

HISTORIC LIBRARIES FORUM

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Plans for the 2016 conference are developing and we hope that many of you will be able to attend. Our working title is *Impact: New audiences for historic collections*, and will include papers relating to engaging with and bringing different groups of people into your library, and on how we think about the success (or not) of such engagement. We hope to include speakers on engaging younger visitors with historic collections, partnerships between academics and libraries and collaboration with other heritage institutions. Confirmed speakers are Alison Cullingford from Bradford (on measuring impact), Pippa Smith (www.handlingthepast.co.uk) on bringing new audiences into your library, and Charlotte Villiers from Eton (on engaging younger visitors with historic collections). The conference will be held at King's College Cambridge on Friday 18th November 2016 and more information will follow as our plans become firmer.

Other events have taken place in recent months. In May HLF members were privileged to have a private visit to the Royal College of Physicians for a curator tour, by Katie Birkwood, of their exhibition *Scholar, courtier, magician: the lost library of John Dee*. The RCP is holding a free viewing on the morning of 20th July for library/archive/museum staff/volunteers, on which more below. On 24th June Cambridge University Library hosted a practical workshop on identifying historic bindings, with Dr David Pearson. All places were taken within 48 hours of the workshop being advertised, so do make sure you get in touch as soon as possible for future events to secure a place. A write-up can be found below.

We are pleased to announce that a new cataloguing leaflet has made its way to our website in the last couple of weeks. This one introduces cataloguing books in Hebrew and we hope it will be useful to members who might come across the occasional Hebrew grammar or Old Testament. We thank Vanessa Freedman, of UCL, for putting it together. A leaflet on cataloguing incunabula is in the process of being put together and – as ever – do please let us know if there is a particular topic you would like to be addressed by such an introductory leaflet.

This year has continued to remain quiet in terms of libraries in danger. The Committee is keeping its eye on possible developments at the British Museum, in relation to the historic Round Reading Room, though no announcements have been made on this subject for some time, and our recent letters to the Museum have gone unanswered. We are pleased that the St Bride Library has recently reopened, but it is a shame that this is only for one day each month (the first Wednesday) and that charges have to be made for fetching closed-stack material. We will continue to offer our support to the Institute and hope that a more suitable arrangement will be forthcoming.

The Committee is in the early stages of looking at putting together a survey for members on library management systems in historic libraries and special collections. This will look at use, functionality

and cost – amongst other things – and the results may help institutions looking to change LMS or find a new one, and may be useful to use in lobbying vendors to think about the sort of products they can provide to small institutions like those which the Forum represents.

Do get in touch with us (<http://www.historiclibrariesforum.org.uk/hlf/committee.html>) if you would like to share anything with the Forum membership or if you need advice. We look forward to meeting you at forthcoming events!

Liam Sims, Chair

Historic Libraries Forum Annual Conference 2016

Impact : New Audiences for Historic Collections

Booking will open soon for our Conference, to be held this year at King's College, Cambridge, on Friday 18th November 2016.

Two keynote speakers in the morning and three case studies in the afternoon will cover the many issues that surround expanding your audience, from approaching your parent organisation with an idea, to measuring the impact your service has made. The full schedule and booking information will be coming soon through our website, social media channels, and the next issue of *Bulletin*.

News

JOB CUTS AT THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES

We were dismayed to see the *Guardian* (22 March) report that the Society of Antiquaries has recently reduced its staff in a cost-cutting exercise, replacing three full-time and one part-time posts with three part-time positions. The *Guardian* reported significant opposition to the move from the Society's Fellows, one of whom was quoted as saying: "By downsizing the significance of the library, they are cutting the heart out of the Society.... It is being taken over by people who think that the only solution is to turn it into a campaigning and presentational body. They are not interested in traditional scholarship." As the Society's own website makes clear, it has "the largest antiquarian library in the country, with an outstanding collection of more than 130,000 books dating from the fifteenth century to the present day". These are challenging financial times for most learned societies, but the wearily familiar tactic of targeting experienced and relatively low-paid library staff to make savings is not much of a way forward.

The full article is still available at: www.theguardian.com/culture/2016/mar/22/scholars-condemn-philistine-cost-cutting-society-antiquaries

RESTRICTED ACCESS TO BOOKS IN BISHOP COSIN'S LIBRARY, 2016-17

During the academic year 2016-17 Durham University is undertaking a refurbishment project in the Exchequer Buildings within Palace Green Library. This work is a continuation of the multi-million pound programme of work at Palace Green Library. It will restore and refurbish the medieval Exchequer Building and enable greater public access in future, via guided tours. However, it will also place severe restrictions on access to the adjacent Bishop Cosin's Library.

