

HISTORIC LIBRARIES FORUM

BULLETIN NO. 14

July 2009

After the announcement in the last *Bulletin* of the successful negotiation of a permanent home for the Nantwich Parochial Library, and a report in this issue on the safeguarding of Bromham, we are very pleased to announce further potential success with another parochial library in need of assistance.

The Church of St. Mary, Yelden, dates back to the thirteenth century. Its library was bequeathed by Edward Swanton Bunting (1791-1849), rector at Yelden from 1830 until his death. The books were housed in the rectory until its sale in around 1970, when the vast majority of the collection was deposited with Bedford Central Library. It consists of some 450 volumes, including around 20 printed prior to 1700. The library is currently poorly-understood and requires much further study. The books are an eclectic mix, primarily theological, but with a smattering of education, plays, medicine and mechanics. Like many parochial collections it has suffered from neglect and many of the books are in need of care and conservation.

Until recently, the future of the collection was extremely unsure – the Forum, alongside the Bibliographical Society, has been actively engaged in seeking a long-term solution for the library for well over a year. Happily, through the mediation of the HLF, the University of Worcester Library are now in negotiation with the PCC responsible for Yelden. We hope in the next *Bulletin* to feature a longer article on the collection and to be able to announce its transfer into safe hands.

The latest in our series of workshops take place in the coming months. The ever-popular introductory session on cataloguing rare or antiquarian material will be held in Manchester in July at the John Rylands Library (**FULLY BOOKED**), whilst a new session on the complexities of music cataloguing takes place at Murray Edwards College Cambridge in September. Our Annual Conference will take place on 17th November at the Royal Asiatic Society, London, tackling a depressingly current topic – security. Places at both workshops and the Annual Conference are, as ever, very limited – early booking is advised.

As promised at the start of 2009, the first of our free introductory guidance leaflets has just been completed and will soon be available as a pdf file to download from our website. It tackles some of the complexities and pitfalls encountered when working with Latin books, offers some invaluable advice and directs readers to some standard sources of reference. We are extremely grateful to Peter Hoare for his hard work compiling the guide. This is the first of an ever-growing series of such leaflets – please do let us know what topics you would like to see covered.

Ed Potten, Chair.

OPENING THE DOOR

Shandy Hall and the Heritage Lottery Fund

Laurence Sterne grabs the attention of the reader of *The Life and Opinions of Tristram Shandy, Gentleman* from the very first sentence. Throughout the nine volumes of his comic masterpiece he uses a fantastic variety of visual tricks and devices to entertain and enlighten his possibly wayward companion - you. An intimate exchange with the reader in Volume 1 has Tristram requesting

Shut the door!

in order that what he has to say can be said in private. Just you and him.

Shandy Hall already had a significant collection of editions of Sterne (and related prints and paintings) all held within the framework of the house where the book was created. But not all of the books were owned by the Trust that was set up to promote this genius of the Enlightenment. A considerable and important number were still owned by the estate of the previous curator, Kenneth Monkman, and there was no guarantee or obligation for these volumes to remain 'on loan'. They could be sold at any time and their future was uncertain.

Martin Rowson is a political cartoonist. He can be seen doing cartoon damage to politicians' reputations in the pages of the Guardian every week. He also created a graphic novel of *Tristram Shandy* which was published in 1996 by Picador - now long out of print. But the original drawings existed and in the opinion of the Trustees were important evidence of Sterne's continuing legacy.

The Heritage Lottery Fund was contacted and thanks to their help and guidance and the valuable assistance of then Museums Officer, Julie Biddlecombe, an application was submitted to purchase the books and the cartoons and make them accessible to the public. Identifying and cataloguing the collections by a trained Collections Officer would make them more accessible, so a two-year position was created as part of the application. After February 2009 Gillian Mason took up the post at Shandy Hall and is well down the path of bringing order to what is now the finest collection of Sterneana in the world.

