

# Library and Information History Group

## *Newsletter*

Summer 2010



*The Library of the Catholic University of Louvain*



*The National Library of Spain*

# **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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## News from the Chair

Nearly a third of the way through 2010 as I write this, and it already seems to have been an eventful year. The committee met in Leicester in March, and had a lively and productive meeting to discuss strategy in addition to our regular business meeting. Members' feedback from the survey played a significant part in our discussions (a summary of the results of the survey may be found elsewhere in this newsletter) and we are extremely grateful to all those who contributed.

Our annual conference on the theme of *Parochial Libraries: past, present and future* was held at Lambeth Palace on 26 April, and was a great success. We attracted over 40 attendees, including many delegates who were not previously members of the LIHG. Eight speakers gave a series of entertaining and thought-provoking talks, which stimulated lively discussion, many useful additional comments coming from the floor. I hope that some of the contributions may be published. We would like to record our gratitude to Lambeth Palace Library for their hospitality and assistance in organising this event.

Other regular member events have also been taking place. The history of libraries seminar series at Senate House, which is supported by the LIHG, goes from strength to strength, with an excellent programme of speakers. Our new series of seminars in Scotland to accompany the future publication of the *Edinburgh History of Libraries in Scotland* got off to a flying start at Glasgow Caledonian University in February when some fifty people turned up to hear Peter Reid and Forbes Gibb discuss the evolution of library education in Scotland. The second in the series took place in April at Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen, on the theme of the history of business libraries in Scotland.

We have an afternoon visit coming up (which will have taken place by the time that you read this) at Chawton House Library: a unique collection of books focusing on women's writing in English from 1600-1830. We hope that providing private tours to regional libraries and collections such as this will bring a greater appreciation of library and information history to all librarians in the area, not just those already involved in the Group.

The next big event on our calendar will be the group's participation in an international conference at Wolfenbüttel. The LIHG is providing four speakers and we are thrilled that the UK perspective will be represented in this wider European study of popular education and reading material in the 18th and 19th centuries. I realise that many of our members will not be in a position to travel to Germany to attend this, but there are

plans to publish all the papers from this conference.

One piece of committee news. Due to a change in personal circumstances, our Secretary Rob Westwood, has regretfully had to resign from secretarial duties. He will remain on the committee, and continues to participate in group discussions via email from Canada. A call via email lists and Gazette for a new secretary prompted several expressions of interest, and we are delighted to announce that we have co-opted Miriam Walters, a newly qualified librarian working at the University of the West of England as our new committee secretary.

Kathryn McKee

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## **LIHG Committee Meetings 2010**

### **21 June 2010**

Edinburgh, Napier University, Craighouse Campus, Edinburgh

### **9 November 2010**

CILIP HQ, Ridgmount Street, London

Committee meeting, LIHG AGM and member event

Observers are welcome at all committee meetings, but please inform the secretary, Miriam Walters beforehand if you intend to attend in case space is limited. E-mail: [Miriam2.Walters@uwe.ac.uk](mailto:Miriam2.Walters@uwe.ac.uk)

## **LIHG Members Events 2010**

### **20 – 22 September 2010**

*Popular Education and Reading Material in the 18th and 19th centuries.*

Bible Room of the Herzog August Bibliothek, Wolfenbüttel, Germany.

Joint conference with German and Scandinavian colleagues.

### **26 October 2010**

Dr. Keith Moore from the library of the Royal Society will speak to members of the Aberystwyth Bibliographic Group. This coincides with the 350th anniversary of the Royal Society. LIHG members would be welcome to join the ABG for this meeting. Full details will be included in the Autumn issue.

## **9 November 2010**

CILIP HQ, Ridgmount Street, London

Committee meeting, LIHG AGM and member event

Please see the LIHG website for more information on forthcoming events: <http://www.cilip.org.uk/specialinterestgroups/bysubject/history>.

The website also includes online access to the group's newsletters, from 2004 to the present.

### **LIHG Newsletter Copy Dates 2010/2011**

- Winter 2010: 17 September 2010
- Spring 2011: 21 January 2011

### **LIHG Newsletter Issue Dates 2010/2011**

- Winter 2010: 4 October 2010
- Spring 2011: 7 February 2011

Copy should be sent to the new Newsletter Editor: Renae Satterley, Middle Temple Library, Middle Temple Lane, London, EC4Y 9BT [r.satterley@middletemple.org.uk](mailto:r.satterley@middletemple.org.uk). The Newsletter would specially benefit from receiving updates, exhibitions, articles, etc... from outside of London.

Reminder: you can receive monthly email bulletins from the LIHG with updates on events, news, and notification of when this newsletter appears on our website. Register on the CILIP website, and in the ebulletins section of your profile tick to receive news from CILIP.

### **Results of members' survey**

A brief survey was sent out with the 2010 annual mailing in February, seeking all members' views on the Group's activities. A reply-paid envelope was enclosed for all UK members to encourage response. Overseas members were encouraged to email any comments, and a prize draw of a £20 book token was offered as an incentive to return surveys. The lucky winner was Jill Kempshall from Bristol, to whom a book token has duly been sent.

87 completed surveys were received by the end of February, representing about 15% of the total membership. One of those responses was received from an overseas member (from Australia).

