

Report for 2007-8

The Centre is directed by the Keeper of Special Collections and Associate Director in the Bodleian Library, Richard Ovenden. The Department serves as the Centre's base until it can take physical form in the refurbished New Bodleian Library. The partner institutions of the Centre for the Study of the Book are: The British Library, Leiden University Library, Bayerische Staatsbibliothek Munich, and Princeton University.

With the generous support of the **Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation**, and in cooperation with the Centre's institutional partners and colleges of the University and with the **McKenzie Trust**, the Centre has presented a rich programme of scholarly events and curatorial discussions during 2007-8.

ACADEMIC YEAR 2007-8

Roundtable: Islamic Manuscripts online

A roundtable discussion on 27 November 2007, funded jointly by the Centre and the Department of Oriental Collections, gathered curators and cataloguers of Islamic manuscript collections from Centre partners and other institutions to compare approaches in making information about Islamic manuscripts available online.

Representatives from the British Library, the Universiteitsbibliotheek Leiden, the BSB, the Chester Beatty Library, UCLA, and the Ashmolean Museum heard presentations from the creators of online manuscript catalogues and from Oxford University scholars with an active interest in researching Islamic manuscripts using online tools.



Participants in the Islamic Manuscripts Online roundtable: from left, Richard Gartner (OULS); Rupert Shepherd (Ashmolean); Colin Baker (BL); Arnoud Vrolijk (Leiden); Lesley Forbes (Bodleian); Helga Rebhan (BSB-Munich); David Hirsch (UCLA); Emilie Savage-Smith (Oxford); Elaine Wright (Chester Beatty Library); Gillian Evison (Bodleian); Alexandra Franklin (CSB)

Seminars

The Seminar in History of the Book, 1450-1800 is convened by Prof. Ian Maclean at All Souls College and runs every Hilary Term, and is now presented in partnership with the Centre. During Hilary Term 2008 the speakers were:

Dr Francesca Bregoli: 'Printing licences and Jewish acculturation: Hebrew Printing in eighteenth-century Livorno'
Prof. Diego Zancani 'Changes in taste: Italian cookery books between 1500 and 1700'

Dr Sally Mapstone: 'Chepman and Myllar: Scotland's earliest printers and their productions'

Ms Julianne Simpson (Wellcome Institute Library, London): 'The sale and distribution of Christoph Plantin's polyglot bible'

Dr Jason McElligott (Lyell Fellow in Bibliography, Merton College): 'William Hone and the history of reading'

Dr Paul Brand: 'Sir John Davies: Law Reporter or Self-Publicist? The compilation and publication of the Reports of Sir John Davies (1615)'

McKenzie Lecture The Centre cooperates with the McKenzie Trust to present the Annual McKenzie Lecture on bibliography, which on 16 Jan. 2008 was delivered by **Prof. Isabel Hofmeyr** of the University of Witwatersrand, with

the title ‘Gandhi’s Printing Press: print cultures of the Indian Ocean.’ The next day, Prof. Hofmeyr visited the Bodleian’s printing presses in the Bibliography Room.

Symposium: 16th-century books

The Centre’s second symposium was *The sixteenth-century book: European perspectives*, held on Feb. 29 – 1 March 2008 and convened in partnership with **Professor Ian Maclean** at All Souls College. As well as papers on the history of books in the 16th century, the presentations included updates on bibliographic databases; a conservator’s history of the Bodleian’s care of 16th-century bindings; and suggestions for the use of biographical evidence in book history.

Speakers: **H. George Fletcher** (NYPL) ‘An unpublished manuscript catalogue of the Aldine Press, ca. 1558’

Alexandre Vanautgaerden (Erasmus House) ‘Les manuscrits de la “Vita hieronymi” d’Erasmus et la mise en page dans l’officine de Johann Froben à Bâle’

David Shaw (CERL) ‘The ‘modernisation’ of the book in the post-incunabular period in France’

Paul Hoftijzer (Leiden) ‘A star is born: Printing in Leiden at the end of the sixteenth century’

Andrew Honey (Bodleian Library) ‘The fate of 16th-century bindings in the Bodleian Library since 1602’

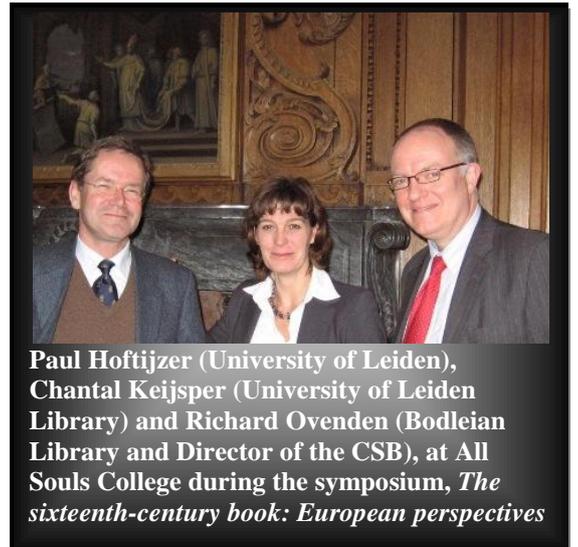
John Bidwell (Morgan Library) ‘Biographical Dictionaries of the 16th-century Book Trades’

