

# **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)

Series 4, no. 15, Spring 2009

ISSN 1744-3180

## **CONTENTS**

<b>1. News from the Chair</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>2. Library History News</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3. LIHG Committee Meetings</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>4. LIHG Newsletter copy dates 2009/10</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>5. A Day in the Life of ... LIHG Hon. Treasurer</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>6. A Day in the Life of ... A Geriatric Student</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>7. Project Announcement: Libraries of Early America</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>8. LIHG One Day Conference</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>9. Collaborative Seminar: Leeds' Civic Heritage of Libraries and Readers</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>10. Print Networks Conference: Collectors, Librarians and the Book Trade</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>11. Library History Seminars</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>12. Forthcoming Events</b>	<b>17</b>

## News from the Chair

Dear Group Members,

Last year saw some significant changes to the Group and a refocusing of strategic direction and style. I want to thank all Group members for their patience during this period of transition and hope that you will share my enthusiasm for the year ahead.

Our website is undergoing a transformation, thanks to our Web Officer, Hannah Thomas, which will make it easier for you access information about the Group's events, Committee members and activities. We now also have an online presence on Facebook and continue to be active via the discussion list lis-libhist.

Our speakers for 2009 range from the topic of subscription libraries and mechanics' institutes in early 19th century Scotland (Keith Manley, 13th May) to information history in African liberation struggles (Paul Sturges, 4th September). Library and information history has never been such a vibrant topic!

The Group's journal, *Library History*, has been renamed *Library and Information History* to reflect the Group's own recent name change and to reflect the growing diversity and dynamism of the broader field. The information age has challenged the way we think of human knowledge and the Library and Information Group offers a unique position from which to explore these ideas.

Our one day conference on 27th March at CILIP, 7 Ridgmount Street will be addressing some of these issues. Group members enjoy a discounted fee to attend – details will be on the website, or you can contact our new Social Secretary, Shauna Barrett, [shauna.barrett@ouls.ox.ac.uk](mailto:shauna.barrett@ouls.ox.ac.uk), for more information. See the advert in this issue of the Newsletter for more information.

Change is an ongoing process but please keep checking the website as it continues to be updated and revitalised. I hope to see you at one of our 2009 events, but if you're unable to join us, why not consider submitting a piece for the Group Newsletter to its editor, Yvonne Lewis, [y\\_lewis@btinternet.com](mailto:y_lewis@btinternet.com)?

From all of the LIHG Committee, a very happy new year!

Dr Toni Weller  
Chair, Library and Information History Group  
January 2009

## **Library History News**

### **Private Libraries In Renaissance England**

I am pleased to announce that Private Libraries in Renaissance England (PLRE), in cooperation with the Folger Shakespeare Library, is now available online as the PLRE.Folger database. PLRE.Folger contains records of nearly 13,000 books drawn from book-lists compiled in England between 1507 and 1653, itemizing the collections of 196 owners. These records include the book-lists appearing in 162 probate inventories taken under the jurisdiction of the Chancellor of Oxford University.

The material in the database is searchable in a variety ways, and thanks to the generosity of the Folger, access is free to the scholarly community. The current database is the beta version. Accordingly, users are invited to make comments and suggestions for improvement. Email addresses are provided for that purpose on the website's Contacts page.

This announcement of the PLRE.Folger release would be incomplete without the following comments:

