

HISTORIC LIBRARIES FORUM

BULLETIN NO. 9, August 2007

Historic Libraries Forum Annual Meeting 2007: “Writing the History of your Library”

The next meeting will be held on Thursday 15 November 2007 at the Royal Asiatic Society, 14 Stephenson Way London NW1 2HD.

The cost of the day will be £38, to include coffee and lunch (without lunch, £30)

A booking form can be found at the end of this *Bulletin*. Speakers to include Professor John Beckett (Director of the *Victoria County History*) and Peter Hoare (General Editor of the *Cambridge History of Libraries in Britain and Ireland*).

The full programme will appear on the Forum’s website.

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

Historic Libraries Forum Annual Meeting for 2006 “Access for All?”

The annual meeting for 2006 was held on Thursday 16 November in the Weston Room, Maughan Library, King’s College London, Chancery Lane. The day covered improving access to buildings and collections, security issues, virtual access through websites and email and the importance of access as a factor in securing grants. Tours of the Maughan Library and Foyle Special Collections with Katie Sambrook, Special Collections Librarian, and colleagues were a highlight.

Cataloguing workshops

The Forum has continued to hold successful workshops on cataloguing antiquarian, special and early printed collections and bibliographical format. Further workshops are planned: for details, please contact Ed Potten, Edward.Potten@nationaltrust.org.uk.

Connecting Culture and Commerce: Getting the Right Balance. A report of the conference held at the National Gallery, 26th January 2007

The purpose of the conference was to allow expert speakers to debate how to balance cultural and commercial interests. In their presentations and the discussions they looked at the challenges of opening wider public access whilst protecting rights, and at the same time considered the emerging business and licensing models. The presentations and an audio record of the speakers will shortly be mounted on the conference website <http://www.kdcs.kcl.ac.uk/mcg2007/>

One of the themes which was central to the day was the Gowers Review of Intellectual Property, which will influence the future of all IPR development, including digitisation and copyright. The full report can be accessed via HM Treasury's website: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/independent_reviews/gowers_review_intellectual_property/gowersreview_index.cfm.

While the speakers were concerned that the problems of museums had received little attention in this review and others spoke of the protection of free or cheap access for students in formal educational programmes, the problems of the smaller historic library or the needs of the private researcher were rather neglected in this meeting.

Alan Yentob in a dialogue gave a view of the progress that the BBC had made in making its material accessible while protecting the rights of artists and earning an adequate income to enable the BBC to continue with its work. Alex Beard gave a presentation on the Museum's perspective, based on what the Tate Gallery has been doing. Gretchen Wagner spoke about ARTstor www.artstor.org, which is a non-profit initiative, founded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, with a mission to use digital technology to enhance scholarship, teaching and learning in the arts and associated fields. Tony Travers, LSE spoke about his recent study *Museums and Galleries in Britain: economic, social and creative impacts*, which was jointly commissioned by the National Museum Directors' Conference (NMDC) and the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA). The full report can be read on the MLA website. One initiative which was mentioned by several speakers and which offers another model for dealing with copyright issues was Creative Commons a non-profit organisation offering a flexible copyright for creative work. <http://www.creativecommons.org.uk/>

Helen Cordell

Historic Libraries of Prague

The Association of British Theological and Philosophical Libraries celebrated their Golden Jubilee by holding their Spring Conference at the International Baptist Seminary in the beautiful city of Prague. The Conference was attended by 40 members including colleagues from the IBS, Ukraine, the American Theological Library Association, Bibliothèques Europeennes de Théologie and the Australian and New Zealand Theological Library Association.

Prague is a city that experienced little war damage during the 20th century and has, since the end of the communist era, undergone extensive restoration. It is a delightful city full of little known gems. The Conference included four library visits: the Czech National Library, the Charles University Protestant Theological Faculty Library, the Nostiz Library and the Strahov Monastery. Whilst being most grateful for the hospitality shown to us by the staff of the Czech National Library and the Charles University Faculty Library, it is the delights of the Nostiz and Monastery libraries that I would like to share with you.

The Nostiz Library is a rare example of an aristocratic library that has survived intact in its original setting. The Nostiz family were enthusiastic patrons of the arts and between the 17th and 19th centuries built up a collection of 14,000 volumes on a wide range of subjects. The collection is still housed in the Nostiz Palace, in the two rooms

originally designed to house 5,000 volumes. The shelving is original as are the beautiful paintings that adorn the ceilings and walls. These paintings have only been recently discovered. At some point the walls and ceilings had been white washed and when this was removed, cherubs were revealed adorning the domed ceiling of the inner room and seasonal scenes on either side of the two windows of the larger room. The library was originally catalogued so it has been possible to discover which books have gone “missing” over the years. During the communist era several valuable books were returned to their country of origin. Whilst the present librarian expressed regret at this he added that many rare books were returned to Czechoslovakia (as it was then known) in return.

