Last chance to book for

“Access for All?”

If you want lunch please book by November 6th
Booking form on last page of Bulletin.

The next annual meeting will be held on Thursday 16 November in the Weston Room, Maughan Library, King’s College London, Chancery Lane. ‘Access’ is an umbrella term for a day which will cover improving access to buildings and collections, security issues, virtual access through websites and email and the importance of access as a factor in securing grants.

A map of the venue can be found on the King's College Special Collections page. ([http://www.kcl.ac.uk/depsta/iss/library/speccoll/abus.html](http://www.kcl.ac.uk/depsta/iss/library/speccoll/abus.html)) Nearest tube stations are Chancery Lane, Farringdon and Temple.

Programme

10.00 Coffee and networking time.

10.45 Introduction: Peter Hoare, Chairman.

11.15 Accessing older buildings. Cassie Herschel-Shorland from the Centre for Accessible Environments will discuss improvements which can be made for the disabled.

12.00 Widening access. James Anthony, Librarian of Hereford Cathedral, on promoting collections to the community.

12.30 Accessing collections. Sarah-Jane Jenner, British Library Collection Care, will discuss preservation and security issues arising from greater public access.

1.00 - 2.00 Lunch (optional - see booking form).

2.00 Historic Libraries Forum A.G.M.
2.30 Virtual access: two case studies.
King's College, Special Collections - Katie Sambrook and Hugh Cahill.
Anglesey Abbey –Mike Sutherill on an award-winning virtual tour for the disabled.

3.30 Fundraising strategy. Francisca Malaree, Development Director, Girton College.

4.00 Tours of the Maughan Library and Foyle Special Collections with Katie Sambrook, Special Collections Librarian, and colleagues.

**To prepare for the Forum** you might like to look at the Heritage Lottery Fund publication *Thinking about access* in their Helping your Application series, latest issue October 2005. Available from their website in the Publications and Info section or via the direct link:

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http://www.hlf.org.uk/NR/rdonlyres/F6B05389-9FF5-4565-800A-
73439A7ABFDF/2218/ThinkingaboutaccessOct06.pdf
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**Historic Libraries Forum News**

We are holding another Cataloguing workshop in London in December but the existing waiting list far exceeds the number of places available and so we will not be seeking applicants. If you wish to express an interest in our cataloguing workshops please contact Ed Potten ed.potten@hotmail.com

**British Museum Round Reading Room**

Little interest was evoked by the British press when earlier this year the Director of the British Museum issued a press release announcing a proposal to close Panizzi’s Round Reading Room in 2007, on the 150th anniversary of its opening, in order to create temporary exhibition space for two major exhibitions, the first on Qin Shi Huang the first Chinese emperor to be followed by an exhibition on the Roman emperor Hadrian. This plan went to Camden Council for planning permission and was approved at the meeting on 26th October. Peter Hoare met with British Museum staff to discover the full extent of their plans, he tried to raise interest and concern with CILIP, and he wrote a reasoned objection on behalf of the Historic Libraries Forum to the planning application. All the objectors asked that if the Council were to approve the plan that it should be for a strictly limited period and that the Reading Room should be fully restored at the end of this temporary change of use and the Paul Hamlyn Library reinstated.

**Farewell and thanks to Joan Williams**

Joan Williams, Assistant Cathedral Librarian, Durham Cathedral has announced her intention to retire from the Committee at the end of the Financial Year. Joan has served on the Committee since the foundation of the Historic Libraries Forum and has contributed much hard work and excellent counsel. She has always provided a link with the Cathedral Libraries & Archives Association and for many years has admirably filled the post of Treasurer. We shall greatly miss her lively personality at meetings but she will keep in touch with the work of the Forum and we look forward to seeing her at future events.

*Peter Hoare would be glad to hear from anyone who is interested in taking over from Joan as Treasurer of the Forum.*
Libraries and Archives of the National Church Institutions
Presentation to the Historic Libraries Forum Committee
6th June 2006
Declan Kelly
Director of Libraries, Archives and Information Services
For the National Church Institutions of the Church of England

This is an edited version of the talk given to the Historic Libraries Forum Committee in June 2006.