In July this year an exhibition of Rowson's drawings will be on view in the gallery at Shandy Hall, a cartoonist-in-residence (Felix Bennett) will be working with VI formers in local schools and a programme of other educational events and talks will be taking place over the next two years

A case of the HLF helping the Laurence Sterne Trust to

OPEN THE DOOR!

Patrick Wildgust
Curator of Shandy Hall

HURD LIBRARY

Reports on the future of the Hurd Library at Hartlebury Castle have appeared regularly in the HLF Bulletin over the past two years. Readers may like to know a little more about it.

The library was created by Richard Hurd (1720-1808) who became Bishop of Worcester in 1781. He was a Midlands man, born in Staffordshire, and educated at the local grammar school in Brewood. He spent many years at Emmanuel College Cambridge, first as a student, then as a Fellow. He was ordained in 1724 but held no permanent living until 1757, when he obtained the college living of Thurcaston in Leicestershire. By this time he had become a close friend of William Warburton, the theological and literary scholar who later became Bishop of Gloucester. Warburton was a great help to Hurd in his career. Through his offices Hurd became known to George III who greatly admired his orthodox style and made him Bishop of Lichfield before moving him to Worcester. Two years later he tried to move him to Canterbury but Hurd resisted this and remained at Hartlebury. Warburton's patronage of Hurd did not extend only to his preferment. He had a wonderful library of his own; it included many books which had belonged to Alexander Pope, who had been a friend of his. Hurd was able to buy the bulk of this library when Warburton died in 1779 and when he arrived at Hartlebury he had a library built on to the back of the castle to house it. It is in the Adam style, a masterpiece of 18th century library design, which has been largely undisturbed ever since.

There are about 4,000 volumes. The earliest printed book is a French edition of the *Legenda aurea*, printed in Lyons in 1476, one of only 6 copies extant. Some 40 books belonged to Pope, all bearing his signature and, sometimes, marginal notes. One of these belonged formerly to Dryden and another to Swift. George III, who visited Hartlebury in 1788 and was greatly impressed, presented many books from his own library. There are also letters and commonplace books by Hurd himself and a manuscript in the hand of Thomas Gray, one of Hurd's friends. Hurd's tastes were catholic and his library reflects them. Subjects include, as well as the expected theology, science, medicine, literature, history, topography, classics, travel, botany and ornithology. Though the majority of books are printed in the 18th century (including items from the presses of the Foulis Brothers, Baskerville and Bodoni) some earlier masters of fine printing are represented – Froben, the Estienne family and Aldus Manutius. To paraphrase Henry James's criticism of *Middlemarch*, it is a treasure house of detail but a far from indifferent whole. It is the only collection of an Anglican Bishop still in its original room and on its original shelves. This is why it is so vital that it be saved.

Researchers have already begun to use the library and interested groups or individuals are also welcome, by appointment. Enquiries about visits can be made to Virginia Wagstaff, the Secretary of the Friends (v_wagstaff@yahoo.co.uk 01299 250883). See also the website: www.hartleburycastletrust.org

Christine Penney
Hurd Librarian

BROMHAM PAROCHIAL LIBRARY

Founded by Thomas, Lord Trevor (1658-1730) 'for the use of the parish and ministers of Bromham', like many parochial libraries in modern times the history of the Bromham Parochial Library has not been an especially happy one. Originally housed in a chamber of the south porch of a large Bedfordshire village church, the books were removed (apparently without faculty) for their own protection in the 1970s, and by the 1980s were in storage in the basement of the Central Library in Bedford. Despite the good offices of the staff, it was clearly a less than suitable environment for a large collection of early printed books, and concerns about the long-term preservation of the books led eventually to an application for a faculty to sell them.

There were several objections to the application, and the Council of the Bibliographical Society, which has long kept a watchful eye on ecclesiastical libraries, expressed its concern, but as usual the nub of the problem was finding a viable alternative solution. Unsurprisingly, the institutional libraries approached felt unable to take on a collection of 800 volumes, little interfered with but no longer in the first flush of youth (for which read: appealingly battered but potentially in need of conservation), especially when most of the books contained within it were already present on their shelves in one or more copies.

