

# Library and Information History Group Newsletter

Winter 2016

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Lincoln College Library (See p.22)

## LIBRARY AND INFORMATION HISTORY NEWSLETTER

The official newsletter of the Library and Information History Group, a special interest group of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals (CILIP)

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Library & Information  
History Group

## NEWS FROM THE CHAIR

Welcome to the winter 2016 newsletter.

Our 2016 AGM will be held on Monday 21 November at Bromley House Library, Nottingham. The AGM will start at 2pm, followed by a tour of the library. Everyone is welcome, but you must register for the tour; numbers are limited to 20 people in total:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/cilip-lihg-agm-followed-by-library-tour-tickets-27521137463>.

The group would like to welcome two new committee members: Dan Gooding has replaced Holly Nicholas as our Publicity Officer. Dan works at the Wills Memorial Library at the University of Bristol. We also welcome Professor Peter Reid as the new editor of *Library & Information History*. Professor Reid has worked at Robert Gordon University since 1998, having previously completed a PhD focused on British country house libraries. He was Subject Leader for Information Management between 2004 and 2009, since when he has been Head of the Department of Information Management (RGU i-School). He was appointed Professor of Librarianship in 2010. He has also served as the university's 'strategic lead' on culture since 2014, leading one of the priority areas for the institution. His primary research interests are in library history, historical bibliography, culture and heritage as well as in public library management. He has published extensively in various aspects of library history since 1998.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, the committee will be revamping our awards. Starting in 2017, the LIHG will be offering a James Ollé Award of up to £1,000 to applicants pursuing a postgraduate degree in the field of library or information history. Recipients of the Ollé award must be a member of LIHG (or join LIHG after receiving the award). The award is to be used for research costs, such as copying, digitisation, travel, etc. The award will not cover conference attendance costs. The deadline to apply for the award is 30 June 2017.

We continue to offer two Ollé awards in 2016- each worth £500 and one reserved for a student/unwaged applicant. The awards are for research costs as above and are not intended to cover conference attendance. The deadline to apply is 30 December 2016. Full details are available on our website for the 2016 and 2017 awards: <http://www.cilip.org.uk/library-information-history-group/awards>.

We will also be offering a student bursary to attend the 'Information and its Communication in Wartime' conference, to be held on 25-26 July 2017 at the Institute of English Studies. The bursary will cover registration and travel (up to £200) costs. Details will appear on the website once the conference programme is made available.

Our 2017 conference will be held in Dundee on 1 July. The theme will be on the history of Scottish libraries and information. Full details will appear on our website and in the next newsletter.

Last, but not least, we have moved our blog (again) to a new permanent home:

<http://www.cilip.org.uk/library-information-history-group/blog>. Emma Laws has very kindly and diligently moved all of the content from our previous blogs over to this new site. While the CILIP blog platform is not as eye-catching as Wordpress, it does mean that all of our information is held together in one site. The latest blog post is about a new publication: *The University of Glasgow Library: Friendly Shelves* and is accompanied by a fine range of images from the book.

Rena Satterley

Middle Temple Library

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## LIHG DIARY

**12-23 September** Online committee meeting (postponed)

**21 November** AGM of the CILIP Library and Information History Group, Bromley House Library

**1 July** LIHG Conference (tbc)

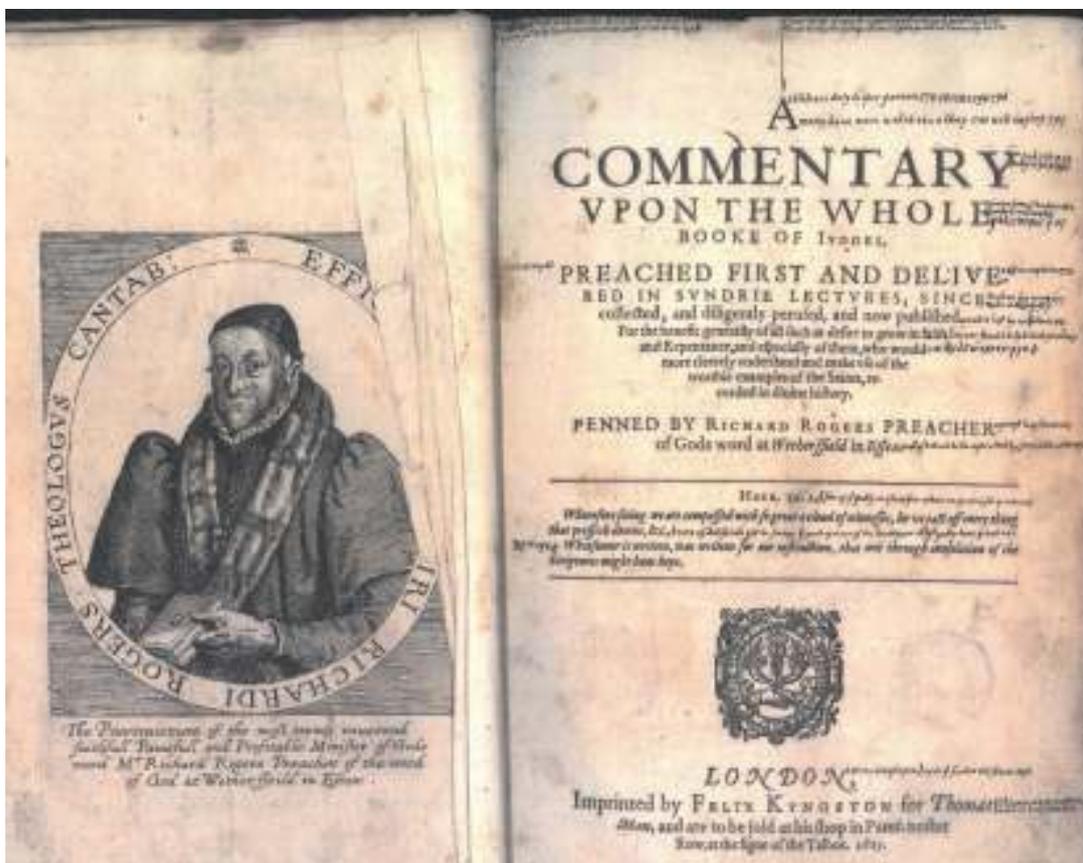
<http://www.cilip.org.uk/library-information-history-group/events>

## FEATURES

### “Bad hair day” at Bury Assizes – An iconoclast’s tale

A recent find in the rare book collection at Aberystwyth University throws a fascinating light on the reading habits of the notorious 17<sup>th</sup> century puritan, William Dowsing, who caused extensive damage to the fabric of many East Anglian churches during the Civil War, and also provides a window to an unusual legal anecdote from the time of Queen Elizabeth I. This book forms part of a collection of some 1650 assorted theological texts which were presented to the University from the first Registrar, Evan Penllyn Jones, at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

Richard Rogers (1551-1618) was a puritan divine who graduated from Christ’s College, Cambridge in 1571 and was ordained in the same year<sup>1</sup>. For many years he was based at Wethersfield in Essex and wrote a number of works concerned with faith and Godly living. In 1615 he produced a lengthy 970 page *Commentary upon the Whole Book of Judges*, in some 103 sermons, which was dedicated to Sir Edward Coke, the then Chief Justice of England<sup>2</sup>. Whilst the printed text provides an interesting insight into contemporary puritan thought, the extensive contemporary marginal annotation in the copy at Aberystwyth University provides a direct link with a Civil War iconoclast, William Dowsing, whose activities still leave scars on churches in Cambridgeshire and Suffolk to this day. Dowsing’s initials W.D. appear as a blind stamp on the leather binding of the volume and are also found at a couple of places in the text as marginal annotation.



<sup>1</sup> For Richard Rogers see F Bremner article in *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* <http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/23995>

<sup>2</sup> Richard Rogers. *A Commentary upon the whole book of Judges*. London, Felix Kynston for Thomas Mann, 1615

William Dowsing (1596-1668) was a yeoman farmer from Suffolk who possessed a large theological library of sermons and biblical commentaries<sup>3</sup>. His books were often heavily annotated and scholars including John Morrill and John Craig have attempted to reconstruct the contents of his library by tracking down individual volumes<sup>4</sup>. Despite his humble role in the world Dowsing was clearly well known to his contemporaries. There is report of the Essex politician and lawyer Harbottle Grimston (1603-1685) having borrowed his books, and in 1643 Dowsing wrote to Matthew Newcomen, preacher at Dedham, calling for “blasphemous crucifixes, all superstitious pictures and reliques of popery” in Cambridge to be removed. This message was passed to the Earl of Manchester, commanding the parliamentary forces in East Anglia, and Dowsing was appointed as provost marshal to the armies of the Eastern Association. Subsequently he received a commission to remove idolatrous images from the churches in the area. He did this work diligently during the period 1643-1644, arranging for stained glass to be removed and statuary to be smashed, and there is a full record of this activity in his Journal, recently edited by Trevor Cooper for the Ecclesiological Society, along with some interesting photographs of some defaced images<sup>5</sup>.

