



# Centre for the Study of the Book

## Michaelmas Term 2016



Bodleian Libraries  
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

## The unskilled scribe: elementary hands and their place in the history of handwriting

**30 September, 10 am -5 pm in the Weston Library**

On 30 September the Bodleian Library will host (with the generous support of APICES and Lincoln College Oxford) the ninth seminar of the series "Écritures cursives". These are open and informal seminars started in Paris in 2006 and hosted every year by different institutions throughout Europe.

The theme of the Oxford seminar is elementary handwriting. Five speakers will discuss this topic from different points of view, and focusing on different aspects and periods of the history of handwriting: humanistic script (**Teresa De Robertis**), inscriptions (**Marc Smith**), graffiti (**Carlo Tedeschi**), Spanish charters (**Carmen del Carmino**), Anglo-Norman charters (**Teresa Webber**).

[View the event programme](#)

Please write to [irene.ceccherini@bodleian.ox.ac.uk](mailto:irene.ceccherini@bodleian.ox.ac.uk) by Thursday 22 September if you wish to register. Link for information and registration: <http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/whatson/whats-on/upcoming-events/2016/sep/history-of-handwriting>

## Learning letterpress weekly class

**11 Oct, 18 Oct, 1 Nov, 8 Nov, 15 Nov, 22 Nov; 5:30 – 8:00pm**

This 6-session evening course covers the basics of designing a page, setting type, and printing on a hand-press. As a group collaboration you will produce a booklet, using the type and historic presses in the Bodleian's printing workshop. All materials are provided.

The class is held in the Bibliographical Press in the Old Bodleian, accessible from the Old Schools Quadrangle, in the Schola Musicae.

Six sessions, 5:30 to 8 pm

Tutor: **Richard Lawrence**

Tuesdays, 11 Oct, 18 Oct, 1 Nov, 8 Nov, 15 Nov, 22 Nov

Note that there is NO meeting of the class on 25 October

Link for course registration and payment: <http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/whatson/whats-on/upcoming-events/2016/oct/letterpress-printing-class>

## Book launch: Jewish books in Christian hands

**10 October 2016, 5 pm in the Lecture Theatre, Weston Library**

**Dr Piet Van Boxel**, former Curator of Hebraica and Judaica Collections at the Bodleian Library

In this new book, Dr Piet Van Boxel attempts to explore the multifarious ways that Hebrew books were read, analysed and judged by members of the highest echelons of the Roman Church. His recent publication *Jewish Books in Christian Hands; Theology, Exegesis and Conversion under Gregory XIII (1572-1585)* looks at Hebrew books, their owners and readers, focusing on seven manuscripts from the Vatican Library dating from 1578 to 1583, which provide the basic evidence for this study; the talk will work to unravel the complex interrelation between these manuscripts.

All are welcome. Please register for a free ticket:

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

## Georgian History and Heritage lectures

Two lectures by **Dr Nikoloz Aleksidze**, Research Associate, History Faculty, Oxford

**Wednesday, 19 October, 5 pm in the Lecture Theatre, Weston Library**

‘Come, let us sit for Taniel’: The story of *The Man in the Panther’s Skin*

The Wardrop Collection of Georgian books and manuscripts in the Bodleian Library is a unique witness to nearly one thousand years of the life of the Georgian nation. In 2014 UNESCO added the two Wardrop manuscripts of *The Man in the Panther’s Skin* into the UK’s Memory of the World Register. The lecture will take a closer look at these manuscripts and the adventure of Rustaveli’s epic tale from its composition in the twelfth century until the present day by way of quotations scribbled on medieval cave monasteries, Joseph Stalin’s intervention in the text and folk adaptations in the remote Caucasus.

[Register for a free ticket for this lecture.](#)

**Wednesday 30 November, 5 pm in the Lecture Theatre, Weston Library**

'Amiran Unbound': Christ's Last Foe in the Caucasus

Few may know that antiquity’s celebrated chained demigod, Prometheus, has a literary and folk twin in the Caucasus – Amiran, an epic hero who was chained to a Caucasian rock for challenging his own godfather, Jesus Christ. The saga of Amiran and his brothers also acts as a literary witness to actual historical processes, be it the centralization of Georgia’s royal court, the confrontation of paganism and Christianity in the highlands, the formation of Caucasian identities, or the drama of nineteenth century Georgian national movement. This lecture will illustrate the ways Amiran’s saga acts as a ‘memory-book’ of the nation.

