

# Library and Information History *Newsletter*



Spring 2010

# **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

Dear Members,

Welcome to this first newsletter of 2010. By now, you should all have received a copy of the Group's annual mailing and year card, detailing events for the coming year. We have an interesting and varied programme of activities lined up for 2010, reflecting the broad remit of library and information history. Conferences at home and abroad will cover parochial libraries (from their origins and development over the centuries to the challenges of managing these collections in the 21<sup>st</sup> century) and education and literacy across Europe in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Our visit to the collections of Chawton House will focus on women's literature. We will also be arranging a programme of talks around our AGM in November, exact topics yet to be confirmed. We are once again supporting a programme of seminars in London on the history of libraries, and this is supplemented in 2010 by a new series of seminars at venues across Scotland in association with the future publication of the *Edinburgh history of libraries in Scotland*. I hope to meet some of you at Group events in the coming year.

Along with your annual mailing, you will have received a brief survey asking what you want from your Group and I urge you to complete this and return it to me as soon as possible in the envelope provided. We really would like to hear what you, our members, want. If you've already consigned your copy to the recycling bin in a new year flurry of tidying, you can still let us know what you think. Please feel free to email or phone me directly if you have thoughts on what the Group's priorities should be for the coming years, which activities we should be supporting, and how you see the future for library and information history. The committee will be holding an extraordinary meeting to discuss strategy on March 18, and the ideas and opinions expressed by members will feed directly into our deliberations as we identify priorities and set objectives.

There has been a further committee change since the mailing went to press. Following his election as a CILIP Trustee, John Crawford has stepped down from the committee, as under CILIP regulations members of Council are not permitted to serve on branch or group committees. John has served the LIHG for many years and we are sorry to lose his

expertise on the committee, though are glad that he will continue to contribute as a member of the editorial board of our journal, *Library and information history*, and to the *Edinburgh history of libraries in Scotland*. We congratulate John on his election and wish him well in his new role.

Kathryn McKee  
Chair LIHG

[km10007@cam.ac.uk](mailto:km10007@cam.ac.uk)  
01223 339393

### **LIHG Committee Meetings 2010**

#### **18<sup>th</sup> March**

De Montfort University, Leicester  
Extraordinary Committee Meeting to discuss strategy, followed by ordinary business meeting.

#### **21<sup>st</sup> June**

Edinburgh, Napier University, Craighouse Campus, Edinburgh

#### **9<sup>th</sup> November**

CILIP HQ, Ridgmount Street, London  
Committee meeting, LIHG AGM and member event

Observers are welcome at all committee meetings, but please inform the secretary Rob Westwood beforehand if you intend to attend in case space is limited.

E-mail: [Rob@robwestwood.co.uk](mailto:Rob@robwestwood.co.uk)

### **LIHG Members Events 2010**

#### **26<sup>th</sup> April**

One day conference on parochial libraries

#### **21<sup>st</sup> May**

Afternoon visit to Chawton House Library, Chawton, Alton, Hampshire. Home to a unique collection of books focusing on women's writing. Numbers are limited.

Contact Shauna Barrett for more details.

E-mail: [s.barrett@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:s.barrett@ucl.ac.uk)

## **20<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> September**

*Popular Education and Reading Material in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.*  
Bible Room of the Herzog August Bibliothek, Wolfenbüttel, Germany.  
Joint conference with German and Scandinavian colleagues.

## **9<sup>th</sup> November**

CILIP HQ, Ridgmount Street, London  
Committee meeting, LIHG AGM and member event

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

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

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

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

### **LIHG Newsletter Copy Dates 2010**

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

### **LIHG Newsletter Issue Dates 2010**

- Summer 2010: Monday 7<sup>th</sup> June
- Winter 2010: Monday 4<sup>th</sup> October

**Copy should be sent to our new Newsletter Editor, Renae Satterley**  
[r.satterley@middletemple.org.uk](mailto:r.satterley@middletemple.org.uk)

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.

## **Visit Report, November 2009, John Rylands Library “A library for the people of Manchester”**

The 2009 AGM was followed by a visit to John Rylands Library showcasing some of the treasures of its collections and giving a tour of its original and new buildings. The Group is grateful to Anne Young for providing such a fascinating insight into an extraordinary library's history.

