a plenary roundtable discussion, chaired by Peter Hoare, featuring Toni Weller, Alistair Black and James Raven (winner of the SHARP DeLong Book History Book Prize 2008) which discussed *Future Directions for Library & Information History*. Several of the papers from the conference will be featured in a special issue of the journal, *Library & Information History* in 2010. The Group sponsored one student bursary, who consequently wrote up the event for the Groups’ Newsletter.

The conference was finished with an evening reception in UCL’s cloister rooms, where Maney publishing kindly sponsored wine and nibbles for all delegates. Sponsorship of events is something that we have done twice this year with positive results and are planning to tie into more events, where possible, going forward.

The committee are currently in discussion for a possible further Anglo-German conference to be held in collaboration with our German equivalent group at Wolfenbüttel in 2010. There is also the possibility of another one day conference to be held in London.

In July, the LIHG was represented by three committee members at the last ever Umbrella Conference at the University of Hertfordshire. The theme of the conference was *Making connections: the power of people, partnerships and services*. This year the Group offered only one presentation at UOU, although it was one of the conference’s best. It was chaired by John Crawford and entitled “Books, buildings and social

engineering: the design of early public library buildings (1850s to 1939) in Britain from past to present. Alistair Black and Simon Pepper, both professors, reported on the outcomes of their joint Arts and Humanities Research Council funded study which sets out to rehabilitate the early public library building and review its modern social role as about 65% of them are still in use. This was an outstanding joint presentation and noteworthy for content, analysis and interpretation. Their work rests on a database of about 1000 buildings. Alistair described the social forces which brought about the public library building and influenced its development while Simon described some classic case studies including the famous circular Manchester Public Library building. Their work is now the subject of a book published by Ashgate (see below under Publications).

In terms of social events, the Group also held two evening lectures. One at Edinburgh Napier University in May 2009 where a private tour of the Edward Clark Collection preceded a talk by Keith Manley to promote his new book, *Broadening readership: subscription libraries and mechanics' institutes in early 19th century Scotland*. The event was sponsored by the Scottish Centre for the Book. The event was well attended and written up in the LIHG Newsletter.

The second event was an evening talk by Paul Sturges in September 2009 at Bromley House Library in Nottingham on *Extending information history into unexpected areas: African liberation struggles*. Despite good publicity, the event was less well attended than hoped and raised some questions about the importance of timing and location for scholarly lectures as Group events.

## **Publications**

Several members of the committee - John Crawford, Peter Hoare, Alistair Black, Sarah Bromage, Toni Bunch – are involved in a project with Edinburgh University Press on the History of libraries in Scotland, following from the success of *The Cambridge History of Libraries in Britain and Ireland*.

The Group was delighted to see the publication of *Books, buildings and social engineering: early public library buildings in Britain from past to present*, by Alistair Black, Simon Pepper and Kaye Bagshaw, based on an AHRC project which has produced a database of over one thousand pre-1939 public library buildings. This project was originally sponsored by the LIHG, with a steering group made up of members of the Committee

offering advice in the critical early stages of the research. Options are being considered regarding where to house the electronic database of pre-1939 public library buildings generated by the research. These options include a non-CILIP website funded by the Group and AHRC's own electronic repository.

### **Meetings Report 2007-2008**

The Group continued with its regional venues for committee meetings, but for the first time ran other events separately (such as the evening talks above) in order to maximise time and opportunities for speakers.

Three committee meetings were held in 2009 – one in March at City University, London, one in June at St John's College, Cambridge, and one at John Rylands Library, Manchester in November (preceding the AGM).

### **Future direction of the Group**

To build on valuable work already underway in developing the regional activities of the Group. We now have a committee structure in place which enables us to devote more resources to organising successful events throughout the country, with the aim of attracting new audiences as well as our existing membership.

To work with other organisations in the UK and beyond to broaden awareness of library and information history. We have established links with the USA, Germany, and Scandinavia, a track record of collaboration with the Historic Libraries Forum, and now also have official representation in SHARP.

To make effective use of electronic means to keep members informed, to publicise Group aims and activities, and to provide resources for those with an interest in library and information history.

To continue to support research and publication in the field, through bursaries and awards, and other appropriate assistance.

**Dr Toni Weller**  
**LIHG Chair, October 2008 – May 2009**

## **CILIP Library and Information History Group Treasurer's Annual Report for 2008**

This has been another year when income exceeded expenditure. The Group is extremely fortunate that it receives royalties and editorial expenses for the journal Library and information history from the publisher Maney in addition to CILIP capitation, which alone would not be sufficient to fund the activities of the Group. Income relating to the 2007 Umbrella conference was distributed to Groups in 2008, and as the LIHG had run one joint and two single sessions this brought a significant sum. It is unlikely that we will receive as much in future years.

Expenditure was relatively modest in 2008. Newsletter expenses have reduced considerably since the transfer to an electronic format, though a few members continue to receive hardcopy on request. Although Maney paid the Group £1000 for editorial expenses, less than half of this was allocated to the journal in 2008, the remainder going into general Group funds. The Committee has now agreed that from 1 January 2009, all monies paid towards editing the journal should be allocated solely to editorial expenses, particularly as the task of copy-editing has now become that much more onerous with the welcome increase to four issues per year.

Once again no applications were received for the Olle award: a studentship of up to £500 to support research projects in library and information history. The Committee is now working on restructuring this award to try to attract greater interest from those researching in the field.

Committee expenses inevitably made up a large part of overall expenditure, with travel costs rising and a large and active committee scattered across the UK. Much business is, quite rightly, carried out by email between meetings, but physical meetings are still necessary and where possible were run in conjunction with member events, combined events reducing expense and taking advantage of local speakers.

