

## **HISTORIC LIBRARIES FORUM**

### **BULLETIN NO. 44**

**APRIL 2019**

Welcome to the Forum's Spring bulletin. It's a relatively light offering following a relatively quiet winter season, but it does contain lots to get excited about in future. It also features at its end more about the Forum's Mentorship scheme, so please do have a look at that and get in touch if you would be interested in having or being a mentor. Many thanks to Emma Laws for her work on relaunching the scheme.

Planning for our conference continues apace, and we can now announce that it will take place at Westminster Abbey on Monday 18th November 2019. While the title and speakers are yet to be confirmed, it will be on the theme of balancing access and preservation. Thank you very much to Dr Tony Trowles for offering to host us, and to Katie Flanagan and Jessica Hudson for organising. Further details will be made available in our Summer bulletin, with booking open in September.

The rest of the HLF committee has also been busy planning events which will take place throughout this year; a course on incunabula and one session of ever-popular rare books cataloguing are in advanced stages of preparation. Later this year we will also be offering HLF's first ever course delivered entirely online (Ancient Greek for Cataloguing). While many of our events rely on hands-on access to collections, we hope that for topics where that is less necessary, online delivery will make our sessions more affordable and accessible. If you are reading this bulletin in hard copy, or it came to you via an institutional mailbox, please make sure you join our mailing list for priority booking on all our events: <https://historiclibrariesforum.com/contact/>

As ever, we would urge members contact the Forum if they become aware of any threats to historic libraries or collections (closures, sales of assets, reduction of services). Please also get in touch if you would like to share anything that might be of interest to the Forum membership, or if you simply need advice. Contact details are available on our website: <https://historiclibrariesforum.com/contact/>

Jill Dye, *Chair*

## NEWS

### EXETER CATHEDRAL LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES

Following several years of successful collaboration, Exeter Cathedral and the University of Exeter celebrated the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on 20 March 2019. Over 80 guests attended the event in the Cathedral, including the Lord Mayor of Exeter, the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Devon, the Bishop of Exeter and representatives from the University and Cathedral including members of the Cathedral Library and Archives Advisory Board. The agreement was signed on behalf of the Cathedral by the Dean, the Very Reverend Jonathan Greener, and on behalf of the University by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Professor Mark Goodwin.

Representatives from the University Chapel Choir sang during the signing and Professor James Clark, Associate Dean for Research and Knowledge Transfer and Professor of History at the University, gave a talk on 'The Exeter Book and the books of Exeter' – an appreciation of some of the literary and artistic treasures held in the Cathedral's Library and Archives.

A highlight of the evening was the opportunity to see the renowned Exeter Book which has recently returned to the Cathedral from the British Library where it featured alongside the only three other extant literary manuscripts written in Old English - the Vercelli Book, the Junius Manuscript and the Beowulf manuscript - in the major exhibition, 'Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms: art, word, war'. For more information about the Cathedral's Library and Archives: <https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/history-heritage/library-archives/>

### KEDERMISTER PARISH LIBRARY



Kedermister Library, a 17th century parish library still housed in its original setting, will have five open afternoons in 2019. These will be on 5 May, 2 June, 7 July, 4 August and 1 September, between 2:30 and 5:00 pm. Visits on other days/times are available by prior arrangement with the Hon. Librarian, Katie Flanagan. The

library is on the outskirts of Slough, with easy access from the M25 and M4, as well as the London Paddington/Reading railway line. Full details can be found [here](#). (Image © Trustees of Kedermister Library)

## DISCOVERY OF LIBRO DE LOS EPITOMES MANUSCRIPT

A 500-year old library catalogue, the Libro de los Epítomes, has been identified in the collection of Árni Magnússon, an Icelandic scholar born in 1663, who donated his books to the University of Copenhagen on his death in 1730. The catalogue contains details of books from the library of Hernando Colón, the illegitimate son of Christopher Columbus, who amassed some 15,000 volumes during his extensive travels in the early part of the 16th century. Only around a quarter of the books in Colón's collection survive, housed in Seville Cathedral since 1552. See Alison Flood's report in the Guardian for more details: <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2019/apr/10/extraordinary-500-year-old-library-catalogue-reveals-books-lost-to-time-libro-de-los-epitomes>



### **Répertoire International des Sources Musicales/International Inventory of Musical Sources**

The Répertoire International des Sources Musicales (International Inventory of Musical Sources, RISM) is an international project that aims to describe and document historical musical sources worldwide. Musical sources are music manuscripts from any time period as well as printed music editions, works on music theory, and libretti up to *ca.* 1900. Around 100 contributors in over 35 countries around the world catalogue the musical sources preserved in their countries. The descriptions are entered in a central database and the RISM Central Office in Frankfurt, Germany, ensures that the data is published in the RISM online catalogue. This catalogue is freely available online at <https://opac.rism.info>. In short, RISM documents what exists and where it can be found.

The United Kingdom has been involved in RISM since the project's beginnings in 1952. RISM's work is co-ordinated by the RISM(UK) Trust, many of whose trustees are staff of the British Library. Projects in recent years have catalogued music sources in various historic libraries throughout the country, providing over 110,000 items from more than 150 British institutions for inclusion in the RISM database. This work is not complete. The Early Music Online project, in collaboration with Royal Holloway, University of London, provided detailed catalogue records and images of thousands of hitherto little-known individual pieces published in sixteenth-century printed anthologies of vocal music. This formed the basis for an ensuing Big Data project, which used catalogue records from RISM and other major music bibliographic resources.

RISM provides a specialized cataloguing programme, called Muscat, at no charge to all contributors. Muscat offers the opportunity to describe musical sources in accordance with international standards so as to meet the needs and expectations of music researchers and performers.

The RISM catalogue can be used as an institution's main catalogue for musical sources, or records from RISM can be exported to a local catalogue. Data exchanges in both directions are possible. Links to digitised music can be included in RISM records and the RISM records can in turn be used as metadata in digital collections. RISM data is available as linked data and can be reused in digital humanities projects beyond RISM.

RISM would welcome the opportunity to collaborate with any institution whose holdings include historical musical sources. For more information, or to find out how to contribute in the UK, please visit [www.rism.info](http://www.rism.info) or contact Richard Chesser, Chair of the RISM(UK) Trust, London at [richard.chesser@bl.uk](mailto:richard.chesser@bl.uk).

Jennifer Ward, *RISM Central Office, Frankfurt, Germany*

### **ST BRIDE FOUNDATION**

The St Bride Foundation has announced the appointment of Sophie Hawkey-Edwards as full-time librarian of the St Bride Printing Library. Hawkey-Edwards was previously a senior manager at Conway Hall in Holborn, London, and has extensive previous experience in the library sector in Scotland. She will take up her new role during April 2019.

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

### **BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY**

The 2019 Homee and Phiroze Randeria Lecture will be presented by David Pearson on 'Bookbinding history and sacred cows: reflections on received wisdom'. The lecture will take place on 21 May at the Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, London, W1J 0BE. Tea will be served at 5:00 p.m. with the lecture to start at 5:30 pm. Members are welcome to bring guests, both to the lecture and to the tea beforehand.

The Society's Summer Visit will be to the Francis Trigge Library, St Wulfram's Church, Church Street, Grantham, Lincolnshire, NG31 6RR, on 25 June, beginning at 1:00 pm at the main entrance to the church. The visit is open to all members of the Society. Numbers are limited and those wishing to come should notify the Hon. Secretary by post or e-mail at [Secretary@BibSoc.org.uk](mailto:Secretary@BibSoc.org.uk) no later than 16 June. Guests may be permitted if numbers allow, but preference will be given to members. Places will be allocated as replies are received and confirmations will be sent.

### **BODLEIAN LIBRARIES**

The Lyell Lectures 2019 will be presented by Professor Richard Sharpe on 'Libraries and books in medieval England: the role of libraries in a changing book economy'. Lectures will take place

in the Lecture Theatre at the Weston Library at 5:00 pm. A reception will follow the first lecture.

- April 30: Medieval libraries of Great Britain
- May 2: English medieval library catalogues
- May 7: Library books and personal books
- May 9: Turnover in libraries
- May 14: Growth, competition, stability, loss, renewal
- May 16: Decay and closure of libraries



**CALCA: CATHEDRAL ARCHIVES, LIBRARIES AND COLLECTIONS  
ASSOCIATION**

**Triennial Conference, Salisbury Cathedral, 12-14 June 2019**

Salisbury Cathedral is looking forward to welcoming you to the 2019 CALCA conference from the 12th to 14th June. Here at Salisbury, the last five years have seen a renewal of commitment to and enthusiasm for our collections – particularly the library and archive - but also more recently our object collection. Spurred on by the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta in 2015, we have been focusing on improving the care and management of our collections in many practical ways, as well as increasing access to and knowledge of the collections for wider and increasingly diverse audiences. This 'back to basics' approach for ensuring the collections are catalogued and cared for in a professional and orderly manner, as well as ensuring that they make a positive contribution to the rest of the cathedral's life, underpins the session themes of this conference. We hope that the conference programme may appeal not only to those working in cathedrals but also to anyone responsible for diverse collections within a specialist organisation.

The conference is based at Sarum Theological College in the Cathedral Close. All conference sessions will be held at the College with the exception of the morning of Thursday 13th June and the reception preceding the conference dinner – these will be held in the Cathedral. <https://cathedrallibrariesandarchives.wordpress.com/events/>

**CAMBRIDGE BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY**

The Society's lecture on 1 May 2019 will be presented by Ed Potten (Research Associate, Centre for Medieval Studies, University of York) and Dr Tim Chesters (Faculty of Modern & Medieval Languages) on "'Spiritus anima": an unrecorded seventeenth-century alchemist's library at Clare College, Cambridge'. The lecture will take place in the Milstein Seminar Rooms, Cambridge University Library, at 5:00 pm; tea will be served from 4:30 pm before the lecture.

### **CILIP LIBRARY AND INFORMATION HISTORY GROUP**

The 2019 annual conference of the Library and Information History Group on 'Finding the women in library and information history' will take place at The John Rylands Library, Manchester, on 22 June. A full list of papers is available on the group's [webpage](#), and booking will open shortly on the same page.

[https://www.cilip.org.uk/members/group\\_content\\_view.asp?group=201304&id=690497](https://www.cilip.org.uk/members/group_content_view.asp?group=201304&id=690497)

### **DURHAM UNIVERSITY**

Durham University, in collaboration with Ushaw College and Durham Cathedral Library, is in the process of establishing a Residential Research Library, which will provide opportunities for visiting scholars to come to Durham to work on the rich collections of these three institutions. The formal launch of the RRL will take place later this year and to celebrate the event Durham University and Ushaw College are hosting a conference on the theme of 'Libraries, Learning and Religious Identities: Britain, Ireland and the European Context c.1100-c.1900'. The conference, organised by Durham University's Institute of Medieval and Early Modern Studies, in collaboration with The Centre for Catholic Studies, will take place at St Chad's College, Durham University and Ushaw College from 10 – 13 September 2019. Early booking discounts are available until Monday, 3 June 2019. Contact [admin.imems@durham.ac.uk](mailto:admin.imems@durham.ac.uk) for more information about this event or visit: <https://www.dur.ac.uk/imems/events/conferences/?eventno=38067>

### **EXETER CATHEDRAL LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES**

A forthcoming exhibition, 'Forging the Past in Medieval Exeter', tells the story of the eleventh-century origins of Exeter with some of its earliest Anglo-Saxon documents, including a series of fascinating forgeries. The exhibition explores why these were produced, revealing how, in the context of the foundation of the Bishopric and Viking invasions, the Cathedral forged the past to protect its present. The exhibition runs from 13 - 31 May with free curator talks and tours by Dr Jennie England on 27 and 28 May (booking essential). The exhibition will also be accompanied by an evening talk by Dr Levi Roach on 30 May, 'Fake Founders and Counterfeit Claims: The Forged Documents of Medieval Exeter.' For more information and to book: <https://www.exeter-cathedral.org.uk/news-events/latest-news/forging-past-medieval-exeter-king-aethelstan/>

### **EUROPEAN THEOLOGICAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION**

Call for papers: the 2019 annual conference of the European Theological Libraries Association (<https://theo.kuleuven.be/apps/press/beth/>) will be held in the UK in September at Wycliffe Hall, Oxford. The conference organisers are very keen to hear proposals for papers from the UK, particularly from independent libraries not directly linked with a university or seminary,

but all theological collections are welcome to make a pitch. Email Geert Harmanny [gdharmanny@tukampen.nl](mailto:gdharmanny@tukampen.nl) (BETH president) or [matina.curic@gmail.com](mailto:matina.curic@gmail.com) (BETH secretary) for further information.

### **IFLA**

The Library History Section of IFLA will be partnering the Local History and Genealogy Section and the Asia and Oceania Section to present a joint session at the World Library and Information Congress in Athens this August on 'Local History Collections, Genealogy, and Oral History as Critical Information Services in Libraries'. For more information: <https://2019.ifla.org/cfp-calls/local-history-and-genealogy-with-asia-and-oceania-and-library-history/>

### **INDEPENDENT LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION**

Booking is now open for the ILA's annual conference at the Devon and Exeter Institution, Exeter, from 7 – 9 June 2019. For more information and to book: <https://www.independentlibraries.co.uk/annual-meeting>

### **INSTITUTE OF HISTORICAL RESEARCH**

History of Libraries Seminars are jointly sponsored by the Institute of English Studies, the Institute of Historical Research, the Warburg Institute and the Library & Information History Group of CILIP. For further information: <https://www.history.ac.uk/events/seminar/history-libraries>

7 May 2019

Julian Pooley (Surrey Museums, Woking): 'Working tools almost daily in demand': The libraries of John Nichols and his family.

Warburg Lecture Theatre, Warburg Institute, Woburn Square, London, WC1H 0AB on at 17.30

14 May 2019

Alice Ford-Smith (Bernard Quaritch Ltd.): 'Samuel Pepys: book hunting in Restoration London' St Bride's Church, Fleet St, London EC4Y 8AU at 17.30

4 June 2019

Jean-Pascal Pouzet (University of Limoges & CESCUM, Poitiers): 'The library of Richard Houldsworth (1590-1649): new light on the manuscripts.

Great Hall of Lambeth Palace, London SE1 7JU at 17.30

### **NATIONAL ARCHIVES**

On the 27-28 June 2019 the National Archives will present a joint two-day conference with the Foreign & Commonwealth Office Historians, the University of Strathclyde, the International History Department at LSE and the British International History Group on 'Peace making after the First World War 1919-1923'. The conference will mark the centenary of the signature of the Treaty of Versailles and will explore this and other treaties that marked the formal end of hostilities. For more details and to book a place: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/peace-making-after-the-first-world-war-1919-1923-tickets-591114198488>

### **OXFORD BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY**

Tim Pye (National Trust Librarian) will present the Oxford Bibliographical Society Lecture on 5 June on 'Reconstructing the library of Thomas Tyrwhitt (1730-1786)'. The lecture will take place in the T.S. Eliot Theatre at Merton College at 5:15 pm. All are welcome.

### **RELIGIOUS ARCHIVES GROUP**

The Religious Archives Group conference will take place at the Salvation Army Heritage Centre, London, on 13 May 2019. Conference details and a booking form will shortly be available at: <https://religiousarchivesgroup.org.uk/conferences/>. In the meantime, booking forms (to be returned by 3 May) can also be obtained from [susannah.rayner@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:susannah.rayner@rcdow.org.uk)

### **RHS LINDLEY LIBRARY**

The current exhibition, 'Hidden Horticulturists: training gardeners at the RHS', will run until 6 May 2019. The exhibition uses material from the library collections as well as first-hand accounts to explore the story of gardening training and trainees at the RHS – from the attendees of its first School of Horticulture at Chiswick in the early 1800s to students at Wisley today. Admission is free Monday – Friday 10.00 am – 5.00 pm, with the opportunity to see the Upper Reading Room of the Library and browse some of the works available in the London collection.

In conjunction with the publication of her book, *The Hidden Horticulturists*, Fiona Davison (Head of Libraries and Exhibitions at the RHS) will present a free evening talk at the RHS Lindley Library on 2 May at 6.30 pm (doors open 6.00 pm). The talk will describe how Davison's discovery in the archives of a book of handwritten notes dating back to 1822 led her to uncover stories of a group of forgotten gardeners who trained at the RHS's garden at Chiswick almost 200 years ago. Her research reveals how these young, working-class men helped to shape the history of British horticulture and influence how we garden today. The talk includes an opportunity for a late evening viewing of the public library and the exhibition.

Places are limited and advance booking is required. To book a place call 02078 213 050 or email [library.london@rhs.org.uk](mailto:library.london@rhs.org.uk). For further details of library events: [www.rhs.org.uk/education-learning/libraries-at-rhs/events-exhibitions](http://www.rhs.org.uk/education-learning/libraries-at-rhs/events-exhibitions)

## **UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON**

UCL is hosting a symposium on 'Seventeenth-century libraries: problems and perspectives' from 6 – 8 June 2019 at University College, Gower Street, London, WC1E 6BT. The symposium brings together a group of UK-based academics and librarians, as well as key Continental scholars, in an attempt to consolidate current research, for the first time, on seventeenth-century libraries and book collecting. For further information: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/early-modern/events/2019/jun/seventeenth-century-libraries-problems-perspectives>

## **INTRODUCING OUR MENTORING SCHEME**

While many organizations include a form of mentoring as part of their induction and staff development programme, the HLF has identified a particular demand for professional, career and personal development support among those working with historic book collections. Librarians and curators working within this field can feel isolated, either because they work alone or within a small team in a small organization or, if their collections form part of a large organization, because their expertise is not shared by colleagues based in other departments. Whether newly-qualified, mid-career or senior management, all HLF members can benefit from sharing their experiences and challenges confidentially with a more experienced professional working elsewhere.

Mentoring can be ongoing and informal or undertaken for a specific period, perhaps, for example, to seek advice and support while changing roles or looking to progress in a particular area. While the value of such a professional relationship is obvious to the person seeking a mentor (the mentee), it can be equally rewarding for the mentor to give back to their profession. Often the mentor will have been actively involved in staff development initiatives already, but this is not a prerequisite: essential attributes include an interest in other people and the ability to listen, to challenge and to encourage. Alternatively, members may prefer a form of peer mentorship where the participants have reached a similar level of seniority in their careers but have different experiences to share.

You will need to consider:

Where do you want to meet? A neutral setting affording some privacy might be more appropriate than the workplace.

How often do you want to meet and for how long? Once a month for a period of six months is common, with the option to continue as and when necessary if both parties would like to do so. Successful partnerships can last for many years on an informal and irregular basis.

How formal do you wish the partnership to be? It is usual to begin relatively formally, i.e. establish the topics you wish to discuss and consider ways to achieve a positive outcome. You will probably want to minute your meetings in some way to ensure that you are making progress, particularly if action points derive from discussions. Mentors and mentees often find after the initial few months that they can continue in a more informal manner, perhaps 'meeting' virtually by phone or Skype, if appropriate.

What are your objectives? If a mentee, think about what you want to gain from the process, whether specific advice and guidance on a particular topic or perhaps general support for developing your career in a particular direction. Your mentor is there to help instigate discussion and to encourage you to explore ideas and solutions that you may not have previously considered: mentoring is very much a two-way process.

If you think you might be interested in taking part in this initiative, either as a mentor or a mentee, please contact our Mentoring Officer, Emma Laws, in the first instance for more information: [emma.laws@nationaltrust.org.uk](mailto:emma.laws@nationaltrust.org.uk)

## MEMBERSHIP

In this Bulletin we welcome new members working at [Newcastle University](#), [Cardiff University](#), [St Catharine's College](#), University of Cambridge, [New College](#), University of Oxford, [Chelsea College of Arts](#), [Chelsea Physic Garden](#), the [Advocates Library](#) at Edinburgh, the [Institution of Engineering and Technology](#), [Tavistock Subscription Library](#) and the [Morrab Library](#) at Penzance.

**Members who wish to promote exhibitions, events, conferences, or training, or who wish to contribute articles to future Bulletins should contact members of the Committee or email [info@HistoricLibrariesForum.com](mailto:info@HistoricLibrariesForum.com).**



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