The famous Strahov Monastery was founded by the Praemonstratensian Order in 1143 although the present library buildings date from the 17th and 18th centuries. We were treated to a tour of the exquisite Baroque chapel and then given free access to both the Theological and Philosophical libraries. The collections of these libraries are housed in extremely beautiful Baroque galleries, highly decorated with frescoes. The libraries house approximately 140,000 items including 2,000 manuscripts and 2,600 incunabula. There is also an impressive collection of globes and coins. A delightful feature of these libraries is that they have retained many original items of furniture, the most intriguing being an elaborate working example of a page turning machine. It is impossible to describe the beauty of these libraries although the following website may help: <http://www.strahovskyclaster.cz>.

The whole event was enjoyed by all and we are exceedingly grateful to all the staff who gave their time freely to ensure that our visits were memorable.

If you would like to see photos of these libraries, please look at our website <http://www.abtapl.org.uk/prague.html>.

Carol Reekie
Federation Librarian
Cambridge Theological Federation

Library News

Plume Library, Maldon

The first phase of the computerisation of the Plume Library has been completed. Library staff can be contacted at: info@thomasplumeslibrary.co.uk or ericawylie@thomasplumeslibrary.co.uk.

Statement on Hartlebury Castle and the Hurd Library

This statement from the Church Commissioners outlines the current situation regarding Hartlebury Castle and the Hurd Library.

“There has been public speculation on the future of Hartlebury Castle and the Hurd Library, which is situated in part of the building, following Bishop Peter Selby’s

announcement of his retirement as Bishop of Worcester with effect from 30 September 2007.

It has been known for some time that the Church no longer regards Hartlebury Castle as a suitable house for the Bishop (this decision was reached in 1996) and we are looking to find a replacement house – a decision that has been supported by the representatives of the Diocese of Worcester. We intend that the new Bishop will live elsewhere. This move will happen irrespective of a decision on the future use of Hartlebury.

The Church Commissioners have not entered into any agreement with any other party about the future of the Castle. We are naturally discussing matters with Worcester County Council, which has a leasehold interest in the wing of the building that houses the County Museum. We have also had discussions with officers of English Heritage.

The Hurd Library is, of course, an important factor in any future decisions on the Castle. One option, which will necessarily depend upon reaching an appropriate agreement with any future owner/occupier of the Castle, is that the Library stays in situ with continuing public access. Another option that has been suggested for consideration is its removal to Worcester Cathedral.

The Commissioners have not taken any decisions on the future of Hartlebury Castle or the Hurd Library.”

News from RIN

The Research Information Network (RIN) has commissioned LISU at Loughborough University to undertake a study to explore the availability of online catalogues for collections of interest to researchers, held by UK libraries. As well as evaluating the progress that has been made over the last five years in the creation of digital catalogues accessible over the internet, the study will also survey researchers to identify their priorities in the cataloguing of collections that are as yet un-catalogued and in converting manual catalogues to online form. The findings of the study will be published in a future issue of the *Bulletin*.

News from CURL

26th February 2007

The Consortium of Research Libraries (CURL), the Consortium of European Research Libraries (CERL) and the Cathedral Libraries and Archives Association (CLAA) have announced the conclusion of a major three-way arrangement that will increase the visibility of a number of historic collections to researchers worldwide.

The three organisations have agreed to add the Hand Press Book database records of the Cathedral Libraries Catalogue to Copac, the freely available web-based catalogue managed by MIMAS on behalf of CURL and the JISC. The Cathedral Libraries Catalogue (published by the Bibliographical Society between 1984 and 1998) contains records of books printed before 1701 held in the libraries of 37 Anglican

Cathedrals of England and Wales, and includes books printed in the British Isles and British America and English books printed elsewhere, as well as books printed on the continent of Europe.

2nd February 2007

CURL, the Research Information Network (RIN) and the British Library have announced significant future additions to Copac as a result of the Copac Challenge Fund, a jointly-funded initiative to expose more of the wealth of UK library holdings for the benefit of researchers of all types in the UK and beyond.

There were 60 responses to the Challenge Fund from both Higher Education and other libraries who were interested in a presence within Copac.

The new institutions whose collections will be wholly or partly included in Copac are:

City of London Libraries

Institute of Education

Kew Royal Botanic Gardens

Lambeth Palace Library

Natural History Museum

Royal Academy of Music

St. Andrews University

Tate Gallery

University of Essex

University of Exeter

University of Leicester

Women's Library, London Metropolitan University

News from the National Preservation Office

The National Preservation Office has announced two new titles in its series of Preservation Guidance leaflets:

Managing the library and archive environment by Jane Henderson (Professional Tutor in Conservation, Cardiff University) can be downloaded from <http://www.bl.uk/services/npo/pdf/environment.pdf>. Paper copies are available on request from npo@bl.uk.

Understanding and Caring for Bookbindings by David Pearson (Director University of London Research Library Services), Alison Walker (Head of the NPO) and John Mumford (Head of Book Conservation, British Library) provides a brief expert introduction to the significance, history, structure and care of bookbindings. It can be downloaded from www.bl.uk/services/npo/pdf/bookbindings.pdf. Paper copies are again available on request from npo@bl.uk.

Events Calendar

September

5th September, 2pm-5pm: Lambeth Palace Library, London SE1 7JU. Free exhibition. **"A necessary work and ornament": treasures of Sion College Library.**
To book a place, please contact Mary Comer: tel. 0207 898 1400; email mary.comer@c-of-e.org.uk; website www.lambethpalacelibrary.org.

The Parker Library Now

A two-day symposium on preservation – digitisation – scholarship – public access: 6-7 September 2007

The symposium will take place at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. It will include papers on library history, conservation, digitisation and its application, new discoveries and directions in medieval manuscript scholarship, and the benefits or problems of access to some of the most precious illuminated manuscripts in existence. The Parker Library and Cambridge Consortium workshop will be fully available to participants. On Friday afternoon (7th), there will be a choice of workshop and library visits.

Speakers will include Christopher Clarkson; Nicholas Pickwoad, consultant for the initial conservation project, Melvin Jefferson, head of the Conservation Consortium; Mark Clarke, expert in pigment analysis, and Christopher de Hamel, Donnelley Fellow Librarian.

The basic symposium fee of £90.00 includes all lunches and refreshments.

For further information, please contact: Gill Cannell: tel. 01223 338025; email gc110@cam.ac.uk or Christopher de Hamel, tel. 01223 339994; email cd281@cam.ac.uk or go to www.corpus.cam.ac.uk/parker/.

2007 CILIP Rare Books and Special Collections Group Annual Study Conference, 12th-14th September

The conference will examine the role of illustrations in printed books from the 16th century to the present day, from woodcuts to photographs. The conference will be held at the Wellcome Library, London. Visits and workshops will be held at the British Library, National Art Library, British Architectural Library and the Wellcome Library and the conference reception and dinner will be held at the Royal Society.

Programme of the events for the full three days, details of accommodation in London, and a booking form are available from the Group's web site: <http://www.cilip.org.uk/rbscg>

October

18th-19th October: Institute of English Studies, University of London. Conference **'The Culture of the Publisher's Series, 1700-2000'**

For further details and registration (£60 standard; £40 Institute Members / Concessions) please contact Jon Millington, Events Officer, Institute of English Studies, Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU: tel. 0207 664 4859; email jon.millington@sas.ac.uk.

29th October: British Library Conference Centre, 96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB. **National Preservation Office Annual Conference 'Second Life for Collections'.**

The traditional ways of providing copies as substitutes for original library and archive material are being challenged by new business models and advances in technology. This conference will showcase projects and case studies where change is rapid, where decisions are informed by technological and commercial considerations, and which show the future direction of collection surrogacy.

Conference programme and registration form are available from the NPO website: <http://www.bl.uk/services/npo/conf07.html>.

November

3rd November: King's Manor, University of York. Conference '**Books on the Battlefield: The Reception, Use and Appropriation of Books in Warfare, 1450 to the Present Day**'.

For further details and registration (£12/£17 for staff; £5/£10 for students/unwaged; free/£5 for members of the University of York) please visit the conference website at <http://www.york.ac.uk/conferences/battlefield2007/>.

December

1st-2nd December: Foundling Museum, 40 Brunswick Square, London WC1 1AZ. Annual Conference on Book Trade History '**Music and the Book Trade from the Sixteenth to the Nineteenth Century**'.

The full fee for two days is £80 (one day £50), including conference, lunches and access to the Foundling Museum, a lunch-hour recital and tour of the Gerald Coke Handel collection. A limited number of reduced-rate places, sponsored by the Bibliographical Society, will be available to registered students.

For a booking form or further information, please apply to: The Antiquarian Booksellers' Association, Sackville House: 40 Piccadilly: London W1J 0DR: tel. 020 7439 3118; email admin@aba.org.uk; website: www.aba.org.uk.

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BOOKING FORM

**WRITING YOUR LIBRARY'S HISTORY
HISTORIC LIBRARIES FORUM AUTUMN MEETING, THURSDAY 15TH
NOVEMBER 2007, AT THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY, LONDON**

Your Details

Please complete in block letters

Prof/Dr/Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms	
Surname:	Forename:
Position:	
Library/ Organisation	
Address	
Telephone	
Email	
Permission to circulate email address to participants: Yes / No	
Invoice required: Yes / No	
If requesting payment on invoice, please arrange for the cheque to arrive before 6 th November.	

*The fee for the Meeting is £38 per place including lunch and refreshments, £30 per place without lunch. Bookings received after 6th November may be accepted but we cannot offer lunch. Please make cheques payable to **Historic Libraries Forum** and post to: **Ms Helen Cordell, Royal Asiatic Society, 14 Stephenson Way, London NW1 2HD.** (helen@helencordell.plus.com).*

*In order to facilitate networking, we will endeavour to circulate a list of participants to those who have booked, in advance of the meeting. Please indicate whether your email address may be used **for this purpose only**.*

Contacts: Helen Cordell (helen@helencordell.plus.com) and Peter Hoare (p.hoare@virgin.net)