The Rogers volume at Aberystwyth University is heavily annotated and provides a picture of the diligent reading habits of William Dowsing as he sought biblical sanction for his religious beliefs. He noted that he acquired the volume in 1624 m.1 d.1. Is this January or perhaps March 1624 in old calendar terms? He started to read the volume in 1626 “m.6 d.26” and read it in 60 days at 8 leaves per day, finishing the volume on “m.8 d.29”, according to a note he made at the end of the text. While reading the text he was making extensive marginal notes, cross referencing other biblical sources and other commentators on occasion. He concludes the note with a reference to 2 Timothy 2 v.7, “Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things”. Evidently Dowsing read the book again, as we have another note stating that he started in 1663 m.6 d.20 and ended m.7 d.28. Again there is a reference to Timothy but also to John 13 v.17, “Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them”. Not content with simple marginal annotation Dowsing also constructed a full manuscript index to the volume, consisting of some twenty pages, referencing issues such as “idolatry to be pulled down”, “idolaters false praise” etc. Indeed he became so excited by all these references to idolatrous images in the Rogers text that he almost ran out of space for his index entries! He also introduced a number of cross references on the title page of the volume, e.g. “against long hair 617”, “malefactors to be instructed by some minister” etc. It seems likely therefore that Richard Rogers will have directly influenced the development of Dowsing’s thought on these matters of faith and daily life.

The reference to long hair in Rogers’ text must have set Dowsing reminiscing when he read the book for the second time in the 1660’s. The text comments on 13 Judges vv4-5, “so there is a foule abuse in men about this matter, and that is their disguised wearing of long haire”. He goes on to mention St. Paul who saw it as an unnatural fashion for a man to wear long hair and suggests that it was time for the practice to be abandoned, “seeing it is become the fashion and habit of the basest swaggerers and ruffians, and the divels mark which he has set upon many that will not be reformed..... It was the speech of a worthy and revered Judge of the land, that the use of the long lock was first taken up by branded fellows, for a cover of their shame. And that honourable personage in his circuit, sitting in the place of justice, upon malefactors, practised according to the former observation: commanding all whom he saw beset with such deformed hair, to be immediately cut or shorne, whether to discover their earmark or to shame their unseemly guide, I know not”<sup>6</sup>. Here in the margin Dowsing records, “Judge Popham who at Bury Asise in Suffolk commanded one [word erased] by a barber to cut of[f] his haire in ye Session House where ye judges sat in his presence making of the Grand Jury and said he would not so disgrace Q. Elizabeth to have a Grand Jury man to serve with such long hair. Testified to me by Mr. John Lea of Coddendam. Elder it was a High Constable and saw his hair cut off (by me W.D. then of Coddendam when told it me 1624)”. Dowsing

<sup>3</sup> For William Dowsing see John Morrill article in *ODNB* <http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/7990>

<sup>4</sup> On Dowsing’s library see John Morrill ‘William Dowsing and the administration of iconoclasm in the Puritan revolution’ in *The Journal of William Dowsing*, ed. Trevor Cooper. (Woodbridge, Boydell Press and Ecclesiological Society, 2001) Pp1-28.

<sup>5</sup> Cooper op.cit pp155-321

<sup>6</sup> Rogers op.cit. p617 – spelling has been tidied here

had moved from Coddendam to Stratford St. Mary in the early 1640's after the death of his wife Thamar, who had been a member of the Lea family. Sir John Popham (1531-1607) was an eminent lawyer who became Chief Justice of the King's Bench in 1592<sup>7</sup>. He was certainly at Bury Assizes in the 1590's. Sadly we don't have the full story of the hapless intending juryman who had his hair cut off around this time, but Popham had a reputation for "wholesome severity" in criminal matters so clearly justice was to be respected by all participants in the legal process and not merely the malefactor<sup>8</sup>.

Whilst it may be unreasonable to read too much into the annotations made in one particular volume this find does serve to show that significant historical source material may still be lurking unregarded in the most unlikely places. Aberystwyth University has no direct connection with events in 17<sup>th</sup> century East Anglia and researchers into Dowsing's life would normally seek out sources in that locality, or in the Society of Antiquaries which holds a transcription of his journal<sup>9</sup>. However, it is likely that other small research collections where full provenance cataloguing has not yet taken place may still throw up such unexpected treasures. Any long haired colleagues who may be reading this note should be warned!

Bill Hines

Aberystwyth University

### Not lost, but only gone before: where did the libraries from the ABTAPL Directory go?



Small part of the group at [Biblioteca Casanatense](https://www.biblioteca-casanatense.it/) during the 2016 conference in Rome

The Association of British Theological and Philosophical Libraries (ABTAPL –pronounced Ab Tapple by the cognoscenti) was founded in 1956 as a group for librarians working in religious and humanist collections. It is not part of CILIP, but is very much in the mould of the special interest groups: it is a professional, rather than a religious organisation. In contrast to its European equivalent societies, it is not bound by one denomination, or even one particular religion. Given the country's heritage, the majority of member libraries are Christian, but it is thoroughly interdenominational.<sup>1</sup>

Each year the group has a residential conference in the spring, and an AGM in London in the autumn. There is a very busy and much valued email list: many members are lone-workers on small budgets, and it is a very cost effective manner of receiving peer support. From time to time, in addition to its regular newsletter, ABTAPL has also published material relating the interests of the group.

<sup>7</sup> For John Popham see David Ibbetson article in *ODNB* <http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/22543>

<sup>8</sup> For a recent case in America see <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2163723/Judge-orders-mom-chop-daughters-hair-punish-girl-hacking-chunks-toddlers-locks.html>.

<sup>9</sup> See <http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/details/rd/e4e3be83-9a74-4f0e-a3d7-ebb1bba67452>

In 1986 ABTAPL created a directory of 'significant' theological collections in the British Isles. This included university sub-collections; theological seminaries; public libraries; teacher training colleges with religious foundations; parish libraries; independent libraries; and any other collections which obtruded themselves on the consciousness of the editors.<sup>10</sup> The Directory was updated and republished in 1999, and now exists online<sup>11</sup> in a format which is updated on an ad hoc basis. I believe that the online version was created from survey responses sent and received in 2004.

In a brief overview here I look at what has happened to those theological libraries which have disappeared from the Directory since 1985. It is very much a preliminary effort, which rests almost entirely on web searches, informal conversations, and the odd exploratory email. I have also reduced the scope of the original Directory: I have only included Christian libraries, and have excluded most collections which were already fully integrated in Universities and public libraries, teacher training colleges, and dioceses. This is not because these do not merit investigation: rather it is because they require such a thorough investigation that there is not room to consider them here. I have also excluded parish and cathedral libraries as these have been surveyed (relatively) recently<sup>12 13</sup>. This reduces the number of collections considered from 397 to 92.

I have at this stage divided the fates of the various missing libraries into very broad, and rather arbitrary categories. Some of the collections met more than one fate<sup>14</sup>, meaning that there are 102 entries in the table below:

In situ	27
Added to university library	16
Added to independent library	13
Untraced	12
Rebranded/moved	11
Merged	7
Added to national library	6
Sold	4
Dispersed	3
Added to local authority collection	2
In storage	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>102</b>

It was gratifying to discover that the largest group are not only traceable, but actually still where they were in 1985, and have merely dropped out of the ABTAPL Directory. I suspect in many instances, this may be because describing the collection of books available as a library may be somewhat misleading<sup>15</sup>. Anecdotally (and experientially) I am aware that many a retreat house 'library' turns out to be a single shelf of 1970s paperbacks stored on the landing.

