

HISTORIC LIBRARIES FORUM

BULLETIN NO. 23

October 2012

Unfortunately this bulletin brings more bad news from recent months of library closures and sales.

There was further evidence of the problems of deposited collections (see bulletin 22) with the news of the possible sale of the Mendham collection, housed at Canterbury Cathedral Library. Those of you who follow the HLF on Twitter will have already seen the details, but there was extensive coverage in the press and by the BBC, with a very active Twitter campaign to try to save the collection. Further details and an online petition may be found here: <http://www.change.org/en-GB/petitions/the-law-society-of-england-and-wales-stop-the-break-up-and-sale-of-the-mendham-collection>

The final part of the sale of the Birmingham Medical Institute's collections went ahead in July. We have just heard news of the future of the Women's Library. A number of bids were submitted to take over the collections and the London School of Economics was successful. Further details are available here: <http://www2.lse.ac.uk/library/news/Womens-Library.aspx>

Please let us know of any other libraries which may be in danger. We can only help to spread the word and help save the collections if we know about them!

On a brighter note, we have a busy autumn planned, with a workshop on provenance fully booked in September. October will see a workshop at Bromley House Library in Nottingham, on the subject of cataloguing and volunteers – see below for further details. The Historic Libraries Forum Annual Meeting this year will be on the subject of making the most of our special collections. Again, further details are available later in the Bulletin. It would be great to see as many of you there as possible - the annual meetings are a great opportunity to network and share ideas and tips with others in a similar situation.

There are also further workshops planned for next year, details will be in the next Bulletin and will be emailed and tweeted when they are available.

We have leaflets on cataloguing in Greek and Cyrillic script in development. Please let us know of further topics for leaflets that you would find useful.

Finally, we have a new contact email address which the Bulletin is sent out from, and which can be used for any queries about your membership, libraries in danger, workshops etc. Please get in touch with us via Members@HistoricLibrariesForum.org.uk

Katie Flanagan
Chair

COMMITTEE NEWS

Following the final closure of the British Museum library, Charles Hoare has stood down from the Committee. He had been a member of the Committee for quite some time and we would all like to thank him for all his work and wish him all the best for the future.

Edward Weech has replaced Charles. Ed is Deputy Library Manager at the Bishopsgate Library, which is hosting this year's annual meeting. I'm sure many of you will remember his talk at last year's Annual Meeting on the subject of managing volunteers. At Bishopsgate he's responsible for managing the public services, as well as the management and cataloguing of their printed collections.

We also have a new representative on the committee from the AIL (Association of Independent Libraries), Emma Marigliano. Emma, currently secretary of the AIL, has been Librarian at The Portico Library in Manchester since 1997, although she has worked there since 1987. She's curated a number of exhibitions which reflect her areas of research and interest. These include book illustration, art history, world mythology in art and literature, the visual interpretations of literature (in particular the works of Dante Alighieri), and library and book history.

I'm very pleased to welcome both Ed and Emma to the committee and I'm sure we will value their contributions.

Katie Flanagan

Peter Hingley (1951-2012)

Peter Hingley, Librarian at the Royal Astronomical Society, died on 20th June. He was an early member of the Historic Libraries Forum and ran what must have been one of the very earliest workshops, on 'Photographic Collections and their conservation' in June 1993, only a few months after the initial Forum meeting and before a constitution had even been established. He soon joined the Committee and served on it with energy and élan for many years. His enthusiasm for the Forum was infectious and carried us through times when the future looked bleak – and the Royal Astronomical Society was regularly the place for Committee meetings, with generous corporate hospitality which Peter arranged with this institution. As well as running workshops, he arranged for some of the Forum's Annual meetings to be held in other institutions at Burlington house through his links with their librarians, and brought the informal group of London learned society libraries into the Forum's membership. Notably, he ran the Forum's membership list for many years, an invaluable service as the numbers grew, and this also gave him the laborious job of "stuffing" the Bulletin into envelopes – together with advertising material which he was energetic in soliciting – then transporting the lot to the Post Office for despatch.

Eventually the demands of his job and of his other commitments (not least to the Royal Naval reserve and the Severn Valley Railway) led him to resign from the Forum committee not many years ago, though he remained a member and continued to attend meetings and keep in touch. We owe him a debt of gratitude for his exceptional efforts on the Forum's behalf.

Our sympathies go to his family, especially his former wife Sheila and their daughter.

