

HISTORIC LIBRARIES FORUM

BULLETIN NO. 29 September 2014

Over the last few months, two very successful Forum events have been held and the annual conference is just a couple of months away in November. In June William Hale of Cambridge University Library led a day-long workshop on rare books cataloguing in the Library's Milstein Room, attended by a wide range of members. In addition, a practical conservation workshop, led by Caroline Bendix, was held at Middle Temple Library in August. Both events were oversubscribed and we hope to repeat them next year for those unable to attend the first time around; reports on both appear in this Bulletin. Based on suggestions for events made by members, we are looking into possible workshops for 2015. These could include an introduction to the history of bookbinding and the use of digitisation in libraries. Do give us any suggestions for future events.

The annual conference, entitled "Beyond the bid" (on the subject of sustaining the outcomes of project work), will be held on Thursday 20th November at Brunel University in London. Full details and booking information appear in this Bulletin. The programme, which includes speakers from the Heritage Lottery Fund, Exeter Cathedral, St John's College Cambridge and the London Library, looks very interesting and is sure to provide practical suggestions for anyone thinking about embarking upon any kind of library-based project.

News of a variety of libraries in danger has appeared in local and national press over the summer. The Forum has been contacted by (and has offered assistance to) the Farnborough-based Catholic National Library, which – somewhat out of the blue – closed its doors at the end of June. Negotiations are underway to ensure that the collections, numbering some 70,000 works, can be housed elsewhere. The Forum has also been concerned over the sale, from All Hallows College Dublin, of a number of rare books and manuscripts. Finally, the future of the British Museum's Round Reading Room – home to what would eventually become the British Library – has been under discussion. After the closure of the Paul Hamlyn Library, it was used for major exhibitions for several years, but is now redundant with the opening of the Museum's new exhibition centre. That this historic space will return to use as a library seems unlikely, but it is too historic a space for its desks and shelves to be removed. A national consultation will take place soon and the Forum has offered its help when the time comes. Click here to take the Museum's survey about its future:

http://www.britishmuseum.org/whats_on/museum_of_the_future.aspx

Some happy news was announced on Friday 12th September: thanks to a grant of £500,000 from the National Heritage Memorial Fund, Cambridge University Library has been successful in raising the required £1.1m to purchase the 7th-century Codex Zacynthius. Presented to the British & Foreign Bible Society in 1821, the manuscript came with the Society's library to Cambridge in 1984 and was to be sold on the open market this year. The success of the fundraising project, which began in December 2013, is excellent news, and will allow more detailed research into the manuscript's history. As a palimpsest (a manuscript from which the original text has been washed or scraped away

for re-use at a later date) the under-text is, in places, difficult to see, and the volume will now undergo detailed multi-spectral imaging and XRF spectroscopy. More information here: <http://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/newspublishing/detail.php?news=444>

As ever, do get in touch with us (<http://www.historiclibrariesforum.org.uk/hlf/contact.html>) if there is anything you would like to share with the Forum membership, including events or projects in your own libraries or collections/libraries at risk. If you know of someone who wants to join, please put them in touch with us. Our events book up quickly so you're much more likely to secure a place by hearing about our events first hand from us. I look forward to meeting at the conference those who are able to attend.

Liam Sims, Chair

Historic Libraries Forum Annual conference 2014

Beyond the Bid

Brunel University Library, Thursday 20th November 2014

This year's conference, "Beyond the Bid", looks at projects: planning, fundraising, managing and sustaining project outcomes.

Speakers include:

Fiona Talbott (Head of Museums, Libraries & Archives, Heritage Lottery Fund)

Louisa Yates (Gladstone's Library)

Ann Barwood (Exeter Cathedral Library & Archives)

Dunia Garcia-Ontiveros (London Library)

Louise Anderson (Downside Abbey Archives & Library)

Ryan Cronin (St John's College, Cambridge)

More information and a booking form are on pages 14 and 15 of this bulletin.