In this case, however, a plausible solution did present itself. Canons Ashby, some 25 miles from Bromham, is a seventeenth-century manor house, its nineteenth-century Book Room constructed in the 1840s to housing the library of the Victorian antiquarian Sir Henry Dryden. By the time the National Trust took over in the 1980s, the house was in truly terrible condition, and most of the original books - none of them bookplated - long gone: the Shakespeare First Folio had been sold as long ago as 1913. The shelves had been filled for the best part of three decades with an unholy mixture of surviving Dryden books, battered antiquarian books of various vintages, and dreadful set-dressing books, often in equally dreadful condition.

After protracted negotiations the Bromham books were moved to Canons Ashby on a thirty year loan in the autumn of 2008. While no collection of this kind ever means quite as much off-site as it does in its historic home, the books already look very much at home. The observant may even have noticed them beginning to appear on ESTC, but more remains to be done; this is very much a preliminary report, and the plan is that the remaining books will be investigated in more detail in the coming months.

Mark Purcell
Libraries Curator
The National Trust

DR WILLIAMS'S LIBRARY CONGREGATIONAL LIBRARY

The two libraries will be closing at 5pm on Friday 29 May 2009 for approximately three months. This will allow for the installation of a lift, a wheel-chair accessible entrance and a new strong room. The following initial closure measures have been agreed by the Trustees:

The maximum number of loans to Members will be increased to twelve items from Friday 1 May 2009. Books borrowed or renewed from 1 May will be due back on Thursday 1 October 2009. Postal borrowing will be suspended for June, but will resume on Wednesday 1 July (subject to stock and staff availability). Books must be returned by post from Monday 1 June until the Library reopens. Photocopying will be completely suspended during June, but a postal service will be available from Wednesday 1 July 2009. Requests will be subject to stock and staff availability, plus normal copyright and conservation restrictions. A minimum charge of £4 will be levied.

Enquiry services will be suspended throughout the closure. When the libraries reopen in mid-September there will be a restricted service of only two days a week, but it is hoped to resume the normal Library hours within a short period. In addition, not all the collections will be immediately available; it is likely that a number will not be accessible until the new strong room has been commissioned in the New Year. Further announcements will be made as more details become available. To receive the latest news from the Library by email, sign-up for our free e-bulletin. To subscribe, please send the Principal Librarian an email (alice.ford-smith@dwlib.co.uk) or fill out the form at the Enquiry Desk.

Ms Alice Ford-Smith/ Dr David Wykes,
Principal Librarian/ Director
Dr Williams's Library
14 Gordon Square
London WC1H 0AR
020 7387 3727

ST DEINIOL'S LIBRARY

St Deiniol's Library in Hawarden, North Wales, was William Gladstone's gift to the whole nation and, during 2009, we are leading the bicentenary celebrations of this great Liberal statesman and four times Prime Minister. The library was founded by Gladstone in 1894 at the end of an incredible parliamentary career spanning more than 60 years. He donated 32,000 books from his own personal collection – many containing his pencilled annotations – to create a library 'for the pursuit of divine learning'. Today, St Deiniol's is Britain's finest residential library and its only Prime Ministerial library. It is home to a world-renowned collection of more than 250,000 books, journals and pamphlets on a wide range of subjects, specialising in theology, history, art and literature.

To celebrate the bicentenary, St Deiniol's Library is continuing its commitment to the true spirit of Gladstone by addressing one of the most important issues of our age – the lack of understanding between Christianity and Islam. Later this year, we will launch a campaign to raise funds to build an Islamic Reading Room and a Religious

Education Resource Centre. The Islamic Reading Room will provide the opportunity for Christians and others to have a greater understanding of Islam and the new collection will be of sufficient depth and scholarship to be of value to Islamic scholars as well. As an independent institution, we can provide the neutrality and sympathetic ethos to nurture dialogue between different religions and cultures.

The Religious Education Resource Centre will continue our work with the St Mary's Centre carrying out research and promoting excellence in the provision of religious education in Wales.

In a separate initiative this year, we are celebrating a new partnership with Wrexham's Glyndŵr University through the creation of a Centre for Cultural and Theological Studies. This will enable Glyndŵr University to offer academic programmes in theology for the first time and allow students and staff access to St Deiniol's unique collection and resources.

The bicentenary of Gladstone is an excellent opportunity for St Deiniol's Library to raise its profile and engage with the most pressing needs of contemporary society with innovation, imagination and risk – just as its founder William Gladstone would have done. A Gladstone 200 Festival will take place at St Deiniol's Library on September 11th-13th featuring lectures, tours of the library and a special service of celebration with the Archbishop of Wales, The Most Revd Dr Barry Morgan.

Peter Francis, Warden of St Deiniol's Library www.st-deiniols.com

Using St Deiniol's Library

- The library is open from Monday-Saturday 9am-6pm (9am-10pm for residents); anyone can become an External Reader for a small annual fee. The library has an on-line catalogue of its collection, accessible via the website.
- St Deiniol's Library has 30 bedrooms, two meeting rooms, chapel and gardens. Homemade food is available daily in our Coffee Shop from 10am-2pm. Lunch is available from 12pm – 2pm.
- Guided tours of the library are available on the second Saturday and fourth Tuesday of each month, starting at 11am and cost £2 per person. Places are limited so booking is recommended.

HLF ON FACEBOOK

The HLF now has a group page on Facebook. This can be found at: <http://www.facebook.com/home.php?#/group.php?gid=28562679022>.

You will need to be a member of Facebook to use, it but joining is straightforward. On the group page you will find details of events and workshops, as advertised on the HLF website and in the Bulletin, but users will be notified of events as soon they are advertised on Facebook. It is also an easy way to network with other members, either publicly on the discussion board or via private messaging, and to share links to websites of interest.

Katie Lord

NEWS FROM NEWCASTLE

Three libraries have joined forces in the Hancock Museum, Newcastle upon Tyne

The Hancock Museum reopened on 23 May 2009 after a three year closure for refurbishment and enlargement. It has been renamed (most local people hope only temporarily) “The Great North Museum: Hancock”. The elegant room that previously held the library of the Natural History Society of Northumbria has become a restaurant and a new library suite has been built with a comfortable book-lined reading room and extensive storage space in mobile stacks. The Museum (but not the library) is leased by the Society to Newcastle University and, as part of the agreement for the funding of the rebuilding project, two other libraries are now housed in the same space, that of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne and the Cowen Library of the modern literature of archaeology belonging to the University. Together the three libraries form an exciting and rich resource. It complements the other principal scholarly libraries in the North East, those of the Literary and Philosophical Society of Newcastle, The Mining Institute, the Special Collections of the University Libraries of Newcastle and Durham and of the Newcastle City Library.

Both Societies were daughter foundations of the ‘Lit & Phil’, the Antiquaries in 1813 and the Natural History Society in 1829. Since then their members have donated fine collections to both libraries, supplemented by regular purchases. Both are particularly rich in the 19th-century literature in their fields and in local material for the North East of England. The Museum now also houses the archaeological and natural history collections of both societies, the former notable for Roman finds from the Hadrian’s Wall area and the latter, for example, for the fossils of the local coal measures and the bird collection of John Hancock. These are well complemented by the libraries. In addition the library holds the extensive archives of the Natural History Society (available only by appointment). The archives of the Antiquaries are deposited in the Northumberland County Archives in the Woodhorn Museum at Ashington.