The third Mrs Rylands, much younger than her husband, and to outlive him by a couple of decades, conceived the library as a memorial to her beloved John, Manchester's first cotton millionaire. It was to be a good local library for the people of Manchester. She wanted it to be impressive, and chose Gothic for her edifice, harking back to an ecclesiastical style that, if truth be told, rather hampered the concept of a public building open to all. The grand entrance, with its imposing stairs, high gallery, and intricate carvings, daunts rather than welcomes.

By contrast, the new entrance, with its fully accessible ramps and lifts, open glass reception area leading into attractive gift shop and café, opens its arms to the world, but for the fact that it is - of necessity - set so modestly back from the road that one might walk past it still looking for the way in. Once the challenge of entering is overcome though, the new display galleries draw the visitor in to experience a wonderful array of treasures. Broad themes, such as the history of printing, allow a rotation of materials, whilst keeping key artefacts on display. Interactive exhibits prove popular, with visitors trying out book making techniques, writing poems, and engaging fully with the collections. The 21<sup>st</sup> century outreach programme of the new galleries is very much in tune with Mrs Rylands' original intention of a library for the use of the public at large. The refurbishment and extension has also provided a new reading room, more readily supervised, for scholars consulting items from the collections. (Some of us wondered whether this will prove adequate in the long term. Demand will surely exceed the space provided as collections are catalogued more fully and publicised, and courses are developed within the University to take advantage of the extraordinary collections available; a medieval literature MPhil programme is already making great use of incunables.)

The old reading room, difficult to supervise, but a magnificent workspace, is still used by students and public alike for work not involving special collections materials, and it was good to see this being actively encouraged. Statues of figures from the arts and religion line the

reading room, in pairs chosen specifically by Mrs Rylands. One can read watched over by Caxton and Gutenberg, conscious of one's debt to them, and indeed to Mr and Mrs Rylands whose own representations in white marble grace each end of the cathedral-like space. Although the style of the building harked back to an earlier age, it was fitted out with all mod cons from the start. Anxious enquiry from one of our group was met with immediate reassurance that while new facilities were provided in the extension, the Victorian lavatories remained accessible in all their original splendour. (The visitor guide helpfully labels the appropriate locations on its map "toilets" and "historic toilets".) The building has been rewired only once(!) in its long history. Fitted with electric lighting in 1890, it was rewired a century later. While modern building regulations meant that not every cable could be relaid in exactly the same location, all original switches and fittings have been retained.

Before we explored the building, Anne began the tour by showing us a selection of items from the Library, which demonstrated how the collections had developed and how the acquisition of materials had affected the operation of the Library as a whole. Very early on, the chance to acquire the Spencer family library brought an amazing collection illustrative of the history of printing. We were shown a Nicholas Jenson printed book of 1476, bearing the Spencer coat of arms. Intricate gilded initials set out to look like a manuscript, not to fool the reader, but because that was simply what a book should look like. It was noted in passing that the library still used the Spencer accessions numbers for retrieval, those books not from the Spencer collection using the same series, but preceded by the letter R. While her original intention may have been a public reference library, Mrs Rylands built on the collection, acquiring more manuscripts as they came on the market, and special collections rapidly became an important element of the library.

Money for digitisation has recently come from a Medieval English programme, and one of the books to be digitised is a rare recipe book dating from Richard II's reign. Only six copies of this work are known to be in existence in various libraries. It apparently contains an excellent salad recipe, uses quite a lot of onions, and also has instructions for pawpaw stew. A tasting session featuring dishes from the book is to be held in the library café. While much digitisation to date has been in response to demand from a specific researcher needing access to a text, this programme allows works to be digitised in advance, with every opening of 40 manuscripts being reproduced with high quality enlargement.

The library holds modern manuscripts too. Materials of interest to local, social, and family historians include an early C19th document detailing those injured at Peterloo and the compensation they received. Archives were actively garnered in the 1920s by the librarian Henry Guppy, who wrote to local landed families offering to care for estate papers. Some 30 families took up the offer, and their archives have been supplemented with Methodist and other non-conformist archives, collections of letters, miscellaneous charters, and many documents which might in later years have been deposited in county record offices: all a rich source for the local historian, if they know where to look. Much, though still not all, is listed in A2A.

