

Library and Information History Group

Newsletter

Winter 2011



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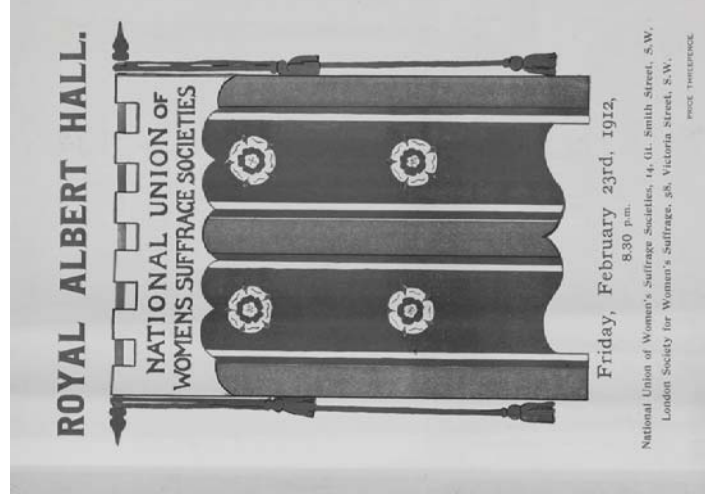


Image courtesy of the Women's Library, London

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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****Please note:** The editor has contacted the organizers regarding late submissions for these panels. Due to the deadlines required by the conference committee, late proposals will **NOT** be accepted. The editor nonetheless thought these panels would be of interest to readers.

16 December 2011

Qualitative and Quantitative Methods in Libraries International Conference (QQL), 22-25 May, 2012, Limerick Ireland

To mark the AHRC project: *The Impact of Distribution and Reading Patterns on the History of the Novel in Britain, 1880-1940* at the University of Reading, 2008-12. Confirmed speakers: Dr Mary Hammond and Dr Nickianne Moody.

This one day symposium will examine the role of publishers, readers and the distributing agents of fiction on literary culture and the history of the novel from 1880-1940. It will investigate the impact that the literary marketplace had on the production of fiction in this period and consider the role that it played in the minds of authors and their publishers. How far were publishers and authors consciously seeking to produce fiction that would be acceptable to the market, and what constraints did this involve? To what extent did changes in reading patterns and in the cultural status of fiction influence what was written and produced? What contribution can the analysis of changes in distribution and reading patterns make to a new understanding of one of the most revolutionary periods in the history of English fiction?

Key areas that we suggest will be covered include:

- commercial circulating libraries and the rise of the public library movement
- bookshops and new retail outlets
- serialisation
- reading, genre and the stratification of the fiction market
- audience and literary censorship
- the development of new reading groups and book clubs
- the colonial market
- the impact of cheap paperbacks
- using publishers and book trade archives

As with the AHRC project which the symposium is designed to mark, the day aims to be interdisciplinary and will bring together publishing experts, book historians and literary critics. It will be held at the University of Reading Special Collections, where the nationally designated archive of British printing and publishers is held. The significance of publishers' archives lies in the insight they can give into the network of relations between author, publisher, retailer and consumer; the publishers' archives held at Reading have been used extensively as part of our project. The potentialities for research and the use of publishers and book trade archives in literary studies will form part of the day's focus.

Proposals for papers should be emailed to Dr Nicola Wilson, n.l.wilson@reading.ac.uk no later than 16 December 2011. Proposals should be about 250 words in length. Please include your telephone and e-mail address on your proposal.

features of eighteenth-century print culture, but the continuing development of modern database software has opened up new interpretative possibilities, allowing us to understand their significance in unprecedented detail. Libraries promised access to a much wider range of books than most patrons could possibly afford, but they were hugely significant in other ways. They emerged to serve particular communities, reflecting the specialist demands of military garrisons, religious academies and informal networks of medical men and lawyers. They provided a forum for conversation, debate and sociability, and made a key contribution to the social impact of the Enlightenment, the 'consumer revolution', the growth of nationalism and the spread of religious evangelicalism. Since they emerged in Britain, North America and continental Europe at around the same time, they also provide endless opportunities for comparative history – with different territories adopting distinctive organisational models, yet consuming a remarkably similar canon of international bestsellers.

Papers might consider these or any other themes relating to the history of particular libraries or types of library, but should aim to reflect on methodological approaches made possible by technological advances associated with the digital humanities.

Contact: Mark R. M. Towsey, School of History/Eighteenth Century Worlds, U. of Liverpool, 9 Abercromby Square, Liverpool, L69 7WZ; Tel: 0151794 2379; E-mail: M.R.M.Towsey@liverpool.ac.uk

15 September 2011**

Slavery, the Book, and Enlightenment Rights Theory: Panel at the forty-third annual meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, San Antonio, Texas – March 22-25, 2012

As Hugh Amory and James Raven have established, the vast majority of books available in the Americas were imported from Europe, and as the foundation of colonial libraries by slave traders like Abraham Redwood of Newport suggests, some of the surplus capital necessary to purchase those books was derived from slavery. These facts “problematize” our understanding of the dissemination of Enlightenment ideas of human rights. How might we understand eighteenth-century rights theory as both substantiated and undermined by the existence of slavery in the Americas? If the production and dissemination of Enlightenment ideas was deeply intertwined with the book trade, as Richard Sher has argued, how might we begin to reframe book history within the larger social history of an eighteenth-century Atlantic economy based on slavery? How might one account for the ambivalent and often hypocritical positions that Enlightenment thinkers espoused about the institution of slavery? How might the study of material culture benefit from a properly materialist understanding of the eighteenth-century conditions for the production of knowledge?

This panel seeks papers that address the nexus between Enlightenment rights theory, the book trade, slavery, and abolition in Anglophone cultural contexts. We particularly welcome submissions addressing the transatlantic circulation of Enlightenment ideas of human rights and personal agency and how they influence/are influenced by slavery and the slave trade.

Contact: Sean Moore, U. of New Hampshire; E-mail: sean@umh.edu AND Philip Gould, Brown U.; E-mail: philip_gould@brown.edu

NEWS FROM THE CHAIR

A disappointingly cool and damp August has just turned into a warm and sunny September, and my mood is brightening along with the weather. In the summer newsletter I spoke of CILIP's strategy for Branches and Groups, and voiced concerns that the unique voice of library and information history might be less well heard within a streamlined structure of fewer, larger Groups.

While the committee discussed the Group's future, made approaches to potential partners for greater collaboration, and considered how library and information history activities could best be supported long term, the work of the Group went on as normal. We were delighted to see a good turn out for our first walking tour of London libraries. It was fun to experiment with a different format from the classic library visit, and we would welcome suggestions from members for other locations where such a tour might work well. Thank you to Renae for organising this.

In July came Umbrella, to which the LIHG contributed just one session this time. While we have no lack of interesting speakers or topics within our membership, it proved a challenge to fit library and information history ideas into the rather narrow strands of this conference. My colleague at St John's College, Ryan Cronin, and I shoe-horned a presentation on the effective delivery of educational outreach within a seventeenth-century library into the 'Advocacy' strand, and found ourselves sharing a 4.30 slot with performance measurement in schools. Hmm. Notwithstanding the difficulties, I think it was tremendously important that Umbrella should contain some element of library history. Umbrella gives the opportunity for CILIP members who would not normally attend a particular Group's event (or even know what that Group actually does) to drop in to sessions in any strand of the conference. So Ryan and I enthused - somewhat speedily having started late - about the value to a school group of visiting an historic library, of the importance to an understanding of wider cultural and social history of learning how valuable books were at certain periods, who wrote them and why, how they were made, who read them: all things that children can pick up almost without realising it when being shown a seventeenth-century library. We told our audience why we did outreach: what was in it for the library, and what was in it for schools; and how we managed to run a successful programme on modest resources. It is encouraging to report that we've received some very positive feedback.

Attendees have blogged about the session, and some have contacted us since asking for more information. It was worth being a part of Umbrella.