<sup>10</sup> Lea, E.R.M. & Jesson, A.F. eds. *A guide to the theological libraries of Great Britain and Ireland* (London : ABTAPL Publishing, 1986)

<sup>11</sup> <http://www.abtapl.org.uk/database/contents.html>

<sup>12</sup> Perkin, M.R. *A directory of the parochial libraries of the Church of England & the Church in Wales* (London: Bibliographical Society, 2004)

<sup>13</sup> Mcleod, MSG et al *The cathedral libraries catalogue : books printed before 1701 in the libraries of the Anglican cathedrals of England and Wales* (London : British Library; Bibliographical Society, c1984-1998)

<sup>14</sup> For example, of the Society of St John the Evangelist library from St Edwards House, a discrete sub-collection is known to be at Gladstone's Library, but the remainder is currently untraced

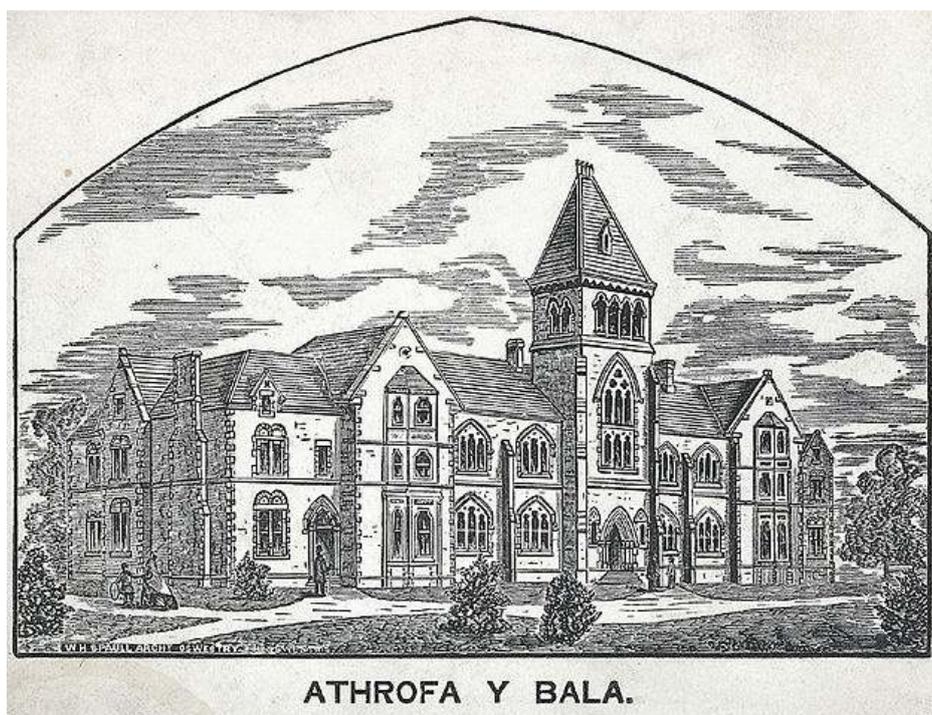
<sup>15</sup> For instance, the Library at the Quaker Meeting House in central Birmingham is a collection of about 100 modern items housed in a glass fronted bookcase in a meeting room <http://www.theprioryrooms.co.uk/page/meeting-rooms/reading-room> The books are used, but it could not be described as a 'significant' collection, particularly given the existence of the genuinely important Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre within the same city.

Nevertheless, some of the institutions considered in the 1985 Directory have closed, or merged; undergone a major rebrand or moved to another part of the country, which can sometimes make them difficult to trace. The majority of closed institutions have seen their libraries – at least in part – transferred to other libraries, either to a University, or to another faith based institution. A handful have sent collections onto National Libraries<sup>16</sup> or Local Record Offices. It should be noted that the Keston College Library (which specialised in Christianity in Communist Eastern Europe) although intact and well cared for, has in fact left the country, and is now based at the University of Texas.

Only 12 of the 92 libraries considered have proved to be untraceable at this point. It seems likely that some of these may be uncovered later. Some institutions have changed their names and addresses more frequently than a fraudster fleeing from creditors: for example the Biblical Studies Library (London) has been variously called: Christian Education at Home and Overseas; International Bible Reading Association; Christian Education. Others –Glasgow WEC Library, Liverpool Bible College, and the Methodist Conference Office – have probably been at least partly assimilated into the libraries of their parent bodies (WEC, the Evangelical Library, and the Methodist Heritage Centre).

Nevertheless, it seems likely that many of these cannot be traced because they no longer exist as a collection. This, alas, can be the most difficult fate to prove of all.

Anna James  
Pusey House Library



Spaul, William Henry, fl. 1865 - This image is available from the National Library of Wales <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=41978788>

<sup>16</sup> Particularly in Wales, where Coleg Bala-Bangor, Memorial College, and United Theological College have all gone to NLW.

## WHAT'S ON

### Courses, lectures and events

#### AGM of the CILIP Library and Information History Group

21 November 2pm

Bromley House Library

The AGM of the Library and Information History Group will take place on Monday 21 November 2016 at Bromley House Library, Angel Row, Nottingham, NG1 6HL, commencing at 2.00pm. This will be followed by a tour of the library (for around 2 hours) at 2.30pm

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/cilip-lihg-agm-followed-by-library-tour-tickets-27521137463>

#### Seminar on the History of Libraries

Unless otherwise stated: Monthly during term-time; Tuesdays at 5.30 at The Warburg Institute, London  
Sponsored by the Institute of English Studies, the Institute of Historical Research, the Warburg Institute, and LIHG.

October 4 **Alice Ford-Smith** (Quaritch) *London 1708: a Walk into Library History*  
(Event and waiting list fully booked)

November 1 **John Bowman** (formerly UCL) *The Private Diaries of Robert Proctor*

The bibliographer Robert Proctor kept a private diary for the last 4 years of his life. From it we gain a picture of his work at the British Museum, his private life with Mother in Oxshott, and his obsession with anything related to William Morris. The diaries shed light on the life and death of an extraordinary man.

December 6 **Richard Foster** (Winchester College) *Winchester College Fellows' Library, c. 1600-1670*

This talk will consider the development of the Fellows' Library during the 17th century, making use of the evidence provided by catalogues and inventories, the Library Benefactors' Book, Bursar's accounts, and the books themselves. Particular attention will be paid to the changing character of the Library over this period and the various ways in which books were acquired.

February 7 **Jill Dye** (Stirling) *The Library in the Middle of Nowhere: Innerpeffray Library, its Foundation, Collections and Early Borrowers*

Innerpeffray is Scotland's first free public lending library, founded c.1680. Situated in the heart of rural Perthshire, the library houses a continuous record of borrowers (1747-1968) and retains almost all its original collections, making it an unparalleled resource for studying book borrowing in context. This talk on the early history of the library, its books and borrowers, is based on the speaker's research undertaken as part of a SGSAH-funded Applied Research Collaboration with the library & the universities of Stirling & Dundee.

March 7 **Helen Kemp** (Essex) *The Relationship between Manuscript and Print in Thomas Plume's Library*

April 4 *TBA*

May 2 **Alistair Black** (University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign) *Public Library Architecture in Britain in the Long 1960s: Style, Siting, Space and Light*

The Senate Room, Senate House

Between the mid-1950s and the mid-1970s the built-form of the public library in Britain underwent a renaissance. However, contrary to what one might expect, librarians' support for a large-scale building programme, their adoption of light-rich architectural modernism and the new internal spaces they fashioned were less a reflection of a progressive turn in librarianship than an embodiment of certain of its traditional and conservative traits.

June 6 **Tessa Webber** *Liturgical Books and the Medieval Library*

Joint meeting with the Friends of Lambeth Palace Library

Lambeth Palace

Those wishing to attend should send their names in advance to [archives@churchofengland.org](mailto:archives@churchofengland.org), or tel: 020 7898 1400, not later than Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February.

*Selected podcasts available on the IHR website <https://historyspot.org.uk/podcasts/history-libraries>, including talks given by Alistair Black, Mark Purcell, Peter Hoare, Geoffrey Little, and Greg Woolf.*

Convenors: Giles Mandelbrote (Lambeth Palace Library); Keith Manley (National Trust); Raphaële Mouren (Warburg Institute); Isabel Rivers (Queen Mary).

### **Intensive Introduction to Islamic Codicology**

3–7 October

Cambridge University Library

£525-£150

This five-day course will introduce the study of Islamic manuscript codices as physical objects, or the archaeology of the Islamic book. Daily illustrated lectures will provide an overview of writing supports, the structure of quires, ruling and page layout, bookbinding, ornamentation, tools and materials used in book making, and the palaeography of book hands. Participants may choose to register for hands-on sessions during which they will examine Islamic manuscripts from Cambridge University Library and complete a series of practical exercises on manuscript description.

Organised by the Islamic Manuscript Association, in association with the Thesaurus Islamicus Foundation, Cambridge University Library, and Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Centre of Islamic Studies, Cambridge.