Reports from workshops

Cataloguing Antiquarian and Early Printed Collections workshop

Cambridge University Library, Wednesday 18th June 2014

I was really excited to have the opportunity to attend this HLF workshop, especially because its focus was on gaining practical skills in cataloguing and dating early printed collections. After coming off the train and getting lost in the winding streets of Cambridge, I finally arrived at Cambridge University Library with a kind welcome from Liam Sims. I was really impressed when walking through the lovely Exhibition Centre which was adjacent to the Milstein Seminar room, where the workshop was held. Making my way to an empty seat in a room of unknown faces, we were further welcomed by Cambridge Library Rare Books Specialist, William Hale.

Promptly at 10am, with a quick introduction of the 16 participants present, we were whisked into the first session of the programme – a general overview of descriptive cataloguing for rare materials, the history of rare books and the printing process. For a large majority of our group who already did some rare books cataloguing in their respective working environments, this may have seemed like a repetitive bore. However, I was happy to gain some new insight and eagerly took notes on Will's

detailed but simplified explanation of DCRM (B) (Descriptive Cataloguing of Rare Materials (Books)) manual of principles and objectives for cataloguing rare books. Considering that the last revision of this manual first published in 1981 was in 2007, I thought it was particularly interesting just how advanced these principles are as the transcription, descriptive conventions and the level of detail required is closer to RDA and FRBR than AACR2. Consequently, it would be interesting to investigate whether the issues raised about the need to again revise DCRM(B) due to the introduction of RDA will come to fruition in the future. An informative video, covering the production of watermarked paper and the general printing process, was also useful. Everyone took the opportunity to discuss all the information over a lovely tea break.

Many participants had a lot of interest in dating otherwise undated early printed books. In the second part of the programme, Will focused in detail on this topic, lecturing on the subject of bibliographical format and book structure for cataloguing rare books and deciphering the formulae of signatures when no pagination is given. The most difficult part of the day for me was definitely learning how to interpret a signature (a representation of the arrangement of leaves indicated by 23 letters of the Roman alphabet). Dealing with complex formulae and checking that double the total number of signature equals the total number of pages was a tricky mathematical experience. However, working in pairs made this task easier.

I came to realise just how important all the information from the first session about understanding the manufacturing of paper came in handy when trying to establish the format of a book (e.g. octavo, quarto and so on) by being able to see the vertical or horizontal chainlines in the paper. I found it interesting that, as the dimensions of a book changed depending on the copy of the book, catchphrases at the foot of a page indicating the first word on the next page and possible watermarks can establish the authenticity and date of a book. I also learnt the relevance of recording differences in provenance specific for each copy of a book could hold vital information for book historians, scholars and other users.

Following a tasty lunch in the Library tea room we had a surprise tour of the University Library. We didn't ascend its famous tower with 17 floors, but we did manage to view the Rare Books Room. Similar to Dewey in classification but arranged by subject and shelved by size, Cambridge University Library has an extensive collection covering a range of subjects.

The highlight of the day was yet to come as we moved in the final session in the programme. After Will explained the rules to follow in cataloguing rare books in MARC format, compared to the procedure for modern books, we had 1.5 hours of practical cataloguing with a selection of early printed books. The opportunity to see and handle examples from the library's collections was a valuable experience, because it really allowed everyone to ask questions and query any problems they were having. I wish we were given another day to handle more examples in the collections and maybe a look at the library's collection management system. However, I would say as a one-day introduction, the items selected were varied in structure and a vast amount of information about rare books cataloguing was covered in a short period of time.

Before leaving at 4pm, we were all given a bonus extra tour to view the library's Historical Printing Room. I was amazed to see Philip Gaskell's full-size medieval-style wooden printing press, printing blocks from the Cambridge University Press, type, composing sticks and type cases, all in working condition and still being used today in printing classes.

This workshop was such a memorable experience, from which I believe a library graduate trainee like myself, new information professionals and librarians who interact with rare books can learn a lot. Not only do you gain skills to allow the accurate recording of bibliographic information to assist users, but reinforce skills in research and retrieval. Therefore, I would recommend anyone to participate in this workshop in the future. As a final note, I would like to thank William Hale for the excellent delivery and expertise he brought to the programme and also the HLF for this helpful and cost-effective workshop.

Tavian Hunter
Royal Botanic Gardens Kew

Practical Conservation Workshop

Middle Temple Library, Friday 29 August 2014

A group of sixteen conservation enthusiasts met in the wonderful surroundings of the historic Middle Temple Library, for a day's basic conservation training led by Caroline Bendix (Bendix Library Conservation: <http://bendixlibraryconservation.com/>).