Our private viewing of treasures finished with what Anne described as “a pretty book”, and one which exemplified the materials with which Mrs Rylands wished to furnish her library. We were shown one of the 40 volumes of Gould’s birds, one of several depicting humming birds. A substantial volume, it was cased in a typical bookseller’s binding of the day, with plates painted on a surface of gold leaf in order to achieve a metallic look. High quality, factual, informative, rich and beautiful. Typical of the contents of this extraordinary library.

*More information about the John Rylands Library in Deansgate, its history, collections, events, exhibitions, and opening times may be found on its webpages at <http://www.library.manchester.ac.uk/specialcollections/>*

## SEMINAR ON THE HISTORY OF LIBRARIES

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

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

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

Tuesdays at 5.30pm, in Room ST 275 at Stewart House, unless otherwise stated. Stewart House is located at the Russell Square entrance to Senate House, London.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> March**

Dr. James Willoughby (University of Oxford)  
*The medieval library of St. George's Chapel, Windsor*  
Room NG 15, Senate House, North Block

### **27<sup>th</sup> April**

Stephen Massil (National Trust)  
*Libraries of the National Trust: some houses in Kent and Sussex – Shakespeare, landscape and the in-laws*

### **25<sup>th</sup> May**

Visit to Dulwich College Library  
Numbers will be limited.  
Bookings to: [keith.manley@sas.ac.uk](mailto:keith.manley@sas.ac.uk)

### **1<sup>st</sup> June**

Michelle Johansen (University of East London, Bishopsgate Institute, Birkbeck)  
*An “unglamorous” profession?: the public librarian in late-Victorian London*  
Room NG 15, Senate House, North Block

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

## WHAT TO DO WITH OLD LIBRARY BUILDINGS

Review of *The Carnegie Heritage Centre: A Brief History*, by Paul Green. (12pp, The Centre, 2008)

For further details contact Email: [enquiries@carnegie.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@carnegie.co.uk), Web: [www.carnegiehull.co.uk](http://www.carnegiehull.co.uk) or Tel: 01482 561216

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

The day after reading my plea above in the Winter 2009 issue of the *Library & Information History Newsletter*, I received a smartly illustrated brochure on one of Hull’s four listed historic library buildings. And what it reveals provides inspiration and hope for others.

Although the City of Kingston-upon-Hull came late onto the public library scene, shamed into it by the industrialist Sir James Reckitt, it has some of the most striking library buildings in the country – or ex-library buildings! The most attractive is undoubtedly the Anlaby Road library, a mile west of the city centre. Opened in 1905 and built with the assistance of a grant of £3,000 from Andrew Carnegie, “The attractive half-timbered building was built in the Domestic Revival style, and is unusual in that it is partly timber framed and contains many unique architectural details”. One of which is a balcony. The building has been spared major alterations and was awarded Listed Building status in 1994 (it already featured in Pevsner). The library closed in 2003 when a new Learning Centre opened in the nearby newly built ‘KC’ sports stadium. It was briefly used by Sure Start, but they left in 2006. The building was then declared ‘surplus to requirements’ by the local authority and put on the open market, but nobody wanted it.

Concerned at this situation, local volunteers and interested parties got together and formed the Carnegie Heritage Action Team. In January 2008, this team was successful in opening the Carnegie Heritage Centre. The old Anlaby Road ‘Carnegie Public Library’ now houses a variety of heritage activities. It is home to the East Yorkshire Family History Society, the Hull & District Philatelic Society, and The Bindery (a

commercial concern with roots in the now-defunct Council's bindery). It offers a collection of books on local and family history for reference and for sale (the latter from a local book dealer), a family history help desk, a reminiscence group, courses, publications for sale, talks, local history quiz nights, exhibitions and a meeting space. Run by the Action Team, it has a 25-year lease from the City Council and is open three days a week.

This is an inspirational success story and one hopes 'The Carnegie' will survive: it is certainly a model that could be used elsewhere. While this booklet focuses on the 'Carnegie', it does flag up concern for other of Hull's historic library buildings. (Not featured here is the Central Library which is currently undergoing renovation and some service re-location). One is pleased to note that the 1895, Grade Two listed, Western Branch, just off the busy Hessle Road, is still in use and is scheduled for renovation. The delightful Northern Branch Library on the Beverley Road (another 1895, Grade Two listed building), however, closed in 2005, and while it is currently used by a local school, this future of this arrangement is in doubt. Sadder of all is the fate of Hull's oldest public library building, the former James Reckitt Library on the Holderness Road. This opened in 1889 after a lengthy battle fought by Sir James to convince the rate-payers of Hull to adopt the Public Library Acts (which he won when he offered to pay for it!). This is another Grade Two listed building. It closed in 2006 and now stands empty, forlorn, and for sale.

In addition to providing the heartening story of The Carnegie Heritage Centre, Paul Gibson's delightfully-produced little booklet draws attention to the importance of listing historic library buildings, but also that doing so is not sufficient - there are many derelict and decaying listed buildings about. These fine buildings of Hull are not discussed in *Books, Buildings and Social Engineering* (Black, Pepper and Bagshaw. Ashgate, 2009) but do appear in its Gazetteer. Is now the time for LIHG to campaign for more 'listing' and more illustrated leaflets, or another book?

*Bob Duckett*

**Personal note:** When traipsing around Hull three years ago in search of historic library buildings, I was impressed by what marvellous buildings the Anlaby Carnegie and the James Reckitt Library were, and how disappointed and irritated I was of their successors. Deciding what a library should look like is difficult, but a window in a massive concrete sports centre, home to Hull FC and the Tigers RL Club, is not the answer: I walked right round the damn thing before I found the hidden 'Learning Zone'. The son of the James Reckitt was equally bad. I walked past it

twice before realising that I was looking for was not a 'library' but a 'CSC' (Customer Service Centre is Hull-speak for Library) emblazoned with advertising for a fitness club and overshadowed by a JJC Superstore. How Sir James and Andrew C. would be saddened by the insignificance of their munificence! Come on Hull, a Library is not a Customer Service Centre! Take pride in your heritage! (Although I must congratulate Hull on having one of the best Reference Libraries in the country!)

**Response to the review on "Twelve good and lawful men ..." (LIHG Newsletter, Winter 2009)**

Dear Mr Duckett,

I was interested to read your review of my pamphlet on the Librarians and of the Mesey District, and while I agree with you about the title page and type size (and also the lack of pagination), I would take issue with your comments about the Northern Counties Library Association in connection with the North West (commonly considered until recently to be the areas covered by Lancashire and Cheshire - with Cumberland and Westmor[e]land being in the North East). Perhaps I should have mentioned the NCLA on page 13, along with the North Midlands and Birmingham District Library Associations (I was aware of your paper and used it in my MA research), but as it was only established in 1900, in the dog days of the LMD's 17 years as the indisputable pioneering regional professional grouping, I considered that it was not necessarily germane to my account.

I am, however, incensed by your inexplicable misreading of page 7, referring to an alleged mistake about Madeley's dates. It is very clear in the first paragraph that Madeley's predecessor at Warrington, James Cooper, was appointed to the post of curator and librarian in 1848 and that he retired in 1874. Madeley's dates are clearly given on page 6, his appointment to Warrington in 1874 is described in the second paragraph on page 7, and his death in 1920 is detailed at the bottom of page 7. I hope that this mistake can be corrected in the next issue of the LIHG newsletter.

Yours sincerely  
John Tiernan.

*PRELIMINARY ANNOUNCEMENT*

**THE LIBRARY & INFORMATION HISTORY GROUP**

in association with the

**HISTORIC LIBRARIES FORUM**

and the

**CATHEDRAL LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES ASSOCIATION**

announce a one-day conference on the theme:

**PAROCHIAL LIBRARIES: PAST, PRESENT, & FUTURE**

to be held in the Great Hall, Lambeth Palace, London

on **Monday 26 April 2010**

*Speakers*

Archdeacon WILLIAM JACOB (London) on 18th century clerical libraries  
Prof. DAVID McKITTERICK (Cambridge) on Libraries at risk  
Dr. DAVID J. SHAW (Canterbury) on Parochial libraries in Kent  
PETER HOARE (Nottingham) on Parochial libraries in the East Midlands  
DAVID J. HALL (Cambridge) on Friends' meeting house libraries  
GUDRUN WARREN (Norwich Cathedral) on Parochial libraries in the Norwich  
diocese  
MICHAEL PERKIN (Newbury) on Compiling the gazetteer of parochial libraries  
Dr. ANDREA THOMAS (Reigate) on the Cranston Library, Reigate  
DAVID KNIGHT (Church Buildings Council) on Conserving parochial libraries

The conference will commence at 10.15 a.m. (Registration from 10 a.m.).  
A fee of £40 inc. VAT (LIHG members) or £50 inc. VAT (non-members)  
will be charged, to include lunch and a reception afterwards.

For bookings contact: Shauna Barrett, Events & Membership Secretary, 13 Hatley  
Rd., Finsbury Park, London N4 3NN.  
s.barrett@ucl.ac.uk



Chartered Institute of  
Library and Information  
Professionals

Library and Information History Group

**Parochial Libraries: Past, Present & Future  
A one day Conference**

organised by the Library and Information History Group,  
in association with the Historic Libraries Forum  
and the Cathedral Libraries and Archives Association.

**Monday 26 April 2010 in the Great Hall, Lambeth Palace**

**BOOKING FORM**

**Title:**

**Name** (*Block capitals please*):

**Affiliation:**

<b>A: REGISTRATION FEE: ALL PARTICIPANTS</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>tick</b>
Includes morning and afternoon refreshments, lunch, and drinks reception.		
1) LIHG Members discounted rate	£40 inc. VAT	
2) Non-members: fee includes subscription to the Library and Information History Group for 2010	£50 inc. VAT	

<b>B: STUDENT BURSARY</b>	
A student bursary is available, to cover conference fees and up to £50 in travel expenses. Proof of student status is required in the form of a stamped and signed letter from your institution. Bursaries are awarded on a first come, first served basis.	
Are you applying for a student bursary? It is a condition of obtaining a student bursary to write a report of the conference for the LIHG Newsletter.	Yes / No

<b>Total</b>	<b>£</b>
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**Special requirements:**

**Contact details:**

Email address:	
Telephone number(s):	
Preferred postal address:	

**Instructions for Returning the Form and Methods of Payment**

*Please note that bookings cannot be accepted without full pre-payment of all fees.*  
Delegates must pay in full by Sterling cheque (payable to the Library and Information History Group). The booking form may be submitted as an email attachment in Word to the LIHG Social Secretary, Shauna Barrett at s.barrett@ucl.ac.uk or by post to Shauna Barrett, LIHG Social Secretary, 13 Hatley Road, Finsbury Park, London, N4 3NN.

**Payment must be received by Monday 12th April to confirm your place at the conference.**

If paying by cheque and submitting the form electronically, the booking will be accepted so long as the cheque is received within 7 days of receipt of the booking form.

All fees are inclusive of VAT (CILIP VAT registration number GB 233 1573 87.).

I enclose a cheque payable to the Library and Information History Group in the sum of

\_\_\_\_\_

Receipts will be included in the conference packs awaiting delegates at the registration desk.

**SIGNATURE:**

Cancellations received after 6 April 2010 cannot be given a refund.

**Please send all cheques, booking forms and queries to Shauna Barrett, Social Secretary, Library and Information History Group, 13 Hatley Road, Finsbury Park, London, N4 3NN (s.barrett@ucl.ac.uk)**

## Forthcoming Events

**10<sup>th</sup> March 2010**

**A.W. Pollard (1859-1944): Friends and Fine Printing**

Henry Woudhuysen

5pm, Lecture Theatre 2, St. Cross Building, Oxford

The Fifteenth Annual D.F. McKenzie Lecture. Presented by the McKenzie Trust in association with the Centre for the Study of the Book, Bodleian Library

**12<sup>th</sup> March 2010**

**Women and dynastic book collecting in early modern Germany**

Dr Gillian Bepler (Herzog-August Bibliothek, Wolfenbüttel)

