

# HISTORIC LIBRARIES FORUM

## BULLETIN NO. 39

January 2018

The Forum's 25<sup>th</sup> year ended with a fitting celebration in the form of our 2017 conference, which was well-attended by delegates from across the UK. Thanks are due to Katie Flanagan, Liam Sims and Naomi Swindells for organising, to all speakers for their contributions, to Peter Hoare for his anniversary toast and to Alice Ford-Smith for taking this image to mark the occasion.



This Bulletin contains a wonderfully full account of the day courtesy of Lambeth Palace Library's Jessica Hudson, and we hope that it will serve as a useful record of the day, especially for those who were unable to attend. There was also a flurry of activity throughout the day on Twitter, which can be revisited by searching for #HistLib17 on that site. We are currently working on the theme for our next conference, which will likely be in Oxford in November.

The Committee continues to plan other events for the coming year, which should include at least one exhibition tour (TBC), a rescheduled visit to Spalding Gentleman's Society in collaboration with CILIP LIHG, and a workshop in Oxford on the History of Illustration. As ever, we are always happy to receive suggestions for future events that would benefit the Forum membership, or offers of venues for future events/tours. We hope that the creation of an Events Coordinator role, held by Katie Flanagan, will encourage the smooth organisation and running of events, providing continuity and a standardised first point of contact.

Our new website is now officially under construction, led by Louise Anderson, with assistance from Emma Milnes and myself. We hope that this will be up and running by the summer, and provide a smoother user experience than our current offering. Unfortunately, this has not been possible without a change in web and email addresses, which we will publicise heavily once the site is populated.

Please continue to keep in touch if you hear any news of libraries in danger, and many thanks to those of you who have been in contact in recent weeks. We rely on members to support the work of the Committee in remaining aware of any imminent threats to the preservation of and access to historic collections. Please also get in touch if you would like to share anything which might be of interest to the Forum membership, or if you simply need advice.

Contact details are available on our website: <http://www.historiclibrariesforum.org.uk/hlf/committee.html>

*Jill Dye, Chair*

## News

### ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS LIBRARY – CHANGES TO SERVICES 2018

Moving books around is a regular feature of library work; moving 5 km of books and journals to off-site storage is not. However, the RCS Library successfully managed this task last summer to prepare for a major redevelopment project at our Lincoln's Inn Fields home. We made good use of the RCS Library blog to tell everyone about our experiences and the people we worked with on the project.

We are working with our [partner institutions](#) the British Library, London Metropolitan Archives and The National Archives to provide managed access to our collections for study and research. If your users or researchers are interested in the RCS collections we operate an appointment-based service and ask researchers to contact [library@rcseng.ac.uk](mailto:library@rcseng.ac.uk) or [archives@rcseng.ac.uk](mailto:archives@rcseng.ac.uk) to discuss their request prior to any visit. It may be possible to make items from our collections available for viewing at the London Metropolitan Archives in Islington. See our [web pages](#) for more information.

We look forward to re-opening the Library in 2020 in refurbished and restored spaces where our collections can be discovered, viewed and studied.

### PARKER LIBRARY, CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

The Parker Library on the Web digitised manuscript repository ([parker.stanford.edu](http://parker.stanford.edu)) is re-launching in January. The new site (Parker 2.0) will be freely available and open to the world, fully IIF compatible; have the option for users to download their favourite manuscripts as pdfs, and incorporate new tools for scholarship and discovery. If you would like to learn more, please see our blog at [TheParkerLibrary.wordpress.com](http://TheParkerLibrary.wordpress.com).

Also, for sneak previews of what some of the new site has to offer, have a look at our twitter feed, @ParkerLibCCCC.

## Historic Libraries Forum Annual Conference 2017

The Historic Libraries Forum celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with the 2017 Annual Conference held on 13<sup>th</sup> November – “Keeping the glass half full: strategies for the future”. Although marking the anniversary of the group, the day had a forward focus, looking at the ways in which libraries can work to develop. The two watchwords of the day were *viability* and *visibility* – what can we do to make our work and collections more visible to the wider public and how can we sustain and support them to safeguard them for the future?

Held in the historic Guard Room at Lambeth Palace, the day began with a talk from **Melinda Haunton** (The National Archives) who spoke to us about the scope and potential of Archives Accreditation, giving practical tips for institutions who are considering making an application.

Released in July 2013, "[Archive Service Accreditation](#) helps to define good practice and adherence to agreed standards for archive services across the UK, thereby encouraging and supporting the development of the archive service". Indeed, there are numerous benefits to be gained from applying for, and hopefully gaining, accreditation, including:

- An opportunity to develop your service
- A stimulus to create robust and coherent policies
- Gain peer support
- Increase your visibility and demonstrate value beyond your institution
- improve viability and visibility of UK archives more generally
- Accreditation can be a launch pad for funding opportunities
- And above all, it is a celebration of your collection

What is evident is that accreditation is of huge benefit not just to the archives or parent organization alone, but it can help to establish and ground your position in the wider environment.

Although the process may seem intimidating, support and advice is readily available from the National Archives. During the talk, it was made palpably clear that for anyone considering the accreditation process, policy documents are critical and form the foundation of a successful bid. These documents should not simply be cosmetic, but working documents that clearly define what your service is, what it offers and who it is targeting. The process should help you to formalise your aims and objectives and enable you to articulate clearly what your service offers and the means by which you wish to develop it. ***Know your mission and define your service!***

There are six eligibility criteria that an institution will need to meet to attain the standard. An outline of these can be found [here](#). Central, however, is the need for the archives in question to be publicly accessible and not solely digital (although there are plans in place to incorporate this type of collection in future). Ultimately, as Melinda explained, "archive services should demonstrate that they provide a good service taking into account what type and size they are". Know who you are, acknowledge your weakness, embrace your strengths and understand the risks you face and accreditation will become another tool in your arsenal to move your service forward.

Next came **Duncan Chappell** from the [Glasgow School of Art](#) who recounted what for many in the audience constituted the stuff of nightmares – a fire in the library, describing the terrible events of 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2014 at the Rennie Mackintosh Library.

The fire destroyed the majority of the historic collections but left the modern lending library unaffected. Books, artwork and furniture in the Mackintosh Library were lost, although there were some miraculous survivors. The archives material was left unscathed, saved by the fabric of the building where voids built into the walls acted as a chimney drawing the fire away. Likewise, some books were protected because of tight shelving, normally frowned upon but in this instance beneficial, as the compacting of the volumes squeezed out any air that would naturally feed the flames. In all, 81 rare books were salvaged and while they were difficult to identify, the process was aided vastly by the chance survival of the books' barcodes which stubbornly resisted burning!

Most damage was caused as a consequence not of the fire, but its extinguishing - water and smoke ravaging material (although conservation boxing where present protected items effectively from water damage). However, what may have been a tale of woe, transpired to be a story of determination, salvation and hope – the phoenix rising from the ashes.

Forward planning, Duncan reported, was critical. While libraries may not wish to think about the possibility of disaster, strategizing a response to the worst-case scenario enables swift action to be taken, with directed and dedicated steps to ensure the best outcome wherever possible. Setting priorities for salvage, surveying your collections to understand what you hold, planning for the replacement of material if the worst should ever happen and thinking about logistics are all areas which need to be considered and will all help to in the aftermath. Indeed within three months of the disaster the library had been able to replace 22% of its stock, having set priorities and understood what was vital to the collection and mercifully the whole collection had been insured only the year before.

However, one thing not predicted by the Mackintosh library's disaster plan was the importance of social media in the aftermath. Keeping the public abreast of developments, allaying fears and answering questions could strain the service, but there is also a huge benefit to harnessing social media in times of crisis. The Library was inundated with offers of help and relationships were built including with those who wished to help repopulate the shelves.

After salvage, came the process of planning and restoring. The desire is to return the library to the original look and feel as experienced in 1909 when it first opened. This has involved the utilisation and encouragement of traditional skills such as woodworking to restore carved wood panels, but there has also been a modern artistic response to the fire with artists using the incident as inspiration for creative projects and in some instances incorporating salvaged material within artworks. The hope is to reoccupy the space in 2019, offering an even better service to users than ever before.

Our third speaker was **Alastair Fraser** (Durham University) who revealed Durham's hidden gems – the [Ushaw College Libraries](#). The point very much driven home during this talk was the value of cataloguing. Not simply as an exercise in recording material within a library's holdings, but as a vital tool in the outreach arsenal.

With about 60,000 printed volumes and extensive archival holdings, the Ushaw College Library collections contain significant material relating to the history of Catholicism. Although users will also find information covering a range of disciplines including natural sciences, mathematics, music, art history, geography, bibliographic history, literature, philosophy and much more.

The College and Jacobite archives are now virtually all catalogued and have been made available online. Over the last 6 years, 75% of the printed collections have been catalogued to DCRM(B) standards, with particular efforts being made to capture provenance evidence which is helping to develop a far greater understanding of where the books in the collections have come from. Duncan revealed that at times 2-3 unique items were being catalogued a day, enriching wider bibliographic understanding. Once users have discovered material on the developing online catalogue, search room facilities enable readers to consult items from Monday to Friday. In addition, Library fellowships are now being made available, opening up the collection yet further to researchers.

Alastair hopes that the project will act as a “beacon to comparative Catholic Libraries”, giving them an example of how to not only convey what libraries hold in their collections which may previously have remained hidden, but also a means of attracting new audiences who may have been unaware of the collection’s existence.

Practical advice on the management of volunteers in the library environment was offered by **Lara Haggerty** from [Innerpeffray Library](#). Sage advice was given as to how to get the most out of volunteer assistance, while assuring that they too gain positively from the experience.

Innerpeffray (which was founded by a local landowner in 1680) is a small but historically intriguing library with 5,000 items, a solo-librarian and a shoe-string budget. The help of volunteers is thereby vital – from staffing the reading room to offering personal tours which bring the books alive, volunteers have become helpfully involved in multiple facets of the running of the library.

As Lara pointed out, volunteer does not always mean amateur, and the skills and knowledge that individuals bring to the library can prove invaluable. Following renovation in 2013, there was even greater need for outside help as the space and workload expanded.

Lara told us her recipe for success – the 3 Rs of Volunteers:

1. Recruitment
2. Retention
3. Reward

**Recruitment** should be kept as simple as possible. Try not to scare off potential volunteers by making the process too complicated or cumbersome. A maximum of three questions on an application form are recommended.

**Retaining** volunteers can often be difficult and we were advised that a sensible bet was to find out what motivates the individuals who offer their help. Are they looking for something social? Do they have a particular area of interest? Do they want to learn new skills or share their own with others? Once you have a grasp of why someone wants to volunteer, you can help to tailor their experience to get the most out of them. It is often best to take on two volunteers, who can help motivate each other, share the workload and discuss problems or difficulties that may arise.

**Rewarding** hard work creates a positive experience for all. Never underestimate the power of cake! Social events can boost morale and give everyone a chance to share what they have been doing and get recognition for their efforts.

Alongside the three Rs approach, it is always helpful to have a plan or list of activities that you need help with, so that tasks can be easily delegated and allocated. Most importantly Lara concluded by telling us that working with volunteers very much represents the glass half-full. Through the help of volunteers, far more can be achieved than could be done alone.

**Heather Jardine** spoke to us about the ups and downs experienced by [St. Bride’s Library](#) during the course of its history and the strenuous efforts made by its volunteers to maintain a library service in the face of numerous challenges. As Heather commented, the history of St. Brides has very much been a rollercoaster.

The Library was founded in 1895 following the establishment of the St Bride Foundation in 1891, which served the flourishing printing and publishing trade in Fleet Street. In 1922 the associated printing school was moved from St Bride's but its library remained, however the years ahead would be filled with trials and tribulations. In 1952, for example, the collection of incunabula were sold, raising £1380 10s. – money that was not invested in the library, but in a swimming pool! Instability in the management and direction of the library prevailed with various shifts in governance. By December 2014 the Reading Room was closed; in July 2015 the Library Manager was made redundant and sadly in August 2015 the library faced total closure.

However, with the support of the HLF the library was once again able to open its doors, albeit on a limited basis. In April 2016, the Reading Room reopened for one day a month, and by January 2017 this had risen to two days a month. In addition, there are now two paid staff and a small team of volunteers who work with dedication to keep the service not only running, but improving. Positive strides include the library's recent securement of a three-year subscription to a Library Management System, giving users virtual access. With an online catalogue, the library has become more visible and has increased its reach.

While these are encouraging advances, Heather forewarned that you should never become complacent. With a small budget and no commitment to on-going staff salaries, a very pragmatic approach has been taken by those working in the library.

Heather gave frank and honest advice, which she has developed from her own experiences:

- Make sure every development you make is sustainable and embed your improvements. Try to ensure that your community value your improvements and want to see them upheld, this will help to justify their continuation or advancement in the future
- If you have a small budget or you gain some funding, use it and use it quickly - but spend thoughtfully.
- Don't be afraid to beg or nag! If you need help, do all you can to make your voice heard.
- If your book-buying budget is limited, ask if your patrons are publishing their research and would consider donating a copy of their work.
- Make the most of your skills. As Lara also stressed, if you have volunteers who have useful skills, utilise them to your benefit.
- Make the most of what you have and promote it. Use social media and any viable platforms to help.

Heather concluded by telling us that it is better to get your feet on the next steps of the escalator rather than dream of the top. Dreams may be hopeful but can often be out of reach, realistic and attainable goals will have tangible and practical results.

Finally [Lambeth Palace Library's Declan Kelly](#) (Director of Library and Archives). Plans are well underway for an exciting new library building designed by Wright and Wright, which will hopefully open to the public in 2020. As well as showcasing the proposed new design, Declan gave an honest account of the perils and pitfalls of the planning process – from funding bids to wildlife conservation.

The new building will provide 20 years of growth space and will bring all of the archives of the National Church Institutions (in London) under one roof, uniting the staff and collections from the Church of England Record Centre (CERC) and Lambeth Palace Library for the first time. It will provide far superior environmental

conditions in which to house the books and archives. Some material at LPL is housed in a 15<sup>th</sup> century tower, and as Declan quoted, “the books are damaging the building and the building is damaging the books”.

The benefits of a new building are manifold and seem evident. However, an initial yet significant battle during the early stages of the proposal was the need to make sure that people were aware of the library and recognised its value and the need for its safeguarding. As well as external visibility, it was particularly important to promote the library and archives to the Church Commissioners who own and fund the library. To obtain support for a new building, justification was needed and advocacy has therefore been a substantial facet in the process.

Once this hurdle was overcome planning could begin in earnest, beginning formally in 2012. The next step was the securing of funding and the issue of who would pay. Will you seek external funding, funding from within the organisation or will you aim for partnerships? Funding is obviously an enormous concern, but there are hidden pitfalls and Declan talked us through some that were encountered:

- Heritage Lottery Funding is often contemplated but Declan forewarned that “if you get HLF funding then you are now going to be working to an extent to their agenda and so ... think clearly and seriously about whether you want to be what they want you to be”. Some of the needs and requirements will make your project costlier than you may have anticipated.
- Be cautious of hidden costs. The real cost of fundraising large sums of money can be around 15% of the target sum.
- Partnerships will cost a great deal financially, and will continue to do so. In many instances, a problem shared is not a problem halved – inheriting and sharing difficulties between institutions for example will be a financial draw.

In Lambeth’s case, it was eventually settled that the Church Commissioners would finance the works and so came the design phase. However, this presented a chicken or egg situation – “You need to have designed enough of the building to be able to accurately predict cost... but actually getting into the design costs a lot of money”. Factor in environmental concerns and requirements and the process gets more complicated. The design needed to follow PD545 standards, ensure minimum impact on the existing garden where the building is to be located, consider the needs of surrounding buildings (including ensuring the privacy of the Archbishop and his family in the Palace), be protected from flooding, as well as meeting the needs of a modern library.

The final design will only take up 3% of the site’s footprint and will hug the boundary wall of the garden at Lambeth reducing its impact in its surroundings, public areas will be on the lower floors to ensure much needed privacy, while the tall and thin building will place all the storerooms for collection items above the 1 in 1,000-year flood risk height. The garden space immediately surrounding the library is to be designed and landscaped by Dan Pearson, providing a tranquil outlook for staff and readers, while improving the ecological conditions and supporting wildlife.

Next came surveys (and plenty of them, including ecology, air pollution, trees, bats, wildlife, checks for WW2 unexploded devices, archaeology and services – water, power, telecoms etc.) and consultations (public and statutory for which additional charges had to be paid) and so exhibitions were held, a website was created, and information was distributed to locals and local news organisations. In this historical material held in the archives often played a role, helping to make a case for the continued presence of the library at Lambeth and

for its location within a listed garden. For example, they showed that the garden has historically undergone many new developments, thus the new building will simply be the next step in its evolution.

In total, four planning applications were made to cover works on the main building and other associated tasks. In April 2016, final approval was given and building is due to start in March 2018.

In summation, the planning of a multi-million pound new library building is not without its trials and tribulations. Good project and cost management are essential, but you have to expect the unexpected – hidden costs and snags lay before you. While the project may be emotionally and financially draining, the final library building will be an historic milestone – protecting the invaluable collections and opening them up yet further to readers and research.

We would very much like to thank the Committee for organising the conference and extend our thanks to all the speakers who participated for making this such a thought provoking day.

*Jessica Hudson, Sion Project Cataloguer, Lambeth Palace Library*

## Conference at Strawberry Hill

On 19th October 2017 a diverse group of academics, librarians, curators, collectors and members of the book trade descended on a rainy Strawberry Hill for a conference entitled *Collectors and the country house library*. Prompted by the recent filling of Horace Walpole's bookshelves (empty since the 1842 sale) with a loan from Aske Hall in North Yorkshire, the conference considered the ways in which books have been used and collected in the country house setting.

The day was spent in the splendid interior of the Gallery, where the white and gold vaulted ceiling was inspired by that of the Henry VII chapel at Westminster Abbey, and kicked off with a talk by Stephen Lloyd on the collections of the Earls of Derby at Knowsley Hall, where there is a family archive reaching back as far as the fifteenth century and evidence of book collecting back into the seventeenth (indeed, the family employed librarians from the 1670s right up to the end of the twentieth century). Next came Stephen Clarke on Walpole's own library at Strawberry Hill; we heard about Walpole's drastic building projects to transform what started life as a coachman's cottage into his gothic palace, about his acquisitions at major sales (including those of Richard Rawlinson, Richard Mead and James West, and about his interesting reading practices (in some cases lengthy notes on separate sheets of paper were bound into his books). After a short break Mark Purcell delivered the keynote paper, speaking broadly on the place of books in the country house over the centuries, inspired by his recent book [\*The country house library\*](#) (Yale University Press, 2017). Chief among the issues here seemed to be the changing nature of library spaces, moving from private closets in the seventeenth century to grand showpieces in the nineteenth, and the sense that many families had book collections spread over a number of houses, portions of which may have been sold off over the years, or moved around as fortunes rose and fell. Before a spectacular hot lunch in the public café Claire Reed spoke about Osterley Park House, reminding us that entire aristocratic collections can be sold off, only to be built up again by later generations. William Chambers (whose creations included George III's magnificent gold coach, commissioned in 1760) may have had a hand in the design of the pre-Adam library, which at one point contained 11 Caxtons, sold in the great auction of 1885.

During the lunch break attendees had free rein to explore the house, including the library, and the many rooms with windows containing sixteenth- and seventeenth-century stained glass, collected on Walpole's behalf in Europe. In the afternoon we heard from Giles Mandelbrote on the metropolitan collecting of Sir Richard Ellys, courted as a potential donor to the early library at Harvard. David Pearson turned our minds to the decoration of aristocratic book collections, particularly the curious insect-themed roll tools he has found on a number of eighteenth-century bindings at Wimpole, Blickling and Dunham Massey, as well as among George III's books now in the British Library. Such naturalistic decoration was evidently characteristic in other parts of the decorative arts, but its presence in book bindings has been little studied. The day finished with Megan Aldrich on the antiquarian library as a work of art at Stowe, who pointed out that Sir John Soane – architect of the Bank of England building – had been employed by the family. Like Strawberry Hill's library, the decoration of that at Stowe was inspired by Henry VII's chapel at Westminster Abbey. The papers stimulated a good deal of discussion and attendees went away with a renewed understanding of the complex nature of aristocratic book ownership in the early modern period.

*Liam Sims, University of Cambridge Library*

## Call for papers



### INDEPENDENT LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE 2018

*Past, present, future : the people in independent libraries*

Library of Innerpeffray, by Crieff, and the Leighton Library, Dunblane  
Friday 1<sup>st</sup> - Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2018

The [Independent Libraries Association's](#) annual conference continues the aim of bringing together those working in and around the independent library sector. 2017's conference followed the theme of 'collections', the core of any library; but what are texts without their readers? In 2018 the conference will focus on people. The membership of independent libraries is growing healthily, but individual institutions often battle against perceptions of exclusivity and anonymity. People who use independent collections, as well as the people who make the collections accessible are all welcomed under this year's theme. Papers on library founders, readers, members, subscribers, librarians, archivists, interns, volunteers, trustees, benefactors, partner institutions and/or the general public will all be considered. We are delighted to be holding the 2018 conference in Scotland, with joint hosts the Library of Innerpeffray, Crieff, and the Leighton Library, Dunblane. The Associations' intention is to foster networking between all those who work in or around libraries, archives, and special collections.

We welcome 20-minute papers in any of the following areas, though proposals from anyone in the independent library movement are welcome:

- Famous Founders and/or well-known readers;
- Increasing reader numbers and serving the community;

- Borrower records and histories;
- Volunteers and their contributions;
- Crowd-sourced projects with students and the general public;
- Online communities and open-access projects;
- Architectural design to promote access;
- Free at the point of use? Membership and subscription schemes;
- Make do and mend: staffing an independent library.

We emphasise that papers do not need to be scholarly. The Association is committed to hearing a diversity of perspectives. Submissions should be sent to Jill Dye and Louisa Yates at [independentlibraries@gmail.com](mailto:independentlibraries@gmail.com) by 5pm on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2018. Please direct any queries to this address.



**NATIONAL ACQUISITIONS GROUP COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR 2018**  
*Valuing our collections*

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2018

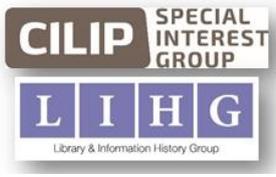
Submissions for papers are welcome for next year's 8<sup>th</sup> Collection Development Seminar for Academic Libraries.

Academic librarians spend a considerable amount of time and money in investing and acquiring resources for teaching and research but how much do we really value our Library collections? Are we purchasing the resources that students really need? Do you know what the strengths of your Library collection are? Are we giving the best value for students and the university?

The changing landscape of the librarian's role in acquisitions and subject librarianship has impacted on the way academic libraries purchase Library materials for both print and e. We are looking for speakers to share their knowledge and expertise in:

- creating and maintaining collection development and collection management policies;
- managing the ever-increasing acquisitions of gifts and donations;
- acquisitions decision-making without the 'traditional' subject knowledge;
- innovative ways of applying book order ratios;
- identifying the gaps and strengths in your print and/or e collections;
- maintaining a healthy and up to date library collection for students;
- using collection management tools e.g. CCM, GreenGlass;
- creating partnerships with other academic libraries to share print monographs;
- balancing a print collection with e-resources;
- engaging taught and/or research students in using library collections.

Please note: Call for papers closes **Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2018** and notification of acceptance by Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2018.



**LIBRARY & INFORMATION HISTORY GROUP ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2018**  
*The allies of books : keepers, curators & collectors in Victorian Britain*

St Bride Foundation, London  
Saturday 7 July 2018

CILIP's Library and Information History Group is delighted to announce that its 2018 conference will be held at the St Bride Foundation, London, on Saturday 7 July 2018.

Librarians, researchers and academics are invited to submit proposals for 20-minute papers on topics related to the theme of Keepers, Curators & Collectors in Victorian Britain, including:

- History of Librarianship.
- Libraries as philanthropic/paternalistic ventures.
- Bibliographers and their libraries.
- Any other aspect of library and information history in Victorian Britain.

Please submit a 300-word proposal and a short paragraph of biographical information to [J.S.Dye@stir.ac.uk](mailto:J.S.Dye@stir.ac.uk) by **Friday 9 March 2018**. A full programme will be released when booking opens in April. A bursary to support student attendance will also be made available.

Further details will be added to the CILIP LIHG website as they are announced.



**LEEDS LIBRARY, 1768-2018: 250<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE**  
*Books, Readers, and Reading: Celebrating 250 Years of the Leeds Library*

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> - Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2018

To celebrate the long and illustrious history of the Leeds Library, the Library, together with the three universities in Leeds, is hosting an international conference on the History of Books, of Readers and of Reading.

Confirmed keynote speakers include Professor Kate Flint (University of Southern California), Professor Ian Gadd (Bath Spa University) and Professor N. Katherine Hayles (Duke University).

Proposals are invited for papers covering but not limited to the following topics:

- **Libraries:** both subscription/private and public, their history, architecture, contents and practices (eg acquisitions, cataloguing), and their representation in the cultural imagination;

- **The history of books:** printing and publishing, including e.g. publishing and printing firms and technologies, publication modes and methods (e.g. the serial, periodicals etc), publisher/editor/author relations, sales and marketing and the business of the book;
- **The material production and culture of book:** including paper, typesetting and fonts, textual apparatus (e.g frontispieces, prefaces, marginalia, footnotes), book-binding, illustration, and conservation and restoration of books;
- **The history of reading and readers:** including e.g. issues of gender, ethnicity, and class, library members and reading practices, reading groups, reader reception, readers' uses of their reading, and cultural representations of the reader and reading.
- **Literary forms and genres:** particularly those well-represented in the Leeds Library itself, such as Victorian popular fiction, travel literature, and history;
- **The future of the book and the library:** including e.g. the impact of new technologies and means of accessing and using texts (eg digitisation, kindles), emerging genres of reading and writing (e.g. blogging), and new book spaces and places.

Proposals of c. 300 words, word-processed and accompanied by a 50 word biography, should be submitted by Friday 16 February 2018 at [250conference@theleedslibrary.org.uk](mailto:250conference@theleedslibrary.org.uk).

Proposals for panels of three related papers are also accepted, with a designated chair. You will be informed whether your paper has been accepted by the end of March at the latest.

## Vacancies

### UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW LIBRARY

Project Paper Conservator (Ref 019895)

Using specialist skills and expertise, the post-holder will undertake interventive conservation work in a 6 month project to repair and prepare a range of paper documents (including correspondence, drawings and plates) from the 18th century collection of William Hunter for the major international Tercentenary exhibition dedicated to Hunter and his life (opening in September 2018 at The Hunterian and travelling onwards to Yale, 2019).

For further details see <https://www.gla.ac.uk/explore/jobs/> quoting ref 019895. This is a full time 6 month fixed term post from 1 April 2018 to 30 September 2018 (salary range: £28,098 - £31,604).

For informal enquiries regarding the post, please contact Julie Gardham (Manager of Special Collections: [Julie.Gardham@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:Julie.Gardham@glasgow.ac.uk)). Closing date 4<sup>th</sup> February 2018.

### SET COPYRIGHTS LTD

Library internship (part-time contract for 3 months)

We are looking to recruit a paid intern to join our small organisation to continue work to organise our library.

We require someone to work two days per week (48hrs a month) for 3 months starting in March/April, with the possibility of extension. There will be some flexibility with days and hours worked each month.

The internship would be suitable for someone wishing to gain library and archive experience prior to or during their qualification in library and information studies or archives and records administration. We are looking for someone with previous library experience in either a paid or voluntary capacity.

For further information about this opportunity and how to apply please email Nancy Fulford, Archivist, [Nancy.Fulford@SetCopyrights.co.uk](mailto:Nancy.Fulford@SetCopyrights.co.uk).

The closing date for applications is Monday 5 February and we will be looking to hold informal interviews in late February.

## **HERTFORD COLLEGE, OXFORD**

Casual antiquarian cataloguer

Hertford is seeking to appoint a casual antiquarian cataloguer. We have initial funding for the equivalent 7hr/week for 1 year, but the hours can be worked flexibly during this period. Full details are available at <https://www.hertford.ox.ac.uk/about/vacancies/antiquarian-cataloguer-casual>. Anyone interested in applying is welcome to contact me to discuss the role further.

Alice Roques, Librarian [Alice.Roques@hertford.ox.ac.uk](mailto:Alice.Roques@hertford.ox.ac.uk)

**AND FINALLY ... WISE WORDS** on a career in Special Collections from the [University of Bradford's](http://www.universityofbradford.ac.uk) Alison Cullingford can be read in her post at [Facet Publishing's](http://www.facetpublishing.com) blog - even the Historic Libraries Forum gets a mention!

## **Events and Exhibitions**

### **ABERYSTWYTH BIBLIOGRAPHICAL GROUP**

***What did Tommy Read?*** (Professor Bill Bell)

Saturday 17th February 2018, 11.00 a.m.

St Paul Methodist Centre, Queen's Road, Aberystwyth, SY23 2NN

AGM followed by ***Politicians, princes and prelates : more rambles around the Hugh Owen Library stacks*** (by Mr Bill Hines)

Tuesday 20th March 2018, 6.30 p.m.

Council Chamber, National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth, SY23 3BU

### **SYMPOSIUM PARKER LIBRARY, CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE**

***Parker Library on the Web 2.0: new opportunities and future directions***

Friday 16 March 2018, 09:00-18:30

The Parker Library of Corpus Christi College is pleased to invite you to a symposium celebrating the launch of its newly redesigned digital platform. The conference will be an occasion to reflect on the impact of the digital humanities on manuscript studies, bringing together graduate students, researchers, and library professionals who work with or on manuscript books.

Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, attendance at the conference is free of charge. Depending on numbers, the conference will be held either in the historic Parker Library itself, or in the McCrum Lecture Theatre of Corpus Christi College. We therefore assume that your booking represents your confirmation of attendance.

To view the complete programme and register, please visit the Eventbrite page at: [goo.gl/3YaoCr](http://goo.gl/3YaoCr). We very much hope to see you there, and do not hesitate to get in touch with me should you have any questions about the event!

*Dr Anne McLaughlin, Sub-Librarian – The Parker Library, Corpus Christi College, Cambridge*

## SUMMER SCHOOL

***The scientific image*** (course convener Roger Gaskell; special guest lecturer Jim Bennett)

The Bodleian Libraries Centre for the Study of the Book announces a [Summer School](#), Monday 25th - Friday 29th June 2018.

Themes : origination and transfer of images; relief, intaglio and lithographic printing; the role of the author, draughtsman and printmaker; formal analysis of images; text-image relationships; bibliographical description and cataloguing; the history of scientific, technical, medical, and natural history illustration.

The course includes examination of material from the Bodleian Libraries Special Collections, with lectures and demonstrations. You can see images from last year's Summer School on Printed Book Illustration [here](#).

Applications are open. Details here: <http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/csb/courses/summer-school-2018>.



## HISTORY OF LIBRARIES SEMINARS

6 February 2018 17:30 [Sarum Old and New: a cathedral library in eleven centuries](#)

Peter Hoare (Salisbury)

Warburg Lecture Theatre, Warburg Institute, Woburn Square, London, WC1H 0AB

6 March 2018 17:30 [The problem of reconstructing a seventeenth century scholarly library: the case of Lord George Douglas's collection](#) W. A. Kelly (formerly National Library of Scotland)

Warburg Lecture Theatre, Warburg Institute, Woburn Square, London, WC1H 0AB

1 May 2018 17:30 [Book fastenings and furnishings: an archaeology of late medieval books](#)

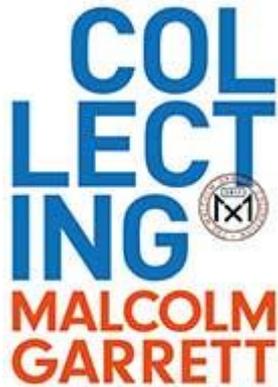
Charlotte Howsam (Archaeology South-East, University College London)

Warburg Lecture Theatre, Warburg Institute, Woburn Square, London, WC1H 0AB

5 June 2018 17:30 [New perspectives on seventeenth-century libraries](#)

Robyn Adams (Centre for Editing Lives & Letters, University College London), Katie Birkwood (Royal College of Physicians Library), Jacqueline Glomski (Centre for Editing Lives & Letters, University College London)  
Great Hall of Lambeth Palace, Lambeth, London, SE1 7JU

## EXHIBITION MANCHESTER METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY LIBRARY



### ***Collecting Malcolm Garrett : snapshots from the world of tomorrow***

11 September 2017 - 23 March 2018

MMU Special Collections Gallery, 3rd Floor, All Saints Library, Manchester, M15 6BH

This exhibition of books, clothing, toys and ephemera drawn from the personal collections of renowned graphic designer Malcolm Garrett highlights his compulsive interest in new worlds and futuristic design. From this diverse selection of objects it is clear that the work Garrett produced at Manchester School of Art, which in turn played its part in shaping a 'new wave' of music and fashion at the end of the 1970s, was inspired by the ephemeral, cultural media surrounding him as he grew up. The exhibition shows how the iconography of science fact, fiction and fantasy have had an enduring influence on his work and life.

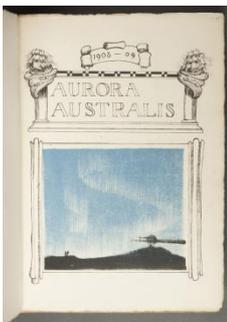
## EXHIBITION UCL



### ***"Dangers and Delusions"? Perspectives on the women's suffrage movement***

Displaying items from [UCL Special Collections](#), this exhibition examines the actions and reactions attending the women's suffrage movement from the 1860s up to the Representation of the People Act 1918. Satirical commentaries including Laurence Housman's *Anti-Suffrage Alphabet* are set alongside campaign literature and petitions for and against legislative change. This exhibition will run from February - December 2018.

## EXHIBITION ETON COLLEGE



### ***Voyages : a journey in books***

In the modern world, travel is a near universal experience, and the theme of journeys, quests and travels pervades western literature and history. With contemporary political events, the subject of migration is in the headlines, alongside reminders of travel as a leisure, educational and scientific activity. This exhibition draws on [Eton College Library's](#) holdings of manuscripts, printed books and literary archives alongside materials from the wider College Collections to explore a wide range of ways to think about travel and

stimulate curiosity, thought and connection: pilgrimage, roads, voyages of exploration and scientific discovery, grand tours and cultural travels, colonies and empire, borders and bureaucracy, migration, word and image, factual and fictionalised accounts, poetry.

Highlights include: a manuscript of the Odyssey that belonged to the uncle of Amerigo Vespucci ... pilgrim badges ... a portolan chart ... the voyages of James Cook ... a model of the Beagle ... a grand tour passport ... the first book printed in Antarctica ... unpublished materials by the 20<sup>th</sup>-century Etonian explorer Wilfred Thesiger ... a travelling library.

This free exhibition is open until 30 April 2018, Monday to Friday, 9.30-1 and 2-5 by appointment. To book, please contact us at [collections@etoncollege.org.uk](mailto:collections@etoncollege.org.uk) or 01753 370590.

## Membership

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. Please check your spam folders if you are not receiving the Bulletin.

In this Bulletin we welcome new members working at [Canterbury Cathedral](#), [Salisbury Cathedral](#), [Magdalene College Cambridge](#), [Pembroke College Cambridge](#), the [Cambridge Colleges' Conservation Consortium \(CCCC\)](#), [University College Oxford](#), The [University of the Arts London](#), [The Guildford Institute](#), and [The Science Museum](#) at Wroughton.

**Members who wish to promote exhibitions, events, conferences, or training, or who wish to contribute articles to future Bulletins should contact members of the Committee or email [Members@HistoricLibrariesForum.org.uk](mailto:Members@HistoricLibrariesForum.org.uk)**



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