Upon arrival, we were all intrigued and excited to see lots of conservation materials on each desk; this was really to be a practical, hands-on course! Caroline began by giving us some background on book and paper production, to inform our understanding of the methods of repair that we were later instructed in. We learned about the significance of the grain direction of paper in relation to book binding, alongside how the quality of paper used in books declined with the transition from paper made by hand with rag or cotton pulp to that made with wood pulp by machine (around 1800). Caroline also explained how vellum was made and the corresponding difficulties of storing and repairing this material.

Our first practical exercise was learning how to replace a page that had fallen out or had been torn away from the text block. Here we were introduced to the fundamental materials used in book conservation: wheat starch paste (entirely reversible whilst remaining highly effective), silicon non-stick paper to protect the rest of the text block, hog-bristle brushes, bone folders and soot sponges for cleaning. After pasting the correct edge of the page thinly with paste, we were able to successfully align our separated pages with the fore edge of the text block and tip the pages in under Caroline's instruction. With strips of silicon paper next to the re-attached page to protect the rest of the text block from paste, the remaining weight of the closed book (and a little patience) was sufficient to seal the repair.

Next we moved on to repairing small tears in paper. Caroline drew our attention to the importance of cleaning and flattening the paper before attempting repair, whilst always ensuring the bevelled edges of the tear are re-aligned correctly before being pasted back together. If a paper tear were to need further support, it could also be

reinforced with a custom sized piece of Japanese tissue paper, pasted over the tear. Japanese papers are very strong due to the long fibres found in the paper, but are also delicate enough to be relatively unobtrusive on the finished item. The same techniques are applicable to repairing dust jackets.

In the afternoon we tackled repairs to the outer edges of the book, re-laminating damaged corners of boards with paste, re-attaching the spines of hollow back books and making covers for dust jackets with Mylar. Caroline advised caution when using paste near leather bindings, which can discolour as a result. Repairing hollow back spines was the task I found the trickiest, ensuring the strip of handmade paper was just right, in terms of the fold, length and width, to reattach the outer spine to the text block without accidentally transforming a hollow back into a fast back. This was fiddly and required a level of precision I didn't know I had! Again under Caroline's instruction, we were all successful in re-attaching the spines of our practice books. We then wrapped our books tightly with crepe bandages to put pressure onto the spine repairs in order for them to hold.

Overall the course was not only useful and well organised, but also very enjoyable, accessible and interesting. Caroline's advice to really look at what the book is telling you to inform the course of your repairs is the key piece of advice I have taken away. I certainly feel I now have the confidence and training to conduct basic in-house repairs. For reference, Caroline has produced two very useful guidance booklets, still currently available online from the British Library Collection Care (formerly BLPAC) guidance booklets:

Damaged Books

http://www.bl.uk/aboutus/stratpolprog/collectioncare/publications/booklets/damaged_books.pdf

...and Cleaning

http://www.bl.uk/aboutus/stratpolprog/collectioncare/publications/booklets/cleaning_books_and_documents.pdf

Claire Wooldridge
UMASCS Graduate Trainee Library Assistant
University of Reading

Training programme for volunteers in archives symposium

Lacock Abbey, 25th June 2014

This symposium, hosted and organised by the National Trust and The National Archives, aimed to explore the practicalities of developing a programme for training volunteers in archive skills, to identify its potential content and to gauge the appetite for participation on a regional basis. The morning session consisted of presentations and case studies and the afternoon of break-out sessions. Presentations were given by Norman James (TNA) and Sophie Houlton (National Trust). Case studies included presentations on the work of volunteers at Quarry Bank Mill, Cheshire, and on the Lacock Abbey papers. A particularly interesting case study was given by two of the volunteers working on the latter project. Their work involved transcription, listing and packaging and their enjoyment and enthusiasm were very evident.

The break-out groups were asked to consider preservation skills, archive management skills, outreach, customer care, research skills and support for recruitment.