Church Structure & Organisation
As all of you will know, what to the outsider may appear to be a single organisation – “The Church of England” is of course nothing of the sort. It is a collection of many interlinked organisations – c16,000 parishes, c10,000 benefices, 44 Dioceses, 2 convocations, and 8 “National Church Institutions” or NCIs, not forgetting of course our many great Cathedrals.

It is worth at this stage mentioning the NCIs – The eight organisations who collectively employ those who work for what might loosely be termed C of E HQ -

- **The Archbishops of Canterbury & York** – who both have staff to support their roles.
- **The Church Commissioners** - Established in 1948 – hold the historic assets of the Church and provide financial support for parish ministry in areas of need, plus of course their responsibilities for Bishops and Cathedrals.
- **Archbishops’ Council** – Established in 1999 to co-ordinate and further the work and mission of the Church of England
- **The Pensions Board** – Established in 1926
- **Lambeth Palace Library** – Founded nearly 400 years ago as the Library of the Archbishop of Canterbury.
- **Advisory Board for Redundant Churches**
- **The National Society** for Promoting Religious Education – who work closely with the Education Division of the Archbishops’ Council.

The Libraries and Archives of the National Church Institutions which I will talk about are:

**Lambeth Palace Library** – itself an NCI

**Church of England Record Centre (CERC)** – which is part of the Archbishops’ Council

**Cathedrals and Church Buildings (CCB) Library**
(made up of the libraries of the Council for the Care of Churches (CCC) and the Cathedrals Fabric Commission for England (CFCE)). Again, part of the Archbishops’ Council. This will need more by way of introduction and explanation than either the Library or the Record Centre as it is less well known.

**Current and future plans**
I will finish by highlighting some of the developments in the Libraries and Archives of the National Church Institutions.
Lambeth Palace Library

Lambeth Palace Library is the historic library of the Archbishops of Canterbury and the principal library and record office for the history of the Church of England. So it is important at the outset to stress that it is a library and archive. The Library focuses on ecclesiastical history, but its rich collections are important for an immense variety of topics from the history of art and architecture to colonial and Commonwealth history, and for innumerable aspects of English social, political and economic history. It is also a significant resource for local history and genealogy.

The Library was founded as a public library by Archbishop Bancroft in 1610 – nearly 400 years ago, and its collections have been freely available for research ever since. Printed books in the Library number almost 200,000, including some 30,000 items printed before 1700. Many are unique. In 1996, the Library’s holdings were augmented by the transfer from Sion College Library of c35,000 printed books published before 1850, together with the Sion College collection of manuscripts. The book catalogue has been available online for some time.

The library is also involved in conservation – with the ongoing preservation of our collections through our conservation studio.

The Library supports research activity worldwide and answers c7,000 enquiries per annum. Its website attracts c70,000 hits per month. Annual visitor numbers are close to 2,000 and the library also provides public access to material held at the Church of England Record Centre.

The library is currently part way through a major retro-conversion project to put its archival catalogue online alongside the existing book catalogue. The costs of this to date have all been met through external fund-raising activities. The target is to complete the project in time for the 400th anniversary of the Library in 2010.

The first phase of that catalogue will be launched later in 2006, by which time it will include those elements of the CERC holdings that have been catalogued as well as library material. This will be the first time the archival catalogue has been online outside of the National Church Institutions.

A tribute to the significance of the collection was seen in late 2005 when the MLA – Museums, Libraries and Archives Council designated the Library’s entire collection as being of outstanding National and International importance.

To access the library
Tel: 020 7898 1400
Email: lpl.staff@c-of-e.org.uk
Website: http://www.lambethpalacelibrary.org

Church of England Record Centre (CERC).

The main task of the Record Centre is to support the central administration of the Church of England by providing a records management service to the NCIIs and to the General Synod. It is approx. one tenth the size of the National Archives – or about 16,000 linear metres.