On a similarly encouraging note, Peter Hoare and I recently had a very positive meeting with Annie Mauger and the new Customer Services Manager, Francis Muzzu, to discuss the future of the LIHG and its place within CILIP. I am glad and relieved to report that many of our key concerns have been addressed. Annie Mauger made it clear that CILIP would continue to support the existence of Groups who have a distinct area of professional practice such as ours, and who offer a quality service to their members.

There is no imperative for us to seek merger with any other CILIP Group. We can preserve our identity, and continue to be the effective voice of our professional body in the library and information history field. We are free to collaborate with other organisations in the field outside CILIP, such as the Historic Libraries Forum, SHARP,

and indeed, academic institutions where appropriate. CILIP has made the recruitment of CILIP members a priority, and while we have many members who are librarians, in terms of new recruits our Group is more successful at attracting members from outside the profession: academics, students, and individuals with a private interest in the history of libraries and information. We were assured that these non-CILIP members were welcome, and indeed that CILIP could provide administrative support for them. The subject of communication with members has been a thorny one for some time, but the good news is that we have been told that in future our newsletter can be emailed direct to our members, something that many of you have been requesting for a long time. Rather than leaving it up to members to take positive action to sign up on the CILIP website to receive emails from the Group, on the next membership renewal form, CILIP will include a box to tick if members do not wish to receive communication by email. Please leave this box unticked if you would like our newsletter to be emailed to you along with the monthly e-bulletin.

The newsletter will, of course, continue to be made available on our website, and will be posted out to those members who do not have internet access and have requested hard copy.

So, after quite a worrying six months, it's business as usual. We are busy planning the programme for 2012 (not too late to send in any suggestions for events or visits), and gearing up for the AGM and members event in November, which will be held at Ridgmount Street. I hope to see some of you there.

Kathryn McKee
Hon. Chair LIHG
km10007@cam.ac.uk
01223 339393

LIHG COMMITTEE MEETINGS & MEMBERS EVENTS 2011

November 8 – The committee meeting and AGM will start at 14:00, followed by a member's event at 14:30, to be held at CILIP, Charterhouse Suite - other details TBC on the website

EDITOR'S NOTE

After much discussion amongst committee members, it was decided to try a 'serif' font for future newsletters. Please contact the editor with any comments regarding this change; contact details are listed below.

Please see the LIHG website for more information on all forthcoming events: <http://www.cilip.org.uk/specialinterestgroups/bvsubject/history>. The website also includes online access to the group's newsletters, from 2004 to the present.

LIHG NEWSLETTER COPY DATES 2011/2012

- Winter 2011: 17 September 2011
- Spring 2012: 20 January 2012

LIHG NEWSLETTER ISSUE DATES 2011/2012

- Winter 2011: 26 September 2011
- Spring 2012: 03 February 2012

Antwerp (Belgium), on 1 and 2 February 2012. During two days, librarians and people in charge of library teaching programmes will be invited to confront their ideas. It is hoped that presentations of best practices during the conference will serve as inspiring models of new programmes in the future, and that at the end of the conference, some consensus may be reached about the range of competences needed.

The conference is organized by the Library and Information Science Department of the University of Antwerp and Flanders Heritage Library, with the collaboration of the École nationale supérieure des sciences de l'information et des bibliothèques (ENSSIB, Lyon), FARO - Flemish interface centre for cultural heritage, and under the auspices of the IFLA-Rare Books and Manuscript Section, the LIBER Steering Committee for Heritage Collection and Preservation, and the Consortium of European Research Libraries (CERL). The conference will be held in English. Further information can be had from Dr. Pierre Delsaert: pierre.delsaert@ua.ac.be.

22 – 24 March 2012

Centre for the Study of the Book, Bodleian Libraries : How the secularization of religious houses transformed the libraries of Europe, 16th-19th centuries
St. Anne's College, Woodstock Road, Jericho, Oxford OX2 6HS

Convenors: Richard Sharpe (Oxford); Cristina Dondi (Oxford); Dorit Raines (Venice)

The closure of religious houses, in varying circumstances, affected all of Europe at some point between the sixteenth and nineteenth centuries. At different times and in different countries the consequences were widely varied, in some cases preserving medieval and early modern collections intact, in others abandoning books to their fate, or transferring them piecemeal into new ownership to serve different cultural purposes. What impact did these historic changes have on the shape of libraries, access to libraries, and in particular on the preservation or otherwise of books from the past – the intellectual heritage of Europe?

Themes:

- Monastic collections and the foundation of national libraries
- Dispersal of collections and new reading publics
- Effects on the market for early books and manuscripts

This 3-day conference also examines the historical and bibliographic tools that are available to address these questions, with speakers from 14 countries.

See the conference page for the full list of speakers and themes, and for registration: www.bodleiv.ox.ac.uk/csb/MigrationofKnowledge.htm.

CALLS FOR PAPERS

15 September 2011**

Digital Approaches to Library History: Panel at the forty-third annual meeting of the American Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies, San Antonio, Texas – March 22-25, 2012

This panel will consider how digital tools and digital methodologies are reshaping our understanding of eighteenth-century libraries. Libraries, book clubs, reading circles and other institutions of collective reading have long been acknowledged as important

lecture he will look at the roots and forerunners of the King James Bible, and also at its place among Bible translations today.

RSVP to: cranstonlibrary@gmail.com.

22 November 2011

Lost and Found: The Bodleian Shakespeare Folio, 13:00
Convocation House, Bodleian Library, Oxford ; admission to lecture free and all are welcome.

Dr Smith will discuss the story of how the Bodleian lost its First Folio of Shakespeare in the seventeenth century, and the efforts to get it back at the beginning of the twentieth. It's a story of personal rivalries as well as national ones, of a wonderfully amateurish and individual fundraising campaign, and of the way Oxford was changing on the eve of the First World War - as well as about the value of the book itself.

Wine and sandwiches will be served in Chancellor's Court after the lecture at a cost of £7 per person, for which bookings should be made and paid for in advance with the Administrator RSVP: The Administrator, Friends of the Bodleian, Bodleian Libraries, Broad Street, Oxford OX1 3BG. Tel: 01865 277234, Email: fob@bodleian.ox.ac.uk

10 November 2011

Guildhall Library Unlocked: Marine Sources Workshop, 14:00 – 15:00
Guildhall Library, Aldermanbury, London, EC2V 7HH ; free, but must be booked in advance: 020 7332 1868/70 ; guildhall.library@cityoflondon.gov.uk

A workshop led by Jeanie Smith. Come and learn about the rich and varied sources for maritime history at Guildhall Library including Lloyd's Register and Missing Vessels Books and our unique collection of voyage record cards. The visit will offer a general introduction to the library and will include an opportunity to view other items from the Lloyd's Maritime Collection.

3 – 4 November 2011

Bibliographical Society of Australia and New Zealand 2011 Conference: Textual Manipulation, The Barr Smith Library, The University of Adelaide, Australia

The conference theme will allow papers to explore, within the discipline of physical and textual bibliography, both past practices and future trends - in particular how the manipulation of electronic texts may change the landscape of bibliographical studies over the coming decades. Travel bursaries are available. The conference will be preceded by a Rare Book Librarians' Day on Wednesday November 2nd, and an associated exhibition on 'Textual Manipulation' will be held. The draft programme is published at: <http://www.adelaide.edu.au/library/special/biblio/>. Enquiries can be made to: Cheryl Hoskin, Special Collections Librarian, Barr Smith Library, The University of Adelaide, Adelaide SA 5005, cheryl.hoskin@adelaide.edu.au

1 – 2 February 2012

Ambassadors of the Book : Competences for Heritage Librarians
University of Antwerp, Belgium

What are the competences needed for the heritage librarians of the future, and how can these competences be taught at different levels of library education? Those questions will be discussed during an international conference at the University of

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. The Newsletter would specially benefit from receiving information 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 (<http://www.cilip.org.uk/pages/default.aspx>), and in the bulletins section of your profile tick to receive news from CILIP.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

17 June 2011: Historic documents charting British women's fight for the vote have been awarded globally-recognised UNESCO Memory of the World status. A collection of valuable documents telling the story of the women's suffrage movement has been one of twenty items selected to represent the outstanding heritage of the United Kingdom on the UNESCO UK Memory of the World Register. The selection of eight items, drawn from the archives of The Women's Library at London Metropolitan University, and the Parliamentary Archives, document the history of the women's movement from the 1860s to the achievement of suffrage in 1929. The documents begin with the 1866 Petition which enabled John Stuart Mill to be the first person in Parliament to call for women's suffrage; and ends with the success of the Representation of the People (Equal Franchise) Act of 1928. It contains a congratulatory letter from the Prime Minister to the leader of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies – and founder of The Women's Library – Millicent Fawcett. The UK Register is available at: www.unesco.org.uk/2011_uk_memory_of_the_world_register.