It was especially useful to be able to discuss the varied tasks which can be given to volunteers and the importance of recognising and accommodating different needs. Some volunteers drop in and out while others like a long-term commitment. Some work, for example, transcription, can be done remotely by using copies. Each volunteer should be seen as a partner and treats and trips should be part of any programme. One delegate suggested the use of credits: each hour of volunteering might earn a credit which could be “spent” in a visit to another local heritage centre. The increasing importance of volunteers in archive work was highlighted by the symposium, but training is crucial, both to ensure they find it personally rewarding and give value to the collection. Professional supervision is vital and for supervisors who are volunteers themselves this poses an obvious problem. But the symposium was useful in opening up the matter for discussion and especially in the emphasis on the social value to the individual volunteer – giving a structure to the week and a reason to get out of bed in the morning, as one of them said. The original working group will now reconvene and discuss next steps.

Christine Penney

News

Directory of Rare Book and Special Collections in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland

Work is continuing on the third edition of the *Directory of Rare Book and Special Collections in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland*, the publication date of which has been announced as May 2015. Members of the Historic Libraries Forum Committee have been magnificently helpful in contacting libraries to encourage them to submit their entries, and thereby giving weight beyond the editor’s voice to the value of the *Directory*. HLF Committee members have also helped to discover the fate of lost libraries. Heartfelt thanks to everyone for their support.

Codex Zacynthius

We have reported in previous bulletin about the campaign by Cambridge University Library to raise money for the purchase of Codex Zacynthius. On 11th September the Library announced that it had been successful in raising the £1.1 million necessary to purchase the manuscript. The codex is one of the country’s most important New Testament manuscripts and was to be sold on the open market by the Bible Society (which has owned it since 1821, although it has been deposited at Cambridge since 1984). The Library’s efforts were greatly assisted by a grant of £500,000 from the National Heritage Memorial Fund. For more details, see the university’s press release and the Library’s blog:

<http://www.cam.ac.uk/news/uncovering-the-text-of-the-new-testament>
<https://specialcollections.blog.lib.cam.ac.uk/?p=8718>

Mackintosh Library at Glasgow School of Art Destroyed by Fire

On the 23rd of May 2014, a devastating fire at the Glasgow School of Art totally destroyed the world-famous Mackintosh Library and its important historical collections. One of the most important and widely recognised library spaces in the world, it was designed by Charles Rennie Mackintosh between 1897 and 1909 and was accepted as one of the finest Art Nouveau interiors internationally. Any visitor to the space could not help but be moved by its architectural and aesthetic beauty, from its hand-painted balusters to its pierced wooden pendants, and from its coloured-glass hanging lamps, to its original tables, Windsor chairs and periodicals desk.

The Library's vast west windows, rising up through three levels of the building, had been compared to those at York Minster. The space's engineering was also innovative for the time, with the box of the library quite literally hung from two cast-iron cross-beams on the level above. These hangers were encased in stained oak within the Library to create a squared nave and aisle plan which was often likened to a clearing in a forest grove. The columns rose through the space to terminate in white, blue, green and red newel posts that encircled a gallery level on all four sides. Writing on the symbolic allusions of the design, James Macaulay, in his 1993 account of the building for Phaidon, notes "...the library of the Glasgow School of Art is not only an aesthetic experience but the translation of philosophical thought into three dimensions."

But of course any Library is more than just an architectural space. The significance and potential of the historical collections it held were widely known and respected across the art and design research community. May's fire destroyed not only Mackintosh's interior, but also important historical collections that had been developed since the School's foundation in 1845. These included rare engraved folios dating to the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries including anatomical, architectural and costume copperplates. Also lost were full runs of seminal 19th and 20th century art and architecture periodicals such as *The Studio*, *Vogue* and *Architectural Review*, rare continental Art Nouveau journals such as *Dekorative Kunst* and *Jugend*, 19th century illustrated books, and significant parts of the School's foundation collection of instructional books from the then South Kensington Museum.

In a preservation assessment survey of 2012-2013, 16% of the collection was identified as probably unique and therefore of national importance. The School's Librarians have now completed the sobering task of identifying which of these volumes were lost in the fire, and of updating the online catalogue and some external union catalogues such as ESTC. The data in other catalogues such as SUNCAT and SALSER may take slightly longer to update, but this too is being worked on.