The most common reason cited for not attending meetings (representing one third of respondents) was location/distance. We are very aware of the difficulties of holding meetings in locations convenient to our membership, as members are so widely scattered. From member information obtained from CILIP, we know that there are only three cities in the UK (London, Cambridge and Oxford) where we have a concentration of more than 10 members. Some counties have only two or three members resident. Besides London, we have been able to hold successful, well-attended events in Edinburgh and Glasgow (which between them have 15 members), and in York and Norwich, where talks were deliberately pitched at, and advertised to, non-members. We are planning a meeting in Aberystwyth in collaboration with the local bibliographical society, and are considering the possibility of an event in Newcastle for 2011. Regional events in regions where we have few members have to be of popular appeal if we are to attract sufficient attendees to be worth organising. An early evening talk and social event in 2009 in Nottingham drew only a small audience despite concerted efforts at publicity.

One fifth of respondents stated specifically that they were unable to attend any events due to age or infirmity. A quarter of respondents said that they were retired. This underestimates the proportion of our members who are retired. From statistics obtained from CILIP's membership department, we know that in fact 33% of our members are retired, a proportion which may rise in the next few years, as 42% are currently aged 60+. Many of our retired members are, of course, extremely active and participate fully in Group activities. Indeed, they contribute significant experience and expertise and may have more time and energy to devote to library and information history than those who are in employment. It is important to be aware of the demographic when planning, to ensure that the range of our activities continues to offer value to those who are no longer able to attend meetings, and also attracts new members to the Group.

As far as the activities of the Group are concerned, nearly half of respondents thought that publications should be a priority. A third thought that advocacy should be a priority, and a third that organising meetings and events should be a priority. One sixth of respondents stressed the importance of research and projects, and one sixth thought that awards and bursaries were important. Several respondents specifically said that they thought that the current balance of activities was about right. It was good to see comments such as : "As it is now - the group does an excellent job".

Very encouragingly, nearly one tenth of respondents said that they had only joined the Group in the last year. The Group's appeal to students is confirmed by CILIP membership statistics, which reinforces the view that providing support for projects and bursaries for students is a worthwhile part of the Group's activity.

We are extremely grateful to all those who replied to the survey, and have taken these views on board in future planning. The committee recognises that publications are a priority for many members unable themselves to attend events (though it is worth noting that many of those who could not get to meetings still asserted that member events should be a priority for the Group). Hard copy newsletters will continue to be provided for those who are unable to access the newsletter on the website, and from 2011 the annual mailing will include one hard copy newsletter distributed to all members. Two issues a year will continue to be electronic only for the majority of members, as this is the only financially viable way of producing the newsletter. Several members asked if the newsletter could be emailed, and we regret that we are unable to do this, as Ridgmount Street will not supply members' email addresses to Groups and Branches. However we can and do use CILIP's monthly bulletin service, so all members who registered online to receive news from CILIP will receive an email notification from us when a new issue of the newsletter is available. Between a third and a half of LIHG members are already using the service and we would urge all members who use email to sign up to be kept informed in this way. Register for the service at: <http://www.cilip.org.uk/about-us/register/pages/default.aspx>. Our monthly email bulletin also includes news and information about events of interest to library and information historians.

The committee is always glad to receive feedback from members. If you have any suggestions for future events, have news of historic libraries or collections in your area, or wish to alert the LIHG to libraries that are at risk, please get in touch with the committee.

Kathryn McKee

**Parochial Libraries: Past, Present & Future**  
**26 April 2010, Lambeth Palace**  
**Conference Report**

This year's LIHG conference was held in conjunction with The Historic Libraries Forum and The Cathedral Libraries and Archives Association, who were thanked for their support by Kathryn McKee, Chair of the LIHG, in her opening remarks. Delegates were made to feel very welcome in the grand surroundings at the Palace and were warmly welcomed by Giles Mandelbrote, the new Librarian and Archivist of Lambeth Palace Library. Lunch was served in the magnificent Guard Room and the conference itself took place in the Great Hall, in which was displayed an exhibition on the history of the Diocese of London created as part of a joint project, 'Building on History' between Anglican Diocese of London, Lambeth Palace Library, King's College London and the Open University. It is not possible to describe in detail all of the excellent and interesting papers delivered throughout the day, but a few particular personal highlights deserve a mention.

The historical background and context of parochial libraries, including the 1708 Parochial Libraries Act, was explained by Ven. Dr. William Jacob in his paper 'Clerical libraries and their users'. David J. Hall's paper on Society of Friends meeting house libraries provided an interesting view on libraries outside the Established church. In common with many parochial libraries, Quaker libraries would deliberately collect books and pamphlets published by their opponents so that members could better understand and counter views contrary to their own. They were also obliged by the rules of the Society of Friends to purchase set numbers of copies of all Quaker publications, although it seems that compliance with this rule varied between libraries. In view of discussions throughout the day about control over the removal or dispersal of parochial libraries, it was interesting to note that Quaker libraries are today governed only by the local meeting, although these meetings are generally careful to ensure that any material they wish to dispose of is offered to suitable homes.

Hilary Ely spoke about the first 300 years of the Cranston Library, Reigate. This library was founded by vicar Andrew Cranston in 1701, today numbers about 2350 volumes, is still housed in a chamber above the vestry in the parish church of St Mary Magdalene, Reigate, and has lists of borrowers and borrowings from the eighteenth to the early twentieth centuries. Specifically exempted from the 1708 Parish Libraries Act, the library was governed by a trust, with trustees

representing the lay community. The trust was revived in the 1950s and governs the library to this day. The library holds research potential both in a study of Cranston's librarianship and collecting choices and also in the marks of provenance and use found in the collection, although access to the library is currently limited.

In her paper about parochial libraries in the Norwich diocese Gudrun Warren, Librarian of Norwich Cathedral Library, particularly captured the imagination with the story of the Bishop's committee for books and documents, otherwise known as 'Peck's Porch Picnic Parties'. Established in the 1950s, and led by Canon Peck, it undertook to list all the book and manuscript holdings of about 700 parishes across the Norwich diocese. The canon, often travelling from parish to parish on his bicycle, was assisted by a large team of volunteers who toured the region uncovering hidden and forgotten treasures.