Seminar on the History of the Book 1450-1800

2.15 pm, Wharton Room, All Souls College, Oxford

**17<sup>th</sup> March 2010**

**The Retailing and Distribution of Books and Printed Material:  
Historical Perspectives (CHORD workshop)**

University of Wolverhampton

For further information please contact: Dr Laura Ugolini

([L.Ugolini@wlv.ac.uk](mailto:L.Ugolini@wlv.ac.uk))

Workshop web-page: <http://home.wlv.ac.uk/~in6086/books.html>

CHORD web-page: <http://home.wlv.ac.uk/~in6086/chord.html>

**1<sup>st</sup> April 2010**

**What is a book?: books, pamphlets, and playbooks in the history of  
printing**

Peter Stallybrass

Centre for the Study of the Book special lecture

4pm, Seminar Room, Room 132, New Library, Oxford

**5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> April 2010**

**Centre for Material Texts: inaugural conference**

Faculty of English, University of Cambridge

**Call for Graduate Papers**

The Centre will be holding its inaugural conference on 5-6 April 2010. The purpose of the conference is to explore a variety of current approaches to material textuality across a range of periods and disciplines.

We are delighted to welcome Leah Price (Harvard) and Peter Stallybrass (Penn) as our plenary speakers. Other speakers include: Chris Cannon (NYU), Paul Chirico (Cambridge), Ian Christie (Birkbeck), Helen Deeming (Royal Holloway), Flora Dennis (Sussex), Juliet Fleming (New York), Heather Glen (Cambridge), Hugh Haughton (York), Rachel Hewitt (Queen Mary), Alfred Hiatt (Queen Mary), Sachiko Kusukawa (Cambridge), Samantha Matthews (Sheffield), David McKitterick (Cambridge), Molly Murray (Columbia), Robin Schulze (Penn State), Sujit Sivasundaram (LSE), Andrew Thacker (De Montfort), David Trotter (Cambridge), Patrick Wildgust (Shandy Hall), Abigail Williams (Oxford), Henry Woudhuysen (UCL) and Andrew Zurcher (Cambridge).

Among the themes addressed by the panels are: material modernism; maps from the middle ages to the Ordnance Survey; literary revision/indecision; the materiality (or not) of film; writers' remains and their conservation; music, sound and urban space; the future of reading in the digital age; the printed image; publishing after death; border crossings in the history of the book; the current state of editing; writing and memory.

Conference website: <http://www.english.cam.ac.uk/cmt/?p=389#more-389>

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

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

University of Edinburgh and National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

University of Liverpool

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

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

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

**16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> April 2010**

**Border Families and their Books in Northern England and Scotland,  
c. 1480-c. 1620**

Merton College, Oxford

This symposium will explore the literary activities, tastes and book collections of family groups based in or connected to the border regions of northern England and Scotland from the late fifteenth to the early seventeenth century. These border regions are taken to include the borders or boundaries (physical or imagined) between Lowland and Highland Scotland as well as the Border between England and Scotland. In particular the symposium will consider manuscripts, especially anthologies or miscellanies, associated with kin groups, and related subjects such as literary interchange between border families, or the way in which crossing borders shaped a family's literary pursuits and interests. Bodies of writing by members of the same family group, or family book collections will also be addressed.

Website:

<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/english/conference/doku.php?id=borderfamilies:home>

Dr. Kate McClune  
Fitzjames Fellow in Old and Middle English  
Merton College  
Oxford OX1 4JD  
email: [katherine.mcclune@merton.ox.ac.uk](mailto:katherine.mcclune@merton.ox.ac.uk)

**26<sup>th</sup> April 2010**

**Parochial Libraries: past, present and future**

Great Hall, Lambeth Palace, London

One-day conference organized by CILIP Library and Information History Group, in association with the Historic Libraries Forum and the Cathedral Libraries and Archives Association.

For bookings contact:

Shauna Barrett, LIHG Events & Membership Secretary, 13 Hatley Rd.,  
Finsbury Park, London N4 3NN.

E-mail: [s.barrett@ucl.ac.uk](mailto:s.barrett@ucl.ac.uk)

**3<sup>rd</sup> May 2010**

**From Small Books to Little Magazines: The Reformation of the Chapbook**

Giles Bergel (Merton College, Oxford)

Oxford Bibliographical Society

5.15 pm, Taylor Institution, Oxford

Members may bring guests to any meeting.

**4<sup>th</sup> May 2010**

**Map of a Nation: The Early Ordnance Survey and the Politics of British Landscape**

Rachel Hewitt (Queen Mary, University of London)

Cambridge Seminars in the History of Cartography

5.30pm, Gardner Room, Emmanuel College, Cambridge

[23 Feb](#) Lawrence Worms (Ash Rare Books): Seller, Pepys and the Seventeenth-Century London Map Trade

All are welcome. Refreshments will be available after the seminar.

For any enquiries about these seminars, please contact Sarah Bendall at [sarah.bendall@emma.cam.ac.uk](mailto:sarah.bendall@emma.cam.ac.uk), tel. 01223 330476

**17<sup>th</sup> May-23<sup>rd</sup> July 2010**

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

Great Hall, Lambeth Palace, London SE1 7JU

Monday to Saturday, 10.00am-5pm

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 at [www.lambethpalacelibrary.org](http://www.lambethpalacelibrary.org)

**27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> May 2010**

**Censorship and Discourse in English-Speaking Countries (16th-21st centuries)**

University of Rennes 2 (Rennes, France)

Convenor: ACE research group (Anglophonie: Communautés, Ecritures), Rennes 2

With the development of the modern state, there has been an ongoing tension between the will to control and at the same time allow free speech to develop. In English-speaking countries, the theme of 'Censorship and Discourse' has been a recurrent concern from the 16th century to the present day, as the numerous censored publications and writings against censorship testify.

This conference will focus on three different aspects of censorship and discourse:

- 1) The nature of censorship and the way in which it reflects the norms and values of the day.
- 2) The discourse of censors as institutions of censorship.
- 3) The perception of censorship and the reactions it entails.

The aim is to bring together specialists from different disciplines: from the literary and linguistic disciplines to the human and social sciences. The conference will be organized on a panel basis and will be in English.

Contacts:

[clairecharlot@wanadoo.fr](mailto:clairecharlot@wanadoo.fr)

[delphine.texier@uhb.fr](mailto:delphine.texier@uhb.fr)

There will be a registration fee of 50 euros as a contribution towards meals and conference expenses.

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

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

British Library, London

An International Conference Commemorating the 350th Anniversary of his Birth.

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

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

## **11<sup>th</sup> June 2010**

### **'Every discrete person that redeth or hereth this...': readers, listeners and owners of books in the Middle Ages**

Bangor University

The Sixth Annual Medievalism Transformed Conference will be held on the 11th of June 2010 at Bangor University. This is an interdisciplinary postgraduate conference accepting papers on studies in the medieval period, especially literature, history, theology and music; other subjects will be considered as well.

We welcome proposals on the theme of the medieval audience: modes in which a text is presented to the public and interactions between the author and the book reader, listener or owner.

Suggested topics are as follows, but not limited to:

- Presentation methods of medieval text, e.g. performance and reading

- Editorial revision as the first response
- Target audience identified through dedication, patronage or addresses in the text
- Miscellanies and book collections indicating the audience reading tastes
- Additions to text through music, illumination and marginalia

Please send a 200-250 words abstract to [medievalismtransformed@bangor.ac.uk](mailto:medievalismtransformed@bangor.ac.uk) by 1 April 2010 to be considered for the presentation of a 20 minute paper with 5 minutes for questions.

Together with the abstract, please include a short paragraph (up to 50 words) describing your area of study, institution and contact information. For more details and updates, please refer to our website <http://medievalismtransformed.bangor.ac.uk/>

**29<sup>th</sup> June-1<sup>st</sup> July 2010**

**75 Years of Penguin Books: An International Multidisciplinary Conference**

University of Bristol, UK

In 2010, Penguin Books will be 75 years old and Puffin Books will be 70 years old. Organised by the AHRC Penguin Archive Project, the International Penguin Conference is occasioned by these two anniversaries of what is arguably the most distinctive and the most significant publishing house in the twentieth century and beyond.