The Main Library, which holds the majority of the lending collections, is unaffected and operates as normal for students and researchers. Significant portions of the School's rare books collection were not stored in the Mackintosh Library and so are likewise safe; these include all books smaller than folio size, the Artists' Books Collection, and the Glasgow Style collection of art nouveau and arts and crafts bookbindings. The School's archives are also safe, though they have suffered some water and smoke damage and have been removed off-site for storage and conservation; for this reason the archives study room will be closed to the public for the foreseeable future. Sadly many items from the School's unrivalled art collection

were destroyed, including most paintings and a number of pieces of Charles Rennie Mackintosh furniture.

It is of course important to remember that no-one was injured in the fire, due in no small part to the professionalism and dedication of the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service and Glasgow School of Art staff.

The rebuilding of the lost collections will of course take many years. Their loss, though tragic, has provided the opportunity to revisit collecting strategies and to rebuild in a highly targeted way. In the long-term, the Library intends to pursue a targeted approach, tightly aligned to both the illustrious history and future direction of the Glasgow School of Art. In the short term, the Library is seeking to replace those volumes that complement the School's archives and collections, including the many treatises and illustrated books written, designed and made by its past Directors, tutors, and alumni. The quick replacement of these volumes remains a priority for the Library. With this in mind, its Librarians have compiled a wants list, available at <http://bit.ly/1yEpnIR>. If members hold any of the titles on the list and would like to donate them, please contact Librarian Duncan Chappell at d.chappell@gsa.ac.uk.

The Library has been considerably touched by all the good wishes, kind thoughts and donations that it has already received from friends, colleagues and institutions across the world. The generosity and fortitude of the wider library community has once again been demonstrated by its response to the fire, and there is no doubt that, with your help, the Mackintosh Library will once more rise from the ashes.

Duncan Chappell
Academic Liaison Librarian
d.chappell@gsa.ac.uk

Birthday Celebrations at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh

On the 29th June the iconic Herbarium and Library building at the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh celebrated its 50th birthday having officially been opened on that date in 1964 by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The building houses the unique collections that, along with the living collection, form a national reference collection and a unique resource for the Garden's staff and visitors.

Visitors and staff visiting the RBGE Library today are often surprised to discover that the Garden somehow managed to get through its first 200 years without a library. That's not to say that they didn't have access to the literature of the day but there wasn't a central collection or a library budget – the Regius Keeper (the head of the Garden) bought books as they were required and when they left they generally took their books with them. This all finally changed on the 23rd April 1872, when William Craig, the Chairman of the Library Committee of the Botanical Society of Edinburgh, wrote to the Regius Keeper, John Hutton Balfour:

“The Society will hand over to the Government the entire Library [about 1,000 volumes], and continue to send any botanical works which they may from time to time receive, on the understanding that the Government will provide for their accommodation and keeping...”

The Society's proposal was strongly supported by Balfour and on the 30th September he received confirmation from HM Office of Works in Edinburgh that the work to build an extension to the Herbarium to house the library had been approved. Sadly, the extension that was built wasn't actually big enough to house the whole of the Society's collection with the result that, as Balfour noted in his report for 1878, "the books are scattered through various rooms, rendering the consultation of them by the Regius Keeper and Garden visitors very inconvenient".

By 1960, the Garden's Herbarium, formed from the merger of the collections of the Botanical Society of Edinburgh and University of Edinburgh had expanded from the original 150,000 specimens to more than 1.5 million. As a result the collections had outgrown the original space in the Caledonian Hall and were overflowing into four additional huts and other unsuitable buildings. A new building to re-house both the Herbarium and Library collections was designed by Mr R Saddler in the Directorate of Works, Ministry of Public Building and Works and built on a site just south of the Botany building (now known as the Balfour Building) at a cost of £250,000. The Library collection moved into the new building in April 1964 at which point William Hunter Brown, the Librarian at the time, noted that "The general state of the Library is now excellent...".

To mark the anniversary the Garden has published *Botanical Treasures: objects from the Herbarium and Library of the Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh* (ISBN: 978-1-906129-97-2, £12.50). The book features images of more than 100 rarely seen objects from the Garden's collections, chosen by the Herbarium and Library staff.