It will not be possible to retrieve books in response to research requests between 1st September 2016 and completion of the works, anticipated to be sometime in April 2017.

Collections affected are:

- All printed books in [Bishop Cosin's Library](#) except those now with shelfmark SB or SB+
- [Maltby Collection](#) (except Maltby++)
- [Winterbottom Collection](#) (except Winterbottom++)
- [Durham University Music Exercises](#)
- Gaylord
- Richmond Grammar School

Please note that [Cosin Letter Books](#) and [Cosin manuscripts](#) are **not** affected by these access restrictions as they are permanently located elsewhere within Palace Green Library.

In order to enable some access to material during this period and to minimise the impact on researchers, we can make arrangements to relocate individual volumes where there is a need for access to copy-specific items.

We request that any researchers seeking access to material contact us **before 26th August 2016**, with information about the individual volume(s) they wish to access and the reasons for their need for access to specific copies.

For requests or any queries, please contact Judy Burg, Head of Archives and Special Collections, Palace Green Library, Judy.Burg@durham.ac.uk

YORKSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY COLLECTION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

A unique collection of manuscripts, archives and books relating to Yorkshire's history has a new home at the University of Leeds.

The Yorkshire Archaeological and Historical Society Collection (YAHS), probably the largest single resource for research on Yorkshire's past outside the British Library, has been entrusted to the University's Special Collections on long-term loan. With items dating from the 12th century among its 45,000-plus works, the collection reflects the Society's dedication to the study of Yorkshire's archaeology, history and society over more than 150 years. The archive, a catalogue of which is being made available online, fills more than a third of a mile (550m) of University of Leeds library

shelves. Its highlights include the document that signalled the end of the Battle of Waterloo, in the Duke of Leeds Collection, and letters patent of Queen Elizabeth I, adorned with a delicately drawn and brightly-coloured portrait of the monarch and with the Queen's seal still attached by silver cords. Other items of international importance include the Wakefield Court Rolls, which were included in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Memory of the World register in 2011. The 670 rolls provide records of society and industry in the West Riding from 1274 to 1925.

University Librarian Dr Stella Butler said: "This is an important moment for both organisations, representing a strong partnership which will safeguard historical material of international importance. It is an impressive collection of manuscript and printed material built up by the Society over more than 150 years and it has a broad appeal to researchers in many areas of history, providing a rich and varied resource for local, family, architectural, economic, social, religious and landscape history. We are honoured to be custodians of it on behalf of the Yorkshire Archaeological and Historical Society."

Dr Gill Cookson is the society's President, and also an Honorary Research Fellow in the University's School of History. She added: "Academic researchers and anyone interested in Yorkshire history will now be able to explore the society's archive in the University Library Special Collections reading room. The YAHS library will be shelved in a special Yorkshire section at the Brotherton Library."

YAHS continues to build its collections. A new set of documents bought at auction last February complements one of the jewels of the YAHS archive, the original George Walker images published in 1814 as *The Costume of Yorkshire*. Joanne Fitton, Head of the University's Special Collections, said: "The collections provide a fantastic unique resource that is accessible to students and academics in the University and we welcome the new opportunities this brings for teaching and research. The Special Collections reading room is open to all members of the public and the resources of the YAHS will encourage more people to visit our service for the first time."

The archive contains major family and estate documents, original records of all kinds and secondary manuscript material such as antiquarian notes, heraldry, pedigrees, transcripts and copies of documents, drafts, notes and reports. It is being released to the public in stages, with the first items now available to view. These include the Wakefield Court Rolls, the diverse Bradfer-Lawrence Collection, and the Ralph Thoresby Collection of correspondence from the late 17th and early 18th centuries.

The Society began to acquire books and manuscripts for its members to consult in the 1860s. Today it continues to promote the study of Yorkshire's past through talks, excursions and publications. The collection has been relocated from the Society's base at nearby Clarendon Road.

A catalogue of the contents has just gone online at <https://library.leeds.ac.uk/special-collections-yorkshire-archaeological-and-historical-society>. Details about how to visit Special Collections and view items is available here. Please note that 24 hours advance notice is required to access YAHS material.

A sample of items from 150 years of collecting

- A register of deaths of prisoners in York Castle which records the execution of notorious highwayman Dick Turpin in 1739
- Heraldry: Detail from a 17th century volume of arms belonging to the Horsley family of York, herald painters
- Outstanding early maps, including ones of Silsden and Brunthwaite (c.1612) and Knaresborough (1629)
- Rare and intricate drawings by pioneering naturalist Dr Martin Lister (1639-1712), credited as the first arachnologist and conchologist, specialising in spiders and molluscs, respectively
- An 1828 letter from Charles Carroll, the last surviving signatory of the American Declaration of Independence, to his grand-daughter Marianne Caton, sister-in-law of the Duke of Wellington, and to Francis Osbourne, 7th Duke of Leeds
- The vast Duke of Leeds collection also includes the Battle of Waterloo surrender papers and a letter from Wellington to Carroll setting out the need for a special relationship between Britain and the USA
- The 15th century Fountains Abbey stock book, recording animals kept on the abbey's granges (farms) on Malham moor and elsewhere
- A 1683 book of medicinal and culinary recipes by Margaret Savile containing "An excellent recipe to get a good husband"
- George Walker's famous 39 watercolours of local scenes and people which were published in 1814 as *The Costume of Yorkshire*
- Many records of manorial courts, including those of Skelton, in North Yorkshire, with bizarre offences from the 1770s including a £1 fine for "throwing a seal calf into the town street".

(A fuller version of this article can be found on the [University's website](#))

New Resources

HISTORIC BOOKBINDINGS IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN

The Koninklijke Bibliotheek, the national library of the Netherlands has put a large collection of its bookbindings on Wikimedia. Digitised front views of bindings ranging in date from 1100-1874 can be seen online at:

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Bookbindings_from_Koninklijke_Bibliotheek

LAMBETH PALACE LIBRARY IMPROVES ACCESS TO DIGITAL IMAGES

LUNA software was acquired to upload and manage images of material to create a searchable online resource. This data is now available online alongside the Library's other catalogues:

www.lambethpalacelibrary.org/content/searchcollections

The system contains over 22,500 images dating from the medieval to the modern period and covers:

- The manuscripts sequence including illuminated manuscripts and manuscripts from Sion College
- Lambeth printed book collections (including prints) and selected items from the Sion College collection
- Selected parts of the Archbishops' papers and archives
- Selected images from the collections of the Church of England Record Centre

The system also allows access to some 14,000 images digitized from the archive of the Incorporated Church Building Society (ICBS) which were formerly available via the Church Plans Online website and provide a valuable resource to architectural historians and others interested in church fabric, local historians, and other researchers. This complements catalogue data on the ICBS archive which is accessible via the Library's archive catalogue.

It is now easier to identify images including those relating to particular people and places. The system also allows users to zoom into details of images. In addition, the 'book' functionality of the software has made some complete texts available electronically.

PUBLICATION OF *SPECIAL COLLECTIONS DIRECTORY* 3RD EDITION

Facet Publishing has announced the release of the third edition of the *Directory of Rare Book and Special Collections in the United Kingdom and Ireland*.

The *Directory* is the only publication to bring together rare book and special collections from all kinds of libraries across the UK and Ireland and is an essential research tool for researchers and librarians throughout the world. Fully updated since the second edition was published in 1997, this comprehensive and up-to-date guide encompasses collections held in national libraries, academic libraries, public libraries, subscription libraries, clergy libraries, libraries for other professions, school libraries, companies, London clubs, museums and archives, and libraries in stately homes.

Richard Ovenden, Bodley's Librarian at the University of Oxford said, "The new edition is a long-awaited reference work which will help researchers identify the UK and Republic of Ireland's great collections of research materials. It provides detailed and authoritative information and is a must for all serious researchers."

Edited by Karen Attar, Curator of Rare Books and University Art at Senate House Library, University of London, the *Directory*:

- contains a national, cross-sectoral overview of rare book and special collections
- offers full contact details, and descriptions of rare book and named special collections including quantities and particular subject and language strengths
- provides a quick and easy summary of individual libraries' holdings
- directs researchers to the libraries most relevant for them
- assists libraries to evaluate their special collections according to a 'unique and distinctive' model
- enables libraries to make informed decisions about acquisition and collaboration
- helps booksellers and donors to target offers

David Prosser, Executive Director of Research Libraries UK said, "Together, institutions in the UK and Ireland hold unrivalled special collections. From our great National Libraries, through university collections to the smaller collections of specialist societies, cathedrals, historic homes, and museums

we have a centuries-old tradition of collecting, preserving and giving access. Scholars from around the world and across disciplinary differences rely on the treasures held by libraries listed in the *Directory* to pursue their research and help us make sense of the world in which we live."

The Historic Libraries Forum is thanked for its support in the acknowledgements, with particular thanks going to Committee member Christine Penney for her invaluable assistance in telephoning well over one hundred libraries to chase entries. Contributing libraries can purchase one copy of the *Directory* at a 20% discount.

ONLINE CATALOGUE LAUNCHED

Downside Abbey Archives & Library is pleased to announce its first ever [online catalogue](#), launched as part of the Heritage Lottery Fund *Beacon of Learning* project. The culmination of three years' work, the catalogue currently holds approximately 1,000 records of the Abbey's rare book and new acquisition holdings and the number will grow as cataloguing continues in the future.

Upcoming events

PRESERVATION ASSESSMENT SURVEY WORKSHOP

with Julia Foster and Paul Garside

Location: The British Library

Date: 15 September 2016

www.westdean.org.uk/bl

Preservation Assessment Survey Workshop designed for library and archive staff (no previous knowledge of preservation is required), the workshop introduces a variety of collection survey methods, explains the benefits of carrying out a survey, provides options for selecting a sample and includes a practical session allowing attendees to plan, measure, and compile survey data. Participants have successfully used the results of collection and condition surveys to support funding bids and to inform internal planning and budgeting for preservation.

For further information about the course, please contact the Course Organiser: +44 (0)1243 818219 or CPD@westdean.org.uk

ETON COLLEGE LIBRARY MARKS SHAKESPEARE 400

Eton College Library is marking the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death with a new exhibition, 'Shakespeare on Page and Stage', bringing together rare books, prints, drawings and other materials from its rich holdings in English literature and theatre history to illustrate changing approaches to presenting Shakespeare's plays over the centuries.

Starting with Shakespeare's status as a cultural icon and efforts to fill in the gaps of how little concrete information we have about him in spite of this, the exhibition goes on to outline the early publication history of the plays (including Eton's copy of the celebrated First Folio), and evolving practices in production texts, staging, costume and set design. It concludes with a closer look at six major Shakespearean characters.

This free exhibition is open until 3 October, Monday to Friday, 9.30-1 and 2-5 by appointment. To book, please contact us at collections@etoncollege.org.uk or telephone 01753 370590.

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION HISTORY GROUP UPCOMING EVENTS

Lost Libraries: A Walk Through Some of London's Forgotten Book Collections – 15th September 6pm – 8pm

Twenty-first century London contains some of the finest book collections in the world, but what about the libraries that haven't survived? If you know where to look, London's streets and alleyways are crammed with the ghosts of libraries past. This walk will carry you back through London's history, to long-forgotten libraries, readers, librarians and collectors. In the company of Alice Ford-Smith (Bernard Quaritch Ltd), Lost Libraries uncovers some of the links between London's past and present book collections. From Bloomsbury to the City, you will hear tales of enterprise, transformation, obsession and destruction. Meeting point: Gray's Inn Library, 5 South Square, High Holborn, London, WC1R 5ET Tube: Chancery Lane / Holborn. The walk's meeting point will be the entrance to Gray's Inn Library. This can be found through a narrow archway, between Rymans and the Cittie of Yorke pub, on High Highborn. After a brief look around the Library, we will take to the streets. The walk ends at approximately 8pm a few paces away from St Paul's underground station. Please be ready for occasional steps, and no breaks! Numbers are limited to 25 people, and pre-booking is essential. Tickets are £10 each. Please email Erika Delbecque (erika.delbecque@st-hildas.ox.a...) to reserve your place. This event is open to all, so early booking is recommended. All of this information and more can be found on our website: <http://www.cilip.org.uk/library-information-history-group/events>

SENATE HOUSE LIBRARY'S EXCLUSIVE WORKSHOPS

[*Othello; The Curator's Room*](#) series began on Monday 6th June and runs through to August 2016.

As part of the library's Shakespeare Metamorphosis season, these exclusive talks by our expert curators on the metamorphosis of Shakespeare's *Othello* include previews of some of the rare treasures from our collection and are located at Senate House in the original Room 101.

OPEN AFTERNOONS AT KEDERMINSTER LIBRARY

The beautiful 17th-century Kederminster parish library at Langley, near Slough, has several open afternoons coming up this year. It is a great opportunity to see a parish library dating from the 1630s in its original home. It is also possible for individuals and groups to visit at other days/times by prior arrangement.

Further details about the library and the open afternoons can be found here: <http://langlemarish.com/stmary/kedermister-library/>

CILIP RBSCG ANNUAL CONFERENCE: A RICH TAPESTRY: DIVERSE COLLECTIONS AND AUDIENCES

7th-9th September 2016, the University of Liverpool

The 2016 annual conference will focus on issues of equality and diversity in the special collections sector. The conference will be split into three strands regarding diversity of collections, diversity of audiences and diversity of the profession. We will be welcoming speakers from the RAC, York University, Liverpool John Moores, Glasgow Women's Library, The People's History Museum, the University of Sussex, Flash of Splendour, the Liverpool Record Office, CILIP and the Diversity in Heritage Group. There will be visits to notable Liverpool institutions and a conference dinner at the Merseyside Maritime Museum.

Booking is now open and bursary places are available for students, new professionals, the unwaged, retired members, CILIP CDEG members and members of CILIP NW <http://goo.gl/QVhOvK>

PRIVATE VIEW OF JOHN DEE EXHIBITION AT THE RCP

The Royal College of Physicians is delighted to invite library, archive and museum staff, volunteers and students to a free early morning private view of the critically acclaimed exhibition '[Scholar, courtier, magician: the lost library of John Dee](#)' on Wednesday 20 July 2016.

Coffee and pastries will be served from 8am. Our team will introduce the exhibition with an informal talk 15 minute talk from 9am. The exhibition will be open for viewing until 10.30am.

Please register online at: <http://johndeebreakfastviewing.eventbrite.co.uk>. The password to access the registration page is JOHNDÉE. Tickets are free.

SECOND YEAR OF *BENEDICTINE BATH*

After a very successful inaugural year in 2015, *Benedictine Bath* is back for 2016. This ten day programme of events across Bath (8-18th July) is the product of a partnership of Downside Abbey, Bath Abbey, City of Bath Guides, St John's RC Church, and St John's Hospital. It promises to be a wonderful celebration Benedictine culture and heritage. Please see link below for details and booking.

<http://www.downside.co.uk/downside-library/partnerships/benedictine-bath/>



Historic Libraries Forum



@HistLibForum

Reports from recent events

HLF WORKSHOP: PRACTICAL INTRODUCTION TO HISTORIC BOOKBINDINGS

Friday 24th June 2016 at Cambridge University Library

Entering the Milstein Room of Cambridge University Library, attendees were greeted with a table topped with an eclectic collection of books illustrating the evolution of bindings over 500 years. This was to be a practical introduction to historic bindings, and the day was nicely divided between informative presentations, giving a thorough grounding in binding materials and structures and the development of decorative styles, and close-up examinations of examples drawn from the shelves of the University Library.

David Pearson started the day by asking the question ‘why are bindings historically important?’ While his audience certainly needed no persuading that bindings are a valuable and revealing aspect of historic book collections, the points he made throughout his talk gave an interesting context and useful insights into the study of book bindings. Historically, there has been a bias towards fine bindings and the work of known, identifiable binders. However, even simple and plain bindings tell us something important about the book, and every binding made before the mechanisation of the trade in the nineteenth century is a unique, handcrafted object – no two bindings are truly identical. They can also tell us about the ways in which books have been used and regarded. David illustrated this point with the example of Shakespeare’s First Folio: of the 234 known copies something like 7% survive in contemporary bindings – plain looking with simple blind tooling – while 93% have nineteenth- and twentieth-century gold tooled, goat skin bindings. This nicely demonstrates the value judgements made on books – the perceived worth of a book over time.

The second talk focused on the materials used in binding, and it was here that the opportunity to closely examine items from the UL’s collections was of great value. We learnt how to distinguish calf from sheepskin (the latter is more grained and more susceptible to damage, with characteristic long thin tears), and pigskin from vellum (look out for the triangular pattern of hair follicles characteristic of pig). Most heartening was David’s advice not to be afraid to take a guess when describing bindings. It is perfectly acceptable to qualify your description with a question mark, and this may open up future academic dialogue.

After a break for lunch, the afternoon sessions concentrated on decorative styles. We were given a fairly fast-paced survey of centuries of decorative evolution. Beginning with the earliest existing European binding, the St Cuthbert Gospel from the early eighth century, we learnt about changing fashions and the development of less labour-intensive methods (no doubt much needed given the enormous growth in the output of the presses over the centuries). David maintained an English focus in his chronology, but explained that the styles were generally pan-European. After this fascinating talk we were treated to a new set of books which allowed us to observe first-hand the styles David had described. This visual chronological display of the evolution of bindings over the centuries was enormously valuable, and probably my highlight of



Early 18th c. cottage-roof binding, CUL SSS.30.19

the day.

I think we all left feeling we had learnt a huge amount and with new knowledge to apply to our collections. David gave us each a bibliography of reference works and surveys which I, for one, am keen to dive into. As David said at the start of the day, bindings are a Cinderella area in rare books librarianship – there is still much to draw from their artefactual qualities and much more work to be done. There is no substitute for looking at and handling bindings, and I'm looking forward to returning to my library with a much greater confidence to identify, date and describe the bindings sitting on its shelves.

Many thanks to the HLF for organising the day, to David Pearson for sharing his knowledge in such an engaging and accessible way, and to Liam Sims and the other staff in the Rare Books Room at Cambridge University Library, who kindly took the time to seek out and share items from the collections with us.

Sarah Fletcher, Assistant Librarian, St Catharine's College, Cambridge

BOOK HISTORY RESEARCH NETWORK WORKSHOP: WHAT'S IN A NAME? COLLECTIONS WITHIN THE COLLECTION

Friday 10th June 2016, University College London

The workshop, organised by Anne Welsh, aimed to explore the nature of collections and their role in book history. The papers, both traditional length and lightning talks, were varied, but a few common themes emerged.

Dr William Zammit (University of Malta) started the day by introducing a collection of material prohibited by the Catholic Church, but held in a Catholic institution, the library of the Order of St. John in Malta. The assembling of this collection throughout the centuries, within a Catholic, yet cosmopolitan and multi-religious environment, and the range of material it contained, either still extant, or reconstructed through inventories and catalogues, highlighted the importance of research on provenance and users.

My own paper, based on my doctoral research on the history and provenance of four parochial libraries held at the University of Reading Special Collections, assessed various definitions of the concept of parochial library, and measured them against my case studies. Given the impossibility to reach a perfect definition, it continued by asking not only what is a parochial library, but also what is a library, whether any collection of books can be called a library, and what makes a group of books a collection.

The importance of both inventories and material evidence in the reconstruction of lost collections was the focus of the third paper. Dr Flavia Bruni, from the Sapienza University of Rome, presented on the methodology she used to reconstruct the library of the Friars of San Pier Piccolo in Arezzo, Italy. The serendipitous realization that two ghosts listed in the inventories were actually describing

physical volumes containing two works bound together led to the recognition of specific spine labels, markings and shelfmarks, which in turn allowed her to identify many more volumes.

Robert Smith from the British Library continued on the theme of what is a collection, by arguing that *Tarnschriften*, literally ‘camouflaged pamphlets’, a specific form of literature, political, social, and cultural, issued by exiled Germans chiefly during the years of the Nazi regime and usually bundled with propaganda literature, do not fit into this classification, and should be considered separately.

Kayleigh Betterton, from Birkbeck, University of London, started from the concept of collections as implying the movement of books, focused on how collections are deconstructed, rather than constructed, and introduced a third theme for the day, the psychology of collecting, and donating, books. A formidable woman in fin-de-siècle London managed to have her name inscribed in the donors’ book of the Athenaeum, a strictly male-centric institution, possibly as a way to elaborate her mourning for the loss of her husband, the book collector. On book collecting, Kayleigh also announced the creation of the first Society of Bibliophiles at UCL, to be launched in October.

Next, Elizabeth Dumas of Corpus Christ College, Cambridge reprised the theme of the importance of institutional inventories and catalogues, as well as institutional memory, to reconstruct the history of a collection, but went further in highlighting the value of these tools for curating the collection, and the impossible task of unpicking the enormous amount of work by earlier curators.

The last session of the morning included two lighting papers. Alison Walker talked about the British Library Sloane Printed Books Project, touching on methodologies for reconstructing lost libraries, from walking the shelves to trawling through the catalogues, on the existence and importance of smaller collections within the Sloane collections and of groups of Sloane books in other institutions, with their various layers of collecting, and on the possibilities unlocked by the various ways in which the Sloane database can be interrogated.

Vanessa Freedman described the history of the Mocatta Collection at UCL, a remarkable collection of Hebrew books, originally shelved and managed separately within UCL, but fatally destroyed during the Second World War (apart from the most precious items, which had been evacuated to Wales). Reconstituted after the war from various sources, the Mocatta collection was at last reabsorbed into the main UCL collection. This was an interesting case of a named collection that does not exist anymore as such, but is still alive as a separate entity in people’s minds, another reminder of the interconnections between books and psychology.

We were treated to a fascinating display of Mocatta books after lunch, including spectacularly illuminated manuscripts from Italy and Spain, books bound in morocco or in tortoiseshell, and a funeral poem in English for the death of King George III, printed on satin. On the other side of the table, our eyes feasted on modernist poetry, in particular the Vorticist manifesto published in the first issue of the journal *Blast*, and graphic notations for experimental music.

The afternoon restarted in earnest with Dr Robyn Adams from UCL, presenting the project “Building a library without walls” at the Centre for Editing Lives and Letters. The project aims to reconstruct the early years of the Bodleian Library through archival material and early records of the library, and

will track the movements of books through time, as well as the rich social connections between the individuals connected with them. All data will be mapped and visualised in 3D, an exciting use of digital tools as scholarly methods of enquiry.

Katie Birkwood spoke about the lost library of John Dee through his books currently held at the Royal College of Physicians, in the collection donated by Henry Pierrepont, Marquess of Dorchester. Many have inscriptions by Nicholas Saunders, and the story of how these books were lost to Dee reprises the themes of the deconstruction of collections and successive layers of provenance, including the interests of previous owners.

Dr Sophie Defrance presented on the Eragny Press books at Cambridge University Library, asking what makes a collection, and arguing that, even without an evident intent to collect, a substantial body of works, together with archival material and collectible items (the Eragny Press type), can form a coherent collection and research source. On the psychological side of collecting and disposing of collection while mourning the loss of a loved one, Esther Pissarro, on her way back to England after the death of Lucien, allegedly threw part of the Eragny type into the Channel, possibly as a bridge between the two countries beyond their books and their marriage.

Revitalised by tea and cakes, we listened to Dr Karen McAulay describing the copyright music collection at St Andrews University. Besides interesting questions on why it was collected and to what extent, she mentioned the presence of several collections within the collections, such as wartime music, or music by women composers, bound separately.

Still in Scotland, at least virtually, Dr David Atkinson introduced us to the John Mitchell Collection of Scottish Chapbooks, a snapshot of street literature in a particular time, 1828, and place, Aberdeen, today useful as a valuable case study of Scottish literature.

The final papers of the day included Jo Maddocks from the British Library on the curiously embellished books and the even more curious personality of John Bellingham Inglis, a modest man with an amazing library, and the relationship between collector, author, and material item, exemplified by Inglis' refusal to embellish the text of other authors. Katy Hooper of Sydney Jones Library, University of Liverpool, described the process of creation of a modern collection. The Dental Museum Collection, including artefacts, archival material, and books, raised several questions on the identity of a collection, and consequently the most suitable location for it. Katy gifted us with a fantastic example of how to find and define the context of a collection. Finally, Jacqui Grainger of the Globe Theatre introduced us to her work on reconstructing the sources Matilda Betham used to collect the lives of celebrated women.

To round off such a successful event, Dr Catherine Armstrong announced the next Book History Research Network event, which will take place at the Worth Library in Dublin on November 25th, on Book Collecting in Ireland and England. Anyone interested in joining the BHRN should email her at: C.M.Armstrong@lboro.ac.uk

Maria Franchini, PhD Student in Collections-Based Research (English Literature and History), University of Reading (Project title: Four local parish libraries: Henley, Abingdon, Didcot and

Buckland). Also *Antiquarian Cataloguer, Sparrow Collection, Codrington Library, All Souls College, Oxford; Saturday Special Collections Reading Rooms Duty Officer, Weston Library, Bodleian Libraries, Oxford*

UCL CENTRE FOR DIGITAL HUMANITIES MASTERCLASS ON BROADSHEETS

9th June 2016, Lambeth Palace Library

After a brief introduction to the Lambeth Palace Library and its historic surroundings from Dr Naomi Percival, Collections Librarian, we met Dr Flavia Bruni (Sapienza University, Rome), who has developed her knowledge of single sheet items both as an academic researcher and as a cataloguer of broadsheets. Flavia's research utilises early printed books and manuscripts, libraries and censorship in the Early Modern Age as a source for understanding the religious history of Counter-Reformation Italy. The masterclass provided the wonderful opportunity to explore some of the treasures held in the rich collections at Lambeth Palace, which is the principal repository of the documentary history of the Church of England. The Library, founded in 1610, consists of around 120,000 books, 40,000 pamphlets, and over 100 periodicals, and, in 1996, was complemented by the transference of the manuscripts, pamphlets, and pre-1850 printed books of Sion College Library. Some of the broadsheets viewed in the masterclass in fact belong in this collection.