- PLRE.Folger and the printed volumes of PLRE are complementary presentations of the material in Private Libraries in Renaissance England. They are not substitutes one for the other. The use of PLRE.Folger will, therefore, be enhanced with the printed volumes on hand.
- In that regard, I wish to express my thanks to Robert E. Bjork, Director and General Editor of Medieval and Renaissance Texts and Studies, publisher of Private Libraries in Renaissance England, for his generosity in facilitating the online version of PLRE.
- Joining me in creating PLRE.Folger were Heather Wolfe, Curator of Manuscripts at the Folger Shakespeare Library, and Michael Poston, Database Applications Associate at the Folger. In addition, for more than two decades nearly fifty scholars have contributed to the PLRE project by collecting and editing the

material that has appeared in the six (soon to be seven) volumes of Private Libraries in Renaissance England and, consequently, the data available in PLRE.Folger. Their names can be found on the website's Contributors page. As the person who created the interface of the PLRE.Folger website, however, Mr. Poston of the Folger has made a unique contribution, one that significantly extends the availability of PLRE and enlarges its value. His contribution deserves, and here is gratefully given, special notice.

PLRE.Folger can be accessed at: <http://plre.folger.edu>. Given the unique character of the database, the documentation is unusually heavy and detailed; users would be well-served to print the documentation for reference.

The PLRE Project website, which provides detailed information about Private Libraries in Renaissance England as well as material drawn from the published volumes not available at PLRE.Folger, can be accessed at <http://wmpeople.wm.edu/site/page/rjfehr> or via a link from PLRE.Folger.

I would be grateful if the recipients of this announcement would distribute it to other interested scholars.

R.J. Fehrenbach, General Editor  
Private Libraries in Renaissance England

## **LIHG Committee Meetings 2008**

**Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2009**, City University, London

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2009**, Library Seminar Room, St. John's College, Cambridge

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

## **LIHG Members Events 2009**

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2009**

LIHG Annual One Day Conference

“Aspects of Library and Information History”

CILIP, 7 Ridgmount Street, London WC1E 7AE

Followed by an evening reception sponsored by Maney Publishing

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2009**

Napier University, Edinburgh

Private tour of the Edward Clark Collection (afternoon)

*“Broadening readership: subscription libraries and mechanics' institutes in early 19th century Scotland”*

Evening talk by Dr Keith Manley, Institute of English Studies, London.

With discussion over wine

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July, 2009**

Umbrella Conference

*“Making connections: the power of people, partnerships and services”*

University of Hertfordshire, Hatfield <http://www.umbrella2009.org.uk/>

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2009**

*“Extending information history into unexpected areas: African liberation struggles”*

Evening talk by Professor Paul Sturges, University of Loughborough  
Nottingham University (TBC)  
With discussion over wine

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

The LIHG website can be found at:  
<http://www.cilip.org.uk/specialinterestgroups/bysubject/history> and  
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 2009**

- Spring 2009: Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January
- Summer 2009: Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May
- Winter 2009: Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September

## **A Day in the Life of the LIHG Hon. Treasurer**

As Treasurer of the LIHG I have the unenviable task of managing the Group's finances: advising on budgets, keeping the accounts, dealing with the bank, calculating VAT returns (I didn't have grey hairs before I became Treasurer), and generally attempting to be stern whenever people suggest spending money, which is hard, because I'm just a pussycat really. To be honest, I actively encourage spending money on projects which further the objectives of the Group, though frown very heavily on any committee member who hasn't bought a cheap advance rail ticket. Being on the LIHG committee gives me a great opportunity to visit historic libraries, meet interesting people, and indulge my interest in the intellectual and social history of a range of diverse institutions.

I have to confess that my day job doesn't involve a great deal of library history per se, although I do work in a library rich in history. As Sub-Librarian at St John's College, Cambridge, my work is based mainly in the undergraduate Working Library, rather than our seventeenth-century Old Library (designated an outstanding collection by the MLA in 2005). I deputise for the Librarian, manage projects, supervise staff, oversee the library management system, catalogue and classify books, train staff, give user education sessions, answer enquiries, help at the issue desk, show visitors around, unjam photocopiers, report to meetings, organise stocktaking, maintain databases, update web resources, liaise with other College librarians, and generally do anything else that needs doing.