Copernicus book thought destroyed in fire is found again

The Duchess Anna Amalia Library in Weimar, suffered a terrible fire in 2004. 50,000 books were lost to the flames, a full 25% of which were considered by the library to be irreplaceable. One of the lost titles was Copernicus's 1543 treatise *De Revolutionibus Orbium Coelestium, Libri VI*, an essential work in the history of science.

This month, ten years after the fire, the book was found again amongst a group of damaged books awaiting restoration. In the chaotic aftermath of the fire, books injured by flames, smoke, or water were put into groups based on their level of damage to await restoration. Copernicus's work was placed in Group 4, amongst the most damaged books, where it languished for a decade while the books in Groups 1 – 3 were restored first. This year, the Duchess Anna Amalia Library finally began work on Group 4 and were overjoyed at finding Copernicus's book again. Hopefully more pleasant surprises await the library's conservators as they continue to restore the remaining damaged books.

Trinity Laban Joins Flickr Commons

We are delighted to announce that images from our special collections have been accepted into the Flickr Commons. This means that they are available to anyone to use, share and comment on as they wish without copyright restriction. It is a great opportunity for us to increase access to the collections worldwide as well as for the public to contribute knowledge and information.

So far we have uploaded a small selection of images from the Trinity College of Music archive dating from the early 20th century. These include pictures of former staff members as well as the college's old premises on Mandeville Place. To access the collection go to <https://www.flickr.com/photos/jerwoodtem/>

Jerwood Library

Arts Council England publishes *Pearls and wisdom*

Over the summer Arts Council England published *Pearls and wisdom*, their vision of the future for the Designation scheme for collections of outstanding national importance. The Historic Libraries Forum was involved with the review, contributing views and representing libraries at a round table discussion at the Arts Council. We were pleased to discover that the Arts Council has decided to refocus back onto identifying outstanding collections without assessing the performance of the holding organisation. This requirement had often been difficult for historic libraries to meet, particularly as there is no Accreditation standard for libraries. *Pearls and wisdom* can be read in full on the Arts Council website:

<http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/news/arts-council-news/pearls-and-wisdom-our-vision-future-designation-sc/>

DCRM(B) now available online

The cataloguing manual for rare books, Descriptive Cataloguing of Rare Materials (Books) or DCRM(B) has been difficult to get hold of in print for a while, so we are delighted to report that it is now available free online as a pdf document. The related volumes covering ancient, medieval, renaissance and early modern manuscripts, graphics and serials are also now available online.

<http://rbms.info/dcrm/>

Heritage Alliance

The Heritage Alliance (formerly Heritage Link) unites 94 heritage bodies and the Historic Libraries Forum has been a member since its early years. The Heritage Alliance acts as a powerful effective and independent advocate for the heritage movement.

The HLF is the only library partner but our parent organisations also often have much in common with the other partners. The Heritage Alliance is the biggest coalition of heritage interests in England. It brings together the independent heritage organisations, from the National Trust, Canal & River Trust and Historic Houses Association, to more specialist bodies representing visitors, owners, volunteers, professional practitioners, funders and educationalists. Between them, their 6.3 million volunteers, trustees, members and staff demonstrate the strength and commitment of the independent heritage movement.

The Heritage Alliance now publishes a fortnightly e-bulletin *Heritage Update*, which can be read on the website and to which anyone can subscribe. It offers policy updates, news, a consultation round-up, events / course listings and job vacancies.

In 2014-15 it is calling on government to realise the power of heritage. It has been refining this argument over some time, which has become its Power of Heritage

Manifesto. This can be downloaded from its website. Rapid updates can be received via its twitter feed. www.theheritagealliance.org.uk

Other courses, events and exhibitions

Exhibition at Cambridge University Library from 24th October

Private lives of print: The use and abuse of books 1450-1550

The development of the printing press in Mainz in the 1450s was immediately recognized as a pivotal moment by its contemporaries. Its impact was monumental, heralding a communication revolution akin to the birth of the internet and leading to the slow but inevitable decline of the manuscript as the dominant means of transmission. Fundamental to our understanding of the reception of this seismic event is the evidence left within books themselves. Over the past twenty-five years researchers have focussed increasingly on the marks left by early readers, as a means of assessing how their books were used, how and where they moved, their trade, impact and audience.

