

Library and Information History Group Newsletter

Winter 2015



© Leadhills Heritage Trust

We'll Keep the Library Flag Flying Here (p.8)

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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LIHG Newsletter Dates 2015

Copy	Issue
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Summer 2016: 23 May	Summer 2016: 3 June

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NEWS FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to the winter 2015 newsletter. The past few months have been busy for the group. In July, Monica Blake and Holly Nicholas attended the CILIP Conference 2015 on behalf of LIHG. Holly's report appears on pp.22-23. In September we welcomed 21 people to our annual conference, *Libraries and the Development of Professional Knowledge*. Leo Cadogan displayed a selection of antiquarian books for our members and the keynote address was given by Anthony Watkinson on *The growth in numbers, cost and importance of journals in the later twentieth century and how this has impacted on the role of academic libraries*. We are starting to plan the 2016 conference already, which will be held in London in May, with the theme of information history. We shall be moving our AGM to May in order to coincide with the conference.

The deadline for this year's essay prize is near at hand and we have had some excellent submissions. We will be announcing the winner later this year. The deadline to apply for the Ollé prize is 31 December. We offer two awards each year of up to £500, with one reserved for a student and/or unwaged member of the group. More details on p.15, and at <http://www.cilip.org.uk/library-information-history-group/awards-0>

The research seminar timetable has now been published, and details are available below. Speakers this year include Prof. Greg Woolf, Dr. Edmund G.G. King and our own Keith Manley. Our AGM will be held on Thursday 12 November at UCL. Attendance is free, but advance booking is required. Full details on p.9.

The group has acquired two new members: Treasurer and Publicity Officer. Malcolm Pratt joins us from Cranfield University as the former and Holly Nicholas joins us from Coventry as the latter. We would like to thank both Joseph Ripp and Derek MacKenzie for all of their hard work for the committee. Holly will be posting regularly to the group's new blog- www.ciliplihg.wordpress.com, with input from Emma Laws and other committee members. We welcome submissions from group members and if you would like to write a blog post about your library, please do get in touch with Emma or Holly. Details are available on our website: <http://www.cilip.org.uk/library-and-information-history-group/committee>.

In July we were very concerned to hear of the closure of St. Bride Printing Library. Our sister organisation, Historic Libraries Forum, has written an open letter to the trustees which is on their website: <http://www.historiclibrariesforum.org.uk/>. The issue has also been discussed in *Print Week* and *Private Eye*, and the September issue of *Update* magazine (p. 9) has notified CILIP members of the closure. We urge our members to get in touch with the Chief Executive of the St. Bride Foundation, Glyn Farrow to protest against the closure. Their annual report states that one of the Foundation's objectives is to make "available the charity's printing resources and archives at St. Bride Library". It's unclear how that will be possible when the library is closed and its staff have been made redundant.

In other news, the Taylor & Francis Group has acquired Maney Publishing. The legal entity of Maney Publishing continues to exist but T&F is now officially the new owner of the company. Consequently, all agreements in place remain in full force and effect. Thus the agreement that the LIHG has with Maney for producing the journal, *Library & Information History* remains in place. Maney continues to operate under its existing contracts, management and staff. Maney are "working through a discovery process with T&F" to ensure the smoothest integration for the journals and their publishing partnerships. The journal's editor, Mark Towsey, assures the group that the journal is robust and has a waiting list of submissions into 2016. We will of course advise the group about any changes that may happen due to this acquisition.

Last but certainly not least we would like to extend our congratulations to both Erika Delbecque and Mark Towsey, who both got married this year! Not to each other I hasten to add!

Rena Satterley
Middle Temple Library,
r.satterley@middletemple.org.uk

LIHG DIARY

Thursday 12 November LIHG AGM. See p.9 for further details.

More events coming soon...

<http://www.cilip.org.uk/library-information-history-group/events>

FEATURES

Researching the 'Haggerstonian Geordies' ¹

A report on research carried out with James Ollé Award funding in July 2014



Newcastle Free Library, ca. 1893

Image taken from page 22 of 'Newcastle. Illustrated' (British Library)

The 1850 Public Libraries Act enabled local government or vestry boards to use a limited amount of money raised from the rates to establish libraries in their regions. The idea of offering a library service free at the point of access was entirely novel; the new wave of rate-assisted libraries therefore required revised systems of delivery and administration – and fresh management processes. Until the introduction of accredited courses in public librarianship in the early twentieth century, everything depended on individual chief librarians for the quality and type of professional education a junior assistant received.

By the 1890s, William Haggerston of Newcastle Public Library had established a nationwide reputation as an energetic teacher who favoured a distinctive style of instruction. According to one-time Croydon chief librarian Ernest Savage, Haggerston ‘turned out a number of young... librarians, over-smart in dress, quick in wits and heavy in confident tread.’² In Savage’s view, a virtual ‘Geordie’ Mafia operated out of Newcastle library, gradually making their influence felt across the nation’s public libraries as they took up senior posts outside the North East. Library historian James Ollé also recognised that local loyalties contributed to tensions within a competitive late-Victorian library world. Ollé depicted the librarians at Croydon in south London as ranged one against the other according to geographical affiliations: ‘the senior assistants...were all Northerners. They were a blunt lot and despised Southerners as “softies”.’³ Was life behind the public library counter at this time really informed by regionally-ascribed characters and conflicts? My own research on the first generation of London librarians appeared to suggest an affirmative answer to this question.

In the early twenty-first century I carried out a doctoral study of the occupational experiences of the members of the Society of Public Librarians (1895-1930), all of whom managed public libraries or branch libraries in the capital.⁴ I have published aspects of my scholarly findings in the *Library Journal*, the *London Journal* and elsewhere.⁵ Matters of regional identity were not a part of my original research programme but I was intrigued both by the subject in the abstract and by the specific contribution of Haggerston at Newcastle – especially as the statements of Savage and Ollé (above) did appear to have a bearing on the working lives of key members of the Society of Public Librarians.

Last year, I was granted a James Ollé Award to visit Newcastle to explore the topic more fully. In July 2014, I spent three days examining library reports, press cuttings and ephemera in the City Library and at the Newcastle Literary and Philosophical Institute, where Haggerston also worked. I wanted to gain a greater understanding of Haggerston as a library manager; and I hoped to piece together the career trajectories of the assistants he trained at Newcastle. Outside this conventional research programme, as a London-based historian who had never visited the North East, I also wished to familiarise myself with the local built environment. I aimed to gain an understanding of the lived experiences of Society of Public Librarian members like London-born Charles Goss who had worked, courted and married in late-nineteenth-century Newcastle before taking up a position in Lewisham library in the South-East London suburbs in the 1890s.

My original plan was to write up my findings in article form. However, my discoveries were so exciting that they now form part of a more ambitious research and writing programme. The Newcastle visit unexpectedly introduced me to a second network of metropolitan librarians, whose careers I have since been examining in local studies libraries across South London. The *Library Association Record* summed up their shared career trajectories nicely in 1939:

‘Tyneside has never since loomed so large in the library map as it did then [in the 1880s]. London was awakening to the call of the public library and the North-East rained librarians on the opening posts. Inkster of Battersea...Burgoyne at Lambeth, Welch at Clapham, Everett at Streatham...formed a sort of settlement on [the south side of the] Thames, with much social to-and-froing amongst the members.’⁶

The collective experiences of Inkster, Burgoyne, Welch and others now form an invaluable research contrast to my original research grouping. Having accumulated a wealth of data on some fifty chief and deputy librarians working in London’s rate-assisted libraries around the turn of the twentieth century, I am able to begin work on a monograph describing and examining their lives. The biographical aspect of public library history has not previously been examined in depth and – apart from their value to library history – the experiences of this generation of librarians has much to contribute to wider historical debates around social mobility, self-education, gender and, of course, regional identity. In the meantime I have blogged about my Newcastle findings for the Four Nations blog <https://fournationshistory.wordpress.com/2015/02/02/in-search-of-the-haggerstonian-geordies-regional-identity-and-the-late-victorian-public-librarian-in-london/> and on my own blog here <https://mjohansenblog.wordpress.com/2014/11/16/lifes-poor-play-is-over-for-david-chalmers/> and here: <https://mjohansenblog.wordpress.com/2015/03/21/when-newcastle-rained-librarians-on-london/> I wish to thank the Library and Information History Group for providing the funds to support my Newcastle research visit in 2014 – and thereby enabling me to discover a wealth of fresh material both in the North East and back in London afterwards.

Michelle Johansen

¹ James Ollé, Ernest Savage: Librarian Extraordinary (London, Library Association), 1977, p.103

² Ernest Savage, A Librarian’s Memories (London), 1952, p.57

³ Ollé, Ernest Savage, p.19

⁴ Michelle Johansen ‘The Public Librarian in Modern London (1890–1914): the Case of Charles Goss at the Bishopsgate Institute’ (Unpublished Ph.D. thesis, University of East London, 2006).

⁵ See e.g. Michelle Johansen, ‘A Fault-line in Library History: Charles Goss, the Society of Public Librarians and the “Battle of the Books” in the late nineteenth century’, *Library History*, 19 (July 2003), pp. 76–91; Michelle Johansen ‘Good Feeling and Brotherliness’: Leisure, the Suburbs and the Society of Public Librarians in London (1895–1930),’ *The London Journal*, Vol. 39, No. 3, November 2014, pp. 249–64.

People's Collection Wales



© People's Collection Wales

People's Collection Wales (PCW) is a website full of fascinating photographs, sound recordings, documents, videos and stories about the history and heritage of Wales. It draws together the digital collections of the main heritage institutions in Wales, Amgueddfa Cymru, National Museum Wales, National Library of Wales and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Wales, alongside content from smaller museums, archives and libraries. It is funded by the Welsh Government.

People's Collection Wales was launched in 2010. To date, the website houses over 70,000 items from various heritage bodies, museums, history groups and individuals. The website provides a platform for people to explore the history and heritage of Wales and to add their own content.

In addition to the website, People's Collection Wales is supported by a programme of Community Engagement activities including training days and outreach events. The programme offers free services and support for groups and individuals interested in Welsh Heritage; our dedicated team deliver training courses across Wales. Our free digital training sessions lead participants through important topics such as copyright and metadata. There is also a practical element to the training which teaches participants how to calibrate a scanner and how to create batch folders for master copies and web ready images. Attendees can then register to complete a 3-credit level 2 Agored Cymru Unit – *Digitising materials for Museums, Archives and Libraries* which PCW are also developing as an online course. We can offer groups and individuals access to digitising equipment for scanning images or oral history recordings; free equipment loans to heritage groups to enable them to digitise their collections, and a free bulk upload service (using our API). Further information about our outreach work can be viewed online at <http://www.peoplescollection.wales/adult-learning>.

People's Collection Wales has been establishing Digital Heritage Stations across Wales by working in partnership with history groups and organisations. There are currently 12 Digital Heritage Stations across Wales, and one in Pennsylvania, USA. They are set up to provide the public with free access to IT and digitisation equipment and to consolidate the initiative's sustainable legacy in the community. A memorandum of understanding is developed between the People's Collection Wales and the host organisation which provides detailed guidelines for developing and running the Stations. This includes information regarding the support available from the People's Collection Wales team. The intention is that trained staff and volunteers at host organisations will support digital heritage activities within the locality and People's Collection Wales team will provide sustainable support to the staff and volunteers involved in manning the stations. It is the aim of the project that the Digital Heritage Stations become self-sustaining, with staff, volunteers, heritage groups or individuals able to make full use of the equipment with remote support from the People's Collection Wales team where necessary. If you would like to consider becoming a host organisation then do get in touch with our team on 01970632500 or peoplescollection@lgc.org.uk. Further information about our Digital Heritage Stations is available at <http://www.peoplescollection.wales/content/digital-heritage-stations>.

Our current focus and the future

Specific activities will be undertaken as part of the PCW programme to support the Welsh Government's commitment to tackling the issue of Child Poverty. A key aim of the Community Engagement and Learning strand activities will be to encourage users to develop their ICT, Numeracy and Literacy skills by utilising PCW content and interactive tools.

PCW will become a sustainable publishing and broadcasting platform for Welsh culture and heritage digital media contributors and re-purposing producers. The programme will ensure the sustainability and preservation of digital resources published on its virtual platforms and, where appropriate, incorporate them into the national collections of Wales.

Ellen Davies

Casgliad y Werin Cymru / People's Collection Wales



Casgliad y Werin Cymru
People's Collection Wales



www.casgliadywerin.cymru

www.peoplescollection.wales

Leadhills Heritage Trust: Re-opening of Leadhills Library after restoration

Saturday 30th May 2015

Leadhills Heritage Trust was founded at the beginning of the present century to conserve and interpret the collections which had been built up locally over the years. These include artefacts relating to the lead mining industry which flourished from the mid 18th century to the 1930s, a collection of rare minerals, an archive of photographs and other materials relating to the history of the village: but the most important collection is the approximately 2500 surviving volumes of the stock of Leadhills Reading Society which was founded in 1741 and is the first and oldest subscription library in Britain. It can fairly claim to be the world's first library for working people. Two hundred years ago there were libraries like Leadhills all over Scotland but it is one of the few that survives. The organisational methods which the Library pioneered were copied all over Scotland. It also pioneered the application of the early lifelong learning ideology, mutual improvement, to library activity. The library building which today houses all the collections was erected in 1791 and is one of the oldest public library buildings in Scotland. The surviving stock represents a history of reading by ordinary people over a period of 300 years. The Library holds many first editions and examples of Scottish fine printing. It also holds the largest surviving number of Ferguson Bequest Fund books held by any library in Scotland and can reasonably claim to hold the National Collection of Ferguson Bequest books. The Ferguson Bequest Fund which still exists today, between about 1860 and 1930 gave grants of books to rural community libraries in the West of Scotland. Annual grants of up to £10 were given, and recipients selected books from a list sent out by the Fund. The books on offer included high quality non-fiction which was a welcome addition to the stocks of these libraries.

Leadhills is situated in a high rainfall area, over 1300 feet above sea level in the Lowther Hills in South Lanarkshire, and not having received any substantial maintenance for many years the building was much in need of refurbishment. Following a search for funding, over £15,000 was obtained in matched funding from Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) and Awards for All, a National Lottery Fund. Lord Andrew Hope-toun, one of Leadhill's trustees, also kindly funded the installation of a burglar alarm. The work was efficiently carried out by J&J McCann builders of Biggar, Lanarkshire, between early March and Mid April 2015. They have considerable experience of heritage work and had to work in quite difficult weather conditions. They carried out a complete internal rewiring and installed new lighting, heating and extractor fans, controlled by a humidistat. They rebuilt the Library's front wall and carried out other external repairs. The trustees also did a great deal of work in preparing the building for re-opening by doing external repainting and tidying up after all the work had been done. The Library re-opened on Saturday 30th May with an open day for local people to give them an opportunity to see the work which had been done.

Now that the building work is complete the trustees will be focusing on interpreting and presenting the Library's treasures, and a display illustrating Scotland's reading history from the Library's stock has been prepared. Greater attention will be given to publicising the Library, and preparing an up to date publicity leaflet is a priority. The Library is also planning a programme of work to make its resources available electronically. This will include making the catalogue available online, and digitising the Library's collection of 'Bargain books' dating from 1739 onwards which record the 'bargains' or agreements made between the mine managers and teams of miners.

John Crawford

Chair, Leadhills Heritage Trust,

<http://www.leadhillslibrary.co.uk/>

See also:

John C. Crawford 'Leadhills Library and a wider world', *Library Review*, 46 (1997), pp. 539-553.

Paul Kaufman, *Libraries and their users* (London: Library Association, 1969), pp. 163-170.

WHAT'S ON

Courses, lectures and events

Library and Information History Group Annual General Meeting 2015

Thursday 12 November, 5.00-8.00

University College London

Free, booking required

The 2015 AGM of the Library and Information History Group will take place at University College London. It will be followed by a talk by Zurab Elzarov (Protection of Civilians / Humanitarian Liaison Section United Nations - African Union Mission in Darfur) on the Library of Peace in Darfur. Refreshments will be served.

Room 347, 16 Taviton Street, WC1H 0BW

l.e.gwynn@qmul.ac.uk

Seminar on the History of Libraries

Unless otherwise stated: Monthly during term-time; Tuesdays at 5.30 at The Warburg Institute, London
Sponsored by the Institute of English Studies, the Institute of Historical Research, and LIHG.

Convenors: Giles Mandelbrote (Lambeth Palace Library); Keith Manley (National Trust); Raphaële Mouren (Warburg Institute); Isabel Rivers (Queen Mary).

October 6 **Greg Woolf** (Institute of Classical Studies, London) *Private collections and public libraries in ancient book culture*

The history of ancient libraries has traditionally be written around major bibliographic projects such as the Library of Alexandria and the imperial libraries of Rome, projects that are the subject of most ancient testimonia. Recent research - papyrological, epigraphic and archaeological - has raised some doubts about the scale of those projects and also emphasized the key role played in textual transmission by the collections of private individuals and small textual communities. Drawing on this work I shall suggest a new approach to the history of ancient libraries.

November 3 **Keith Manley** (National Trust) *Blurred Lines in the History of Domestic Libraries in the Age of Dibdin's Bibliomania*

The Senate Room, 1st floor, South block, Senate House

Not all private libraries contained Caxtons and fine bindings. The average domestic library was probably a small affair, was never confined to one library room, and was not owned by a fanatical bibliomaniac. This talk will take a ramble around a small number of libraries and readers – particularly with an Anglo-Irish setting – at the period when Thomas Dibdin published his famous *Bibliomania* (1809-11). The question of encouraging younger readers to use libraries will also be broached

1 December **Edmund King** (Open University) *Books for soldiers in World War I*

2 February **François Bougard** (CNRS, Paris) *The Library of Cardinal Richelieu: an Ongoing Study of his Manuscripts.*

1 March **Richard Ovenden** (Oxford) *A projected new history of the Bodleian*
Lambeth Palace.

For enquiries relating to these seminar please contact jon.millington@sas.ac.uk
<http://www.history.ac.uk/events/seminars/257>

Power and Beauty

20 October 6pm Royal College of Physicians, 11 St Andrews Place, London, NW1 4LE

Tickets: £10 per person (includes glass of wine/soft drink)

An evening of lectures on constitutional history and royal power by expert speakers to celebrate the anniversary of the signing of Magna Carta.

David Carpenter *Magna Carta, then and now*

David is professor of medieval history at King's College London and a leading authority on the history of Britain in the middle ages. His book *Magna Carta* is published by Penguin Classics.

Nicholas Vincent *From title deeds to Magna Carta: how medieval charters changed the world*

Nicholas is professor of medieval history at the University of East Anglia and a fellow of the British Academy. He heads the Arts and Humanities Research Council 'Magna Carta Project' and has written a dozen books and over 100 academic articles.

<https://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/museum-and-garden/events/power-and-beauty>

The Aberystwyth Bibliographical Group

The Aberystwyth Bibliographical Group, formed in 1970, exists to foster a scholarly interest in printed books, manuscripts and maps. A programme of five lectures is held each year, as well as an annual outing and occasional symposia. Members are encouraged to dine with the speaker after meetings; details of booking for meals are sent to members with the notice of each meeting.

Annual subscription £5 / £1

For further information, please the Secretary, Tim Cutts on (01970) 632980 tic@llgc.org.uk

Tuesday 20 October 6.30

Council Chamber, National Library of Wales

Keith Robbins: *Completing the Picture: Editing Volume IV of the History of Oxford University Press (1970-2004)*

Tuesday 17 November 6.30

Drwm, National Library of Wales

Bill Hines: *An Evening with Samuel Johnson, Horace Walpole, Jonathan Swift and Isaac Newton: Treasures of the Hugh Owen Library*

Tuesday 19 January 6.30

Drwm, National Library of Wales

Brian Davies: *Colouring Maps*

Saturday 20 February 11.00

St. Paul's Methodist Centre, Queen's Road

Hannah Thomas: *The Society of Jesus in Wales, c. 1600–1679: Rediscovering the Cwm Jesuit Library at Hereford Cathedral*

Tuesday 15th March 2016, 6.30p.m.