Peter Hoare

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION HISTORY GROUP (LIHG)

LIHG Golden Jubilee:

To mark the 50 years since the Group's foundation towards the end of 1962, we are holding a grand celebratory event on Tuesday 6 November at CILIP HQ, Ridgmount Street. Following the group's AGM at 2pm there will be a special members' event, with speakers considering the achievements of the Group over the last 50 years, the ways in which our subject has developed, the role of library and information history, and its future. Besides a fascinating programme of talks and the opportunity for stimulating discussion, there will be cake! For those unable to escape during working hours, festivities will continue into the early evening, as we adjourn to the regular monthly Seminar in the History of Libraries (5.30pm exact venue *TBC* - check our website for details nearer the time), with guest speaker Dr Mark Towsey (and more cake).

12:00 – 14:00 Committee meeting

14:00 – 14:30 AGM

14:30 – 15:30 Three speakers:

- Peter Hoare: "The History and Objectives of the Group"
- Mark Purcell: topic TBC
- David Bawden : "Thomas Jefferson, Dwight D. Eisenhower, and information history for the future"

15:30 – 16:00 Discussion - future directions for library & information history

16:00 - 17:00 Social/celebration with drinks, cake, invited guests 5pm leave Ridgmount Street

17:30 --- Seminar in the History of Libraries: Dr. Mark Towsey (University of Liverpool): "I Can't Resist Sending you the Book: Private Libraries, Elite Women, and Shared Reading Practices in Georgian Scotland", followed by further social/celebration: Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU, Jessel Room, first floor.

We hope that as many as possible past, present, and prospective members of the Group will be able to join us to make this an anniversary to remember. The event is free, but we do ask that participants RSVP for the main event at CILIP HQ, so that we may order in enough cake! Please RSVP Renae Satterley by 1 November: r.satterley@middletemple.org.uk

LIHG 50th Anniversary James Olle Awards

The Group is also marking its jubilee with a special programme of awards to stimulate new research into any aspect of library history or information history. If you are undertaking research, whether professionally or privately, do check out the details on our website (www.lihg.org). To reflect the five decades of the Group's work, we have exceptionally made five awards of up to £500 each available this year. Two of the awards are earmarked for students and/or unwaged, others are open to all.

CALL FOR PAPERS

2013 LIBRARY & INFORMATION HISTORY CONFERENCE The 2013 conference will have the theme “Libraries in the Public Sphere: How the past informs the present and the future” and will be held on 1 July 2013 at Manchester Metropolitan University (**not** in Brighton as previously stated).

Papers are welcome on, but not limited to, the following conference themes:

- Education
- Architecture
- Community
- Image
- Collections

Abstracts of no more than 250 words (for individual 20 minute papers) should be sent to Monica Blake at info@blakeinformation.com by 31 January 2013. Abstracts for convened panels of three papers are also welcome. Please include which theme the paper/panel is for with your submission. All enquiries welcome. Accepted conference papers will be considered for publication in a special issue of the Group’s journal *Library & Information History*.

SEMINAR AT ROYAL UNITED SERVICES INSTITUTE LIBRARY OF MILITARY HISTORY

As the result of a collaborative effort between the APML, LLPSLG and HLF, to produce a series of training events at a more affordable rate, please find attached/below details of a seminar to be held at the Royal United Services Institute Library of Military History, Whitehall, London.

Date: Tuesday 16th October 2012

Time: 2.30pm – 4.30pm

Cost: £30 (Costs cover tea/coffee, handouts and a contribution to the conservation of the library.)

Title: **Bibliographic Format in books of the hand-press period** by Carlo Dumontet, former Special Collections Bibliographer at the National Art Library, V&A.

An in-depth talk about the importance of providing format information in bibliographic records and how to identify formats. The main formats will be covered, with practical examples to work with (mock-ups of printed sheets and actual books). Formats below the duodecimo will also be thoroughly discussed. Finally, awareness will be raised about problematic areas of analysis and how to deal with them. More seminars and talks on Rare Books cataloguing will follow.

Numbers are limited so please RSVP to me as soon as possible, a place will only be confirmed once payment has been received (by cheque made payable to RUSI or over the phone).