This exhibition commemorates the conclusion of a five-year project, generously funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, to catalogue Cambridge University Library's world-class collection of incunabula, books printed before 1501. It draws on the remarkable body of information amassed during the project about how the earliest printed books were received during the first hundred years of the press. Annotations, provenance, bindings and decoration provide rare and unexpected insights into the use and abuse of incunabula, and into the private lives of both printed books and their owners.

Exhibition website: <https://exhibitions.lib.cam.ac.uk/incunabula/>

The Cranston Lecture 2014

The Cranston Library, founded in 1701 by the Revd Andrew Cranston, is situated in a small chamber above the vestry in St Mary's, the parish church of Reigate. It was probably the first public lending library in England and contains works of literature, history, geography, mathematics and classics as well as theology. The library is a charity managed by a board of trustees who endeavour to maintain it as an early 18th century library. Many of the books have been there since its foundation, and funds are always needed for conservation.

Speakers:

Hilary Ely: '... A Guinea with which was bought...' Subscribers to Andrew Cranston's Publick Library.

Keith Manley: Bodies in the Library: the family library of Agatha Christie

St Mary's Church, Chart Lane, Reigate at 7.30pm for 8.00pm on Monday 20th October 2014.

Refreshments will be served in the interval and the Library will be open during the evening.

Further details are on the library's website: <http://cranstonlibraryreigate.com/news/>

Aberystwyth Bibliographical Society meetings 2014/15

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

Tuesday 21st October 2014, 6.30pm	Dr. Peter Mitchell: <i>Early Modern Anatomical Book Illustration</i>	Drwm, National Library of Wales
Tuesday 18th November, 2014, 6.30p.m	Mr. Richard Ireland: <i>Writing Inside Out: Reflections on a Collection of Prison Literature</i>	St. Paul's Methodist Centre, Queen's Road
Tuesday 20th January 2015, 6.30p.m	Mr. Philip Henry Jones: <i>Behind the Scenes at Hughes a'i Fab: Welsh Publishing in the Inter-War Years</i>	Drwm, National Library of Wales
Saturday 21st February, 2015, 11.00a.m.	Prof. Andrew Prescott: <i>Imaging and Imagining Magna Carta</i>	St. Paul's Methodist Centre, Queen's Road
Tuesday 24th March 2015, 6.30p.m	Rev. Neil Fairlamb: <i>Researching the History of the Wine Trade in North Wales</i>	Council Chamber, National Library of Wales

Royal College of Nursing Library & Heritage Centre exhibitions and events

Front Line Nurses: British Nurses of the First World War

4 August 2014 – March 2015

Nurses, both military and civilian, made important contributions to the allied war effort and also sustained the principle of humanitarianism at a time when human life seemed to hold little value. On the centenary of the First World War, this exhibition commemorates the professional nurses who worked, served and died between 1914 and 1918.

The Royal College of Nursing Library and Heritage Centre is home to Europe's largest nursing specific collection. In 2013 we opened an exciting new space which includes public exhibitions, a cafe and a shop within the Library space.

Further information: <http://www.rcn.org.uk/library>

John Rylands Seminar on Print and Materiality in the Early Modern World

2014/2015 interdisciplinary seminar series, The John Rylands Library, The University of Manchester

Thursday 9 October 2014, 5.00-7.00 pm

- Dr Guyda Armstrong, Manchester, 'Boccaccio and the Italian Novella Collection in English Translation in the Seventeenth Century'
- Dr Benjamin Williams, John Rylands Research Institute, Manchester, Title TBA
- Dr Elizabeth Upper, John Rylands Research Institute, Manchester, Title TBA

Friday 7 November 2014, 3.30-5.00 pm (note different day and time)

- Professor Peter Marshall, Warwick, 'Catholic Puritanism in Pre Reformation England'

Thursday 12 February 2015, 5.00-7.00 pm

- Dr Sara Barker, Leeds, ‘Translation and Transmission: Exploring the pre-periodical news world’
- Dr Stephen Pumfrey, Lancaster, ‘Science and Religion in Seventeenth-Century England: What can we learn from historical corpus linguistics?’
- Michael Smith, Manchester, ‘Feeling, Print and Protestant Unity in Post-Restoration England’