The course will be taught by leading scholars of Islamic codicology and palaeography Prof. François Déroche (Collège de France) and Prof. Nuria Martínez de Castilla Muñoz (École Pratique des Hautes Études)

<http://www.islamicmanuscript.org>

### **Copyright and the Circulation of Knowledge: Industry Practices and Public Interests in Great Britain from the 18th Century to the Present**

7-8 October

Maison de la Recherche, Sorbonne Nouvelle

Today's discussions of piracy and copyright sometimes echo the eighteenth-century 'battle of the booksellers' that pitted advocates of a limited-term copyright (and the creation of a public domain) against proponents of authors' natural (and perpetual) rights over their works. Then as now, many felt that the law was not always in step with cultural norms or trade practices. While some denounced all unauthorized republications as piracies, others experimented with new ways of disseminating knowledge through translations, abridgements, compilations, and cheap reprints. During the nineteenth century, technological and cultural changes and the increasingly international market for books led to more debates over the legitimacy and public utility of various forms of reprinting, as well as new strategies for combatting piracy.

This conference seeks to bring together specialists of Great Britain from the eighteenth century to the present to explore the complex relationship between copyright and the circulation of knowledge.

<http://www.univ-paris3.fr/copyright-and-the-circulation-of-knowledge-358583.kjsp>

### **Martin Luther and Mass Media: Christians in Library & Information Services annual lecture** Nick Page

15 October, 2.30

Methodist Central Hall, Coventry

This lecture will look at the effect that the new media of printing and print-making, and the explosion of new books, new words and new readers had at the time of the Reformation. Nick Page has written over seventy books, including *A Nearly Infallible History of Christianity* and *God's Dangerous Book*. Nick is currently writing *A Nearly Infallible History of the Reformation*, which will commemorate the five hundredth anniversary of Martin Luther publishing his Ninety-Five Theses, an event that sparked off the Protestant Reformation and changed the course of history in Europe and the world for ever.

Preceded by optional tour of Coventry Cathedral & lunch (small charge). The tour & lunch must be pre-booked. For booking & information contact Diana Guthrie [treasurer@christianlis.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@christianlis.org.uk)

**The Book: History, Knowledge & Technology. The Voyage. 5<sup>th</sup> International Summit of the Book**

2-3 November  
€150

Strand Hotel, Limerick

The *International Summit of the Book* discusses the development of books into electronic formats and its impact on reading; the challenges facing books and the publishing industry; and the role of books and reading in societies. The Summit also discusses key issues on technology and manuscripts, including the role of translation in the preservation and transmission of culture, and books as an important tool in cultural exchange.

Topics of the 5th Summit of interest to LIHG members include:

Preservation through digitization / Preservation & the library as a sacred institution --  
Archival repositories & special collections -- Etymology & history of the book -- Rare books --  
eBooks v. print books -- Books & open access -- Books & cultural exchange / Role of the  
book in human knowledge & culture

<http://www.summitofthebook2016.com>

**"British Libraries: the literary world of post-Roman Britain": Panizzi Lectures 2016**

Rowan Williams

10, 12, 17 October

British Library, London

The 2016 Panizzi lectures will be given by Dr Rowan Williams on *British Libraries: the literary world of post-Roman Britain*.

10 October *Gildas and the Invention of Britain*

12 October *Bede and the Invention of England*

17 October *Nennius and the Invention of Wales*

The lectures are not ticketed and seats will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

<http://bibsoc.org.uk/content/panizzi-lectures-2016>

**Persuading the People: British Propaganda in World War II**

David Welch

17 November, 7.15

British Library, London

Among the Ministry of Information's varied duties during WW2 was the responsibility for issuing national propaganda to maintain morale at home and influence opinion abroad. However the MOI's role as a major publisher is less well known. Books, illustrated magazines, pamphlets, leaflets, and postcards played a key role in the dissemination of official propaganda to the British people, the Commonwealth, neutral nations, resistance groups and also to the enemy.

David Welch's new book *Persuading the People: British Propaganda in World War II*, based on the extensive archives held at the British Library, sheds new and illuminating light on the importance of winning hearts and minds in World War II. Propaganda messages ranged from the crudeness of some of the specifically anti-Nazi and anti-Japanese publications, and the defiant and even cheeky humour in some of the material depicting events that turned the war in Britain's favour, to the more light-hearted campaigns that discouraged citizens from gossiping. Official propaganda was carefully monitored and censored, and Welch provides examples of both the success and failure of the MOI's numerous campaigns.

<http://www.bl.uk/events/persuading-the-people-british-propaganda-in-world-war-ii>

## **Bridging the past, present and future of metadata, data and semantic technologies**

10th International Conference on Metadata and Semantics Research

22-25 November

Universitätsbibliothek, Göttingen, Germany

The final programme has not yet been announced, but papers are expected to consider questions such as: how the documented evidence produced over the past years can be used as a driver for innovating management and processing of data and information; how close we are from the vision of building powerful learning systems that will meet the needs of modern societies through high quality data infrastructures and data-driven interfaces; what the main challenges are that modern metadata and semantics research has not addressed.

MTSR 16 brings together scholars and practitioners in the interdisciplinary fields of metadata, data and semantics. The conference provides an opportunity for participants to share knowledge and novel approaches in the implementation of semantic technologies across diverse types of information environments and applications.

Special tracks within the conference:

- Cultural Collections & Applications
- Agriculture, Food & Environment
- Digital Libraries, Information Retrieval, Big, Linked & Social Data
- European and National Projects
- Open Repositories, Research Information Systems and Data Infrastructures

<http://www.ionio.gr/labs/dbis/mtsr2016/>

## **Hakluyt and the Renaissance Discovery of the World**

24–25 November 2016

Oxford

### ***Hakluyt, Oxford, and Centres of Power***

S Sobecki: 'Hakluyt and the *Libelle of Englyshe Polycye*' -- DH Sacks: 'Learning to Know: The Educations of Richard Hakluyt & Thomas Harriot' -- A Payne: 'Hakluyt & Aristotle at Oxford'

### ***'the three corners of the world'***

N Das: 'Hakluyt and India' -- F Stout: 'Hakluyt and Russia' -- B Klein: 'Hakluyt and West Africa'

### ***Encounters & Communication***

KO Kupperman: 'Communicating without Words in Hakluyt's Voyages' -- ML Oberg: 'Hakluyt and Ethnography' -- L Niayesh: '“In their own tongue”: What the Muscovy Company Agents' Information Tells Us about Their Informants'

### ***Keynote Lecture***

J Chaplin: '“No Land Unhabitable, Nor Sea Innavigable”: Hakluyt's Argument from Design'

### ***Telling Tales***

Friday 25 November, Christ Church

M Fuller: 'Consent & Dissent at High Latitudes: The Voyages of John Davis' -- C Jowitt: 'Heroic Hakluyt?' -- J Lorimer: 'Editing Raleigh and Keymis'.

### ***Influences & Legacy***

H Dalton: 'Hakluyt and the Cabots' -- M van Groesen: 'Hakluyt and De Bry' -- J Hemming: 'Clements Markham's Half-century for the Hakluyt Society'.

### ***Theatres of War, Near & Far***

CR Phillips: 'Sarmiento's Voyage to the South Atlantic & Early 1580s International Politics' -- M Brennan: 'Hakluyt, Howard of Effingham, and Naval Warfare'

### ***Rival Ambitions***

J-P Rubiés: 'Imperial Emulation and the Making of the *Principal Navigations*' -- D Carey: 'Hakluyt & the Clothworkers: Long Distance Trade & English Commercial Development'.

### ***Public Lecture***

Michael Wood 'Voyages, Traffiques, Discoveries'

Examination Schools.

## **The Destruction of Books: Loss, recycling and remaking of books since the 15th century**

27-28 November

Stationers' Hall, London

£95 / £60 / £50

The 38th Annual Conference on Book Trade History is concerned with the attrition and loss of books & manuscripts. The speakers will explore some of the misfortunes that can befall books, ranging from accidental or wilful destruction of particular classes of books to the cutting up and re-use of text and pictures for extraillustration and albums. The impact of book-trade practices and changing fashions in collecting, with the recycling of paper and parchment and the rebinding of books, will form another major theme.

Brian Cummings: A Brief History of Book Burning

Sandy Wilkinson: Estimating What Has Been Destroyed: The Case of the EarlyModern Spanish Book World

Giles Mandelbrote: Cutting up Books: A Seventeenth-Century Solution to Information Overload

Samantha Matthews: 'A Medley of Scraps': Cutting & Creativity in 19<sup>th</sup> century Manuscript Albums

Christopher de Hamel: Cutting up Manuscripts to Decorate Other Books

John Goldfinch: Killing with Kindness: Turning Incunabula into Collectable Objects

Nicholas Pickwoad: Salvage and Salvation: Bookbindings as Agents of Preservation

Organised by R Myers, M Harris & G Mandelbrote in association with the ABA Educational Trust

<http://www.aba.org.uk/aba.org.uk/media/Events/BTHC-2016.pdf>

### **Luther in Italy**

23–25 February

Deutsches Historisches Institut, Rome

Keynote speakers: Silvana Seidel-Menchi and Andrew Pettegree.

Papers will be presented in English

The printing industry developed in mutual exchange with the Reformation. Luther's ideas and actions deeply affected the book world. Theologians boosted the market with polemical works against or in favour of the former monk from Eisleben. This overwhelming book production inspired a call for an unprecedented, strict control over the printing press. To mark the occasion of the 500th anniversary of the year in which, according to tradition, Luther nailed his 95 theses to the door of the Palace Church in Wittenberg, a conference in Rome will address the topic of the impact of the Reformation on the Italian book market.

<http://www.hsozkult.de/event/id/termine-30203>

### **Information and Power in History**

16-17 March

Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Confirmed keynote speakers: Ann L. Stoler, (New School for Social Research), Toni Weller, (De Montfort)

The language of the conference is English.

The information revolution has caused information to become a separate object of study during the last two decades. Historians distinguish different ages of information, from the invention of the printing press to the digital revolution. Notwithstanding past and present fears, the information revolution has not brought an Orwellian control of society by the central government, but rather a fragmenting and decentralizing effect on the provision of information. It is clear that the relationship between the control over information and the exercise of power is a relevant subject for all times. Since research into its historical evolution has been recent, this two day conference aims to put this topic explicitly on the research agenda. We are particularly interested in the connection between different types of information and the exercise of power, including the role of confidentiality; knowledge regarding politics and international relations, opposition movements, and (weapon) technology, geography or economic issues. We want to focus on those who provided or withheld information, whether and how its quality and reliability can be established; and how crucial knowledge became exclusively available to those who exercise power.

<https://www.huygens.knaw.nl/event/cfp-international-conference-information-and-power-in-history/>

## Exhibitions

### Women of the Bodleian

Closes 23 October

Proscholium, Bodleian Library, Oxford

Set against the timeline of the Bodleian's first permanent female librarian, Frances Underhill, this small display looks at the work and lives of the early female staff during and after their time at Oxford.

<http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/whatson/whats-on/upcoming-events/2016/sep/women-of-the-bodleian>

### Treasures from the Chalmers Library

Closes 29 October

Royal Society of Medicine, London

In 1922 the Library of the Royal Society of Medicine received a generous gift of around 1800 rare books presented by the widow of the late Dr Albert J. Chalmers, a doctor specialising in tropical diseases and co-author, with Aldo Castellani, of the *Manual of Tropical Medicine*. Dr Chalmers was a true bibliophile and among the books donated from his collection are Geminus' *Compendiosa* (1553), Brunschwig's *Liber de arte distillandi* (1500), Celsus' *De medicina* (1478), and the oldest book in the collection, Mesue's *Opera* published in 1471.

<https://www.rsm.ac.uk/library/exhibitions.aspx>

### Charles Booth's London: Mapping Victorian Lives

Closes 17 December

LSE Library, London

Charles Booth's *Inquiry into the Life and Labour of the People in London* was published in 1903 after 16 years of intense research and it remains one of the most ambitious and wide-ranging sociological surveys ever completed. To mark the centenary of Booth's death, LSE is displaying a selection from the extensive archive holdings of Booth's survey, telling the remarkable story of its inception, delivery and influence. The exhibition focuses on the local area and on display is one of the original, hand-coloured 'poverty maps' of Holborn. There are also several of the original, hand-written notebooks which exemplify the work carried out to detail the poverty and industries from the time.

<http://www.lse.ac.uk/library/exhibitions/home.aspx>

### Staging History

14 October – 8 January

Weston Library, Oxford

Staging History explores how history was told on stage in Regency-era Britain. Exploration, revolution and patriotism take centre stage, as the exhibition examines the influence of history and historical events in the writing and staging of theatre, opera and drama from 1780-1840. The exhibition features beautiful set designs, theatrical documents and illustrations from collections held at the Bodleian and other institutions.

<http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/whatson/whats-on/upcoming-events/2016/oct/staging-history>

### You are here: A journey through maps

Closes 3 April

Edinburgh, National Library of Scotland

'You are here' poses questions about how maps are made and how we understand them. Drawn from the NLS collection of more than two million maps and atlases, each map in the exhibition shows the answer to some or all of those questions.

The maps on display zoom out from the Library itself to the whole world in the shape of the Blaeu Atlas Maior 'the most beautiful atlas ever made'. They also include one of the finest plans of Edinburgh and the first map of Scotland, as well as more utilitarian railway, fishing and schoolroom maps.

Together they demonstrate the versatility and beauty of maps and the skill of the cartographers who created them.

<http://www.nls.uk/exhibitions/maps>

## Curious Objects

Opens 3 November

Cambridge University Library

Why does Cambridge University Library have a pair of Indian slippers in its collections? How were psychic thumbprints made? Why was Charles Darwin sent beard hair in the post? Amongst the Library's extraordinary collection of around eight million printed books, manuscripts and digital holdings are some unusual and unexpected items. From an ostrich feather and ectoplasm to an old boot and a boomerang, the curious objects come from all corners of the world and span every era of human history from the Stone Age to the Space Age. All have a part to play in telling the story of the Library, a story told not through its printed and manuscript treasures, but through a cabinet of curiosities that opens a window onto the nature of collecting. Shabby and beautiful, quirky and controversial, all the objects on display provoke our curiosity and prompt questions about the nature of the Library—past, present and future.

<https://exhibitions.lib.cam.ac.uk/>

## Maps and the 20th Century: Drawing the Line

Opens 4 November

British Library, London

£12

See how maps made the world we live in. 100 years of mapping technology – from the original sketch of today's London Underground to the satellite imagery of the 1990s – has monitored and shaped the society we live in. This exhibition of extraordinary maps looks at the important role they played during the 20th century. It sheds new light on familiar events and spans conflicts, creativity, the ocean floor and even outer space. It includes exhibits ranging from the first map of the Hundred Acre Wood to secret spy maps, via the New York Subway. And, as technology advances further than we ever imagined possible, it questions what it really means to have your every move mapped.

<https://www.bl.uk/events/maps-and-the-20th-century-drawing-the-line>

## NEWS

Professor Peter Reid, of Robert Gordon University, Aberdeen is the new editor of *Library and Information History*. His research interests include library history, historical bibliography, and culture and heritage. He has published extensively in various aspects of library history including a number of studies of individual library collections. He has also been involved in a number of projects and activities associated with library history in conjunction with the Scottish Centre for the Book at Edinburgh Napier University.

The LIHG blog is joining the rest of our website: <http://www.cilip.org.uk/library-information-history-group/blog>.

The LIHG Conference 2017 will be in Dundee. More information next year...

*Libraries: Culture, History, and Society* ed. Eric Novotny and Bernadette Lear (both from Pennsylvania State University) is a new journal due to be launched in 2017 which aims to study libraries within their broader historical, humanistic, and social contexts. It is the official peer-reviewed journal of the Library History Round Table of the American Library Association. The only journal in the United States devoted to library history, *LCHS* positions library history as its own field of scholarship, while promoting innovative cross-disciplinary research on libraries' relationships with their unique environments.

**Wayne A. Wiegand**, (Professor Emeritus of Library and Information Studies and American Studies at Florida State University) has been appointed a distinguished visiting scholar at the John W. Kluge Center at the Library of Congress. Wiegand will research his current book project—a history of the American public-school library. The project incorporates five perspectives: the history of public-school education; the history of American librarianship; the social history of reading (including the history of print culture); the history of childhood; and the history of cultural institutions as places.

(Peter Hoare particularly requested this be included 'to illustrate the heights library historians can reach')

## CALLS FOR PAPERS

### **Radical Collections: radicalism and libraries and archives**

3 March 2017

Senate House Library, London

Deadline: 21 November

As centres of published and unpublished information, libraries and archives have an impact on the dissemination of knowledge. From selection, accession and collection development to cataloguing, classification and arrangement, librarians and archivists are in positions to widen or limit access to materials through various means. Additionally, there are consequences on materials, users and the perception of the field as a result of who enters the information professions. These issues are all set within the current decisions regarding funding, closures and technological change.

This conference welcomes proposals for papers about diverse periods, locations and topics.

This 1-day conference seeks to explore the following questions:

Who works in libraries and archives? Who uses them?

What is in collections and how are collections being developed?

How are books, manuscripts and information being organized and what is the impact of information professionals' decisions?

What is happening now and what are the current events in libraries, archives and the information professions?

Please send abstracts of 200 words for 20-minute presentations to [Jordan.Landes@london.ac.uk](mailto:Jordan.Landes@london.ac.uk).

<http://www.senatehouselibrary.ac.uk/blog/radical-collections-radicalism-and-libraries-and-archives-cfp>

### **Information and its Communication in Wartime**

25–26 July 2017

School of Advanced Study, Senate House, University of London

Deadline: 15 December

As part of the AHRC-funded project 'A Publishing and Communications History of the Ministry of Information, 1939-46', the School of Advanced Study are holding an international conference on the subject of information and its communication in wartime. Although the project has a particular focus on the Second World War, the convenors wish to set this in a much larger context, so would welcome papers discussing the theme in any period & in any area.

Among the subjects that might be addressed are:

Reporting from the frontline -- The home front -- Mobilising writers -- Control of news --  
Censorship -- The uses of religion -- Rumour -- Representing the enemy --  
Graphic and other non-textual means of communication -- Slogans and icons --  
The periodical press -- Ephemera -- Distribution in wartime -- Anticipating a post-war world

Please send proposals (maximum 300 words) for papers of twenty minutes length, along with a short autobiographical note (maximum 100 words) to Prof. Simon Eliot ([simon.eliot@sas.ac.uk](mailto:simon.eliot@sas.ac.uk)) by 15 December.

<http://www.moidigital.ac.uk/blog/call-papers-information-and-its-communication-wartime/>

## **The Roll Format in Europe in the Late Middle Ages**

September 28-29, 2017

Deadline: March 30, 2017

University of Heidelberg

Within the framework of the Heidelberg SFB Material Text Cultures, the project B10 Rolls for the King looks at rolls in royal administration and historiography in France and England in the later Middle Ages (1200-1500). Rolls, however, were not limited to the royal sphere. The clergy and laity also used the roll format for their administrative, financial, military and judicial records, as well as religious and literary texts. This conference seeks to explore the materiality of rolls from all provenances, whether royal, princely, monastic or municipal, in their socio-political, cultural and administrative context in late medieval Europe (1200-1500). Proposals are invited for 30 minute papers that deal with questions such as:

- What was the purpose and function of the rolls?
- What were the advantages and disadvantages of the roll in contrast to other formats such as the codex?
- To what extent was there a connection between a roll's form, material and content?

Presentations can be given in English, French or German. The proposals should include the title, an abstract (up to 350 words) and a brief CV. Please send proposals to [stefan.holz@zegk.uni-heidelberg.de](mailto:stefan.holz@zegk.uni-heidelberg.de). Speakers will have travel and accommodation funded by SFB Material Text Cultures. It is intended to publish the conference proceedings in the SFB series MTK (Material Text Cultures).

<http://events.history.ac.uk/event/show/15367>

## **Archives and Records: Special issue on 'Archives and Museums'**

Spring 2018

Deadline: 30 June 2017

The traditional boundaries of the archival and curatorial professions are today beginning to crumble as archivists and curators increasingly become responsible for all aspects of heritage, be it textual, visual, cultural, built or material heritage. The need for cross-domain understanding and collaboration becomes more apparent, as the defining lines between archive and museum collections become more blurred. Conversely, in the digital world, borders between collections are. Emerging technologies for capturing and accessing heritage collections make it easier to exchange data and information about collections, regardless of definitions as 'objects', 'archives' or 'ephemera'.

Papers are invited on any aspect of archives and museums. Contributions might consider, but need not be confined to, the following themes:

The archivist and the museum professional -- Training and CPD -- Collections management, standards and best practice -- Definitions of objects, archives and ephemera -- Material culture and archival theory -- Cross-sectoral and cross-domain working in the culture and heritage industries -- The impact of the digital world on archives and museums

Prospective authors are invited to contact the Guest Editor Dr Charlotte Berry

[charlotte.berry@herefordcathedral.org](mailto:charlotte.berry@herefordcathedral.org) in order to discuss proposed articles. All submissions will be double blind peer-reviewed and should be presented in line with the *Archives and Records* style guidelines.

<http://explore.tandfonline.com/cfp/ah/archives-and-records-special-issue-archives-and-museums>

## NEW RESOURCES

### In Print

Library & Information History V.32.3 (September 2016) <http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/ylibh20/current>

Duncan Chappell: The Early History and Collections of Glasgow School of Art Library 1845–1945

James W. Cortada: New Approaches to the History of Information: Ecosystems, Infrastructures, and Graphical Representations of Information

Svetlana Kochkina: Listening to the Dead with our Eyes: François Olivier-Martin's Library, a Mirror Image of a Legal Historian

Lindsay Harris (2016) '**South Australian hospital libraries 1956-1980: an incomplete history**' in *The Australian Library Journal*, 65(2), pp. 92-106.

This review of the early history of South Australia's hospital libraries describes the social, educational and administrative factors that produced an unprecedented growth in the number and role of libraries in the state's public hospitals between 1956 and 1980. It also identifies some of the individuals who played a leading part in the development of hospital libraries during this period.

B Atkinson ***A Short History of Copyright: The Genie of Information***

(Springer, 2016) 978-3319377070 New paperback edition

This book tells the story of how, people, society and culture created laws affecting the supply of information. It details the origins of copyright laws & examines their effect on information dissemination.

K.G. Barnhurst ***Mister Pulitzer and the Spider***

(University of Illinois Press 2016) 978-0252040184

The usual suspects--technology, business competition, and the pursuit of scoops--are only partly to blame for the demise of news. Barnhurst argues that the main culprit is modernism from the "Mister Pulitzer" era, which transformed news into an ideology called "journalism." Stories have grown much longer over the past century and now include fewer events, locations, and human beings. Background and context rule instead. When webs of networked connectivity sparked a resurgence in realist stories, legacy news stuck to big-picture analysis that can alienate audience members accustomed to digital briefs.

T Bela, C Calma, J Rzegocka ***Publishing Subversive Texts in Elizabethan England and the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth*** (Brill, 2016) 978-9004320789

*Publishing Subversive Texts in Elizabethan England and the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth* provides original and thorough comparative analyses of the effects of national censorship in early modern England and Poland-Lithuania on the intellectual and information exchange in both countries.

A. Black ***Libraries of Light: British public library design in the long 1960s***

(Routledge, 2016) 978-1472472946

For the first hundred years or so of their history, public libraries in Britain were built in an array of revivalist architectural styles. This backward-looking tradition was decisively broken in the 1960s as many new libraries were erected up and down the country. In this new Routledge book, Alistair Black argues that the architectural modernism of the post-war years was symptomatic of the age's spirit of renewal. In the 1960s, public libraries truly became 'libraries of light', and Black further explains how this phrase not only describes the shining new library designs – with their open-plan, decluttered, Scandinavian-inspired designs – but also serves as a metaphor for the public library's role as a beacon of social egalitarianism and cultural universalism.

A sequel to *Books, Buildings and Social Engineering* (2009), Black's new book takes his fascinating story of the design of British public libraries into the era of architectural modernism.

A Bonea ***The News of Empire: Telegraphy, Journalism, and the Politics of Reporting in Colonial India, c. 1830-1900*** (OUP India, 2016) 978-0199467129

*The News of Empire* reconstructs the interconnected history of telegraphy and journalism by drawing on a wide range of historical material and through an in-depth analysis of the newspaper press. Questioning grand narratives of 'media revolutions' Bonea argues that the use of telegraphy in journalism was gradual and piecemeal. News itself emerged as the site of many contestations, as imperial politics, capitalist enterprise, and individual agency shaped not only access to technologies of communication, but also the content and form of reporting.

D Boyles ***Everything Explained That Is Explainable: On the Creation of the Encyclopaedia Britannica's Celebrated Eleventh Edition, 1910-1911*** (Knopf Publishing Group, 2016) 978-0307269171

The 11th Edition of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* summed up the high point of the belief in human progress that dominated Western thought from the time of the Enlightenment. Eagerly embraced by hundreds of thousands of middle-class Americans, the 11th Edition was read as a 29-volume anthology of some of the best essays written in English, including contributions from the likes of T. H. Huxley, Algernon Swinburne, and Bertrand Russell. Boyles writes of how its astonishing success changed publishing. The book also considers the marketing of the 11th Edition and of the storm that erupted around its publication.

F V T M Courau ***Libraries at the Heart of Dialogue of Cultures and Religions*** (Cambridge Scholar Publishing, 2016) 978-1443890595

From antiquity until the present, libraries have served to witness cultural and religious exchanges between civilizations. In Paris in 2014, alongside the world congress of IFLA, satellite meetings were held on the theme of *Libraries at the Heart of Dialogue of Cultures and Religions*. The presentations centred around three aspects: Religious Libraries and History, Anticipating and Facing Urgent Issues, and New Technologies and Networking to Solve Some Issues.

W B Davies ***The Story of the Irish Mail*** (Llygad Gwalch Cyf, 2016) 978-1845242541

This book traces the history of the Royal Mail to Ireland, first carried by horse, then by coach, train and ship. It also covers the construction of the railway from London to Holyhead and the development of 'Irish Mail' engines throughout the years, and the ships required for the cross channel journey. The book also chronicles the history of the port of Holyhead from a 16th century tidal creek to the present day ferry port.

P.V. Davies, L Richmond, G Smith et al. ***The University of Glasgow Library: Friendly Shelves*** (Glasgow: Friends of Glasgow University Library in association with the University Library, 2016) Hardback 978-0993518508; Softback 978-09935185

Founded under King James II in 1451, Glasgow University and its fledgling library has developed across the centuries to become one of the major universities of the world. The Library stands high, physically on University Avenue, and on the shoulders of those who have gone before, in the pursuit of knowledge for its own sake and for the benefit of all. The Digital Revolution, equal to the fifteenth-century invention of the printing press which democratised learning, is enabling the Library to unlock its many treasures and make them more widely available here and overseas. Read all about it, and enjoy the visual delights!

D Hall ***Treasures from the Map Room: A Journey Through the Bodleian Collections*** (Oxford, Bodleian, 2016) 978-1851242504

This book explores the stories behind seventy-five extraordinary maps, including the 14th-century Gough Map, 15<sup>th</sup>-century portolan charts, the Selden Map of China and an early world map from the Islamic Book of Curiosities, together with examples of fictional places, such as Tolkien's map of Middle Earth. As well as the works of famous mapmakers, the book also includes early maps of the Moon, hand-drawn estate plans and early European maps of the New World. Behind each lies a story, of intrepid surveyors, ambitious navigators, chance finds or military victories. Drawing on the Bodleian's collections, these maps range from single cities to the solar system, span the 13th to the 21st century, and cover most of the world.

A King, A Easley, J Morton ***The Routledge Handbook to 19<sup>th</sup> Century British Periodicals and Newspapers*** (Routledge, 2016) 978-1409468882

This volume surveys the current state of research and offers an in-depth examination of contemporary methodologies. Contributors illustrate their arguments with examples and contextualize their topics within broader areas of study, while also reflecting on how the study of periodicals may evolve in the future. The *Handbook* will serve as a valuable resource for scholars and students of nineteenth-century culture who are interested in issues of cultural formation, transformation, and transmission in a developing industrial and globalizing age, as well as those whose research focuses on the bibliographical & the micro case study.

F & T Laurentius ***Italian Watermarks 1750-1860*** (Brill, 2016) 978-9004310612

Italian Watermarks 1750-1860 offers x-rays and descriptions of ca. 300 Italian watermarks dating between 1750 and 1860. Scholarly interest in the history of Italian paper manufacture has concentrated especially on the earliest period. Research into paper from the seventeenth, eighteenth, and nineteenth centuries has lagged somewhat behind. Watermarks are extremely important for investigating the origins of paper. A selection of paper produced in different areas of Italy is presented with an identification.

J Nyhan, A Flinn ***Computation and the Humanities: Towards an Oral History of Digital Humanities*** (Springer, 2016) 978-3319201696

Digital Humanities research is transforming how the Human record can be transmitted, shaped, understood, questioned and imagined. However, we have no comprehensive histories of its research trajectory or its disciplinary development. The authors make a first contribution towards remedying this by uncovering, documenting, and analysing a number of the social, intellectual and creative processes that helped to shape this research from the 1950s until the present day. Taking an oral history approach, this book explores researchers' earliest memories of encountering computers and the factors that subsequently prompted them to use the computer in Humanities research. *Computation and the Humanities* will be an essential read for cultural and computing historians, digital humanists and those interested in developments like the digitisation of cultural heritage and artefacts.

H Puff, U Strasser, C Wild ***Cultures of Communication: Theologies of media in Early Modern Europe & Beyond*** (University of Toronto Press, 2016) 978-1442630376

Contrary to the historiographical commonplace "no Reformation without print" *Cultures of Communication* examines media in the early modern world through the lens of the period's religious history. Looking beyond the emergence of print, this collection of essays highlights the pivotal role of theology in the formation of the early modern cultures of communication. The authors assembled here urge us to understand the Reformation as a response to the perceived crisis of religious communication in late medieval Europe. In addition, they explore the novel demands placed on European media ecology by the acceleration and intensification of global interconnectedness in the early modern period. As the Christian evangelizing impulse began to propel growing numbers of Europeans outward to the Americas and Asia, theories and practices of religious communication had to be reformed to accommodate an array of new communicative constellations - across distances, languages, cultures.

T Rid ***Rise of the Machines: The Lost History of Cybernetics*** (Scribe Publications, 2016) 978-1925228649

Thomas Rid's history of cybernetics pulls together disparate threads in the history of technology, from the invention of radar and pilotless flying bombs in World War Two to today's age of CCTV, cryptocurrencies and Oculus Rift, to make plain that our current anxieties about privacy and security will be emphatically at the crux of the new digital future that we have been steadily, sometimes inadvertently, creating for ourselves. *Rise of the Machines* makes a singular and significant contribution to the advancement of our clearer understanding of that future - and of the past that has generated it.

E P Thompson *The Curious History of Private Collectors from Antiquity to the Present* (Yale, 2016) 978-0300208528

A riveting account of private art collectors' passion from Roman times to the present. Thompson explores the dark history of looting, smuggling, and forgery that lies at the heart of many private art collections and many of the world's most renowned museums. Enlivened by fascinating personalities and scandalous events, she shows how collecting antiquities has been a way of creating identity, informed by a desire to annex the past while providing an illicit thrill along the way.

R Thomson *A Descriptive Catalogue of the Medieval Manuscripts in the Library of Peterhouse, Cambridge* (Brewer, 2016) 978-1843844419

Founded in 1284 by Hugh of Balsham, bishop of Ely, Peterhouse is the University of Cambridge's oldest college. Before the Reformation it was a small community of a master and fourteen scholars, yet by the late Middle Ages it had built up a substantial library, out of all proportion to this small fellowship. Today the college collection contains 277 complete manuscripts and more than three hundred fragments in or taken from the bindings of early printed books. Almost all of the surviving books were at the College before the Reformation, so that the present collection represents the remains of its medieval library, not the accumulation of modern donations. Peterhouse books are rich in information about their previous owners, particularly those who brought or gave them to the College, thanks in some measure to the habit of recording the gifts by a pious inscription in them.

Jackie Winter *Lipsticks and Library Books: The Story of Boots Booklovers Library* (CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2016) 978-1535512589

This is the story of Boots' libraries, set within the context of life in Britain during the first half of the twentieth century. Former staff share entertaining memories of Class A subscribers lording it over humble category B subscribers. Customers were segregated and had to use different counters. Post war years brought social and economic change, including better public libraries and affordable paperbacks. Defeated by falling membership, rising costs and an unfashionable image, the last library closed in 1966.

### Online

'**Writing Culture in Southern German Women's Convents**' studied the medieval books and archives of five Bavarian convents: the Dominican sisters of Altenhohenau, the Bridgettines of Altomünster, the Poor Clares and Franciscan Tertiaries of Munich and the Benedictines of Neuburg an der Donau. The resulting documents have been recently made accessible online at <https://www.bayerische-landesbibliothek-online.de/sueddeutsche-frauenkloester> as well as in a printed catalogue.

The **Inventory of Puritan and Dissenting Records, 1640-1714** (M Burden, M Davies, A Dunan-Page & J Halcomb) is intended to provide a reliable collation of repository holdings relating to Puritan and dissenting churches in England, Wales, and Ireland. It includes full bibliographical details of every church book, account book, and register book formerly belonging to these churches during the period, together with a considerable number of later copies and manuscript church histories.

<http://www.qmulreligionandliterature.co.uk/online-publications/dissenting-records>

### From the blogosphere

*7 of the most interesting special collections in the UK and Ireland* By Karen Attar  
<http://www.cilip.org.uk/blog/7-most-interesting-special-collections-uk-ireland>

*The Strange History of Microfilm, which will be with us for Centuries* By Ernie Smith  
<http://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/the-strange-history-of-microfilm-which-will-be-with-us-for-centuries>

## Media

BBC (7/7/16) *Caversham Park: End of an era for BBC listening station* By Alex Regan

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-berkshire-36712152>

Guardian (25/7/16) *Dick Whittington treasury entrusted to Guildhall library* By Maeve Kennedy

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2016/jul/25/dick-whittington-treasury-entrusted-to-guildhall-library>

Vice (10/8/16) *How Gay History Came Out of the Closet* By Jim Downs

[http://www.vice.com/en\\_uk/read/how-gay-history-came-out-of-the-closet](http://www.vice.com/en_uk/read/how-gay-history-came-out-of-the-closet)

Huffington Post (22/8/16) *Destroying History Is Now Being Charged As A War Crime* By Lily Kuo

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## REPORTS

### Digital Humanities and the History of Libraries

I was delighted to be awarded a bursary from the LIHG to attend a history of libraries summer school based at Lincoln College, Oxford, in July. Entitled *The Application of the Digital Humanities to the Transmission, Preservation, and Dispersal of the European Written Heritage between the 15th and 16th Centuries*, it made for an intensive, fascinating and enjoyable three days. Participants included librarians and postgraduate students from across the UK and Europe.

The summer school was organised by the [15cBOOKTRADE](#) project. Based at the University of Oxford, the project's overarching aim is to use the material and bibliographical evidence from surviving incunabula to address questions about the introduction of printing, such as identifying distribution and trade routes, buyers' identities and reading practices, books' contemporary market value, and tracing the transmission of the texts and images which they contain.

We had tours of several beautiful college libraries, and some wonderful lectures on the Bodleian Library's collections, with many examples of the transmission of texts from manuscript into print. Bodley's Librarian, Richard Ovenden, made the interesting observation that histories of the institution tend to have been written by 'insiders', and take a rather uncritical, annalistic approach. He suggested that future historians could take a more historiographical view.

The major focus of the summer school however was the digital tools that the 15cBOOKTRADE project is developing. The main one is [Material Evidence in Incunabula](#) (MEI) which records copy-specific information for existing incunables. The idea is that all provenance information, such as bindings, inscriptions, entries in historic catalogues or former owners can be used to locate a book (with more or less precision) in a particular time and place. By recording all this information for each copy, a picture of how and when incunabula moved across Europe, and of who were buying and selling them, can be built up. MEI is a collaborative

venture, and any institution holding incunabula is encouraged to take part. All the bibliographic information for each item is pulled through from [ISTC](#), so only the copy-specific data need to be added each time. The project is also working on a visualisation tool – [15cV](#) – which draws on MEI's data to show the movement of copies in time and space. It will eventually include the distribution of subjects too. A [tool still under development](#) matches images (or individual wood cuts) to others in its dataset, to identify where the same cut has been used across other works.

All of these tools, and others the project is developing, will facilitate exciting new research opportunities into the history of the transmission of ideas and the collecting of books. It was great to see that some tools invited other institutions to collaborate and contribute, really extending the reach of the project. In other ways, however, it was disappointing that a more joined-up approach was not being taken. None of the 15cBOOKTRADE tools, for example, 'speak' to other relevant databases constructed by University of Oxford projects, such as [MLGB3](#), which cross-matches entries in medieval library catalogues with surviving copies. Of course this is probably outside the scope of 15cBOOKTRADE, but it is a shame when you see digital projects not linking to facilitate the ease of use and richness of data which are surely some of the major benefits of the medium.

I really enjoyed the summer school and learned a huge amount. I am excited by the new resources on offer, and would encourage others to go on the project's website, find out more, use the tools and contribute to them.

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### **Information History: Perspectives and Prospects: LIHG Conference, 6 May 2016**

The conference began with Steve Witt on **Radical Readers and Global Surveillance**, describing how Russian Imperial spies worked with librarians at New York's Astor Library (an earlier incarnation of NYPL) to observe and arrest suspected anarchists, and to deport immigrants under suspicion. This espionage took place in the context of fears surrounding a global anarchist movement following the Haymarket Riots, the assassination of President McKinley and the Challenge to the Westphalian state system. The early 20<sup>th</sup> century witnessed the first era of globalisation, when new standards of information control and criminal identification created the organisation that would become Interpol, targeting émigrés and immigrant groups abroad. Contemporary media reports showed no concern for the contravention of US sovereignty by the spies, or the privacy breach of sharing patron records. Instead libraries were criticised for stocking anarchist material, with one newspaper declaring that 'the public should be thankful that Russian agents have exposed libraries as nurseries of crime' and New York media criticised the public library movement for educating anarchists and corrupting youth.

Ilkka Mäkinen went on to discuss **Discipline and Technology of Reading in the Twentieth Century**, when industrialisation led to the creation of the science of reading: physiology, psychology and sociology, and a new emphasis placed on efficiency. The 1910s saw the break-through of the rationalisation movement and Taylorism brought modern bureaucracy to factory work and this increase in documentation required much higher levels of literacy. Finnish geologist J.J. Sederholm (1863-1934) was a disciple of Taylor, and concentrated on making intellectual work more efficient through rational planning and education. The act of reading became an object of empirical research by the second half of the nineteenth century, when French researchers first found that the eyes do not move smoothly across the page but rather jump in *saccades*. The tachistoscope for measuring eye movement was invented in the 1850s and Evelyn Wood developed speed-reading methods in the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century when it was understood that literacy was crucial to national economies.

Anna Hampson Ludh, Mats Dolatkah, Louise Limberg presented an historical perspective on **Pre-digital information literacy** from research undertaken with archival footage of Swedish primary school lessons in. They used digitised recordings of 223 Swedish lessons between 1967 and 1969 and analysed the development of the curriculum which preferred informational to experiential reading.

Martin Campbell-Kelly's account of **Victorian data processing** explained that the Industrial Revolution created a relatively affluent working class and the new phenomena of mobility, affluence and thrift. The thrift movement, beginning with Samuel Smiles' *Self Help* (1859) bore a political objection to the cost of workhouses and advocated a self-sufficient ideology that insured against poverty. Mass urban migration necessitated improved communications networks and clearing houses for banks, telegraphs, post offices and railways became centralised data processing institutions to record the travel and exchange of people and profit. These efficient and national integrated institutions marked the first occasion of women entering the clerical workforce.

Toni Weller's research on **Cambridge Women as Objects of Information, 1870-1920** drew a link between female emancipation and the early information state, using index cards from Newnham archives recording students' personal measurements. Contemporary thought insisted that higher education and childbearing was mutually exclusive for women and the Newnham principal wanted to disprove this theory and so collected biological data of students to prove that they could do both. At the time Francis Galton (Darwin's cousin) was conducting craniology experiments on male students. Craniology involved taking down hair, which was considered impractical for female students, until Miss Mary Ewart donated specialist measuring apparatus to Newnham and the college used Galton's system to prove their own efficiency. Anonymity was protected and women were keen to supply information as a measure of control over their own bodies, and data collection became a means of self-preservation. The Newnham example shows women mobilising simultaneously as subjects and objects of information, collecting for their own ends and agenda.

John Crawford made an argument for **Scotland as the European Home of Information Ideologies**, focusing on the example of Allan Ramsey, who founded of first circulating library in Britain. Graham Jefcoate went on to discuss **Knowledge Transfer in the High Enlightenment** when Gottingen University Library built up the largest collection of English books outside the English-speaking world in the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century and translation became a cottage industry in Germany in the midst of Anglomania.

Deborah Mogg's account of **H.E. Bliss and the Orderly Cosmos** described the ways in which classification was an attempt to reconstruct a shattered world after total war, and created an emphasised order of educational attainment from which knowledge can be gained. Inspired by medieval classification charts, Bliss moved from scientific rationalism outwards, to the abstract and the cosmos. The machine was a common metaphor for society at the time, and an illustration of the *Laboratorium Mudaneum* depicts a machine grinding down knowledge into use (the same mechanism that had previously turned men to mincemeat in war). Bliss classification was a product of a generation traumatised by war and an endeavour to ensure that no such chaos happened again.

Finally, Christina Vouvaki-Manousaki and Panorea Gaitanou presented on the Greek reality of **Museum Libraries History**, concentrating on special libraries and the economic crisis of austerity in Greece. They defined museum libraries as information systems which exist within other information systems, and described their difficulty in finding the correct terminology or definition. In a survey of Greek cases, they found that 9 museums had no library, 7 had libraries for staff-use only, and 13 museums had libraries open to the public. Museums are a relatively modern invention compared to libraries, and they evolved as institutions from cabinets of curiosity to buildings in their own right.

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