

HISTORIC LIBRARIES FORUM

BULLETIN NO. 17

June 2010

Some welcome news from MLA to open this *Bulletin*. Details can be found on page 9 of the new MLA Designation Development Fund for libraries and archives. This will be the first opportunity for holders of Designated Collections outside the museum sector to apply for Designation funding from the MLA - a move which should be warmly welcomed.

The rescue of Cardiff Public Library's Special Collections, reported in the last *Bulletin*, continues to bring the books and manuscripts to national attention. On 27 May the Vice Chancellor of Cardiff University held a dinner to thank all those who had helped to negotiate the transfer of the rare book collection from the Public Library to the Special Collections Department of the University. Alison Wilson represented the Historic Libraries Forum, and heard speeches by Sir Martin Evans, Prof. Jonathan Osmond and Martyn Harrow, Head of Information Services. It is now abundantly clear how greatly the collection will benefit the University, and raise the status of its Library, turning it into a major research institution. Peter Keelan's report on the collection and its history (pages 5-7) amply demonstrates its richness and importance.

The closure of Edzell Library continues to raise concerns, not just for those interested in historic libraries, but for anyone concerned about public library provision. The report on pages 4-5 from the Edzell Library Action Group stresses a point frequently made by the Forum - that many historic libraries are not museums, but play an integral part in community life. Edzell was founded as a working lending library for the benefit of the local populace - a purpose it has served for more than 110 years. If this function ceases the library and community will be much the poorer.

Our 2010 Annual Conference will take place in London on 23 November and will focus this year on the topic of outreach - see page 14. More to follow on our website as speakers are confirmed - a reminder to book early as numbers will be limited.

Ed Potten
Chair, Historic Libraries Forum

REPORT OF HISTORIC LIBRARIES FORUM RARE BOOK CATALOGUING WORKSHOP, JANUARY 2010

This entry level workshop day was held at the library of St John's College, Cambridge, who made us very comfortable in one of their well equipped meeting rooms for the teaching sessions, and entertained us half way through the day with a tour of the 17th century Old Library.

There were approximately 12 participants and the day was divided into two sessions, the morning session led by Will Hale, from Cambridge University Library, and the afternoon by Stewart Tiley, from St John's College Library. The morning was devoted to the processes involved in the production of books in the hand-press era, which, as well as being fascinating, is obviously fundamental in understanding how to catalogue the features and formats of these materials. The afternoon tackled the intricacies of cataloguing rare books with Marc 21, and how to describe the characteristics particular to rare books correctly, such as bindings and provenances. Both sessions were liberally sprinkled with practical activities and we were able to handle rare books from the St John's College Library as a teaching aid.

Having already worked as a cataloguer of modern rare books for over a year, and with some previous experience in cataloguing a few hand-press era books in my time in that post, I was unsure about how useful I would find the course. Nevertheless, I found it invaluable, in that it was a joy to have hand-press book production explained to me in a way that was somewhat lighter and more comprehensible than trawling through Gaskell. I was glad that I came to the course with some knowledge of Marc, mainly because it encouraged us to question and revise some of our house practices when I returned to my own library. All-in-all this workshop has helped to make me feel less apprehensive when confronted with a pre 1830 uncatalogued book!

Louise Anderson
Project Cataloguer
Eton College Library

REPORT OF HISTORIC LIBRARIES FORUM PROVENANCE WORKSHOP, APRIL 2010

Earlier this year I attended the HLF 'Cataloguing antiquarian, special and early printed collections workshop' and found it invaluable for my current work at the Royal Asiatic Society, cataloguing books printed before 1820. So I was very much looking forward to participating in the Provenance Workshop. Especially so as the provenance evidence I am finding in many items in the Society's collection has left me very excited, but admittedly in some cases quite perplexed.

The workshop was held at the Guildhall in the City of London on Thursday 29th April. There was a hive of activity as we arrived because later that day the 'Big Curry Lunch' was being held, to be attended by politicians, sports stars and dignitaries to raise money for charity. On the way to our meeting room some of us were lucky enough to peek into the Great Hall which was being prepared for the event. There were about 15 participants in the workshop from libraries including the Royal College of Physicians, the British Museum and St. Pauls School. We got a chance to get to introduce ourselves over coffee in our meeting room before the event started.

We were very lucky to have David Pearson, Director of Guildhall Libraries and respected authority on provenance research, present the first session of the day

entitled 'Deciphering and Identifying Provenance Evidence'. I was amazed at the amount of useful information that David managed to fit into the session. We looked at many different types of provenance evidence including names, mottoes, bookplates, labels and stamps on bindings, and the difficulties associated with each. David's encouragement, along with the comprehensive list of reference resources were given, meant I was already starting to feel more confident.

After a very tasty and good value lunch at the Guildhall canteen, we were ready for the afternoon sessions which demonstrated the difficulties and rewards that come from provenance research. Next it was David Shaw, former Secretary of CERL, who shared his expertise in provenance research with us. David addressed some important practicalities and issues of entering provenance information onto library OPACs. He also suggested ways to enhance catalogue records, for example, by adding images of provenance evidence. David also highlighted the benefits of putting provenance information for your collection online in HTML format because it can be picked up by search engines. I was also very happy to hear about the CERL query blog which was set up to help solve the mysteries of unidentifiable bookplates or inscriptions. All you need to do is post an image along with your query and fingers crossed somebody will be able to help.

Alison Wilson described the interesting work which has been undertaken at Murray Edwards College Library to transform the 'lost' library of Eleonora Duse (1858-1924) into one of the leading resources for Italian theatre studies in Cambridge. Dr Anna Sica discovered the importance of the collection of books belonging to the great Italian actress from amongst 2000 family books donated by her grandchildren. Library staff, with the help of Dr Sica, were able to find evidence of Duse's ownership in the form of petals used as bookmarks, stamps and matching bindings. Identifying the books revealed much about the actress's training, her research for roles she played as well as her friendships and romances, and when the results of the work were presented by Dr Sica in a paper given in Venice, it generated a lot of publicity for the library.

The final presentation of the day was given by Alison Walker, Lead Researcher of the Sloane Printed Books Project at the British Library. Alison and her team are working to identify the book collection of the respected physician Hans Sloane (1660-1753). The current project aims to create a database of the 40000 volumes of Sloane's book collection which are now interspersed within the British Library collections. The books are being identified as Sloane's using evidence such as binding styles and inscriptions and entered on the database with copy specific information such as pre-Sloane provenance. The research work has garnered fascinating results including 700 names of people who owned the books before Sloane and the discovery of the numbering system Sloane used in his own library.

After the presentations were finished we were given the chance to visit the Guildhall Library which was a very nice way to finish the day. A few weeks on and I have definitely felt the benefit of the workshop in my work. I feel I have a sharper eye for different types of provenance evidence and I know the best places to go to find the best help.

Helen Porter, Royal Asiatic Society Library

EDZELL LIBRARY, ANGUS, UNDER THREAT

Up until March 2010 Edzell's County Library was housed in Inglis Memorial Hall, Edzell. Rev Robert Inglis was Minister of Edzell parish, later becoming the first Free Church minister in Edzell after the Disruption. He and his wife were highly regarded and, although themselves often poor, many of their 13 children went on to great things. One of them, Robert William Inglis, earned his fortune in the Stock Exchange. In 1898 Lt. Col. Robert William Inglis VD (later knighted) gifted his native parish community with the magnificent Inglis Memorial Hall, in memory of his parents and an uncle (a significant tenant farmer, who gave freely of his medical knowledge throughout the nearby Glen). At the same time Lt. Col. Inglis also gifted over 5000 books in commemoration of Queen Victoria's Jubilee, which he himself selected and had specially bound in order to survive much handling. Rarely, these books still survive today in the place for which they were intended. Descendants of the Inglis family still live in the district.

Inglis Memorial Hall with its halls, library room, reading room, parish council room and various other rooms, is impressive. Its mullioned leaded windows, clock tower, mosaics, reeded wooden panellings, high skirtings and the built-up panelled doors tell only part of the story. The library room of Inglis Memorial Hall is no less striking. Still intact it has stunning tall stained-glass windows (complete with pithy mottos), a bow-fronted bay window, original wooden shelving, Cotgreave Indicator, mezzanine and decorative iron spiral staircase leading to a Reading Room above - a truly beautiful environment in which to encourage reading.

The grand opening in 1898, when the Hall was entrusted to the Parish Council, was fittingly impressive. Lt. Col. Inglis paid for banquets and dazzling fireworks such as, according to papers at the time, had "never been seen anywhere in Scotland before" in Edzell and Tarfside. There were speeches and a ball. He even paid for new uniforms for the band who played and gave money to people who lived too far away up the Glen to attend.

Edzell Library has been described as one of the best preserved examples of a late-nineteenth century public library surviving anywhere in the UK. (There is possibly only one other library anything like it.) Experts have suggested that Edzell Library is the closest thing we have to a museum of public librarianship in Britain. Originally given to be held in trust by Edzell Parish Council, for the use and benefit of the community for perpetuity, various local government reorganisations mean Angus Council now are the Trustees

In March Angus Council, as part of budget savings, closed all four of their rural part-time libraries, adding the areas to their mobile library service. Angus Council have said they hope to work with the community to promote the Edzell historical library and building, maybe using the library as some sort of museum. However Edzell Library Action Group (ELAG) feel it was intended always to be a living lending library for the benefit of the local populace and that whilst the historical aspects should be promoted this should be done at the same time as maintaining the library as a living public library - possibly the best way of guaranteeing the preservation of the important historical aspects.

ELAG are exploring many avenues, are in contact with various library organisations and experts. A petition, (signed by over 400 people in 5 days) was gathered and the issue raised at a Community Council meeting and at a special well attended Public Meeting. Councillors and MSP's have been written to and much research has been done on the internet, in archives and into Council documents. The local press have been keenly following the story. Also somebody ran a Facebook page about the closure. None of ELAG knew who was responsible for it but in a very short space of time it generated a lot of interest then mysteriously disappeared. As the page was proving so popular ELAG have subsequently set up their own. <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=117715884932059&v=wall&ref=ts>

At present the historic library remains shut and Edzell is receiving a mobile library service for two hours a week parked outside the old library. ELAG are hoping to meet again with the Council at the end of June.

Edzell Library Action Group, June 2010

CARDIFF PUBLIC LIBRARY RARE BOOKS COLLECTION: HISTORY AND ANALYSIS

Historical Background

Before the 20th century Wales had lacked the historical and rich library collections of major cities like Edinburgh, Dublin and London. Its medieval monastic collections had been dispersed, and it had neither ancient universities nor national institutional libraries.

When the new National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth opened its doors in 1909 (100 miles from Cardiff), Cardiff still had the largest and richest collections in Wales. Cardiff and Aberystwyth had competed in an open competition to be home to the new National Library in 1905, but when Sir John Williams offered his medieval manuscripts to Aberystwyth they won the day.

Quoting the Welsh Biography Online, it says of the City Librarian, Harry Farr, "When Farr retired in 1940 the Cardiff City Library Service was recognized as one of the finest in the country and the Central Library as one of the great municipal libraries of Great Britain".

By the 1950s and 1960s the issue of lack of space in the old Central Library had been recognized and was becoming acute. However, it took until 1988 for a brand new Central Library to be built. In the intervening decades times and fashions had changed, and the impetus and ability for further developing the rare books collections had been lost.

The Public Library planned in 2006/7 to move to another brand new building. It was at this stage the City Council's decision to sell at auction its main 'rare books' collection was revealed - to the surprise, and consternation of all. The rationale was to raise funds to help pay for the new computer book issue system for the new Central

Library building. The Cardiff University Librarian and the Head of Special Collections immediately initiated discussions with the City Council officers responsible for the decision to explore other options; specifically to see if the University Library's Special Collections could become a home to the City's rare books collection.

Following two years of discussions, the Heritage Minister for the National Assembly for Wales, using his portfolio responsibility for culture and libraries, intervened, and asked his civil servants to assist; and they helped broker a deal between the Council and the University which was acceptable to all parties. Basically, Cardiff University funded nearly half the agreed sale price, and the National Assembly's heritage and education departments funded the remainder. (The Public Library's Welsh books and manuscript collections are being retained by them).

Contents of the Collection:

The Public Library arranged its main rare books collection of around 14,000 volumes under the following headings:

- Incunabula , Bibles, Atlases, Early English octavos, Early English quartos, Continental works, Modern Rare Works, (mainly 19th century) Restoration Drama, Private Presses.

The first Librarian at the Public Library, John Ballinger, (later the first Librarian at the National Library of Wales) described the Incunabula collection in 1908 as:

“a collection of rare and beautiful early printed books, with at least one example from the earliest press of nearly every important continental town...” (There are no English imprints in the collection). The c. 180 works date from the early 1470s and provide a cross-section of early printed culture, classical texts, Bibles, early Church Fathers, medieval theologians and philosophers, canon law, and Renaissance literature. Only the National Library of Wales and University of Wales, Trinity/Lampeter hold similar size collections in Wales. A surprising number seem not held in the British Library.

The major Bibles and Restoration period collection range from 15th C. to the 18th C. Amongst the Reformation texts are Tracy's 'Testament' of 1535 (it seems only four other locations worldwide are known), Veron's 'Godly Sayings' of c. 1550 (STC records only the Folger copy in the USA), finally Zwingli's 'The Ymage of Bothe Pastoures' of 1550 (where the only other copy is noted at Cambridge).

Around 250 atlases are included in the collection, dating from mid -1500s to mid-1700s. One incunabulum of 1492 has been noted with a map in it also. There is a mix of English and continental imprints: key volumes include a 1552 Ptolemy, Mercator volumes of 1635, and 1633-38, and a 1606 Ortelius.

This catch-all category of Early English octavo and quarto holds the bulk of the collection - around 7,000 volumes, mostly from the 17th century - 18th century. A 1695 Othello has a contemporary manuscript comment: 'the best next to Hamlet', and has a manuscript list of 'dramatis personae', including 'Mr Cibber' as Iago. Just under the letter D for authors are works by Davenant, Defoe, Donne, and Drayton. Other key items noted so far include the first English 1525 Herbal, one of only two surviving copies in the UK it appears. Becon's 'The jewel of ioye' c. 1550 seems unique; as does 'An exercise for a Christian familie' of 1585. There are regular examples of

various Cardiff books being one of only five or so surviving copies; more will no doubt turn up as cataloguing and research progresses.

Continental editions number just under 2,000 volumes. Examples so far seen include collections of editions of Boccaccio, Virgil, Dante, and others has also been identified.

The 'modern rare works' is again a catch-all category of mainly 19th and early 20th century quarto and large folio volumes, covering art, architecture, natural history, and topography. Highlights include Rew's 'Plantae Selectae of 1750-73, Gould's volumes the 'Family of Humming Birds' 1849-61, the Scottish artist, David Roberts, and his two titles (in six volumes), The Holy Land (1842-49), and Egypt and Nubia (1846-49). There is also a copy of Shackleton's, 'The heart of the Antarctic', 1909, one of 300 copies signed by members of the shore party, described as 'a luxurious publication...of the heroic age [of]... Antarctic exploration'. One work of photography not held elsewhere in the U.K., and with only one USA location identified, is Fox and Hatton's 'The Anatomy of Foliage' (c. 1865-66), described as a tour-de-force of early landscape photography.

The Restoration Drama collection of around 800 volumes has been described as possibly one of only three such collections in the UK. Similarly, the Private Press collections, of over 2,000 volumes is a masterpiece of a collection in its genre for UK imprints.

Some statistics based on a 10% sample of the rare books collection show: around 40% of the collection will have manuscript annotations or provenance notes in them Also,

- 8% are from the 15th and 16th centuries,
- 35% are from the 17th century,
- 35% are from the 18th century,
- 6% are 19th century works,
- 14% are 20th century editions.

Cardiff University Library is now preparing a programme to tackle necessary cataloguing, conservation, digitisation, exhibition, and promotion work. We will be working with academics in Cardiff and wider afield to develop projects to open up and utilize the collections to the fullest. A rare opportunity indeed !

Peter Keelan, Head of Special Collections and Archives,
Cardiff University Library. (www.cf.ac.uk/insrv/scolar)

THE EARTHQUAKE IN HAITI

The January 12th earthquake in Haiti killing hundreds of thousands and leaving millions in even greater hardship and poverty has also meant the potential loss of the nation's intellectual patrimony. While it is natural to focus attention on the suffering of the Haitian people it is important to also note the central role intellectual patrimony will play in the rebuilding of the country and establishing a truly democratic state. Today, the nation's cultural heritage — its museums and libraries and the vital records they contain — are at risk.

The Bibliothèque Haitienne des Pères du Saint Esprit won't directly feed or clothe or shelter Haitian people. But it contains a spark of the spirit they need to keep going. More than an archive of their past, it holds the promise of their future.

La Bibliotheque Haitienne of the Fathers of the Holy Spirit's collection, begun in 1873, is oldest, largest and most important archive in the country. The Spiritain fathers democratic activism made them enemies of François "Papa Doc" Duvalier who expelled them from the country in the sixties — at that time to protect the collection much of it was hidden. After the fall of Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier in 1986 the Spiritains returned to Haiti and in the mid 1990s they felt it was secure enough to reopen the collection. The collection centers not only on Haitian history but also that of the Western Hemisphere and includes: the history of the Haitian Revolution at the close of the 18th century; the history of the Caribbean during that period and the history of slave trade in its triangular pattern between Europe, Africa, and the New World.

The John Carter Brown Library (JCB) at Brown University, working in cooperation with Bibliothèque Haitienne, has long been assisting Haiti protect its intellectual patrimony. Recently JCB, which holds the largest collection of Haitian pre-independence works, began digitizing its Haitian collection of works written before 1825. The goal of the digitization project is to make the books accessible via the internet not only to Haitian scholars, but also school children as well as people with varying degrees of literacy. Each book is being scanned and treated as an artifact. Users can see the cover, binding and zoom in to analyze the type font and qualities of the print and is planning to translating the website into Creole and French. The JCB collection, entirely distinct from the Brown University Library, is partially accessible online and 85 percent of its holdings are recorded on both the Brown University online catalogue "JOSIAH" and in the WorldCat database.

Haiti's earthquake made the cooperative effort between La Bibliotheque Haitienne and JCB even more crucial. Today thousands of rare and historical books in peril, days after the quake La Bibliotheque's curator and it's chief archivist climbed scaffolding under treacherous conditions to rescue 20,000 books that with JCB's assistance were later boxed and stored for safekeeping — days later the building collapsed. Archivists are now attempting to keep Haiti's history alive by removing other documents from unstable buildings and storing books with the plan to expand and accelerate digitalization as soon as funding can be secured. Michèle Pierre-Louis, former Prime Minister of Haiti, is actively working with JCB in this effort and Patrick Tardieu, chief conservator at the Bibliothèque and director of the library at the University of Quisqueya — who managed to get the collection boxed and removed — has been appointed a JCB visiting scholar.

Assisting the Haitian people in preserving their patrimony is of paramount importance in restoring the nation and creating a true democracy and vibrant society. The ills of Haiti are well documented and theirs is a sordid history. But the future need not be so and the efforts of many throughout the world can bring change by providing witness which is an inspiration and a source of encouragement and hope. To help recover Haitian historical resources, the JCB has created a fund called, *Saving Haiti's Libraries*. The Historic Libraries Forum Committee has contributed to this fund and encourages other institutions in joining in this effort. Cheques can be made out to the John Carter Brown Library, with the notation "Saving Haiti's Libraries" added to the

bottom line, and mailed to us at JCB, Box 1894, Brown University, Providence RI 02912. All funds collected will go to preservation of the rare books that contain Haiti's history and strict verification is being implemented that all monies raised will be spent according to these guidelines.

Today, all around us we see the loss of authority and of meaning, a collapse of institutions, the flight from public life and dissatisfaction with the world view. Naturally, change and renewal are called for, making this a time of waiting and suspension. For now however, dislocation, polarization and negation characterize our situation. Assisting in preserving Haitian patrimony is central in restoring the nation and creating a vibrant democratic society. The efforts of many throughout the world can bring change by providing witness which is an inspiration and a source of encouragement and hope. Please consider joining in this mission.

Donal Adams, Washington

As reported in our last issue, HLF has contributed £300 to the fund.

NEWS

Funding for Designated library and archive collections

A Designation Development Fund for libraries and archives is now open – a first opportunity for holders of Designated collections outside the museum sector to apply for Designation funding from the MLA.

MLA's Designation scheme identifies collections of national and international importance held in England's non national museums, libraries and archives. These iconic collections represent a vital part of our national cultural heritage.

Collection holders who are interested in pursuing a proposal should contact MLA staff in their region in the first instance. MLA hopes to invest in four to nine projects ranging between £10-40k each. Proposals must be submitted by 13 July 2010.

More:

http://www.mla.gov.uk/news_and_views/press_releases/2010/Designation_archive_and_libraries

Manchester Central Library Closure June 2010 to 2013

Manchester Central Library will close for major refurbishment from **18th June 2010 until 2013**. The building is in need of specialist renovation and Ryder Architects (who designed the new Newcastle Central Library) have been commissioned to undertake the project. When it re-opens this beautiful building will be restored to its former glory and an adjoining, ultra-modern city centre community library will open, created as part of the Town Hall Extension restoration by Ian Simpson Architects.

On **28 June 2010**, we will open a new temporary City Library in Elliot House on Deansgate, offering key services. In addition to books, newspapers, and magazines there will be computers, business information, services for visually impaired people and a reduced Henry Watson Music Library and Chinese collection.

The **Local Studies Service** will be based there, retaining their extensive collection of books, microfilms and other local and family history resources. **Manchester Archives** will be moving to join Greater Manchester County Record Office in Marshall Street where their collections will remain accessible (by appointment).

However, there will be no study space in City Library (other than for researchers in the Local Studies section)

Almost all our stack reference material, Rare Books and Special Collections will be in storage for the duration of Central Library's closure. The exceptions which will remain accessible are: the **Gaskell Collection** (which will be housed at Marshall Street), the **Broadside Ballads, Chapbooks and Tracts Collections** (which Chetham's Library has generously offered to store for us) and a small collection of **local Music archives** (at the Royal Northern College of Music)

Whilst we are closed, we are embarking on a massive retrospective cataloguing project to add over half a million card-indexed books to our online catalogue.

When Central Library re-opens in 2013, its new archive centre will bring together materials from a range of partners, including the North West Film Archive, Greater Manchester County Record Office, Manchester Register Office, Manchester and Lancashire Family History Society and the Ahmed Iqbal Ullah Race Relations Resource Centre, under one roof.

For further information check our website www.manchester.gov.uk/libraries

Or contact Patti Collins, Special Collections and Cataloguing Manager, Tel 0161 234 1996; email p.collins@manchester.gov.uk

Parker Library Reopens

The Parker Library, Corpus Christi College, Cambridge is pleased to announce that the new reading room and secure manuscript vault have now been completed and the Parker Library has reopened to readers with enhanced facilities.

The Parker on the Web project to digitise the manuscripts is now complete and can be viewed at <http://parkerweb.stanford.edu> The four-year project has been described as a "triumph of collaboration" between Corpus Christi, Cambridge University Library and Stanford University. Stanford built and hosts the website and teams from the College and University Library digitised almost 200,000 separate pages.

Exhibition News

Elizabeth Gaskell: A Connected Life

15 July to 28 November 2010

The John Rylands University Library

150 Deansgate

Manchester

M3 3EH

FREE

Elizabeth Gaskell was a prolific correspondent and stood at the centre of a wide and varied social network. Her personal connections extended to people from many different walks of life – from some of the most famous figures of the day to the poorest factory workers in her home town of Manchester.

This exhibition, which marks the bicentenary of her birth, draws on the Library's world-class Gaskell collections to explore her place in these diverse communities. It looks at how Gaskell's social networks influenced her fiction and the worlds she depicted in her books. It also considers the worldwide community of readers past and present who have found enjoyment in Gaskell's work.

Some items from the Library's collections will be on public display for the first time, including letters from Elizabeth Gaskell to her friends and family. Other highlights include extracts from Gaskell's autograph collection, her passport and a family portrait kindly loaned by descendants of the Gaskell family.

This exhibition and the events programme has been generously supported by: The Gaskell Society, The John Kennedy Charitable Trust and the Bloxham Charitable Trust.

There is a full events programme to accompany this exhibition - including public lectures, historical costume presentations, musical and family friendly events.

Full details at:

http://www.library.manchester.ac.uk/specialcollections/events/_files/fileuploadmax10mb,165141,en.pdf

TRAINING EVENTS

The Preservation Advisory Centre

Training events taking place in July as part of the Preservation Learning Programme jointly sponsored by RLUK and the British Library Preservation Advisory Centre.

8 July

Preservation basics

RLUK/British Library Preservation Advisory Centre Training Day

Causewayside Building (National Library of Scotland), 33 Salisbury Place, Edinburgh EH1 1SL

The day will explore what is meant by preservation; the risks that can affect collections and how these can be addressed. By the end of the day, participants will have a greater awareness of what the preservation issues are for library and archive collections and how they can address them as part of their work. The day is targeted at those who are new to preservation of library and archive collections.

Monday 26 July

Disaster Response and salvage

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

This half-day course is led by Emma Dadson of Harwell Document Restoration Services. The course will include a number of short case studies, strategies for dealing with damage, an emergency decision-making exercise and a hands-on salvage exercise. There are four opportunities to attend the course which will be repeated at each venue; participants can attend either a morning or an afternoon session.

The Preservation Advisory Centre is also holding free events at locations in Scotland, England, Wales and Ireland on the theme of Advocacy, Evidence and Support for the preservation of library and archive collections. Places are limited.

6 July, National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth

13 July, National Library of Ireland, Dublin

21 July, The British Library, London

The events are aimed at librarians, archivists and collection care professionals. Each event showcases local examples of collaborative work, networks or support available for preservation and conservation activities.

For further details of the events and how to book, please visit

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

Digital Preservation Coalition and Preservation Advisory Centre joint conference

Tuesday 27 July 2010

Decoding the digital: a common language for preservation

British Library Conference Centre , 96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB.

This one day conference seeks to build on the communication between librarians, archivists, curators, conservators and digital preservation managers, and establish a shared understanding of the issues surrounding the preservation of digital collections.

Cost £50 + VAT (including refreshments).

To book please visit: <http://www.bl.uk/blpac/digital.html>

International Association of Music Libraries, UK and Ireland Branch

Monday 19 July 2010, 9.30am to 5pm

Music Cataloguing for Beginners

Royal College of Music Library

The International Association of Music Libraries, UK and Ireland Branch (IAML UK & Irl), is launching a new one-day course, tutored by Amelie Roper (Royal College of Music Library) and Andra Patterson (British Library).

Fees (including refreshments and lunch):

IAML members: £55 (65 Euro) Non-members: £77 (91 Euro) Students: £30 (36 Euro)

To book your place, please email Christopher Scobie: christopher.scobie@bl.uk

CILIP Rare Books and Special Collections Group

8-10 September 2010

"Rare but not Old": curating modern Special Collections.

Lancaster University

Modern "Special Collections" raise particular physical, intellectual, legal, and ethical challenges for curators, but they also offer fantastic opportunities for innovation and enhancing a service. A wide range of speakers will share their experiences of these issues and encourage delegates to reflect on their own collections.

The conference should interest anyone with responsibility for modern books, archives, or artefacts. Non-members of the Group are very welcome. Two bursaries are on offer to students or new entrants to Special Collections work

Full details and booking form available from the website:

<http://tinyurl.com/rarebutnotold>

New this year: poster displays. A chance to share your project or interesting collections.

Historic Libraries Forum Annual Conference 2010

Tuesday 23 November, 10.00 – 16.30

The British Library, London

“Going Public: How Outreach can Benefit your Library”

This conference will look at outreach and publicity opportunities for special and rare books libraries. The day will cover: ways of promoting or broadening the appeal of collections to new audiences; partnerships with other libraries and community organisations; exhibitions; libraries at risk; digitisation; contact with wider cultural initiatives and the achievement of recognition in a regional, national or international context. There will be case studies and a panel discussion with practical advice and time for networking.

More details of speakers and a booking form to follow on our website and in the next Bulletin.

Further information can be obtained from:

Joanna Bowring: jbowring@thebritishmuseum.ac.uk or
Gabriel Sewell: gabriel.sewell@c-of-e.org.uk

AND FINALLY...

Sniff test to preserve old books, by Victoria Gill.

“The key to preserving the old, degrading paper of treasured, ageing books is contained in the smell of their pages, say scientists.

Researchers report in the journal *Analytical Chemistry* that a new "sniff test" can measure degradation of old books and historical documents. The test picks up and identifies the chemicals that the pages release as they degrade.

This could help libraries and museums preserve a range of precious books. The test is based on detecting the levels of volatile organic compounds. These are released by paper as it ages and produce the familiar "old book smell." ”

From BBC News <<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/8355888.stm>>