

HISTORIC LIBRARIES FORUM
BULLETIN
NO. 11, July 2008

The first half of 2008 has been a busy period for the Historic Libraries Forum. Our programme to expand our membership and broaden our support base in new areas has begun to bear fruit, with new members from, amongst others, the Pall Mall Association of Libraries and from the Public Library sector. Anyone familiar with Barry Bloomfield's *Directory* will be aware that many public libraries in the UK have fantastic hidden collections of pre-1850 printed books, yet there are currently very few representatives from the sector involved with the HLF. Special Collections in public libraries tend to be integrated with the standard reference stock, making their identification, extent and assessment extremely difficult. The Forum is now offering advice to one such collection on how it might proceed, and it is hoped others may take advantage of this service in future. Please do continue to promote the Forum to associates and colleagues and direct them to our web-site - <http://www.historiclibrariesforum.org.uk/>.

The Forum is increasingly being called upon to provide advice and support for libraries under threat. At present the HLF is playing a very active role in determining the future of two significant parochial libraries, both at various periods in their recent history under threat of dispersal. Decisions on the fate of both libraries are currently under review, but we hope to be able to announce positive and innovative long-term solutions for both in the near future. We continue to provide input into the negotiations regarding the future of Archbishop Hurd's great Library at Hartlebury Castle. I shall be visiting Hartlebury in October to speak to the very active Friends organisation, established to help secure the future of the collection, and we hope to include a report on the current state of play in the next issue of the *Bulletin*. The Forum has also been one of very few professional bodies thus far to raise concerns about the application to extend the permission granted in 2006 to the British Museum to use the Round Reading Room as a temporary exhibition space. We have had some useful communications with Andrew Burnett, the Deputy Director, and continue to explore the impact of the current proposals, and perhaps more importantly, have an input into the long-term future of this most iconic library.

Our programme of events continues to expand, with a new workshop on bookbindings, their identification, description and care scheduled for 2nd October. This workshop is specifically aimed at the novice - no prior knowledge is needed - and aims to give useful practical advice on how to assess and care for bindings, from the medieval to the Penguin paperback. Our annual conference is scheduled for 20th November at the Wellcome Institute and focusses this year on disaster preparedness for the small library. Aimed at those with little or no current provision for disaster, it will look at how to start from scratch, what you can do on a tight budget, what resources are available free-of-charge and some innovative mechanisms for getting by. Booking forms for both events are included at the rear of this issue.

Work continues on the production of the first of our proposed on-line advisory leaflets, on the resurrection of *Bibliotheca* and on a variety of other projects. Please do let us know if you feel we could be doing more.

St Deiniol's Library

St Deiniol's Library was founded in 1894 by William Gladstone and is Britain's finest residential library, home to a unique collection of more than 250,000 printed items. Housed in a Grade I listed building, the collection includes 30,000 books from Gladstone's personal library at Hawarden Castle. The Main Library consists of two galleried reading rooms and a single-storey Annex.

St Deiniol's Library has to some extent been a victim of its own success. Busier than ever before in its history, the Trustees recognised that this growth in usage was putting an ever-increasing pressure on the Library's resources and facilities, some of which were in any case limited or ageing or both. The growing variety of users which had resulted from the breadth of the Library's programme of activities brought with it the need for new and better facilities as well as more space for the Library's present and future holdings. At the same time, the historic fabric had begun to show its age. It was built to a high standard and had been conscientiously maintained over the years but repair and restoration work was needed that could not be funded from the annual maintenance budget.

In 2006, the Gladstone Project was launched as a comprehensive programme designed to address these needs and so preserve and enhance the Library's historical importance and further develop it as a unique centre for learning, debate, reflection and prayer. The Project was successful in raising the appeal target of £1.2 million, the main donor being the Heritage Lottery Fund who made an award of £619,200.

Making an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund can be a lengthy process. As well as the application form itself, a whole host of supporting documentation is also required – drawings, reports, policies, accounts, budgets, timetables, job descriptions – exactly what depends on the size of grant being sought and the nature of the project. We decided to appoint a firm of professional fundraisers to guide us through this process and the success of our application is due largely to their expertise and hard work.