Aside from these highlights, we heard from Peter Hoare on 'Some parochial libraries in the East Midlands', Michael Perkin on 'Parochial libraries: post-Directory', Dr. David J. Shaw on 'Parochial libraries in Kent', and Dr. David Knight from the Church Buildings Council about the Council's role in conserving parochial libraries.

David McKitterick was due to give a paper on the subject of 'Libraries at risk' at the conference, but owing to the effects of the volcanic ash cloud on intercontinental air travel he was stranded in Australia and unable to attend. Instead, a discussion session was held in which conference delegates were invited to share their views, hopes and fears on the subject of 'Libraries at Risk'. The topic of the dangers faced by libraries had recurred throughout the day in papers and in questions from delegates. Discussion revealed that, unsurprisingly, every parochial library, and every parish is different. Some of those responsible for the care of libraries in parishes may not even appreciate what they hold. For those that do have an appreciation of their collections, finding a satisfactory long-term solution is not necessarily straightforward and administrative difficulties abound. Any changes to these libraries have to be authorised by Diocesan Advisory Committees, and their decisions may vary over time, and in different dioceses. The 1708 Act stipulates that parochial libraries are 'inalienable': they may not be removed from their parish. Strict adherence to this stipulation can lead to difficulties when agreeing for libraries to be moved to safer homes as part of University or Cathedral libraries. Such parochial library collections that have moved are generally deposited under long-term loan agreements. Even if these legal and administrative hurdles can be overcome, it was noted that some parishes resist the idea of their library being moved to

a larger local institution for cataloguing and secure storage because of the distances (up to 30 or 40 miles) involved. Finally, it is sadly true that not all larger libraries or other institutions represent a safe long-term home for parochial library collections; there continues to be concern about position of special collections material in some public library services.

Although there are many challenges facing parochial libraries it was heartening for all present to see the level of interest these libraries attract, from librarians, scholars, and the Church, and it is hoped that the continued efforts of individuals and institutions will ensure their continued preservation and increased accessibility.

Katie Birkwood  
St John's College Library, Cambridge

**Contents and Abstracts**  
**Library & Information History 26 (1) 2010**  
**Special Issue based on the Library & Information History Group**  
**Conference, London, March 27, 2009**

**Writing the Plague: William Austin's *Epiloimia Epe, or, the Anatomy of the Pestilence* (1666) and the Crisis of Early Modern Representation - Kathleen Miller, Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland**

The Great Plague of London (1665) brought the city to a halt. It was an epidemic that would kill between 75,000 and 100,000 Londoners. In tandem with the onslaught of plague, an epidemic of printed material spread through London's streets, commenting on and contextualizing the outbreak. The Plague provided more opportunities to share information through print than any previous outbreak. In his poem *Epiloimia Epe, or, the Anatomy of the Pestilence* (1666), William Austin relates his story of the outbreak while interrogating two aspects of print culture: first, print's capacity to convey truth and humanity during the stressful event of plague and, secondly, the medium's meaning to a seventeenth-century English author. This article argues that Austin's apprehension over the print medium is felt in two distinct ways throughout his lengthy poem: in the conflict he expresses over writing specifically for print and in his exposé of nefarious printing ventures that flourished during the epidemic. In his effort to capture the plague within the confines of a book, Austin finds himself torn between the medium he uses to carry his message forward and its insufficiency to convey the complexity of a city in disorder during plague times.

**Challenging the Control of Knowledge in Colonial India: Political Ideas in the Work of S. R. Ranganathan - George Roe, *House of Commons Library, UK***

Ranganathan's relevance for today is enhanced by a consideration of the political contexts and contradictions in his work. Identification with the Indian independence movement was central to Ranganathan's library theory. Ranganathan's pioneering work of the 1930s challenged the ideological structures of colonial rule, advocating libraries and librarians as agents of a national political awakening, especially among the rural poor. In doing so, Ranganathan laid claim to be the heir of the Enlightenment 'universal library' and even suggests the possible role of libraries in creating 'organic' intellectuals among the poor. However, the potential to spread mass self-education across India was lost through Ranganathan's simultaneous reliance on the state to deliver social reforms from above. This contradictory approach caused theoretical problems for Ranganathan following Indian independence. Ranganathan saw the new state as the embodiment of the people, and yet the government did not deliver the scale of library development that Ranganathan needed to fulfill his work. Ranganathan became politically disorientated and marginalized within India. Lacking an organic link to a mass social movement, his ideas became increasingly abstract and obscure.

**'Our Learned Primate' and that 'Rare Treasurie': James Ussher's use of Sir Robert Cotton's Manuscript Library, c. 1603-1655 - Katherine Birkwood, *St John's College Library, Cambridge, UK***

The historical significance of Sir Robert Cotton's famous library of manuscripts is considered through the activities of James Ussher, Archbishop of Armagh, who used the library extensively in his work as Protestant theologian and historian. Cotton's library is singled out for particular praise on more than one occasion in Ussher's published works, and it is revealed that Ussher used nearly one hundred Cottonian manuscripts. This use is attested to in his notebooks and correspondence, the surviving records of loans made from the Cottonian Library, and from some of the Cottonian manuscripts themselves. Ussher's manuscript use is analysed with reference to his antiquarian interests as well as to his politico-theological aims for the furtherance of the reformed, established Church in Ireland.

**T. J. Wise and the City Librarian: Bibliographical Research 1917 Style - Bob Duckett, *Reference librarian (retired), Birmingham and Bradford, UK***

During the course of 1917, there was an energetic correspondence between Thomas James Wise of London, who was preparing to publish a bibliography of the Brontë family, and Butler Wood, City Librarian of Bradford and Bibliographic Secretary of the Brontë Society. Wise, who compiled many bibliographies, came to rely on Wood's knowledge of sources and people for the publications, newspapers, and information he needed. The bibliography was prepared to a high standard and required that every source be checked. This correspondence gives a graphic insight into how bibliographic research was undertaken in the days before formal interlibrary lending and electronic databases. In particular, it demonstrates the value of personal knowledge and contacts, the shortcomings of the British Museum Library, and the international nature of such a venture.

**The Architecture of the English Domestic Library, 1600-1700 - Lucy Gwynn, *University College, London***

The seventeenth century saw the dramatic growth of book collections, as books became a desirable commodity. The ruling classes used books to strengthen their political, social and intellectual hegemony, and the reading and collecting of books was perceived as indicative of a range of virtues. At the same time, English society was increasingly receptive to new architectural ideas, and building and furnishing houses was a popular way of expressing morality and magnificence. This article identifies the relationship between patterns of reading, and the arrangement and architectural setting of book collections. The variety of approaches to accommodating private libraries within the home often reflects the personal implications conducted in the same terms used to debate the worth of reading and knowledge. Architectural display was also a useful means of advertising an educated persona. The use of architectural style is also examined, since different motifs and stylistic approaches were attributed with different meanings, which related to shared ideas about knowledge, and its place within society.

**Sixteenth Century Private Book Inventories and Some Problems Related to their Analysis - Benito Rial, *University of Santiago de Compostela, Spain***

This paper examines the interest in private book inventories, as well as the two primary ways in which book inventory studies have been

undertaken: the examination of a single private book inventory, or of a wide range of them. The second part of the paper examines some of the relevant obstacles to the correct identification and interpretation of sixteenth century inventoried books. Such obstacles often result from categorizing and analysing private book inventories on the basis of received criteria and ignoring the differences between book inventory and book possession, book possession and book reading, and reading and text. Although the focus is on Spanish examples to illustrate problems in the identification and interpretation of sixteenth century inventories, the considerations are applicable to other European sixteenth-century book inventories.

**An Information History Decade: A Review of the Literature and Concepts, 2000-2009 - Toni Weller, *De Montfort University, Leicester***

The field of information history has only been seriously theorized and discussed as an independent area of scholarship over the last ten years or so, and there remains much to be done in order to bring it into the wider academic spotlight. However, during this same period, scholarly work on information in history has been abundant and ever increasing. This article explores some of the key monographs of the past decade which take historical information as their theme. It concludes that, since 2000, not only has there been a growth in the volume of such publications, but also that there has been a growing historiography amongst scholars working in this area. Information history discourse has formed its own identity, and this article offers an exploration of its central characteristics as we come to the end of the first decade of the 2000s.

**Contents and Abstracts**  
**Library & Information History 26 (2) 2010**

**Books in Exile: The Case of the Jesuit Seminary Library in Jersey (1880–1945) - Sheza Moledina, *Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes, Paris***

This article considers the history of the French Jesuit library of Jersey. Founded initially in the Jesuit seminary in Laval, France in the middle of the nineteenth century, it was expatriated to the island of Jersey in 1880 when the anti-clerical laws forced the French Jesuits to leave France. It was in this insular context of exile that the library developed, to become one of the most important Jesuit libraries in Europe of the first half of the twentieth century. The significance of the role of the chief librarian,

Father Pedro Descoqs, is explored in parallel with the history of this French Jesuit library, founded for the pursuit of autonomous religious training.

**Reading Societies and Lending Libraries in Nineteenth-Century Norway** - Elisabeth S. Eide, *The National Library of Norway, Oslo*

During the nineteenth century quite a few reading societies, parish collections, and lending libraries were established in Norway. They were important components in the formation of modern Norway. Based mainly on printed catalogues from such collections, the article shows that during this period books became ubiquitous and Norwegian reading habits, as expressed in the selection of authors in these reading societies, mirrored other societal developments, such as secularization and a desire for entertainment. Although urban and rural Norway showed some difference in literary preference, the desire to raise everybody's level of information was a common goal. A comparison with the development in the other Scandinavian countries is also made.

**From Helsinki to Irkutsk: Military Libraries in Finland, 1812–1918 –** J. E. O. Screen, *School of Slavonic and East European Studies, University College London*

During the period from 1809 to 1917, when Finland formed an autonomous grand duchy within the Russian Empire, libraries were built up in Finland by two military schools and various units, both Finnish and Russian. The library of the Finnish Cadet Corps was extensive; that of the Helsinki Yunker School was more modest. Units had separate libraries for officers and soldiers. The former provided primarily professional literature, the latter recreational reading. None of the military libraries described has survived intact and their collections have been widely dispersed. However, various books from them are to be found in Finland, particularly in the National Defence University Library. Some books were returned to Russia in the 1920s and at least two have found their way to England.

**'Without Reserve': Jesse Shera in the *Wilson Library Bulletin* and Elsewhere, 1961-1970** - Hal B. Grossman, *Hunter College Library, City University of New York*

Jesse Shera (1903–1982) was one of the foremost figures in librarianship. From 1961 to 1968, he wrote a column in the *Wilson Library Bulletin*, a magazine aimed largely at public librarians. These columns, along with other articles of Shera's, and correspondence

between Shera, his editors, and others, provide a window into Shera's thinking about librarianship. During the 1960s, Shera wrote about the need for a philosophy of the profession, and for collaboration between librarians and researchers in other disciplines. He argued for social epistemology as a theoretical foundation for librarianship, and for the embrace of the computer at a time when this was controversial. He also made a case for high standards in book selection and for the librarian as a scholar. Though his influence was limited, his breadth of vision and his willingness to question conventional thinking make him worth revisiting today.

*The abstracts were edited for brevity by the Editor- May 2010*

## **Web Resources for the History of Libraries and Information**

- The Library and Information History Group Facebook page is at: <http://www.facebook.com/home.php?sk=lf#!/group.php?gid=5645439476>
- A new 'experimental wikified version of W. A. Munford's *Who was Who in British Librarianship 1800-1985* (1987)' is now available online at: <http://newmunford.wikispaces.com/>
- James J. O'Donnell's April 1 lecture at Yale's Sterling Memorial Library, "A Scholar Gets a Kindle and Starts to Read" is available via Yale University on iTunes U and Yale's YouTube channel. From the original advertisement: "E-books promise a lot: what do they deliver for the serious scholarly reader? This talk will include no kvetching about funny keyboards, no technophobia, and no vague generalizations. Professor O'Donnell will explore the ways an e-book device can support scholarly reading, can challenge it for the better, and sometimes just thwart it outright." - Geoffrey Little, Yale University Library
  - YouTube: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3DclUNDS3xgb0>
  - Streaming audio: [http://streaming.yale.edu/cmi2/opa/podcasts/library/odonnell\\_040110.mp3](http://streaming.yale.edu/cmi2/opa/podcasts/library/odonnell_040110.mp3)
- Larry T. Nix has created website to accompany the following article: <http://www.libraryhistorybuff.com/lihg-cilip-article-2010.htm> as well as a website for postal stamps related to the libraries of the British Isles: <http://www.libraryhistorybuff.com/bibliophilately-british.htm>

## Libraries and Postage Stamps

The world's first postage stamp, widely known as the Penny Black, was issued by the British Post Office in 1840. The stamp was the result of an effort by Sir Rowland Hill to reform the British postal system by providing a system for the prepayment of postage at a modest rate. That this action would also lead to the development of one of the world's most popular hobbies was certainly not something that was envisioned by Hill, yet philately began almost immediately after countries began issuing postage stamps. The most common approaches to stamp collecting have been collecting stamps issued by a single country, by multiple countries, or by all the countries of the world. As the number and variety of stamps has increased dramatically over the years, it has become more common for philatelists to collect postage stamps around a topic or theme.

The focus of this article is on the collecting of postage stamps related to libraries and librarianship. This year is an especially appropriate time to discuss postage stamps in the United Kingdom as a yearlong event involving the British Library, the **London 2010 Festival of Stamps** (<http://www.london2010.org.uk/>) is taking place.

Although the initial purpose of postage stamps was simply to provide a method to signify pre-payment for the delivery of mail, postage stamps have become much more than that. Postage stamps are utilized by governments to commemorate individuals, institutions, and events. Of the hundreds of thousands of postage stamps that have been issued by the postal administrations of the world since the Penny Black was issued in 1840, there have only been a few hundred that have as their purpose the honouring of libraries and librarianship. Regrettably, this constitutes a negative commentary on the way our society views and values libraries.

For the last fifteen years I have sought to identify and collect all the postage stamps of the world relating to libraries and librarianship. My efforts have been greatly aided by a small group of individuals who have had a similar mission. The term 'bibliophilately' has been used to label the collecting and study of postage stamps related to libraries and librarianship as well as a broad range of book and printing topics. My interest in postal items related to libraries extends beyond postage stamps and includes envelopes and other items mailed to and from libraries. I prefer to use the terminology 'postal librarianship' to describe this broader group of postal items.

Postage stamps relating to libraries and librarianship fall into a number

of categories. Some stamps featuring libraries or librarians either overtly or tangentially have no intent to specifically honour a library or librarian. For instance the Dag Hammarskjold Library of the United Nations in New York appears on more postage stamps than any other library, but this is because it is pictured as part of the United Nations complex in New York on stamps intended to honour the United Nations. In some instances stamps which depict a library building are intended to honour an architect or a larger institution such as a university. In other cases, a library building or collection is merely a backdrop to a stamp that features a prominent dignitary. In 1966 Ajman issued a postage stamp that featured Winston Churchill in front of the British Museum at a time when the museum included what is now the British Library. Although the British Library itself has not been honored by its home nation, in 2006 St. Helena issued a set of stamps featuring *Treasures of the British Library*. The treasures in this set were philatelic treasures of St. Helena. The British Library includes in its collections some of the most extensive and valuable philatelic treasures in the world.

National libraries and major governmental libraries are frequent subjects of library related postage stamps. The National Library of Spain was featured on two of the earliest postage stamps depicting libraries; the two stamps were part of Spain's Cervantes issue of 1916. The Library of Congress was commemorated in 1982 and again in 2000 on the occasion of its bicentennial. The Library of Parliament in Canada has appeared on several postage stamps, including one issued in 1930. Ireland honored its National Library with a postage stamp in 1977. France featured the new building of the Bibliotheque Nationale in 1996. The National Library of China was honored with two stamps to celebrate its centennial in 2009.

A variety of libraries with religious connections have been depicted on postage stamps. The Library of the Catholic University of Louvain in Belgium which was destroyed in World War I appears on a stamp issued in 1915 (see newsletter cover), perhaps the earliest library postage stamp. Austria's Melk Abbey, which includes a magnificent library appears on three postage stamps. In 2001 Ireland issued a stamp that featured Marsh's Library on the occasion of its 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Vatican City will issue a postage stamp to commemorate the reopening of the Vatican Apostolic Library in September of this year.