Christian Rümelin (Ashmolean Museum) ‘Dürer, Holbein, Cranach: roles and functions of book-illustration early 16th-century Germany’

Andrew Pettegree (St. Andrews) ‘Towards a complete survey of sixteenth-century print : The Universal Short Title Catalogue project’

Claudia Fabian (BSB-Munich) ‘The German national bibliography for 16th century imprints (VD 16): technological progress in the service of cultural heritage and enhanced European cooperation’

Paul Hoftijzer (University of Leiden), Chantal Keijsper (University of Leiden Library) and Richard Ovenden (Bodleian Library and Director of the CSB), at All Souls College during the symposium, *The sixteenth-century book: European perspectives*



Project awareness: British prints before 1700

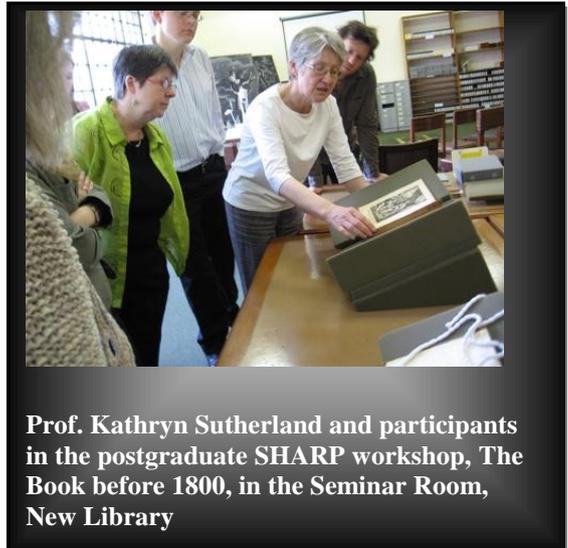
On March 7, 2008, the Centre cooperated with the British Printed Images pre-1700 project, based at Birkbeck College, London, to present a workshop on the cataloguing of prints in library and museum collections. Alexandra Franklin from the Centre, and Rupert Shepherd from the Ashmolean Museum, both spoke on the subject of online image catalogues.

Lyell Lectures 2008 online

In parallel with the Lyell Lectures 2008, delivered in Oxford during May 2008 by **Kristian Jensen** of the British Library, the Centre’s website presented an online summary of the lectures, illustrated with images of Bodleian books mentioned.

SHARP 2008 teaching day

On 24 June 2008 the Centre hosted a teaching day in the Bodleian Library for postgraduate students, on the subject of books before 1800, as part of the Society for the History of Authorship, Reading and Publishing (SHARP) conference, which took place at Oxford Brookes University. **Professor Kathryn Sutherland** led a seminar on the early printed book and participants took a class in type-setting in the library's Bibliography Room with master printer **Paul Nash**.



Prof. Kathryn Sutherland and participants in the postgraduate SHARP workshop, *The Book before 1800*, in the Seminar Room, New Library

Cataloguing and Digitisation Projects hosted by the Centre

Blockbooks Project:

With the generous support of a private donor, a project has begun to digitize the eight blockbook editions and 42 single-sheet woodcut and metalcut prints described by Prof. Nigel Palmer in the Bodleian's Catalogue of XVth-century books. Imaging has begun in the Bodleian's studio and will include the full extent of the material. The website will include additional information to enhance the value of this resource for teaching and learning about the first decades of print in Europe. (see: www.bodley.ox.ac.uk/csb/blockbooks.htm)

Latin Manuscripts from German lands:

The collection from the Mainz charterhouse consists predominantly of Latin manuscripts comprising a wide variety of texts and grades of production. The manuscripts were briefly described in the 19th century by H. O. Coxe, and more detailed descriptions of a few manuscripts have appeared in various publications; but there has been no all-embracing description in line with modern scholarly standards. The new project, launched in autumn 2007, and generously financed by the Fritz Thyssen Stiftung, will fill this gap by creating detailed descriptions: of textual content, of illumination, of codicology, (including binding), and of provenance. The work is being carried out by **Dr. Daniela Mairhofer**, under the direction of Mr. Richard Ovenden (Keeper of Special Collections) as well as the academic support and guidance of Prof. Nigel Palmer (Professor of Medieval German) and Dr. Martin Kauffmann (Curator of medieval manuscripts).

ACTIVITIES IN MICHAELMAS TERM, 2008



Masterclasses

The Centre helped to coordinate masterclasses held in the library's new Seminar Room (Room 132 in the New Library). Two series ran in Michaelmas Term 2008: the fifth season of Medieval and Early Modern Manuscripts masterclasses, convened by Richard Sharpe (History Faculty) and Martin Kauffmann (Bodleian), and the new series of Literary Manuscripts Masterclasses, convened by Kathryn Sutherland (English Faculty) and Chris Fletcher (Bodleian).

Symposium: Collecting

The Centre's third symposium, *Collectors and Collections: music/books/prints/antiquities*, was held in partnership with Christ Church College on 20 Nov. 2008 and featured papers on a number of collections held in Oxford institutions or with Oxford connections. <http://www.bodley.ox.ac.uk/csb/CollectorsandCollections.htm>

Speakers: **David Berry** (Ashmolean Museum) 'The Collections of Antique Sculpture at Oxford'

John Milsom (Christ Church College) 'Oxford's Music Collections, c. 1600-1750'

Annette Walton (Linacre) and Mike Webb (Bodley) at the Collectors and Collections symposium, Nov. 2008



Annette Walton (Linacre College) ‘The Thomas Marshall Collection of Civil War Pamphlets: One Man’s Record of ‘ye late troubles of England’’

Cristina Neagu (Christ Church College) ‘The Books of Thomas Wolsey at Christ Church’

Mark Purcell (National Trust) Sir Richard Ellys (1674-1742) and his Library’

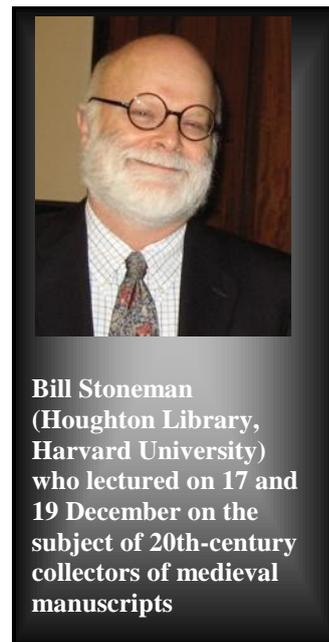
Malcolm Jones (University of Sheffield), ‘In the Lost and Found: Discoveries in Douce's Collection of Early Modern English Prints’

Julian Pooley (The Nichols Archive Project) ‘A Packhorse to Literature: John Nichols (1745-1826), Printer, Antiquary, Biographer and Collector’

The day continued the theme of the history of collecting, established in the special lectures by Bill Stoneman (Houghton Library) delivered for the Centre in Oxford the same week, on ‘Private collectors and public libraries’, specifically on the collecting and exhibiting of medieval manuscripts in England and North America during the early 20th century.

Roundtable: Music manuscripts online

The Centre hosted a roundtable of music manuscript cataloguers and curators on 21 Nov. 2008. Representatives of the Digital Image Archive of Medieval Music (DIAMM) project, curators from the British Library and Jonathan Wainwright of the Viola da Gamba society shared their methods of cataloguing and discussed standards for description of music manuscripts. Chairing the discussions was John Milsom, cataloguer of music manuscripts at Christ Church College, and the host was Martin Holmes, the Bodleian’s new Music Librarian.



Bill Stoneman (Houghton Library, Harvard University) who lectured on 17 and 19 December on the subject of 20th-century collectors of medieval manuscripts

Occasional lectures, summer 2008 and Michaelmas term 2008

The Center hosted several lectures, including:

2 July **Joseph Gwara** (U.S. Naval Academy) ‘Four English Printers: Robert Copland, Henry Pepwell, Henry Watson, Wynkyn de Worde’ [with reference to original items from the Bodleian collections]

7 Oct., **Professor Charles E. Robinson** (University of Delaware) ‘The Original Frankenstein : A new text of the novel by Mary Shelley (with Percy Shelley)’ [in the presence of the manuscripts]

23 October: **Peter Wiley** (Wiley-Blackwell), ‘John Wiley & Sons, Inc. as a Global Publisher: An Insider’s Perspective’

17 November and 19 November, **Bill Stoneman** (Houghton Library) ‘Private Collectors and Public Libraries I: One Hundred Years after the Burlington Fine Arts Club Exhibition of Illuminated Medieval Manuscripts’ and ‘II: Fifty Years after the First of the Dyson Perrins Sales of Medieval Manuscripts’

Website and communications

The Centre’s website now hosts the Register of Book-History Researchers in Oxford, and posts a regular Calendar of book-history and bibliography-related events in Oxford to an expanding e-mail newlist that now numbers over 150 members.

E-mail newlist: interested persons may subscribe to the CSB newlist by sending an email to: [bookcentre-newslist-
subscribe@maillist.ox.ac.uk](mailto:bookcentre-newslist-subscribe@maillist.ox.ac.uk)