1 July 2011: Committee members will be saddened to learn of the death of Professor Robin Alston. Robin was well known to us because of his online List of British Libraries, but he was also responsible for bringing the Cambridge History of Libraries to the LHG (as it then was) Committee so that it could become a group project. And he ran the first series of seminars on library history at Senate House, which Keith Manley and Giles Mandelbrote are continuing. He had recently left Barbados to live in Brazil but had been in poor health for some time.

23 June 2011: Professor W. E. (Bill) Tyler who held the first Chair of Librarianship in the UK, at Strathclyde University (Raymond Irwin's was a personal professorship), has died at the age of 90. He became Head of the Scottish School of Librarianship at the Scottish College of Commerce in Glasgow in 1950, just four years after its foundation, moving with it when it became part of the newly formed University of Strathclyde. The School was re-named the Department of Librarianship and was incorporated into the School of Arts and Social Studies in early 1966, with Bill Tyler as Reader and Head of Department. His M.A. thesis in 1967 was on the history of Scottish public libraries. The Chair of Librarianship was established in 1969 with Bill Tyler appointed Professor in 1970. In that same year he was also President of the Scottish Library Association. Bill Tyler always took an interest in the University as a whole and served as the Dean of the School of Arts and Social Studies from 1972-1978 and as Vice-Principal from 1980 until he retired in 1984 when he and his wife Marie moved to Harwich where they had met and married in 1944. An obituary appeared in The Herald Scotland on 28 July 2011. - Antonia J. Bunch.

15 August 2011: This year the Department of Information Studies at Aberystwyth University is launching a select range of Short Courses for Continuous Professional Development (CPD) by Distance Learning, including: Introduction to Music Librarianship (undergraduate and graduate); Rare Books Librarianship (undergraduate and graduate); Advanced Rare Books Librarianship (undergraduate and graduate). The Short Courses run from 1st October to 31st March. Deadline for applications is Friday 16th September. For further information see: <http://www.aber.ac.uk/en/dis/short-courses/>. Late applications **MIGHT** be accepted. Contact the Admissions Officers for further details: 01970 622188. The next run of Short Courses will be in 2012 on the same dates.

16 August 2011: Queen's College Oxford now produces an annual online publication entitled Insight which focuses on their historic collections and buildings. The url is: <http://www.queens.ox.ac.uk/library/newsletters-files/Insight2011.pdf>

6 September 2011: JSTOR has made journal content published prior to 1923 in the United States and prior to 1870 elsewhere **FREELY** available to anyone. This free content covers nearly 500,000 scholarly articles in over 200 journals. Go to www.jstor.org for more information, and to access the free content (use advanced search and tick the 'include only content I can access' box).

26 September 2011: Special Collections, University of Aberdeen is moving to the new University of Aberdeen Library during October 2011. Our staff will be working together with the specialist removal team to ensure the move is carried out speedily and securely. As a result, the Reading Room at King's College will close at 4.30pm on Friday 23rd September, and we will re-open in the new Reading Room in the Library on Tuesday 1st November.

LIBRARY HISTORY PRIZE

Eight essays, which were of a very high standard, were considered for the 2009 award. The judges have decided that the award, which is generously donated by Emerald, should go to Markman Ellis for 'Coffee-house libraries in mid-eighteenth-century London', in *The Library*, 7th series, 10.1 (2009), pp. 3-40. Mark Towsey's 'First steps in associated reading: book use and sociability at the Wigton Subscription library, 1795-9', *The Bibliographical Society of America*, 103 (Dec. 2009), pp. 455-95, was highly recommended by the panel. We look forward to another set of excellent essays for the 2010 Prize. Essays which must have been published during 2010 should be received by the Awards Manager (Dorothy.Clayton@manchester.ac.uk) by 31 October 2011.

WEB RESOURCES FOR THE HISTORY OF LIBRARIES & INFORMATION

- Europeana provides access to a variety of digital resources from European museums, libraries, and archives. It covers digitized texts, photos, sounds, videos, etc... and is free to use: <http://www.europeana.eu/portal/index.html>
- Echoes from the Vault is a new blog by the Rare Books Collections of Special Collections at the University of St. Andrews. It explores discoveries made through current retro-cataloguing efforts, announces any news or events from the Special Collections and will highlight some of their treasures: <http://standrewsrarebooks.wordpress.com/>.

17 November 2011 – 26 February 2012

China Through the Lens of John Thomson: 1868-1872

Chester Beatty Library, Dublin Castle, Dublin 2

Tue – Fri 10:00 – 17:00 ; Sat – Sun 13:00 – 17:00 ; free admission

This exhibition is devoted to images of China by Scottish photographer John Thomson (1837–1921). Born in Edinburgh Thomson first travelled to Asia in 1862, where he set up a professional photographic studio. Fascinated by local cultures, Thomson returned in 1868, settling in Hong Kong. Over the next four years he made extensive trips to Guangdong, Fujian, Beijing, China's north-east and down the Yangtze. This exhibition is drawn from his time in these regions. After returning to Britain, Thomson took an active role informing the public about China, through illustrated lectures and publications. In 1920, he wrote to Henry Wellcome - pharmacist, philanthropist and collector - wishing to sell his glass negatives. Thomson died before the transaction was completed, and Wellcome bought the negatives from Thomson's heirs in 1921. The images in this exhibition come from the Wellcome Library's collection in London. Timed to co-ordinate with Chinese New Year celebrations in 2012, the exhibition will include over 50 stunning images with a wide variety of themes in China including people, architecture, domestic and street scenes. A selection of traditional Chinese clothing and accessories from the Library's own collection will also be on display.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

24 October 2011

The Cranston Library (1701-2011) Lecture

St. Mary's Church, Chart Lane, Reigate, RH2 7RN: 19:30 for 20:00 start.

In aid of the Funds of the Cranston Library, the Cranston Lecture 2011 will have two speakers: Dr Andrea Thomas on *A Radical in Reigate: John Foxe and his Book of Martyrs*, and Revd Dr Simon Coupland on *The King James Bible Past and Present*. Refreshments will be served in the interval and the Library will be open during the evening. The Cranston Library, founded in 1701 by the Revd Andrew Cranston, is situated in a small chamber above the vestry in St Mary's, the parish church of Reigate. It was probably the first public lending library in England and contains works of literature, history, geography, mathematics and classics as well as theology. The library is a charity managed by a board of trustees who endeavour to maintain it as an early 18th century library. Many of the books have been there since its foundation, and funds are always needed for conservation.

Andrea Thomas studied history at Somerville College, Oxford, and produced a doctoral thesis in Scottish history at the University of Edinburgh. She works primarily as a schoolteacher but also maintains her research interests. She is the author of *Princelie Majestie: The Court of James V of Scotland, 1528-1542* (Edinburgh: John Donald, 2005) and *Glory and onour: the Renaissance in Scotland*, forthcoming for 2012. She has been a trustee of the Cranston Library since 2003.

Simon Coupland is vicar of St Paul's Kingstons Hill in Kingstons upon Thames. He holds a PhD in medieval history, and continues to write and lecture regularly on his specialist subjects, ninth-century continental history and the Vikings. He also studied theology at Cambridge, where he was particularly fascinated by the Reformation and by its relevance to debates, which are still going on in the church and society today. In this

century printed books and ephemera. They arranged into broad themes: the classical heritage; mapping the world; the sacred word; the animal and plant kingdoms; works of the imagination; the sciences of observation and calculation; historical moments in time.

