

HISTORIC LIBRARIES FORUM

BULLETIN NO. 31 June 2015

The committee has been busy over the last few months, planning workshops and this year's conference. A very successful workshop on identifying historic bindings was led by Professor Nicholas Pickwood at Lambeth Palace Library in April (a write-up can be found below) and two further events are in the pipeline for the autumn and winter: the ever-popular rare books cataloguing workshop, to be held in Oxford in September, and a re-run of last year's (heavily over-subscribed) practical conservation workshop, to be held in Cambridge in December.

Plans for the annual conference – to be held in Central London in mid-November – are well advanced. The subject will be digitisation, covering some of the more troublesome topics like the legal aspects of image-management and the maintenance of digitisation projects once the primary work is completed, as well as the digitisation of non-book materials. A full programme may be seen below and booking forms will be made available in the September Bulletin. We are also pleased to say that the Association of Independent Libraries has organised a re-run of our 2014 conference on projects in libraries – entitled 'Beyond the bid' – which will be held at the Portico Library in Manchester on 10th July. We hope some of those unable to attend last year will be able to get to this event, and details follow below.

Soon we hope to add three new guidance leaflets to our website: on cataloguing books in Greek and Hebrew, and one on cataloguing incunabula for those who don't often come across them. If there is a particular topic you would like to be addressed by such an introductory leaflet, do please let us know.

No major new 'libraries in danger' have been brought to our attention over the last few months, but two ongoing cases are worth mentioning. In March we heard that the Round Reading Room of the British Museum – formerly home to the old British Museum Library – will retain its false floor until summer 2016 while further fire-safety improvement work and cleaning is carried out, before any decision is made on the long-term future of the space. Things are looking more positive at the Imperial War Museum, which announced in May that it would not charge readers for using the library, but the overall situation remains difficult. The committee has been particularly active in supporting IWM library staff and contributed recently to a blog set up to promote the library and its collections (<https://loveimperialwarmuseumlibrary.wordpress.com/>). More on the current state of the IWM library is included within the Bulletin.

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

Liam Sims, Chair

Historic Libraries Forum Annual conference 2015

Planning for the 2015 HLF conference is well advanced, the general theme this year being digitisation. With this we aim to approach some of the less well understood aspects of embarking on such a project in your library or archive, to think both about when it is right and wrong to do so, and what pitfalls you might encounter. Whilst plans for the venue are yet to be fully confirmed, we anticipate that it will be held in Central London in the w/c 9th November (most likely on Thursday 12th). We will follow the traditional format of two main speakers in the morning and four shorter case studies in the afternoon, with plenty of time for questions and networking throughout the day. The two morning speakers will cover both ends of the digitisation spectrum, with presentations from the Wellcome Library (a leader, with Jisc, of the 'Medical Heritage Library' project) and TownsWeb Archiving (who undertake a wide variety of projects on behalf of libraries and heritage institutions). In the afternoon, four case studies will cover a number of topics which we hope members will find useful. These include copyright issues in digitisation, the management of digital images at the John Rylands Library, the 'afterlife' of the Parker Library digitisation at Corpus Christi College Cambridge and the digitisation of a significant collection of glass plate negatives in Sutton Archives. Further details will appear on our website in due course and booking forms will be available in our September Bulletin.

News

FULLY-FUNDED PhD STUDENTSHIP: Books and Borrowers, 1747-1857: Innerpeffray Library and the History of Scottish Reading

The School of Arts and Humanities, University of Stirling, is pleased to invite applications for this three-year, fully-funded PhD Studentship (fees and subsistence at current AHRC UK/EU rates). Funded by the Scottish Graduate School of the Arts and Humanities (www.sgsah.ac.uk), the University of Stirling (www.stir.ac.uk) and the University of Dundee (www.dundee.ac.uk), this studentship is an Applied Research Collaboration Studentship, through which the successful applicant will both produce a conventional PhD thesis, and gain experience in collaborative working and applied research with Innerpeffray Library in Perthshire as the external partner.

The successful candidate will be jointly supervised by Dr Katie Halsey (University of Stirling), Dr Daniel Cook (University of Dundee) and Ms Lara Haggerty (Innerpeffray Library). **The precise scope and emphasis of the PhD thesis will be shaped by the interests and initiative of the successful applicant** in consultation with the supervisory team, but the proposed doctoral project must fall within the broad field of the history of reading, and must make use of the collections and manuscript holdings of Innerpeffray Library, including its historic loans registers (1747-1968), historic visitors' books (1859 to the present) and 1702 Trustees' Minute book. For further information about the library, see www.innerpeffraylibrary.co.uk.

Some research questions that the doctoral project will seek to answer will include (but are not limited to):

What effects did the ideals of the Scottish Enlightenment have 'on the ground'? What do the borrowers' registers of Innerpeffray Library contribute to our knowledge of the history of books and reading?

What can Innerpeffray Library tell us about the shifts or continuities in the borrowing and reading behaviour of communities and individuals over time?

How can we map the effects of book borrowing/ reading on the practice of individuals (environmental history), or on their social mobility (social/cultural history), or geographical mobility?

What role did rural libraries play in disseminating knowledge?

How typical is Innerpefferay? (through comparative analysis of other Scottish/English/Welsh/transatlantic libraries)

The PhD student will be based at Stirling University, and will spend one day a week (or equivalent) at Innerpefferay Library. There will also be regular meetings with the co-supervisor at Dundee.

Further information on the studentship and on the application procedure is available in the Further Particulars:

<http://www.stir.ac.uk/media/schools/artsandhumanities/documents/Fully-Funded%20PHD%20Studentship%20-%20Books%20and%20Borrowers.pdf>

Potential applicants are welcome to contact Dr Katie Halsey (katherine.halsey@stir.ac.uk) and Dr Daniel Cook (d.p.cook@dundee.ac.uk) informally with any questions they may have.

The Studentship will commence on **1 October 2015**.

Deadline for applications: **Tuesday 30 June 2015**. Interviews will be held shortly thereafter, at the University of Stirling.

RAISING THE FLAG OF HISTORIC LIBRARIES

The CILIP Rare Book and Special Collections Group's *Directory of Rare Book and Special Collections in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland* is now in press, with publication expected towards the end of 2015.

Last published in 1997, the *Directory* is the only publication to bring together special collection from all kinds of libraries across the British Isles, from a prison to a palace. Companies, London clubs, subscription libraries, public libraries, clergy libraries, libraries for other professions, school libraries, University libraries, libraries in stately homes belonging or having fairly recently belonged to an individual and libraries belonging to the nation, books in museums, books in archives – all are covered. Facet's proud publication of a printed volume about printed volumes in this electronic age testifies to their cultural importance.

In terms of length of description, emphasis is obviously on the largest libraries: the longest entry is, unsurprisingly, that for the British Library, followed by that for Oxford's Bodleian Library. But presence in such a publication perhaps benefits most the many special collections which are not yet catalogued online and the smaller libraries whose holdings are not represented in academic union catalogues or in resource guides like MASC25, raising their research profile as researchers ask sweeping questions such as: 'Where should I best go to research the reception of Jane Austen's novels?' or 'Can I find Civil War tracts in a library near me?' The constitution of the Historic Libraries Forum states that the Forum will, among other aims, 'seek to give historic libraries a national voice, to raise awareness of them', and the *Directory* does this *par excellence*.

Thank you to the Historic Libraries Forum committee for its sustained support of the *Directory*, and to all individual members of the Forum who assisted the production of the *Directory*, by providing information about defunct libraries, by preparing entries themselves, and by encouraging others to do so.

Karen Attar, Editor, *Directory of Rare Book and Special Collections in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland*

LATEST DEVELOPMENTS AT THE IMPERIAL WAR MUSEUM LIBRARY

The Forum is delighted to hear the news that the Imperial War Museum no longer plans to charge readers to use its library. But this good news has been overshadowed by a number of factors which have reduced the service offered. Most significantly the number of staff in the library has been severely reduced, which means there are no longer the resources to run an enquiry service; the library's telephone enquiry service is no longer operational, with public enquiries now being forwarded to a general Museum enquiry service which does not have the expertise to answer them adequately. Questions have also been raised about the safety of collections, with only one librarian on duty at any one time. Furthermore, the Research Room's opening hours have been heavily reduced, closing completely on Fridays and over the lunch period (1-2pm) on the remaining days. Such a reduction of service is a great nuisance to researchers. In addition, the 'Explore History' drop-in centre which shares space with the library collections has also had its hours reduced, from 10-5 to 11-4, and will be closed over weekends and Bank Holidays, which were previously its busiest times.

The Forum will continue to watch developments at the IWM and members can follow developments by reading the 'Love Imperial War Museum Library' blog: <https://loveimperialwarmuseumlibrary.wordpress.com/>

Liam Sims, Chair

DOWNSIDE ABBEY LIBRARY OPENS TO THE PUBLIC

Downside Abbey Library was completed in 1971 with the ideal of creating a monastic library with public access. In 2012, the current Monastic Librarian, Abbot Aidan Bellenger, commissioned a team to investigate how this could be fully realised, to create a 'Beacon of Learning' for the West Country. In June 2013, after a six month consultation process and a second round application, a Heritage Lottery Fund grant was awarded to complete the work needed to achieve this goal. Essential remedial work was the first step on this journey which was completed in the spring. Now Downside Abbey Library is happy to welcome applications from readers and bookings from tour groups.

Downside possesses the largest monastic library in the British Isles, containing over 400,000 works, with around 100,000 of these considered rare. Strengths include: the Recusant Collection of roughly 1,500 English Catholic works printed after the Reformation; the Augustine Baker Collection (the 17th century Welsh Benedictine mystic); patristics: a collection of the Latin, Greek and Oriental fathers of the Church; canon law; hagiography: including the works of the Maurists and the Bollandists; monastic history; the liturgical and devotional collections of Edmund Bishop and David Rogers; over 70 incunabula and medieval manuscripts including a collection of books of hours; an extensive local history collection including a full run of the *Victoria County History* and the *State Papers/HMRC*. Periodicals include complete runs of the *Catholic Directory*, *The Tablet*, *The Burlington Magazine*, *Henry Bradshaw Society* and the *South West Catholic History*. Downside is the mother house of the English Benedictine Congregation and is home to its archives, as well as those of Downside Abbey and School.

Enquiries can be made via email in the first instance, to collections@downside.co.uk. Or follow the project as it progresses via our blog <http://downsideabbeylibrary.tumblr.com>, Twitter <https://twitter.com/downsidekeeper> and Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/DownsideAbbeyLibrary?fref=ts>.

Louise Anderson, Project Librarian

CATHEDRAL LIBRARIES & ARCHIVES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

The Summer 2015 issue of the CLAA's newsletter is now available on their website:

<https://cathedrallibrariesandarchives.wordpress.com/resources-publications/>

New Resources

OCLC 'MAKING ARCHIVAL AND SPECIAL COLLECTIONS MORE ACCESSIBLE'

OCLC Research published "Making Archival and Special Collections More Accessible," a compilation of some of the work they have done in OCLC Research over the last seven years. Among other reports, our survey of special collections and archives in the UK and Ireland is represented by inclusion of the executive summary and recommendations (and the same for the US/Canada report that preceded it).

Our aim in publishing the compilation is to highlight some of the reports focused on special collections and archives that we feel have particularly enduring value.

<http://www.oclc.org/research/publications/2015/oclcresearch-making-special-collections-accessible-2015.html>

THE COMPILER OF THE 'NUREMBERG CHRONICLE' AND HIS BOOK COLLECTION

The Nuremberg physician Hartmann Schedel (1440-1514) is known mainly as the compiler of the World Chronicle which was published by Anton Koberger in a Latin and German version in 1493 and which survives in more than 1,700 copies. The Chronicle is renowned as being the most lavishly illustrated incunable, with more than 1,800 woodcuts depicting biblical and historical events and persons as well as numerous views of European towns, many of which are the earliest accurate representations of these cities. In contrast, the Chronicle's text has received scant attention. Hartmann Schedel compiled it from a large variety of sources that he had assembled over decades in the course of his studies and professional career, which took him to the universities of Leipzig and Padua before he finally settled in his home town of Nuremberg for the rest of his life. On the occasion of the 500th anniversary of Hartmann Schedel's death, some 40 manuscripts and early printed books from the learned doctor's private collection were presented in an exhibition at the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek in Munich. The accompanying catalogue has now been published in an English edition.

Schedel's collection is a very rare example of a late mediaeval private library to have survived the centuries in an unusually complete state. It spans a wide range of subjects, beginning with university textbooks on the arts and on medicine which Schedel copied by hand. Schedel was interested in nearly all subjects: rhetoric, astronomy, philosophy, classical and humanist literature, historiography, geography and cosmography, medicine, law, theology. He enhanced his books with painted and printed images and stored documents in them, among them letters he exchanged with a network of fellow-humanists and book collectors, and notes concerning the acquisition of books. Some of his manuscripts contain

detailed autobiographical information, such as coats of arms and portraits of family members, inventories of property and books, records of journeys he undertook and accounts of important events. Through his unique manuscripts and rare incunables, Schedel springs to life for us as a person.

Worlds of Learning - The Library and World Chronicle of the Nuremberg Physician Hartmann Schedel (1440-1514), edited by Bettina Wagner for the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek Munich, is published by Allitera Verlag, 2015.
ISBN: 978-3-86906-757-5

Over 90 manuscripts from Hartmann Schedel's library can be consulted via the BSB website http://www.digitale-sammlungen.de/index.html?c=kurzauswahl&adr=daten.digitale-sammlungen.de/~db/ausgaben/uni_ausgabe.html?projekt=1073907098&recherche=ja&ordnung=sig&l=de

For incunabula from Schedel's library, see <http://inkunabeln.digitale-sammlungen.de/sucheEin.html>

HIGHLIGHTS OF MAGDALENE COLLEGE HISTORIC COLLECTIONS

Magdalene College Cambridge are delighted to announce the forthcoming publication *The Pepys Library and the Historic Collections of Magdalene College Cambridge* by Dr. M.E.J. Hughes, the Pepys Librarian and Keeper of the Old Library. The book, published by Scala, celebrates the highlights of the college's historic library collections, notably the Pepys Library. Further information and illustrations are available in the Scala catalogue 2015 (www.scalapublishers.com/Scala-Catalogue.pdf)

THE MONEY AND MEDALS NETWORK

The Money and Medals Network is an Arts Council funded project that exists to build and develop relationships between UK museums and related institutions with numismatic collections. The intention is to provide support where needed in terms of identification, storage and display of coins, medals, banknotes and associated objects.

An important aspect of the project is collections mapping. Institutions are being contacted about their collections with a view to making this information publicly accessible on the Money and Medals website: www.moneyandmedals.org.uk.

Each institution then gets its own page on the website which can be customised with relevant logos and images. The collections page for the North West is an example of recent project work: www.moneyandmedals.org.uk/#/north-west/4547094510

We want the Network to act as a hub for creating and delivering resources, training etc. (in response to the needs gleaned from museum visits) and to link in to existing schemes and networks where they are already in place.

If you are interested in being affiliated to the Network and participating in the assessment process, please get in touch via Money and Medals Network, Department of Coins and Medals, British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3DG, or email newsletter@moneyandmedals.org.uk. We hope to form a strong group of interested parties in the UK and to increase awareness, support and interaction with numismatic collections.

ONLINE SEARCHABLE DATABASE OF ROBERT HOOKE'S LIBRARY

Hooke (1635-1703) was a leading scientist and Fellow of the Royal Society, and an avid book-collector. The site includes data from the posthumous auction catalogue for his library, as well as a detailed introduction to his book-buying and reading. We are particularly hopeful that the information on the site will lead to the identification of further volumes from Hooke's library, so feedback is very welcome.

www.hookesbooks.com

Upcoming events

SPECIFIC INTEREST EVENTS AT GLADSTONE'S LIBRARY

Liberteas: A nationwide event celebrating Magna Carta, 14th June, 3pm

Join us for Afternoon Tea with a chance to reflect, debate and celebrate the rights that we enjoy today and to commemorate those who worked to gain those rights. Tickets are £7.95 for adults and £3.50 for children (the price of Afternoon Tea). To book your tour call 01244 532350 or email us at enquiries@gladlib.org.

Open Doors, 19th September, various times

Visit us on Saturday, 19 September and join one of our 25 minutes tours at 10am, 12pm, 2pm and 4pm and learn about Gladstone himself and the library he founded, as well as seeing rare and fascinating books in our Grade I listed Reading Rooms. You'll also be going behind the scenes into our Closed Access area as we open the doors to our collection of over 8000 books printed (or handwritten!) before 1800 – some of the books are even from the 1400s!

Come along and see the books kept under lock and key exclusively for Cadw's Open Doors. Who knows what you'll discover...

Cadw's Open Doors is an annual celebration of the architecture and heritage of Wales. It provides an opportunity for the public to visit places not normally open or to visit for free sites that usually charge. Sites that are normally open and free of charge offer something additional for their visitors.

To book your tour call 01244 532350 or email us at enquiries@gladlib.org.

GladFest, 4th September – 6th September, various times

North Wales and Chester's Affordable Literary Festival is now in its third year! With three days packed full of literary and cultural events, Gladfest goes from strength to strength. This year we have, amongst our craft fair and activities for younger folk, the following artists and authors (in order of appearance): Martin Edwards, Melissa Harrison, Alice Oseman, Zia Chaudhry and Judy Brown; Michel Faber, Peter Moore, Matthew Bradley, Sarah Perry and Lesley McDowell; Jessie Burton, Sarah Dunant, Patrick Barkham, Michael Nobbs and Richard Beard; Patrick Gale, Simon Grennan, Robyn Cadwallader and Sarah Butler.

Events are priced at £6 for 60 minute sessions, £10 for 90 minute sessions. But because we just know that there'll be so many you'll want to see, when you book six 60 minute tickets you only pay £30! To register your interest and book tickets call 01244 532350 or email us at enquiries@gladlib.org.

These are just a few of the exciting events happening at Gladstone's Library this year. To see what else is going on check out our [events page](#).

'BEYOND THE BID' CONFERENCE IN MANCHESTER

The Portico Library in Manchester, with the Association of Independent Libraries, will hold a re-run of our very successful 2014 conference, entitled 'Beyond the bid', on 10th July.

The keynote speaker will be Fiona Talbott, Head of Museums, Libraries and Archives at the Heritage Lottery Fund, giving practical information on how to bid for funding. Mark Webb, from the Heritage Alliance will talk about other sources of funding and the support the Heritage Alliance can give to independent organisations. Case studies drawn from the region will illustrate success in delivery of both large and small-scale projects. John Williams, who managed the redevelopment of the Elizabeth Gaskell House and Louisa Yates, Director of Collections and Research at Gladstone's Library who will talk on the impact of the Library's ambitious digitisation project are confirmed speakers, with others in the pipeline. There will be ample opportunity to share ideas and for discussion. More information and booking details can be found on the conference website: <http://www.theportico.org.uk/conference-the-bid-and-beyond>

'BENEDICTINE BATH': DOWNSIDE ABBEY ARCHIVES & LIBRARY, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH BATH ABBEY

The Monastic Community at Downside are delighted to welcome you to a week of events, celebrating 1000 years of Benedictines in Bath, from 6 to 10 July 2015.

Rediscover rare books, enjoy a concert of sacred chant and witness scholars in conference. Please reserve your free conference places on 01761 235323 or sparsons@downside.co.uk.

For more details and information please visit www.bathabbey.org

and www.downside.co.uk.

Monday 6 to Friday 10 July

First ever public viewings at Bath Abbey of pre-Reformation manuscripts and books from the Benedictine Monastic Library at Downside.

1 hour 30 min hour walking tours leaving Bath Abbey at 11am and 2.30pm following our C16th map of Bath's Benedictine secrets.

View an exhibition on the history of the Benedictine Church of St Johns, Bath, from 9am-5pm daily.

Tuesday 7 July

Service of adoration at St John the Evangelist Church, Bath and Cardinal Henry Newman celebration in the Lady Chapel.

Wednesday 8 July

Concert featuring monastic chant at St John the Evangelist Church, Bath.

Friday 10 July

Conference on the Benedictine History of Bath at the Guildhall, featuring a paper by Aidan Bellenger, Former Abbot of Downside.

LIBRARIES SOLD AND SAVED: 300 YEARS OF COLLECTING BOOKS IN LONDON

When: Tuesday 14 July 2015, 17.30-19.30
 Meeting point: Wellcome Trust, Gibbs Building, 215 Euston Rd, NW1 2BE
 Tube: Euston/Euston Square/Warren Street

On this library history walk, hear a medley of tales about libraries built, libraries sold and libraries saved. From the shadows will emerge a fine supporting cast of booksellers, auctioneers, dealers, agents and librarians.

Alice Ford-Smith (Bernard Quaritch Ltd) will guide you through the streets of Bloomsbury and Holborn. As you go, ghostly catalogues will be scanned, treasures found, inscriptions noted, bookplates added, shelves filled, cheques cashed, volumes cherished and books dispersed.

The evening will begin at 5.30pm with a curator-led viewing of a selection of books once owned by the designer, craftsman, author and socialist William Morris. When much of Morris's collection from Kelmscott House was sold at auction in 1898 over a third of the material was acquired by the Wellcome Library's founder.

The Wellcome Trust's headquarters, which is next door to the Wellcome Library, is the walk's starting point. Once William Morris and Henry Wellcome's lives as book collectors have been introduced, it will be time to move outside. After strolling through three hundred years of library history, the walk ends near Fleet Street at approximately 7.30pm.

Numbers are limited to 25 people, and pre-booking is essential via <http://goo.gl/N4a2ua>. Tickets, which are non-refundable, are £10 each. This event is open to all, so early booking is recommended.

KEDERMISTER LIBRARY, LANGLEY, NEAR SLOUGH: OPEN AFTERNOONS

The library of almost 400 books was founded before 1631, by Sir John Kedermister, for the benefit of "Ministers of the said town of Langley and such other of the County of Buckingham as resort thereto". It is still housed in its original cupboards within a library room inside the church of St Mary, Langley Marish. It is open to visitors on the first Sunday of each month, May – September, between 2.30 and 5pm. Remaining open days this year are 5th July, 2nd August, 6th September. Visits can be arranged at other times by prior arrangement with the Hon. Librarian, Katie Flanagan. Further details are available on the website:

<http://langleymarish.com/stmary/kedermister-library/>

Reporting recent events**HLF WORKSHOP ON IDENTIFYING HISTORIC BOOKBINDINGS**

Lambeth Palace Library, Monday 18th May

Lambeth Palace Library was the venue for the most recent Historic Libraries Forum event, which focused on the structure and materials of historic bindings. Professor Nicholas Pickwoad led a class of 12 participants, with an up-close examination of items selected from the Lambeth Palace collections.

After some initial IT issues were resolved, we were treated to an introductory presentation, with slides chosen to illustrate the broader themes of the day. Professor Pickwoad emphasised the wealth of information that can be inferred from bindings which, at first glance, may not seem particularly promising. Bindings research has often focused on high-end, lavishly decorated bindings. In contrast, the books on screen appeared decidedly plain: it was only when we were guided to a closer inspection of the lacing of the boards, or the staining of the fore-edge, that differences and peculiarities were made clear.

Professor Pickwoad also mentioned the forthcoming launch of the *Ligatus Language of Bindings Thesaurus*, which is planned for the end of June and will no doubt prove an invaluable resource (<http://www.ligatus.org.uk/>). This will be followed a few months later by a book, *Coming to Terms: guidelines for the description of historical bookbindings*.

Once the presentation had concluded, we were invited to draw our chairs around a large table where a number of innocent-looking books were waiting. Professor Pickwoad moved quickly between countries and across periods as he described features of German, Italian and English bindings, amongst others. The small group size allowed everyone a clear view, even when it came to subtle features such as the pattern of hair follicles, or the angle of stitching.

After this whirlwind tour of Europe, we were set free for lunch. Many of the participants took the advice of the Lambeth Palace Library staff and stepped next door to the café of the Garden Museum. The food was delicious, and the museum also stocks a lovely range of gardening-themed postcards.

Very soon we were back in our seats for the afternoon session. I was struck by the way in which a detailed understanding of these bindings demands a whole new language of seeing: at times I struggled to follow some of the points raised by Professor Pickwoad, even when I knew where to look. My favourite discovery of the day was the term *skeuomorph*, which refers to the shapes of structures which are no longer necessary but are still reflected in the design. An example of a skeuomorph may be seen in the raised bands on late seventeenth-century spines. These bands had originally been an integral part of the binding, but were later glued on in imitation, according to the vagaries of fashion.

In describing the distribution of binding styles across Europe, Professor Pickwoad also drew our attention to the importance of making connections and finding patterns. Within a particular binding, it is a combination of features that will convince you that it is Italian-made, rather than any one definitive point. A unique binding may be fascinating in its own right, but we were cautioned that “one binding does not make a history, it makes a phenomenon.”

There was time for tea and coffee, and a few more books, before the workshop concluded. I left with a greater understanding of the clues found in the materials and structures of bindings, and a sheaf of hastily-scrawled notes that will certainly come in useful, if I can decipher my own handwriting. Many thanks to Professor Pickwoad for a fascinating session, to Collections Librarian Naomi Percival and the rest of the Lambeth Palace Library staff for hosting us, and to HLF for organising such an enjoyable day.

Lucy Kelsall, Antiquarian Cataloguer, The Angus Library & Archive, Regent’s Park College, Oxford

M25 CONSORTIUM ANNUAL CONFERENCE: EXPLOITING & ENGAGING COLLECTIONS

Tuesday 28th April at the Royal Geographical Society

Directors and delegates from members of the M25 academic library consortium were treated to a wide range of talks at their annual conference on the subject “exploiting and engaging collections”. These ranged from how to tailor personal online presences to cutting edge research data management. Unsurprisingly, many of the morning talks were particularly relevant to special collections. These are summarised for readers below.

Rosemary Lynch and Jane Bramwell from the Tate Galleries kicked off the day with their presentation [“Finding connections: art, artist and audience - the digitisation of the Tate’s archive collection”](#). The aim of their project, conceived as part of the Tate’s successful Heritage Lottery Fund bid, was to incorporate items from the extensive archive collection into the popular “art and artists” section of their website, whilst increasing the archive’s physical presence in the galleries and rolling out an extensive outreach programme. This involved the digitisation of 52,000 items from 79 archives belonging to 52 representative artists, to uncover the stories and inspirations behind their artworks. Rosemary and Jane detailed the challenges faced by such an extensive project; working across teams, tackling complicated formats (e.g. scrapbooks) and difficult digital rights issues (with particular regard to the postcard collection). Now at an advanced stage, the next step of the project is to concentrate on legacy, developing an infrastructure to secure the future of the project post-funding. The digitised elements of the archive, as well as the Archives & Access blog detailing the process of the project, are available at <http://www.tate.org.uk/art/archive>.

Andrea Meyer Ludowisy from the Germanic Studies Library (housed by Senate House Library) followed with [“Get GRiB! Introducing our collaborative online gateway to promote German Resources in Britain”](#). After a brief history of how the Germanic Studies library came into being, she voiced a familiar issue - the researcher often needs to know what they’re looking for in order to be able to find it. The library began a project (funded by the Goethe Institute) to contribute to [GRiB](#), intending to increase the accessibility of their material, increase visitors to the collection and to generate opportunities for collaboration with other institutions. However, the nature of the materials in their collection, with subjects that were particularly influential to Goebbels, has made contributing content to a digital platform difficult. Using the example of a 1940s satirical broadcast pretending to be Hitler, Andrea explained how digital content can so easily be divorced from its context and misused or misunderstood.

[“Museum libraries and the importance of the physical in a ‘digital world’”](#) was the topic discussed by Helen Williamson of the Horniman Museum. She outlined the importance of prioritising and exploiting the library’s physical collections in a tough financial environment. After their funding cut from £28,000 to £10,000 annually, e-resource provision was the first thing to go, and the focus of the collection changed from supporting research to actively contributing to the museum’s archival and object collections. Helen criticised the reluctance of funders to support core services, and described the way in which applicants were having to “piggy back” research and outreach on digital project funding opportunities.

Finishing off a productive morning were Kate Arnold-Foster and Elizabeth McCarthy of Reading University Special Collections with [“Integrating Collections - opportunities and approaches for furthering academic use, public engagement and partnerships”](#). They discussed the benefits of moving their special collections to a new location, shared with the Museum of English Rural Life ([MERL](#)). Most fascinating was the way in which they had

tailored their strategies and priorities to fit within the strategic objectives of one of their main funders, the University. This has meant increased student engagement, research support and contributing to university-wide projects.

A full list of speakers from the day is available at: <http://www.m25lib.ac.uk/events/m25-consortium-of-academic-libraries-2015-annual-conference/> A Storify of Twitter activity from the day is available at <https://storify.com/m25consortium/m25-annual-conference-2015>

Jill Dye, Library Services Coordinator, Ravensbourne

CILIP CIG RARE BOOKS CATALOGUING E-FORUM

I was delighted last year when I was asked, by representatives from the CILIP Cataloguing and Indexing Group, to be one of three co-moderators on their e-forum about rare books cataloguing. I thought it would be a fun way to interact with other people of all levels of experience interested in rare books cataloguing, and also to learn more myself. I was also slightly nervous, never having been involved with an e-forum before, but I needn't have worried. It turned out that the e-forum used a JISC email list specifically set up for that purpose, something which I had used many times before. The emails could either be read in my usual inbox, or are available online.

By the time we got close to the dates, I was booked on a staff development course for the second day, so wasn't able to make as much of a contribution then as I had hoped. My co-moderators, Iris O'Brien (British Library) and Karen Pierce (Cardiff University) kept the ball rolling, whilst I dipped in at lunchtime and after the course. In advance of the e-forum we had decided on five rare book examples for people to have a go at cataloguing on the second day, using a simple Word form, which could easily be shared via email.

The first day sped quickly by, with Karen chairing the morning's discussion around routes into rare books cataloguing, which certainly elicited a large number of responses. It was interesting to read about the backgrounds and routes that others had taken into this work, and hopefully encouraging for those wanting to work in this area. After lunch it was my turn to kick off a discussion around standards and provenance. I had prepared by coming up with some questions about what provenance is, and why record it, what standards there are for rare books cataloguing, and what subject headings to use, and whether anyone was using RDA yet. This led to discussions around how to show copy-specific information in a catalogue record when your library has multiple copies, as well as the problems others had encountered with using a discovery layer with their library catalogue, which can have the effect of hiding the copy-specific information.

The second day dawned with the sharing of catalogue records for the five items we had selected in advance and Iris chairing the discussion. We had ensured that digitised copies of these were freely available so that participants could have a go at checking signatures and looking for provenance, even though the digitised copies couldn't totally replicate the experience of cataloguing a real book. We didn't get many examples of catalogue records sent in, perhaps because it is time-consuming to create them, or perhaps people were too shy to share their records, but those we did receive helped to provide discussion points.

From a moderator's perspective, the e-forum was busy, enormous fun to be part of, and a friendly place for people to ask questions and learn more. It is a great tool for professional

development as it is freely accessible, and the email threads remain available. Karen prepared summaries of both of the days, which are also available on the e-forum webpage: <http://jiscmail.ac.uk/CIG-E-FORUM>

The examples we chose for practice are available on the CIG website:

<http://www.cilip.org.uk/cataloguing-indexing-group/events/cig-e-forum-rare-books-cataloguing>

Katie Flanagan, Brunel University

Features

COLLECTIONS REVIEW AT THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS OF ENGLAND

There has been a lot happening in recent years in the Royal College of Surgeons of England. In 2013 the Arts Council England awarded *Designated* status to the Library, the Archive and the Hunterian Museum, distinguishing the collections held here as being of national and international quality and significance. Following this prestigious accolade we were then successful in obtaining a grant from Arts Council England's Designation Development Fund to carry out a pan-domain Collections Review.

The Collections Review is a very exciting project in that it seeks to assess items across the domains using a single methodology, *Reviewing Significance*, initially developed by consultant Caroline Reed and a team from UCL and published online by the Collections Trust. The methodology has been used previously with museum and archive collections, but to our knowledge this is the first time that it has been used with library holdings. We have customised the methodology to the specific requirements of our collections.

The aim of the review is to give a high level overview of the collections and use the data gathered for future strategic planning.

The numbers are staggering, with over 54,000 museum items, around 100,000 books, tracts and pamphlets, and over 2,200 boxes of archival materials in various stores and rooms across the College building needing to be reviewed. It is a mammoth task, with three Collections Review Assistants working systematically through every box, shelf, cabinet and drawer of the College's library, museum and archive collections.

Stores or rooms are divided into units which can be anything from one large item on its own, to a shelf, a box or a drawer. The review works by using a scoring system which takes place at unit rather than individual item level.

In order to create data that is both easy to interpret and usable, the assistants use specially created tools in the form of rubrics to score units across the domains consistently. The rubrics cover aspects of collections management, which includes documentation and cataloguing, and aspects of usage. Of course, this is a challenging and thought-provoking process and a great deal of work had to be done in the initial phases to ensure that the rubrics were applicable across the three distinct types of collections. Even now, a year into the project, a great deal of discussion occurs between the Assistants to ensure that the vastly different items are being scored according to a uniform interpretation of the rubrics.

While formal data analysis will not take place until the final stages of the project, it is interesting to note that the review has already given Collections Managers plenty of food for

thought and has raised questions, particularly in relation to usage. Firstly, in terms of actual usage, how can this be defined? How should we be measuring it and using which tools? In a world where KPIs are the norm in almost every industry, how do we develop and implement a systematic approach in order to ensure we know what items in the collections are more frequently used and why? Secondly, we must take potential use into consideration as part of the review. This involves reflection on factors such as whether the items fit with the rest of the collections or relate to topics or activities of interest to our users, links with materials currently used, uniqueness of the items in relation to collections across the UK or links with upcoming events or anniversaries, to name a few. With so many considerations how do we find a way to assess potential in a methodological, unbiased and objective manner?

In some instances the question of usage can be supported by another component of the *Reviewing Significance* methodology which is also currently being used in our project: Significance Assessments. The assessments are used to assess individual items, or groups of items, in order to establish their importance, uniqueness, or relevance to the collections. This is a very exciting process as staff and external experts pool their knowledge and expertise in order to explore the potential, meaning and value of the items in question. The resulting *Statement of Significance* can then be used as an important reference source for the usage aspect of the Collections Review, but in future will also help to aid decision-making, identify further research required, and provide evidence when writing funding applications or reports. Significance Assessments are also quite useful in highlighting links between the collections which will in turn be of benefit to users either in providing informative exhibitions or ensuring researchers get the most from their visits. However, this is a time-consuming process and cannot be used for every item in the collections; it must be well-defined and focused in order to produce useful and relevant statements.

We have just over 6 months left on the project and progress has been good. We are over halfway through reviewing all the items and a number of Significance Assessments have already taken place. These include assessments focused on the Library's surgical video tapes, the entire run of Gray's Anatomy editions, and medical models spanning over 200 years. The variety in the types of objects involved nicely illustrates the scope of the project.

As we have now reached the important milestone of the halfway point in terms of data collection, we feel it is very important for us to share our experience with users and the general public, other members of staff and our library, archives and museum colleagues. We have planned a series of communication activities including articles, talks and other events.

Something which has been very useful in this regard is the newly established [Library Blog](#). The blog is hosted on the RCS website and is used to highlight important items within the collection or ongoing projects within the library. The Collections Review Assistants use the blog to showcase interesting or unusual finds. The Hunterian Museum's Twitter account ([@HunterianLDN](#)) is also used for this purpose, with Assistants tweeting using #collectionsreview.

We feel that this type of outreach is not only useful in advertising the types of resources we hold in our Collections but also to demonstrate what is going on 'behind the scenes'. Users of the library may catch a glimpse of an Assistant rushing past, clipboard in hand, but are very unlikely to know about the huge amount of work that is being undertaken to ensure the future of these important collections.

If you are interested in learning more about the Collections Review we would be very happy to hear from you. Please get in touch via email at skennedy@rcseng.ac.uk

Sarah Kennedy, Collections Review Assistant

DURHAM UNIVERSITY LIBRARY'S PRINTED BOOK CATALOGUING PROJECT AT USHAW COLLEGE

Ushaw College has trained priests for the northern dioceses of the Catholic Church since its foundation in 1808. The institution traces its descent from the English College at Douai, in northern France, founded in 1568 by Cardinal William Allen. In 2011 the College was forced to close due to the falling number of candidates for ordination. As might be expected the institution's libraries are of great importance although almost nothing survives from the library at Douai; the present collections comprise the Big Library, the Lower Library, the Lisbon Library and the Divines' Library. Durham University Library staff have been cataloguing the collections since the winter of 2013, often in distinctly chilly conditions. The main effort has been in the Big Library although during vacations a team from the Bill Bryson Library have been working on the Divine's Library which is made up of modern theology and is a useful addition to the existing collections in Durham. The Lisbon Library contains a selection of books from the English College in Lisbon which closed in the 1970s. Several extensive and largely unexplored Catholic parish libraries are to be found in the Lower Library.

The Big Library contains the main antiquarian collections and is essentially a 19th century university library. The library was built in 1851 by the well-known ecclesiastical architects Dunn and Hansom in the Gothic revival style. The holdings, amounting to some 30,000 titles in about 60,000 volumes, are very much more varied than one might expect to find in a theological college. Service books and Bibles are obviously well represented and there are extensive collections on patristics, the Papacy, canon law, ecclesiastical history and general devotional works. However there are valuable collections on British and continental history, exploration, geography, numismatics, philosophy, mathematics, science, architecture, fine arts and English and continental literature. One bay is made up of both Catholic and Protestant religious controversy and is particularly rich in 16th and 17th century clandestine Catholic printing, much of which is rare or unique. This bay was kept under lock and key until relatively recent times! There are about one hundred incunabula, all now catalogued, as well as some sixty books from the pre-dissolution library of Durham Priory.

The project has catalogued about 11,000 titles in the Big Library so far, records for which are available on the Durham University Library catalogue at <https://www.dur.ac.uk/library/> These include some 4,000 pamphlets on Catholic emancipation and the restoration of the hierarchy, many of them ephemeral and not found in any other collection. About 1,500 rare printed items from College's extensive archives are also now on the catalogue. Progress has been limited by availability of staff although some use has been made of volunteers; for example three Museum Studies MA students are currently undergoing training. Cataloguing has been to DCRM(B) standards and both provenance and binding information is recorded as fully as possible. Provenance records are playing an interesting role in finding out how the collection was assembled, particularly important as there are virtually no other evidence. As records appear on-line the collections are becoming better known and use by academics and

students is growing. The search room at Ushaw is open 10.00-17.00 Monday to Friday and further information can be obtained from a.h.fraser@durham.ac.uk

Alastair Fraser, Assistant Librarian (Early Printed Books), Durham University Library

UPDATE ON GROWING NATIONAL CONSERVATION SERVICE

Since its formation in 2010, following consultation to which some HLF members kindly contributed, the National Conservation Service (NCS) has steadily grown and established itself in the sector. NCS operates a not-for-profit membership scheme as a way of helping libraries, archives and museums without conservation staff to identify and plan the care of collections. Membership subscription pays for an Accredited conservator to work with you on site to help prioritise and plan whatever actions are needed to improve things like environment, packaging, housekeeping and other procedures as well as to define policy and strategy to help achieve things like Archives Accreditation etc. We also undertake building and collections surveys and develop funding bids to assist librarians to secure the resources necessary to carry out projects.

In 2013 we established a unique partnership with Restore Plc to offer a collaborative storage scheme, under which many institutions participate effectively as a purchasing consortium for PD5454 quality storage at a single low price regardless of quantity or term. The storage scheme, at Upper Heyford in Oxfordshire, is proving a great success - so far 32 institutions have sent collections to Heyford for storage in the ex-USAF concrete hangars, converted to our specification to meet 5454 and monitored by us to ensure they continue to achieve the services and conditions required. We had a five year plan to fill the first hangar but are already nearly full and are working on a second for use from the end of this year, only two years on. If you need short or long term storage, contact us at enquiries@ncs.org.uk

We are close to setting up a freezer store at Heyford for the storage of plastic negatives, transparencies and colour photos, expected to launch later this year. If you have such material but cannot freeze it yourself, do let us know. We have not completed projections but currently estimate that the charge for storage will be about £5 per annum for a box that can hold c.3000 items.

Last year we launched our Free Environmental Monitoring scheme with seed-corn sponsorship from DeepStore Ltd. Over 40 institutions are benefiting from this scheme, which includes monitoring of storage spaces and a report on the building and any issues in order to help custodians to advocate for improvements, which is free of charge for the essential programme, with low cost additional options. We have just started to roll out the 2015 round under the scheme, so if you are interested do let us know by emailing lisa@ncs.org.uk

We currently have over 100 member institutions from all over the country - from Perth in Scotland to Falmouth in Cornwall, from Bangor North Wales to Canterbury. In addition to standard membership support, we carry out conservation projects on-site, such as cleaning whole library collections, measuring for boxes and categorising for repairs, collections needs assessments and volunteer and staff training. We undertake book and archive conservation treatment and digitisation projects, discounted for members, at our London studio in Mayfair, at the Royal Institution, and I am delighted to announce a brand new partnership with Hackney Borough Council to open a second London-based conservation and digitisation studio at their new central library and archive in Dalston Square. We have informal

agreements to operate from a number of other studios around the country and are planning further formal partnerships in other regions.

If you are interested in membership or simply need occasional technical advice, do consider joining or contacting us. Details of membership and the support we provide can be found on our website www.ncs.org.uk Soon we will launch our members area of the site, which will provide file storage access to reports, data, images and other material that we produce for members, via password log in. Later in the year, if all goes well, we will start to produce a web-based newsletter for members, three times per year. Membership is from as little as £40 + VAT p.a. so do please consider joining us!

Chris Woods, Director, NCS

MARTIN AND JEAN ROTH 1924-2014

In November 2014, the Cranston Library in Reigate sustained the sad loss of two people to whom it is greatly indebted: Martin and Jean Roth. Jean died on November 8th, and Martin one week later on November 15th. Both had passed their 90th birthday. A memorial service was held at St Mary Magdalene Church, which houses the library, on December 2nd. The Library has lost in Martin one of its greatest champions, and in Jean someone who was the inspiration for the programme of care that ensures it remains in beautiful condition.

Martin Roth became a Trustee of the Cranston Library in 1975, and served an unprecedented 32 years until his retirement in 2008. He was Chairman (and Secretary and Treasurer) for many of those years, and in 2000 he became Keeper of the Library. During this long association with the Library, Martin Roth oversaw the creation of the 20th century catalogue of the Library to go with the 18th and 19th century catalogues, the annual Cranston Lecture as a fixture in the Reigate calendar, and the formation of the Associates of the Cranston Library. Above all, he was while an active trustee the most effective advocate for the Library, working to ensure its survival in situ, and building a strong circle of friends and supporters who regularly support the Library financially and with their presence at events. He was a great mentor, helping his fellow-trustees to develop their love for and knowledge of the Library. In 2008 on his retirement as Chairman and Trustee he received the Mayor of Reigate and Banstead's Community Award in respect of his long and devoted service to The Cranston Library. After his retirement, he continued in the role of Keeper of the Library, and we continued to benefit from his unparalleled knowledge of its content and history until the end of his life.

Alongside Martin, his wife Jean quietly supported his work for the Cranston Library, offering kind and generous hospitality to trustees and visitors to the Library, and being an excellent guide to the Library and its contents. Jean left her own indelible impression on the Library: with Angela Alabaster, she led and inspired the team of NADFAS volunteers who recorded, cleaned, repaired and leather dressed every book in the collection over a period of ten years. Her delicate and appropriate labels on the backs of the books are the visible sign of her achievement. Her work has laid a foundation of care for the collection that will last for many years, and has made the current NADFAS Heritage Volunteer project that is in place so straightforward and pleasurable.

Both Martin and Jean Roth worked tirelessly for the Cranston Library's survival, care and proper appreciation, as an important collection, and as a keystone of the history of the

Public Library and of the town of Reigate. We have cause to remember them both with gratitude.

Hilary Ely, Chairman, Trustees of the Cranston Library

www.cranstonlibraryreigate.com

ANNIVERSARY OF FIRE THAT DESTROYED HISTORIC MACKINTOSH LIBRARY AT GLASGOW SCHOOL OF ART

May 2014 provides an opportunity to share news on the recovery and restoration of lost sections of our Special Collections. This follows an initial update on the fire's aftermath in Bulletin No.29, September 2014 by our Librarian Duncan Chappell. We have been moved by the kindness and generosity of the response and can gratefully report that 22% of the items listed on a specially compiled wants list have been received: <https://gsalibrarytreasures.wordpress.com/help-us-rebuild-our-collections-after-fire/>

As part of a highly-targeted rebuild, we continue to welcome donations of the books on this list which are aligned to the history and future direction of the Glasgow School of Art. Thank you to all our friends and colleagues in the Library community and beyond for your incredible response in the replacement of these treasured volumes.

An exhaustive 12-week archaeological excavation of the Mackintosh Library was completed in March 2015 with 81 books salvaged. Fragments from a studio clock and metal from lamps in the central light fitting were among other artefacts identified. Kirkdale Archaeology worked to document the finds, which are now in storage ready to be assessed for conservation. We have recently completed a cost-benefit analysis to evaluate whether the projected cost involved in restoring each of these books is merited in terms of rarity, value and historic interest to the School. Of the original 81 books salvaged, we have identified 17 for further analysis and are pursuing quotes with Harwell Restoration Services for this work to be carried out. One of these is *Sights and Scenes in Fair Japan* (c.1910), a photographic album produced by Ogawa Kazumasa (1860-1930) that features full-page collotype plates of scenes from Japanese culture and travel using the photomechanical processes developed by this pioneering Japanese photographer. While the Library collections suffered great losses in the disaster, 80% of the Library's Special Collections survive undamaged as these were held in a separate building occupied by the School's Main Library. The salvage was well-documented in the press including this feature in *The Guardian* newspaper: <http://www.theguardian.com/education/2015/mar/12/remains-glasgow-school-of-art-fire-mackintosh-library>

We are delighted to have received particularly poignant donations, including a replacement illustrated book of gypsy folk tales with engravings by GSA alumna Agnes Miller Parker, donated by Blackwell's Rare Books. In March, a rare 1898 edition of *John Keats, His Poems*, featuring a binding designed by GSA alumna and esteemed needlework and embroidery tutor Ann Macbeth, was generously gifted to the Library by the Antiquarian Booksellers Association. The book was sourced by antiquarian bookseller Cooper Hay and was presented to us by ABA President Brian Lake. The binding, set in gilt-tooled, green Morocco leather is an excellent example of decorative book bindings produced in the Glasgow Style from the 1890s onwards by designers such as Talwin Morris and Jessie M. King. Ann Macbeth is known to have taught bookbinding to our students during her career at the School, therefore it is a particularly fitting addition to the Library. *The Herald* covered the story: <http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/ode-to-generosity-keats-tome-given-to-art-school.120100030>

More recently, a generous donation has been received from King Edward VI High School for Girls in Birmingham. In addition to a fine collection of around 30 books, a letter written by Charles Rennie Mackintosh and signed 'Uncle Tosh' was included in the delivery from Findlay Mackinnon, English Master at the school. The correspondence, sent to Cameron Davidson (son of William Davidson who commissioned Mackintosh to design the family home, Windyhill, in 1900), wishes him 'a jolly Christmas and a very happy new year' and wills a speedy recovery from illness. The Library came into the school's possession when former headmistress, Jean Wilks, bequeathed the Library that she had acquired from friend Maggie Davidson, great-granddaughter of William Davidson. Included are books given as gifts to the family by Mackintosh, including a late 19th century book on Japanese design with an inscription suggesting it was a Christmas gift to the family in 1899. The well-documented influence of Japanese design on Mackintosh makes the gifting of this particular book to the Library all the more apposite. Press coverage of the donation was featured in The Herald: <http://www.heraldscotland.com/news/home-news/signed-your-friend-uncle-tosh-rare-mackintosh-letter-donated-to-glasgow-school-of-art.123403445>

A significant grant of £2,500 from the Friends of National Libraries has enabled us to replace Anna Muthesius' *Das Eigenkleid der Frau*, one of the most important volumes housed in the Mackintosh Library and a seminal text in the development of early twentieth-century dress. Owing to the original Art Nouveau binding designed by Frances Macdonald McNair, one of the famed 'Glasgow Four', this extremely rare publication holds particular importance in the history of GSA and is therefore welcomed back with great joy.

The National Library of Scotland is also among our generous benefactors and 1000 rare duplicate books gifted by them will arrive in the next few weeks. Our priority will be to sort, catalogue and make these titles accessible, alongside the numerous others we have received, including a large donation of early architectural journals from the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland (RIAS). Digitisation of library collections, including books received from our donors, continues via the Internet Archive and increasing numbers are being added to our digital collection as we look with renewed optimism to the future. You can keep fully up-to-date with all our salvage, conservation and digitisation activity on our Treasures blog: <https://gsalibrarytreasures.wordpress.com/>

During the last year, the School's Archives and Collections have been located in the main library building from where they have been able to offer a limited visitor and enquiry service. Plans are now underway to relocate the service to larger accommodation during summer 2015 in order to re-establish a full visitor service in September 2015. Work is also in progress to establish the conservation needs of material affected by the fire (including items from our textiles, plaster cast, and paper archive collections). These assessments will inform a program of conservation, cataloguing and digitisation work which will take place over the next two and a half years. Five volunteers have recently started working with the Archives and Collections as part of our recovery project. The service hopes to offer a wide range of opportunities for people who wish to get involved. More information about the progress of our recovery work can be found on our blog: <http://www.gsaarchives.net/2015/06/to-our-volunteers/>

Jennifer Higgins, Assistant Librarian, Glasgow School of Art
j.higgins@gsa.ac.uk

RE-OPENING OF LEADHILLS LIBRARY AFTER RESTORATION

Leadhills Heritage Trust was founded at the beginning of the present century to conserve and interpret the collections which had been built up locally over the years. These include artefacts relating to the lead mining industry which flourished from the mid-18th century to the 1930s, a collection of rare minerals, an archive of photographs and other materials relating to the history of the village, but the most important collection is the approximately 2,500 surviving volumes of the stock of Leadhills Reading Society which was founded in 1741 and is the first and oldest subscription library in Britain. It can fairly claim to be the world's first library for working people. Two hundred years ago there were libraries like Leadhills all over Scotland but it is one of the few that survives. The organisational methods which the Library pioneered were copied all over Scotland. It also pioneered the application of the early lifelong learning ideology, mutual improvement, to library activity. The library building which today houses all the collections was erected in 1791 and is one of the oldest public library buildings in Scotland. The surviving stock represents a history of reading by ordinary people over a period of 300 years. The Library holds many first editions and examples of Scottish fine printing. It also holds the largest surviving number of Ferguson Bequest Fund books held by any library in Scotland and can fairly claim to hold the National Collection of Ferguson Bequest books. The Ferguson Bequest Fund which still exists today, between about 1860 and 1930, gave grants of books to rural community libraries in the West of Scotland. Annual grants of up to £10 were given and recipients selected books from a list sent out by the Fund. The books on offer included high quality non-fiction which was a welcome addition to the stocks of these libraries.

Leadhills is situated in a high rainfall area, over 1300 feet above sea level in the Lowther Hills in South Lanarkshire. The building had not received any substantial maintenance for many years and was much in need of refurbishment. Following a search for funding over £15,000 was obtained in matching Funding from Scottish and Southern Energy (SSE) and Awards for All, a National Lottery Fund. Lord Andrew Hopetoun, one of the Trust's trustees, also kindly funded the installation of a burglar alarm. The work was efficiently carried out by J&J McCann builders of Biggar, Lanarkshire, between early March and mid-April 2015. They have considerable experience of heritage work and had to work in quite difficult weather conditions. They carried out a complete internal rewiring and installed new lighting, new heaters and extractor fans, controlled by a humidistat. They rebuilt the Library's front wall and carried out other external repairs. The trustees also did a great deal of work in preparing the building for re-opening by doing external repainting and tidying up after all the work had been done. The Library re-opened on Saturday 30th May with an open day for local people to give them an opportunity to see the work which had been done.

Now that the building work is complete the Trustees will be focusing on interpreting and presenting the Library's treasures and a display illustrating Scotland's reading history from the Library's stock has been prepared. Greater attention will be given to publicising the Library and preparing an up to date publicity leaflet is a priority. The Library is also planning a programme of work to make its resources available electronically. This will include making the catalogue available on the Internet, and digitising the Library's collection of 'Bargain books' dating from 1739 onwards which record the 'bargains' or agreements made between the mine managers and teams of miners.

Leadhills Miners Library website is available at <http://www.leadhillslibrary.co.uk/>

Further information may be found in:

John C. Crawford 'Leadhills Library and a wider world', *Library Review*, 46 (1997), pp. 539-553.

Paul Kaufman, *Libraries and their users* (London: Library Association, 1969), pp. 163-170.

John Crawford, Chair, Leadhills Heritage Trust

john Crawford705@yahoo.co.uk

Membership

Membership of the Forum is free and anyone may join. In this Bulletin we welcome new members working at the [The House of Lords](#), [The Royal College of Surgeons of England](#), [The Francis Skaryna Belarusian Library and Museum](#), [The University of Winchester](#), [The Devon and Exeter Institution](#) and [The St Bride Foundation](#).

Members who would like to promote exhibitions, events, conferences or training, or who wish to contribute to the next Bulletin (due September 2015) should contact members of the Committee or email Members@HistoricLibrariesForum.org.uk



Historic Libraries Forum



@HistLibForum

STOP PRESS

Saffron Walden Town Library has a run of *European History Quarterly* (Volume 1, 1971 – Volume 41:1, 2011) which is being offered, free, to any other library or archive which would like to take them. Space-wise, it's about 1.2 metres.

If anybody is interested, or can you suggest another library that might like them, please contact: Martyn Everett Martyn.Everett@btinternet.com