Keynote speakers include:

Professor Sir David Cannadine, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother Professor of Contemporary British History (until 2008), Director of the Institute of Historical Research, University of London (1998-2003), Honorary Fellow of the Institute of Historical Research and Chair of its Appeal, Honorary Professor of the University of London, Distinguished Fellow of the School of Advanced Study, and Fellow of the British Academy.

Professor Simon Eliot, Professor of the History of the Book in the Institute of English Studies at the School of Advanced Study, University of London, Deputy Director of the Centre for Manuscript and Print Studies, Visiting Professor of Book History at the Open University,

Fellow of the Royal Historical Society, Member of the Council of the Bibliographical Society of London, and Director of the London Rare Books School.

Professor Kim Reynolds, Professor of Children's Literature, University of Newcastle, and President of the International Research Society for Children's Literature.

Professor Sir Christopher Ricks, William M. and Sara B. Warren Professor of the Humanities and Co-Director of the Editorial Institute, University of Boston, Professor of Poetry at the University of Oxford (2004-2009), Immediate Past President of the Association of Literary Scholars and Critics, recipient of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation's Distinguished Achievement Award for significant contributions to the humanities, and Fellow of the British Academy.

The conference is organised by the AHRC-funded Penguin Archive Project and will seek to cover the diversity of Penguin's publication history. The Penguin Archive itself is held in the Special Collections of the University of Bristol Library and attracts the attention of researchers in many disciplines and fields at national and international level, including historians of the book, biographers, social and political historians, cultural analysts and literary researchers.

Papers are invited on any topic connected to Penguin Books, past and present, and the following suggested topics are intended to be neither prescriptive nor comprehensive:

- The ways in which Penguin shaped social, cultural, and/or intellectual history
- The relationship between Penguin and public policy (Pelicans, Penguin Specials and Peregrines)
- The changing role of women in publishing; (Eunice Frost who became the first woman director of Penguin in 1960 is foremost among several women who have worked and work for Penguin in key roles.)
- Typography and book design
- Translation of European and World literatures
- Translation and the reception of the Classics in English (seen for example in the papers of E.V. Rieu and of Betty Radice who succeeded him as editor of the Penguin Classics)

- Publishing, censorship and the law (famously Lady Chatterley's Lover, but also Ulysses and other cases of possible libel or obscenity)
- Art History and architecture (including Pevsner's Guides to the Buildings of England)
- Children's literature (Puffin and Peacock Books)
- Modern poetry (British and international)
- Fiction (the establishment of a canonical list and the encouragement of contemporary writers)
- Correspondence with individual authors

Please send proposals (150-200 words) for papers of 20 minutes duration to [penguin-project@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:penguin-project@bristol.ac.uk) by 1st February 2010.

An exhibition of related materials from the University Library Special Collections Penguin Archive will form part of the conference proceedings.

The Penguin Archive Project website can be found at <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/penguinarchiveproject/>

**8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> July 2010**

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

Royal Society, 6-9, Carlton House Terrace, London

This conference is presented to mark the 350th anniversary of the founding of the Royal Society.

**Keynote speakers: Mark Greengrass, Margaret Ezell, and Richard Serjeantson**

The seventeenth century in Europe was an age of turmoil. As wars, revolutions, and exploration redrew the boundaries of the physical world, a tumult of new ideas shifted 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. Ideas were the currency of this economy - but how did 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.

Conference organizers:

Dr. Ruth Connolly: [ruth.connolly@newcastle.ac.uk](mailto:ruth.connolly@newcastle.ac.uk)

Dr. Felicity Henderson: [felicity.henderson@royalsociety.org](mailto:felicity.henderson@royalsociety.org)

Dr. Carol Pal: [cpal@bennington.edu](mailto:cpal@bennington.edu)

See the conference website at: <http://tiny.cc/cisce>. More details will be posted as available.

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

**Material Cultures 2010: Technology, Textuality, and Transmission**

University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh

Roger Chartier, Jerome McGann, Peter Stallybrass

Following the Material Cultures conferences which took place at The University of Edinburgh in 2000 and 2005, the third in the series is scheduled to take place in July 2010. The key theme of the conference is 'Technology, Textuality, and Transmission'.

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

Organised by The CENTRE for the HISTORY of the BOOK

<http://www.hss.ed.ac.uk/chb>