A newly appointed librarian will be in post in the near future and the library expects to open to the public in the summer. The opening hours are not yet known and visitors should arrange to visit by appointment (Natural History Society of Northumbria 0191 232 6386, e-mail nhsn@ncl.ac.uk; Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne 0191 261 5390, email admin@newcastle-antiquaries.org.uk; librarian 0191 222 6189).

David Gardner-Medwin

Literary & Philosophical Society

The Board of the Newcastle Lit & Phil is reconsidering the proposals put to members recently regarding amalgamation with the Mining Institute. Members had expressed concern about the governance of the new body. In its latest *Newsletter* the Board “appreciates that any revised proposals must command the trust and support of the Society’s general membership, and that time must be devoted to careful explanation, discussion and revision. In particular, the Board notes the strength of Members’ wishes that the majority of the governing body should be directly elected by the Members, able to protect the independence, identity and values of both organisations, together with the integrity of their collections.” In the meantime, the Board intends to consult further with members and with colleagues in the Mining Institute before calling an EGM.

Felicity Stimpson

Newcastle City Library

Newcastle's new City Library opened to the public on 7th June. Among the many features in its six storey building is a new Local Studies and Family History Centre. This is home to the Newcastle Collection, which includes:

- **The Avison Collection**

Workbooks and other manuscripts of Newcastle composer Charles Avison (1709-1770) held in partnership with the Avison Society.

- **The Pease Collection**

John William Pease, a local businessman (1836-1901), spent more than 40 years collecting work by Thomas Bewick and his apprentices. The collection consists of printed works, manuscripts, woodblocks and a set of Bewick's tools. It was bequeathed to the City and is an internationally renowned resource, of great importance to Bewick scholars.

- **The Collinson Collection**

Richard Collinson (1811-1883), a naval officer and explorer, donated three volumes of exquisite watercolours of the plants of Northumberland and Durham to the library.

- **The Crawhall Collection**

Three generations of the Crawhall family of artists are represented: Joseph Crawhall I (1793-1853); Joseph Crawhall II (1821-1896), well-known for his chapbooks, and Joseph Crawhall III (1861-1913) who became part of the Glasgow Boys school of painting.

- **The Thomlinson Collection**

Dr. Robert Thomlinson (1668-1748), a local clergyman, left his substantial library to the town, where it was housed first in St. Nicholas' Church and at the end of the nineteenth-century was moved to the new Public Library.

The secure environmental conditions in the Newcastle Collection area, the stack, strong room and photographic store are all controlled subject to BS5454 requirements. An inergen gas fire suppression system has been installed as an added safety measure. In the public area there are 84 study spaces including 14 with free public PCs, 24 with microfiche readers and 6 with microfilm reader/ printers. There are two meeting rooms seating 35 and 12.

Kath Cassidy

Service Manager: Heritage

Newcastle Libraries and Information Service

CATALOGUING MUSIC WITH MARC

The Historic Libraries Forum has arranged a workshop on music cataloguing to be held at Murray Edwards College (formerly New Hall), Cambridge, on Monday 21st September 2009, starting at 10.15a.m. The course is intended for those with a good working knowledge of MARC who wish to extend their skills into music cataloguing. The course will be based on the Western classical tradition and will deal with printed and recorded music. There will be some advice both on cataloguing and dating antiquarian music; however the course will not deal with manuscripts. No prior knowledge of music is required.

We are fortunate to have as trainers for the day Ann Keith, Cambridge University Library and Amelie Roper, Royal College of Music Library.

Cost will be 35.00 including lunch in College, tea and coffee. Places are limited.

BOOKING FORM

Historic Libraries Forum Cataloguing Workshop 2009:
Cataloguing Music with MARC
Murray Edwards College
New Hall
Huntingdon Road
Cambridge CB3 0DF

I would like to book ... places to attend the cataloguing workshop on 21st September 2009 @ £35.00 per place.

I enclose a cheque, made payable to The Historic Libraries Forum, for £... .