Professionally, I represent Cambridge College libraries on the Libraries@Cambridge Advisory Group which deals with systems and cataloguing issues; I am a past convenor and current committee member of the Cambridge College Libraries Forum, manage their mailing list and coordinate their training sub-committee; and I am a co-editor of the Cambridge University Libraries Information Bulletin, a biennial publication available both in print and online ([www.lib.cam.ac.uk/CULIB/](http://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/CULIB/)). I am also a mentor for Chartership candidates.

Delving into library and information history tends to be a spare time occupation, fuelled in part by genealogical research, in part by a continuing interest in the impact of the industrial revolution on social structures, religion, and intellectual life, inspired by my history degree some 20 years ago. Amongst my husband's ancestors, I am fascinated by the literacy levels achieved in the mid-nineteenth century by the sons of

weavers and labourers who went on to become Non-Conformist ministers and schoolmasters. In 1841 three generations lived together in a crowded tenement, all but the very youngest of the children working “down t’mill”. By 1860, they were preaching lengthy sermons, and writing articulate letters later published in the *Gospel Standard Magazine*. Chapel minute books and accounts give some insight into the work of the Sunday schools instrumental in this transformation, though finding surviving records can be a challenge.

In a more prosperous branch of the family far away from the industrial north-west, eighteenth-century property inventories listing “many book shilves” and wills bequeathing: “my collection of books and manuscripts” arouse curiosity. Which books did they own? No volumes have been passed down to current generations. Subscription lists sometimes give clues to literary interests, where a family member has a sufficiently unusual name to be identified conclusively (not all do - I have a fine collection of William Browns and Mary Smiths among my forebears). Occasionally I strike gold when a book containing a family book plate turns up in a sale catalogue or is mentioned on a library mailing list by a cataloguer seeking provenance information. Ed Potten tracked down one such volume in the Portico Library in Manchester for me a few years back, but such finds are rare. I spend far too much of my spare time in local studies libraries, archives, and record offices tracing the history of elusive ancestors and the society in which they lived, emerging to go hillwalking and to tend a somewhat unruly garden full of organic vegetables.

Kathryn McKee,  
LIHG Honorary Treasurer,  
St. John’s College,  
Cambridge

Antonia (Toni) Bunch had a very full and (mostly) satisfying career as a librarian. After ten years of retirement, she decided at the ripe old age of 71 to attempt a PhD. She is researching Victorian and Edwardian Public Library Buildings in Scotland in the History Department at Dundee University. We asked her to tell us about:

### **A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A GERIATRIC STUDENT**

The alarm goes at 7.00am. As I stretch out to switch it off, I groan, “Why am I doing this? After all, I am a pensioner now, I could lie in bed all day!” “Not a good idea” my better, inner self replies so I switch on the radio. Shouting at the *Today* programme helps me to wake up.

Eventually I get out of bed, still muttering! Shower, dress, feed the birds, and then breakfast whilst reading the newspaper. I live in the back of beyond so I am fortunate in having a paper delivery. If it is a good day I will walk round the garden with a cup of coffee to get fresh air into my lungs.

Most professional writers, according to the accounts I have read, tend to keep “office hours” or at least attempt it. I don’t have a shed but I do have a study so I try to be at my desk by 9.00 am and usually start with about an hour’s reading. I prefer to write as I read and revise afterwards rather than complete the reading and then write. I have only recently started this project so I am currently working on my first chapter which is an overview of the period up to the passing of the 1850 Act.

Around 11.30 am I go for a walk; it is good exercise and clears the brain. I slip a small dictating machine into my pocket; it is tinier than many mobile phones. Whilst I am walking I am still turning over sentences in my head and should something really brilliant crop up, I would hate to forget it before I return home!

After lunch I go to Dundee because a research seminar is taking place. This one is not directly relevant to my research but it is interesting and gives me an opportunity to meet again with other history PhD students whose ages, incidentally, range from about 25 to 69!

There are advantages and disadvantages in researching from home and not living in and being part of an academic community full time. Writing is a solitary occupation and one needs to be alone for that. The

one thing that I miss, however, in being “retired” is the intellectual stimulus that comes from chatting to colleagues over coffee – the Senior Common Room scenario! This is one reason why I opted to do this research for a PhD rather than do it for its own sake. So I need to make serious attempts to meet with my colleagues in Dundee. I always come home refreshed and inspired so it must be working! The three-hour train journey is also a great opportunity for some reading. I get home quite late, so cup of hot chocolate and bed. Perhaps tomorrow I will do some gardening.

### **Project Announcement: Libraries of Early America**

Have you ever wondered what books Benjamin Franklin, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson had in their personal libraries? How about 18th-century Virginia musician Cuthbert Ogle, or four generations of Mather family members? Or the most active female book collector in Virginia during the colonial/early national period, Lady Jean Skipwith?

A new project will make it possible to search, compare and study these and other Libraries of Early America. Using the book-cataloging website LibraryThing.com, scholars from institutions around the country (including Monticello, the Massachusetts Historical Society, the Boston Athenaeum, the Boston Public Library, the Library Company of Philadelphia, the American Philosophical Society and others) have begun the process of creating digital catalogs of early American book collections - the project covers anyone who lived in America and collected primarily before 1825.

Is your institution home to any personal library collections or library inventories/book lists? Have you run across early American library catalogs (manuscript or printed) in the course of your research? We have begun compiling a list of collections to be added (link below) and are happy to receive further submissions.

Also, if your institution's holdings include books from any of the personal libraries already completed or underway (a link to a complete listing is below), we would be very interested to hear of them so that the records can be added to the database. While it will be impossible to catch every single book ever owned or read by these individuals, we intend to make these catalogs as complete as possible, so every title helps.

For more information, links, and so forth, please visit the Libraries of Early America group page. Feel free to ask any questions or offer any

suggestions you have on the project, and if you'd like to volunteer, we'd love the assistance.

\*Libraries of Early America - <http://www.librarything.com/groups/PLEA>

\*Early American Collections added so far -  
[http://www.librarything.com/wiki/index.php/Complete\\_Collections](http://www.librarything.com/wiki/index.php/Complete_Collections)

\*Early American Collections to be added -  
[http://www.librarything.com/wiki/index.php/Collections\\_To\\_Be\\_Added](http://www.librarything.com/wiki/index.php/Collections_To_Be_Added)

\*LibraryThing - <http://www.librarything.com>

Best,  
Jeremy B. Dibbell

LEA Coordinator  
Assistant Reference Librarian  
Massachusetts Historical Society  
1154 Boylston Street  
Boston MA 02215  
(617) 646-0532  
[jdibbell@masshist.org](mailto:jdibbell@masshist.org)



**Chartered Institute of  
Library and Information  
Professionals**

## **Annual One Day Conference of the Library and Information History Group**

**Chartered Institute of Information Professionals,  
7 Ridgmount Street, London. WC1E 7AE**

**Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> March 2009**

The day's event will include a plenary session chaired by Dr Toni Weller and Professor Alistair Black on the future directions of Library and Information History.

Featured speakers include:

Karen Attar '*The library of Augustus de Morgan*'

John Bowman '*Schools' of librarianship in 1900*'

Neil Barton '*The birth of telegraphic news in the UK*'

and Martine Poulain '*Bombing and destruction of French libraries during World War Two*'

### **Registration Fee**

LIHG Members £40

Non-members £50. This fee includes one year's subscription to the Library and Information History Group

Registration fee includes morning and afternoon refreshments, lunch, and an evening drinks reception sponsored by Maney Publishing.

Booking forms are available by contacting Shauna Barrett, LIHG Social Secretary, at

[shauna.barrett@ouls.ox.ac.uk](mailto:shauna.barrett@ouls.ox.ac.uk) or by post at 13 Howard Street, Oxford, OX4 3A.

For further information about the LIHG, forthcoming events, and the projects with which it is involved, please visit the Group website:

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

The Centre for Heritage Research, University of Leeds, in collaboration with  
The Leeds Library, and the Yorkshire Local Studies Network presents:

## *Collaborative Seminar:* **Leeds' Civic Heritage of Libraries and Readers**

A free seminar for librarians and scholars of book & library history

Wednesday April 29<sup>th</sup> 2009 4.00 - 6.00pm (with reception to follow)

Reservations are *essential* – please see booking form below

Attendees may arrive at 3.30 to see a display of the library's holdings

**Venue: The Leeds Library, Leeds, 18 Commercial Street, Leeds, LS1 6AL**  
The UK's oldest private subscription library - [www.theleedslibrary.org.uk](http://www.theleedslibrary.org.uk)

### **Aims of the Seminar:**

- To share research and civic heritage expertise between University of Leeds scholars and library staff members, in relation to Leeds' 250 years-worth of book collecting, borrowing and reading.
- To open up the collections of what is the UK's oldest private subscription library, and to facilitate scholarly research within these collections.
- To provide a forum for the development of University-civic research partnerships, in relation to the Leeds Library and other civic library collections.

### **Speakers:**

**Geoffrey Forster** (The Leeds Library), 'Collecting in Commercial Street: books and readers at the Leeds Library, 1768 to the present day'.

**Mark Steadman** (University of Leeds, History & Philosophy of Science), 'Fuelling the Fires of Industry?: Institutionalising Expert Knowledge in Industrial Leeds 1771-1874'.

**Rebecca Bowd** (University of Leeds, School of History), 'Medics and Merchants: a comparative study of the eighteenth-century subscription libraries in Leeds'.

**Helen Sutcliffe** (University of Leeds, School of English), 'Inappropriate library institutions and inappropriate reading' - The Leeds Foreign Circulating Library.'

### **Commentators:**

**Stuart Rawnsley** (Leeds Metropolitan Society, School of Cultural Studies,).

**Jim Morgan** (Thoresby Society).

**Bob Duckett** (retired librarian and committee member, Library & Information History Group and editor, Bronte Society).

# RESERVATION FORM

**for the seminar Leeds' Civic Heritage of Libraries and Readers  
Wednesday April 29<sup>th</sup> 2009, at The Leeds Library, 4pm**

The number of places available at this seminar are strictly limited.

Places must be reserved in advance.

To reserve a place. please email:

[leedslibraryseminar@googlemail.com](mailto:leedslibraryseminar@googlemail.com) by 22<sup>nd</sup> April 5pm and include the following information:

NAME:

AFFILIATION

EMAIL ADDRESS:

DIETARY PREFERENCES:

ACCESS REQUIREMENTS:

I DO/DO NOT WISH TO JOIN THE POST-SEMINAR RECEPTION (please select as appropriate)

Venue contact details: Geoffrey Forster, Librarian 0113 2453071

Email: [ForsterG@theleedslibrary.org.uk](mailto:ForsterG@theleedslibrary.org.uk)

**Print Networks Conference**  
**COLLECTORS, LIBRARIANS AND THE BOOK TRADE**  
**Cambridge, UK, 28-30 July 2009**

**CALL FOR PAPERS – EXTENDED DEADLINE**

**Guest speaker: Ann Thwaite, Whitbread Award-winning biographer, will speak on Edmund Gosse, author of ‘Father and Son’ and sometime Librarian of the House of Lords.**

The annual ‘Print Networks’ conference on the History of the British Book Trade will take place at Trinity Hall, Cambridge University, 28-30 July 2009.

Papers are invited on any aspect of the production, distribution and reception of print and manuscript in Great Britain. However, provincial-metropolitan inter-trade connections will be acceptable or on aspects of trade relations with any part of the former colonies & dominions. The conference theme is **Collectors, Librarians and the Book Trade**, so papers within that area are encouraged, although others will be considered. Selected papers will be published as part of the Print Networks series, published jointly by the British Library and Oak Knoll Press.

Papers should be of up to 30 minutes’ duration. A brief CV (c. 50 words) and an abstract (of c.300 words) should be submitted by 28 February 2009 to Lucy Lewis: LCH08@ABER.AC.UK

The Print Networks Conference offers one or two Conference Fellowships to postgraduate students who wish to present a paper. Fellowships cover the cost of attending the conference and assistance towards costs of travel. A detailed submission of the research being undertaken accompanied by a letter of recommendation from a tutor or supervisor should be sent to Lucy Lewis by 28 February 2009. Support from the Bibliographical Society enables us to offer subsidised places for students, whether or not they are offering a paper; enquiries to Lucy Lewis: LCH08@ABER.AC.UK

Conference website:  
[WWW.BBTI.BHAM.AC.UK](http://WWW.BBTI.BHAM.AC.UK) (then select ‘Print Networks’)

## SEMINARS ON THE HISTORY OF LIBRARIES

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

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

Meetings will take place on Tuesdays at 5.30 p.m. in Room NG 16, located off the main ground floor corridor of Senate House North Block.

Seminar convenors: Giles Mandelbrote (Early Printed Collections, The British Library, London); Dr. Keith A. Manley (Institute of Historical Research, University of London).

### SPRING TERM 2009

#### **March 10<sup>th</sup> 2009**

Prof. David McKitterick (Trinity College, Cambridge): *Waste management or selling the family silver?: libraries and the second-hand book trade since the 16th century.*

#### **March 31<sup>st</sup> 2009**

Peter Hoare (formerly of University of Nottingham Library): *Library practices and policies in the British Zone of Occupation, 1945-50.*

#### **May 5<sup>th</sup> 2009**

Graham Jefcoate (Radboud University Library, Nijmegen): *'A difficult modernity': the library of the Catholic University of Nijmegen.*

#### **June 2<sup>nd</sup> 2009**

Prof. Richard Sharpe (Wadham College, Oxford): *John Bagford's account of London libraries (1707).*

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

This series of seminars is financially supported by the Library & Information History Group of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals.

## **Forthcoming Events**

**Friday March 27<sup>th</sup> 2009**

**CILIP Library and Information History Group one day conference**

“Aspects of Library and Information History”

CILIP, 7 Ridgmount Street, London WC1E 7AE

Followed by an evening reception sponsored by Maney Publishing

For more details see the groups website:

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

**16<sup>th</sup> June 2009**

**The History of Books for Children and Young Adults**

University of Bedfordshire, Polhill Campus, Bedford

The University of Bedfordshire is hosting a forthcoming one-day conference on the history of books for children and young adults to be held on the 16th June 2009 at the Polhill Campus, Bedford. The Hockliffe archive comprises works of fiction and non-fiction for children from the eighteenth, nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. These include a wide range of literary genres, from fables and fairy tales, through periodicals and instruction books, to poetry and fiction, as well as books on games and pastimes, natural science, history, mathematics, geography and travel, (amongst others).

We do not, however, wish to restrict papers to work on books actually in the collection, although papers on these are of course very welcome, but instead we wish to use the conference as an occasion to celebrate the long and vibrant history of publications aimed at children and young adults, and the increasingly multi-disciplinary areas of research with which this has been associated.

We therefore welcome contributions that centre on the following very broad topics and themes:

- Academic approaches to children's, young adult (YA) and crossover literature

- The history of children's book illustration, including work on picture books, comics and graphic novels
- The representation of children and childhood in fiction and non-fiction
- Multi-disciplinary work in the fields of childhood and youth studies
- The history of instruction books for children, from bible stories and hymns, through books on history, geography and travel, to natural science and mathematics
- Children's oral culture, including folklore, myths and legends
- Pedagogic theory and practice, from ABC books, to postgraduate courses on children's literature and culture and creative writing for young and YA readers
- The history of children's play and leisure, including research on toys, games, and sports
- Multi-media childhoods, including work on the history of children's television, film and computer games

Please note that proposed papers from postgraduate students are welcome.

The day's proceedings will end with readings by one or more contemporary children's writers (please check the conference website for updates on this).

See <http://www.beds.ac.uk/research/rimad/hockcliffeconference>

Other related topics and themes will be considered for inclusion in the conference programme.

Please submit a 250 word abstract, accompanied by contact details and a brief biography, to be received by 17th April 2009, to the following address:

The Hockliffe Conference  
 c/o Dr Clare Walsh  
 Division of Performing Arts & English  
 University of Bedfordshire  
 Polhill Avenue  
 Bedford  
 MK41 9EA  
 Or by email to: [hockliffe@beds.ac.uk](mailto:hockliffe@beds.ac.uk)

**23<sup>rd</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> June 2009 SHARP**

**Tradition & Innovation – The State of Book History / Le point sur l'histoire du livre**

St. Michael's College, University of Toronto, Canada

The conference theme, Tradition & Innovation, provides an opportunity to explore developments in the field of Book History. Professor Natalie Zemon Davis (Princeton and the University of Toronto) and Professor Dominique Kalifa (Paris 1) will deliver plenary addresses.

In keeping with previous SHARP conferences, we welcome proposals on all aspects of book history and print culture, but especially those that address issues related to the conference theme, such as:

- the future of the discipline
- methodologies: theory versus case studies?
- the legacy of material bibliography
- the 'newmedia' and book culture
- trans-national approaches
- the technologies of reading / assessing readerships
- the evolving nature of authorship
- book history and publishing studies

Presenters must be members of SHARP (by the time of registration) in order to present at the conference.

For information on membership, please visit the SHARP website at <http://www.sharpweb.org/>

Conference website: <http://www.utoronto.ca/stmikes/sharp2009/>

**14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> July 2009 CILIP Umbrella, Hatfield**

**23<sup>rd</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> August 2009**

**IFLA-conference Milan 2009:** IFLA Rare Books and Manuscripts Section, Preservation and Conservation Section, Library History Section  
Milan, Italy

The IFLA Rare Books and Manuscripts Section, the Preservation and Conservation Section, and the Library History Section jointly invite proposals for presentations at the Sections' programme in Milan, 23-27 August 2009.

Following the main theme of the conference 'Libraries create futures: Building on cultural heritage', papers should focus on dispersed cultural collections and their preservation and conservation, reconstruction, and access to them, preferably in electronic form.

- Dispersed cultural collections comprises libraries and other collections formerly held by institutions or private collectors which were dispersed through political events (wars, dissolution of monasteries) or through auctions and duplicate sales, and are today held in various public institutions (libraries, archives, museums) or in different sections of such institutions. The dispersed materials may be in different formats (manuscripts, printed books, archival documents, photographs) and may date from any period. Papers about individual collectors and dealers will also be considered.
- Preservation and conservation deals with aspects of the physical assessment of an object for the better understanding of its contexts, with special regard to provenances. The role of the conservator should be given particular consideration, including procedures for preserving and documenting features relevant for the history of an item during conservation, such as provenance marks and former shelfmarks.
- Reconstruction should cover questions of identifying individual items which once belonged to such a collection; of investigating the survival of historical collections; or of maintaining inventories or archives of collections that have been dispersed. Papers should discuss methods of reconstruction, i.e. through identification of provenances, through matching of historical inventories with surviving items, or through digitization as well as methods for the creation of virtual libraries or databases of dispersed materials.
- Access refers to the questions concerning the needs of target-groups of such projects (from researchers to the general public), the standards applied for cataloguing and presentation and problems of overcoming heterogeneous standards for diverse materials; technical solutions for their presentation; and also raising awareness and funds for such projects.