Ranging from fifteenth- and sixteenth-century broadsheets, now bound into volumes, to seventeenth century prints, Flavia's masterclass highlighted a variety of materials. Of particular note was a proclamation in the form of *The declaration of His Highness the Prince of Orange, concerning papists not departing from the cities of London and Westminster and ten miles adjacent*, printed by J. Starkey and A. and W. Churchill in 1689, and *A specimen by W. Caslon: letter-founder, in Ironmonger-Row, Old-Street, London*, most likely from around 1734. This latter item, printed in four columns, is an engaging example of printers' advertising.

Musical works were exemplified by William Cabe's *Amelia's complaint for the loss of young Edward: a new song*, suspected to date from the late eighteenth century. Lambeth's selection of broadsheets evidenced the breadth and variety of shapes and sizes of broadsheets, and it was fascinating to explore whether they had been bound thematically into a volume or with a casual disregard for the subject matter and a focus on its physical and spatial properties.

As well as admiring these treasures, the diversity of these broadsheets results in their usefulness for a broad range of research. During the workshop, we discussed the position of broadsheets within our libraries today and Flavia highlighted multiple issues and inconsistencies in the ways in which single-sheet items are currently catalogued. Records for the same broadsheet can vary wildly, and there is a problematic lack of a standardised vocabulary for describing this material.

Such variation is perhaps inevitable, as Flavia acknowledges that broadsheets pose many problems for the bibliographer. For example, these documents often lack a title or an imprint: either by design, or because they have been cropped. In such cases, Flavia suggests supplying an inferred title, as well as recording the opening words of the text. Describing the bibliographic format of a single sheet item can also be challenging. Flavia recommends specifying the orientation of the text on the page, as well as describing sheet size, for example in the style: '1 leaf; 1^o oblong'.

We also noted that in many institutions (including Lambeth Palace Library) broadsheets are often housed within large bound volumes. As a result, many catalogues do not offer details of individual broadsheets. Instead, the bound volumes are provided with general titles such as, “seventeen sheets issued by [...]”, or “five documents in single sheets [...]”. The researcher is clearly ill-served by such broad descriptions.

Indeed, during this workshop, Flavia impressed upon us all the desirability of producing more detailed, and uniform, records for individual broadsheets. Flavia believes that this could involve providing LOC or STCN fingerprints for documents; as well as the development and adoption of a standardised approach to describing this material. Certainly these efforts will also involve the infectious enthusiasm of bibliographers like Flavia, who at this masterclass encouraged us all to pay more care and attention to the, oft-overlooked, broadsheet.

UCL Centre for Digital Humanities runs occasional seminars and events. If you are interested, you can join their mailing list: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/dh/events/newsletter>. Thanks to Anne Welsh (UCL Centre for Digital Humanities and UCL Department of Information Studies) and Lambeth Palace Library for organising this event and to Dr Naomi Percival and Niamh Delaney (Lambeth Palace Library) for facilitating use of materials on the day.

Claire McGann and Eleanor Wale

Membership

In this Bulletin we welcome new members working at [Shrewsbury School](#), [Peterhouse Cambridge](#), [Magdalene College Oxford](#), [Cardiff University](#), [De Montfort University](#), [Sir John Soane’s Museum](#), [Stretford Grammar School](#), the [Society for the History of Astronomy](#), and [The Birmingham and Midland Institute](#).

Members who wish to promote exhibitions, events, conferences or training, or who wish to contribute to the next *Bulletin* (due October/November 2016) should contact members of the [Committee](#) or email Members@HistoricLibrariesForum.org.uk .

Membership of the Forum is free and anyone may join. To help keep it this way, and to keep costs down, we much prefer to send out the *Bulletin* by email. For those who choose email we send also regular updates including:

- Early news of our always-popular workshops, most of which are heavily over-subscribed
- Early news and booking information about the annual HLF conference and AGM
- News of job vacancies, internships and volunteering opportunities
- News about our member libraries and forthcoming exhibitions