[Register for a free ticket for this lecture.](#)

## Marconi’s wireless revolution

**Thursday 27 October, 5 pm in the Lecture Theatre, Weston Library**

This year's Douglas Byrne Marconi Lectures will be delivered by the two Byrne Bussey Marconi Visiting Fellows for 2015-16. The two short lectures will take place in a single programme on Thursday 27 October, beginning at 5:00pm in the Lecture Theatre, Weston Library, Oxford. All are welcome.

[Register for a free ticket to this double lecture, 5 pm to 6 pm, followed by a reception.](#)

**Professor Giovanni Paoloni** (Università "La Sapienza", Rome)

‘Research, business and the shortwave beam: Marconi and the uses of wireless in postwar years’

In the early development of wireless, short waves were considered of no technical and commercial consequence, and left behind as a research field. But, while working on the improvement of wireless for military communications, Marconi started a new “wireless revolution”. At the end of WW1, the Company developed a new technology (the shortwave beam), new equipment and new stations in a challenging relationship with the British General Post Office. The heavy cost of investments on shortwave forced a redefinition of the position of research and development in the Company.

**Inês Queiroz** (Institute of Contemporary History, Universidade NOVA de Lisboa)

‘Marconi’s early ‘Latin’ projects over the South-Atlantic’

I am interested in how technical constraints have shaped strategies for wireless network development. This paper focuses on the South Atlantic case study, analysing the role of Spanish and Portuguese territories as regards the Marconi Wireless Telegraph Company’s strategies to negotiate connections over the South Atlantic and their interconnection with the British and Italian early wireless networks, since the first 1900’s. This case study also highlights the impacts of technical and scientific innovation on the Company’s strategies.

## Richard Hakluyt at 400: Displays, lecture, and conference

### Lecture: The World in a Book

**28 October 2016, Lecture Theatre, Weston Library, 5:30 pm**

**William Poole** (New College) introduces the books which heralded an era of exploration, discovery, and imperial expansion. The lecture opens a display at the Bodleian's Weston Library of the works and collections of Richard Hakluyt, author of *Principall Navigations Voiages and Discoveries of the English Nation* (1589).

5.30pm — 6.30pm, Lecture Theatre, Weston Library

### Conference: Hakluyt and the Renaissance Discovery of the World

24-25 November

'Hakluyt and the Renaissance Discovery of the World' is a two-day international interdisciplinary conference to mark the quatercentenary of the death of Richard Hakluyt, England's pioneering promoter of overseas exploration, commerce, and expansion, in November 1616. Supported by the Hakluyt Society, the Bodleian Library, Christ Church, Oxford, and the Society for Renaissance Studies, the conference will take place in the Bodleian Library's Weston Lecture Theatre on Thursday 24 November and in the Blue Boar Lecture Theatre at Christ Church on Friday 25 November.

Twenty scholars, all leading specialists in different aspects of Hakluyt's work, will speak on a variety of themes: 'Hakluyt, Oxford, and Centres of Power', 'The Three Corners of the World', 'Encounters and Communication', 'Telling Tales', 'Influences and Legacy', 'Theatres of War, Near and Far', and 'Rival Ambitions'. The conference concludes with a Public Lecture by the renowned historian and broadcaster **Professor Michael Wood**.

Displays of Hakluyt's books will be on view at the Weston Library and at Christ Church.

Conference conveners: **Professor Daniel Carey** (NUI, Galway), **Professor Claire Jowitt** (UEA) and **Anthony Payne**

Book tickets to this 2-day conference at the Weston Library and Christ Church, Oxford:

<http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/whatson/whats-on/upcoming-events/2016/nov/hakluyt-conference>

### Bodleian Exhibition lectures: 'Staging History'

**Wednesday 2 November, 1 pm-1:30 pm in the Lecture Theatre, Weston Library**

**Tamsin Alexander** (Goldsmiths, University of London) 'Illuminating spectacle on the operatic stage'

To turn to 1830s London is to explore a time and place obsessed with lighting technologies and understanding the eye. Using the example of *Gustavus the Third*, adapted from Auber's *Gustave III* for Covent Garden in 1833, this talk reveals how new discussions about light and vision influenced responses to opera, and offers new perspectives on how opera was experienced in the past.