St. Paul's Methodist Centre, Queen's Road

AGM followed by:

Rhiannon Ifans: *Manuscript Songbooks of mid-Wales (after AGM)*

<http://users.aber.ac.uk/das/texts/aberbibgr1.htm>

CERL seminar: Library History: Why, What, How?

27 October

University of Antwerp

Eleven speakers from seven European countries will talk about “Library History: Why, What, How?”

- Why should we study library history? Can it fulfill its pretension to strengthen a library’s position, relevance and current management? Can it be acknowledged as an independent discipline within book history and cultural history?
- What do we mean by library history? What aspects do researchers need to address?
- How? Which methods can be used in library history? Should we try to match the librarian’s evidence-based, empirical connoisseurship with the theoretically supported, synthetical praxis of the academic researcher? What novel methods can be used to collect, interpret and present the research data? Do the digital humanities provide useful tools in this respect? And what can CERL do to support researchers?

Speakers include Flavia Bruni (Rome), Cristina Dondi, Richard Ovenden, Alessandra Panzanelli (Oxford), Kristian Jensen (London), Yann Sordet (Paris), Jolanta Talbierska (Warsaw), Charles van den Heuvel (The Hague/Amsterdam), Dirk Van Hulle (Antwerp), Dirk van Miert (Utrecht) and Bettina Wagner (Munich).

<http://www.cerl.org/services/seminars/main>.

RDA and rare materials

6 November 10.00-4.00

Edinburgh Centre for Carbon Innovation

£48

A seminar associated with the meeting of the Joint Steering Committee for Development of RDA, organized by the Cataloguing and Indexing Group in Scotland (CIGS), with members of the Association of College & Research Libraries’ Rare Books and Manuscripts Section (RBMS), the European RDA Interest Group (EURIG), the CILIP Rare Books and Special Collections Group (RBSCG), IFLA and JSC.

Prompted by organizational changes within JSC, the revision of ACRL’s Rare Books & Manuscripts Section’s Descriptive Cataloging of Rare Materials, the international efforts of institutions and organizations to enhance bibliographic data sharing and interoperability, and the recognition that access to rare materials and special collections is vital for research and learning, this seminar brings together experts and practitioners from around the world. Participants will share, through a mix of presentations and discussion, their current practices and methods for the description of, and access to, rare materials. The objectives of this seminar are knowledge sharing to gain the widest possible picture of current practices and international collaboration on cataloguing and descriptive standards.

<https://catandindexgroup.wordpress.com/2015/09/21/rda-rare-materials-seminar-edinburgh-6th-november-2/>

Conference: Between Texts and Readers

13-14 November

Johannes Gutenberg-University in Mainz, Germany

The IBG Young Scholars conference will deal with book and literature promotion in the 20th and 21st centuries, with contributions spanning a wide variety of topics, bringing together perspectives and research on the current book market. Scholars from Italy, Austria, France and the United Kingdom will be presenting, and the keynote will be held by Dr. Simone Murray (Monash University, Australia). The final program is now available for the 2015 annual meeting of the IBG Young Scholars.

<https://bookhistorynetwork.wordpress.com/2015/08/25/1300/>

Visual Print Culture in Europe: techniques, genres, imagery and markets in a comparative perspective 1500-1850

December 5-6, 2015

University of Warwick's Palazzo and conference centre in Venice

Visual Print Culture in Europe 1500-1850 aims to draw together scholars with a range of disciplinary skills to discuss the methods, representational forms, and distribution of and audience for visual print media in Europe between 1500 and 1850. It seeks to de-nationalize the study of visual print culture, and to explore the extent to which interactions between engravers and printers, artists and consumers in Europe, and a range of common representational practices produced a genuinely European visual print culture – with local modulations, but nonetheless with a common core.

<http://www2.warwick.ac.uk/fac/arts/emforum/events/visualprintculture>

Ada Lovelace 200th anniversary Symposium

9-10 December

Oxford

£40

10 December 2015 marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of Ada Lovelace, chiefly known for her work on Charles Babbage's early mechanical general-purpose computer, the Analytical Engine.

The Symposium is aimed at a broad audience of those interested in the history and culture of mathematics and computer science, presenting new discoveries for the Oxford archives, and other current scholarship on Lovelace's life and work, and linking her ideas to contemporary thinking about mathematics, computing and artificial intelligence.

Sponsored by ACM, AHRC, British Computer Society, Clay Mathematics Institute, EPSRC, google, IMA, London Mathematical Society, and Queen Mary University of London's cs4fn project.

There are a limited number of funded places available, primarily intended for students studying in UK universities in 2015-16, and early career academics in Mathematics or Computer Science. To apply, please send name, contact details, details of your degree course, or other reason for seeking a funded place, to sarah.baldwin@cs.ox.ac.uk.

<http://blogs.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/adalovelace/symposium/>



Image taken from page 224 of 'The Half Hour Library of Travel, Nature and Science for young readers' (British Library)

Exhibitions

Darkness and Light: Exploring the Gothic

Ends 20 December

John Rylands Library

Housed in the neo-Gothic grandeur of The John Rylands Library, *Darkness and Light* reveals how Gothic architecture and anatomy inspired and influenced a literary genre, and how the lasting legacy of Gothic can be found in art, films and subculture today. From the fantastical to the macabre, this intriguing exhibition unearths Gothic treasures from the Library's Special Collections to investigate subjects as varied as the role of women in the Gothic movement, advances in medical science and classic literature.

Amongst the fascinating items on display is Horace Walpole's *The Castle of Otranto* (1764), the first Gothic novel. With a Gothic medieval castle, doomed love and restless spectres of the past, it sets the scene for the genre and sits alongside a whole host of Gothic bestsellers including *The Monk*, *Udolpho* and *Jekyll and Hyde*.

<http://www.library.manchester.ac.uk/rylands/whats-on/exhibitions/darkness-and-light/>

His Royal Favour: the Books that Built the Library

2 October–23 December

Cambridge University Library

In September 1715, King George I made a gift to Cambridge University Library that would change it for ever. John Moore, Bishop of Ely and a voracious collector of books, had died the previous summer leaving an outstanding personal collection of over 30,000 books and manuscripts, and George gave these to Cambridge to reward its loyalty to the new Hanoverian king. The Library was trebled in size overnight. The newly acquired works included innumerable treasures and texts of fundamental importance, transforming the Library into an internationally significant research institution for the first time. George's gift also changed the face of Cambridge itself, leading to the construction of the Senate House at the heart of the city. This exhibition ranges from an eighth-century manuscript of Bede to architectural and scientific masterpieces, and from personal diaries to unique Caxton imprints. For three hundred years the collection has been at the heart of University research, and the display looks on to the future, including new research discoveries coming from Moore's remarkable collection, 'for ever styled the Royal Library.'

Ada Lovelace 1815-1852: computer pioneer

13 October-18 December

Weston Library, Oxford

A display celebrating the life and science of Ada Lovelace, based on collections held in the Bodleian Library and the Oxford Museum of the History of Science. See Ada Lovelace's childhood letters, correspondence with Charles Babbage, and newly discovered mathematical notes and images.

<https://blogs.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/adalovelace/events/>

West Africa: Word, Symbol, Song

16 October - 16 February – Admission £0-£10

British Library

An exhibition celebrating literature and music from the great empires of the Middle Ages to the cultural dynamism of West Africa today. Stories from the region's 17 nations show how West Africans have harnessed the power of words to build societies, drive political movements, sustain religious belief and fight injustice.

Beautiful manuscripts, historic film and sound recordings, books, photographs, and woven and printed textiles offer a unique insight into a profound and engaging literary culture with centuries-old written heritage existing alongside ancient oral traditions.

<http://www.bl.uk/events/west-africa-word-symbol-song>

Scholar, courtier, magician: the lost library of John Dee

18 January – 29 July 2016

Royal College of Physicians, London

Discover the life and legacy of John Dee: one of Tudor England's most extraordinary and enigmatic figures. Mathematician, magician, astronomer, astrologer, occultist, imperialist, alchemist and spy, Dee continues to fascinate and inspire, centuries after he entered the court of Elizabeth I. This exhibition explores Dee through his personal library. On display for the first time are his beautifully annotated and illustrated books. Now held in the collections of the Royal College of Physicians, they reveal tantalising glimpses into the 'conjuror's' mind.

Events to include weekend opening, curator talks, lectures, walking tours of London and more.

<http://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/johndee>

NEWS

Ligatus is proud to announce the launch of the **Language of Binding online thesaurus of bookbinding terms**. The aim of the thesaurus is to present a consistent vocabulary for the use of all those who work with early bindings, built wherever possible on existing resources, but adapted for use in an on-line hierarchical environment that will allow terms that are not known to a user to be found. It is constructed around concepts (such as different bookbinding components, features, materials or techniques) that can be expressed by a number of language terms (labels). The thesaurus allows one concept to have more than one label, which allows the same concept to be searched for by the different terms that may have been used historically to describe it.

By being based primarily on single concepts, the thesaurus has tried to avoid the more familiar but sometimes frustratingly imprecise language that has often been used in the past. This means that some of these familiar terms will not be found as labels, though they may be referred to in the scope notes that define and describe the concepts (and can therefore be found by a simple keyword search).

The success of the thesaurus will to a large extent depend on contributions made to it by its users, either to add more concepts, refine existing scope notes or correct mistakes. Such contributions to the thesaurus will be welcomed, and can be made online following a registration process.

An accompanying volume, *Coming to Terms: guidelines for the description of historical bindings*, which is based on the terms in the thesaurus, is to be published in the autumn.

Nicholas Pickwoad

<http://www.ligatus.org.uk/lob>

The holdings of the **Royal Asiatic Society** <http://www.royalasiaticsociety.org/?q=library> and **Cranfield University** (Technical Reports Collection) <http://www.cranfield.ac.uk/about/people-and-resources/external-services/library/> have been added to **Copac**.

The Centre for Bibliographical History at the University of Essex has launched **Lost Manuscripts** a pilot for a union catalogue of manuscript fragments in the British Isles.

<http://www.lostmss.org.uk/>

The **Association of Print Scholars** has a new website at:

<http://printscholars.org/>

AWARDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Prizes Awarded

Library History Essay Award 2014

We had a record number of entries for the Library History Essay Award 2014. It was a very hard decision for the judges to choose the winner. We have decided to award a first and second prize this year. The winner of the 1st prize of £200 (sponsored by Emerald Publishing) is Michael Riordan for his essay "The King's Library of Manuscripts": The State Paper Office as Archive and Library', *Information & Culture*, 48.2 (2013), pp. 181–93.

The winner of the 2nd prize of £100 (sponsored by LIHG) is Michelle Johansen for her essay "The Father and Mother of the Place": Inhabiting London's Public Libraries, 1885-1940'. Chapter 8, in *Residential Institutions in Britain, 1725–1970* (Pickering and Chatto, 2013), pp. 125–39.

We are grateful to all those who allowed their essays to be nominated for the 2014 award.

Opportunities available

Library History Essay Award 2015

Deadline: 30 September

The Library and Information History Group's Library History Essay Award is an annual prize for the best essay on library history published in, or pertaining to, the British Isles, within the previous calendar year. Introduced in 1996, the award is organized and sponsored by the LIHG and aims to improve the quality and increase the quantity of writing on library history in the British Isles. The prize in 2015 is £250.

Essays should embody original historical research on a significant subject, should be based on original source materials if possible and should use good composition and style. Essays showing evidence of methodological and historiographical innovation will be particularly welcome.

An author may put himself / herself forward for the prize. In addition, any member of CILIP may nominate a published essay for consideration.

The entries will be identified and judged by a panel of four:

- Chair of the LIHG
- Awards Manager of the LIHG
- LIHG Committee member
- External assessor at the invitation of the LIHG Committee

Nominations, including one PDF of the nominated essay, should be sent to:
dorothy.clayton@manchester.ac.uk

James Ollé Awards

Deadline: 31 December

James G. Ollé (1916-2001) was an active teacher and distinguished writer in the field of library history. The Library and Information History Group has offered awards in his memory since 2002 with the intention of encouraging a high level of activity in library and information history.

The LIHG is offering two James Ollé Awards in 2015. The value of each award is up to £500. Anyone with an interest in library and/or information history is encouraged to apply for an award; candidates do not need to be affiliated to libraries, archives or academic institutions. However, recipients of awards must be members of LIHG. Annual membership of the Group is available for £39. Please note:

- CILIP members can choose to join two groups without paying an extra fee
- Membership of CILIP is free to registered students

One of the awards is reserved for a registered student (undergraduate or postgraduate) and/or unwaged applicant.

Examples of what an award might be used to fund include:

- Travel and accommodation costs in order to undertake research on an aspect of library or information history
- Photocopying, photography, or digitization
- Attendance costs of a student delegate to a conference on an aspect of library or information history

James Ollé Award recipients are required to write a report (maximum 1,000 words) of the work undertaken for inclusion in the Newsletter.

Further particulars, expressions of interest and applications, which should include a brief C.V., a statement of plans, a draft budget and the names and addresses of two referees, should be sent to the LIHG Awards Manager, Dr Dorothy Clayton dorothy.clayton@manchester.ac.uk

For any queries relating to the Olle Award or Library History Essay award, please contact the Group's Awards Manager, Dr Dorothy Clayton Tel: 0161 638 6429 Email: dorothy.clayton@manchester.ac.uk

George A. & Jean S. DeLong Book History Prize

Deadline: 31 January

SHARP annually awards a \$1,000 prize to the author of the best book on any aspect of the creation, dissemination, or uses of script or print published in the previous year. Owing to the generosity of the DeLong family in endowing the prize, from 2004 it has been known as the George A. and Jean S. DeLong Book History Book Prize.

All submissions must be in English and must have been copyrighted in 2014. (Translations of works originally copyrighted earlier are eligible, but the translations themselves must have been copyrighted in 2014.) Collections of essays by more than two authors, reference works, bibliographies and collaborative projects are not eligible and will not be considered. If you are unsure whether a title would be eligible, please use the contact details in the next paragraph to check before sending copies.

Please submit four print copies of each entry, one to each member of the jury, and send an email to Claire Squires, SHARP Director for Publications and Awards (publications@sharpweb.org) to confirm that you have submitted your title(s). General queries regarding the prize should be directed to the same email. Please note that copies of books are non-returnable.

<http://www.sharpweb.org/main/delong-book-history-prize/>

CALLS FOR PAPERS

The Art of the Book

Cardiff University, 4-6 December, 2015

Deadline: 1 October

In 2014 Cardiff University received a considerable donation of Artists' Books from Ron King of the Circle Press, one of the most influential practitioners of the Book Arts. Information on this is available at - <https://scolarcardiff.wordpress.com/2015/02/25/artists-books/>. In December, the University Library's 'Special Collections and Archives' will be hosting a major international conference to celebrate this bequest, in conjunction with the University's School of English, Communication and Philosophy. Speakers include Ron King (Circle Press), Sarah Bodman (UWE), & Chris McCabe (Poetry Library).

Proposals are now invited from practitioners and scholars for presentations of 20 minutes on any aspect of the Book Arts. A brief biographical note, along with an abstract of 200-300 words, should be sent to scolar@cardiff.ac.uk

Languages of the Book: The Society for the History of Authorship, Reading & Publishing conference

18-21 July

Paris

Deadline: 30 November

The conference theme, "Languages of the Book," is to be understood in the broadest possible sense. Suitable topics include multilingual books, majority and minority languages, and circulation of texts across national borders, as well as the presence, within nations of foreign works in their original language or translation. The language of the book as a material object provides another approach: what does a book's materiality communicate about its conditions of production and the messages encoded by its author and publisher? Participants could also examine the interaction of written and spoken language, or the interplay of text and image. The theme may also provide a way to think about digitization as a new language for books. How does digitization change the writing process, the structure of the text, and the way it is read? In what ways do e-books alter how works are produced, distributed, and received? A third set of questions involves the languages used by historians of the book. What theoretical assumptions and disciplinary premises anchor our approaches? Is there a language common to all book historians?

The conference also welcomes proposals for papers and panels on any topic related to the history of the book, but preference may be given to those that engage in some way with the conference theme. The conference will also feature a Digital Projects Showcase for the presentation of initiatives that use new technologies to advance research in the history of the book.

Papers must not exceed 20 minutes in length and will generally take place in panels of three. Proposals may be submitted as individual papers, or for three-paper panels. Doctoral students are invited to present their work in a ten-minute "lightning" format in small group sessions, followed by a discussion chaired by one or two established academics. Proposals must be submitted electronically via the conference website.

Travel grants: SHARP is able to provide a limited number of travel grants to graduate students and independent scholars. If you wish to be considered for such a grant, please state so when submitting your proposal.

<http://www.sharpweb.org/conferences/2016/submissions/sharpparis2016@gmail.com>

NEW RESOURCES

In Print

Library & Information History Volume: 31, Number: 3 (August 2015)

Libraries and Booksellers in the Long Eighteenth Century

<http://www.maneyonline.com/toc/lbh/31/3>

Laura Miller: *Libraries and Booksellers in the Long Eighteenth Century*

Louisiane Ferlier: Tace Sowle-Raylton (1666–1749) and the Circulation of Books in the London Quaker Community

Sara E. Johnson: Moreau de Saint-Méry: Itinerant Bibliophile

Jennifer Furlong: *Libraries, Booksellers, and Readers: Changing Tastes at the New York Society Library in the Long Eighteenth Century*

Reviews & Bibliography

Matthew Battles ***Library - An Unquiet History***

(New York: W. W. Norton & Company; 21 Aug 2015) ISBN 978-0393351453

Through the ages, libraries have not only accumulated and preserved but also shaped, inspired, and obliterated knowledge. Now they are in crisis. Former rare books librarian and Harvard MetaLAB visionary Matthew Battles takes us from Boston to Baghdad, from classical scriptoria to medieval monasteries and on to the Information Age, to explore how libraries are built and how they are destroyed: from the scroll burnings in ancient China to the burning of libraries in Europe and Bosnia to the latest revolutionary upheavals of the digital age. First published in 2004, a new epilogue elucidates the preservation of knowledge amid the creative destruction of twenty-first century technology.

V. Blanton, V. O'Mara P. Stoop (eds.) ***Nuns' Literacies in Medieval Europe: The Kansas City Dialogue (Medieval Women: Texts and Contexts)***

(Turnhout: Brepols N.V., 30 Jun. 2015) ISBN 978-2503549224

This collection of essays, the second in an integrated series of three and focused on the literacies of nuns in medieval Europe, brings together specialists working on diverse geographical areas to create a dialogue about the Latin and vernacular texts nuns read, wrote, and exchanged from 8th to mid-16th centuries. It investigates literacy from palaeographical and textual perspectives, evidence of book ownership and exchange, and other more external evidence, both literary and historical. Chapters of particular interest to LIHG members include:

Svanhildur Oskardottir *What Icelandic Nuns Read: The Convent of Reynistaður and the Literary Milieu in Fourteenth-Century Iceland.*

Andrea Knox: *Her Book-Lined Cell: Irish Nuns and the Development of Texts, Translation, and Literacy in Late Medieval Spain.*

F. Felsenstein, J. J. Connolly ***What Middletown Read: Print Culture in an American Small City***

(Amherst, University of Massachusetts Press, 30 Jun. 2015) ISBN 978-1625341419

The discovery of a large cache of circulation records from the Muncie, Indiana, Public Library in 2003 offers unprecedented detail about American reading behaviour at the turn of the twentieth century. Felsenstein and Connolly have mined these records to produce an in-depth account of print culture in Muncie, the city featured in the famed Middletown studies conducted by Robert & Helen Lynd almost a century ago. Using the data assembled and made public through the [What Middletown Read Database](#) the authors analyse the borrowing choices and reading culture of social groups and individuals. The authors situate reading behaviour within the contexts of a rapidly growing, culturally ambitious small city, an evolving public library, an expanding market for print, and the broad social changes that accompanied industrialization in the United States.

Marta Filipova ***Cultures of International Exhibitions 1840-1940***

(Farnham: Ashgate; 28 July 2015) ISBN 978-1472432810

Beyond the Expositions Universelles and World Fairs in London, Paris or Chicago, numerous smaller, yet ambitious exhibitions took place in provincial cities and towns across the world. Focusing on the period between 1840 and 1940, this volume takes a novel look at the exhibitionary cultures of this period and examines the motivations, scope, and impact of lesser-known exhibitions in Australia, Japan, Brazil, and across Europe. Individual case studies included explore the role of these exhibitions in the global exhibitionary network and consider their 'marginality' related to their location & omission by academic research so far.

Gillian Furlong ***Treasures from UCL***

(London: UCL Press, 1 Jun. 2015) ISBN 978-1910634011

UCL Special Collections comprise over a million items from the 4th century to the present day. The extensive collection has been built up over many years through bequest, donation and purchase since the founding of UCL in 1826. With a reach spanning continents and cultures, UCL Special Collections encompasses many individually important items that trace the story of the transmission of ideas, convictions, truths and cutting-edge discoveries via texts and visual imagery. Through handwritten and printed media alike, from collections of books, manuscripts, personal papers and archival records, all are of unique interest and value. *Treasures from UCL* draws together detailed descriptions and images of 70 of the most prized items.

Martin Hewitt ***The Dawn of the Cheap Press in Victorian Britain***

(London: Bloomsbury, 2015) ISBN 978-1474243322

Using the recently discovered papers of the Association for the Promotion of the Repeal of the Taxes on Knowledge and taking advantage of new forms of research made possible by the digitisation of nineteenth century newspapers, this book assesses the impact of the removal of the last surviving legal disabilities on the newspaper industry, the nature of journalism, and the cultures and practices of newspaper reading. It demonstrates that the campaign against the taxes on knowledge retained broad popular appeal, and played an important role in the politics of mid-Victorian budgets.

Wallace Koehler ***Ethics and Values in Librarianship: A History***

(Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, September 2015) ISBN 978-1442254268

This book addresses the processes of development of library and information sciences, largely but not exclusively in a western context, focusing on the field's ethics and values. Koehler examines the development of and changes to library and information science through practice and the writings of library and information theorists and practitioners from the 1st century to the present. He documents technological and social changes that have had foundational implications for the information professions and argues that ethical standards may be redefined overtime and new standards may emerge, and that old and new precepts may coexist. Not only a history, this is also one of the few contemporary books suitable for use in foundational courses and courses covering information and library ethics.

Topics covered include: freedom of expression, intellectual freedom, libraries and democracy, intellectual property, copyright, and fair use and, professional qualifications and credentialing.

Sarah Longair ***Cracks in the Dome: Fractured Histories of Empire in the Zanzibar Museum, 1897-1964***

(Farnham: Ashgate, August 2015) ISBN 978-1472437877

Drawing on a rich and wide range of hitherto unexplored archival, photographic, architectural and material evidence, this book is the first serious investigation of the Zanzibar Museum (also known as the Beit al-Amani or Peace Memorial Museum). The book traces the long history of colonial display which culminated in the establishment of the Zanzibar Museum in 1925. It reveals the complexity of colonial knowledge production in the changing political context of the twentieth century British Empire and explores the broad spectrum of people from diverse communities who shaped its existence as staff, informants, collectors and teachers. Through vivid narratives involving people, objects and exhibits, this book exposes the fractures, contradictions and tensions in creating and maintaining a colonial museum, and casts light on the conflicted character of the 'colonial mission' in eastern Africa.

Office for Intellectual Freedom, ed. T. Magi, M. Garnar ***A History of ALA Policy on Intellectual Freedom: A Supplement to the Intellectual Freedom Manual, Ninth Edition***

(Chicago: ALA editions, 2015) ISBN 978-0-8389-1325-3

Collecting several key documents and policy statements, this supplement to the ninth edition of the "Intellectual Freedom Manual" traces a history of ALA's commitment to fighting censorship. An introductory essay by Judith Krug and Candace Morgan, updated by OIF Director Barbara Jones, sketches out an overview of ALA policy on intellectual freedom.

J.Smedley ***Inglis Memorial Hall & Library, Edzell***

(Zeldel Publishing, 2015) ISBN 978-0993332500

Available from zeldel.publishing@btinternet.com £10 inc. P&P in the UK

Described as one of the best-preserved examples of a late 19th century public library surviving in the UK, Inglis Memorial Hall Library in Edzell, Angus, still houses its original 1898 stock of c.5000 books bound by Sotheran's of London, (the world's longest established antiquarian bookseller). The library's Cotgreave Indicator, thought to be the last remaining (or at least best preserved) in Scotland, is still in situ, in such good condition that, if required, it could be put back into operation in an instant. Inside the indicator turn of the century loan records remain, written in thousands of tiny ledgers, one for each book in the library, and holding tantalizing research potential for researchers today. The high quality of the 1898 dictionary catalogue for this beautiful 'Closed Access' library is also particularly noteworthy and many copies still survive.

Gifted in 1898 by Lt. Col. Robert William Inglis V.D., the library is housed in the striking A-listed Inglis Memorial Hall, designed by architects Charles and Leslie Ower. Just months before Inglis was born, during the Disruption of 1843 his father (Edzell's first Free Church minister) gave up everything for the sake of his faith and came out of the Established Church, losing his church, home and income. Robert William, born at a period when the family was very poor (at times struggling to feed themselves), went on to hold one of the highest positions in the Victorian Financial World, becoming Chairman of the London Stock Exchange in 1907. Many of the other Inglis family members also achieved considerable success around the world.

A new book, '*Inglis Memorial Hall & Library, Edzell*', places the library in the context of UK-wide Library History, the Inglis family (a local family with global connections), and its location (the village and the building in which it is housed), and highlights the exciting research potential the library today holds for a range of academic disciplines. The publication contains a wealth of information, including chronological information on the library and literacy situation in Edzell from the late 1700's to the 21st Century; an overview of the libraries in the area in the 1830's; a useful list of Angus Library History resources; photographs; and source references throughout. It provides an in-depth case study of this special library and places it in its wider context. The book was published in 2015 with a kind grant from the Strathmartine Trust, a Scottish Charity whose primary object is to support research and education in Scottish history.

Kate Van Orden ***Materialities: Books, Readers, and the Chanson in Sixteenth-Century Europe***

(New York: OUP USA, June 2015) ISBN 978-0-19-936064-2

Musicologist Kate van Orden brings extensive primary research and new analytical models to bear in this history of songbooks, music literacy, and social transformation during the first century of music printing. By tracking chansons into private libraries and schoolrooms and putting chansonniers into dialogue with catechisms, civility manuals, and chapbooks, *Materialities* charts the social distribution of songbooks, the gradual moralization of song, and the ways children learned their letters and notes. Its fresh conclusions revise several common assumptions about the value early moderns attributed to printed music, the levels of literacy required to perform polyphony, and the way musicians did or did not "read" their songbooks. With musical perspectives that can invigorate studies of print culture and the history of reading, *Materialities* is an essential guide for musicologists working with original sources and historians of the book interested in the vocal performances that operated alongside print.

Online

A Facebook **Embroidered Bindings** Group has been launched for sharing and discussing images of European Embroidered Bindings <https://www.facebook.com/groups/628287600642066/>

From the blogosphere

The History of Email at the Smithsonian

<http://siarchives.si.edu/blog/history-email-smithsonian>

A brief history of homophobia in Dewey decimal classification, by Doreen Sullivan

<https://overland.org.au/2015/07/a-brief-history-of-homophobia-in-dewey-decimal-classification/>

Order is everything: The state library of Victoria's card catalogue, by Robin Annear

<https://www.themonthly.com.au/issue/2011/september/1314941766/robyn-annear/order-everything>

From revolutionary to librarian: Sir Anthony Panizzi, by Alexandra Ault

<http://britishlibrary.typepad.co.uk/untoldlives/2015/09/from-revolutionary-to-librarian-sir-anthony-panizzi.html#sthash.rgldrfzm.dpuf>

"Curses! Foiled again!" How To Keep Your Books Safe, 18th-Century Style, by Michael Taylor

<http://news.blogs.lib.lsu.edu/2015/09/17/curses-foiled-again-how-to-keep-your-books-safe-18th-century-style/>

From the media:

BBC Radio 4 (2/9/15): Charisma: Pinning Down the Butterfly. Ep.8 Hitler's Library

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0680gv1>

Campden FB (10/8/15): Buy the book: the bibliophile's collectible

<http://www.campdenfb.com/article/buy-book-bibliophiles-collectible>

The Bookseller (5/8/15) Major cutbacks for St. Bride Foundation Library

<http://www.thebookseller.com/news/major-cutbacks-st-bride-foundation-library-308857>

Yahoo News (5/8/15): Iraq digitises national library in Baghdad to preserve it from destruction by Isis

<https://uk.news.yahoo.com/iraq-digitises-national-library-baghdad-085932375.html#hRsZpJL>

The Comet (18/5/15): Library marks 50 years in Hitchin town centre

http://www.thecomet.net/what-s-on/reviews/library_marks_50_years_on_hitchin_town_centre_site_with_events_showcasing_wider_history_1_4075566

REPORTS

Cilip Conference 2015

In July I was lucky enough to attend the CILIP Conference 2015 in Liverpool, thanks to the LIHG who awarded me a full bursary. As graduate trainee at Anglia Ruskin's Cambridge campus, the conference provided an excellent opportunity for me to learn more about issues facing libraries both nationally and internationally, and to network with the wider LIS community.

After travelling to Liverpool by train on one of the hottest days of the year, I was glad to finally arrive in such a vibrant, beautiful city steeped in history. I think it's great that CILIP have made a conscious decision to hold the conference away from London in recent years, as it really opens up opportunities to gain a more varied representation of libraries and librarians across the country (and provides a new city for delegates to explore!).

Shortly after checking in to the hotel, which was undergoing a librarian takeover for the weekend, I was pleased to meet Monica Blake, the LIHG representative for the conference. She explained that we would be manning the LIHG stand at various points throughout the conference, providing information about the group and its work. As a new member of the group, I was a little daunted by this idea at first. However, it proved a valuable opportunity to network with other delegates, particularly those manning nearby stands!



Holly Nicholas

'The Albert Hall in miniature'

On day one of the conference, we all filed in to St George's Hall, a stunning building in the city centre dating from 1854 which was originally built to host music festivals. Its Concert Room, where all the keynote lectures took place, has been described as the 'Albert Hall in miniature' and is rather grand indeed. Unusually, the Hall also houses the Crown & Civil Court which were working courts until 1980. It was quite novel to attend lectures in the old court rooms and I think we were all suitably impressed with this year's venue.

The conference went by in a blur, with so much to see and do. However one of the highlights for me was Erwin James' keynote speech to round off the conference on the second day, entitled 'A Good Book Can Change the Way You Think About Life.' James is a Guardian journalist and ex-convict who believes that literacy enabled him to turn his life around. He spoke about the impact that one particular book had upon his life whilst in prison, and how the ability to read and write enabled him to build a better life for himself. James' talk was incredibly moving and inspiring and although I had initially thought that it may not be relevant to the environment I work in, it proved to be just the opposite. James reminded us of the human aspect at the heart of all libraries. Although we may get overwhelmed with new technologies or caught up in debates over open access and data management (all very important issues, to be sure), it was so refreshing to be reminded that no matter which kind of library or information environment we work in, our central focus remains the same. We are providing access to information in order to share knowledge and to facilitate learning and development, and we have the power to help people change their lives for the better. This may seem like a dramatic statement, but I think it is important to use events like the conference to recognise and celebrate our relevance within society.

Other highlights included director of Liberty Shami Chakrabarti's inspirational keynote on how librarians can help people to understand their human rights, David Lankes on how libraries benefit communities and Phil Bradley on why we may want to think again before using Google as our go-to search engine. I also found the time to pay a quick visit to Liverpool's central library, which underwent a £55 million refurbishment in 2013 and is a fantastic resource for the community with a particularly impressive reading room. To top it all off, as delegates of the conference we were treated to a private drinks reception at the Museum of Liverpool. Having the opportunity to wander around the museum as the sun set over the waterfront really was a memorable experience and a chance to soak up some of the history and culture of the city.

I had a great time at the conference and learned so much about key issues and exciting developments within the library and information profession that I was previously unaware of. Conferences are also invaluable for networking, particularly for someone at the start of their career, and I would like to thank the LIHG for giving me the opportunity to attend this event, and to encourage others to attend next year!

Holly Nicholas
Coventry University, London



HELP WANTED

Simon Beattie asks:

I am carrying out a census of extant copies of Joseph Charles Mellish's *Gedichte* (Hamburg, 1818). Do you, or your institution, have a copy? If so, I have a short survey for you. Namely:

1. Is it in the original printed (lithographed) boards?
2. If yes, what colour is the paper? And (if original) does it have a printed paper spine, or leather?
3. Is the book itself printed on laid or wove paper?
4. Does it have the illustrations, which should be a mixture of wood engravings and aquatints?
5. What are the book's dimensions?

Simon Beattie Ltd, Rare books, manuscripts, music, ephemera
01494 784954 simon@simonbeattie.co.uk

John Crawford asks:

I would be interested to know if anyone has come across any other examples of library banners (shown on front cover of the Newsletter). I know of only one other example in Scotland and none elsewhere. The quotation is from a poem by John Armstrong – 1744 which suggests a mid century date, not long after the library was founded in 1741.

Email johncrawford705@yahoo.co.uk

And finally, the editor asks:

Are any readers attending the Antwerp CERL seminar: *Library History: Why, What, How?* It would be great to publish a report in the next newsletter for those of us who won't be there.

anna_c_james@yahoo.co.uk



Library & Information History Group