Laura Dimmock-Jones

LauraDJ@rusi.org

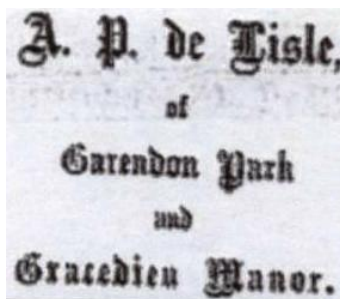
(020) 7747 2604

THE MARCH PHILLIPPS DE LISLE LIBRARY FORMERLY AT GARENDON HALL

In 1943 the library at Garendon Hall near Loughborough was sold. No contemporary catalogue of the library has survived. The Hall itself was demolished in 1964.

The Senior Trustee of Garendon is actively rebuilding this lost library and is keen to obtain any books (even odd volumes and regardless of content) inscribed 'Garendon' or 'Gracedieu' or items which contain the signatures of Thomas March, Thomas March Phillipps, Ambrose Lisle Phillipps, March Phillipps de Lisle or variants thereof. Books may contain the nineteenth-century book labels or armorial bookplates of Ambrose de Lisle (1809-1878). Please see the examples below. The Senior Trustee would be very grateful to receive bibliographical details of any ex-Garendon books held by other libraries or institutions to enable him to acquire substitutes.

If you are able to help in any way please contact: The Squire de Lisle, Cold Newton Lodge, Billesdon, Leicestershire, LE7 9JD.



EXHIBITIONS

John Fairburn: a Regency-era publisher and printer

An exhibition curated by Dr Ruth Richardson at Bishopsgate Library

Until December, Bishopsgate Library is hosting a small exhibition of the output of Regency-era London printer-publisher John Fairburn, curated by Dr Ruth Richardson FRHistS. The display, in the Library's historic main reading room, is accompanied by an online exhibition, which is available on the Bishopsgate Institute website at www.bishopsgate.org.uk/fairburn.

Most of Fairburn's output took the form of topical caricatures and cheap chapbooks, ephemeral items easily damaged or destroyed. Bishopsgate Library houses a number of these now very rare items, most of which are contained in our London Collection and George Howell Collection. As part of the exhibition, Dr Richardson provides a very insightful and readable commentary on Fairburn's work, explaining its social and political context as well as the role of publishers as advocates of reform. Dr Richardson highlights how Fairburn was able to publish some quite radical materials while managing to avoid being persecuted by the repressive governments of the Regency and George IV.

For details of the exhibition, as well as any other information about Bishopsgate Library's services and collections, visit our website at www.bishopsgate.org.uk/library.

Edward Weech, Bishopsgate Library

HISTORIC LIBRARIES FORUM ANNUAL MEETING 2012

MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

The Annual Meeting for 2012 will take place on Tuesday 20th November at the Bishopsgate Institute in the City of London. Registration is expected to begin at 9.30am and the first talk will commence at 10am. We expect to finish at 4.30pm.

This year's conference gives pointers on making the most of our Special Collections, both financially and in terms of exposure to users. Using the three topics of social media, exhibitions and filming in libraries, our speakers will give pointers on the practicalities, problems and benefits of exposing historic collections and buildings in new ways. There will be three papers in the morning, including Alison Cullingford (Bradford University) on why libraries should consider using social media and Harvey Edgington (National Trust) on filming in historic buildings.

In the afternoon six short case-studies (two on each topic) will bring together a wide range of professional experiences, with time for discussion and questions. Speakers include Suzanne Paul on filming in the Parker Library, Jill Whitelock on the Special Collections blog at Cambridge University Library, Mark Purcell on the use of Facebook by the National Trust and Katie Sambrook on exhibitions at King's College London.

Any queries about the day should be directed to the organiser, Liam Sims (email ls457@cam.ac.uk or telephone 01223 333123). Queries about booking and booking forms themselves should be sent to the Treasurer, Chris Penney (email clodpoll2001@yahoo.com or telephone 0121 471 3733; postal address on booking forms).