No Group conference was held in 2008, but sponsorship of £150 was given to support the extremely well-received library history seminar series held at UCL. A very well-attended (actually oversubscribed) talk for members at York was run at minimal cost, with modest attendance fees almost covering expenses. An absence of outlay on member events does not necessarily reflect lack of activity, as with careful management talks and tours, and even larger conferences can be run on a break-even basis. Funds were also allocated to publicity and to the members' annual

mailing and yearcard. Although the newsletter is now electronic, the Group remains committed to ensuring that all members receive one physical mailing a year, and are informed of events organised by the Group.

With the introduction of a new reserves policy by CILIP in 2009, I think it is a good time for the committee to formulate a clear strategy regarding the level of its reserves and the use of surplus funds, and this is something that my successor will take forward.

As usual I have to thank our independent examiners of the accounts for taking on the dull task of checking my sums. Anna Jones, Lee Librarian at Wolfson College (known to many of us as a former Secretary of the LIHG) and Stewart Tiley, Librarian of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, very kindly examined the 2008 accounts for us.

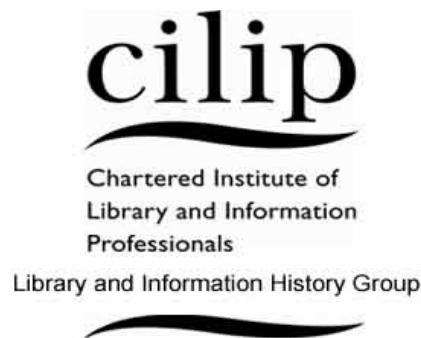
I leave the post of Treasurer with the Group's funds in a healthy state. I'd particularly like to thank my colleagues on the committee who have helped me and the Group over the past five years in being frugal in their claims and organised in keeping receipts: something which has made the Treasurer's job that much easier and pleasant, and also Rowena and Peter at CILIP's Finance Department for all their support and advice. I wish Kathleen every success in the post.

Kathryn McKee  
Hon. Treasurer



Total Bank, Deposit and cash balances at 31st December 2008	=====
	9,437.66
(should equal 1 January balance + receipts - payments)	=====

There were no amounts owing or owed to/from the Group.



### **CILIP Library and Information History Group AGM 2009**

**The 2009 AGM will take place at 2.30 pm on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2009 at The John Rylands Library, University of Manchester**

<http://www.library.manchester.ac.uk/>

<http://www.manchester.ac.uk/visitors/travel/maps/>

Could members attending please notify Dorothy Clayton in advance so that they can be met at a central point and guided to the meeting room.  
e-mail: [dorothy.clayton@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:dorothy.clayton@manchester.ac.uk)

## Under One Umbrella, Hatfield, July 2009

This was CILIP's second visit to the smart and commodious campus of the University of Hertfordshire. Yet lights that flick on as you walk down a dark corridor still spook me, though the electronic key pads worked better this time. But no complaints about the facilities, well not many, and the lecture rooms were well-appointed and reasonably cosy. Not that I got to as many lectures as I should have done.

Sorting out my own presentation (on the history of enquiry answering) with my fellow conspirators delayed my appearance on campus, as did the *two* changes of train required coming down from 'up north' – there was only one last time. Another thing that hindered my attendance at lectures/presentations, apart from browsing the impressive conference brochure, was the excellent exhibition. Two large halls contained fifty exhibitors with space to move around and ample mouth-watering refreshments on hand. My smart conference bag was soon full with brochures, catalogues and other goodies.

On enquiring about spine labels that would actually stay stuck to cloth bindings – I was obviously a dinosaur 'bookie' let loose in an electronic jungle! – the nice lady from Gresswell presented me with an inch-thick catalogue. She must have seen my face fall and promptly offered to post it to me. Had a long discussion with Ordnance Survey/Latitude Mapping about the availability of Goad Plans and the marvellous Cassini reprints. CUP, or maybe it was OUP, quizzed me about using electronic reference services in branch libraries, and I got up to speed on ProQuest's move into digitizing historic newspapers.

My pet grouse was let loose on Nielsen and OCLC, namely 'How can a member of the public with no affiliation to a big library, get to find out what books are in print (Nielsen) or where to find a library that has a particular book (Worldcat)? Books again! It really p\*\*\*es me off that I have to rely on the vagaries of Amazon and the Google jungle to find what should be easy to find because of inability to access subscription services. Nielsen did suggest I make friends with the backroom boys of my local library – and for the record, they had no objection to the public using their service. OCLC gave the good news that WorldCat is now available free of charge to the public. Yippee!

Oh yes, the lectures. Though fair dos, the exhibitors do provide a large slice of the conference income, so no apology for highlighting their role. (Of course, mention of a product or supplier implies no

endorsement.) By a masterstroke of bad planning, and despite my voiced ire, I found the LIHG session I was responsible for – Black and Pepper on our library heritage as revealed in its buildings – was on at the same time as my own presentation in an ISG (Information Services Group) session! So my thanks to John Crawford for chairing the Alistair and Simon show, and apologies to that duo for my own non-show.

One of the problems of Under One Umbrella – though some might say it is its strength – has always been the plethora of parallel session. Many people attended my session who would also have liked to have gone to LIHG's, and maybe *vice versa*. The fixture congestion was exacerbated by the reduction from a three-day conference to a two-day one. This squeezed out a lot of quality time for socializing. And where was the bar? Library and Info historians did a lot of networking and evangelizing in there last time.

I was sorry LIHG could only offer one session this time. Our worst record yet. Where were you all? I only saw two of you! Yes, I know: the cost, no budget for history, one-man-bands with no cover for days out in Hatfield. And yes, we need to put our limited resources and energy into our own conferences, but so do other groups. UOU is a chance to promote the historical dimension to the profession at large and to wave a flag for our own institutions. It would be sad if we became even more marginalized in the LIS profession than we are already.

