

## **HISTORIC LIBRARIES FORUM**

### **BULLETIN NO. 32**

**September 2015**

The next few months will see several HLF events take place: a workshop on cataloguing rare books in Oxford on 30 September (with Anna James and Stewart Tiley), the annual conference on 12 November and a further workshop on practical conservation in Cambridge on 16 December (with Caroline Bendix). We hope that those members who wish to attend will be able to do so, and look especially forward to seeing you at the conference, to be held at UCL in central London. This will approach some of the less well understood aspects of embarking on digitisation projects, thinking about when it is both right and wrong to do so, and what pitfalls might be encountered. The traditional format of two main speakers in the morning and four shorter case studies in the afternoon will be followed, 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. More details and a booking form can be found below.

Leaflets on cataloguing books in Greek and Hebrew, and one on cataloguing incunabula, will be put on our website in the coming months. As ever, do please let us know if there is a particular topic you would like to be addressed by such an introductory leaflet.

The last few months have been busy for the committee in terms of 'libraries in danger'. No sooner had things at the Imperial War Museum settled down than we heard – at the end of July – of the closure of the St Bride printing library and workshop, an internationally-significant resource for all sorts of individuals and institutions concerned with the history of printing, founded in 1891. The library and its associated workshop are part of the larger St Bride Foundation, a charity which concerns itself with 'the advancement of education in printing, the print media and related subjects, by providing suitable courses, conferences and lectures and by maintaining and making available the charity's printing resources and archives at St Bride Library.' Many of you will have followed the ups and downs of the institution, with us, over the last few years, including the reduced opening hours and, earlier this year, the closure of the premises for building works nearby. The news that the library and workshop would not reopen was not publicised by the Foundation itself (instead it came to us from other sources), so we – the HLF – took it upon ourselves to make it as widely known as possible, publishing a letter to the Chief Executive on our website, which was later taken up by the Evening Standard, Private Eye and (more recently) CILIP, in its *Update* magazine. More information from the Foundation has revealed that its current annual outgoings (£1.05m) outstrip its income

(£886,000), and that the closure has been decided upon in order to ensure the long-term viability of the institution as a whole. We hope that material will not be sold, or the library dispersed, but in order to avoid this, concerned groups and individuals must continue to put pressure on the Foundation. The HLF can do little more than advise institutions like St Bride to prioritise their heritage assets, and it is not for us to suggest how the Foundation finds long-term sources of money to make those assets available to researchers. But, without its library, the Foundation is, in the words of the Private Eye piece (and in our eyes) 'principally ... a bar and wedding venue', of which London already has a plentiful supply.

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*

## **The Historic Libraries Forum annual meeting**

*"Practicalities, pleasures and pitfalls: uncovering digitisation projects"*

**University College London**, Gower St, London, WC1E 6BT

Thursday 12th November, 10.30-c.4.30 (registration & refreshments from 10.00am)

The 2015 annual conference explores digitisation projects from differing perspectives through real life examples. The morning session comprises two keynotes given by speakers 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). These will be complemented by case-studies covering copyright issues, 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. There will be ample time throughout the day for networking and to question all speakers.

For further information and booking, see the booking form at the end of this newsletter.

## **National Manuscripts Conservation Trust**

**Grants for conservation of manuscripts – deadline 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015**

The **National Manuscripts Conservation Trust** offers grants for the conservation and preservation of manuscripts and archives. Since the NMCT was founded in 1990 it has awarded grants of nearly

£2.5m, which have enabled the conservation of hundreds of musical, literary, architectural and other vital historical documents that would otherwise have been lost or faced an uncertain future.

The next deadline for the submission of applications is **1st October 2015** and the results will be announced in mid-June. If you want to plan ahead, the deadline after that is 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016.

We welcome grant applications from non-national institutions such as county record offices, museums, university archives or Special Collections sections, Cathedral archives and libraries, as well as owners of manuscripts that are exempt from capital taxation or owned by a charitable trust. Our grants can cover conservation, binding and other preservation measures, including digitisation (providing it is part of a wider conservation project). The significance of the collection or items to be conserved, as well as the proposed conservation treatment are carefully reviewed by Trustees when making their decisions. The National Archives provides an expert opinion on all application and this informs the Trustees' considerations.