@HistLibForum



Historic Libraries Forum

BROMLEY HOUSE LIBRARY

Visit and exchange of experience :

Retrospective Cataloguing Project

Thursday 1st November 2012, 10:30-4:00, Bromley House Library

(Bromley House Library, Angel Row, Nottingham NG1 6HL)

<http://home.btconnect.com/BromleyHouseLib/bh-aboutus.html>

Numbers limited to 20

10:00 Registration & tea/coffee

10:30 **Carol Barstow** (Librarian) and **Peter Hoare** (Board Member)

Welcome and an introduction to the Bromley House Library

11:00 Tour of the Library and garden

12:00 Lunch (*to be purchased and paid for individually on the day*)

13:15 There will be 4 sessions in the afternoon, each comprising an introduction and plenty of time for discussion

- The Cataloguing project, including the use and 'management' of volunteers - **Mary Auckland** (Project Manager)
- Bromcat and the cataloguing process, including Heritage Library Management System, quality control and tracking progress - **Laragh Gillen, Geraldine Gray, Fiona McCluskey** (Cataloguers)
- Cataloguing the Library's rare books - **Peter Hoare** (Board Member and project volunteer) and **Nicola Rae** (Cataloguer)
- Fundraising and the Heritage Lottery Fund **Mary Auckland** (Project Manager) and **Carol Barstow** (Librarian)

15.30 Finish

UPCOMING COURSES AT THE BRITISH LIBRARY PRESERVATION ADVISORY CENTRE

NEW Applying risk management to collection care

Thursday 11 October 2012

British Library Centre for Conservation, 96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB

Risk management is a powerful tool for identifying and prioritising activities. It provides objective evidence which can be used to raise the profile of issues and justify resource allocation. Above all, it is a widely used methodology which makes it easy to communicate findings. This one-day workshop introduces the principles and guides you through the application of risk management framework to collection care. It is designed for people working with library and archive collections who have not previously undertaken a collection care risk assessment. <http://www.bl.uk/blpac/risk.html>

Understanding and preserving audio collections

3-day Course, 22-24 October 2012

British Library Centre for Conservation, 96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB

Taking you from 'what is it?' through collection management issues to preservation strategies, this three day course provides an overview of managing and preserving audio material, with an emphasis on digitisation for preservation and access.

The course is aimed at people with responsibility for creating, managing and using audio collections. No hands-on experience is necessary, but it is useful to have identified a collection to which the theory and practical elements of this course will be applied. <http://www.bl.uk/blpac/audio.html>

Damaged books and bound archives: practical first steps

Tuesday 6 November 2012

British Library Centre for Conservation, 96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB

This training day is aimed at people working and volunteering in libraries and archives. It provides an overview of how books and bound archives become damaged, actions to minimise damage, and first steps to address common forms of damage. It includes a practical session on making a protective enclosure, as well as information on how to recognise when to use a conservator. <http://www.bl.uk/blpac/damaged.html>

NEW Who cares? Advocating collection care

Thursday 8 November 2012

Preservation Advisory Centre/ ARA Workshop

"I know what we need to do, but nobody's listening to me."

"Our budget is being cut – how do I show the value of what we do?"

If this sounds familiar, then this is the workshop for you. Advocacy is all about communication. You need to be clear about what you want to achieve, your message, and who you want to hear it. This workshop explores how to build a persuasive, relevant and interesting case for collection care. It uses examples and experience from libraries and archives, discusses strategies for effective communication, and provides tips on monitoring and evaluating success. It is run in partnership with the Archives & Records Association (UK and Ireland). <http://www.bl.uk/blpac/advocacy.html>

Planning a digitisation project

Thursday 15 November 2012

British Library Centre for Conservation, 96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB

Digitisation can increase access to collections, provide surrogates for vulnerable originals, enable virtual reunification of collections or reveal information not available to the naked eye. This training day will help you plan a successful digitisation project with sustainable outcomes. It is focused on the digitisation of library and archive materials, though the principles are transferable to other formats. The day includes case studies which highlight different approaches to planning, managing and evaluating digitisation projects.

<http://www.bl.uk/blpac/planning.html>

Environment: effective monitoring and management

Wednesday 5 December 2012

British Library Centre for Conservation, 96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB

This training day helps you to understand and set realistic and achievable environmental targets for the materials in your care. It takes a pragmatic approach, draws on recent best practice and standards, and provides solutions to fit the resources available to you. At the end of the day you will be in a strong position to take cost-effective decisions and prioritise actions for maintaining a sustainable environment. The training day is aimed at people with responsibility for the care of library and archive collections. No previous collection care experience is necessary.

<http://www.bl.uk/blpac/environment.html>

BOOK REVIEW

Review of *The Special Collections Handbook* by Alison Cullingford

This is a gem of a book, filling a gap in library guidance which has become increasingly serious with the demise of rare books courses at many library schools. It is practical, pragmatic and comprehensive, and the author's hands-on experience in transforming the Special Collections at the University of Bradford shines through. The text is admirably concise, as befits a handbook, but manages to be both readable and suitable for quick reference.

