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Welcome to the Summer Edition of the Historic Libraries Forum Bulletin

Like every other organisation, we are adapting to greater uncertainty in the world. This is not without its challenges, though some changes have been positive.

We now have a Zoom account that means we can more easily hold online events and committee meetings. We continue to look at the possibilities of virtually connecting with our membership; as always, get in touch if you have ideas for events or if you think there is a training gap that we can fill.

Virtual events have actually allowed more people to attend from across the country and we are committed to continue organising 'HLF hosts...' talks and networking events. If you have ideas for talks or would like to organise a 'HLF hosts...', please get in touch with Katie Flanagan.

The next 'HLF hosts...' features a conversation between Owen McKnight and Alex Kither about their experience of using our mentoring scheme. If you have always wondered if being a mentor or a mentee is something for you, then please join us on 17 October at 1:30PM. You can find out more about the event and our mentorship scheme elsewhere in this newsletter.

We have also started to think about our next annual meeting, which is likely to take place late October, in-person if Covid allows. More details to follow soon.

There have been a few committee changes in the last few months. Tanya Kirk, our liaison with the RBSCG, stood down as rep. We welcome Jacqueline

Archivist at Salisbury Cathedral, takes over from her. Our heartfelt thanks go to Tanya and Gudrun for their many contributions to the committee. Earlier this year Lara Haggerty, Librarian at Innerpeffray Library, joined the committee as rep for the ILA.

If you are interested in learning more about the work of each of the groups, our reps have written a summary of recent activities for the newsletter. We hope to continue this in the future.

Last but not least, a huge thank you to Julie Davis for once again putting together a great newsletter. At the risk of repeating myself, please contact her with news about your library, events you are organising, and anything else you think might be of interest to our membership.

Have a lovely summer, stay safe, and hopefully see you soon either online or in-person.

Danielle
HLF Chair

The Benefits of Mentoring – don't just take our word for it!

Are you looking for a new job, a new challenge, a new skill, or a new direction? Mentoring can help. The Historic Libraries Mentoring Scheme is an informal scheme which aims to connect people working in historic libraries or with historic book collections.

Whether you're newly qualified, mid-career or senior management, you can benefit from sharing your experiences and challenges confidentially, either with a more experienced professional to gain insight from someone a little further ahead in their career, or with a peer who has reached a similar level of seniority as you but may have different experiences to share. Mentoring can be ongoing or undertaken for a specific period, for example, to seek advice and support while changing roles or while seeking a new career direction. With many options to communicate online, connecting people through mentoring partnerships has never been easier – wherever you live and work we can find you a match.

The Historic Libraries Mentoring Scheme is open to all. If you are interested in taking part in our mentoring scheme, either as a **mentor** or as a **mentee**, please contact our Mentoring Officer, Emma Laws:

A mentee's perspective

"In 2003 I took on the running of the Historical Archive at Northampton General Hospital, as a volunteer. Many of the tasks were common sense, organising the collection and identifying the contents. In the early stages professional assessments of the books and artefacts were carried out. The reports on these gave a list of recommendations and how to carry them out.

Over the years I have consulted innumerable professionals, either by email or phone to get advice. My biggest challenge was not having any archival or librarian qualifications - and common sense could only take me so far.

I then spotted the mentorship scheme via the Historic Libraries Forum. With the help of Ed Weech I was fortunate to find a mentor in Sarah Griffin, Special Collections and York Minster Librarian. It started with a phone call where I detailed where the work had got so far and my future goals. After a series of phone calls and emails Sarah was able to visit the archive and see for herself how the work was going. Since 2016 my mentor has been invaluable in guiding me in the right direction and understanding the limitations of funding and volunteer hours. Without her support I would not have progressed this far in caring for the collection and supporting my fellow volunteers."

Sue Longworth

Historical Archive at Northampton General Hospital

www.northamptongeneral.uk/AboutUs/OurHistory

Special Interest Groups: Rep Reports



Pall Mall [CC-BY-SA-2.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/2.0/) by GeographBot

APML/LILA

APML, Association of Pall Mall Libraries, and LLPSLG, Learned Libraries and Professional Societies Group, have now merged to form LILA, London

diverse collections in a variety of organisations including learned and professional societies, London clubs, independent libraries and archives. This is not a comprehensive or exclusive list of types of organisations and any the staff of any organisations similar to those listed are encouraged to join and find a community with shared experiences and concerns. Recently, we held an online meeting with case studies of packing up collections for storage and moves to new and refurbished buildings. We also held a lunchtime picnic in St James's Square Garden on 7 July. Please contact me if you would like to join us. Jacqui Granger JacquiG@rusi.org



From The History and Antiquities of the parish of Lambeth and the Archbishopal Palace, 1827

CALCA

The Cathedral Archives, Libraries and Collections Association's AGM for 2022 was held on 28 June at Lambeth Palace Library. The afternoon included a tour of the building and its facilities. Inventories and the guidance produced by the Cathedrals Fabric Commission, and Contested Heritage were two of the subjects of interest to be raised. We were also given a preview of the *Cathedral treasures* book which is to be published by Scala in December 2022.

Here is the link to the CALCA summer newsletter, full of tremendous stuff.

<https://cathedrallibrariesandarchives.files.wordpress.com/2022/05/calca-newsletter-summer-2022.pdf>

LIHG

The 2022 CILIP Library and Information History Group conference was successfully held online at the start of July, with a last-minute move online due to levels of covid-19 among the organisers. A full write-up of the day will feature in the next edition of the group's [Newsletter](#) later this year. The group had a presence at the CILIP conference in Liverpool this month, and have advertised a [bursary for the CILIP RBSCG conference](#) in September. We are still looking for a new Reviews Editor for the journal *Library and Information History*, and will be announcing some committee vacancies soon. Keep an eye on our

[group=201304&id=690686](#)

RBSCG

The Rare Books and Special Collections Group now has an EDI champion, Erika Delbecque has taken up this new role to the committee. Our aims are to embed EDI across our group outputs (including day events) and to formulate, advocate and enable best practice in the profession. We anticipate that this may involve pooling together resources. The group held an RBSCG in Conversation event on 30 June: Cataloguing Code of Ethics. Forthcoming events include on 22 July an RBSCG visit to Lambeth Palace Library and in conjunction with the RBSCG conference in September, about which more below, the Bibliographic Standards Committee is organising a workshop to take place on the Friday afternoon following the close of the conference. It will be a workshop taught by Genny Grim, Librarian at Pembroke College, Cambridge, on cataloguing resources in unfamiliar languages and scripts.

Other news

Friends of the National Libraries: Saving Charlotte Brontë's last 'little book'

You may have seen recent press reports that the last of Charlotte Brontë's 'little books' that was in private hands was recently offered for sale by James Cummins Bookseller in New York. Written when she was 13, the *Book of Rhymes [sic]* is smaller than a playing card and contains ten poems by Charlotte. James Cummins, knowing of FNL's success in saving the Blavatnik Honresfield Library, offered FNL a brief period of exclusivity to raise the \$1.25m required.

The Friends of the National Libraries are absolutely delighted to announce that they have been successful in saving this last little book for the nation. This extraordinary achievement was only possible thanks to the great generosity of their many benefactors. For further information visit [Saved! The last Brontë little book | Friends of the National Libraries \(fnl.org.uk\)](#)

Burlington House



Royal Society of Chemistry, Burlington House, CC-BY-SA-3.0 by Setwig

A campaign, led by the Society of Antiquaries, is asking for the public's help to enable them to remain at Burlington. The Linnean Society, Geological Society and Royal Astronomical Society and the historian Michal Wood have also joined the campaign. As a result of the support in scientific and cultural circles, among the general public, and across Westminster, their landlord the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), has now responded to their call but this is not the end of the story, and the campaign continues. To find out more, visit the campaign website [Save BH - Society of Antiquaries of London \(sal.org.uk\)](https://www.sal.org.uk)

Help at Hand



Provide some support for your collection by making exhibition cradles – all you need is a piece of box board and cutting equipment. Our handy worksheet can guide you...

<https://historicllibrariesforum.files.wordpress.com/2018/02/book-stands-for-exhibitions.pdf>



Historic Libraries Forum - Save the date!

Join us on Zoom on Monday 17th October at 1.30pm for the next HLF Hosts... featuring Owen McKnight and Alex Kither discussing mentoring. There will be a short talk from Owen and Alex about their experiences of mentoring, after which there will be an open discussion. We expect the event to last approximately 45 minutes.

This will be a “pay what you feel” event, please keep an eye on Historic Libraries Forum social media for booking details.

We are looking for ideas for our successful online ‘HLF Hosts’ topics. What topics are you interested in? Suggestions to historicllibrariesforum@gmail.com
If you would like to take part as a host, please do get in touch

Talk: Cutting Back the Layers at the Royal London Hospital in the 19th C
Excavations in 2006 as part of a development programme at the Royal London Hospital by Museum of London Archaeology (MoLA) revealed fascinating

burials provided an enlightening opportunity for better understanding the complexities of medical interventions and use of the body in medicine at this time. This talk will look at the discoveries from the site, bringing together the sources that provided a unique opportunity to revisit a hospital at this significant point in time and an exhibition at the Museum of London in 2012.

Guildhall Library, 9 August, 2-3pm online [Online - Cutting Back the Layers at the Royal London Hospital in the 19thC Tickets, Tue 9 Aug 2022 at 14:00 | Eventbrite](#) and in person at the Library [Onsite - Cutting Back the Layers at the Royal London Hospital in the 19thC Tickets, Tue 9 Aug 2022 at 14:00 | Eventbrite](#) free event

Webinar: British Association for Local History: The 1921 Census: Opportunities for Local History

This talk will explore the recently released 1921 Census and its associated resources and demonstrate ways in which the records might be used to inform (or inspire) local history research. The talk will be given by Jessamy Carlson, Family & Local History Engagement Lead at The National Archives in Kew.

Jessamy is a qualified archivist and historian. She has over twenty years' experience in research and has written on diverse subjects from babies named after First World War battles to teenage girls in "trouble" in the mid-twentieth century. She is passionate about getting people into archives, and into research.

Online, 6 September 2022, 7-8pm, members free, non-members £5
www.balh.org.uk/event-balh-balh-digital-webinar-the-1921-census-opportunities-for-local-history-2022-10-11

Conference: The CILIP RBSCG Conference is now open for booking!

The Rare Books and Special Collections Group conference will be held at St. Hilda's College, Oxford, from 7-9th September 2022.

"Are You Sitting Comfortably?" aims to arm delegates with the tools to tell new stories with existing collections, collecting to tell untold stories, and to meet uncomfortable stories head on.

The conference is usually attended by rare books and special in person/online collections librarians, archivists, conservators, museum professionals and rare book sellers, but is open to all and we are particularly interested in attracting students and new professionals to the conference. This year we are pleased to offer at least six bursary places.

website: <https://tinyurl.com/3m369dj4>

Short Course: Beginners Renaissance Latin Intensive

Continuing its online activities, this year the Warburg Institute offers Beginners Renaissance Latin as a virtual class via zoom over five intensive days either side of a weekend break: Thurs-Fri 8 & 9 Sept, and Mon-Weds 12, 13, 14 September 2022, 1-3pm and 4-5pm each day.

The course is designed for total beginners. It will focus on the rudiments of the Latin language, but with a key aim of helping students develop the ability and confidence to navigate their way around a range of early modern primary sources in Latin from the fourteenth to the seventeenth century.

Online, 8-14 September, 2022, Standard fee £160, students £145 [Beginners Renaissance Latin Intensive | The Warburg Institute \(sas.ac.uk\)](#)

Conference: Voting Reform 150 Years on from the 1872 Ballot Act: A Symposium at the IHR in Honour of Valerie Cromwell

2022 marks the 150th anniversary of the passing of the 1872 Ballot Act which introduced the requirement for a secret ballot in British parliamentary and local elections. Our symposium will take this as the starting point for a broader examination of the history of voting reform. It will consider the culture and conduct of Victorian elections and the circumstances that led to the passing of the Act; it will deal with the debates around the secret ballot, the impact of the Act at home (especially in Ireland), its influence abroad, and the subsequent history of electoral administration, relating some of these issues to currently debated questions of electoral fraud and voter identity.

In person at the Wolfson Conference Suite, NB01/02, Basement, Institute of Historic Research, Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU, 12 September 2022 11am-6.30pm [Voting reform 150 years on from the 1872 Ballot Act: A symposium at the IHR in honour of Valerie Cromwell | Institute of Historical Research \(history.ac.uk\)](#)

Exhibitions

Exhibition: Senate House Library 150

Celebrating 150 years since the library's founding collections were established with a selection of 150 featured unique and treasured items in the sphere of arts, humanities and social sciences.

Online exhibition for the Senate House Library via [Senate House Library 150 |](#)

Exhibition: Power, Politics & Preservation: John Cosin and his Library

John Cosin was a man of piety, learning and strong opinions, who was at the centre of the political and religious controversies that dominated England in the seventeenth century. Using books and surviving correspondence, the exhibition explores Cosin's eventful life and discovers how he came to build his extraordinary library for the people of Durham.

Online Exhibition for Durham University via

<https://stories.durham.ac.uk/cosinslib-introduction/>

Exhibition: Darwin in Conversation: The Endlessly Curious Life and Letters of Charles Darwin

Charles Darwin's name is so famous, still so constantly invoked in debates on evolution, society, and religion, that the man himself is easily overlooked.

Darwin's letters sit alongside his famous publications, providing a more rounded, personal view of Darwin. A prolific correspondent, he wrote and received over 15,000 letters in his lifetime. Cambridge University Library's exhibition uses this correspondence to uncover little-known aspects of Darwin's life. It reveals a global network, fuelled by letters, carrying knowledge and insight between the public, subject specialists, and some of the most famous names of 19th century science. Darwin's ideas were forged through this correspondence.

Free exhibition at Milstein Exhibition Centre, Cambridge University Library, 9 July -3 December 2022. Tickets available [here](#).

Exhibition: Sensational Books

Rub, stroke, chew, wear, sniff – Sensational Books explores our experiences of the book beyond reading.

Structured around six senses of sight, sound, taste, smell, touch and proprioception – the sense of self-movement and body-perception – this exhibition will unlock a world of sensory engagement with books.

Explore how early books and manuscripts engaged with the senses, in ways similar to more recent works by book artists in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries.

Using dynamic and interactive elements from sound artists, tactile displays and even a smell wall, come and celebrate the book in all its forms.

2022, free entry [Sensational Books](#) | [Visit the Bodleian Libraries \(ox.ac.uk\)](#)

Exhibition: Visualising Victorian News

Infographics are visual representations of information, often used to illustrate news stories. The British Library wanted to see how its historical news collections would look in the hands of today's infographic designers. Three designers have produced seven infographics using data taken from digitised British Library newspapers and other sources to re-imagine aspects of British 19th-century history.

Discover how Black abolitionists spread their anti-slavery message across Britain, how the public health campaigns against cholera and smallpox had to overcome fear and suspicion, and the eye-opening world of convict tattoos. These engaging and informative designs demonstrate new ways in which the British Library can present its collections.

The British Library, runs until 21 August 2022, free entry [Visualising Victorian News - The British Library \(bl.uk\)](#)



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