4 October 2011 – 30 November 2011

One Hundred Years of Dancing: The Centenary of the English Folk Dance Society

Barbican Music Library, Barbican Centre, London, EC2Y 8DS

Mon, Wed 9:30 – 17:30 ; Tues, Thur 9:30 – 19:30 ; Fri 9:30 – 14:00 ; Sat 9:30 – 16:00 ; free admission

2011 marks the centenary of the English Folk Dance Society (EFDS), founded by Cecil Sharp, England's most prolific collector of folk music and dance, to preserve and promote English folk dances in their traditional forms. This exhibition charts the early years of the Society and the folk dance revival, listing key figures such as Maud and Helen Karples, George Butterworth, Percival Lucas and Malcolm Kennedy who spread the word across the country through their teaching, performances and writings. EFDS merged with the Folk-Song Society in 1932 to form the current organization the English Folk Dance and Song Society.

3 November 2011 – 29 January 2012

One Hundred and One Cartoonists

The Cartoon Museum, 35 Little Russell St., London, WC1A 2HH

Tue – Sat 10:30 – 17:30 ; Sun 12:00 – 17:00 ; admission fee charged

Over the last 55 years Luke Gertler has amassed a collection of over 800 original cartoons and comics from across the whole history of British satirical and humorous art. The exhibition will include works by 101 artists: www.cartoonmuseum.org

11 Nov 2011 – 13 March 2012

Royal Manuscripts: The Genius of Illumination

PACCAR Gallery, British Library, 96 Euston Road, NW1 2DB

Mon – Fri 9:30 – 18:00 ; Tues 9:30 – 20:00 ; Sat 9:30 – 17:00 ; Sun 11:00 – 17:00; cost of admission is £10; concessions available

Discover the hidden jewel in the British Library's collection: a unique treasure trove of medieval and Renaissance manuscripts assembled by English kings and queens over 700 years.

They form the best surviving collection of medieval painting in England, and provide the most vivid surviving source for understanding royal identity, moral and religious beliefs, learning, faith artistic trends and international politics of the period.

The works on display include colourful histories and genealogies, Bibles and Psalters, scientific works and accounts of coronations. Each manuscript is a work of art in its own right. As a collection they give an outstanding indication of medieval and early modern royal taste and preferences. The exhibition will also examine how manuscripts were made, and by whom.

- London Lives 1690-1800 is a digital archive of over 200,000 pages of manuscript records from the poor relief, criminal justice and health care archives of 18th century London. It is free to use: www.londonlives.org.

- The volumes of the Monastery of Yuso's library are being digitized by the Fundación San Millán de la Cogolla. The 207 volumes already digitalized can be accessed at: <http://www.fsanmillan.es/biblioteca/biblioteca.jsp>

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Library & Information History 27 (2) 2011

The Burntons: Some Aspects of Their Lives and Contributions to the Field of Victorian Information – Kathleen Ladizesky

Endangered Records and the Beginning of Professionalism Among Archivists in England, 1918-1945 – Hans C. Rasmussen

'A Difficult Modernity': The Library of the Catholic University of Nijmegen, 1923-1968 – Graham Jetcoate

CONFERENCE REPORTS

Library & Information History Group Conference May 24 2011

This year we have two separate conference reports, one from each bursary holder- Nicola Bell (née Dellow) and Katharine Schopflin.

Nicola Bell's report:

The 'Libraries Under Threat' conference was held at UCL and provided an insight into issues faced by libraries in countries as diverse as the US, Australia and the Czech Republic. In increasingly trying times, it is important to hear about those libraries considered to be under threat, whether now or in the past and assess the implications of these examples when facing contemporary challenges in the profession.

Professor Andrew Stauffer was the first speaker, offering a US perspective on the conference theme. His talk focused on the holdings of poetry by Felicia Hemans held at the University of Virginia, which includes a large amount of annotation, providing insight into contemporary readers and their personal responses to the works. Professor Stauffer went on to explain that such marginalia is in danger of becoming lost, as restrictive budgets force many of the print copies off the shelves and into storage or sales. The example of Heman's poetry goes to show that it is important not to perceive digital archives as replacements for physical collections.

In a similar vein, Professor Laurel Brake lamented the strain placed on print collections and the challenges faced by institutions housing such resources. Significantly, the Colindale library is due to close, its collections moving to Boston Spa. Such decisions threaten print serials, making them increasingly inaccessible. Professor Brake spoke of the vulnerability of the print material, as digital projects are increasingly hidden behind paywalls and yet are used to justify restricted access to the physical object. In the future researchers may have to travel further to view print and original copies, especially those wishing to consult design and size. The importance of both print and digital formats was stressed, while access remains of paramount importance.

Dr John Crawford gave a thorough insight into the remote Edzell library and its potential as a museum of librarianship. The library was founded by Lt. Col. Sir R.W. Inglis, a Scottish library philanthropist, who selected the original stock of 5000 volumes on advice from London public librarians. Dr Crawford advocated Edzell library as a perfect example of a Victorian lending library, whose development can be used to illustrate general library history issues and trends.

Christine Penney gave an impassioned talk on the Hurd Library at Hartlebury Castle and its fascinating history. Sadly, it is due to be sold and its future in its current location is uncertain. Dating from the 1780s, the library remains available to the current Bishop of Worcester according to a long standing will. Many unique holdings have a significant history, including a book containing an inscription by Queen Charlotte, George III's consort, and a copy of the New Testament given to Alexander Pope by Jonathan Swift. Many reasons for the library's preservation in its current location were cited, including tourism and scholarship, prompting an application for a Heritage Lottery Fund has been made. The University of Worcester is putting the catalogue online, hopefully ensuring that the wonderful holdings of this library will reach a wider audience

Next, attendees were treated to a history of the library of the Supreme Court of Victoria in Melbourne by Dr Sue Reynolds. Founded in 1851 by Redmond Barry, this legal library is actually threatened by the rules established at its foundation as it is public property with private funding. Today it differs very little from its early years and judges are still responsible for its governance and decision making belongs with them rather than trained librarians. Dr Reynolds advocated a new funding model, but the terms of its inauguration prevent any radical change.

Simon Barron used the example of Olet's Mundaneum to demonstrate how idealism can sometimes threaten libraries, especially if they do not adapt to the changing needs of their users. He explored tensions between ideals and reality, and how the former can get in the way of practical considerations. At one point, the Mundaneum had 75,000 volumes and its founders wanted to classify all the books in the world. However political and social issues resulted in its eventual collapse. Simon advocated a need to learn from the mistakes of the past in order to ensure this attention towards library users and library must constantly evolve to prove their relevance. The talk sparked a lively debate on current user groups and the collections themselves, particularly how the success of a library relies on paying attention to both.

Zdeněk Uhlíř, attending the conference from the National Library of the Czech Republic, discussed a digitisation project which was essential for access to historic collections. Funding was provided for scanning projects and a 'manuscriptorium' was created to bring important historical documents to a wider readership. The manuscriptorium is a centralized collection of diverse material carefully digitized from across central Europe. The talk highlighted the importance of embracing technology and especially digitization projects that can bring history to life.

Karen Attar works at the Senate House Library and closed the conference by providing listeners with an insight into the library's history during the Second World War. The talk began with information on how the library coped with sharing its premises with the Ministry of Information during that turbulent time. This proximity made the

4 July 2011 – December 2011

The Ever Open Door: 140th Anniversary Exhibition

The John Rylands Library, 150 Deansgate, Manchester, M3 3EH
Tue – Sat 10:00 – 17:00 ; Sun – Mon 12:00 – 17:00 ; free admission

Drawing on its extensive archive as one of the North West region's founding charities of social care and special education services, the Together Trust marks its 140th anniversary with a major exhibition from its formation as the Manchester and Salford Boys' and Girls' Refuges and Homes in 1870 through to the present day. The charity provided an 'ever open door' for children and young people, initially giving them an alternative to living on the streets or in the workhouses of Manchester. The exhibition features oral case histories and will be complemented by talks from the charity's archivist.

7 July 2011 – 23 December 2011

Books & Babies: Communicating Reproduction

Cambridge University Library, West Road, Cambridge, CB3 9DR
Mon – Fri 9:00 – 18:00 ; Sat 9:00 – 16:30 ; free admission

The London underground displays posters for fertility clinics, directed at both women and men. Picture books teach children the facts of life. We are always reading about reproduction. Reproduction also describes what communication media do—multiply images, sounds and text for wider consumption. This exhibition is about these two senses of reproduction, about babies and books, and the ways in which they have interacted in the past and continue to interact today. Before reproduction there was generation, a broader view of how all things come into being than passing on the blueprint of a particular form of life. Before electronic media there were clay figurines, papyrus, parchment, printed books and journals. The interactions between communication media and ideas about reproduction have transformed the most intimate aspects of our lives.

2 September 2011 – Spring 2012

Curios and Curiosities: A very peculiar assortment of treasures

Chetham's Library, Long Millgate, Manchester, M3 1SB
Mon – Fri 9:00 – 12:30 and 13:30 – 16:30 ; free admission

This exhibition has on show a celtic stone head, a death mask and a nineteenth-century sex manual, as well as a book of spells with instructions for finding hidden treasure. Over the years Chetham's has accumulated many strange and unusual items that you might be surprised to see in a library, as well as rare and fascinating bindings and manuscripts to pore over. The exhibition is in the Priest's Wing and is available to view during normal opening hours.

30 September 2011 – 23 December 2011

Treasures of the Bodleian

Exhibition Room, Bodleian Library, Oxford

Mon – Fri 9:00 – 17:00 ; Sat 9:00 – 16:30 ; Sun 11 – 17:00 ; free admission

This exhibition looks towards the new permanent gallery in the Weston Library. On display will be some of the Bodleian's rarest, most important and most evocative items, from ancient papyri through medieval oriental manuscripts to twentieth-

uses a specially modified version of Koha, an open-source integrated library system (www.koha.org). As far as possible, the VLS follows the established conventions of library cataloguing and online catalogues, using MARC tags to organise bibliographical data. The major sources are the surviving catalogues (both author catalogues and shelf lists) and loan registers of the relevant academies. The system contains 12,000 bibliographic records, many of which were harvested from existing scholarly catalogues. These are supplemented with holdings information, including shelf-marks and subject categorisations, specific to each academy library. The VLS also contains over 30,000 loan records, providing an unprecedented view of the reading habits of students and tutors. Profiles of these historic borrowers are linked with biographical records of their careers in the Dissenting Academies Online: Database and Encyclopedia (<http://dissacad.english.qmul.ac.uk>).

Fully integrated and fully searchable, the Virtual Library System is the first resource of its kind and sets a new standard in digital humanities resources for scholars and librarians. It can be used in much the same way as a modern online library catalogue, for example, to search for particular titles or authors; browse the shelves of an academy library; compare the holdings of different libraries; and browse, search, and sort students' loan records. This new resource is transforming our understanding of the circulation of books and ideas and their role in dissenting education. It is an essential tool for anyone interested in the religious, intellectual, literary, and book history of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Contact: The project's postdoctoral research fellows were Dr Rosemary Dixon (rosemary.dixon@kcl.ac.uk) and Dr Kyle Roberts (kroberts2@luc.edu), led by Professor Isabel Rivers (i.rivers@qmul.ac.uk) as principal investigator and Dr David Wykes (david.wykes@dwlib.co.uk) as project partner. The team welcomes any questions or comments about the project.

Dr. Rosemary Dixon

EXHIBITIONS

25 June 2011 – 4 October 2011

Breaking the Renaissance Code

University of Glasgow, Hunterian Art Gallery, University Avenue, Glasgow, G12 8QQ
Mon – Sat 9:30 – 17:00 ; free admission

Glasgow University Library is home to the world's greatest collections of emblem books. Developed in the 16th century, these extremely fashionable and often beautiful books featured symbolic pictures and text which expressed a hidden moral, political or religious message which had to be decoded by the reader.

Over the next 200 years, several thousand were issued from printing presses across Europe. Emblem books had enormous influence on literature and the visual arts and examples of their impact can still be seen today.

'Breaking the Renaissance Code: Emblems and Emblem Books' displays precious examples from the University's Stirling Maxwell Collection alongside emblematic prints, drawings and paintings from The Hunterian collection, including contemporary examples. A lunchtime talk will be held on the 27th of September: 'The European Emblem' by Professor Alison Adams.

library susceptible to air raids. However, despite some damage, it remained open throughout the war. It was fascinating to learn about the dedication of contemporary library staff to the collection and space. The talk captured the minutiae of the experience of academic library staff during such uncertain times, with many anecdotes provided by the speaker.

It was interesting to see so many varied responses to the broad theme of libraries under threat, with ideological, historical and technological approaches all included and expanded upon. The experiences and examples provided by each speaker made for an enjoyable day and provided hope that in the face of current financial pressures, libraries today can learn from examples of the past and adapt to prove their relevancy.

Katharine Schopflin's report:

The theme of the 2011 Library and Information History Group conference – Libraries Under Threat – was chosen to match the difficult times in which today's librarians attempt to deliver services and maintain collections. The speakers covered the subject from a range of angles, showing how libraries can be under threat because the model under which they were set up no longer applies, because of institutional pressures and political events and because of the opportunities and threats offered by technology. The definition of 'library' varied, covering the library as a collection of objects, an information service and a place. As conference Chair Kathryn McKee said in her introduction, threats to libraries are nothing new and there's much to be learned from how they stood up to them in the past.

The first two speakers, academics Andrew Stauffer and Laurel Brake, discussed collection development decisions which make valuable literary objects only available digitally or in microform. Stauffer described popular 19th century monographs in the University of Virginia collection, valuable because of marginal annotations made by their owners, but unlikely to make any rare book collections. As these abundant, out-of-copyright texts become digitised it will be tempting for libraries to de-accession the hard copies, making invisible the handwritten dedications and comments which tell us so much about the texts' role in the lives of their readers. Brake, Professor Emerita at Birkbeck, described how well-meaning preservation projects encourage institutions to destroy hard copy periodicals for which the only paper editions remaining may be in far-off or inaccessible collections. The intellectual content is more accessible because of digitisation, but the insights gained from browsing a complete edition from cover to cover are lost. Both writers enjoy the wider access offered through digitisation, but fear it is being used as an excuse to remove hard copy objects from collections. If the scholarly community does not interfere now, the revelatory pleasures of examining physical texts will become a rare privilege.

The next three speakers, John Crawford, Chris Penney and Sue Reynolds, described physical libraries of great value whose original founding aims have encountered problems in the modern world. The Edzell library was founded in Angus, Northeastern Scotland, by a 19th century philanthropist, who oversaw the selection, binding and cataloguing of the collection himself. The building was acquired by the local authority in the 20th century who ran a separate public library service until 2007. The building and original collection are historical gems, and could conceivably become a local special interest museum, but Edzell residents are more concerned with reviving the

modern lending service. The historical Hurd Library, established in a purpose-built space in Hartlebury Castle to house the Bishop of Worcester's collection, has a high profile and is regularly consulted by researchers. Although the collection must be maintained for the Bishop's use in the terms of its founder's will, the house is now up for sale on the open market. Unless a buyer can be found who is prepared to house and maintain the library, the collection must be parted from its bespoke home, although no other suitable site in the Diocese has been found. Finally, the Library of the Supreme Court of Victoria in Melbourne is funded entirely from law students' entrance fees and administered by legal academics. The funding has become inadequate to provide a modern academic law library and is poorly aligned to its user-base. Both the library collection and building are in physical danger as a result of poor investment.

Simon Barron and Zdeněk Uhlíř described different examples of 'universal' libraries, joining up knowledge held in different collections and even countries. The Mundaneum, founded by information visionary Paul Otlet, aimed to promote world peace by bringing together people, organisations and documents, systematically indexing the latter so that links could be made across the works of different nations. Housed by the Belgian Government, the project was doomed because of Otlet's failure to prove an overriding strategic purpose or find alternative means of funding. The modern-day Manuscriptorium, curated by the Czech National Library, has taken a more pragmatic approach to bring together digital objects from nearly 100 collections from 22 different countries, including semantically linking manuscript fragments physically miles apart. The project has tried to avoid the political, legal and technical problems usually encountered by transnational projects by giving their partners autonomy to digitise and catalogue how they please. The digital objects are then aggregated, standards converted and metadata harvested, and made available from a website in each of the partner languages. The result is imperfect, but an excellent start to an international manuscript collection.