Completed booking forms should be sent to Christine Penney, Treasurer, Historic Libraries Forum, 58 Selly Wick Drive, Birmingham, B29 7JH. Invoices and receipts can be supplied by email, or by post on receipt of a stamped addressed envelope.

Please note that there will be no further reminder once payment has been acknowledged.

Name(s) and email(s) of attendee(s):

Name(s) of institution(s):

(If requiring an invoice, please give the name of the person dealing with payment)

HISTORIC LIBRARIES FORUM ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2009 SECURITY

The 2009 HLF Annual Conference will be held at the Royal Asiatic Society, London, on 17th November and will cover a topic that has been in the news several times recently: security. Talks will include practical ideas for improving the security of your collection, what to do in the event of an incident and a panel discussion on security issues. As always, the day will include plenty of time for networking over coffee and lunch, as well as the Historic Libraries Forum AGM.

We already have some speakers confirmed but if you have any ideas for other speakers or particular topics or case studies please contact Katie Lord (k.lord@etoncollege.org.uk). Further details will appear in the next Bulletin.

PICTURES IN PRINT Illustrated books in Eton College Library 28 May – 16 September 2009

This exhibition will bring together a selection of printed volumes representing 400 years of book illustration, from the 15th century to the 19th. An array of didactic, architectural, topographic, scientific, technical and literary illustrations will be on display, alongside exhibits on techniques and tools used in decorating, representing and interpreting the printed word. Highlights include the library's copies of the Nuremberg Chronicle, Colonna's *Hypnerotomachia Poliphili*, Vesalius' *De fabrica* and a Kelmscott Press book, as well as illustrations by Holbein, Hollar, Blake and Bewick.

Please contact us at 01753 671221 or collections@etoncollege.org.uk to book an appointment to view the exhibition. Opening hours are Monday to Friday, 9.30-1 and 2-5.

Katie Lord
Deputy College Librarian,
Eton College

CAMBRIDGE OPEN LIBRARIES TRAIL

Cambridge Open Libraries Trail is part of Cambridge University's 800th celebrations on 11th and 12th September. It will be a chance to see libraries normally closed to the general public, including some of the old college libraries. Most of them will mount exhibitions. Details will appear in July on:

<http://www.admin.cam.ac.uk/offices/communications/community/open/index.html>

Open Cambridge will coincide with the national scheme of Heritage Open Days 2009 (<http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/>).

Alison Wilson

MECHANICS WORLDWIDE CONFERENCE, BATH, 2009
Thursday 24th - Monday 28th September 2009
Bath Royal Literary & Scientific Institution, 16 Queen Square, Bath, BA1 2HN.
Phone +44 1225 312084. Email: mechanics@brlsi.org.

This international conference will not just be of relevance to anyone interested in the history of mechanics' institutes but also to all who are concerned with the historical development of libraries, literary and scientific institutions, and the rise of urban and rural educational establishments. Mechanics' institutes developed along the lines of mutual improvement and self-education, and became widespread throughout Great Britain and Ireland during the nineteenth century. But the idea rapidly spread abroad and can be seen, for instance, in the Lyceum and Athenæum movement in the United States of America as well as in Australia, where many still survive, and thrive, as community centres. The first Mechanics Worldwide Conference was held in Melbourne, Australia, in 2004. This second meeting will continue to explore the same themes, embodying many new avenues of research undertaken since the first. The programme given below is still subject to change, and the latest details can be seen by viewing the website of the host, the Bath Royal Literary & Scientific Institution, and clicking on the 'Mechanics Worldwide' icon. See www.brlsi.org.

Wednesday 23rd September

Registration

Thursday 24th September

09.00 Registration.

10.00 Welcome by Convenors, Bob Draper and Peter Ford.

10.15 Lecture by Richard Wendorf, Boston Athenaeum: 'America's Membership Libraries'.

11.15 Adrian Jarvis, Liverpool University: 'In-borne Genius or the Product of a System?: the paradox of Samuel Smiles' views on Technical Education.'