The book is logically set out, leading the reader through the processes Alison has gone through herself. Starting with the basic physical care of collections: providing safe storage in a suitable environment and developing a disaster plan, she moves on to a short introduction to the many objects covered by the term 'special collections'. Manuscripts, early printed books and modern formats, including audio and visual media are all covered, with reference also to bibliography and provenance. Incidentally the description of material having 'inherent vice' was new to me! Chapters on acquisitions, cataloguing and reader services have much sensible advice which is also more generally applicable in libraries. Having established the care and management of the collections, the author moves on to marketing, widening access (considering specific audiences, such as students and schoolchildren) and fund-raising. Alison is particularly known for the way she has raised the profile of her library and she has many ideas for activities and the use of new media. It is

hard to find a topic not covered at some level. I would have liked a little more on the design of new special collections buildings but the flowchart on Special Collections spaces (p.116) is a good start.

Each chapter of the book ends with a selection of books for further reading, examples and case studies on the web, and a list of other useful websites. There are also case studies interspersed in the text, with catchy titles such as 'long valued, newly found' and 'love and fear in the stacks'. This really enlivens what could have been a dull book, and so does the author's obvious enthusiasm and sense of fun. The clear layout, with consistent use of bold type to highlight main sections and keywords in lists and in the text, speeds up the ready reference function. There is a good index (with occasional omissions) and a lengthy bibliography of works cited in the text. In fact one of the strengths of this book is that there are multiple references for each topic, both virtual and hard copy. I was pleased to see the HLF website listed under 'essentials'. It is a most impressive survey of the literature of special collections and should be on everyone's desk, from trainee to manager. Moreover the author has pledged to keep it up to date on a companion website at <http://specialcollectionshandbook.com> compensating for what she calls the 'dreaded link rot' and adding new publications as they appear. It is a huge task, and we should be very grateful to her for providing this splendid resource.

The Special Collections Handbook

Alison Cullingford

Facet Publishing

Price: £54.95

Price (to CILIP members): £43.96

ISBN: 978-1-85604-757-9

Alison Wilson, Murray Edwards College, Cambridge

HISTORIC LIBRARIES FORUM

Annual Conference 2012

"Making the most of your Special Collections"

Bishopsgate Institute, 230 Bishopsgate, London, EC2M 4QH

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

Tuesday 20th November, 10.00-4.00 (registration from 9.30am)

Booking form:

Please send this form, with a cheque for £40 (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)

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 5th November.

I wish to attend the HLF conference on 20th November

Name:

Address:

Institution:

Email (please write legibly):

Telephone number:

Please tick here if you are NOT happy for your telephone, email and web details to be listed in the conference delegate listing:

Dietary requirements:

Payment enclosed (please tick):

Payment to be paid institutionally (please tick):

Invoice required (this will be sent electronically; if a paper copy is required, please enclose an SAE):

Address to which invoice is to be sent:

HISTORIC LIBRARIES FORUM

Visit and exchange of experience Bromley House Library Retrospective Cataloguing Project

BOOKING FORM

Thursday 1st November 2012, 10:30-15:30 at Bromley House Library,
Angel Row, Nottingham NG1 6HL
Registration & coffee at 10am for a 10.30 start – finish circa 15.30

Due to the space restrictions at Bromley House places are limited. Should applications exceed the number of places, it may be possible to arrange a repeat event.

Please note that Bromley House Library is located on the first floor and above, and there is no disabled access to the Library

Please return form to: Mary Auckland, Bromley House Library, Angel Row, Nottingham, NG1 6HL, or mary.auckland@bromleyhouse.org. Telephone number for enquiries about the event 0115 950 1090

There is no charge for this event. A sandwich lunch will be provided.

All booking forms must be received by Friday 20th October.

I wish to attend the HLF visit and exchange of experience event on Thursday 1st November 2012:

Name:

Address:

Institution:

Email (please write legibly):

Telephone number:

Special dietary requirements:

Travel advice:

Bromley House is a 15 – 20 minute walk from Nottingham Railway Station

There is no parking at Bromley House, and city parking is expensive. The closest car park is in Upper Parliament Street

http://en.parkopedia.co.uk/parking/carpark/upper_parliament_street/ng1/nottingham/

There is a good park and ride service into Nottingham, for more details see

<http://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=912>