Finally, Karen Attar gave a short account of Senate House Library's attempts to maintain a service during World War Two. Although both staff and stock were exposed to danger, they chose to continue to support University of London students and staff. They helped to secure their continuing existence by also providing a service to the Ministry of Information, fortuitously housed in the same building.

'Libraries under threat' demonstrated the range of issues that can be discussed under the umbrella of 'library and information history'. But certain themes recurred: how can we ensure that current political issues and threats do not damage future users' physical access to today's collections? Conversely, how do we maintain a current service when circumstances have changed to make our founding infrastructure inappropriate? How can we use technology to link up collections and make them widely available? And how do we demonstrate that sometimes libraries are more just the sum of the information contained within their holdings? Sometimes a library has a value embodied in the physical objects it contains and even the geographical space which holds them. It is the role of groups like LIHG to maintain such issues as a priority at times like these, when they could easily be lost through financial and political panic.

A longer version of this review is available at:

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/56389860/Libraries-Under-Threat>

a conventional university education. The academies developed into an alternative system for training Presbyterian, Congregational, and Baptist ministers, as well as providing a university-level education to the sons of wealthy dissenters destined for careers in trade and commerce. The earliest academies, dating from the period after the Act of Uniformity (1662), were run on a small scale, with a handful of students studying under the supervision of an established minister. By the mid-nineteenth century they had become much grander affairs, employing several tutors, inhabiting imposing collegiate buildings, and attracting both students and financial support from across the country. 'Dissenting Academy Libraries' is one of a series of projects on the academies based at the Dr Williams's Centre. Together, these projects are completely re-evaluating the significance of the academies to the educational, cultural, and intellectual life of Great Britain between the late seventeenth and the mid-nineteenth centuries. (For more information visit <http://www.english.qmul.ac.uk/drwilliams/academies.html>).

The libraries: The project has concentrated on three genealogies of academy libraries, each associated with a different denomination within dissent: the Congregational academies, particularly Mile End (1754-69) and Homerton (1769-1850); the Presbyterian (later Unitarian) academies, including Warrington (1757-86) and the various incarnations of Manchester College (est. 1786); and the Baptist academies, represented by Bristol Baptist College (est. 1720). Large numbers of books from the Congregational and Presbyterian academies survive at Dr Williams's Library and Harris Manchester College, Oxford respectively, but many of the Bristol books were scattered at a series of sales in the 1960s. The project has unearthed an extraordinary breadth of source material – far more than it was feasible to analyse in detail – which makes it possible to track the holdings of different libraries over time. The survival of loan records, including a remarkable set of registers from Manchester College covering 1803-81, means that it is also possible to investigate how the academy library books were used.

In a context in which few students could afford to buy their own books, a well-stocked library was essential to their education. At the earliest academies students typically used the private libraries of their tutors. However, as the academies became better established they began to recognise the importance of acquiring their own institutional collections through purchases and bequests. Bristol Baptist Academy, for example, began in the 1720s with around two hundred books that had belonged to its founder Edward Terrill (1634-85). Two significant bequests were secured for the Academy in the later eighteenth century: the library of Andrew Gifford (1700-84), consisting of around 3500 volumes including an important collection of Bibles; and the library of Thomas Llewelyn (1720-83), consisting of around 2200 volumes, particularly strong on editions of classical texts. Bristol continued to acquire books throughout the early nineteenth century, and by 1835 the library contained nearly 8500 volumes. Such collections went far beyond the immediate needs of the curriculum. A library like Bristol's could also function as a locus of literary sociability, a repository for dissenting history, or a sign of cultural prestige.

The Virtual Library System: The Virtual Library System, edited by Dr Rosemary Dixon and Dr Kyle Roberts with technical assistance from Dr Dmitri Iourinski, is an online reconstruction of the academy libraries that represents their holdings and loans. It

The moral tone of titles stocked was high; any book with the slightest hint of immorality had a red label on its spine instead of the usual green one, offering the librarian protection from handing out potentially offensive books. Fiction, particularly crime and romance, was very popular, along with biographies, books on economics, politics, travel, plays and essays.

Monday was Boots book-buying day and publishers would be on standby for Tuesday's post that would bring either success or slump for the coming week. If Boots refused to stock a title, its prospects were not considered good; pre-publication orders for novels by authors such as Walpole or Priestly could amount to 2000 copies so it was in publishers' interest to keep Boots on favourable terms.

During World War II, Boots library books offered some escape during the long hours of blackouts and air raids, but the post-war years brought huge social and economic changes that could not fail to affect the libraries. The popularity of public libraries increased, as did that of cheap paperbacks and television. Boots libraries were never intended to be hugely profitable; instead they encouraged regular visits to Boots stores. However, following a change in senior management the realisation struck that the library's floor-space could be used for more profitable merchandise and it was not long before a decision over the future of the libraries was reached.

The announcement came on 28th April 1965: "The company has reluctantly come to the conclusion that there is no alternative but to bring the library service to an end". Boots Booklovers' Libraries built up a deep loyalty and are still remembered fondly by former subscribers. Well-known for its knowledgeable service, some librarians say that even now they are asked by former Booklovers' library subscribers to pick out a good book for them.

Judith Wright

Archivist, Boots UK

THE DISSENTING ACADEMY LIBRARIES PROJECT AND VIRTUAL LIBRARY SYSTEM

The project: *Dissenting Academy Libraries and their Readers, 1720-1860* is an innovative project which uses techniques from the digital humanities to study the history of libraries. Based at the Dr Williams's Centre for Dissenting Studies, a collaboration between Dr Williams's Library and Queen Mary, University of London, the project was funded from 2009 to 2011 by the AHRC's Religion and Society Programme. The main objective of the project was to study the libraries of the dissenting academies, in particular what they reveal about the education that was offered to students and the impact that books had on students' intellectual and spiritual development. A major outcome of the project is the Dissenting Academies Online: Virtual Library System (<http://vls.english.qmul.ac.uk>), a groundbreaking online catalogue which records the holdings and loans of selected academies in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

The dissenting academies: Dissenting academies provided Protestant students dissenting from the Church of England with a higher education similar to that available in the English universities. Though dissenters were not technically excluded from the universities, a combination of legislation, the need for subscription to doctrinal codes, and the customs of the universities themselves made it difficult for dissenters to obtain

CONFERENCE REPORT

Historic Libraries in Context: The Derry & Raphoe Diocesan Library: Past, Present and Future

A stimulating conference on this topic was held at the Magee College campus of the University of Ulster on 7-8 June 2011. It was preceded by a walking tour round the Walls of Derry, led by Mary Delargy, the outreach officer for the library conservation project which the conference celebrated. This allowed us to see something of the geographical setting for the earlier history of the library. Later, a reception by the Bishop of Derry and Raphoe, the Rt. Rev. Ken Good, gave an opportunity to appreciate the continuing work of the Church of Ireland which had given birth to the library (his diocese, uniquely, spans the counties of Derry and Donegal, with great complications from working in two sovereign states and with two different currencies).

The Derry & Raphoe Library Project has been running for more than three years, with half a million pounds of funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, and it has now reached its final phase. It has conserved a library of over 7000 volumes dating back in large part to 1729, when Bishop William King and his successor in the see of Derry William Nicholson established a diocesan library "for the use of clergy and gentlemen". A major part of King's own library is now preserved in Cashel, where he later became Archbishop, but many books at Derry come from his collection, as well as books belonging to earlier bishops of Derry George Downname and Ezekiel Hopkins, and Samuel Foley, bishop of Down & Connor. Downname's father-in-law, the Elizabethan antiquary William Harrison, is also well represented. The library from the adjoining diocese of Raphoe was founded in 1700 and came to Derry in 1834 when the two dioceses were united: its 1500 volumes also include much material of historic interest; the two libraries are now treated as a single institution, in the sympathetic and efficient care of the University of Ulster but not yet accessible to the public.

The work of conserving the library involved its rescue from very poor storage conditions - "the dirtiest library we had ever worked on" in the words of the two senior consultants Caroline Bendix and Nicholas Pickwood. An expert team had been assembled and a great deal of work accomplished under their guidance. The introductory historical presentation by Joe McLaughlin, archivist and rare books curator at the University of Ulster, gave plenty of information about the libraries and their history, and together with Nicholas Pickwood's keynote address provided many fascinating glimpses of the riches still to be explored as the books become more accessible. The rest of the programme covered a variety of topics, many to do with Irish libraries and book history and others more concerned with specialist conservation topics, such as the presentation by Caroline Bendix and Jonathan Rhys-Lewis on their preservation survey of York Minster Library, which provided a methodology used with success at Derry. Caroline demonstrated a detailed tick-box template for recording books examined for conservation, recording full details of each book's physical state and the conservation procedures adopted; this template had been amended and adapted by the team working on the Derry project to suit their particular requirements. The Derry & Raphoe project director Jenny Jarvis gave a full description of the approach and techniques used for this ambitious project, and later in the programme Kristi Westberg, one of the conservation trainees on the project, gave an account of day-to-day work in the conservation lab which had been specially set up

to deal with the collection.

Mark Empey (University College Dublin) talked about the library and network of Sir James Ware (1594-1666), whose notable library of Irish historical material reflected his scholarly activities (it has now been dispersed, though much of its contents are in the Bodleian and other major libraries). Crónán Ó Doibhlin (University College Cork) described the history of the library of St Fin Barre's Anglican cathedral in Cork, and the way in which the Boole Library at UCC has preserved it and made it accessible to scholars. Ken Berlin (University of Limerick) read a paper by Robert Matteson - in his unavoidable absence - on the library of Archbishop William King, which Dr Matteson has studied for very many years, producing an invaluable two-volume edition of King's own catalogue. Elizabethanne Boran (Edward Worth Library, Dublin) set the history of the library of John Worth (1648-1688) in the context of the contemporary Dublin book-trade and binding practices, and Andrew Megaw's paper on Irish bookbindings at Trinity College Dublin also linked the history of libraries with that of other aspects of the book-trade in the 17th and 18th centuries. English library history was represented by Edwina Newman (Open University), who focussed on the conservation of a particular book which had come her way. This was the minute book of a Quaker library in Bewdley, Worcestershire, revealing its members' reading in the 19th century.

Less concerned specifically with library history, but illuminating for the information historian, Allison Neill Rabaux (University of Ulster) described the development of "Ireland's first original and critical literary periodical", the *Literary Journal* of 1744-49, which gave a good sense of how information on new publications was transmitted internationally in an 18th-century Ireland well aware of its European significance. Similarly Robert Whan (Queen's University Belfast) spoke about Presbyterians who published books and sermons during the late 17th and early 18th centuries, mentioning in passing the Belfast Library (not the library now known as the Linen Hall Library, but the theological library of that name, founded in 1765 as the Presbytery Library of Antrim).

Two American speakers provided interesting parallel papers: Kim O'Donnell, a conservator from South Carolina, traced the migration of a copy of a 1704 *Dryden Miscellany*, in an armorial binding, through various owners from Sir William Boothby of Derbyshire to Samuel Hilbert Ware of Manchester and Edinburgh (and coincidentally a descendant of Sir James Ware), and eventually to Whitman College in Washington State. Jennifer Miglus sketched the history of Hartford Medical School Library in Connecticut, founded in 1824 and now providing a good picture of the development of medicine over 180 years - but also presenting the problems of preservation and access for a historic library now housed within a medical school not concerned with the history of the subject.

Mary Delargy delivered the final paper, rounding off the international coverage of the conference. She dealt with the career of Bernard Dornin, a Roman Catholic bookseller (and circulating librarian) in Dublin, who prudently emigrated to North America in the late 1790s to become one of the first publishers of Catholic books there.

After the official end of the conference, delegates were invited to see (but sadly not touch) the books themselves in the bookstore at the Magee campus library. Finally,

library and returned to another.

Records housed at Boots archives in Nottingham provide evidence of the libraries' popularity. During the 1930's - the 'golden era' of the Booklovers' Libraries - over 700,000 volumes were being handled every month, and by 1938 books were being exchanged at a rate of 35 million a year, with 460 libraries annually buying over 1.25 million books.

The library was usually found upstairs, with great thought being given to the interior design to try and remove any clue to the customer that they were actually inside a chemist's shop. Quality wooden bookshelves, parquet flooring with cosy rugs and ceilings with delicate mouldings all helped create a sense of being in the library of a great country house. Window seats, sofas and casual chairs encouraged customers to sit a while, and there were ornately carved tables holding magazines and writing-paper. Architect Morley Horder designed fine stained-glass windows for many libraries, enabling natural light to flood in whilst allowing subscribers to take in pleasant views whilst they browsed.

Library staff consisted mainly of lower middle and working class girls recommended by their schools. Working in Boots library was considered quite prestigious, giving one certain social standing in the local area as well as

amongst other store staff. Some girls even believed it helped them make good marriages. Working hours were 8.45am -7pm, or 8pm on Saturdays, with a half-day on Wednesdays, and wages started at 14/ a week. Once they turned 21, the girls were required to relieve other stores, a prospect that excited some and terrified others!

Junior staff received extensive training and sat Boots library exams that covered the Boots circulating system, service to subscribers and book knowledge.

Employees were encouraged to read widely in order to increase their literary wisdom and help respond to the needs of subscribers, though they were instructed that books should only be recommended once the customer's taste was well understood.

Head Librarian from 1911 to 1941 was Mr Richardson, who took tight control of library operations, receiving a noon update every day detailing subscription figures, income and the number of volumes borrowed. Richardson introduced inspectors to visit stores unannounced to help maintain the high standards he set and also employed library detectives if a store suspected they were the victim of book thieves. The culprit was often a kleptomaniac elderly lady, though a clergyman was found to have 'collected' over 300 Boots library books.

Jesse Boot said that his libraries were 'exclusively patronised by a thoughtful and cultured circle of customers'. Roughly 70% were women, though many of these were borrowing books on behalf of their husbands or male relatives. The main-stay of the library, however, was the housewife, for whom life could be a little dull. She is epitomised by Laura Jesson in the film 'Brief Encounter', who visits Boots library as part of her routine trip into town.



Blackpool store, ca. 1935
[courtesy of Boots Archives]

digital versions of our physical exhibitions on Flickr. The advantage of using a service like Flickr is that you can reach beyond your own organisation and can even attract people who might not usually be interested in libraries or archives. See our Flickr pages at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/40937572%40N08/>.

At Christmas we created an online advent calendar featuring images from our collections. This proved to be a big hit. I should admit straight away that we can't claim to have come up with this idea ourselves! We adapted something which we had seen online the previous Christmas. Given that it was so successful, we plan to re-run it again next Christmas. Our latest experiment is a blog. Go to <http://archives.wordpress.stir.ac.uk/> to keep up with our activities.

To encourage our own students to make more use of the Archives and Special Collections, we have been trying to integrate use of these collections into the curriculum. It's still early days, but there have been some successful sessions in the reading room for Publishing, History, English and Film students. We are also starting to build up a database of possible dissertation topics to encourage students to think about using our Archives and Special Collections for their dissertations. We hope that, in time, this could become a useful resource for our students.

To find out more about our Archives and Special Collections, please see <http://www.is.stir.ac.uk/libraries/collections/spcoll/index.php>.

Helen Beardsley, Senior Subject Librarian
University of Stirling

A HISTORY OF BOOTS BOOKLOVERS' LIBRARY

From a small revolving bookcase to the largest subscription library in the world, Boots Booklovers Library was part of British life for nearly 70 years. Introduced to stores by Florence Boot, the service offered customers an opportunity for pleasure and improvement, both of which she and husband Jesse were keen advocates. The first library, in Nottingham, opened in 1899, and the service developed after Mercer Stretch, a Mudie's employee, noticed the large number of orders for second-hand books coming in from a Mrs Boot. Intrigued, he travelled to Nottingham, saw the popularity of the library service and offered Boots ideas for expansion. The following year he was appointed Boots first Head Librarian.

Libraries began to appear rapidly in Boots stores. Nottingham was followed by Lincoln, Sheffield, Rotherham, Grantham and Cambridge. In less than ten years, libraries were established in 200 of Boots' 371 stores.



Library in New George Street store
Plymouth, 1953
[courtesy of Boots Archives]

delegates were transported by taxi to the conservation lab itself, located three miles away in a local branch public library. Here the conservation staff were able to display what they had lying on the slab, as it were, and show off their skills. The project to conserve the Derry & Raphoe libraries has undoubtedly been a successful venture - so successful that two of the conservation staff are about to wed - and plans are afoot to try and develop the conservation lab as a commercial enterprise.

Peter Hoare and Keith Manley

LIBRARY & INFORMATION HISTORY GROUP INAUGURAL WALKING TOUR OF HISTORICAL LIBRARIES IN LONDON 24TH JUNE 2011

In February, I spotted publicity in the LIHG newsletter regarding this walking tour of historical libraries in London, and thought it would be interesting. It cost me £10 to book a place.

I was given the start time of 6 p.m. to be in Gordon Square, at Dr Williams' library, on Friday 24th June. All I knew was that we would have a Blue Badge Guide and there would be plenty of walking, maybe as much as two and a half hours. I took some peanut butter rolls and a bottle of water for sustenance, and a camera to make a record of the occasion.

Reaching Dr Williams' library at precisely 6 p.m., I was pleased to see quite a few others were there also. Our hostesses were Renae Satterley, Senior Librarian of The Honourable Society of the Middle Temple Library and Alice Ford-Smith, Principal Librarian of Dr Williams's Library. Our guide for the walk was Martin Olutniks, a member of the Institute of Tourist Guiding.



Interior view of Dr. Williams's
Library

[photo by Helena Boutal]

Alice took us upstairs to look at the library itself. The room had beautiful stained glass in the windows, hexagonal light fittings like lanterns and wooden shelving with colourful book spines on display. It was very inviting, but we had only a brief glimpse before heading back downstairs, where we paused in the foyer. This also had a hexagonal light fitting, set in a gold frame, hanging from a salmon pink ceiling with white mouldings. A plaque on the wall gave information about the founder, Dr Williams. His will has kept the library going since 1716, with no public or government funding, and is the research library of English Protestant nonconformity. It was certainly a beautiful building, and an inviting place to visit.

We then set off on the walk, going at quite a fast pace, pausing now and again to pick up gems of information about London's architecture. For example, we learned about the London building regulations imposed after the Great Fire of London, requiring wooden window frames to be recessed behind brick, to reduce the risk of fire. We passed Barbon Close, WC1 named after Nicholas Barbon, who helped in the rebuilding of London after the fire. We walked down Lamb's Conduit Street, named after William Lamb who improved the water supplies in the neighbourhood.

Our next library was Holborn public library. A new building, opened by the Queen Mother in November 1960, was erected to replace the original Holborn library. It has

plenty of 1960's features, including formica panels on the stair walls, and a smooth brown wooden handrail. A display showed some historical moments, with a picture of the punched card machine used to record loans in the 1960's.

Then we visited Lincoln's Inn and its library, our guide being Renae. We viewed the library in small groups, others waiting in the stone passageway out of the gentle but now persistent rain. Inside the library there were spiral staircases, plush carpet, and magnificent Victorian circular radiators with marble tops. Like Dr Williams' library, the windows were beautiful.

We walked on, past Sir John Soane's museum, which was warmly recommended to us. Then in High Holborn we saw the front of the original Holborn library, with its impressive stone façade and doorway. Admiring ancient and modern architecture along the way, we walked on towards Charing Cross, down alleyways, passing the Lamb and Flag pub, past shop fronts you might expect to see in a Harry Potter film. Charing Cross library has its sign in both English and Chinese as there is a thriving Chinese community in the area. We concluded the tour at Trafalgar Square, where the lions looked majestic in the twilight and the pavement glistened with the reflected summer evening sky.

My reflections on the event were that it was an opportunity to meet others working in libraries, but there wasn't time for much chatting. A map might have been useful, even afterwards as an aide mémoire. The walk was from 6 p.m. to 8.30 p.m., which made it awkward for eating. To have paused partway would have lost the momentum of the tour, but for those who had travelled, it meant either be late home or grab something on the way. For me it was good to gain an insight into libraries and an aspect of London I had not seen before. It made me ponder the threat of library closures and what might be lost.

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UNIVERSITY OF STIRLING LIBRARY

Built in the early 1970s, the University of Stirling Library is perhaps not the sort of place you would describe as 'historic'. Indeed, the University itself is only a little over 40 years old. However, the University Library is fortunate to hold a number of important collections from our more recent history. And thanks to an £11million refurbishment, the Library has recently been enjoying a new lease of life.

Although the exterior of the building remains much the same, inside it feels like a completely new building. The dingy, somewhat dated décor has been replaced by light, colour and open views to the beautiful campus which surrounds us. One of the main features of the refurbished building is a much higher profile for the Archives and Special Collections. Previously housed in the basement, many people didn't know they were there. And the storage conditions weren't ideal either. Now, our historic collections are in a very visible location on the entrance level of the library, with a glass exhibition case allowing a view through to the reading room. We also took the opportunity to improve the storage conditions. The environmentally controlled store is now separate from the reading room, meaning that both collections and readers are more comfortable!

For an institution founded in the late 1960s, it could be argued that we punch above our weight when it comes to our historic collections. Although we haven't benefited from several centuries worth of generous benefactors, we do have a number of excellent collections from the 19th and 20th centuries. Thanks to the generosity of a number of donors and the hard work of the University's first librarians, we now have collections which one might perhaps not expect such a young institution to hold.

Film and Media Studies has long been one of the strengths of the University of Stirling, so it is not surprising that the Library's collections reflect this. We are fortunate to hold the papers of three filmmakers: Lindsay Anderson, one of the most important film directors of the 20th century; John Grierson, who founded the Documentary Film Movement; and the animator and experimental filmmaker, Norman McLaren.

The Lindsay Anderson collection includes material relating to all of Anderson's films, including *If....*, *This Sporting Life*, *O Lucky Man!* and *Britannia Hospital*, as well as 40 theatre productions directed by Anderson. A large amount of personal material collected and kept by Anderson is also in the collection.

The John Grierson Archive provides a comprehensive account of the career of one of the key figures in the history of documentary filmmaking. The archive contains a wealth of material, including papers relating to the various organisations for which Grierson worked - the Empire Marketing Board, the GPO Film Unit, the Imperial Relations Trust, the National Film Board of Canada, Group 3 Film Company, UNESCO, the Association Internationale des Documentaristes; Films of Scotland Committee and Scottish Television.

Norman McLaren was born in Stirling in April 1914. It was while a student at Glasgow School of Art that he started making short experimental films. His work came to the attention of John Grierson, who offered him a job with the GPO Film Unit. When Grierson moved to Canada in 1939 to set up their National Film Board, he invited McLaren to join him. In Canada Grierson gave McLaren the freedom to experiment. McLaren's genius was recognised worldwide with a string of awards for his work, including an Oscar in 1953 for his short film *Neighbours*. Our collection includes material relating to McLaren's films, as well as his correspondence, press cuttings and photographs.

We also have a number of collections relating to the history of publishing, the most important of which is probably our Penguin Collection. Our collection of Penguin books is almost complete from the beginnings in 1935 up to 1961.

Scottish literature is also another area of strength, particularly our collection relating to the 19th century novelist, James Hogg. We hold many of his personal papers, including letters to his wife, Margaret, and the books in his personal library.

To complement the higher visibility of the Archives and Special Collections in the library, we have also set about raising the profile of our collections generally. We have been experimenting with some of the newer technologies, in a bid to make our collections more visible beyond Stirling. We tried uploading a number of images from our collections to Flickr and were pleasantly surprised at the number of people viewing them. A Flickr image from our collections recently featured on the front cover of *Broadsheet*, the Scottish Council on Archives Newsletter. We have also created