All are welcome. [Register for a free ticket.](#)

**Wednesday 16 November, 1 pm-1:30 pm in the Lecture Theatre, Weston Library**

**Sophie Duncan** (Magdalen College) 'The Ripper on the London Stage'

In autumn 1888, Richard Mansfield's stage performance as Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde was bleeding into Londoners' sensibilities as the 'Jack the Ripper' killings filled newspapers and terrified locals. In this talk, Dr Sophie Duncan examines how Mansfield spread panic over the Ripper from Whitechapel to the West End, from theatregoers' subsequent 'sightings' of Hyde-as-Ripper to the journalists who used 'Hyde' as an alternative name for the Ripper. Mansfield's transformation from middle-class Jekyll to homewrecking, predatory Hyde created a figure perhaps even more frightening than 'saucy Jack' himself.

All are welcome. [Register for a free ticket.](#)

## Lecture: 'The hunt in Mughal India'

**Wednesday 9 November, 1 pm-1:30 pm in the Lecture Theatre, Weston Library**

**Adeela Qureishi** (Bahari Fellow, Bodleian Libraries)

Depictions of the hunt in Mughal India often reflected the varied hunting practices of the period. The minutely painted landscapes illustrate the local prey and hunting weapons of the Mughals. These pictorial representations often provided a setting in which to place the king, thereby conveying his ability to exercise political authority and highlighting his role as a just and successful ruler.

All are welcome. [Register for a free ticket.](#)

## Sonnets, old and new

**Thursday 10 November, Blackwell Hall, Weston Library, 11-11:30 am**

With special guests **Simon Armitage** and **Katherine Duncan-Jones**

Shakespeare's 154 sonnets printed in 2016 by letterpress printers around the world will be presented to the Bodleian Libraries by Katherine Duncan-Jones, editor of the Arden Shakespeare Sonnets.

Sonnets written this year by school pupils in Oxford, mentored by **Kate Clanchy**, will be welcomed by Simon Armitage, Professor of Poetry at the University of Oxford.

A selection of the printed Shakespeare sonnets will be on view, and some of the new sonnets will be read at the presentation ceremony.

No need to book, just drop in.

## Bodleian Fellows Seminar

**Thursday 17 November, 5:15–6:45 pm, in the Visiting Scholars' Centre, Weston Library (Level 2)**

**Laura Albiero** (Institut de Recherche et d'Histoire des Textes, Paris, Albi Rosenthal Visiting Fellow at the Bodleian Libraries), 'Medieval manuscript breviaries'

**Hazel Wilkinson** (Junior Research Fellow in English, Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge, Carr-Thomas-Ovenden Visiting Fellow at the Bodleian Libraries), 'The Wild Court Press, 1718–1785'

The seminar will be followed by a small reception.

Space is limited, so RSVP with subject line 'Bodleian Fellows Seminar', to

[alexandra.franklin@bodleian.ox.ac.uk](mailto:alexandra.franklin@bodleian.ox.ac.uk)

## Bodleian Lunchtime Lecture

**Wednesday, 23 November, 1 pm to 1:30 pm in the Lecture Theatre, Weston Library**

Dr Eva Frojmovic (University of Leeds), Visiting Fellow at the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies

"Crossing borders and building bridges: art in European Hebrew manuscripts as a source for connected cultural histories"

The 2009/10 Bodleian exhibition "Crossing Borders: Hebrew Manuscripts as a Meeting-place of Cultures" presented a wide-ranging picture of cultural encounters across Europe, Africa and Asia. This inspired me to look for further ways to build bridges between this specialised area and the study of medieval European culture. In this lecture, I will use gender as a key term for thinking about Jewish presence and difference in medieval Europe.

## Bodleian Libraries Centre for the Study of the Book and Centre for Digital Scholarship Symposium

*Text, reproduced: from metal to pixels*

**Friday 2 December, 10 am to 4:30 pm in the Lecture Theatre, Weston Library**

A survey and discussion of the technologies of text after the handpress period, from photocomposition to digital, with historians and practitioners.

A hand-composition workshop will run the evening before the symposium, Thursday 1 December, from 6 pm to 8 pm in the Bodleian Bibliographical Press, Old Library.

*Further information forthcoming... see <http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/csb>*