12.00 Drinks and nibbles reception; delegates to get to know each other.

13.00 Lunch.

15.00 Mayor's Guides to show delegates some of the highlights of Bath.

16.00 Stuart Burroughs, Museum of Bath at Work: 'The Life and Work of Isaac Pitman, a Bath Resident'.

17.00 Keith Manley, Institute of Historical Research, University of London: 'Books, Baths and Billiards: the Story of Greenock Mechanics Library & Institution'.

17.45-18.45 Dr Gary Mathlin, University of Bath: 'The Herschel family'.

19.15-20.15 Civic Reception, Roman Baths.

Friday 25th September

10.00 Visit to the Mayor's Parlour and Guildhall.

11.00 Stephen Bird, Director Bath Heritage Services: 'The Cultural Heritage of Bath'.

12.00 Conference Lunch, Bath County Club. Principal Guest, Lady Gass, Lord Lieutenant of Somerset.

15.00 Bronwen Lowden: 'Mechanics' Institutes in Australia'.

15.45 Roger K. Morris, President, Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts: 'The Second Wave and Self-Help: The Schools of Arts of the Suburbs and the Rural Towns of New South Wales'.

16.30 Tea.

17.00 Janet Cunliffe-Jones, BRLSI: 'The Perilous Act of Lecturing': Clara Lucas Balfour, 1808-1878, prolific travelling lecturer'.

17.45 Dr Ann Brooks: 'Science, Liberality and good taste': the nineteenth century movement for Subscription Botanic Gardens'.

18.30 Reception sponsored by the Association of Independent Libraries.

20.15 Possible showing of a film or dramatised presentation about life in Georgian Bath.

Saturday 26th September

Association of Independent Libraries (AIL) Annual General Meeting All Conference Delegates are welcome to attend this integral part of the Mechanics 09 meeting.

10.00 Registration and coffee.

10.45 Welcome.

10.50 President's address: Dr Robert Anderson, Vice-President, Clare Hall, Cambridge.

11.15 Dr Michael Powell, Librarian, Chetham's Library, Manchester: 'Early Town Libraries'.

11.45 Peter Hoare, a director of BHL, former Chair of Historic Libraries Forum, Consultant to National Trust: 'Mechanics, Artisans, Operatives, Labourers and others'.

12.20 Annual General Meeting.

12.50 Lunch.

14.15 Dr Robert Anderson, Vice-President, Clare Hall, Cambridge: 'Where are the Mechanics' Museums?'.

14.45 Geoffrey Forster, Librarian, Leeds Library: 'Samuel Smiles in Leeds'.

15.20 Tea and Bath Buns.

16.00 Roger Brien, Devon & Exeter Institution: 'Devon and Exeter Institution: past, present and future'.

16.30 John Killen, Linen Hall Library, Belfast: 'Libraries and Revolution in Ireland'.

Sunday 27th September

Visit to Salisbury and Stonehenge. Assemble at the BRLSI at 10.45 for 11.00 departure. Return Bath around 19.00.

Monday 28th September – times to be confirmed

Prof. Alan Rauch, President, Society for Literature, Science, and the Arts Department of English, University of North Carolina at Charlotte: 'Private Subscription Libraries in Northern England'.

Scott Cherry, Loughborough University: 'Self Help Groups and Self Help Books'.

Prof. Wallace Kirsop, Monash University: 'The Bury Institute in Lancashire'.

Jana Sims: 'Mechanics Institutes in Sussex & Hampshire'.

13.00-15.00 Possible visit by boat along the River Avon to Bathampton, three miles away. Admiral Phillips, Founder of Sydney, Australia, is buried there.

15.00-16.45 Conference Summary. Panel discussion of the future of Independent Libraries, Athenaeums, Working Men's Institutes, etc. Choice of venue for next meeting in 2014.

Depart around 17.00.

Dr K. A. Manley
(Institute of Historical Research)