In February 2007, the Library closed its doors to the public for three months while much of the internal building work was carried out. Staff continued working valiantly throughout the closure period. Work to the roof was undertaken in sections. Books in the upper galleried areas of the Main Library were either removed and stored elsewhere within the main building or, if this was not practicable, left on the shelves and protected with plastic sheeting. Over the next nine months, a programme of urgent or high-cost works was carried out which included the renewal of leadwork on roofs and gutters, stabilisation and re-pointing of high-level stonework, replacement of the boilers and renewal of the Victorian heating system.

The Periodicals Library, separate from the main building, was repaired and refurbished and new mobile shelving was installed in order to accommodate the foreseen growth in holdings for the next twenty years. Items stored in the Periodicals Library were removed from site while the old shelving was removed and returned when the new shelving was *in situ*. The installation of mobile shelving enabled us to transfer from the Main Library parts of the collection which are not heavily used, thereby releasing space for new acquisitions.

The HLF grant allowed for the purchase of portable dehumidifiers and additional digital memory thermo-hygrometers to improve and monitor environmental conditions and for UV filters to be fitted to windows in the Main Library, Annex and Periodicals Library. Zoning and control of the heating system in the Main Library means that the temperature can be maintained evenly.

Work was also undertaken to other parts of the building. A small extension to the rear of the main building provided additional space and, more significantly, allowed existing space to be re-organised. The extension accommodated a new chapel and allowed the main conference room to be extended. The dining room and kitchen were remodelled and two fully accessible en-suite ground-floor bedrooms were created. Access into and within the building was made easier and accessible WCs were provided.

The Library re-opened in May 2007. Building work continued for another six months and finished – on schedule – in November. The Project has safeguarded the building and the collection for future generations and has enabled even more people to enjoy what we like to call the ‘St Deiniol’s Experience’. For more information about the Library, please visit our new website www.st-deiniols.org or email enquiries@st-deiniols.org

Annette Lewis

Further from Annette Lewis:

The main reason we were successful was because of the professional fundraisers we appointed. We could not have managed without them. We would be more than happy to recommend them, and would be happy to discuss any of this with any of your members.

Development Office
St Deiniol's Library
Church Lane
Hawarden
Flintshire
CH5 3DF

Tel: 01244 532350

Fax: 01244 520643

Website: www.st-deiniols.org

LIGATUS

Director: Professor Nicholas Pickwoad
Assistant director: Dr Athanasios Velios

Ligatus is a new research unit of the University of the Arts London, dedicated to the history of bookbinding, book conservation and the use of digital technologies in support of both.

Created out of our work on the Saint Catherine's Monastery Library Conservation Project on Mount Sinai, that project is now just one of the activities of Ligatus. Central to the current work of the unit, and employing four people, is the creation of a comprehensive glossary of bookbindings terms that will allow detailed and consistent descriptions of bindings and binding structures – a long felt need in the book world. This glossary, the first Anglo-Greek version of which is due to be released on the Ligatus website in the autumn of this year, is arranged in hierarchies of information based on the structures of books, which will allow the glossary to work in two directions – from term to object and from object to term, so that it will be possible to find terms that a user does not already know. Each term will be illustrated with photographs, diagrams or drawings. Initially the glossary is based on the books included in the surveys of the books at Saint Catherine's monastery, which includes many western European books of the late fifteenth century and onwards as well as books of the eastern Mediterranean basin. Work is in hand to include earlier western medieval bindings. Our aim is to produce a comprehensive glossary for the handmade book (i.e. up to the early nineteenth century), but we hope to extend its scope through to the early twentieth century in the coming years.

To accompany the glossary, and indexed through the glossary terms, will be a comprehensive image library, comprising the personal archives of several noted binding historians, as well as the images from the Saint Catherine's survey. If we are able to fund our plans, this will result in an archive of upwards of 100,000 images, not counting the drawings which will illustrate the glossary.

Through the use of different interfaces, the glossary will also serve as the basis of a tool to describe bindings in a consistent manner, and we are working with five European partners with the ultimate aim of making the glossary available in six languages, and so offering a common descriptive methodology in all of those languages. We hope to involve interested parties not only in submitting additional definitions to the glossary, which will continue to grow as more research is done, but also contributing descriptions of bindings to a central database to make possible a sufficiently large body of information to offer scope for the statistical analysis and dating of binding styles and structures. The descriptive methodology will also be available to conservators for recording the books they are working on.

The level of detail in which the glossary is being compiled may appear off-putting to those who do not have much interest in the minutiae of bindings, but the advantage of the hierarchical structure is that it will allow users to choose the level of complexity they need and feel able to cope with, but with consistent results at whatever level it is used. Our hope therefore is that all those who have dealings with old books, whether as scholars, book dealers or private collectors will be persuaded to use the glossary and thus achieve that fabled goal of consistent and accurate descriptions of books.

It is also our intention to make Ligatus a natural home for all interested in bookbinding, with seminars, lectures series, courses and information about what is going on in the world of binding studies. We have been or are involved in the supervision of four doctoral theses in the field of bookbinding and want to encourage serious research in this area.

Details of all our activities, and more background information about Ligatus, can be found on our website: www.ligatus.org.uk.

Our postal address is:

Ligatus
The University of the Arts London
Wilson Road
London SE5 8LU

Telephone: +44 (0)20 7514 6432
E-mail: e.warner@camberwell.arts.co.uk

Historic Libraries Forum Binding Workshop

In response to demand, on October 2nd the Historic Libraries Forum will be offering a new day-long workshop, *A Novice's Introduction to the Identification, Dating and Preservation of Bookbindings*. The workshop will be hosted at the Deansgate site of the John Rylands University Library in Manchester, and is aimed at those with no background knowledge of binding history or identification. The first session, led by Ed Potten, will look at identifying, localizing and dating bindings based on their characteristics, and at some of the reference sources available which can help. The second session, led by Caroline Checkley-Scott, will look at identifying and prioritizing bindings for preservation or conservation, and at what immediate remedial work can be done on a tight budget to stabilize and care for at-risk bindings. The afternoon session will include a tour of the Conservation Studio. This is a "hands-on" course, so places are extremely limited.

October 2nd - The John Rylands University Library

The fee for the day will be £40.00, which will include tea and coffee, but not lunch. Lunch can be purchased on-site in the Rylands Café. For more information please contact Ed Potten (Edward.Potten@manchester.ac.uk). Details and a booking form can be found on the Historic Libraries Forum website: <http://www.historiclibrariesforum.org.uk>.

The Frank and Patricia Herrmann Award.

The Friends of Thomas Plume's Library are pleased to announce the establishment of the Frank and Patricia Herrmann Award which has been made possible by a most generous donation from an overseas member of the Friends who wishes to remain anonymous. He was introduced to the Library by Frank and Patricia and wishes to commemorate the work they have done in the Library and the community. The purpose of the Award is to bring the Plume Library, Maldon, Essex, England, which is relatively unknown as a resource for the study of the seventeenth century, to the attention of the academic world and to the wider public, and to advance the study of it and the period of English history which it represents. The Award will be for the best essay of 3,000-4,000 words on a topic based on the Plume Library. This may be a study or critical assessment of a group of books by the same author, or related authors, or a particular subject or any other topic based on the Library or on Plume himself.

The Library was established in 1704 by the will of Dr Thomas Plume, Archdeacon of Rochester and Vicar of Greenwich. The Library of some 7,000 books and pamphlets amassed by Plume in his life-time is still housed on the first floor of the fine building erected by him for this purpose in or around 1699. The Library is rich in bibles, prayer-books, commentaries and church history. Plume collected many works about the English Civil Wars (which he regarded as a national disaster) and the religious controversies of his period. However, Plume always intended his Library for the education of gentlemen as well as the local clergy and about half the collection covers such topics as philosophy, chemistry, medicine, physics, mathematics, geography, history and astronomy. Rene Descartes and John Locke, both known as ancestors of the enlightenment are represented. Commerce and trade are in the collection as are exploration and the search for an accurate way of measuring longitude at sea, one of the great quests of Plume's era. (He was, after all, the vicar of Greenwich during the establishment there of the Royal Observatory.) There are atlases and books of travel. The Library is, therefore, a most valuable resource for students of the history of these topics. The Library also offers opportunities for students of bibliography and conservation.

Only essays written to a high academic standard will be considered and full use should be made of the scholarly apparatus, such as is to be found in the MHRA Style Guide, which is available at the Library or on-line at: www.mhra.org.uk

The essay of 3,000-4,000 words should be correctly presented as follows:

1. Three copies of the essay must be submitted.
2. Each copy should be presented either comb-bound or heat sealed or in a hard-backed spring binder.
3. The paper should be A4 of good quality.
4. The essay should be neatly typed in double spaces on one side of the paper only.
5. A title page, which includes the date, but not the author's name, should be included.
6. Footnotes may be placed at the foot of the relevant page or placed at the end of the essay with the bibliography and any appendices.
7. Each essay is to be sent with a sheet giving the full name and contact details of the entrant.

Closing Date

The essay should be sent to the Library at the address given by 1st September 2008

The essays will be judged by:

- the Chairman of the Trustees of the Plume Library,
- the Chairman of the Friends of Thomas Plume's Library,
- a senior member of the academic staff of Essex University.

The judges' decision will be final.

Award

The Award of £500 will be made every two years with a prize of £100 for the runner-up. A copy of any essay of sufficient merit will be lodged in the Library and the Essex Record Office, Chelmsford, Essex. Consideration will be given to supporting the publication of the award-winning essay.

Access

As stated the Library is on the first floor and access is only by a narrow spiral staircase. Unfortunately the building is not suitable for those with impaired mobility. Please contact the Librarian for more information.

Opening times:

| | |
|-----------|-----------------|
| Tuesday | 2pm to 4pm |
| Wednesday | 2pm to 4pm |
| Thursday | 2pm to 4pm |
| Saturday | 10am to 12 noon |

The Library may occasionally and in special circumstances be opened at other times upon application to the Librarian.

For further information or queries please contact either:

Tony Doe, Chairman, The Friends of Thomas Plume's Library.
Email: tony.doe@btinternet.com

or Erica Wylie, Librarian, Thomas Plume's Library, Market Hill, Maldon. Essex, CM9 4PZ
Phone 01621 854850 Email info@thomasplumeslibrary.co.uk

The Earliest Books of Canterbury Cathedral



Richard Gameson

All Canterbury's surviving pre-13th century book fragments are catalogued and discussed in this new work by the distinguished medievalist **Richard Gameson**, formerly Reader in the School of History at the University of Kent, and now Professor of the History of the Book at Durham University. Broad-ranging analyses explain the significance of these works in general and of the Canterbury copies in particular. A substantial introduction traces the history of book production in Kent and Canterbury up to c.1200, the development and use of the Cathedral's collections in the later Middle Ages, and the fate of its books at the Reformation.

The fourth volume in the Dean & Chapter of Canterbury's Canterbury Sources series, *The Earliest Books of Canterbury Cathedral* is a co-publication with the British Library and the Bibliographical Society. Copies are available from the Cathedral's Shop, Cathedral Enterprises Ltd, at mailorder@cathedralenterprises.co.uk See also Cathedral Enterprises' website at www.cathedral-enterprises.co.uk

The National Manuscripts Conservation Trust



The National Manuscripts Conservation Trust (NMCT) is administered by The National Archives in Kew. We can advise applicants on matters relating to potential applications, including specific preservation policies and strategies and to best practice in preservation.

What costs will the grants cover?

Grants will be made towards the cost of repair, binding and other preservation measures, including preservation microfilming.

How much grant aid is available?

Subject to funds being available grants will normally match the applicant's contribution and will not normally exceed 50% of the total estimated cost.

Who can apply?

- a. Record offices, libraries and other similar publicly funded institutions including local authority, university and specialist record repositories and
 - b. owners of manuscript material which is conditionally exempt from capital taxation or owned by a charitable trust
- provided that
- *reasonable access is allowed to members of the public*
 - *suitable storage conditions are available*
 - *there is a firm commitment to continuing good preservation practice*

What is not eligible?

- Public Records
- Printed material
- Photographs
- Audio-visual material

How to apply

Application forms can be downloaded from our website at www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documents/application-form.rtf

Closing dates for applications each year are **1 April** and **1 October**, and trustees' meetings will normally take place two or three months later.

Application forms and free copies of the most recent annual report are available from the secretary at the following address:

The Secretary
National Manuscripts Conservation Trust
C/o The National Archives
Kew, Richmond, Surrey
TW9 4DU
Tel: 0208 392 5218
Fax: 0208 487 9201
Email: nmct@nationalarchives.gov.uk
For all further information please visit us on:
Website:
www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/preservation/trust/

Historic Libraries Forum Annual Conference

Poverty is no Excuse – Disaster Preparedness for the Small Library

On 20th November the Forum's annual conference and AGM will take place at the Wellcome Institute, generously sponsored this year by Hanwell Instruments (<http://www.hanwell.com>) Putting in place structures and guidelines for dealing with disasters of all shapes and sizes is a challenge for the largest and best-resourced of libraries. For those at the other end of the spectrum, small, independent libraries, sole workers, private collectors and those on a very restricted budget, the challenges are often so insurmountable that disaster becomes a dirty word. This year's conference is aimed at looking practically at what can be done with limited time, few staff, meager resources and no space for a fully-stocked cupboard full of bubble-wrap and mops - helpful, straightforward advice on what to do if you feel at the moment that you can't do anything. Speakers from the National Preservation Office, the M25 Consortium and a variety of case studies are so far confirmed.

November 20th – Wellcome Institute

The fee for the day will be £45.00, which will include tea and coffee, a buffet lunch at the Wellcome and a tour of the Library (and, alas, the HLF AGM...) For more information please contact Ed Potten (Edward.Potten@manchester.ac.uk). Details and a booking form can be found on the Historic Libraries Forum website: <http://www.historiclibrariesforum.org.uk>.

Rare Books and Special Collections Group

The 2007 revision of the RBSCG's rare books cataloguing guidelines (the little yellow booklet) is now available on-line, either or as a set of html pages, or as a pdf file, at <http://www.cilip.org.uk/specialinterestgroups/bysubject/rarebooks/bibliographic/index>.

This year's RBSCG conference '*Imprinting within our Realme*': *Books from Scotland*, will take place Wednesday 10 – Friday 12 September 2008 at The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh. Designed to tie-in with the celebrations of the 500th anniversary of the first dated Scottish book the programme is as varied and interesting as ever. Full details and a booking form can be found at

<http://www.cilip.org.uk/specialinterestgroups/bysubject/rarebooks/events/conference08>

BOOKING FORM

**Historic Libraries Forum binding workshop:
October 2nd 2008, The John Rylands University Library, Manchester**

I would like to book places to attend the binding workshop on October 2nd, at the John Rylands University Library, @ £40.00 per place.

I enclose a cheque for

Cheques should be made payable to **The Historic Libraries Forum** and should be sent to Miss C.L. Penney, Treasurer, 58 Selly Wick Drive, Birmingham B29 7JH.

If an invoice or a receipt is required, please enclose a stamped addressed envelope, or ask for them to be sent electronically.

Please note that the closing date for booking is 19th September.

Name(s) of attendee(s):

Name(s) of institution(s):

Telephone no. / Email

If you have any specific issues you would like to see addressed please note here:

BOOKING FORM

**Historic Libraries Forum annual conference:
November 20th, 2008, The Wellcome Institute, Euston Road**

I would like to book places to attend the annual conference on November 20th, at the Wellcome Institute, @£45.00 per place.

I enclose a cheque for

Cheques should be made payable to **The Historic Libraries Forum** and should be sent to Miss C.L. Penney, Treasurer, 58 Selly Wick Drive, Birmingham B29 7JH.

If an invoice or a receipt is required, please enclose a stamped addressed envelope, or ask for them to be sent electronically.

Please note that the closing date for booking is 7th November.

Name(s) of attendee(s):

Name(s) of institution(s):

Telephone no. / Email