So whereas the Lambeth Palace Library and Archive is focussed around the Archbishop, the collections at CERC are a different sort of archive; one of assets, regulations, legislation and organisation/reorganisation of the Church of England.

The Centre holds the records of a number of organisations:
• Archbishops Council (1999- )
• Church Commissioners (1948-) and their predecessor bodies dating back to 1704
• Church Assembly (1919-1970) and General Synod (from 1970)
• National Society (from 1811)

These are the records of the central church bodies – not diocesan or parochial material. CERC is not – as it’s name might misleadingly imply – a general repository for all church records. We do not collect material from outside the existing National Church Institutions.
That does mean that what we do at CERC fits into a larger picture of Church archives - We work alongside other repositories in looking after church records as a whole – Lambeth Palace Library and the Borthwick Institute for Archbishops records, and local record offices for diocesan and parish records.

The **Archbishops’ Council** is a relatively new invention and could be described as the central “civil service” of the Church dealing as it does with supporting the General Synod, providing legal, HR, Finance & IT support to the other NCIs. Despite it being a relatively young body, its various predecessors (e.g. the General Assembly) mean that it accounts for nearly 30% of the holdings of the Record Centre.

The **Church Commissioners** are by far the largest “owner” of material, responsible for two thirds of the content. Much of this is of course now archival, and is being appraised. The content includes the various predecessor organisations of the Church Commissioners:

- Queen Anne’s Bounty - Founded in 1704 for the relief of poor clergy – giving endowments and grants and loans for improvements to parsonages and glebe land.
- Church Building Commissioners - an archive about 19th century church planting.
- Ecclesiastical Commissioners - Commission founded in 1836 – and were responsible for redistribution and proper management of church wealth. They took over estates of Bishops, Cathedrals, and prebends from the 1840s
- The Merger of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners and QAB in 1948 created the Church Commissioners.

**Church Assembly and General Synod** are the Church’s Parliament.

The **National Society** for Promoting the Education of the Poor in the Principles of the Established Church throughout England and Wales 1811, now known simply as The National Society. Among the records are files on all church schools – so this archive touches every part of the country.

To date not much of the Record Centre material has been catalogued but this is being addressed and the catalogue will soon be merged with the Lambeth Palace Library Archival catalogue. The staff have also been involved in a range of other projects – internal Records Management projects to support the NCIs and also to support the wider church such as a new edition of the 1995 “Keep or Bin – Care of Parish Records” which has been completely updated and is available from the Church of England website. [http://www.cofe.anglican.org/about/librariesandarchives/keeporbin/](http://www.cofe.anglican.org/about/librariesandarchives/keeporbin/)

More information about CERC can be found on both the Lambeth Palace Library and Church of England websites.

**To access CERC**

Tel: 020 7898 1030

Email: archivist@c-of-e.org.uk

Website: [http://www.cofe.anglican.org/about/librariesandarchives/](http://www.cofe.anglican.org/about/librariesandarchives/)

**Cathedrals and Church Buildings (CCB) Library**

The Library was formed from the libraries of the CCC & CFCE. The Cathedrals and Church Buildings division of the Archbishops’ Council is responsible for national policy on the Church of England’s buildings which are used for worship. The principal functions of the library are to provide a reference resource - to CCB staff responding to casework and enquiries; to members of the CCC/CFCE; to staff in the NCIs; and to other researchers.

The library has been described as the most important single collection in the UK of books and other material dedicated solely to ecclesiastical architecture, art, design and liturgy and is a unique research
tool for researchers interested in those areas. Despite this reputation it is little known even though it is relatively easily accessible in Central London – usually at Church House but currently near Waterloo while Church House undergoes refurbishment. It will return to Church House in early 2007.

The collection includes approximately 13,000 books and 100 periodical titles, covering topography, church and cathedral architecture and archaeology, architects, liturgy, church fittings and furnishings, stained glass, organs, bells and monuments, and including key reference works in the field. The collection complements that at Lambeth Palace Library. The collection also includes over 10,000 slides; c16,000 survey files of the Council for the Care of Churches; and a great many postcards and photographs.

There is at present no online catalogue. Staffing is on a volunteer basis, with part time librarians helping out 2-3 days per week. The immediate goal is for an online catalogue of the books accessible via our website.

We are making efforts to make the library as accessible as we can and the number of enquiries and visitor are increasing, though from a very low base - For research enquiries or to arrange access please contact the honorary librarian.

To access the CCB Library –

Tel: 020 7898 1884(Tues or Weds – Honorary Librarian Vaughan Whibley)

Email: enquiries@ccc.c-of-e.org.uk.

Website: http://www.cofe.anglican.org/about/librariesandarchives/

Summary
I’ve talked about the Lambeth Palace Library & the Church of England Record Centre and the Cathedrals and Church Buildings Library. For the major archival collections Lambeth Palace Library is the physical front door and access point to the collections.

The virtual front door and access point is via our websites – all accessible via C of E website and Library website. http://www.cofe.anglican.org/about/librariesandarchives/
There is information on the C of E site on the libraries and archives of the National Church Institutions and also links to all of the major English Cathedral Libraries and Archives.

Developments a reprise.

- Archival Catalogue due online later in 2006 – it is based on major retro-conversion and current cataloguing
- Internally, there is much activity in the area of Records Management with a Records Manager appointed at Lambeth Palace; a review of un-appraised Church Commissioners holdings begun at CERC; and a variety of projects within the NCIs including investigation of Electronic Records Management.

In all of this there is a common theme – a vision of an integrated libraries, archives and records management service for the NCIs – reaching outwards to the wider church and beyond to offer access to the rich heritage in our care and to support the Church’s mission; and facing inwards to support the work of the NCIs, helping them to manage their current information effectively and efficiently.
Conferences

Connecting culture and commerce: getting the right balance

To celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Museums Copyright Group it is organising a conference with Kings College London at the National Gallery on Friday 26th January 2007. Expert speakers will debate how to balance cultural and commercial interests. Looking at the challenges of opening wider public access whilst protecting rights, will be set against emerging business and licensing models. It is hoped to challenge misconceptions about roles and to start discussing new working practices and partnerships. Full details are available at: http://www.kdcs.kcl.ac.uk/mcg2007/


A one-day conference to launch volume XI of the Catalogue of Books Printed in the XVth Century Now in the British Library (BMC), compiled by Lotte Hellinga. This volume contains full descriptions of the Library's collection of English incunabula and includes an extensive Introduction describing in detail the arrival of printing in England and its early development, with sections on the printers, their technique, the texts and their readers, typography, paper, early owners and the development of the Library's collection.

The conference will aim to define the ways in which the new catalogue can be used as a starting block for new explorations in the history of printing in England. Participation is free, but registration is required.

To register, please contact Teresa Harrington, British & Early Printed Collections, The British Library, 96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB.
T: +44 (0)20 7412 7785    E: teresa.harrington@bl.uk
Full details of the Draft Programme on http://portico.bl.uk/collections/earlyevents.html

Facets of Fraternity

A Free Workshop Presented by the Subject Specialist Network for Fraternal and Friendly Societies and Association. This is for: anyone with a social history collection or holding artefacts including archival material, decorative and folk arts, commemorative items or regalia.

A free one-day workshop at the People's History Museum in Manchester has been organised on Monday 11th December which will provide an introduction to this type of collection and look at how interpretation strategies have developed to date. Contact libmus@freemasonry.london.museum for further details of this event and the Subject Specialist Network.

Friendly and fraternal societies provided mutual support in hard times, sociability and moral leadership for their members of all ages, men and women alike, from the 1700s. By the end of the nineteenth century their membership numbered several millions and they were part of a family of voluntary associations that included co-operatives, trades unions and building societies. The flamboyant aprons and badges, mottoes and commemorative objects of groups such as the Sisters of the Phoenix, the Ancient Order of Foresters, the Free Gardeners and the Oddfellows were once familiar in every town and city in the country. Many of these objects now lie, largely forgotten, in local museums. One of the aims of the network will be to uncover these hidden collections, help other museums, libraries and archives make more effective use of them and attract new audiences.

Confirmed speakers so far include, Andy Durr of Brighton Fishing Museum, Mark Dennis of the Library and Museum of Freemasonry, Professor Andrew Prescott of Sheffield University, Victoria Solt Dennis the author of the book 'Friendly and Fraternal Societies their Badges and Regalia' There will
also be an opportunity to discuss the development of this new network and to show images or objects for identification by the speakers.

This is supported by an initial grant from the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council to explore the establishment of a Subject Specialist Network on Fraternal and Friendly Societies and Association. It is one of thirteen networks to have been awarded a grant recently. MLA Renaissance Manager Alison Hems has described Subject Specialist Networks as mechanisms for sharing scholarship, collections and collections expertise, research and interpretation skills, in order to improve the way museums understand and use collections, for the benefit of their audiences – precisely the aims of this project.

Further details are available on [http://www.freemasonry.london.museum/news](http://www.freemasonry.london.museum/news)

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**Collection management news and advice**

**Disaster Planning**

The AIL (Association of Independent Libraries) is hoping to organise a Disaster Planning workshop together with Historic Libraries Forum. If you are interested please contact Geoffrey Forster geoffrey.forster@leedslibrary.co.uk

If you cannot wait for a training course you will find useful material on the M25 libraries website [http://www.m25lib.ac.uk/disaster_management_working_group/2.html](http://www.m25lib.ac.uk/disaster_management_working_group/2.html)

From this point you can access their Disaster Control Plan Template which enables you to work through the stages of preparing an institution and site specific Disaster Control Plan. The National Preservation Office also has useful advice [http://www.bl.uk/services/npo/disaster.html](http://www.bl.uk/services/npo/disaster.html). If you are responsible for a major cultural asset look at the Blue Shield site [http://www.bl.uk/services/npo/blueshield/overview.html](http://www.bl.uk/services/npo/blueshield/overview.html)

If you want advice on reaching National Archives approved status for your building and collections you can find standards and sources of advice at on the National Advisory Services web pages [http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/archives/default.htm](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/archives/default.htm)

**Preservation needs in the UK**

The NPO recently published *Knowing the need: a report on the emerging picture of preservation need in libraries and archives in the UK*. National Preservation Office. February 2006. It is Available in electronic form from [http://www.bl.uk/services/npo/publicationsnpo.html](http://www.bl.uk/services/npo/publicationsnpo.html)

Printed copies are available free of charge from:

National Preservation Office
The British Library, 96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB
Telephone: +44 (0)20 7412 7612 E-mail: npo@bl.uk

To whet your appetite here is their concluding summary

**5.1 SUMMARY OF PRESERVATION NEED**

The Preservation Assessment Surveys have demonstrated that although much of the material in collections surveyed is in good or fair condition—it is not significantly damaged or deteriorating—a number of key preservation practices should be improved in order to minimise risk to collections, prevent deterioration in the future and redress damage which has already occurred.

The key issues are:

- Environmental monitoring
- Storage
- Packaging
- Surface dirt
• Disaster planning
• Damage to bindings
• Acidic paper

The findings suggest that at the highest level, action to address the need should focus on:
• Achieving an equilibrium for unstable material
• Identifying and implementing the most appropriate methods for retarding or correcting the development of brittle paper
• Extensive and consistent use of surrogates
• Ensuring there is an appropriately skilled workforce in both preservation and conservation

At institutional level, the following are needed:
• Housekeeping measures—cleaning, packaging
• Disaster planning
• Conservation
• Better storage
• Environmental monitoring and control

Collections link: just practical advice

Collections Link is the new national advisory service for collections management, managed by the MDA, in association with ICON and the National Preservation Office. It provides fast and easy access to current best practice in 16 areas of professional collections management. All the information has been provided by authoritative national bodies and experts in their fields. It is funded by the Museums Libraries and Archives Council. It is easy to use and from the website you can access the newsletter Collection Link News, 2nd issue October 2006 and request your free Collections Link pack.

http://www.collectionslink.org.uk/

The latest resource available via the website is Benchmarks in Collection Care, this is a self-assessment checklist to help you identify how well you are caring for your collections, give an indication of where and what improvements might be needed, and provide a practical framework for measuring future progress. The benchmarks are now available for download in various formats from the Care for my collection section.

Back-a-Book to help Lambeth Palace Library turn over some very old pages

New initiative offers an unusual gift alternative as well as helping to preserve priceless war-damaged documents

Lambeth Palace Library, the historic library of the Archbishops of Canterbury and the principal reference point for the history of the Church of England, has launched a project to help safeguard the future of thousands of priceless books – whilst offering a unique gift idea at the same time.

The Back-a-Book initiative invites members of the public to mark a special event or anniversary by donating money to help repair one of the Library’s volumes and, in return, dedicate an acid-free bookplate as a lasting memorial inside the cover of the book that they help to save. As the bookplates are created with a choice of words agreed with the sponsor, the scheme could even help in the search for an ideal gift for a friend or family member. Library staff will select the exact volume to be restored, based on those most in need within the subject range specified by the sponsor.

Lambeth Palace Library’s collection of printed books currently runs to more than 200,000 works, including a Gutenberg Bible printed in 1455, and 30,000 other works dating from the invention of printing to 1700.
The Library has laboured for fifty years to repair around 10,000 books damaged by fire and water during the wartime bombing of Lambeth, the work was brought to a triumphant conclusion in 1995. During that time, many significant works were discovered among the bomb-damaged books, returned to use in the Library and made available to all for research purposes.

In 1996 - just one year after the completion of the epic project - 35,000 manuscripts and early printed books from the closed Sion College were transferred to the care of Lambeth Palace Library. Sion College was also bombed during the Second World War, and suffered severe damage to its early printed books.

“A great deal of the wartime damage to this material remains unrepaired, and we very much hope that the scheme will help to conserve and safeguard the printed heritage in our care so that pages can be freely turned once again for the first time in more than half a century,” says Gabriel Sewell, Lambeth Palace’s Deputy Librarian.

All contributions to the scheme are gratefully received. As a guide, £30 will rebind a small volume and £150 will restore a leather binding. Further information on the Back-a-Book scheme is available from Lambeth Palace Library’s website: http://www.lambethpalacelibrary.org/

The Disposal of Heritage Assets by Public Bodies: a report by Green Balance for the National Trust. September 2006

Peter Hoare on behalf of the Historic Libraries Forum provided a response to the consultation that preceded this publication. The report is largely concerned with Central Government and local authorities disposing of land and buildings, both with respect to government policy and the legal position on disposals. There are significant case studies and examples of what has been happening. Section 7 deals with the Contribution of the voluntary sector and notes the wider view of Heritage assets taken by this sector. Collections, which Peter points out may have been built up over a long period have been classified as Chattels in the text but nonetheless the issues raised by Peter Hoare have received welcome attention and some prominence in the report.

The text can be read online at http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/main/w-policy-heritage_assets.pdf

Publications

Cambridge History of Libraries

The Cambridge History of Libraries in Britain and Ireland 3 Volume Set. General Editor Peter Hoare. CUP, October 2006. £300 or £275 if purchased before 31 January

This is the first detailed scholarly history of libraries in Britain and Ireland. Libraries large and small are covered, with examples from all over the British Isles. The development of libraries in Great Britain and Ireland over some 1500 years is described, as well as their role as a part of the social, intellectual and cultural history. In addition to obvious links with the history of books and literature, the volumes include consideration of education, technology, social philosophy, architecture and the arts, as they have affected libraries. The significant international dimension, which has affected British and Irish libraries from the Middle Ages to the present, receives due attention. Libraries vary enormously in size and purpose; they have often developed in ways which could not have been foreseen by their founders. This work seeks to trace these patterns of development as well as studying individual libraries and types of libraries, and in this way to illuminate not only libraries and their users but also
the wider history of the British Isles. Only in understanding their purpose and their context can the role of libraries be properly comprehended. Other themes considered in each volume include the housing, storage and maintenance of books and other material; the individuals responsible for their care and those who used them; developments in provision, organization and cataloguing; and the principles and attitudes - of librarians and users - which such developments reflect. Each volume includes an extensive bibliography of sources and secondary works.

Vol. 1 to 1640 Editors: Elisabeth Leedham-Green & Teresa Webber
Vol. 2 1640-1850 Editors Giles Mandelbrote & Keith Manley
Vol. 3 1850-2000 Editors Alistair Black & Peter Hoare
Browse the contents online at: http://www.cambridge.org/features/history/hoare

Electronic resources

English Short Title Catalogue Project

The 'English Short Title Catalogue' (ESTC) is an international project established at the British Library in 1977. Its aim is to create a machine-readable bibliography of books, serials, pamphlets and other ephemeral material printed in English-speaking countries from 1473 to 1800, based on the collections of over 1,600 institutions world-wide.

The ESTC can now be accessed free of charge through the British Library Website: http://estc.bl.uk

Oxford Online in English Public Libraries

(The Editor apologises to colleagues in other parts of the United Kingdom)

A landmark agreement (to 30 March 2008) has been negotiated between the MLA as part of its Reference Online initiative and Oxford University Press to offer Oxford’s electronic reference works free to public library members in England. Check your local library’s website for availability. The reference material on offer ranges from the Oxford English Dictionary, Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, Oxford Dictionary of Quotations, and 170 other dictionaries, companions and atlases to the Grove Dictionary of Music and the Grove Dictionary of Art. 144 English public library authorities have joined.

Venture Abroad: Images from Guildhall Library’s business collections, c.1868-1929. In the Guildhall Library Print Room, Aldermanbury EC2P 2EJ

Venture Abroad has been compiled by staff in the Manuscripts section of Guildhall Library. The photographs are taken from the records of six companies, the Borneo Company, Bank of British West Africa, Guardian Assurance, Harrisons and Crosfield, Steel Brothers and the Sun Fire Office. These companies were based in the ‘Square Mile’, but active all across the world. These wonderful images take the visitor from Accra to Zanzibar, Damascus to Sarawak, and include street scenes in Shanghai and Puerto Rico, the Grand Bazaar in Constantinople and elephants in Burma. The business activities portrayed range from gold mining and rubber tapping to coconut harvesting and teak extraction. An illustrated catalogue is available for sale in Guildhall Library Bookshop. This free exhibition is open Monday to Saturday, 9.30 am to 5.00 pm, until 29th December (closed 23rd to 26th December inclusive).

I have included this London item because it demonstrates how powerful a comparatively small exhibition of images can be, if members have a chance to see it. They are mostly digitised copies on exhibition. If you cannot visit the exhibition a taste of what has been hiding in the archives can be obtained from among the images in this selection on the website.
http://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/Corporation/media_centre/picture_library.htm#temp
Historic Libraries Forum Annual Meeting for 2006
“Access for All?”
BOOKING FORM

“ACCESS FOR ALL”
HISTORIC LIBRARIES FORUM AUTUMN MEETING, THURSDAY 16TH NOVEMBER 2006, AT KING’S COLLEGE, CHANCERY LANE, LONDON

Your Details
Please complete in block letters

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If requesting payment on invoice, please arrange for the cheque to arrive before 6th November.

The fee for the Meeting is £40 per place including lunch and £30 per place without lunch. Bookings received after 6th November may be accepted but we cannot offer lunch. Please make cheques payable to Historic Libraries Forum and post to: Miss Joan Williams, The Cathedral Library, The College, Durham DH1 3EH.

In order to facilitate networking, we will endeavour to circulate a list of participants to those who have booked, in advance of the meeting. Please indicate whether your email address may be used for this purpose only.

Contacts: Alison Wilson (amw18@cam.ac.uk) and Ed Potten (Edward.Potten@nationaltrust.org.uk)