*Bob Duckett, Bradford*  
(LIHG representative on the Conference Committee)

### **LIHG meeting: Bromley House Library, Nottingham, September 2009**

I am glad to report that the meeting at Bromley House Library, Nottingham, on Friday 4 September, went ahead after various alarms and excursions - and despite last-minute apologies from a couple of people.

We had a small but enthusiastic audience to hear Professor Paul Sturges talk about information processes in the context of African liberation movements (not forgetting the parallel Government information systems, which were often similar to those of insurgents).

He presented his model of "information history in an unexpected field" and showed that the discipline can be used in many new directions. (In discussion parallels were drawn with modern European political

struggles, and even with the English Civil War, as well as different parts of Africa and Asia - showing that the topic was even more widely relevant than the title suggested.)

*Peter Hoare, Nottingham*

**CILIP Library and Information History Group  
One-Day Conference**  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2009, CILIP, 7, Ridgmount Street

Changes in the development of the Library and Information History Group and of its subjects of interest were reflected in the contributions of delegates and in the composition of participants in the recent One-Day Conference. Formerly the Library History Group, this special interest group of CILIP now encompasses a wider field to include Information as an umbrella term for a number of subjects many of which were covered in this conference.

It was interesting to note the age balance of participants and audience from which we can deduce that our Group is attracting interest in younger people, which is a good sign for the future of our subject. As well as the usual stalwarts of the LIHG, among the thirty participants were ten whose appearance suggested they might have ticked the “under 30” box and for whom PowerPoint holds no terrors. These included the chair, Dr Toni Weller, who is also the current editor of the *Library & Information History* academic journal, and who is the first female to hold either post.

That librarianship is a female-dominated profession was reflected in the fact that only around a third of the audience were men, but they were over-represented in the list of speakers, of whom five out of eleven were men. There was a fair sprinkling of overseas delegates. Professor Laura Skouvig of the Royal School of Library and Information in Copenhagen chaired one Panel, while Martine Poulain of the Library of the Institut National d’Histoire de l’Art in Paris, Benito Rial Costas from Italy and Kathleen Miller from Canada, via Trinity College, Dublin, all presented papers. Also giving papers were Liangyu Fu from China via the University of Pittsburgh and the Needham Research Institute in Cambridge and Leonard Houx from the US via Ravensbourne College in Kent.

A notable participant of the conference was Dr Weller’s predecessor as editor of *Library & Information History*, Professor Alistair

Black, who had flown back to the UK from the University of Illinois where he has recently taken up a post in the Graduate School of Library and Information Science. Professor Black, Dr Weller and Professor James Raven of Essex University took part in the plenary round table discussion on the Future Directions for Library and Information History, which was chaired by Peter Hoare, one of the most active and long-standing members of the LHG and now the LIHG, and founder of its journal *Library History* (now renamed *Library & Information History*). Professor Raven is a noted historian and has published extensively on the history of the book. He stated his belief that our subject of study should be ever more inclusive and we should not erect artificial boundaries to scholars of other disciplines. Professor Black agreed, declaring himself to be a social historian of libraries and information rather than a library and information historian.

The range of subjects of the papers reflected this growing trend. In the morning the proceedings began with a standard library history account of the destruction of French libraries during World War II by Martine Poulain in which we learned that 10 million volumes were looted by German forces during the occupation of France. Bob Duckett followed with a descriptive account of a correspondence between a bibliographer, T J Wise, and the Bradford City Librarian, Butler Wood, in the construction of Wise's 1917 bibliography of the Brontes. This was followed by a contribution which might come under the term "book history": Liangyu Fu told the story of the Chinese Scientific Book Depot, a science bookshop in Shanghai, which was opened by a British missionary, John Fryer, in 1885, and placing it in the context of the development of Western scientific thought in China.

There followed four standard library history papers : an analysis and interpretation of a 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> century library inventory in Italy by Benito Rial Costas; an account by Karen Attar of the small but important mathematical library of Augustus de Morgan, a Victorian mathematician; Lucy Gwynn's description of the development of the arrangement and architecture of the English domestic library, which was accompanied by some beautiful illustrations; and Katie Birkwood's account of how the Archbishop of Armagh, James Ussher, used the Cotton manuscript library as a resource for his writing.

In the afternoon, George Roe continued the standard library history theme in his paper on the highly influential Indian librarian, S R Ranganathan, which shed some interesting light on the great man's fate in his native country. However, the other afternoon papers could be

classified as “information history”: Neil Barton’s fascinating account of how the introduction of the telegraph affected news production following the opening of the Electric Telegraph Company’s national service in 1948; Leonard Houx’s discussion of how the current predominance of the idea of information obscures the role of language, context, and media in communication; and Kathleen Miller’s paper on the intersection of early modern print culture and the 1665 London plague.

The younger participants all gave papers based on research conducted in the course of a master’s degree or PhD. The papers given by Lucy Gwynn, Katie Birkwood, George Roe and Leonard Houx were all based on their Masters’ dissertations. Liangyu Fu and Kathleen Miller’s papers were both derived from research conducted for PhDs currently in progress, while Neil Barton’s paper was taken from his recently completed PhD thesis. Several of the young recently qualified librarians are now working in their field, and it is to be hoped that they will be able continue to research and publish, although past experience shows that a full-time job leaves little time to pursue unremunerated work. A special issue of *Library & Information History* in 2010 will be dedicated to publishing some of the papers from the conference.

The day was rounded off with a wine reception sponsored by Maney Publishing, hosted at the South Wilkins Cloisters at University College London. It was a thoroughly enjoyable day with many interesting and worthwhile contributions and a general feeling that our subject is one which is definitely moving forward and expanding and not stagnating.

Margaret Hung  
*Leeds Metropolitan University*

### **A Summer in the Life of ... John Crawford**

#### **‘A part time library historian’s summer’**

**June 10<sup>th</sup>** and at St John’s College, Cambridge for LIHG committee where our new chair, Kathryn McKee is taking over from Toni Weller. Much discussion about how to promote the Group.

The following day I am off to CILIP Council in my capacity as chair of the Task and Finish Group on Branch & Group regulations. Bob McKee and I present our draft revised text which is, in general, well received with a few further matters to complete.

**16<sup>th</sup> June.** Off to rural Somerset with my research assistant, Christine Irving, at the invitation of JISC South West, to speak about the work of the Scottish Information Literacy Project which I direct. The conference venue is an anonymous hospitality and conference centre. The taxi driver tells us it was built on the site of a former pig farm as the pig farmers decided there was more money to be made from farming weddings and conferences than pigs. I bump into Derek Law who seems just as busy in retirement as when working.

**Late June.** Off to Tuscany for a much needed holiday. We go to Florence for a day where I fail to get into the Laurentian Library for the fifth time. It is, of course, *chiuso*. However the till assistant helpfully informs me that I have turned up just in time to be too late and the library will now be closed for several days. I head off to Santa Croce east of the city centre to visit the tomb of my favourite political theorist, Niccolo Machiavelli, but he too is apparently *chiuso*, being swathed in sheets of polythene per *restauro*. I have better luck the following day at Castiglione, south of Arezzo where I, at least, catch a glimpse of the local public library's rare book collection while visiting the magnificently sited museum which is still *aperto* at 6.30pm.

Back to work with lots to catch up on but off again on UOU 09 on the 14<sup>th</sup> July. I am up early for the 7 o'clock flight but not organised enough to get to any sessions before my own at 2.15. I share the session with Debbi Boden (University of Worcester) and Ruth Stubbings (Loughborough) who have perfected an excellent double act. I speak about the work of the Scottish Information Literacy Project, including latest developments. Debbi and Ruth describe SMILE which is an online IL and writing skills programme based around a 'Life Cycle of Study' model funded by JISC. After coffee I head for the discussion on 'Our professional future' chaired by Sheila Corral of Sheffield University.

A number of key questions are addressed: **Is a professional qualification necessary?** -there is no clear answer to this –for 'core activities' yes but for others like marketing a qualification in the speciality might be more appropriate. **What are the benefits of having a degree in librarianship?** – Ayub Khan from Warwickshire thinks a rigorous education develops a reflective practitioner; **do education programmes need to change to meet professional needs?** – Skills like marketing, strategic thinking; advocacy, customer service and accountancy skills are all identified. Sheila Corral believes strongly that academics should have professional experience so they can help students prepare for the real world of work which lies ahead. **How should professional education**

**evolve?** - Issues identified include more mixed routes into the profession, more competency based training, more flexibility in learning opportunities and more CPD and more employer engagement with information departments. In the evening off to the conference dinner at the RAF museum at Hendon where I have an opportunity to indulge my 'Biggles' enthusiasms.

In the morning I go to the first session on the value of libraries where I hope to doze quietly in the back row but am immediately fingered by Philip Payne (Birkbeck College) to facilitate a discussion group. Philip and Angela Conyers review the work on value and impact which LIRG and SCONUL promoted earlier in the decade and Philip emphasize its value in view of probable further budget cuts. Angela reviews the work of SCONUL including the recent VAMP (Value and Impact Measurement Programme) which is looking at how data is being collected. After coffee I went to the next Value of libraries session but this seemed more concerned with research methodologies rather than outcomes.

After lunch the Libraries Change Lives Award which is not unconnected with value and impact. Leeds Library and Information Service was a worthy winner with Across the Board: Autism support for families. The Service's ability to pick up an unfamiliar idea and develop it to excellence was noteworthy.

The final session I attended was also chaired by me, The Library and Information History Group's, Books, buildings and social engineering: the design of early public library buildings (1850s to 1939) in Britain from past to present. Alistair Black and Simon Pepper, both professors, reported on the outcomes of their joint Arts and Humanities Research Council funded study which sets out to rehabilitate the early public library building and review its modern social role as about 65% of them are still in use. This was an outstanding joint presentation and noteworthy for content, analysis and interpretation. Their work rests on an analysis of a database of about 1000 buildings. Alistair described the social forces which brought about the public library building and influenced its development while Simon described some classic case studies including the famous circular Manchester Public Library building in Manchester. Their work is now the subject of a book published by Ashgate.

Overall it was a fairly useful conference although shoehorning it into two days perhaps reduced the 'buzz' a bit but I had useful

discussions and networking opportunities. While I liked the conference dinner venue the food was a bit iffy. The University of Hertfordshire continues to be an attractive venue with all the lecture rooms conveniently grouped together and easy to find.

After the conference off to London where the following day I visit Syon House and admire the work of Robert Adams especially the Elizabethan long gallery transformed to double up as a library. Bit inconvenient if the two books you want are at opposite ends but it faces south with views to the Thames so plenty of natural light to read by. The following Monday off to London again for another Task and Finish Group, this time on updating our Disciplinary Procedures.

I have a short holiday in Herefordshire at the end of July where I catch up with some old friends including our own Group vice-chair, Bob Duckett. On the 20<sup>th</sup> August I am off to my home town of Greenock where the public library service has been running employability courses, including an information literacy element. Christine and I spend a pleasant morning interviewing some of the adult learners, none of whom has any formal qualifications but are keen to learn and find out how to use information. They are clearly well motivated and as keen on personal development as they are on employability skills. The 18<sup>th</sup> century ideal of mutual improvement is still alive and well.

**3<sup>rd</sup> September** and nearly the end of summer and I am off to London again to attend a meeting of the English Branches Forum where there is an interesting discussion about policy making and a positive report from Ian McCartney about CILIP's finances. I present the draft revised Branch & Group regulations for discussion. They are well received but there are inevitably suggestions for improvement. We agree that the January 2010 deadline for implementation is no longer realistic and it will probably take until mid 2010. Still best to take time to get it right. Summer finishes with an enjoyable break in Northumberland including a visit to the largest second hand bookshop in the North of England, Barter Books in Alnwick, an essential stop for any old books enthusiast.

John Crawford,  
*Glasgow Caledonian University*

## **LIHG Committee Meetings 2009**

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November 2009**, AGM and committee meeting, John Rylands Library, Manchester

12.30pm Committee meeting - observers are welcome, please notify Rob Westwood (Hon. Sec. in advance: e-mail [rob@robwestwood.co.uk](mailto:rob@robwestwood.co.uk))

2.30pm LIHG AGM – please notify Dorothy Clayton in advance (e-mail [dorothy.clayton@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:dorothy.clayton@manchester.ac.uk))

3.00pm Tours of the John Rylands Library

## **LIHG Members Events 2010**

For more information on forthcoming events, please see the LIHG website:

<http://www.cilip.org.uk/specialinterestgroups/bysubject/history>

The website also includes online access to the group's newsletter.

The Library and Information History Group can also now be found as a public group on Facebook [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com). For those wishing to receive the latest information about LIHG activities please add LIHG to your friends.

## **LIHG Newsletter Copy Dates 2010**

- Spring 2010: Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January
- Summer 2010: Friday 21<sup>st</sup> May
- Winter 2010: Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September

## **LIHG Newsletter Issue Dates 2009/10**

- Spring 2010: Monday 1st February
- Summer 2010: Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June
- Winter 2010: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October

## SEMINAR ON THE HISTORY OF LIBRARIES

A series of research seminars, which are freely open for anyone to attend, has been organized by the Institute of English Studies, School of Advanced Study, University of London.

Venue: Senate House, Malet St., London WC1E 7HU.

Meetings will take place monthly during term-time on Tuesdays at 5.30 p.m. in either Senate House (South Block) or adjoining Stewart House. Because of ongoing re-furbishment work, rooms will not be allocated before the commencement of term.

Seminar convenors: Giles Mandelbrote (Early Printed Collections, The British Library, London); Dr. Keith A. Manley (Institute of Historical Research, University of London); Professor Simon Eliot (Institute of English Studies); Professor Isabel Rivers (Queen Mary); Professor Henry Woudhuysen (University College).

The seminars are jointly sponsored by the Institute of English Studies, the Institute of Historical Research, and the Library & Information History Group.

### AUTUMN TERM 2009

**October 6** Dr. *Maureen Bell* (University of Birmingham): 'Titus Wheatcroft: an eighteenth-century reader and his books'.

*In 1723 Titus Wheatcroft (1679-1762), parish clerk and schoolmaster in Ashover, Derbyshire, began to make a catalogue of his books. His collection of nearly 400 items, in both manuscript and print, provides valuable evidence of a literate but relatively poor rural reader's access to books. His four surviving manuscript volumes also give an insight into how he used some of the books he owned, and offer evidence of his engagement with printed texts beyond those listed in his catalogue.*

**November 3** Prof. *Simon Eliot* (Institute of English Studies): 'Gutting Leviathan: the fall of the great circulating libraries in Britain'.

*What were the economics that powered the great circulating libraries of the later nineteenth century? How important was the three-decker novel in this process? What caused the collapse of the three-decker novel in 1894, and how were the publishers involved? Why did many of the largest circulating*

*libraries survive 1894 and flourish for another generation, or even two? And what finally beached these monsters?*

**December 1** Dr. Keith A. Manley (Institute of Historical Research): 'Infidel books and subscription libraries: government censorship in Europe during the Napoleonic period'.

*Many governments tried to prevent libraries from acquiring politically inflammatory and heretical literature. In Germany secret societies of freemasons infiltrated libraries to promote their own views of Enlightenment and world domination, while Hanover feared for the morals of its children if they were allowed access to circulating libraries. Germany and Austria banned subscription libraries, fearing their malignant influence. In France, officials kept libraries under close surveillance. In comparison, British libraries escaped lightly from tight supervision, though in Ulster several were ransacked by yeomanry.*

Further seminars will take place during 2010. Details will be available soon.

Information concerning the Institute of English Studies may be found on its website, [ies.sas.ac.uk](http://ies.sas.ac.uk), or e-mail [ies@sas.ac.uk](mailto:ies@sas.ac.uk).

## Reviews

***Almondbury: "A splendid little library"*** [A commemorative brochure celebrating Almondbury library] written by Rob Greenwood in association with Friends of Almondbury Library and Kirklees Library & Information Service, 2009. 16 pages. £3.00

Almondbury ('Ormbry' to locals) is a small township two miles south of Huddersfield with a long history. It shelters below Castle Hill, once the fortress stronghold of the Brigantian Queen Cartimandua, ally of Rome in the first century AD. There are Tudor-vintage buildings and in 1904, when big brother Huddersfield down the hill spurned Andrew Carnegie's offer to help finance the building of a public library, Almondbury accepted the £1,500 gift from Carnegie and in 1906 became an early English 'Carnegie'. The building remains in use as a library - just!

Two years ago the local authority planned to abandon this aging and cramped building and replace it with a new and larger super-doooper information and resource centre. Local opposition to the 'de-

commissioning' of this historic building of character was strong and, after a public consultation, plans were dropped. Almonbury's delightful little Carnegie survives.

To celebrate this reprieve, local resident and colleagues have, with the support of Kirklees Library & Information Service, published a smart commemorative brochure. Illustrated with historic photographs, a modern watercolour of the building and the architect's plan, the text gives a brief history of the library, notes on Carnegie and fellow Scot-made-good, borough architect Kenneth Findlater Campbell, and descriptions of the interior and exterior of the building.

The Library and Information Group can take a little bit of credit for this notable achievement since it was a mention of the library in an article in *Library History* that was a spur to Rob Greenwood.

Many local communities have surviving Carnegies and other historic library buildings in their midst. We wish more people were aware of this heritage and take more pride in them. More brochures please!

*Bob Duckett (Bradford)*

***“Twelve Good and Lawful Men ... and Miss Proctor”*: Public Library Pioneers in the North West, 1850-1905.** By John Tiernan.

CILIP Local Studies Group, North West Branch, 2008. 16 pp. £1.00. (Available from Alice Lock, Tameside Local Studies and Archives, Central Library, Old Street, Ashton-under-Lyne, OL6 7SG)

The twelve “good and lawful men” of the title were Charles Madeley, chief librarian of Warrington (1874-1920) and his deputy; the chief librarian and deputy of Manchester; and the librarians of Wigan, Birkenhead, Northwich, Oldham, Stockport, Bolton, Runcorn, and Cheetham's Hospital, Manchester. Miss Proctor was Miss Anne Jane Proctor, chief librarian of Widnes and one of the first female librarians in the UK. The quote comes from Madeley's handwritten history of the 'Librarians of the Mersey District' (LMD), relating to its first meeting on 23 October 1887. Peter Cowell of Liverpool joined the group in the following year, with John J. Ogle of Bootle and Alfred Lancaster of St. Helens a year later.

The 'lawful' nature of the twelve is not made explicit but probably relates to the fact that the first two rate-supported libraries in the area,

Salford and Warrington (before Madeley's time) were established under the 1845 Museums Act, and Salford by loaning books, certainly, and Warrington by making books reference only except to subscribers, probably, were operating illegally. By 1899, group membership numbered fifty and included non public librarians. The proceedings of the meetings consisted "of a combination of the exhibition of items of library furniture or technology, with papers on administration or professional topics delivered by members and then discussed generally." Particular note is made of the interest shown in local history and topography.

This was an age when public library services were starting to mature and expand. While the first librarians to be appointed after the 1850 Public Libraries Act were an odd mixture - Tiernan notes a police sergeant, a schoolmaster, an auctioneer's clerk and a handloom weaver - by 1887 some experience of running libraries had been accumulated and there were stirrings of professionalism.

The Library Association of the United Kingdom was founded in 1877, and Madeley, Cowell and many other LMD librarians were also members of its governing council. Indeed, members from the North West at times constituted a majority. But the bibliographically-orientated 'London Association' was not popular in the north, nor in the Midlands and elsewhere, so many other regional groupings followed the lead of Madeley's LMD by establishing their own library associations. These included the North Midlands Library Association, the Birmingham and District Library Association, and the Northern Counties Library Association.

In response to this proliferation of regional associations, the Library Association, which was granted a Royal Charter in 1896, established its own regional branches, the North West Branch being the first. For a while both LA Branches and regional LAs existed side-by-side (though the duplication of subscriptions was not popular) but the LMD petered out in 1905 and few of the others survived long after the 1914-18 war.

This pamphlet contains the text of a paper delivered at a Local Studies Group North West day school held in 2000, and is based on an unpublished MA dissertation. While one could wish for a proper title page, some sub-headings and a larger type size, the text reads well and the account is well documented with 91 references. I spotted a mistake on page 7: Madeley was appointed to Warrington in 1874, not 1848, and retired in 1920, not 1874, and I would quibble over the phrase 'the North

West' in the title, for most library authorities outside the Mersey hinterland in the 'North West' were members of the Northern Counties Library Association, including Accrington, Chorley, Preston and Lancaster; Cumberland and Westmoreland as well.<sup>1</sup>

However, John Tiernan is to be congratulated in rediscovering these early leaders and I hope more may come from the same, or some other, pen. Congratulations also to the North West Branch of LSG for making this history available.

*Bob Duckett (Bradford)*

<sup>1</sup> 'Friend or Foe? The Northern Counties Library Association, 1900-1922' by R. J. Duckett. *Library History*, vol. 12 (1996), pp.155-170.

# LIBRARY & INFORMATION HISTORY

Volume 25 Number 3 September 2009

## CONTENTS

Editorial	
Toni Weller	145
Articles	
<b>The American Numismatic Society Library and Numismatic Scholarship</b>	
Barbara Bonous-Smit	147
<b>Introduction to SHARP Copenhagen: A Nordic Conference of International Print Culture</b>	
Simon R Frost	171
<b>The Carnegie Corporation Decides on Racially-Segregated Libraries in South Africa in 1928: Negrophilist or Segregationist?</b>	
Fiona Bell	173
<b>Defending the National Literature? Cultural Historical Background of the Finnish System of Public Lending Right Compensation</b>	
Ilkka Mäkinen	189
Reviews	
Cornelis D Andriessse, <i>Dutch messengers: a history of science publishing, 1930–1980</i> (Arnold Lubbers); Gaëtan Benoît, <i>Eugène Morel: pioneer of public libraries in France</i> (Laura Skouvig); Sue Bradley, <i>The British book trade: an oral history</i> (Julian Roberts); Michiel Van Groesen, <i>The representations of the overseas world in the De Bry collection of voyages (1590–1634)</i> (Laurence Worms); Robert Hauptman, <i>Documentation: a history and critique of attribution, commentary, glosses, marginalia, notes, bibliographies, works-cited lists and citation indexing and analysis</i> (J H Bowman); Robin Myers, Michael Harris, and Giles Mandelbrote, <i>Music and the book trade from the sixteenth to the twentieth century</i> (H Diack Johnstone); Sytze Van Der Veen, <i>Brill: 325 years of scholarly publishing</i> (Els F M Peters)	204

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## Forthcoming Events

**5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> November 2009**

**The Legacy of Joseph Scaliger (1540-1609)**

The Scaliger Institute of Leiden University, Leiden University, The Netherlands

A two-day conference organized by The Scaliger Institute of Leiden University, the Warburg Institute of the University of London & The Huygens Instituut Den Haag

You are most welcome to attend the symposium and/or the public lecture, but please register in advance by sending an e-mail to [scaliger@library.leidenuniv.nl](mailto:scaliger@library.leidenuniv.nl) and please indicate whether you will be joining us for the symposium & public lecture or public lecture only.

Scaliger Institute of Leiden University:

<http://www.library.leiden.edu/faculty/scaliger-institute/>

**Edinburgh Book History Seminar Series (2009-10)**

**Organised by The Centre for the History of the Book and Edinburgh University Library:** <http://www.hss.ed.ac.uk/chb>

5th Floor, Edinburgh University Main Library, Edinburgh  
Fridays - 1-2pm (except where noted). All are welcome to attend.

**29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> November 2009**

**Publishing the fine and applied arts, 1500-2000**

The Foundling Museum, 40 Brunswick Square, London, WC1 1AZ

**Organised by Michael Harris, Giles Mandelbrote and Robin Myers, in association with the Antiquarian Booksellers' Association**

This year's annual conference on book trade history, the 31st in the series, will explore the relationship between the business of print and the practice of art and design across five centuries. There will also be opportunities to visit the Foundling Museum and to see relevant material in the Department of Prints & Drawings at the British Museum.

The conference fee of £80 will include coffee, tea and a buffet lunch on both days. Full conference details will be published shortly (see <http://www.aba.org.uk/bulletin/booktrade.htm>). Please contact the Antiquarian Booksellers' Association (by email if possible) to request

more information and a booking form: ABA, Sackville House, 40 Piccadilly, London, W1J 0DR. Email: [admin@aba.org.uk](mailto:admin@aba.org.uk) Tel: 020 7439 3118 Fax: 020 7439 3119

**8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> December 2009**

**Panizzi Lectures (2009-10)**

Conference Centre of the British Library, 96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB

Professor Anthony Grafton

*The Culture of Correction in Renaissance Europe*

This year's series of Panizzi lectures will explore the ways in which texts were prepared for publication in Renaissance Europe. Professor Anthony Grafton will recreate the practices of professional correctors--poor devils of literature whose work extended far beyond the specific task of proof correction--and the printers and authors who worked with them. Both great houses such as that of Christopher Plantin and much smaller ones will come in for examination, but the emphasis will be on the former.

To celebrate this year's Panizzi lecture series a reception will be held after the final lecture.

Tickets (free) must be obtained in advance from the [British Library Box Office](#) (telephone 01937 546 546)

<http://www.bl.uk/whatson/events/event95959.html>

**15<sup>th</sup> January 2010**

**Margins of Print: Ephemera, Print Culture, and Lost Histories of the Newspaper**

School of History, University of Nottingham

This one-day conference/symposium will address the significance of transitory, elusive texts in Britain, Europe and America, including textual artifacts that have eluded traditional categories of print, or have been dismissed as short-lived, disposable, or valueless. To this end, the conference seeks to establish the value of a wide range of ephemera, from pamphlets and pulps, agony columns or matrimonial advertisements to pictorial matter, cards, cartoons, competitions, display advertising and personal ads. Recent decades have witnessed a shift in scholarly interest toward this formerly overlooked print tradition. New digital resources in particular are bringing into view a wide range of printed materials once hidden from the sight of researchers. Some questions raised by this material include: What are the appropriate methods of interpretation for

working with ephemeral texts? What do these unique texts tell us about our cultural, social, or technological histories? How do transitory materials document the history of the nation in different ways from other sources? By asking such questions, this event aims to tell the untold stories of ephemera.

Selected papers from the event will be included in a special issue of *Media Studies*.

We welcome papers on any aspect of ephemera and print culture. Please send proposals of c.500-1000 words to Dr Harry Cocks and Dr. Matt. Rubery by 31<sup>st</sup> October 2009.

[harry.cocks@nottingham.ac.uk](mailto:harry.cocks@nottingham.ac.uk)

[m.rubery@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:m.rubery@leeds.ac.uk)

**7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> April 2010**

**Correspondence: Travel, Writing, and Literatures of Exploration, c. 1750-c. 1850**

University of Edinburgh and National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh

An international conference hosted by the University of Edinburgh and National Library of Scotland

### **Call for papers**

The University of Edinburgh (Institute of Geography and Centre for the History of the Book), in collaboration with the National Library of Scotland, is pleased to announce 'Correspondence: travel, writing, and literatures of exploration, c. 1750-c.1850'--a four-day, interdisciplinary conference concerned with travel, travel writing, and the associated literatures of exploration.

In bringing together scholarly perspectives from geography, book history, literary studies, and the history of science, the conference seeks to interrogate the relationship between travel, exploration, and publishing in order better to understand how knowledge acquired 'in the field' became, through a series of material and epistemic translations, knowledge on the page.

Plenary speakers include Joyce Chaplin (Harvard University), Nigel Leask (University of Glasgow), and Tim Fulford (Nottingham Trent University).

Proposals for papers on all aspects of travel in the period in question are welcome. Preference may be given to papers which engage with one or more of the following themes:

- Travellers' inscriptive practices  
How, where, when, and why did travellers and explorers choose to record the details of their journeys? In what respects did the mode and style of travellers' written accounts--whether rough notes, regularised diaries and logs, thematic reports, or letters--discipline their content and reflect their intended purpose?
- Travellers' credibility and the veracity of written accounts  
Given that travellers and explorers were only ever partial and imperfect witnesses, how did they assure themselves--and, through the published versions of their work, their audiences--of the truth? How did their accounts correspond to the things they sought to describe and understand? What were the epistemological bases to travellers' claims to truth?
- The correspondence between manuscript and print  
What were the material and epistemic transformations which turned travellers' initial notes into completed, published narratives? Which changes and adaptations were considered necessary in making the transition from manuscript to print? How, in a pre-photographic age, were credible illustrations produced in the field, and how did they supplement and lend authority to printed texts?

Proposals of no more than 250 words should be sent to:

Dr Innes M. Keighren, Institute of Geography, University of Edinburgh, Drummond Street, EDINBURGH, EH8 9XP or by email to [innes.keighren@ed.ac.uk](mailto:innes.keighren@ed.ac.uk) no later than 1 October 2009.

The organizers hope to have a programme of over twenty papers over the four days of the meeting (including plenary papers).

Organizers: Dr Bill Bell, Dr Innes M. Keighren, Professor Charles W. J. Withers.

**14<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> April 2010**

**Women Readers/Educational Texts 1500-1800**

University of Liverpool

The recent upsurge in interest in the history of reading has opened numerous new interpretative avenues for scholars. Women's reading has attracted particular attention, in specific regions and time periods. Much of this critical interest has focused on the idea of leisure reading, however, with the reading of literary texts an especially common theme.

This interdisciplinary conference seeks to explore the range of representations and reading practices contained within and encouraged by works which had a solely or largely pedagogical purpose. What vision of female nature did they propose? How were their textual and editorial strategies specifically adapted to fulfil the perceived needs of the female reading public? How did individual female readers respond to these representations and proposed practices? How did reading advice and practices change over time?

Points of departure include but are not limited to:

- textual and editorial strategies for advising women
- moral aphorisms for women
- the interplay between educational and leisure reading
- the role of reading in developing women's civic and domestic duties
- reading as a means to women's moral and social advancement
- specific reading practices proposed by educational texts or adopted by individual readers
- the 'feminisation' of traditionally 'masculine' reading practices, including commonplace books, books of extracts etc.

Contributions which treat any language area are welcome. Papers which compare and contrast more than one language area are particularly encouraged.

Proposals for 20-minute papers should be sent to Dr Pollie Bromilow ([pollie.bromilow@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:pollie.bromilow@liverpool.ac.uk)) and Dr Mark Towsey ([m.r.m.towsey@liverpool.ac.uk](mailto:m.r.m.towsey@liverpool.ac.uk)) by Friday August 28th 2009.

It is envisaged that this conference will form the basis of a co-edited volume.

This conference is jointly organised by the [University of Liverpool History of the Book Research Group](#) and [The Eighteenth-Century Worlds Research Centre](#)

This call for papers can also be viewed on-line at:

<http://www.liv.ac.uk/soclas/conferences/WomenReaders/index.htm>

**7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> June 2010**

**Sir Hans Sloane, The Greatest Physician-Naturalist of his Era**

British Library, London

An International Conference Commemorating the 350th Anniversary of his Birth

**Call for Papers**

The year 2010 marks the 350th anniversary of the birth of the physician Sir Hans Sloane (1660-1753). Well-known as one of the greatest collectors of his age, he was also President of the Royal Society and the Royal College of Physicians, the major patron of the Chelsea Physic Garden, a physician to Queen Anne, George I and George II, and had many other connections throughout British society, leaving his name to the prestigious Sloane Square in London. His enormous network of acquaintances and correspondents throughout the world established him as probably the single most influential British 'scientist' between Isaac Newton and Joseph Banks. After his death, Parliament purchased his collections, which laid the foundation for what are now three institutions: the British Library, British Museum, and Natural History Museum.

A project has been generously funded by the Wellcome Trust to electronically re-create the bulk of Sloane's voluminous but now dispersed library, led by Alison Walker with the assistance of Shauna Barrett and the direction of Prof Hal Cook. It is now online and being continuously updated at [www.bl.uk/catalogues/sloane](http://www.bl.uk/catalogues/sloane). The project's two host institutions, The British Library and The Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine at UCL, are sponsoring a two-day conference on Sloane and his collections.

We invite proposals on any aspect of the history and significance of Sloane and his activities; papers on the development of the Sloane collections after his lifetime will also be considered. Preference will be given to studies that make use of the new online catalogue. Those attending the conference will be responsible for organising their own travel and accommodation. We expect each presentation to take 20 minutes, which will be followed by 10 minutes for discussion, with an opportunity for more general discussion at the end of the conference. Depending on the quality of the papers, a publication may follow.

Please send your proposal by no later than **15 December 2009**, which should be no more than one page in length, to Lauren Cracknell at The Wellcome Trust Centre for the History of Medicine at UCL, 183 Euston Rd., London NW1 2BE, UK, or emailed to [l.cracknell@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:l.cracknell@ucl.ac.uk).

Inquiries may be directed to Hal Cook, via Lauren Cracknell, or to Alison Walker [alison.walker@bl.uk](mailto:alison.walker@bl.uk)

**16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> July 2010**

**Material Cultures 2010: Technology, Textuality, and Transmission**  
University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh

Roger Chartier, Jerome McGann, Peter Stallybrass

Following the Material Cultures conferences which took place at The University of Edinburgh in 2000 and 2005, the third in the series is scheduled to take place in July 2010. The key theme of the conference is 'Technology, Textuality, and Transmission', though proposals relating to all aspects of Bibliography and the History of the Book are welcome.

- Materiality and Textuality
- Electronic Text
- The Cultures of Print
- Censorship and Regulation
- Collections and their Preservation
- Readers and Reading Practices
- Technology and Transmission
- The Information Revolution
- Geographies of the Book

Proposals of 200-300 words are invited on these or any other topic related to the history of the book, to be sent no later than **NOVEMBER 30, 2009**, to:

Material Cultures, Centre for the History of the Book, University of Edinburgh, 22a Buccleuch Place, Edinburgh, EH8 9LW or by email to [materialcultures@ed.ac.uk](mailto:materialcultures@ed.ac.uk)

Organised by The CENTRE for the HISTORY of the BOOK  
<http://www.hss.ed.ac.uk/chb>