Larry T. Nix

Chair of the Steering Committee of the Wisconsin Library Heritage  
Center Middleton, Wisconsin

## **Update on the Edzell Library, Angus Scotland**

Edzell Library, with its original features, including stained glass windows, spiral staircase and Cotgreave indicator, has been described as one of the best preserved examples of a late-nineteenth century public library surviving anywhere in the UK. (There is possibly only one other library anything like it.)

The Library, part of Inglis Memorial Hall, was gifted to the community in 1898 by Lieut. Col. Inglis in memory of his family (including his father, the parish minister). At the same time Inglis separately gifted over 5000 books (rarely, still in situ today) in commemoration of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. Originally given to be held in trust by Edzell Parish Council, for the use and benefit of the community for perpetuity, various local government reorganisations means Angus Council now are the Trustees.

In March Angus Council closed all four of its rural part-time libraries, replacing them with a mobile library service. There had been no prior public consultation. Previously having 9 hours a week in Inglis Memorial Hall Library, Edzell now receives 2 hours a week in a library van, parked outside the old library.

The closures are part of budget savings, this year's savings being on 'salaries' (retiring staff elsewhere are not being replaced so staff from the part-time libraries have been redeployed to fill their jobs). Further cuts in the libraries division may follow in the next few years.

A petition, signed by over 400 people in 5 days, was presented to the Council at March's Community Council meeting. The overwhelming conclusion of the meeting was to ask the Angus Council to reconsider its proposal. At the end of March a group of locals, later named the Edzell Library Action Group (ELAG), met with the Council. The Group proposed that staff from the Full Time libraries, currently unaffected by the budget, be reshuffled in order to keep the rural libraries open, still allowing the Council to make their budget savings.

However Angus Council have said that as the decision has been made they can not go back on it, that as this is part of a 4 year process of cuts they would probably still have to close the rural libraries next year, and that they hope to work with the community to promote the historical library and building, maybe using the library as some sort of museum. However Council ideas seem to rely heavily on volunteers and specific details have yet to be given. Edzell Library Action Group feels that, whilst the historical aspects should be promoted, this should be done while maintaining the library as a living public library and that this is the

best way of guaranteeing the preservation of the important historical aspects.

Believing it is important to keep the community informed and to give the public an opportunity to express their views, Edzell Library Action Group held a Public Meeting in April. This was well attended and a show of hands unanimously demonstrated that the community wishes ELAG to continue to press for the reinstatement of Edzell Library in Inglis Memorial Hall. As the closure may be deemed to relate to many possible areas there are many avenues open to explore. Disability/ equality issues, literacy/ learning issues, loss of internet access, social well-being and community issues etc. all may be examined. The Group also has misgivings over the right of the Council to close the library, so the carefully worded Deed of Gift may be investigated. ELAG are in contact with various library organisations and experts; the Group has also written to Councillors and MP's. Much research has been done on the internet, in archives and into Council policies, minutes and reports. The press have been keenly following the story.

The ELAG continues to work towards restoring the library as a public lending library, despite the Council's assertion that it will not be reopened as such.

Edzell Library Action Group

### **Report on the History of Libraries in Scotland Seminar Series: The Evolution of Professional Education**

The first of a series of lectures linked to the projected Edinburgh History of libraries in Scotland was held at Glasgow Caledonian University on Friday 5 February, when Prof. Forbes Gibb of the University of Strathclyde and Dr. Peter Reid of Robert Gordon University spoke on the development of education for librarianship in Scotland.

As almost certainly the oldest member of the audience, I found the first lecture particularly evocative, as I had been through Strathclyde's one-year PG course in the mid 1960s, when significant figures such as Paton, Allison and Tyler were still active in Scotland's library profession. Like so much else the course now seems remarkably simple, with lectures on cataloguing needing to make no mention of computers and those on library management never referring to interpersonal relationships, about which one hears ad nauseam, and for whose omission we were no doubt grateful. The impression of the simplicity of those earlier decades, at least to one who was involved, can be

heightened by a consideration not only of the various names the Strathclyde department has gone through but also its different faculty affiliations. Perhaps it is only in retirement that, by being able to concentrate on those aspects of the profession which led one to enter it, one can appreciate more fully the values instilled in trainees of that time.

Although his trawling through his department's archives covering its pre-history revealed, as Peter confessed, every human vice and virtue except sex, a fact which proves that he is not a professional football player, those exposed to later scrutiny helped to dispel any notion that historical research in any period is dull. The determined opposition of the mandarins of Ridgmount Streets was breath-taking in its London-centric view of Great Britain and its arrogance, but it was particularly sad to see what now appears as the initially pusillanimous attitude of many members of the SLA's Council. One can only cheer from the sidelines at the equally determined resolve of those protagonists such as the then Director of Robert Gordon's Institute of Technology, the then City Librarian of Aberdeen and the Librarian of Grangemouth Refinery, the redoubtable Ralph Beer, whom I got to know personally later, to see the establishment of what has become a fine model of educational innovation.

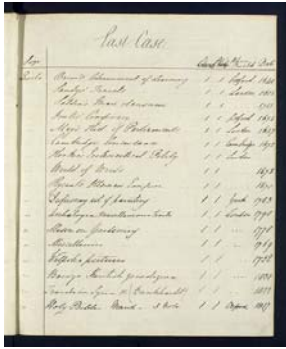
W.A. Kelly

Scottish Centre for the Book  
Edinburgh Napier University

### **Austen in the library: the Godmersham Park Library Catalogue 1818, and the Knight Collection at Chawton House Library**

Jane Austen knew the library at Godmersham Park as her letters reveal: 'I am looking over *Self Control* again' she wrote to her sister Cassandra on 11 October 1813 from Godmersham Park. The copy of Mary Brunton's *Self-control: a novel* in the Knight Collection is very probably the copy Austen was reading.

The estate at Godmersham, like Chawton, was owned by Edward Austen Knight (1767-1852), Austen's brother. His father's living of the parish of Steventon, near Basingstoke, Hampshire had been granted to the Rev. Austen by his relative and benefactor Thomas Knight of Godmersham Park, Kent. Thomas Knight and his wife, Catherine, were childless and in 1783 they adopted Edward Austen and made him their heir. He took possession of Godmersham Park in 1797, later changing his name to Knight in 1812.



The compiling of this manuscript library catalogue seems to begin in 1818 from the date embossed on the cover. This was a year after Austen's death, and reveals the contents of Edward Knight's library and the books Austen has access to during her frequent visits to Godmersham Park. The catalogue is in two volumes: the first volume is organised by case (as illustrated here), and the second volume is an alphabetical listing of the books in the library. The entries in the catalogues continued to be added until 1842.

The Godmersham Library catalogue is increasingly of interest to Austen scholars and enthusiasts who want to see what Austen may have read and how it informed her work. The evidence for the books Austen read can be drawn up from her novels, letters and memoirs of family members and many of these titles can be found listed in the catalogue. The two volumes have become increasingly fragile, and a digital copy made for its longer term preservation. This copy is to be accessible electronically from the Chawton House Library website for researchers this summer: [www.chawtonhouse.org](http://www.chawtonhouse.org).

It will also be of great interest to library historians. Although most of the collection listed dates from 1700 onwards, there are works from the seventeenth century and even a small set of titles dating from the sixteenth; the oldest work listed is Erasmus' *Moriae Enconium*, 1523. The Godmersham Library collection reflects the interests of country house libraries at the time and also contains a considerable number of novels. This is a collection whose owners valued their novels, retained them and catalogued them without distinction from the rest of the collection. Many of the novels are by women writers: those who are better known, such as Burney and Edgeworth, and others less well known, such as Sarah Scott and Frances Brooke. A significant number still remain in the Knight Collection and the development of the collection since 1842 has been further documented by a catalogue of the library at Chawton compiled for Montagu Knight in 1908. The Knight Collection is now in the process of being added to the Chawton House Library online catalogue.

Jacqui Grainger, Librarian, Chawton House Library  
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## Exhibitions

### **27 April – 31 July 2010**

*Explore 500 years of World History*

The Weston Room, Maughan Library & Information Services Centre,  
King's College London, Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1LR

Open 9.30 to 17.00, Monday to Saturday

The transfer to King's in 2007 of the historical library collection of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) represents arguably the most important acquisition in the long history of the College's library. This magnificent collection contains over 60,000 items, ranging from the sixteenth to the twentieth century. Since its transfer to King's, the collection has become the most heavily used of all the collections held in the Foyle Special Collections Library. From the huge volumes of ephemera amassed by the Colonial Office to record the coronation celebrations of 1937 and 1953 to the small illustrated manuscript account of Tobago penned by its governor in 1810, this exhibition provides a snapshot of the riches to be explored within this matchless collection.

Access to the exhibition is free. On arrival at the Maughan Library, please follow the signs to the Weston Room. Please note that visitors who are not registered members of the Maughan Library are required to complete an exhibition ticket on arrival at the Library. Further details, and an exhibition guide are available at: <http://www.kcl.ac.uk/iss/archivespec/learn-exhib/exhibitions/>

### **17 May – 23 July 2010**

*Treasures of Lambeth Palace Library: 400th Anniversary Exhibition  
1610-2010*

Great Hall, Lambeth Palace, London SE1 7JU

Open 10.00 to 17.00 Monday to Saturday

Public exhibition to celebrate 400 years since the foundation of Lambeth Palace Library, one of the earliest public libraries in England, founded in 1610 under the will of Archbishop Richard Bancroft.

The exhibition draws upon the Library's incomparably rich and diverse collections of manuscripts, archives and books and explores the history surrounding the people who owned, studied or used them as aids to prayer and devotion. Further information and booking details available at: [www.lambethpalacelibrary.org](http://www.lambethpalacelibrary.org)

### **30 May – 19 September 2010**

*Magnificent Maps : Power, Propaganda and Art*

The British Library, 96 Euston Road, London, NW1 2DB

Open 9.30 to 18.00 Mon - Fri; until 20.00 Tue; until 17.00 Sat and Sun

Maps can be works of art, propaganda pieces, expressions of local pride, tools of indoctrination. Magnificent Maps brings together 80 of the largest, most impressive and beautiful maps ever made, from 200 AD to the present day. More information available at: <http://www.bl.uk/magnificentmaps/>

### **21 July – 23 December 2010**

*Dream Voices: Siegfried Sassoon, Memory and War*

Cambridge University Library, West Road, Cambridge, CB3 9DR

Following the success of the University Library's campaign to purchase the archive of the poet and novelist Siegfried Sassoon, a full-scale exhibition drawing together diaries, letters, autograph poems, drawings and rare printed books from the Library's Sassoon collections will be opening. The Library will also be hosting talks on Sassoon and his work.

- 21 October 2010: Alison Hennegan will speak on 'A War Poet in the Making?: Siegfried Sassoon's Pre-War Writings'. Booking is required for this event; contact the Festival of Ideas office, Telephone 01223 766766, e-mail [cfi@admin.cam.ac.uk](mailto:cfi@admin.cam.ac.uk), or visit [www.cambridgefestivalofideas.org](http://www.cambridgefestivalofideas.org) from August onwards.
- 9 November 2010 Adrian Barlow will speak on 'Who chooses the War Poets?'

## Forthcoming Events

### **23 – 25 June 2010**

*Cathedral Libraries and Archives Association 2010 AGM*

Norwich

This year's triennial conference is at Norwich Cathedral, following a theme of Education and Outreach. Norwich Cathedral has recently completed a ten-year building project, and the conference will offer an opportunity to see the new buildings: Hostry visitor and education centre, Refectory, Library reading room; and to find out how we are developing our education programmes to utilise these facilities.

Speakers from other institutions will be present to give other perspectives on education in their own contexts. There will also be visits to the Norfolk Record Office and heritage organizations in the city of Norwich.

Registration forms are available at:

<http://www.cofe.anglican.org/about/librariesandarchives/cathanddioceses/claa2010agm.html>

### **30 June 2010 at 5.30 pm**

*Prothero Lecture 2010 : The Media Revolution in Early Modern*

*England: An Artist's Perspective*

Royal Historical Society

Cruciform Lecture Theatre 2, University College London, Gower Street, London, WC1E 6BT

The lecture will be given by Professor Dror Wahrman, the Ruth N. Halls Professor of History and Director of the Center for Eighteenth-Century Studies at Indiana University Bloomington. The lecture will be followed by a reception (6.30 – 8.30 pm). Enquiries to Sue Carr, Executive Secretary, [s.carr@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:s.carr@ucl.ac.uk) ; tel. 020 7387 7532.

### **6 – 7 July 2010**

*Print Networks Conference: The Book Trade in Early Modern Britain*

Shakespeare Institute, Stratford-Upon-Avon

Guest speakers for this conference will be Bernard Capp, Professor of History, University of Warwick and Giles Mandelbrote, Librarian and Archivist, Lambeth Palace. Programme and booking details are available at: <http://www.bbti.bham.ac.uk/index.htm>

## **8 – 10 July 2010**

*Circulating Ideas in Seventeenth-Century Europe: Networks, Knowledge and Forms*

Royal Society, London

The seventeenth century in Europe was an age of turmoil. Wars, revolutions, and exploration constantly redrew the boundaries of the physical world. But equally important was the turmoil of new ideas that redrew the boundaries of the intellectual world. In poetry and in polemics, men and women involved in philosophy, theology, politics, and science created a dynamic knowledge economy.

But if ideas were the currency of this economy, then how did these writers, thinkers, and agents choose the forms in which that currency should circulate? This conference takes up that question, investigating the relationship between the circulation of ideas and the forms in which they circulated. Plenary speakers will be Mark Greengrass, Margaret Ezell and Richard Serjeantson. Registration and programme are available at: <http://royalsociety.org/Circulating-Ideas/>

## **14 July 2010**

*Historic Libraries Forum Workshop: Cataloguing antiquarian, special and early printed collections*

Wellcome Library, London

The Historic Libraries Forum is holding another cataloguing workshop. It will take place at the Wellcome Library, 183 Euston Road, London NW1 2BE, starting at 10.00 and ending approximately 16.30. Cost for the day will be £35, including lunch. These courses are suitable for people with little or no formal training in historical bibliography and antiquarian cataloguing. Places are limited. Registration is available at: <http://www.historiclibrariesforum.org.uk/hlf/Booking%20FormCatg10.doc>

## **17 – 21 August 2010**

*18th Annual SHARP Conference: Book Culture from Below*

University of Helsinki, Finland

This conference emphasizes the book culture of peasants, the labouring classes and other under-represented groups, especially their independence and initiative in creating, using and deciphering printed works and print culture. Keynote speakers will be Professor Martyn Lyons (University of New South Wales) and Professor Ruth B. Bottigheimer (Stony Brook University, New York). Registration and programme are available at: <http://www.helsinki.fi/sharp2010/index.htm>

## **10 – 12 September 2010**

*Library History Seminar XII: Libraries in the History of Print Culture*  
Pyle Center, Madison, Wisconsin

Keynote speakers will be Professor Janice A. Radway of Northwestern University and Professor Wayne A. Wiegand of Florida State University. Registration and a preliminary programme are available at: <http://slisweb.lis.wisc.edu/~printcul/>

## **21 – 23 September 2010**

*Universal Reformation: Intellectual Networks in Central and Western Europe, 1560–1670*  
St. Anne's College, Oxford

For decades before the Thirty Years War, Protestant communities in Poland-Lithuania, the Czech lands, and Hungary-Transylvania, lacking fully functional local universities responsive to their needs, sent their sons westward to study in Germany's numerous universities and academies. The resulting contact and reciprocal influence knit the intellectual histories of these regions together in inextricable ways. The three decades of war which followed disrupted many of these institutions and replaced these patterns of academic travel with fresh waves of intellectual refugees fleeing in all directions: not only to Transylvania, western Poland, and Polish Prussia, but also to Scandinavia, the Netherlands, and the British Isles. At the same time, the trauma of displacement transformed long-nurtured aspirations toward ecclesiastical reunification, political pacification, pedagogical improvement, and philosophical reform into an all-embracing programme of universal reformation. This international conference will enable emerging and established scholars to contribute their perspectives on this huge system and the unfamiliar intellectual traditions exchanged within it.

More information available at:

<http://www.history.ox.ac.uk/cofk/events/conferences-oxford-2010>