

HISTORIC LIBRARIES FORUM

BULLETIN NO. 20 July/September 2011

Ed Potten has stood down after three very successful years as Chair. During that time we have seen the Forum membership rise to over 500, increased the range of workshops on offer and held some very popular conferences on disaster planning, security and outreach. We have had some great success stories – the Hurd Library at Hartlebury Castle and the rescue of the antiquarian books at Cardiff Central Library, now in the care of Cardiff University. Enormous thanks go to Ed for the amount of time and effort he has put into the HLF in the last few years. He will be a very hard act to follow!

I am thrilled to be taking over the Chair from Ed. For those of you who don't know me, I am the Historical and Special Collections Librarian at the Royal College of Physicians in London. I am looking forward to meeting you at future HLF events. The strength of the Forum is its membership, so if there is a course or workshop you would like to see please let us know. We are always looking for venues for HLF workshops or the Annual Meeting. Thanks to the generosity of organizations and sponsors we have been offered venues at reduced rates or for free. This helps to keep down the cost of our events and within reach of the tight budgets with which many of our historic libraries have to work.

This year sees some of our plans coming to fruition. In this Bulletin we launch a pilot of the Mentorship Scheme, something we have been hoping to introduce for a number of years. It is often difficult to find opportunities for professional development if you work on your own, or with few resources, and few universities now offer training for rare books librarians. We believe that a mentorship scheme will help to fill this gap.

We also have more workshops planned for 2011 and 2012. Subjects covered will include provenance and the cataloguing of prints. We are also looking into providing more themed workshops covering management and leadership skills. If this is something you are interested in please get in touch.

Another pilot project underway is a Google map of HLF members' libraries. Please have a look and let us know what you think.:

<http://www.HistoricLibrariesForum.org.uk> and click on Map of Historic Libraries.

Katie Flanagan, Chair

Historic Libraries Forum Annual Meeting 2011: Hard Times

The Annual Meeting for 2011 will take place on Tuesday 15 November 2011 at the Royal Asiatic Society, London.

In times of tightened belts, this year's conference examines ways in which to advance your library and your own professional development on a limited budget. Our morning speakers will be Alison Cullingford of the University of Bradford, Phil Sykes on winning friends and influencing people, and Katie Birkwood on 23 things necessary for professional development.

Following the all-important lunch, coffee, networking, and Forum AGM, the afternoon will bring together three case studies - with plenty of time for discussion - on Bishopgate Library's use of volunteers, on successful Heritage Lottery Fund bids at St John's College Cambridge, and on the Friends of Senate House Library London.

If you have any queries about the day, please contact Naomi Percival: naomi.percival@churchofengland.org 020 7898 1267)

The booking form may be found at the end of the Bulletin, or on our website. Forms should be sent to Christine Penney (address on the form).

HLF News – Committee

We're delighted to welcome Liam Sims and Jonathan Harrison to the committee. Liam is currently working as a Research Assistant at the Bible Society Library (Cambridge University Library) and as Rare Books Cataloguer at Jesus College. He will be taking over maintenance of the HLF website. Jonathan is the Rare Books Librarian at Senate House Library, having previously worked at the London Library and St John's Cambridge. He is assisting with the planning of this year's Forum Annual meeting.

Contact details for all committee members may be found on the website.

HLF News – Launch of Mentoring Scheme

The HLF has identified a particular need for mentoring amongst professionals working with historic collections. Maybe you work alone or as part of a small team and do not have access to mentoring through the usual channels of staff development programmes at work? Or maybe you work as part of a larger institution but are the only person in your area of expertise. In either case, having access to someone who can share their experiences through a confidential series of meetings would be extremely valuable.

For a mentor having the opportunity to put something back into the profession can be very satisfying, as well as offering opportunities for skill development.

The HLF would like to facilitate this initiative by identifying potential mentors and mentees and bringing them together. If you are interested in taking part in a pilot of the mentoring scheme please check for details on our website:

<http://www.HistoricLibrariesForum.org.uk> and click on Contact Us where you will find further information and application forms. Forms should be sent to Katie Flanagan (Katie.Flanagan@rcplondon.ac.uk). We will try to find a match for everyone but at the pilot stage of the scheme this may not be always possible.

LIBRARY NEWS

Update on Ushaw College

At their meeting on Thursday 9th June the Trustees of Ushaw College, the Bishops of the Northern Province and Shrewsbury Diocese, agreed to commission a detailed feasibility study to identify appropriate future uses for the College. The Trustees have also agreed to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Durham University to explore, as part of the feasibility study, a proposal put forward by the University to create a Centre for Catholic Scholarship and Cultural Heritage at Ushaw under the auspices of the University's existing internationally regarded Centre for Catholic Studies.

The intention is that the Centre for Catholic Studies (then renamed "The International Centre for Advanced Catholic Studies") would continue to have its primary academic home within the University's Department of Theology and Religion on the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Palace Green, situated between Durham Cathedral and Durham Castle (University College), but would expand to include the proposed Ushaw Centre for Catholic Scholarship and Heritage within its total operation and mission. It is envisaged that the library, archives and other collections will remain at Ushaw and will be used as part of this facility and made available to a wider public.

These decisions follow the recommendations of the Steering Committee which was established in January to advise the Trustees on the future of the College. The Steering Committee was charged with giving advice and providing a report to the Trustees about options for the future. The committee, chaired by the Rt Rev Mark Davies, Bishop of Shrewsbury, was asked to look strategically at the entire estate, including its land, buildings, libraries, archives and collections. Meetings have taken place with Durham County Council, English Heritage and other expert advisors.

Monsignor John Marsland, President of Ushaw College, said: "We are delighted that the work and efforts of the Steering Group have resulted in a proposal that will allow the heritage of Ushaw College, its collections and library as well as its educational traditions to continue and secure a future for this very important estate within the Roman Catholic community."

National Trust Libraries

Bibliographical records for 170,000 volumes held in the libraries of various National Trust properties can now be consulted on COPAC: <http://copac.ac.uk> . The drop-down menu allows searches of all NT records so far included, and users can confine searches to single properties by means of the keyword filed; full copy records are included.

A regular programme of library events is being run all over England, Wales and Northern Ireland. HLF members are welcome to contact Mark for details, or to arrange group visits for their own staff or Friends groups. Contact: Mark.Purcell@NationalTrust.org.uk .

Bishopsgate Library

Bishopsgate Library is now open six days a week: Monday to Thursday 10 a.m. – 5.30 p.m., Friday 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., and Saturday 10 a.m. – 5.30 p.m. Advance booking is necessary if you wish to use the special collections on Saturdays. For more information, call (0207) 392 9270 or email library@bishopsgate.org.uk.

Library of the Society of Friends

The spring issue of the Newsletter of the Library of the Society of Friends is now available on the Society's website at <http://www.quaker.org.uk/library> . Past numbers can also be found there.

The current newsletter contains an obituary of Malcolm Thomas, former Librarian, who died in October 2010 and who had worked in the Library for 30 years. Other articles look at early Bibles in the Library to mark the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible; reports of recently received Quaker mission archives; papers of a First World War conscientious objector and a report on recent preservation conservation work.

The St Cuthbert Gospel

The British Library has announced an ambitious £9m fundraising campaign to acquire for the nation the St Cuthbert Gospel. Created in the seventh century and intimately associated with one of Britain's foremost saints, the Gospel is the earliest surviving intact European book and one of the world's most significant books.

A manuscript copy of the Gospel according to St John, the St Cuthbert Gospel was produced in the North of England in the late seventh century and was buried alongside St Cuthbert on Lindisfarne, apparently in 698, and later found in the saint's coffin at Durham Cathedral in 1104. It has an original, beautifully worked red leather binding in excellent condition, and is the only surviving high-status manuscript from this crucial period in British history which retains its original appearance, both inside and out.

The largest single grant for a heritage acquisition in the British Library's history, the National Heritage Memorial Fund (NHMF) award of £4.5m is a huge boost to the campaign to acquire the Gospel. The Art Fund has also generously pledged £250,000 and a similar sum was donated by The Garfield Weston Foundation in recognition of the importance of the book to Britain. The Library is now in discussion with a range of other major donors with a view to securing the full amount by the deadline of 31 March 2012.

In parallel with the fundraising campaign, the Library has also developed an innovative 50/50 display partnership with institutions in the North East of England, in recognition of the cultural, religious and historical resonance that St Cuthbert has for the region. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed by Durham Cathedral, Durham University and the British Library paves the way for future opportunities to display the Gospel half of the time on the Durham UNESCO World Heritage Site, once the acquisition has been completed. The MOU establishes a framework for the increasingly strong and constructive engagement between the Library, Durham University and Durham Cathedral, which among other projects, will also see the visit of the Lindisfarne Gospels to Durham in 2013.

To support this acquisition please visit - <https://support.bl.uk>

The Colonna Missal at The John Rylands Library, The University of Manchester

On 6 July I attended the Christie's auction where we were successful in our bid to acquire the 'missing' seventh volume of the Colonna Missal, a magnificent service-book made for use in the Sistine Chapel in Rome. It was an exciting but nail-biting experience, as the bids went up by leaps and bounds. Fortunately the competition fell away as we approached the upper estimate and the hammer came down at £150 000. Quite a number of people came up to congratulate us after the sale.

As you might have read in recent press this week, the volume has now arrived at The John Rylands Library on Deansgate and joins the six other volumes that have been in our collection since 1901. It's on display in the Historic Reading Room until 23 August 2011.

Funding support for the purchase was generously provided by the Art Fund, the MLA/V&A Purchase Grant Fund, the Friends of the John Rylands, the B.H. Breslauer Foundation, and the Friends of the National Libraries.

John Hodgson, Collection & Research Service Manager (Archives and Manuscripts), The John Rylands Library, The University of Manchester.

LIBRARIES AT RISK

The Paul Hamlyn Library at the British Museum

HLF members who are on our email list or are members of the Facebook group will already know about the closure of the Paul Hamlyn Library at the British Museum. The HLF was very disappointed to learn of the proposed closure and staff redundancies back in April, although we had a fantastic response from our members, many of whom contacted the British Museum to express their concerns about the closure. As you may have seen in the press, unfortunately the closure and redundancies have gone ahead and the library closed on 12th August. Recent correspondence from the Museum has indicated that no decision has yet been made about what will happen to the books that were housed there. We are also awaiting news on the future of the Round Reading Room, which is being used to house special exhibitions until 2014. The Paul Hamlyn Library was expected to return to this space after that.

Sale of Rare Books from Worcester Public Library

The recent sale of rare books from Cardiff Public Library had a happy ending, as detailed in our June 2010 Bulletin, the collection now being safely lodged in the University Library. We now have to report, with dismay, sales from another public library with a far less satisfactory outcome. Without the kind of advance publicity which made possible the rescue at Cardiff, Worcester County Council has, since last September, been quietly selling at auction many of the rare books from the Public Library in Foregate Street.

The Public Library's forerunner was the Victoria Institute, founded in 1894 by a group of far-sighted citizens, similar to all those others in our great cities who did so much to improve education and access to heritage in the nineteenth century. A rare pamphlet, *Worcester Public Library and Hastings Museum* (1881) by C. M. Downes, describes the subscription library in Worcester, founded in 1790. It was this library, purchased by the city, which became the foundation collection of the Victoria Institute. Downes wrote that he hoped "this library will come, in course of time, to be true Alma Mater to many a mind" and, with extraordinary prescience, he saw it as a veritable university, quoting Scott's remark: "the true University of these days is a collection of books". Worcester finally became a university city in 2005.

The Victoria Institute collection is housed in the Public Library basement. Catalogues are sparse or non-existent, so little has, until now, been known about it. In 2012 the library will move to a new building called the Hive. This will hold the combined stock of the Public and University Libraries, together with the collections of the Worcester Record Office. Described on the web site as "the first fully integrated Public and University Library" it will "make learning truly something for everyone, whatever their age or background". Not all the University collections will be housed there; the special collections are likely to remain at the campus across the river.

The Public Library intends to place one special collection in the Hive – the Stuart collection of Civil War books and pamphlets – but they say that there is not room for all the items held in the basement. It was therefore decided that the best way of disposing of them would be to employ an auction company. One of the stated advantages of this was that the library staff knew that some items would have little or no value but still needed to be removed, and the auction company would take everything, not just the items of value. The criteria used for selection (described as "rigorous") were: local significance, direct relevance to the City Museum collections, number of copies already in stock, usage and condition. Advice was taken from colleagues in the local museum and archives, but no librarians with experience of rare books were invited to help. After this consultation the only guidance given to the auction company was a list of local bookplates and inscriptions to look out for.

Over £200,000 has now been realised. The auction catalogues reveal the amazingly varied and valuable stock built up by the present Council's Victorian forerunners, in line with the tradition of so many of our public libraries, which for over a century have underpinned their local and usually much younger universities. Items so far sold from Worcester include the Holinshed's *Chronicles* of 1587; a first edition of Coleridge's *Christabel*; the *Comoediae* of Plautus published by Aldo Mauzio in Venice in 1522; Thomas Paine's *Rights of Man* (1795); Edward Donovan's *Illustrations of rare and beautiful British shells* (1797) with hand-coloured plates and manuscript annotations (only one copy in the public domain, in the USA) and Malthus's *Essay on the Principle of Population* (1798) which sold for £52,000. The sale of a complete set of *The Gentleman's Magazine* in September was defended on the grounds of its digital availability, but the database cited covers only the first 20 years.

A very belated outcry in the local press in April, with the kind of headline all local authorities dread, resulted in the temporary suspension of auctions, but they have now resumed and a further eight sales have taken place, with more planned. The Council are now inviting local citizens who have expressed an interest and "academic historians" from the University to work with them "to ensure that no item is sold in error".

Christine Penney, Hurd Librarian, Hartlebury Castle.

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES, EXHIBITIONS AND EVENTS

Let There Be Light: the King James Bible

Eton College Library, Windsor, SL4 6DB (01753) 671 221

This special exhibition marks the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible and celebrates the recent gift to Eton College Library of a copy of the first edition.

Featuring printed books and manuscripts from the collections of the library and archives, "Let There Be Light" explores why and how this monumental book was created and traces its enduring influence. It also investigates key figures in the creation of this version of the Bible, with a special focus on Sir Henry Savile (1549-1622), who served as one of the translators while Provost of Eton.

Open now until 16 December 2011

Monday to Friday, 9.30-1 and 2-5

Admission free (by appointment only)

collections@etoncollege.org.uk

The Cranston Lecture

24 October 2011, 7.30pm

St Mary's Church, Chart Lane, Reigate, Surrey, RH2 7RN

Lecture in aid of the Cranston Library. The Cranston Library, founded in 1701 by the Revd Andrew Cranston, is situated in a small chamber above the vestry in St Mary's, the parish church of Reigate. It was probably the first public lending library in England and contains works of literature, history, geography, mathematics and classics as well as theology. The library is a charity managed by a board of trustees who endeavour to maintain it as an early eighteenth-century library. Many of the books have been there since its foundation and funds are always needed for conservation.

Speakers:

Dr Andrea Thomas: 'A Radical in Reigate: John Foxe and his Book of Martyrs'

The Reverend Dr Simon Coupland: 'The King James Bible Past and Present'

Lichfield Cathedral

Lichfield Cathedral is conducting tours of its library until November. It is usually closed to public general access. The collection includes the "She" and "Judas" versions of the King James Bible, as well as a first edition of Henry VIII's Great Bible (1539). Full details at www.lichfield-cathedral.org.

Royal Manuscripts

11 November 2011 – 11 March 2012

British Library, London

From 11 November 2011 to 11 March 2012, approximately 150 royal manuscripts will be featured in a major exhibition at the British Library. The research for this exhibition has been funded by a grant from the Arts and Humanities Research Council. The research team is headed by Dr Scot McKendrick, Head of History and Classical Studies, The British Library, and Professor John Lowden, Courtauld Institute of Art, University of London.

As part of this project the British Library will hold an international conference on 12-13 December 2011 to encourage collaboration on these manuscripts and discussion of contextual issues of power, stylistic influence, political motivations and rivalries with Europe, public and private devotion, education and knowledge, and artistic production in a variety of media.

**33rd Annual Conference on Book Trade History--A Skilled Workforce:
Training and Collaboration in the Book Trades from 1556 to the present
day**

27-29 November 2011

Stationers' Hall, Ave Maria Lane, London EC4M 7DD

This year's conference will describe the training and apprenticeship in the various trades associated with book production and show how each branch of the trade served and was dependent on the others.

Full details at <http://www.aba.org.uk>

**Impressions of Colour: Rediscovering Colour in Early Modern
Printmaking, ca 1400-1700**

8-9 December 2011

CRASSH, University of Cambridge

The absence of colour has been long been considered a defining characteristic of early modern printmaking. Colour printing from the hundreds of years between the invention of the printing press and 1700, when Christophe Le Blon developed the three-colour method we use today, has been thought of as rare and extraordinary. However, new research has revealed that bright inks added commercial value, didactic meaning and visual emphasis to subjects as diverse as anatomy, art, astronomy, biology, cartography, medicine, militaria and polemics in both single-sheet prints and books.

The conference will feature a demonstration of early colour printing techniques in the Historical Printing Room, a display of books with early colour printing at the University Library and a display of early colour prints at the Fitzwilliam Museum.

Full details at <http://www.crassh.cam.ac.uk/events/1659/>

HISTORIC LIBRARIES FORUM

Annual Conference 2011

“Hard Times”

Royal Asiatic Society

14 Stephenson Way London NW1 2HD

<http://www.royalasiaticsociety.org>

Tuesday 15th November

10.30-4.00: registration from 10am

BOOKING FORM

Please send this form, with a cheque for £40 (conference fee which includes a free lunch) to:
Miss C.L Penney, Treasurer, 58 Selly Wick Drive, Birmingham B29 7JH.
(clodpoll2001@yahoo.com 0121 471 3733)

Cheques should be made payable to the **Historic Libraries Forum**.
If payment is being made through an institutional finance department please indicate this below. Confirmation will be by email. If a paper receipt is required please enclose sae. Please note that there will be no further reminder once payment has been acknowledged.

Places are allocated on a first-come, first served basis and all booking forms must be received by 1st November.

I wish to attend the HLF conference on 15th November 2011

Name

Address

Institution

Email (please write legibly)

Telephone number

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

Any dietary requirements

Payment enclosed (please tick)

Payment to be paid institutionally (please tick)

Invoice required (please tick). Invoices will be sent electronically. If a paper copy is required please enclose sae.

Address to which invoice is to be sent