Thursday 12 March 2015, 5.00-7.00 pm

- Dr Georg Christ, Manchester, ‘Marino Sanuto’s Diaries and History: Managing Venetian news, print and historiography (early 16th to 21st C.)’
- Dr Siobhan Talbott, Manchester, ‘“By the accounts we have in the last publick news”: How information shaped behaviour in Franco-British commercial networks, c.1603-1763’
- Dr Mark Towsey, Liverpool, ‘“Who did they think they were”: Reading history for self-fashioning in eighteenth-century Britain’

Sessions will be held in the Christie Room, The John Rylands Library, Deansgate, Manchester. The programme is supported by the John Rylands Research Institute. A group will go for drinks afterwards – all welcome! Convened by Dr Sasha Handley and Dr Jenny Spinks. Enquiries: Jenny Spinks: Jenny.Spinks@manchester.ac.uk.

Membership

Membership of the Forum is free and anyone may join. In this Bulletin we welcome new members working at the [Library at St Botolph’s Church, Boston](#); [York Minster Library](#); the [Royal College of Nursing](#); the [Royal Astronomical Society](#); [Queens’ College Cambridge](#) and the [University of Sydney](#).

Members@HistoricLibrariesForum.org.uk



Historic Libraries Forum

@HistLibForum

**Historic Libraries Forum annual conference 2014
Beyond the Bid
Thursday 20th November, Brunel University Library**

Programme

- 10.00** **Registration and coffee** (Teaching Room 3)
- 10.30** **Welcome** (Research Commons)
- 10.45** *From start to finish: how an HLF application works*
Fiona Talbott, Head of Museums, Libraries & Archives, Heritage Lottery Fund
- 11.30** *What a heavy thing is an [Excel spreadsheet]!: collaboration, digitisation and innovation*
Louise Yates, Director of Collections and Research, Gladstone's Library
- 12.15** **Questions to speakers**
- 12.30** **Lunch** (Teaching Room 3)
- 1.30** **AGM** (Research Commons)
- 1.45** *Keep drinking the coffee!*
Ann Barwood, Canon Librarian, Exeter Cathedral Library & Archives
- 2.05** *Powered by volunteers: the Downside experience*
Louise Anderson, Librarian, Downside Abbey Archives & Library
- 2.25** **Break** (Teaching Room 3)
- 3.00** (Research Commons)
Title tbc
Ryan Cronin, Press, Publicity and Communities Officer, St. John's College Cambridge
- 3.25** *Sprints, Marathons and Hurdles*
Dunia Garcia-Ontiveros, Head of Bibliographic Services, The London Library
- 4.00** **General discussion**
- 4.15** **Conference ends**

HISTORIC LIBRARIES FORUM
Annual Conference 2014
Beyond the Bid

Brunel University Library, Kingston Lane, Uxbridge. UB8 3PH
Brunel University is in west London, in travel zone 6, and the nearest tube station is Uxbridge. Nearest mainline station is West Drayton, on the Slough/London Paddington line. Heathrow airport is close by with a direct bus link to campus.

<http://www.brunel.ac.uk/about/campus/directions>

Thursday 20th November, 10.30-4.15 (registration from 10am)

Booking form:

Please send this form, with a cheque for £45 (conference fee which includes lunch) to: Miss C. L. Penney, HLF Treasurer, 58 Selly Wick Drive, Birmingham, B29 7JH. For booking queries, email Chris at clodpoll2001@yahoo.com or telephone 0121 471 3733). If sending by email please save as a Word 1997-2003 file.

Cheques should be made payable to the Historic Libraries Forum. If payment is being made through an institutional finance department please indicate this in the appropriate space below. Confirmation will be by email. If a paper receipt is required, please enclose an SAE with your booking form. Please note that there will be no further reminder once payment has been acknowledged. Places are allocated on a first-come, first served basis and all booking forms must be received by 30th October.

I wish to attend the HLF conference on 20th November

Name:

Address:

Institution:

Email (please write legibly):

Telephone number:

Dietary requirements:

Payment enclosed (please tick):

Payment to be paid institutionally (please tick):

Invoice required (this will be sent electronically):

Address to which invoice is to be sent: