

# *AMARC Newsletter*

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*Newsletter of the Association for Manuscripts and Archives in Research Collections*

[www.manuscripts.org.uk/amarc/](http://www.manuscripts.org.uk/amarc/)

## **MASS DIGITISATION PROJECTS**



*Heidelberger Schicksalsbuch, Regensburg after 1491. MS Cod. Pal. germ. 832, fol. 16r. See Karin Zimmermann's article, pp. 4-6.*

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### AMARC MEMBERSHIP

Membership can be personal or institutional. Institutional members receive two copies of mailings, have triple voting rights, and may send staff to meetings at the members' rate. Details and application forms are available from [www.manuscripts.org.uk/amarc](http://www.manuscripts.org.uk/amarc).

Enquiries about membership should be addressed to the Membership Secretary:

Mrs Clare Brown  
AMARC Membership Secretary  
c/o Lambeth Palace Library  
London SE1 7JU  
[clare.brown@lpl.c-of-e.org.uk](mailto:clare.brown@lpl.c-of-e.org.uk)

***Please let the Membership Secretary have your e-mail address.***

**Annual subscription rates** (April-March) are:

Personal Membership: £10

Institutional Membership: £30

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Please send your payment to :

Dr Michael Stansfield  
AMARC Treasurer  
c/o Durham University Library  
Palace Green  
Durham DH1 3RN.

Payment by **standing order** is welcomed. Forms can be obtained from the Membership Secretary or Treasurer and are also available on the website. If more members with

UK bank accounts could pay by standing order it would considerably decrease the amount of time spent on administration.

### • AMARC GRANTS and how to apply for them

The Association can currently offer modest funding to enterprises that both:

- bring AMARC and its activities to a wider audience and
- support the stated aim of AMARC: to promote the accessibility, preservation and archives of all periods in libraries and other research collections in Great Britain and Ireland.

AMARC therefore invites applications from fully paid-up individual or institutional members for sterling grants in areas such as the following:

- Help in defraying the costs of holding conferences and workshops.
- Support for small projects such as the web-publication of unpublished catalogues of manuscripts.
- Assistance to scholars in obtaining reproductions or undertaking essential travel as part of projects whose aims are in line with those of AMARC.

- The provision of equipment, such as perhaps book supports, to facilitate access to manuscripts.
- Assistance with the necessary purchase of manuscripts and archives to benefit the AMARC community.
- Carrying out conservation work on manuscripts and archives.

**NB** Funds will NOT be made available towards the cost of commercial publication but will be allocated where they can be expected to provide the greatest benefit to the greatest number of people. Often this will be achieved by making several small awards rather than a few larger awards. Funding levels may vary from year to year, but it is anticipated that the Committee will make awards of not more than £1000 each, and of not more than £3000 in total each year.

Applications should comprise: a brief outline of the project, conference or work; its overall cost; the grant being sought; the names and addresses of two referees; details of the addressee for the cheque. Applications should be submitted to Dr Michael Stansfield, AMARC Treasurer, c/o Durham University Library, Palace Green, Durham DH1 3RN or [m.m.n.stansfield@durham.ac.uk](mailto:m.m.n.stansfield@durham.ac.uk) at any time during the year. They will usually be considered at the next Committee meeting (usually held in April and October) and successful applicants will be informed soon thereafter.

Successful applicants will be required to submit for publication in this newsletter a brief report (300-500 words) of the use to which the

grant was put. Full details appear on the AMARC website.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Many thanks to all contributors to this issue, including the following whose contributions are unattributed: Susan Davies, E. Wyn James, Bart Jaski, Peter Kidd, Martine Meuwese, Loretta Pamment, Pamela Robinson, and Patricia Stirnemann. Thanks are also due to the University Library of Heidelberg, the Roderic Bowen Library, University of Lampeter, and the British Library for the use of photographs.

The views expressed herein are those of the Editor and other named contributors. In addition to contributions from named individuals, information has been taken from a variety of websites, press releases etc., the accuracy of which cannot be guaranteed. You are advised to confirm details, especially if travelling to events or exhibitions.

**DEADLINE** for publication in **Issue no. 53** is **1 September 2009**.

Please send your articles or any news of interest to AMARC members to the editor:

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Images submitted should be at least 300 dpi and delivered on CD or via e-mail.

**AMARC WINTER CONFERENCE, LONDON**

**Mass Digitisation Projects: Current Experience and Future Prospects.**

**British Library Conference Centre, 15 December 2009.**

This well-attended conference provided a forum for lively discussion on a number of issues of concern to curators and users of manuscripts and archives, as well as providing news of recent and ongoing digitisation projects. Summaries of two of the papers, those by Dr Karin Zimmermann of Heidelberg University and by Dr Susan Whitfield of the British Library, are given below. The content of the talk by Guy Grannum, of the National Archives, on 'Your Archives: capturing users' knowledge of archival sources' (<http://yourarchives.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>), is available at <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documents/rkwinter2008.pdf>.

Other papers were given by Dr Rebecca Rushforth (Corpus Christi College, Cambridge), on 'Making and Using the Parker Library on the Web Project' (<http://parkerweb.stanford.edu/parker/>); Stephen Rigden, National Library of Scotland, on 'The John Murray Archive Digitisation Project: progress through experience' (<http://www.nls.uk/jma/index.html>); Dr Juan Garcés, curator of the Codex Sinaiticus Project, the British Library ([www.codexsinaiticus.org](http://www.codexsinaiticus.org)), on British Library MSS 2.0: possible scenarios.'

### **Digitisation of the German-language Palatina Manuscripts**

*Karin Zimmermann, University Library Heidelberg.*

The Bibliotheca Palatina at Heidelberg is regarded as one of the most valuable collections of medieval and early modern manuscripts in the German

language. It consists of 849 codices dating from the late 9th to the early-17th century (*see illustration on front cover*). Its origins go back to 1386, when the University of Heidelberg was founded by Elector Ruprecht the First. During the following centuries the collegiate library of the Heidelberg Heiliggeistkirche (Church of the Holy Ghost) and the private book collection of the Palatinate Electors were incorporated into the growing University Library, until it became the biggest and most famous library in Germany. During the Thirty Years' War it was taken as booty to the Vatican Library in Rome, where nearly all its non-German manuscripts and all the prints are still kept today. In 1816, after the Napoleonic wars, the German manuscripts were returned to Heidelberg, where they are preserved in the University Library.

In order both to protect these valuable old books, that are often in a fragile condition, and to make them easily available to a wider range of scholars, we decided a few years ago to digitise the whole collection. This digitisation project at Heidelberg University Library began in March 2006 and was supported by the Manfred-Lautenschläger-Stiftung ([www.manfred-lautenschlaeger-stiftung.de/standard/](http://www.manfred-lautenschlaeger-stiftung.de/standard/)). Within three years all German manuscripts of the Bibliotheca Palatina have been digitised; in total about 270,000 pages and 6,500 miniatures. That means that one digital facsimile of a manuscript was released each working day. Without the

sponsorship, and with only the library's normal budget, the project would have lasted over 20 years. Meanwhile all 849 digitised manuscripts are online and all pages with miniatures are indexed.

From the opening page of the project's website (<http://palatina-digital.uni-hd.de>) there are links to the online presentation of the manuscripts, to a short text about the history of the Bibliotheca Palatina, to information about the project and so on. The digitised manuscripts are listed in shelfmark order.

Project resources allowed us to use two book-tables, which meant we could simultaneously make progress with our digitisation project and process orders from external clients.

To ensure both the best protection of the fragile objects and the highest efficiency we used two so-called 'Graz book-tables' to digitise the manuscripts. The images were captured by several fully-trained student assistants.

The book-tables permit non-contact, direct digitisation. The codex is accurately positioned with the aid of a laser beam, so that the camera is always at right angles to the manuscript and distortion is minimized. The pages are fixed one at a time with low pressure suction and the aperture angle is reduced to a minimum.

In 2008 we revised the workflow for digitisation and web delivery and implemented current standards. Furthermore, we optimized the visual presentation of the digital facsimiles and adopted the corporate design of Heidelberg University. Our IT department developed a new program, called D-Work, to manage

the workflow of digitisation and web delivery of our manuscripts (and prints).

The program generates the online images, but with its help we can also monitor the long-term archiving of scans and metadata. Furthermore, it automises and depicts every single step of the workflow, so we are always able to monitor the progress of digitisation and delivery of a manuscript or print.

For the web presentation we use METS and MODS. The metadata can be harvested via OAI-interface, which means that other projects can easily participate in our digitisation work. We are a member of the Open Archive Initiative (OAI) as a data provider, e.g. we are listed in OAIster (<http://www.oaister.org/>) or BASE (<http://www.base-search.net/>). Furthermore, we strive to list our digitised manuscripts as a whole in different national as well as international databases, e.g. Manuscripta Mediaevalia: (<http://www.manuscripta-mediaevalia.de/>), Manuskriptorium (<http://www.manuskriptorium.com>), ENRICH (<http://enrich.manuskriptorium.com>), EUROPEANA (<http://www.europeana.eu/>).

We archive the original data of the scans together with the metadata in METS-XML-format in the TSM (Tivoli Storage Manager) archiving system at the data-processing centre in Heidelberg. To monitor the processes we regularly monitor the checksum and the existence of the data. In addition, the data are archived at the data processing centre in Karlsruhe.

On the screen the user will find the book easy to leaf through, and with convenient ways to navigate, as is usual nowadays. The actual codicological descriptions are also provided online as pdf-files. There is a link to our picture database HeidICON (<http://heidicon.ub.uni-heidelberg.de/>), where users can find all images indexed and described; this fund of medieval illustrations provides a wealth of information for scholars in all fields.

As an additional, valuable resource for scholars, we digitise research literature about our historic collections, for example historic catalogues and editions of the texts. Where possible we implement OCR and full-text searching of the digitised research literature. In 2009 we will offer a user interface in English language. Contact: [Zimmermann@ub.uni-heidelberg.de](mailto:Zimmermann@ub.uni-heidelberg.de).

### **The International Dunhuang Project: Recombining A Silk Road Library**

*Susan Whitfield, The British Library*

*(See illustrations on p. 35).*

#### **Background**

In the first millennium AD the oases kingdom skirting the Taklamakan Desert in present-day western China and the empires that surrounded and sometimes subsumed them were, on the whole, cultures with rich literary traditions. Moreover, the knowledge of paper-making was spread throughout the region. Other media were also available for writing, most especially wood, but also leather, birch-bark, palm leaf and silk. Over time, the oasis towns were gradually

deserted and left to be blanketed by a covering of sand. This resulted in the preservation of tens of thousands of manuscripts stored in Buddhist stupas, archives and rubbish heaps. They are in over twenty languages and scripts, from several major language groups including Indo-European, Semitic, Altaic and Sino-Tibetan.

These form an amazing cache, but the discovery in 1900 of a complete Buddhist library comprising over 40,000 'volumes' dating from the 5th to the 11th centuries, and hidden since AD 1000, has almost eclipsed them. Their format is also varied, from 30m long scrolls wrapped around a wooden roller and secured with a silk tie, to large 'pothi' leaves within wooden boards, various wooden documents and early codex forms.

The content of these manuscripts is diverse. The majority are Buddhist scriptures (*sutra*), philosophical texts and rules for monastic life, and among these are important apocryphal and lost texts as well as the earliest dated printed document in the world, a copy of the *Diamond Sutra* in Chinese dating to AD 868 (but the product of a mature printing industry). There are also many non-Buddhist documents, from literary and philosophical texts, social and economic documents and scientific and medical works.

On hearing of the discovery of the forgotten civilisations of the Taklamakan at the end of the 19th century, archaeologists from around the world vied to go there. Major expeditions were mounted by British, German, Russia, French,

Japanese, Swedish and Finnish scholar-explorers and these brought the finds to the interest of Chinese scholars. As a result, the contents of these Silk Road sites and the Dunhuang Library Cave are scattered in institutions throughout the world. In many cases, the same manuscript is split between two or even three or four collections. The cave's contents have never been studied as a whole.

***The International Dunhuang Project (IDP)***

IDP was formed in 1994 following a meeting of curators and conservators from all the major collections of the manuscripts worldwide with the aim of collaboration together to preserve and make this archaeological legacy more accessible. The Directorate was placed in the British Library and plans were immediately put in place to secure funds to design and build a database to hold catalogues and images for the manuscripts and other artefacts. In 1998 the preliminary data became freely accessible online with the launch of the English language version of the IDP website (<http://idp.bl.uk>). Over the past decade, IDP has grown and synchronised datasets are now served through multilingual websites hosted on servers in China, Germany, Japan, Russia and, in 2009, France and Korea.

Digitisation is only a part of IDP's activities, too many to mention here, but covering conservation, cataloguing, research and educational projects. Here I shall summarise three of the issues relevant to manuscript digitisation projects that we have encountered over the past decade.

***Digital data sharing and IPR***

IDP's partners worldwide produce shared standardised metadata across subject areas. The dataset and images are held on the local server and only representatives of the holding institution can add, edit or delete their data. Each data block is tagged with a unique identifier with a prefix which gives its location. The data blocks are sent to all the other servers in constant synchronisation. Each server therefore in effect contains a backup of the dataset.

No attempt has been made to transfer copyright in the images. The collaborating institutions give IDP permission to serve JPEG images through the database and website. IDP is keen to promote wider and more easy access to images for non-commercial purposes and it is therefore using Creative Commons licenses for new images created by IDP.

***Multilingualism and Unicode***

IDP stores and serve multilingual metadata to enable as wide as access as possible. However, the slow development of Unicode Standard has hampered progress in this area. In addition, even with Unicode 5 we have the issue of variant characters in Chinese manuscripts which are not in the code set, and scripts which do not yet have a Unicode font.

***Maintaining standards and quality across institutions worldwide***

It has always been a core aim of IDP that we would work collaboratively, sharing work and skills between all the institutions. This has meant a considerable investment in training, dealing with

different institutional practices and sometimes frustration in finding and maintaining suitable staff worldwide. However, it has resulted in a wide dissemination of skills which have already been used by some participating institutions for other projects.

### **Funding**

IDP has been largely externally funded from its inception. IDP's continued existence is testament to its success in this area, but it has been a great struggle at times and diverted energy from core work. IDP has not compromised, despite pressure, with quality and we have insisted on keeping up with technology, thus requiring considerable expenditure on equipment. However, by ensuring that all staff have a technical expertise, we have avoided costly technical mistakes and consultancy fees.

### **Where we are now, and the future**

As of April 2009, IDP offers online over 200,000 high-quality images of over 60,000 manuscripts. 70% with basic catalogue records. 50% with full records. By 2014, with continued funding, we hope to have over 95% of the Dunhuang Library Cave contents reunited virtually and accessible to all.

## **PERSONAL NEWS**

### **Retirement**

Mr Dafydd Ifans retired in April as Head of Acquisitions at the National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth. He joined the Library in 1972, and spent most of his career as Assistant Keeper in the then Department of Manuscripts and Records, where he specialised in literary archives and

manuscripts, as well as Nonconformist records. He was appointed Head of Special Collections in 2002 and Head of Acquisitions in 2005. Dr Maredudd ap Huw succeeds Mr Ifans as the NLW's representative on the AMARC Committee.

### **Obituary**

The death has been announced of Helmut Friedlaender of Manhattan, a book-loving lawyer and financial adviser, aged 95. His collection of early printed books and illuminated manuscripts attracted much interest at Christie's in April 2001, when most of his important collection, which he had assembled over the previous 30 years, was auctioned off. The books and manuscripts sold (559 lots) included one of the first classical texts ever printed, Cicero's *De Officiis* printed in Mainz, Germany, in 1465; a 14th-century illuminated manuscript of St. Gregory's *Moralia in Job* in its original doeskin binding, from Bohemia. Some items later reappeared on the market and were repurchased by the seller.

Helmut Friedlaender was born in 1913 in Berlin, the son of a prominent lawyer. He fled Germany in 1933 and studied administrative law at Lausanne. After emigrating to the United States he began a career in investment banking. During World War II, he worked as an announcer for the Voice of America, broadcasting to Europe, and in 1944 became an adviser to the philanthropist William Rosenwald.

Helmut Friedlaender helped to finance the six-volume, 3,000-page catalogue of the incunabula in the

Bodleian Library at Oxford University, which was published in 2005. The Library awarded him its Bodley Medal the same year.

## PROJECTS

### **The *Wise Book of Philosophy and Astronomy*: Manuscripts at the Bodleian Library Oxford.**

Report by **Dr Carrie Griffin**, NUI Postdoctoral Fellow, School of English, University College, Cork, Ireland.

I recently received funding from AMARC to complete one crucial stage of what is a larger project: the first full critical edition, under preparation for the *Middle English Texts* series, of the Middle English *Wise Book of Philosophy and Astronomy*. The *Wise Book* – extant in 33 late-medieval manuscripts – was certainly one of the most widely-read, frequently copied, instructional/scientific texts in the vernacular, and its surviving witnesses are a material testament to the wide variety of readers and audiences who copied, annotated, abridged and used the information contained in it. The eight *Wise Book* manuscripts held at the Bodleian Library, Oxford are not just an important repository of witnesses to this text, but can also be said to represent a cross-section of physical evidence of the many readers, compilers, audiences and discourse communities who had access to this text from the 14th century well into the 16th. As such, the manuscripts manifest considerable variation of form, materiality and content, and taken together certainly bear witness to a wide and heterogeneous public for the *Wise Book*.

The books are compelling too in terms of their individual features; of particular note is Rawlinson D. 1220, a parchment manuscript of the late-15th century, which is richly decorated throughout with colourful miniatures and several full-folio illustrations depicting the signs of the zodiac and the preoccupations of the months. Here, the *Wise Book*'s debate section is accompanied by illustrations of the two philosophers engaged in a discussion of predestination and free will. Additional B.17 is a small quarto in a red, half-morocco binding (165x120 mm), in which the *Wise Book* is accompanied by a text on the twelve zodiacal signs, each illustrated with tiny gilded miniatures in red, green and blue. The other texts – the *Wise Book*, the *Book of Destinary*, and a Latin tract entitled *Duodecim sunt signa* – are richly peppered with decorated and illuminated initials and red and blue paraps; the overall impression is that both the texts and the book were extremely valuable to the onetime patron/owner.

Of interest too, of course, are the more workmanlike manuscripts making up this particular repository. The *Wise Book* copy of Ashmole 1477 (which can be dated to around 1415 by an inscription) was made by one 'Wyllyam Gynnes', who evidently decided that he needed only part of the text since he discards certain sections and re-arranges at will. However, this version has been bound together with several receipt- and household books that were apparently in use until late in the 17th century, and has various signatures and marks of

ownership, indicating both male and female users, throughout. In many ways, composite manuscripts like this one, containing fragments of texts from different centuries, can be perplexing to theorise; however, given that the *Wise Book* was never circulated in print, they provide evidence that it was preserved, read and interpreted (in the sense that it was bound with texts that can broadly be described as ‘useful’) well beyond the age of manuscript. Along with thanks for the generous support of AMARC, I wish to thank the staff of the Bodleian Library who helped greatly in ensuring that my research trip was pleasant and profitable.

#### **Medieval Welsh Seals Project**

A new collaborative research project will focus on over 5000 medieval seals relating to Wales and held in the collections of the National Library of Wales. The project, funded by an AHRC research grant of £499,000, will be conducted jointly by the history departments at the universities of Aberystwyth and Bangor, in partnership with the Institute of Medieval and Early Modern Studies, which promotes collaborative research between the two universities. As well as exploring themes such as the significance of the visual testimony provided by the seals, the research project will also involve digitising selected seals from the collection, making it more accessible to the general public and creating a travelling exhibition based on the collection. The project will also build upon excellent earlier work, including cataloguing by Welsh historians, most especially Dr David

Williams. For further information contact: Professor Phillipp Schofield, Department of History and Welsh History, Aberystwyth University ([prs@aber.ac.uk](mailto:prs@aber.ac.uk)).

#### **Bayerische Staatsbibliothek München: Digitisation of Incunabula**

*Information provided by Bettina Wagner.*

Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft is currently funding a project for the digitisation of the incunabula of the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek München (BSB), which comprises c. 9700 editions in more than 20,000 copies and constitutes the largest collection world-wide in terms of copies. It is intended to digitise one copy per edition.

Since the beginning of the project, digital images of more than 1100 incunabula have been made freely available online. They can be accessed in several ways:

1. OPAC (<http://www.bsb-muenchen.de/>) Short records of all digitised incunabula have been integrated into the Bavarian Union Catalogue (Gateway Bayern) and the local OPAC of the BSB. However, these records do not contain the same level of detail as the BSB's printed and electronic incunabula catalogue (BSB-Ink, see below, 3). You can search for catalogue numbers in BSB-Ink and GW via the ‘freie Suche’, placing them in inverted commas (e.g. ‘BSB-Ink M-149’ or ‘GW M19909’).

The digital images can be accessed under ‘Weblinks’ or the URL/URN. From Gateway Bayern, the button ‘SFX’ (in the bottom right-hand

corner) offers a connection to the full record in the online database of BSB-Ink.

2. Digital collections: [http://www.digital-collections.de/index.html?c=kurzsa\\_mmlungen&l=en](http://www.digital-collections.de/index.html?c=kurzsa_mmlungen&l=en). Here, in order of projects, will be found lists of incunabula which have been digitised, sortable in alphabetical or chronological order or by shelfmarks.

The current project is listed under: Incunabula ([http://mdz10.bib-bvb.de/~db/ausgaben/uni\\_ausgabe.html?projekt=1157526886](http://mdz10.bib-bvb.de/~db/ausgaben/uni_ausgabe.html?projekt=1157526886)).

All incunabula digitised in other projects which have already been completed, such as 'Book illustrations (woodcuts) of the 15th century', 'Early modern broadsides' (if before 1501) and the 'Gutenberg Bible', are already accessible via BSB-Ink online.

3. BSB-Ink online: <http://www.bsb-muenchen.de/Inkunabeln.181.0.html>

The electronic catalogue of incunabula was converted from the printed version, published by the Reichert-Verlag Wiesbaden, of which 6 volumes have appeared since 1988. All digitised images of incunabula are successively integrated into this database, which contains the most detailed descriptions (both bibliographic and copy-specific data). In the course of the current project, iconographic data (IconClass and keywords) are created for illustrated incunabula; these can be searched via the function 'Bildsuche'.

The BSB constantly strives to respond to suggestions for improvements in the online presentation and for candidates for

digitisation, as far as is feasible in the project workflow. In the current phase of the project, primarily illustrated and German incunabula as well as unique copies will be digitised. It is intended to continue the project for the entire collection (in one copy per edition).

Special attention must be drawn to the unique copy of the *Türkenkalender* from the workshop of Johannes Gutenberg himself, the earliest incunable in German printed in December 1454, which was recently digitized from the original – a 'Liber Eximiae Raritatis et inter Cimelia Bibliothecae asservandus' in the words of the Bavarian historian Andreas Felix von Oefele (1706-80) ([http://mdzx.bib-bvb.de/bsbink/Ausgabe\\_M-149.html](http://mdzx.bib-bvb.de/bsbink/Ausgabe_M-149.html)).

### **Durham University Library JISC Sudan Archive Digitisation**

*Sheila Hingley of DUL reports:*

In the summer of 2008 Durham University Library successfully applied for a JISC Enriching Digital Resources grant. The grant has enabled DUL to purchase a high spec digital camera in order to create images of scarce but very well-used printed material and maps from the Sudan Archive. High quality preservation images are stored offline whilst lower resolution versions of the images will be displayed on the DUL website, freely accessible to anyone in the world. The impetus for the project came from requests from scholars overseas, particularly from the Sudan, for online access to Durham's complete sets of printed reports detailing the work of the

Sudan government during the Anglo-Egyptian Condominium. Recent treaty negotiations have meant that this material has been in great demand as evidence for boundary commissions. This use has been in addition to heavy scholarly use by researchers from the UK and abroad.

The first volumes of the Governor-General's Reports are now accessible from the project web pages at <http://www.dur.ac.uk/library/asc/projects/jiscsudan/> and will soon be joined by the rest of the Reports and the maps.

### **The Wellcome Library digitises its 17th-century manuscript recipe books**

*Richard Aspin reports:*

The Wellcome Library in London has one of the largest collections of early modern English manuscript recipe books in existence. There are some 300 such compilations, dating from 1606 to the late 18th century. Over 70 of the earliest manuscripts have recently been digitised and the scans are accessible via the Library's on-line catalogue at <http://archives.wellcome.ac.uk>.

These books contain more than just culinary recipes. They cover healing, cosmetics, religious and intellectual interests, family and social networks, and household and veterinary management. The disconcerting mix of culinary and medical recipes in Grace Acton's 1621 volume is typical: her flamboyant recipe for roast peacock is followed by an unappetising cure for bed-wetting that involves feeding a child a mouse boiled in urine.

The manuscripts are accumulations of knowledge passed from one

generation to the next, and their numerous annotations give a sense of individual women's experiences. With their limited circulation, they allowed their compilers the freedom to explore their interests in a way unthinkable in published works. Conversely, however, they also served to reinforce social norms, providing a role model for the next generation of women.

In addition to full-text cover to cover scans the Wellcome is indexing with the aim ultimately of providing intellectual access to the individual recipes.

### **CONFERENCE REPORTS**

#### **Le Comité International de Paléographie Latine**

**London, 2-5 September 2008**

*Report by Pamela Robinson.*

Hosted by the Institute of English Studies, University of London, the conference's chosen theme, 'Teaching Writing, Learning to Write', attracted an audience of 110 delegates from twenty-six countries. A much-appreciated grant from AMARC generously helped to support this event.

The speakers were Paolo Fioretti (Bari University) 'Ink writing and 'a sgraffio' writing in Ancient Rome: from learning to practical use'; Jacqueline Austin (Birmingham University) '*Librarii qui docere possint*: scribal training in the Roman army'; Paul Antonio (scribe, London) 'Re-writing: new alternatives to old hands'; David Ganz (King's College London) 'Early medieval cursive scripts: calligraphy and risk'; Martin Steinmann (Binningen, Switzerland) 'Writing monks in the

Middle Ages'; Aliza Cohen-Mushlin (Hebrew University of Jerusalem) 'A School for Scribes'; Michael Clanchy (Institute of Historical Research) 'Was writing taught, along with reading, to children through the ABC primer?'; Berthold Kress (Corpus Christi College Cambridge) 'The alphabets of Paul Lautensack – from elementary school to divine revelation'; Patrizia Carmassi (Herzog August Bibliothek, Wolfenbüttel) 'Lettere e scrittura nell'insegnamento grammaticale del Medioevo'; Alison Stones (Pittsburgh University) 'The Valenciennes Papias and learning in the grammar school in thirteenth-century France'; Beat von Scarpatetti (Stiftsbibliothek St Gallen) 'A young scholar's despair – thirty-three lamentations in a Basle Donatus manuscript of the 14th century'; Charles Burnett (Warburg Institute) 'Learning to write numerals in the Middle Ages'; Annina Seiler (Zurich University), '*Latinis regulis barbara nomina stringi non possunt*, or, how to write the vernacular'; Alessandro Zironi (Ferrara University) 'Reading and writing Gothic in the Carolingian age'; Åslaug Ommundsen (Bergen University) 'The first Norwegian scribes and their teachers'; Erik Niblaeus (King's College, London) 'Learning to write in Southern Sweden: liturgical fragments and the creation of a culture of the book'; Guðvarður Már Gunnlaugsson (Stofnun Árna Magnússon, Reykjavik) 'Reading and writing in medieval Iceland'; Jerzy Kaliszuk (Bibliotheka Narodowa, Warsaw) 'Latin script and vernacular text in the Middle Ages: the case of Polish

texts (14th-15th centuries)'; Maria do Rosário Morujão (Coimbra University) 'Apprendre à écrire dans le Portugal médiéval. Bilan des connaissances'; Jesús Alturo (Barcelona University) 'De la Carolina a la Gótica. Variedades, usos y funciones de la escritura en la Catalunya altomedieval'; Carmen del Camino Martínez (Seville University) 'Aprendizaje y modelos gráficos: entre el ámbito profesional y el privado'; Irene Ceccherini (Florence University) 'Insegnamento, funzione e diffusione sociale della scrittura a Firenze nei secoli XIII e XIV'; Cristina Mantegna (Università di Roma 'La Sapienza') 'Scritture di pratici, scritture di giuristi, scritture "di dotti": "scuole" ed esperienze grafiche a confronto'; Erik Kwakkel (Victoria University, British Columbia) 'Disobeying the rules: unconventional scribal practices in the later Middle Ages'; Elizabeth Danbury (University College London) 'Late medieval English chancery clerks: learning to write and writing to impress'; and Lucy Sandler (New York University) "'Written with the finger of God": fourteenth-century images of scribal practice in the Lichenthal Psalter'.

The proceedings also included an open session in which delegates heard brief reports of projects in progress. The Comité is patron of two reported upon: the international series of catalogues of dated and datable manuscripts written in the Latin alphabet from earliest times to 1600 and an international lexicon of codicological terms, of which an overview was given by Denis

Muzerelle (Institut de recherche et d'histoire des textes, Paris). Reports were also received from Ian Doyle (Durham) on the progress of both projects in the UK and from Hana Pátková (Charles University, Prague) on the Central European palaeographical vocabulary. Communications on web-based projects were 'The Digital Scriptorium' (an image base of medieval and renaissance manuscripts held in various institutions in the USA), 'Handschriftencensus' (an inventory of the manuscript transmission of German medieval texts), stylus inscriptions in St Gall manuscripts, the Lancelot-Grail Project, and GRAPHEM (a grapheme-based approach to medieval palaeography). As well as hearing about script and books, delegates had a feast for their eyes. Through the generosity of the Norwegian collector Martin Schøyen, we had an unique opportunity to view a one-day exhibition of some of his manuscripts. Items on display from this notable private collection included an early-second-century writing tablet discovered at Walbrook, London, in 1934; late eighth- and ninth-century specimens from various Carolingian scriptoria; and a twelfth-century homiliary from the church of the Holy Sepulchre, Jerusalem.

No conference is complete without its round of receptions. We were fortunate to host one for the launch of Malcolm Parkes's latest book, *Their Hands before Our Eyes: A Closer Look at Scribes* (Aldershot: Ashgate Press, 2008). Copies sold like the proverbial hot cakes!

Receptions held in the Great Hall at Lambeth Palace and the Wellcome Library afforded further opportunities to view manuscript exhibitions specially mounted for delegates. And some of us on the Saturday after the conference visited the libraries of the Fitzwilliam Museum, Corpus Christi College and St John's College, Cambridge, where we were warmly received. If I might single him out, Christopher de Hamel, AMARC's Chairman, gave an inimitable introduction to the treasures of the Parker Library.

Plans for publication of the proceedings are underway and it is hoped that the resulting volume will be ready in time for the Comité's next colloquium to be held in September 2010 at Ljubljana on the theme of 'Medieval Autograph Manuscripts'.

**Art, Academia, and the Trade: Sir Sydney Cockerell (1867-1962) Cambridge on 7-9 December 2008**

*Stella Panayotova reports:*

This conference, held with generous support from AMARC, accompanied the exhibition '*I turned it into a Palace*': Sir Sydney Cockerell and the Fitzwilliam Museum, which marked the centenary of Cockerell's appointment as Museum Director. While the exhibition was devoted to Cockerell's enormous impact on the Fitzwilliam's collections, building campaigns and public image, the conference explored his wider and diverse roles in the academic world, in the art, manuscript and book trade, and in the consolidation of private and public collections in England, North America, and

Australia from the 1890s until the 1950s.

Christopher de Hamel opened the conference with an overview of Sydney Cockerell's extraordinary capacity for friendship with manuscripts as well as people. While Cockerell invited old friends and new acquaintances to 'tea and books', he conversed, corresponded and travelled with numerous manuscripts, expanding the pantheon of his 'confidants' to include Renaissance humanistic texts and modern calligraphy. William Stoneman, explored the pre-Fitzwilliam career of Sydney Cockerell, with special emphasis on his involvement in building the medieval manuscript collection at the Boston Public Library. Stella Panayotova focused on Cockerell's unique acquisitions strategy at the Fitzwilliam Museum, combining his first-rate scholarship with intimate knowledge of the trade and a vast network of friends among the leading artists and private collectors of the day. Richard Linenthal presented Sydney Cockerell as a book businessman in the context of the trade during the first half of the twentieth century. He traced Cockerell's development from his training under William Morris in the 1890s through his relationship with Bernard Quaritch to the dispersal of his own collection and the sale in 1951 of a long-lost Gutenberg Bible, Sir Sydney's greatest bookselling *coup*. Shane Carmody examined Sydney Cockerell's impact on the collections of the Library, Museums and Gallery in Melbourne. When Sir Sydney was appointed the London Adviser to the Felton Bequest of the

composite Melbourne institution in 1936, he struck the Trustees there as 'vain, aggressive and somewhat quarrelsome.' In addition to his official responsibility to identify and negotiate desirable acquisitions for Melbourne, Cockerell suggested thorough changes of the display and management, based on his successful innovations at the Fitzwilliam Museum, and recommended that the conglomerate should be dissolved into three institutions. He met his equal in Sir Keith Murdoch, a Trustee of the Library, Museums and Gallery, who shared Cockerell's energy and vision, and carried out his plans for the future of the Melbourne institutions.

The Conference delegates enjoyed visits to St John's College, the Parker Library at Corpus Christi College, the Wren Library at Trinity College, the Pepys Library at Magdalene College and the Founder's Library at the Fitzwilliam Museum, where Jonathan Harris, Christopher de Hamel, David McKitterick, Richard Luckett and Stella Panayotova prepared special displays of illuminated manuscripts, fine printed books, literary autographs, prints and drawings associated with Sydney Cockerell, his contemporaries in Cambridge, and the distinguished guests whom he introduced to the treasures in Cambridge libraries.

The Conference proceedings will be published in a special issue of the *Transactions of the Cambridge Bibliographical Society* later in 2009.

## **FUTURE CONFERENCES**

### **Charles the Bold**

**Bruges, 12-14 May 2009.**

This event is linked to the current exhibition on Charles the Bold (*details on p. 22*). Rather than focusing on a single domain, the conference aims to shed light on Burgundian court culture as an organic whole, between the start of the reign of Philip the Good (1419) and the death of Mary of Burgundy (1482). It is intended to provide a forum for new research from the fields of History, History of Art, Literature and Musicology. To this end, two plenary assemblies will present a multidisciplinary approach to the topics of 'Power of/and representation' and 'Feast culture', while a number of specialised sessions will allow in-depth exploration and discussion of more specific aspects of the conference theme. For information contact: [symposium@brugge.be](mailto:symposium@brugge.be).

### **Studies in the Exeter Book**

**Institute of English Studies,  
University of London, Senate  
House. 19-20 June 2009**

Topics to include Scriptorium; Exeter; Palaeography; Codicology; Patronage; Reception; History and Context; Texts; Authorship(s); Literary Contexts; Textual Editing. Proceedings will be edited.

Contact: Ruth Kennedy  
([r.kennedy@rhul.ac.uk](mailto:r.kennedy@rhul.ac.uk)).

### **IVe Congrès européen de la FIDEM**

**Coexistence et coopération au  
Moyen Âge/Coesistenza et  
cooperazione nel Medioevo  
Palermo, 23-27 June 2009**

The programme is now available and includes plenary lectures by Borghos

Levon. Zekiyan (Venezia): 'Dialogue interculturel au Moyen Âge'; Cecilia Martini (Padova): 'Les traductions au Moyen Âge'; Nadja Germann (Freiburg im Breggau): 'Histoire des sciences'; Michel Brand (Los Angeles), 'Histoire de l'art'; Carmelo G. Conticello (Paris): 'Théologie et philosophie'; Remie O. Constable (Notre Dame University): 'Histoire religieuse et sociale'. There will also be a *table ronde* on manuscripts and archives, led by Marc Smith (Ecole des Chartes, Paris). Shorter papers will be given on a wide variety of themes. For further information visit <http://web.lettras.up.pt/fidem/>.

### **'Divers Manuscripts both Antient & Curious': Illuminated Treasures from the Harley Collection**

**British Library Conference  
Centre, London, 29-30 June 2009**

*Announced in Newsletter 51.* Showcasing new research on manuscripts in the Harley collection, the conference will be of particular interest to art historians, artists, manuscript scholars, palaeographers, and historians of medieval and Renaissance studies, material culture, and libraries. Keynote speaker: Jeffrey Hamburger, Kuno Francke Professor of German Art & Culture, Harvard University; special demonstration by Patricia Lovett, professional scribe and illuminator; Other speakers: Professor Richard Gameson, Dr Marie-Thérèse Gousset, Dr Frances Harris, Professor Anne Hedeman, Dr Colum Hourihane, Dr Deirdre Jackson, Professor James Laidlaw,

Dr Julian Luxford, Dr Francesca Manzari, Dr Marigold Anne Norbye, Maud Perez-Simon, Sarah Pittaway, Dr Kathryn Rudy, Dr Joerg Voellnagel, Alison Walker, Dr Hanno Wijsman, Dr Catherine Yvard. Further information and registration (deadline 1 June 2009): <http://www.bl.uk/catalogues/illuminatedmanuscripts/welcome.htm>.

**NB:** *Reduced registration fee for AMARC members.*

The Harley Manuscripts currently online can be accessed via <http://www.bl.uk/catalogues/illuminatedmanuscripts/welcome.html>.

**Edward Lhuyd International Conference: Language, Literature, Antiquities and Science  
Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies, Aberystwyth, 30 June – 3 July 2009**

To mark the tercentenary of the death of the great Celtic scholar Edward Lhuyd (1660-1709), author of *Archaeologia Britannica* (1707), the Centre will host a major international conference to evaluate his most significant contributions to scholarship. A selection of materials relating to Lhuyd will be exhibited at the National Library of Wales from 29 June to 21 August to coincide with the conference. For further details, contact Dr Angharad Elias, University of Wales Centre for Advanced Welsh and Celtic Studies, Aberystwyth, SY23 3HH ([a.elias@wales.ac.uk](mailto:a.elias@wales.ac.uk)).

**IFLA Rare Books and Manuscripts Section,  
Preservation and Conservation Section, Library History Section  
Milan, 23-27 August 2009**

Following the main theme of the conference 'Libraries create futures: Building on cultural heritage', papers will focus on the following themes:

*Dispersed cultural collections*, covering libraries and other collections formerly held by institutions or private collectors which were dispersed through political events (wars, dissolution of monasteries) or through auctions and duplicate sales, and are today held in various public institutions or in different sections of such institutions. The dispersed materials may be in different formats (manuscripts, printed books, archival documents, photographs) and may date from any period.

*Preservation and conservation*, dealing with aspects of the physical assessment of an object for the better understanding of its contexts, with special regard to provenances. The role of the conservator will be considered, including procedures for preserving and documenting features relevant for the history of an item during conservation, e.g. provenance marks and former shelfmarks.

*Reconstruction* will cover identifying individual items which once belonged to such a collection; investigating the survival of historical collections; or maintaining inventories or archives of collections that have been dispersed. Papers will discuss methods of reconstruction, i.e. through identification of provenances, through matching of historical inventories with surviving items, or through digitisation as well as methods for the creation of

virtual libraries or databases of dispersed materials.

*Access* refers to questions concerning the needs of target-groups of such projects (from researchers to the general public), the standards applied for cataloguing and presentation and problems of overcoming heterogeneous standards for diverse materials; technical solutions for their presentation; and also raising awareness and funds for such projects.

Emphasis will be placed on issues of project management and methodology, e.g. policies regarding preservation and digitisation; standards for cataloguing and recording provenances; cross-institutional cooperation (national and international). Materials presented will be placed in a broader cultural-historical context in order to demonstrate their relevance to a wide range of (academic) subjects and users, taking up the IFLA theme for 2007-9, 'Libraries on the Agenda'. Contact: Bettina Wagner, Rare Books and Manuscript Section chair, Bayerische Staatsbibliothek ([bettina.wagner@bsb-muenchen.de](mailto:bettina.wagner@bsb-muenchen.de)); Per Cullhed, Preservation and Conservation Section chair, Uppsala University Library ([per.cullhed@ub.uu.se](mailto:per.cullhed@ub.uu.se)) Hermina G.B. Anghelescu, Library History Section chair, Wayne State University ([ag7662@wayne.edu](mailto:ag7662@wayne.edu)). *A small number of grants for conference attendance may be available (further information at [www.ifla.org/III/members/grants.ht](http://www.ifla.org/III/members/grants.ht)).*

**Medieval Manuscript  
Miscellanies: Composition,  
Authorship, Use: Workshop at the**

**Department of Greek and Latin  
Studies, Charles University,  
Prague, August 24-26, 2009**

The term miscellany can refer to a number of concepts. Medieval catalogues of manuscripts often use the term *miscellanea* for the 'leftovers' impossible to classify in a simple way. Many of the miscellaneous codices might have originated in this way; by binding together various texts. On the other hand, a miscellany can be a very carefully designed codex serving a particular purpose. The most frequent cases are those in between, that is, miscellanies which may be interpreted as designed but whose origin might also have been random.

Workshops will focus on the following themes:

*Composition:* How do the contents fit together in specific cases? Is there a plan or a reason behind? If so, what does the selection tell about the compiler's interests?

*Authorship:* To what degree are the miscellany compilers and gatherers authors? Is there a personal touch discernable and interpretable?

*Use:* How were these manuscripts actually used? Can a specific use of a particular miscellany be detected?

Keynote lectures will be given by Kimberly Rivers (Univ. of Wisconsin, Oshkosh, U.S.A.) and Greti Dinkova-Bruun (Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies, Toronto, Canada). Workshop languages are English, French, and German. There will be no conference fee. Limited funds are available to support the travel and accommodation expenses of selected participants (priority will

be given to scholars from Eastern Europe). Contact:

[dolezalova@cts.cuni.cz](mailto:dolezalova@cts.cuni.cz)

**14th Biennial Conference of the International Graphonomics Society**

**Dijon, 13-16 September 2009**

Graphonomics denotes the scientific and technological effort involved in identifying relationships between the planning and generation of handwriting and drawing movements, the resulting spatial traces of writing and drawing instruments (either conventional or electronic), and the dynamic features of these traces. Palaeography will be one of the themes of this multi-disciplinary conference. See <http://www.graphonomics.org/igs2009/>.

**12th International Seminar on the Care and Conservation of Manuscripts**

**University of Copenhagen, Faculty of Humanities**

**14-15 October 2009**

*Announced in Newsletter 51.*

The seminar, focusing on various subjects related to the care and conservation of manuscripts in the widest sense, is arranged by the Arnamagnæan Commission, The Arnamagnæan Institute and The Royal Library, and organised by M. J. Driscoll and Ragnheiður Mósesdóttir (The Arnamagnæan Institute) and Ivan Boserup and Marie Vest (The Royal Library).

Further information will be posted on the website of the Arnamagnæan Institute:

<http://english.arnamagnaensk.ku.dk/>

**International Congress of Historical Sciences**

**Amsterdam, 22-28 August 2010**

Further details and a provisional programme of papers are now available at [www.ichs2010.org](http://www.ichs2010.org).

**XVIIth Colloquium of the Comité International de Paléographie Latine, Ljubljana, 7-10 September 2010**

**Medieval Autograph Manuscripts**

The autograph manuscripts of medieval authors are important sources for the history of writing and for what they tell us about the different working methods of such authors. Modern palaeographical research and the cataloguing of manuscripts have both brought to light a number of 'new' autograph manuscripts. With few exceptions, however, only the autograph manuscripts of well-known authors have been the object of more intensive palaeographical or codicological study. Most autograph manuscripts have not yet received the attention that they deserve.

CIPL's XVIIth Colloquium will focus on the following themes:

1. Different states of autograph manuscript.
2. Collaboration between authors, secretaries, and copyists.
3. Palaeographical aspects.
4. Codicological aspects.
5. Autograph manuscripts of different kinds of text.
6. Particular or exceptional cases (autograph manuscripts 'par personne interposée', multiple autograph manuscripts of the same work, manuscripts illuminated by the author, princely and papal autograph manuscripts, autograph

manuscripts attributed to saints, anonymous autograph manuscripts).

7. The status of autograph manuscripts in the Middle Ages, the value attributed to autograph manuscripts in the Middle Ages, the transition of the medieval autograph manuscript to the 'modern' autograph.

For more information contact Pamela Robinson, Secretary-General ([pamela.robinson@sas.ac.uk](mailto:pamela.robinson@sas.ac.uk))

### **LECTURES & SEMINARS UNIVERSITY OF LONDON**

The Annual Palaeography Lecture will be given by Professor Vincent Gillespie (Tolkien Professor of English, Oxford) on 21 May 2009 in the Brunei Gallery, SOAS, and entitled 'Fatherless Books: Authorship, Attribution, and Orthodoxy in Later Medieval England'. For further information contact [cmps@sas.ac.uk](mailto:cmps@sas.ac.uk).

### **PARIS, INSTITUT NATIONAL DU PATRIMOINE**

#### **Trésors du patrimoine écrit:**

#### **Manuscrits de la BNF à la loupe**

**Auditorium Colbert, 2 rue Vivienne, 75002 Paris, 6pm**

The Bibliothèque Nationale de France and l'Institut National du Patrimoine continue their series of lectures on treasures from the library's manuscript collections. Drawing on the specialised knowledge of expertise of curators, art historians, textual specialists and conservation staff, the lectures provide a rare chance to see a number of original manuscripts. The last in the series will be:

26 May 2009: 'Jean VI Cantacuzène (ms. Grec 1242', Christian Förstel,

curator of Greek manuscripts, BnF, and Jannic Durand, musée du Louvre.

23 June 2009: 'L'Ecume des jours de Boris Vian', Anne Mary, BnF, with a binding specialist. All welcome.

For further information, contact: [thierry.delcourt@bnf.fr](mailto:thierry.delcourt@bnf.fr)

### **COURSES**

#### **London Palaeography Summer School, 22-26 June 2009**

Full details are now available at <http://ies.sas.ac.uk/cmps/events/courses/SummerSchool/index.htm>.

#### **SCRIPTO III for Postgraduate Students, 26 October 2009–27 January 2010**

SCRIPTO (Scholarly Codicological Research, Information & Palaeographical Tools) is a Postgraduate Programme at Friedrich Alexander University in Erlangen-Nuremberg supported by the Luise Prell Foundation, the Schirmer Foundation, the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek in Munich and the Herzog August Bibliothek in Wolfenbüttel, open to graduate Medievalists and Early Modern Specialists. It offers a systematic, research-oriented introduction to the study of medieval and early modern manuscripts and to methods of describing and interpreting them. SCRIPTO bridges research and practical work, combining research and instruction within the framework of a uniquely innovative course, at the end of which each candidate will be awarded a certificate from Friedrich Alexander University.

SCRIPTO consists of six modules covering a broad spectrum of subjects (text typology; book illumination; palaeography; codicology; incunabula studies; informatics). Research seminars will include one given by Rosamond McKitterick (Cambridge) at Bamberg. Participants will also have the opportunity to work on a common research project.

The SCRIPTO programme is supported by the German Manuscript Centres in Berlin, Frankfurt, Leipzig, Munich, Stuttgart and Wolfenbüttel. The course will take place in cooperation with the manuscript departments of Erlangen University Library, the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek in Munich, the City Library in Nuremberg and the Herzog August Bibliothek at Wolfenbüttel. The sessions will take place in Bamberg (Staatsbibliothek), Erlangen (Universitätsbibliothek), Munich (Bayerische Staatsbibliothek), Nuremberg (Stadtbibliothek) and Wolfenbüttel (Herzog August Bibliothek). For further information see <http://www.mittellatein.phil.uni-erlangen.de/scripto/scripto.html>.

Applicants should write enclosing a full CV to: Prof. Dr. Michele C. Ferrari, Friedrich-Alexander-Universität, Mittellatein und Neulatein, Kochstr. 4/3, 91054 Erlangen, Germany.

*Deadline for applications: 31 August 2009.* The language of instruction is German. Foreign participants, however, will be able to take German language courses at Friedrich Alexander University if they so wish. They should mention this in their application.

Applicants accepted for the course will be charged a fee of 850 € (includes travel and accommodation for seminars outside Erlangen). and will receive a document stating the terms of agreement and detailed information about the course, including the timetable.

## **EXHIBITIONS**

*Information has been drawn from press-releases and websites as well as contributions from our members and colleagues. Please check opening dates and times and other details before travelling as these may vary from those given here.*

### **ABERYSTWYTH, NATIONAL LIBRARY OF WALES**

#### **Awduron Cymru/Writers of Wales**

3 January–5 December 2009

An exhibition celebrating the work of author Kate Roberts (1891-1985) and poet Dylan Thomas (1914-53). The first in a series of exhibitions featuring the most prominent authors of Wales.

#### **Family History**

14 March 2009–March 2010

The exhibition will give an introduction to the sources available in the Library and guidance for family historians on how to use them.

#### **P. B. Aberly: Photographs of Radnorshire**

21 March–14 August 2009

An exhibition celebrating the photographic talent of Percy Benzie Aberly (1877–1948), who spent 50 years recording every aspect of life in the counties surrounding his studio in Builth Wells. The photographs in this exhibition represent a small selection from the

thousands of images and negatives held by the Library.

**Treasures from the Peniarth Collection**

May–November 2009

An exhibition to celebrate the centenary of the Library's opening, and of its acquisition of the rich foundation collection of manuscripts from Peniarth, Meirionnydd. A small selection of early treasures will be displayed, including manuscripts collected by the antiquary Robert Vaughan (c. 1592-1667) of Hengwrt.

**BRUGGE/BRUGES,  
GROENINGEMUSEUM,**

**Charles the Bold (1433–1477)**

27 March 2008–21 July 2009

([www.museabrugge.be](http://www.museabrugge.be))

*Announced in Newsletter no. 51.* See <http://www.kareldestoute.info/>. For information on the related international conference in Bruges, 12-14 May 2009, see p. 16.

**EDINBURGH, NATIONAL  
LIBRARY OF SCOTLAND**

**Scots Music Abroad**

6 March–23 May 2009.

**A Home away from Home: the experience of Scottish Emigration.**

26 June–10 October 2009.

Examining the experiences of Scots who left their homeland in search of a new life abroad, and explores how new communities were forged for overseas while still retaining a strong Scottish identity.

**Scottish Theatre: The Cheviot, The Stag and The Black, Black Watch** (provisional title).

early December 2009–early 2010 (pending confirmation).

An exhibition looking at Scottish drama of the last 40 years. From

Scottish theatre's early 1970s' 'revival', spearheaded by the work of 7:84 Theatre Company (Scotland), to the recent successes of the National Theatre of Scotland.

**Zig-Zag: The paths of Robert Burns**, part of the *Homecoming Scotland 2009* celebrations organised by the National Library of Scotland and the National Galleries of Scotland, is touring Scotland throughout the year, in Aberdeen until Easter 2009, in Dumfries in the summer months & in Glasgow University in the autumn.

**NIJMEGEN, MUSEUM HET  
VALKHOF**

**Het Getijdenboek van Catharina van Kleef [The Book of Hours of Catherine of Cleves]**

9 October 2009–3 January 2010

The most spectacular Book of Hours painted in the Northern Netherlands disbound for conservation and facsimile will be on view first in Nijmegen, and later on, also in New York, Morgan Library and Museum. The exhibition in Nijmegen will also highlight medieval life in Gelre with contemporaneous objects.

**UTRECHT, MUSEUM  
CATHARIJNECONVENT**

**Beeldschone boeken. De Middeleeuwen in goud en inkt**

[*Beautiful Manuscripts. The Middle Ages in gold and ink*]

May 16, 2009 - August 23, 2009

Some 100 manuscripts made in medieval Utrecht (c. 695-1528) will be on display. Most items are from the collections of Utrecht University Library (which celebrates its 425th anniversary this year) and the Catharijneconvent, but the exhibition also showcases international loans. The focus is on the 14th and 15th centuries; both illuminated and unillustrated manuscripts will be included. See

[www.catharijneconvent.nl](http://www.catharijneconvent.nl).

Illustrated catalogue: *Beeldschone Boeken. De Middeleeuwen in goud en inkt* (in Dutch, with summaries in English). ISBN 978904085819.

#### NEW ARRIVALS

*Librarians, archivists and users are invited to inform the Editor of any notable new accessions to institutional collections.*

#### ABERYSTWYTH, NATIONAL LIBRARY OF WALES

*Submitted by Maredudd ap Huw, Manuscripts Librarian.*

Thomas Sopwith, field notes and sketches for a survey of the mountains of Moelwyn Mawr and Moelwyn Bach, Meirionnydd, 1865 (*NLW MS 23982C*).

Sir John Salusbury Piozzi, adopted son of Gabriel and Hester Lynch Piozzi, four autograph letters to the Rev. Thomas Raffles, 1841 (Bloomsbury Auctions, 16 October 2008, lot 157) (*NLW MS 23984*).

Dylan Thomas, an unpublished letter to his agent Nancy Pearn, 19 February 1945, agreeing to the broadcast of a poem in memory of his aunt (Bonham's London sale, 4 November 2008, lot 429) (*NLW MS 23981*).

Thomas of Ringstead, *Expositio in parabolis Salomonis*, France, 14th cent. (Christie's London, sale 12 November 2008, lot 25) (*NLW MS 23986D*).

Lewis Johnes, manuscript Welsh poems, written c. 1575-1625 on preliminary blank leaves of a printed edition of the *Decretales* of Gregory IX (*NLW MS 23985A*).

Thomas Telford, letter to an agent for the inn at Bangor Ferry, 20 July 1816, relating to surveying work for a new road to be constructed towards the present Menai Suspension Bridge (*NLW MS 23980*).

#### DUBLIN

#### TRINITY COLLEGE LIBRARY

*Major accessions February 2008-February 2009, submitted by Bernard Meehan, Keeper of Manuscripts.*

Four bifolia from German liturgical manuscripts, 12th century, all recovered from bindings. Sotheby's Western Manuscripts sale, 4 Dec 2007, lot 3. (TCD MS 11295/1-4).

Volume of sermons, in Latin, Italy, mid-14th century. Same sale, lot 62. (TCD MS 11296).

St Antoninus Florentinus, *confessionale*, Italy, mid-15th century. Same sale, lot 63. (TCD MS 11297)

St Anselm, leaf from *Prayers and meditations*. 12th century. Purchased from Quaritch. (TCD MS 11306).

Psalter. Delft, c. 1450. Christie's Sale 4 June 2008, lot 43. (TCD MS 11308).

Dimaldutiis of Forli (*fl* 1336). Sermons. 14th century. Same sale 4, lot 39. (TCD MS 11309).

Noted offices for the sick, dying and dead. Brabant, second half 15th century. Same sale, lot 52. (TCD MS 11310).

Ambroise, *l'Estoire de la guerre sainte*. 13th-century fragment. Sotheby's sale 8 July 2008, lot 4. (TCD MS 11325).

Bede, gathering of four leaves from *De muliere forti*. France or Germany, mid-9th century. Purchased from Quaritch. (TCD MD 11334).

St Ambrose, *Hexameron*. Italy, Lombardy 1446. Sotheby's 3 Dec 2008 sale, lot 28. (TCD MS 11335).

Four Gospels, in Ge'ez. Ethiopic, mid-17th century. Same sale, lot 63. (TCD MS 11311).

Fragments of Coptic textiles, 3rd-5th century. Christie's sale Paris, 4-5 March 2008, *Ancienne collection Charles Gillot (1853-1903)*. (TCD MS OBJ/2008/1-10).

Irish establishment for 1684. English Treasury payments to Ireland. Adams/Mealy sale, Dublin, 15 April 2008 lot 616. (TCD MS 11302).

Barker Ponsonby (addnl), 3 boxes of family papers 17th-19th century from Kilcooly Estate, co Tipperary. (TCD MS 11312).

Swift, Jonathan (1667-1745) satirist, author, Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral, 'Stella's MS. Word book'. Bequeathed by Dr Arch C Elias (TCD MS 11324).

Patrick Magee (1922-82) actor. Letters from Samuel Beckett, Sotheby's sale, 17 July 2008, lot 185. (TCD MS 11313).

Material relating to Patrick Magee and his career. Same sale, lot 186 (TCD MS 11314).

Beckett, Samuel. Postcards, and envelopes to Eileen O'Casey.

Whyte's sale, Dublin, 5 April 2008. (TCD MS 11298).

Childers, Erskine (1870-1922). Notes as Naval Intelligence Officer, WW1. Same sale (TCD MS 11299).

**EDINBURGH, NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SCOTLAND**

*Significant accessions for the period September 2008 – February 2009, selected by Kenneth Dunn.*

Letter-book, 1763, of Andrew Lumsden. (NLS Acc.13018)

Calligraphic fretwork manuscript, 1780, made by Thomas Hunter, Edinburgh, of the Ten Commandments, the Our Father & the Apostles' Creed. (NLS Acc.12997)

Album of sketches, c. 1838-1850s, of Anna Margaret Carr, illustrating Scottish scenery & buildings. (NLS Acc.12988)

Memoirs, c. 1910-82, of Rev. Donald J. Gillies (1901-94), concerning life on St Kilda before the evacuation of the last residents in 1930, his emigration to Canada and his pastoral work in Vancouver. (NLS Acc.12991)

Notebook, 1942-73, of W.S. Graham containing drafts of poems and a radio play, with notes & illustrations. (NLS Acc.12979)

Three scrap-books, 1947-60, containing photographs and ephemera of Nicholas Fairbairn (1933-95), one-time Conservative MP for Perth & Kinross. (NLS Acc.13022)

Eight ledgers, 1973-2008, of Alasdair Gray, containing diary entries, draft letters and literary notes and drafts relating to stories, poems, plays and the novel *Old Men in Love*; with six corrected and

annotated typescripts, 2008, of *Fleck*, a play. (NLS Acc.13021)  
Papers, 1998-2008, of the Dionysia Press. (NLS Acc.13010)  
Literary papers, 2003-6, of Doug Johnstone (b. 1970), relating to *Tombstoning & The Ossians*. (NLS Acc.12999)  
Original artwork, including preliminary sketches and two versions of the cover, of Cam Kennedy's graphic edition of Stevenson's *Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* which was published in 2008. (NLS Acc.12986).

**LONDON, BRITISH LIBRARY**

*Submitted by Michael St. John McAlister of the Department of Manuscripts*

Working papers of Francis Falconer Madan, c.1920s-1961. (Add. 88473-88481).  
Correspondence and papers of Al Alvarez, 1948-2000. (Add. 88482-88611).  
Letters to Elizabeth Compton from Ted Hughes, 1963-1976. (Add. 88612).  
Letters to Jack Brown from Ted Hughes, 1981-1998. (Add. 88613).  
Letters, etc, to Peter Keen from Ted Hughes, 1976-1985. (Add. 88614).  
Papers relating to the publication of *River*, collaborative poetry project, 1978-2004. (Add. 88615).  
Letters to Terence and Ohna McCaughey from Ted Hughes, 1956-1998. (Add. 88616).  
Letters and literary manuscripts sent by Ted Hughes, Seamus Heaney and others to Glyn Hughes, 1956-2001. (Add. 88617).

Letters of Daniel Defoe to his daughter and son in law, 1728-1729. (Add. 88618).  
Papers relating to Pitcairn Island, 1877-1903. (Add. 88619).  
Alan Clodd/Kathleen Raine papers, 20th cent. (Add. 88620-88674).  
Kathleen Raine papers, late 19th cent.-2003. (Add. 88675-88787).  
Kathleen Raine notebooks, 20th cent. (Add. 88788-88791).  
Harold Pinter Archive, 1943-2008. (Add. 88880).  
Ronald Harwood papers, 20th cent. (Add. 88881).  
J.L. Garvin papers, late 19th-20th cents. (Add. 88882).  
Dukes of Cambridge papers, 18th-20th cents. (Add. 88883).

**Music Manuscripts**

*Information supplied by Nicolas Bell.*

Music manuscripts of Muriel Herbert, presented by her daughter, Mrs Claire Tomalin.  
Music manuscripts of Geoffrey Winters, presented by the composer.  
Music manuscripts of Sydney Vane, bequeathed by the composer.  
Letters from Dame Myra Hess to Howard Ferguson, presented by Hugh Cobbe.  
Ralph Vaughan Williams: materials relating to 'Pilgrim's Progress', 'Sancta Civitas', and other lesser works, purchased at Sotheby's, 3 Dec. 2009.  
Correspondence, concert programmes and other papers of the pianist Harriet Cohen (1895-1967), bequeathed by Dr Percy M. Young (1912-2004) and supplementing the correspondence received by the

British Museum from the estate of Harriet Cohen in 1968.

Leoš Janáček: autograph manuscript draft of eight bars from Act I of *The Makropoulos Case*, presented by the Friends of the British Library on the occasion of Lynne Brindley being made DBE.

## SOME RECENT PUBLICATIONS

*Bibliographical details are as given by contributors, press releases or websites and the amount of information is variable.*

‘Une acquisition de la Bibliothèque du roi au xvii<sup>e</sup> siècle: les manuscrits de la famille Hurault’, M.-P. Laffitte, *Bulletin du bibliophile*, 2008 (1), 42-97.

*Abstractions of Evidence in the Study of Manuscripts and Early Printed Books*, Joseph A. Dane (Farnham: Ashgate, 2009). ISBN 978-0-7546-6501-4.

*A Bibliography of the Welsh Law Manuscripts*, Meinir Elin Harris, ([Llanfarian]: Seminar Cyfraith Hywel, 2006).

*Book of Beasts: A facsimile of MS Bodley 764*, introduction by C. de Hamel (Oxford: Bodleian Library, 2008). ISBN 1851243178.

*Books as History: the importance of books beyond their texts*, David Pearson (London & New Castle, Del.: British Library & Oak Knoll Press, 2008).

‘La collection Gaignières: méthodes et finalités,’ A. Ritz-Guilbert, *Bulletin monumental*, t. 166-4 (2008), 315-38.

*A Descriptive Catalogue of Greek Manuscripts at St John's College, Oxford*, Mark L. Sosower, (Oxford: St John's College Research Centre, 2007).

*A Descriptive Catalogue of the Medieval Manuscripts of Merton College, Oxford, with a description of the Greek Manuscripts by N.G. Wilson*, R. M. Thomson (D. S. Brewer, to appear May 2009). ISBN 9781843841883.

*The Design and Distribution of late Medieval Manuscripts in England*, ed. Margaret Connolly & Linne R. Mooney (Woodbridge: Boydell & Brewer, 2008).

*Gautier de Coinci, Miracles, Music and Manuscripts*, ed. Kathy M. Krause & Alison Stones (Turnhout: Brepols & Oakville CT: David Brown, 2008).

*Illuminated Manuscripts in Cambridge. Pt. 1: The Frankish Kingdoms, the Low Countries and Germany*, ed. S. Panayotova & N. Morgan (Turnhout: Harvey Miller-Brepols, scheduled for March 2009). ISBN 978-1-905375-47-9.

*Images de musiciens (1350-1500). Typologies, figurations et pratiques sociales* Martine Clouzot (Turnhout: Brepols & Oakville CT: David Brown, 2008).

David H. Williams, *Images of Welsh History: Seals of the National Library of Wales* (Aberystwyth, National Library of Wales, 2007) ISBN 9781862250628

*An Index of Images in English Manuscripts from Chaucer to Henry VIII* [vol. 6], Cambridge, Christ's College, Clare College, Corpus Christi College, Emmanuel College, Gonville and Caius College and the Fitzwilliam Museum, Ann E. Nichols (Harvey Miller-Brepols, 2009). ISBN 978-1-905375-37-0.

*Introduction to Manuscript Studies*, Raymond Clemens & Timothy Graham, (Cornell University Press, 2007).

'Un inventaire des ornements liturgiques et des livres de l'église Notre-Dame des Tables à Montpellier (6 septembre 1492)', J.-L. Lemaître, *Bulletin de la Société nationale des Antiquaires*, 2002, 207-11.

*Klosterreform und mittelalterliche Buchkultur im deutschen Südwesten*, Felix Heinzer (Mittellateinische Studien und Texte 39, Leiden/Boston: Brill, 2008). 618 pp., ill., ISBN 978-90-04-16668-4.

*The Literary Manuscripts and Letters of Hannah More*, Nicholas D. Smith, (Aldershot: Ashgate, 2008).

*Memory's Library: medieval books in early modern England*, Jennifer Summit (Chicago, Ill. & London: University of Chicago Press, 2008).

Claudine A. Chavannes-Mazel, *Merlants Rijmbijbel in Museum Meermanno. De kracht van woorden, de pracht van beelden. Met vertalingen uit het Middelnederlands van het handschrift 10 B 21*, Karina van Dalen-Oskam & Willem Kuiper (Den Haag: Museum Meermanno-Westreenianum, 2008).

'Miracle et charité: autour d'une image du Livre du Biadaïolo (Florence, Bibliothèque Laurentienne, ms. Tempi 3)', V. Rouchon Mouilleron, *Revue Mabillon*, n.s., t. 19 (= t. 80) (2008), 157-89.

*The Palaeotypography of the French Renaissance. Selected Papers on Sixteenth-Century Typefaces* by Hendrik D. L. Vervliet (Leiden:

Brill, 2008) ISBN 9789004169821 (www.brill.nl).

*La Passion du livre au Moyen Age* Sophie Cassagnes-Brouquet, (Editions Ouest-France, 2008).

'Parures et bijoux de la reine Isabeau de Bavière', E. Taburet-Delahaye, *Bulletin de la Société nationale des Antiquaires* (2002), 242-69.

*The prayer book of Charles the Bold*, Antoine de Schryver, trans. Jessica Berenbeim (LA: J.P. Getty Museum, 2008)

'Le retable au chanoine du Musée de Laon', Villela-Petit, *Bulletin de la Société nationale des Antiquaires*, 2002, 104-16.

*St Margaret's Gospel Book: The Favourite Book of an Eleventh Century Queen of Scots*, by Rebecca Rushforth (Oxford, Bodleian Library Publishing, 2007) ISBN: 1851243704.

*Science translated: Latin and vernacular translations of scientific treatises in Medieval Europe*, ed. Michèle Goyens & Pieter De Leemans (Mediaevalia Lovaniensia. Series 1, Studia 40; Leuven: Leuven University Press, 2008). ISBN 978-90-5867-671-9.

*Singing with Angels. Liturgy, Music and Art in the Gradual of Gisela von Keressenbrock* (Turnhout: Brepols & Oakville CT: David Brown, 2008).

*Storie di artisti. Storie di libri. L'editore che inseguiva la bellezza. Scritti in onore di Franco Cosimo Panini* (Roma: Donzelli editore, 2008), ISBN 978-88-6036-297-1.

*Tributes to Kathleen L. Scott. English Medieval Manuscripts and their Readers*, ed. M. Villalobos Hennessy. ISBN 978-1-872501-08-

6. (Turnhout: Harvey Miller-Brepols, scheduled May 2009). Contributors: Jonathan J.G. Alexander, Linda L. Brownrigg, Christopher de Hamel, Lynda Dennison, A. I. Doyle, A.S.G. Edwards, J.B. Friedman, Phillipa Hardman, Marlene Villalobos Hennessy, George R. Keiser, Jeanne Krochalis, Ann Eljenholm Nichols, Michael T. Orr, Derek Pearsall, P. R. Robinson, Lucy Freeman Sandler, and Michael G. Sargent.

“Unus mediator Dei et hominum”. A propos d’une image de la seconde venue dans le psautier Morgan 106’, J. Zietkiewicz-Kotz, *Scriptorium*, t. LXII (2008), pp. 169-76.

‘You shall surely not die’. *The concepts of sin and death as expressed in the manuscript art of Northwestern Europe, c. 800-1200*, Jill Bradley (Library of the written word: 4, Leiden, Brill, 2008). 727 pp. (2 vols.), ills., ISBN 978-90-04-16910-4. □ 150. *Dissertation on changing attitudes towards death, sin and salvation, as expressed in medieval miniatures.*

#### **Periodicals**

The final issue of *The National Library of Wales Journal* in printed form (volume 34, no. 2) appeared during 2008. Thereafter, the Journal will appear in electronic format only, via the NLW website (<http://www.llgc.org.uk/index.php?id=174>). The earlier printed issues will be digitised by the Library and will, therefore, also become available at this website in due course.

#### **Electronic Publications**

*The Piers Plowman Electronic Archive: 6. San Marino, Huntington Library MS 128 (Hm and Hm2)*, ed.

Michael Calabrese, Hoyt N. Duggan & Thorlac Turville-Petre (Boydell & Brewer, March 2009). ISBN 9781843840923 (individual licence); 9781843840916 (institutional).

## **WEBSITES & ONLINE RESOURCES**

### **Breton scribes**

A useful list of Breton scribes of the 14th and 15th centuries is now available at [http://pagesperso-orange.fr/pecia/copistes\\_et\\_libraires\\_bretons\\_au\\_moyen\\_age\\_272.htm](http://pagesperso-orange.fr/pecia/copistes_et_libraires_bretons_au_moyen_age_272.htm).

### **British Library Online Catalogue of Illuminated Manuscripts**

Dr Catherine Yvard, Project Officer (Catherine.Yvard@bl.uk) reports that the online Glossary available as part of the Catalogue of Illuminated Manuscripts website is now fully illustrated.

<http://www.bl.uk/catalogues/illuminatedmanuscripts/glossary.asp>

### **Erasmus online**

The Erasmus Center for Early Modern Studies, Rotterdam, now has an online database of books by or relating to Erasmus, including many rare and early items. See <http://www.erasmus.org>.

### **Medieval Diplomatic**

(<http://www.gdr-diplomatique.net>)

The collaborative website of the Groupement de recherches (GDR) ‘Diplomatique’ (CNRS), was launched last year. Its aim is to bring together specialists in medieval diplomatic, a field currently enjoying a renaissance. It will promote joint research projects

in diplomatic and documentary writing. The website will further collaboration and give a higher profile to work *de rebus diplomaticis*.

News of events, colloquia, lectures and publications both print and digital will also be provided. Members of the GDR (registration online) may contribute to the site and participate in discussions. Both French and English are used on the the site, but the interface is currently in English alone. Queries or contributions may be addressed to Paul Bertrand (paul.bertrand@cnsr-orleans.fr) or via the link from the website.

#### **Tradlat Website**

Tradlat (Traductions latines d'œuvres en langues vernaculaires) is now online at <http://www.tradlat.org/>. The site aims to raise awareness of vernacular translations of Latin texts and facilitate access to the ongoing work of identifying and listing such translations. The site is run by the 'Tradlat' research group, which works in association with the Europa Humanistica research programme. The site is bilingual (French and English) and includes bibliographical information as well as news of conferences and events.

#### **MANUSCRIPTS AND LIBRARIES NEWS**

##### **Temporary closure of Parker Library, Corpus Christi College, Cambridge**

During the construction of a new reading room and secure vault, the Parker Library will be closed from early June 2009 until Easter 2010. The manuscripts, which by then will

all have been digitised, will be stored off-site. Online access to the digital images will be available from October 2009 via Parker on the

Web (<http://parkerweb.stanford.edu>).

Library staff hope to maintain a photographic and general enquiries service throughout the closure. Limited access may be available to selected manuscripts during this period, and researchers should contact the library, giving as much advance notice as possible. Email [parker-library@corpus.cam.ac.uk](mailto:parker-library@corpus.cam.ac.uk) or tel. 01223 338025.

##### **Saturday Closing of the National Library of Wales**

As a result of increasing financial pressures, the Board of the National Library of Wales has decided to close the building to the public on Saturdays from 1 April 2009. This unfortunate decision is part of a package of measures which the Library has been forced to put together in order to save £250,000 in the next financial year. The public are set to lose the service of the reading rooms, exhibitions, restaurant and shop, which affects the lucrative tourist and conference trades as well as readers. Further information regarding the decision can be found on the NLW website: (<http://www.llgc.org.uk/index.php?id=2>).

As the *Newsletter* went to press it was announced that from May 2009 readers and visitors will be charged for car-parking. Given the location of the NLW up a very steep hill and the distance from the nearest bus-stop, this latest announcement has caused further public outcry, far

from tempered by the news that the parking fee will be refundable against purchases in the shop or café.

**MSS on e-Bay: Caveant emptores**  
Consuelo Dutschke of Columbia University recently noticed that two different sellers were offering on e-Bay 'manuscripts' for which the seller had simply lifted images of manuscripts from the Digital Scriptorium website. On one occasion, there were three MSS from the Huntington Library in California; on the other occasion, the seller had attempted to cobble together images from the Royal Library in Copenhagen (images taken from its own website) and from Columbia University (images taken from the Digital Scriptorium).

#### **Preserving Manuscripts in Wales**

The National Archives has announced a new initiative that brings £50,000 a year to manuscripts and archives in Wales. The Welsh Assembly Government and the National Manuscripts Conservation Trust (NMCT) have joined forces to fund preservation projects.

This year, the new initiative has benefited six Welsh archives: Aberystwyth University (conservation of Library Planning Archive); Cardiff University (conservation of Edward Thomas World War I letters); Conwy Archives (conservation of Penmaenmawr Quarry records); Swansea University (conservation of St David's Priory parish registers); Ceredigion Archives (conservation of Florrie Hamer's collection), and Powys County Archives

(conservation of Llangynllo parochial records).

Dr Anna Buelow, Head of Preservation at The National Archives, said: 'Wales boasts such a rich cultural heritage, and it is wonderful to see archives in Wales receive the help they need to ensure its history is preserved. This is really great news as Wales has not received much funding from the NMCT before.'

The new initiative means that the Welsh Assembly Government will match the NMCT's £25,000 grants to Welsh archives for preservation projects as part of the bi-annual NMCT grants scheme. This scheme has been administered by The National Archives on behalf of the NMCT since 2004, and plays an important part in securing the future of irreplaceable archival collections. The new scheme is administered in Wales by CyMAL: Museums, Archives and Libraries Wales, a division of the Welsh Assembly Government. CyMAL objectives include enabling the Welsh archive services to increase their capacity to preserve and make accessible the archival collections in their care and improving the quality of the services delivered by local museums, archives and libraries in Wales. For more information visit: [www.wales.gov.uk/cymal](http://www.wales.gov.uk/cymal).

Grants such as these are awarded bi-annually, each April and October. For more information about the NMCT, or to apply for one of the grants, visit: <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/preservation/trust/default.htm>.

**The Roderic Bowen Library and Archives, University of Wales, Lampeter**

*Caroline Pilcher, Curator of Special Collections, explains its history, holdings and place within the university.*

*(In memoriam Professor Nigel Yates, 1944-2009)*

Officially opened in October 2008, the Roderic Bowen Library and Archives houses the Special Collections of the University of Wales, Lampeter, a unique collection of more than 30,000 volumes printed between 1470 and 1850 (including 69 incunabula) as well as 8 medieval and 100 post medieval manuscripts.

The Special Collections contain a substantial collection of Wales-associated materials, including early Welsh Bibles, prayer books, hymnals, catechisms, sermons and ballads. Much reflects the University's history as a Theological college and the languages represented include Arabic, English, Dutch, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Latin and Welsh.

Overall, however, the collections are as broad in subject matter as they are unexpected and delightful. They include richly-illustrated narratives of travel and exploration (e.g. Cook, Vancouver, La Perouse, Humboldt, Dalrymple), exquisitely-detailed architectural works (e.g. Piranesi, Wood, Le Roy, Nash), beautiful volumes of natural history (e.g. Thornton, Buffon, Gould, Pennant), gruesome medical works (e.g. Paracelsus, Bell, Fox), atlases, (e.g. Speed, Ortelius, Mercator), dictionaries (e.g. Johnson, Bayle, Webster), scientific and

philosophical treatises (e.g. Hooke, Locke, Hume, Wollstonecraft), to name but a few examples. (*See also illustration on back cover*).

In addition, the library houses a comprehensive collection of religious and political tracts, the core of which dates from around 1638 to 1785 and is particularly rich in material relating to the non-jurors, though, as examination of the Tract Catalogue will bear out, every contemporary issue of the day, from accounts of duels to trials for witchcraft is represented.

From 1827 to 2007 these collections were housed in their original home in the St David's building. Modelled on the idea of an Oxford college library, with presses perpendicular to the walls, the library evoked both feelings of being in a much older building and that of being submerged in the history of the college.

Following the building of a new library in 1969, the original library became known as the Founders' Library; after the three principal benefactors of the original college library; namely College founder, Bishop Thomas Burgess (1756-1837), Thomas Phillips (1760-1851) formerly a surgeon with the East India Company and a keen advocate of higher education in Wales, and Thomas Bowdler the fourth (1754-1825), better known as the 'bowdleriser' of Shakespeare. It had long been realised that atmospheric conditions in the Founders' Library were unsuitable for the material it housed, and after investigating whether the building could be adapted to comply with BS 5454:2000, the answer ultimately

became clear: a new home was the only way forward. It fell to former Director and Archivist of the Special Collections, Professor Nigel Yates to secure funding and allay fears that moving the Collections from the Founders' Library would in some way compromise their place within the heritage of the University.

Most of the funding for the new building came from a grant from the Higher Educational Funding Council for Wales, matched by the University with funding from the generous bequest of Dr. E. Roderic Bowen, President of St. David's University College Special Collections from 1972-92. Far from compromising the place of the collections within the heritage of the University, the relocation of the materials and the remit to organise materials into provenance groups has stimulated investigations into that heritage.

To take the bequest of Bishop Burgess as an example, although much research has been carried out into the books he left to the college, which naturally reflected his personal concerns and interests, no register had ever been made of the contents of his library. By grouping items according to provenance and assigning a running number to each of the provenance collections, the sequence Bur 00001 to Bur 03370 now provides, in effect, a register of his books. (The Burgess collection contains not only books bequeathed by Burgess but those given in his life-time and written by him, and these are distinguished within individual catalogue records).

Alongside the opportunity to contribute to and reinforce known

elements of the Special Collections came the opportunity to re-evaluate certain myths about the library. It had been suggested, for example, that there was little method to Thomas Phillips's generous donations generosity to Lampeter from 1834 to 1852, and that he was simply taking advantage of the depressed book-market of the time. Looking at shelf after shelf of Phillips's donations [PHI 00001 - PHI 04936] indicates in fact that he was mindful that students attending Lampeter would be drawn from a fairly small catchment area, at least initially, and that for many this would be their first opportunity to experience the wider world. Access to information about the practicalities of the world beyond Lampeter was thus an important provision.

An examination of one of the donation books recording Phillips's gifts has yielded a possible example to back the theory that Phillips was more 'hands-on' in his choices for Lampeter, for one item is recorded as having been returned to Mr Phillips because it had been 'sent in error'.

As well as housing the materials in a closed-access, temperature- and humidity-controlled area, the Roderic Bowen Library and Archive provides a spacious, comfortable reading room, easily adapted to suit the needs of individual readers, seminars, lectures and exhibitions. It provides space also for reference material, previously located in the main library but now more appropriately housed with the Special Collections. The assimilation of the reference

material into the RBLA, which is still ongoing, has led to the (re)discovery that elements of the main library reference collection were once housed in the Founders' Library. Therefore in rehousing them we are in fact reuniting old companions and once again strengthening the place of the Special Collections, and the RBLA as a whole, within the history of the University and indeed as a collection of national importance, reflecting as it does part of the history of higher education in Wales.

The RBLA reading room is currently open from 9.30 to 4.30, Mondays to Thursdays. The collections are open to non-University members, on receipt of a letter or email of introduction. Advance notice of a visit is advisable, to check both the availability of material and that of the reading room. The web pages of the Special Collections are yet to be updated, but more about the collections can be found at [http://www.lamp.ac.uk/founders\\_library/](http://www.lamp.ac.uk/founders_library/). The catalogue of printed books is accessible via the University's OPAC. The Catalogue includes both items in the main library and the RBLA, but searches can be limited to Special Collections by selecting the 'limit' icon at the far right of the 'search box' and then 'Special Collections' within the location option.

*Contact:* Caroline Pilcher, Curator of Special Collections, Roderic Bowen Library and Archives, University of Wales Lampeter, Ceredigion SA48 7ED; tel. 01570 424716; [c.pilcher@lamp.ac.uk](mailto:c.pilcher@lamp.ac.uk) or [rodericbowenlibrary@lamp.ac.uk](mailto:rodericbowenlibrary@lamp.ac.uk)

### **Cologne Archives Disaster**

On 3 March 2009 the six-storey building housing the Historisches Archiv der Stadt Köln collapsed, after its foundations were apparently undermined by construction work on an underground section of the *Stadtbahn*. Neighbouring blocks of flats were also affected and at least two deaths have been reported. About 90% of the archival material was buried under rubble and water. Emergency services, archive staff and volunteer archivists and conservation specialists have been working round the clock on the massive salvage operation. Materials stored in the collapsed building included substantial and important collections of manuscripts dating from the 6th cent. onwards and charters and other documents from the 10th cent onwards. Recent accessions included the extensive personal archives of the writer Heinrich Böll (1917-85), which had been transferred only three weeks previously. They had not yet been listed, digitised or microfilmed. Ironically, Böll belonged to the postwar *Trümmerliteratur* movement (literature of the rubble). An appeal has been made for qualified volunteers and for financial assistance. For current news see [www.koelner-stadtarchiv.de/index](http://www.koelner-stadtarchiv.de/index) and <http://archiv.twoday.net/>. Contact: Dr. Ulrich S. Soénus ([ulrich.soenius@koeln.ihk.de](mailto:ulrich.soenius@koeln.ihk.de)).

### **Stalinist Era Archives Seized**

Archives may be politically sensitive and thus become

vulnerable if they preserve testimony a government would prefer to conceal. The historian Orlando Figes recently drew to a classic case in Russia. In December 2008 the St Petersburg offices of *Memorial*, a human rights and historical research centre which had accrued substantial material relating to victims and survivors of the Stalinist regime, were raided by masked men from the investigate committee of the Russian general prosecutor's office. Hard drives containing the entire archive (including family archives, sound recordings and transcripts of interviews, and details of burial sites) were removed, together with other materials used by Figes in his book *The Whisperers*. The head of Memorial in St. Petersburg, Irina Flige, who was away at the time, has issued a complaint to the Prosecutor's Office about procedural irregularities during the raid. *Memorial* was denied access to lawyers, and no inventory of the confiscated information was compiled by the raiders. See *The Guardian*, 4 March 2009, *The New York Review of Books*, 15 Jan. 2009, [www.orlandofiges.com/news.php](http://www.orlandofiges.com/news.php).

### **Cardiff City Library: an update**

*Submitted by E. Wyn James.*

Cardiff City Council's plans to break up City Library collections and sell off many of the rare books were reported in the last *Newsletter*. Following intense public and political pressure, the Council agreed in late September 2008 to enter 'round-table' discussions with CyMAL (the Welsh Assembly Government's museums, archives and libraries division),

representatives from Cardiff University, the National Library of Wales and Glamorgan Record Office, regarding the future of the special collections of rare books.

At the group's first meeting on 7 October, all parties agreed to 'work together to identify which items from the collection should be recommended to be retained in Wales'. The Cardiff Heritage Friends produced a statement (for which see its website: [www.cardiffheritagefriends.org/](http://www.cardiffheritagefriends.org/)) welcoming these discussions, but emphasising the importance of retaining the special collections intact *as collections* in Cardiff, rather than 'cherry-picking' individual items.

Following that meeting, the first auction of books, scheduled for 4 November at Bonhams, London, was postponed, and Councillor Nigel Howells (the Executive Member of Cardiff Council responsible for libraries) informed a Council meeting on 16 October that 'until this [identification] process has been finalised and implemented it has been agreed that no books will be sold'. This process is currently still in progress.

The perception among the public at large seems to be that Cardiff Council has 'seen reason' and that the books have been 'saved'. This is far from being the case as yet, since it would seem that there are some in the Council – despite overwhelming public opinion to the contrary – who are intent on selling as many of these rare books as possible as soon as possible.

As documents on the Cardiff Heritage Friends website

demonstrate, the Cardiff rare books affair raises important questions regarding the role of public libraries with respect to heritage collections; the significance of collections and

**The International Dunhuang Project**

(See Susan Whitfield's article, p. 6).

provenance when assessing a book's worth; and the relationship between public opinion and Council action.



**Photograph taken by Aurel Stein in March 1908 during his Second Central Asian Expedition. The British Library Photo 392/27(376).**



A Buddhist sutra or sacred text from the Library cave at Dunhuang. The British Library Or.8210/S.253.

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**‘... NANTES IN GURGITE VASTO’  
AMARC MEMBERS ENJOYING A SEASIDE HOLIDAY**



**‘Iachten van Wilde Beesten,’** by Jan van der Straet (1523-1605), plate 92 from *Venationes ferarum, auium, piscium : pugnae bestiariorum & mutuae bestiarum Depictae a Ioanne Stradano: editae per Nicolaum Vischer* (Antuerpiae : Apud Ioannem Gallaeum, c. 1630)

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See Caroline Pilcher’s article on the Roderic Bowen Library, p. 30..