Among the current recipients of NMCT grants are:

The Bankes Family archive: Dorset History Centre

The Streele archives of Wales: Archives and Records Council Wales

Aberdeen County Assessed Tax Rolls 1799-1832: Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire Archives

Derbyshire Record Office: Conserving the archives of the lead mining industry

Winchester Cathedral: Conservation of the 12<sup>th</sup> century Winchester Bible

Applications must be submitted on our application form, which you can download from our website: [www.nmct.co.uk](http://www.nmct.co.uk). If, having consulted our website, you have any queries about whether your project is eligible etc please do contact Mrs Nell Hoare, who manages the Trust. You can contact her either through the NMCT's website or at [info@nmct.co.uk](mailto:info@nmct.co.uk).

## **IFLA Risk Register for documentary heritage**

IFLA has created a Risk Register for documentary heritage in order to raise awareness for the preservation, conservation, and safeguarding of documentary heritage (in any format) world-wide. We aim to gather data on documentary heritage collections in order to be able to respond adequately if confronted with natural or man-made disasters.

The Risk Register enables IFLA to provide contact and geo-spatial information to UNESCO and the organisational partners of the International Committee of the Blue Shield acting in case of disaster. This increases the survival of unique documentary heritage and its safeguarding to help rebuild communities in the post-disaster recovery period and beyond.

### **Who is the Risk Register for?**

The Risk Register is for everyone who is an owner/custodian of a documentary heritage collection. In most cases these are libraries/archives (national, research, public etc.), but in some cases documentary heritage is in private hands. We encourage registrations to the Risk Register from all holders (public and private) in order for IFLA to respond in the most complete manner.

### **Why register your collection?**

We recommend registrations to the Risk Register from all countries/regions world-wide in order to raise awareness for risk mitigation and training, adequate preservation and conservation of collections, and if disaster strikes, to react to this.

Should a natural or man-made disaster occur, IFLA will work with the nominated contacts for each collection and international agencies to provide assistance on the preservation and conservation of collections.

### **Who can access the data?**

The data registered with the IFLA Risk Register is maintained on secure systems and will only be accessible by authorised IFLA staff. It is collected to react to disaster and safeguard documentary heritage when needed.

### **Register a collection**

To register your collection, an online nomination form must be submitted. Please see full details on how to [register your documentary heritage collection](#) and complete the web form.

For questions, please contact: [cultural.heritage@ifla.org](mailto:cultural.heritage@ifla.org).

Please also see <http://www.ifla.org/node/9754>.

Julia Brungs, Policy and Projects Officer, International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), P.O. Box 95312, 2509 CH The Hague, Netherlands.  
Phone: 00 31 703 140 884, Email: [Julia.brungs@ifla.org](mailto:Julia.brungs@ifla.org).

## **The Language of Bindings Thesaurus**

The Language of Bindings Thesaurus from Ligatus by Centre for the Study of the Book

Ligatus director Professor Nicholas Pickwoad sends this notice of the Language of Bindings Thesaurus, now online at: <http://www.ligatus.org.uk/lob/>

Ligatus is proud to announce the launch of the Language of Binding online thesaurus of bookbinding terms, which was celebrated with a one-day event in the Chelsea College of Arts (University of the Arts London) in collaboration with CERL on 23 June, 2015. Ligatus is a research centre of the University of the Arts London with projects in libraries and archives and with a particular interest in historic bookbinding. The Language of Binding thesaurus is the result of our long experience with historic bookbindings, but has been greatly assisted by contributions from an international group of bookbinding experts and book conservators. This work was made possible by a Networking Grant from the Arts and Humanities Research Council in the UK. The aim of the thesaurus is to present a consistent vocabulary for the use of all those who work with early bindings, built wherever possible on existing resources, but adapted for use in an on-line hierarchical environment that will allow terms that are not known to a user to be found."

Read the full announcement: [Language of Bindings Announcement](#)

**ABA members are**

- Approachable
- Knowledgeable
- Trustworthy
- Experts in their fields

**Are you collecting or selling rare books...**  
 ...Manuscripts, Maps, Prints or Ephemera?

The ABA offers free seminars and information on all areas of old or rare books, manuscripts, maps and prints.

Visit [www.aba.org.uk](http://www.aba.org.uk) to find out more or email [info@aba.org.uk](mailto:info@aba.org.uk) for a list of dealers in your area.

**Look for the ABA symbol**

**Buy and Sell with confidence from an approved dealer**



**Antiquarian Booksellers' Association**  
 6 Bell Yard  
 London WC2A 2JR  
 Email: [admin@aba.org.uk](mailto:admin@aba.org.uk)  
 Telephone: +44 (0)20 7421 4681  
 Fax: +44 (0)20 7421 4641

[www.aba.org.uk](http://www.aba.org.uk)



## Museums Freecycle

*Some members of the Historic Libraries Forum belong to this freecycle group, and we thought others might also be interested. A note of caution: always arrange to visit to inspect something before agreeing to take it...*

This group is only open to UK accredited museums and associated organisations. For this reason, each new member must be approved. Please apply with your organisation email address to help the moderators. This is where you can post build items that you no longer require and don't have room to store -- you pick the recipient museum. The recipient picks up the item when and where you want. You eliminate shipping costs, disposal fees and keep tons of good stuff out of the landfill. And this enables other museums to leverage their capabilities by getting good free build materials for their next exhibition and other museum equipment. A win-win if ever there were one. Tell your colleagues at other museums. The more museums participating, the better it is for all.

<https://groups.freecycle.org/group/MuseumFreecycleUK/description>

## A new book on Edzell Library

The historic Victorian Library in Inglis Memorial Hall, Edzell (Angus) featured in the HLF Bulletin 28 (June 2014).

Described as one of the best-preserved examples of a late-nineteenth century public library surviving anywhere in the UK it still houses its original 1898 book stock (bound by Sotheran's of London, today the longest established antiquarian booksellers in the world), whilst the turn of the century loans records for each of the c.5000 books are still to be found within the library's Cotgreave Indicator, believed to be possibly the last remaining (or at least the best preserved) Cotgreave Indicator in Scotland. The quality of the 1898 catalogue for this late-Victorian 'Closed Access' library is also particularly noteworthy.

The library, housed in A-listed Inglis Memorial Hall, was gifted in 1898 by Lt. Col. Robert William Inglis V.D. His father, Edzell's Free Church minister, in the year Robert William was born had given up everything for the sake of his faith; losing his church, home and income. Lt. Col. Robert William Inglis V.D., born at a period when the family was very poor (at times struggling to feed themselves), went on to hold one of the highest positions in the Victorian Financial World, becoming Chairman of the London Stock Exchange in 1907. Many of the other Inglis family members also achieved considerable success around the world.

A new book *'Inglis Memorial Hall & Library, Edzell'* (by Jean Smedley, Zeldel Publishing, 2015), places Inglis Memorial Hall's library in the context of UK-wide Library History; the Inglis family (a local family with global connections); and its location (the village and the building in which it is housed); and highlights the exciting research potential it today holds for a range of academic disciplines. The publication contains a wealth of information, including chronological information on the library and literacy situation in Edzell from the late 1700's to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century; an overview of the libraries in the area in the 1830's; a useful list of Angus Library History resources; photographs; and source references throughout. It provides an in-depth case study of this special library and places it in the context of the wider UK Library History picture.

The book was published in 2015 with the kind assistance of a grant from the Strathmartine Trust, a Scottish Charity whose primary object is to support research and education in Scottish history.

'INGLIS MEMORIAL HALL & LIBRARY, EDZELL'

J.Smedley

Zeldel Publishing 2015

ISBN 978-0-9933325-0-0

160 pages (including numerous colour and black & white photographs), paperback

The book is available from the publisher at [zeldel.publishing@btinternet.com](mailto:zeldel.publishing@btinternet.com).

Price £10 including P&P in the UK\* (Prices overseas will vary)

(\*Prices correct as at Sept 2015)

## **Forthcoming events**

### **APML Training Day on Caring for Prints & Drawings Collections, at Tate Britain.**

9.30am on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2015.

#### **Programme:**

9.30am Registration

10.00am – 12.30. A session on conservation issues for prints & drawings collections, with the conservation staff of the Prints & Drawings Collection at Tate Britain.

There will be a break for refreshments at 11.00am.

12.30 Break for lunch (not included) and an opportunity to see some of the galleries at Tate Britain perhaps?

2.15pm gather for a visit to the Prints & Drawings Room, to see some of the treasures of the collection.

4.30pm. Finish.

Fee for the day: between £50 and £70 per person, depending on numbers.

Please contact Kay Walters to book a place.

[kayw@hellenist.org.uk](mailto:kayw@hellenist.org.uk)

### **Manchester Science Festival at The John Rylands Library**

#### ***Noisy Bodies***

Manchester-based contemporary artist Daksha Patel fuses art with science in this exclusive exhibition. Her intriguing work explores how scientific systems visualise, map and measure the human body, and responds to concepts of noise and signal in medical imaging.

Using pencil to create a series of breathtakingly intricate and thought-provoking images, this unique collection of work is the culmination of residencies in the neuroscience and lung imaging departments at The University of Manchester.

Discover Daksha's work alongside scientific illustrations from our Special Collections, inspired by scientific innovation.

Thursday 1 October to Sunday 20 December 2015

FREE, no booking required, open daily, suitable for adults.

### **An evening with Noisy Bodies**

Thursday 29 October 2015: 6 to 7.30pm

Join us at The John Rylands Library for a unique opportunity to meet the artist behind our Noisy Bodies exhibition, Daksha Patel. Learn about the inspirations, influences and process behind this exhibition; a unique collection of intricate and thought-provoking drawings in response to medical imaging.

Throughout the evening you'll have the chance to discover the striking John Rylands Library after hours, explore and engage with our current exhibitions and ask Daksha herself about this intriguing body of work.

FREE, suitable for adults. Booking is advised.

### ***Power and Beauty***

An event celebrating the anniversary of the signing of Magna Carta, one of the most famous documents in the world.

Join us for an evening of lectures on constitutional history and royal power by expert speakers.

David Carpenter: 'Magna Carta, then and now'

David is professor of medieval history at King's College London and a leading authority on the history of Britain in the middle ages. His book *Magna Carta* is published by Penguin Classics.

Nicholas Vincent: 'From title deeds to Magna Carta: how medieval charters changed the world'

Nicholas is professor of medieval history at the University of East Anglia and a fellow of the British Academy. He heads the Arts and Humanities Research Council 'Magna Carta Project' and has written a dozen books and over 100 academic articles.

Tuesday 20 October 2015, 6pm

Tickets: £10 per person (includes glass of wine/soft drink)

Royal College of Physicians, 11 St Andrews Place, Regent's Park,  
London, NW1 4LE

<https://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/museum-and-garden/events/power-and-beauty>

### ***Scholar, courtier, magician: the lost library of John Dee***

Discover the life and legacy of John Dee: one of Tudor England's most extraordinary and enigmatic figures.

Mathematician, magician, astronomer, astrologer, occultist, imperialist, alchemist and spy, Dee continues to fascinate and inspire, centuries after he entered the court of Elizabeth I. Our exhibition explores Dee through his personal library. On display for the first time are his beautifully annotated and illustrated books. Now held in the collections of the Royal College of Physicians, they reveal tantalising glimpses into the 'conjurer's' mind.

With loans from the Science Museum, the British Museum and the Wellcome Collection, including Dee's own magical mirror and crystal ball, and a commissioned film by artist Jeremy Millar.

Events to include weekend opening, curator talks, lectures, walking tours of London and more.

18 January – 29 July 2016

Free entry

Usual opening hours: Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm.

Please note that opening times may vary: check online before your visit.

Royal College of Physicians, 11 St Andrews Place, Regent's Park,  
London, NW1 4LE

<http://www.rcplondon.ac.uk/johndee>

## Membership

In this Bulletin we welcome new members working at the [The House of Lords](#), [Lambeth Palace Library](#), [Hereford Cathedral](#), [The British Museum](#) (Middle East Department), the [Society of Antiquaries of London](#), [Lloyd's Register](#), [The University of Manchester Library](#), [Durham University Library](#), [University Museums and Special Collections Services at the University of Reading](#), the [Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow](#), the [National Army Museum](#), [Guildford Museum](#), [The Angus Library and Archive](#) at Regent's Park College, [Pusey House Library](#), [All Souls College](#), [Balliol College](#), [Lincoln College](#), [The Boole Library at University College Cork](#), [Russell Library at Maynooth University](#) and [RMIT University in Melbourne](#).

Members who would like to promote exhibitions, events, conferences or training, or who wish to contribute to the next Bulletin (due January 2016) should contact members of the Committee or email [Members@HistoricLibrariesForum.org.uk](mailto:Members@HistoricLibrariesForum.org.uk)

Membership of the Forum is free and anyone may join. To help keep it this way, and to keep costs down, we much prefer to send out the Bulletin by email. For those who choose email we send also regular updates including:

- Early news of our always-popular workshops, most of which are heavily over-subscribed
- Early news and booking information about the annual HLF conference and AGM
- News of job vacancies, internships and volunteering opportunities
- News about our member libraries and forthcoming exhibitions



**Historic Libraries Forum**



**@HistLibForum**

'Practicalities, pleasures and pitfalls: uncovering digitisation projects'

UCL, Thursday 12 November 2015

10.00-10.30 Registration and coffee

10.30-10.40 Introduction

10.40-11.20 Simon Chandler-Barratt (Townsworld Archiving): Title TBC

11.20-12.00 Dr Christy Henshaw & team (Wellcome Library): 'Going digital at the Wellcome Library'

12.00-12.15 Questions

12.15-1.15 Lunch

1.15-1.30 AGM

1.30-1.50 Abby Matthews (Sutton Archives): 'Glass plate negatives at Sutton Archives'

1.50-2.10 Carol Burrows (John Rylands Library): 'Digitisation at the John Rylands Library'

2.10-2.30 Questions

2.30-3.00 Tea

3.00-3.20 Steven Archer (Parker Library): 'The legacy of *Parker on the Web*'

3.20-3.40 Naomi Korn (Naomi Korn Copyright Consultancy): 'Copyright issues in digitisation'

3.40-4.15 Questions to speakers & general discussion

c. 4.15 Finish

## **HISTORIC LIBRARIES FORUM**

### **Annual Conference 2015**

*“Practicalities, pleasures and pitfalls: uncovering digitisation projects”*

**University College London, Gower St, London, WC1E 6BT**

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November, 10.30-c.4.30 (registration & refreshments from 10.00am)

#### **Booking form:**

Please send this form, with a cheque for £40 (conference fee which includes lunch) to: Miss C. L. Penney, HLF Treasurer, 58 Selly Wick Drive, Birmingham, B29 7JH. For booking queries, email Chris at [clodpoll2001@yahoo.com](mailto:clodpoll2001@yahoo.com) or telephone 0121 471 3733). Please ensure the document is saved as a Word 1997-2003 document in order for the Treasurer to access it on her home computer.

Cheques should be made payable to the Historic Libraries Forum. If payment is being made through an institutional finance department please indicate this in the appropriate space below. Confirmation will be by email. If a paper receipt is required, please enclose an SAE with your booking form. 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 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

*I wish to attend the HLF conference on 12<sup>th</sup> November*

Name:

Address:

Institution:

Email (please write legibly):

Telephone number:

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

Dietary requirements:

Payment enclosed (please tick):

Payment to be paid institutionally (please tick):

Invoice required (this will be sent electronically):

Address to which invoice is to be sent: