



# Report for 2011-12

## 1 July 2012

### Bodleian Libraries Centre for the Study of the Book



Richard Ovenden, Deputy Librarian and CSB Director

#### **About the Centre**

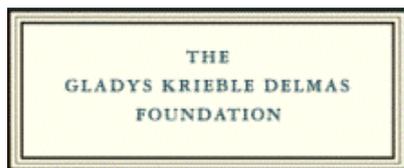
The Centre for the Study of the Book was established at the Bodleian Library in 2006 as part of the Department of Special Collections and Western Manuscripts. It provides a framework for continuing successful collaborations between scholars and curators of library collections. Its aim is to increase our understanding of the book as a physical and historical phenomenon and its contribution to human development.

Programs of the Centre present the latest scholarship in the material and cultural history of the book through lectures, seminars, one-day symposia and masterclasses. These events draw together a community of experts and scholars in the different fields comprising the study of the book.

The Centre hosts fellowships for visiting scholars conducting research in the Bodleian Library's special collections, with the aim of enriching the Centre's program through the contributions of outstanding scholars in publications and lecture series.

Programs of the Centre support and supplement current Oxford-based projects putting library materials into digital form. This year the Centre has been supporting development and events connected with the Blockbooks digitization project, a JISC-funded project to enable integrating searching of broadside ballads records online, and the Eighteenth-century Miscellanies project.

In planning events and in recommending innovations in the cataloguing and care of early collections, the Centre draws upon the expertise of curatorial staff in partner libraries at University of Leiden, the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek Munich, the British Library, Princeton University, and the Vatican Library.



Since 2007, the programme of events held by the Centre has been supported by funding from the Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation. This has enabled the Centre to present one-day events and ongoing series, including masterclasses on medieval manuscripts and literary manuscripts. The Centre is a partner in the Seminar on

History of the Book, convened at All Souls College every Hilary Term by Professor Ian Maclean, and co-sponsor of the annual McKenzie Lecture in Bibliography.

# CSB events in Oxford, 2011-12



## **The Place of Bindings in book history and bibliography June 9-10, 2011**

Convened by Professor Nicholas Pickwoad and presented by the CSB in partnership with CERL and Ligatus project, this two-day event was aimed at researchers using early books, rare books librarians, cataloguers, booksellers and conservators of bindings. The event was held at the T.S. Eliot Lecture Theatre, Merton College, and 120 attended to hear international speakers presenting resources that have helped to identify bindings, and research demonstrating the utility of bindings information for establishing the origins and use of particular books.

Speakers included:

Andreas Wittenberg (Staatsbibliothek, Berlin)

Paul Needham (Scheide Library, Princeton)

Helena Stromquist (Lund University)

Scott Husby (Princeton University)

Athanasios Velios (Ligatus Research Centre, University of the Arts, London)

Anthony Hobson delivered the keynote lecture, 'Early Bookbinding Studies and Chimaeras'.

On the second day, an invited group of scholars and library curators discussed the possibilities for incorporating bindings descriptions into the library catalogue records of early books.

Recommendations included:

short courses for specialists and postgraduates in recognizing styles and structures of bindings

a thesaurus of terms for the description of binding components

the addition of images to library information

---

(above) Delegates at 'The place of bindings in book history and bibliography, 9 June 2011' (Merton College)

## **The Selden Map of China September 15, 2011**

This colloquium marked the end of a two-year conservation project on the Selden Map, MS. Selden supra 105, and recognized the scholarship required to further describe the origins and use of the map.

A total of 50 delegates from universities in the UK, US, and China attended the day which was held in the library's Convocation House in the presence of the map itself.

A website records the progress of research and future discoveries, and serves as a guide to the map's history both before and after it arrived in the Bodleian Library.

<http://seldenmap.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/>

Speakers:

Rana Mitter, Professor of the History and Politics of Modern China, University of Oxford (convenor)

David Helliwell, Curator of Chinese Collections, Bodleian Library

Robert K. Batchelor, Georgia Southern University

Timothy Brook, University of British Columbia

Robert Minte, Bodleian Libraries Conservation and Collection Care

Hyunhee Park, City University of New York

Charles Wheeler, Hong Kong University



## **Manuscripts masterclasses October- December 2011**

The Literary Manuscripts series, convened by Professor Kathryn Sutherland (English Faculty) and Chris Fletcher (Keeper of Special Collections, Bodleian Library) was devoted in this term to the theme 'Dealing meaning'. Experienced dealers in literary manuscripts described the market, their work in preparing literary archives for sale, and discussed how authors' papers arrive in libraries.

Speakers, Literary Manuscripts masterclasses, 2011

Joan Winterkorn (Bernard Quaritch, Ltd), *The Business of Archives: handling the remains of Shelley*

Rick Gekoski (Gekoski Rare Books and Manuscripts), *Literary Archives and Monkfish: valuing Graham Greene and others*

Ed Maggs (Maggs Brothers), *Playing the Fame Game: T E Lawrence, Hardy and the canonic manuscript*

Kevin Begos (Publisher and donor of *Agrippa (a book of the dead)*), *Agrippa: assessing the value of a self-destructing text* [as a result of this class, a PhD student conducted an interview with Kevin Begos which will be included in her thesis on experimental American literature].

In the medieval manuscripts series, the Palaeography Seminar convened by Professor Richard Sharpe (History Faculty) and Martin Kauffmann (Bodleian Library), speakers examined the codicological features and history of particular Bodleian manuscripts.

Speakers, Medieval Manuscripts masterclasses, 2011

Dr. James Willoughby (Oxford) *Second-hand books in the 15th century: the case of St. George's Chapel, Windsor*

Dr. David Butterfield (Cambridge) *Simplicity and subtlety in the Oxoniensis of Catullus (MS. Canon. Class. Lat. 30)*

Prof. Anthony Edwards (De Montfort) *The evolution of the Middle English poetic manuscript*

**Seminar on the History of the Book, 1450-1830  
January – March 2012**

The Seminar, a key part of the Oxford calendar of book history events, started seventeen years ago under the guidance of Professors Ian Maclean and Gillian Lewis, and has been associated with the CSB since 2007. With Professor Maclean as convener, the 2012 series saw speakers each week examining themes including literary production, scholarship, censorship, the formation of collections and private libraries, and the crafts and industries associated with book production. The seminar is reported in the Conveyor blog each week of Hilary Term, <http://theconveyor.wordpress.com/category/csb/seminar-on-history-of-the-book/>

Speakers:

Dr William Poole (*New College, Oxford*)

*Fri Jan 20: 'John Fell's New Year Books'*

Mr Mark Purcell (*National Trust*)

*Fri Jan 27: 'The private library in Ireland before the Union'*

Professor Nicholas Cronk (*Voltaire Foundation, Oxford*)

*Fri Feb 3: 'The problem of "complete works": the case of Voltaire'*

Professor Jane Everson (*Royal Holloway, University Of London*)

*Fri Feb 10: 'The Italian Academies 1525-1700: a Themed Collection database and its research applications'*

Professor Raphaële Mouren (*University Of Lyon -- ENSIBB*)

*Fri Feb 17: 'The humanist editor as author'*

Professor Mario Infelise (*University of Venice*):

*Fri Feb 24: "'Masters of Books": state censorship in Venice during the Counter-Reformation'*

Ms Gaye Morgan (*Codrington Library, All Souls College*)

*Fri Mar 2: 'Bookbinding in Oxford in the long sixteenth century'*

Ms Susanna Berger

*Fri Mar 9: 'Early Modern French and Italian illustrated philosophical thesis prints and broadsides'*

**Authorship, memory and manuscripts: modern political papers in the Bodleian collections**  
**January – March 2012**

For a second year, the CSB supported a series of talks, convened by curator Helen Langley and chaired by academics from the University of Oxford Department of Politics and International Relations. The series during January and February began with historian Peter Hennessy speaking about Clement Attlee's papers and continued with the following presentations:

John Campbell, 'The Roy Jenkins papers.'

'Work in Progress: archiving political papers in the Bodleian Libraries.'

Mary, Lady Jay 'The diary of Douglas Jay: from dictation to online resource.'

Sir David Butler and Denis Kavanagh, 'Sixty years of interviews.'

## **Walter Harding: a grand celebration**

### **January 18, 2012**

An evening celebration of the collection of Walter Harding (1883-1973), received by the Bodleian Library by bequest in 1975, featured speeches from two University of Oxford academics, Dr Abigail Williams (English Faculty) and Professor Michael Burden (Professor of Opera Studies) whose research has been shaped by Harding's bequest. The evening concluded with a performance of music in honour of Harding's great passion. Items from Harding's diverse collection were on display in the Proscholium.

The scale and indeed the weight of the Harding collection – 22 tons – was noted in the speeches. In fact the quantity contributes greatly to the collection's utility for scholars today. Harding's vast collections of verse and song, for instance of American sheet music, broadside ballads, and poetry anthologies, enable researchers to ask the kind of quantitative questions – touching on popular taste and on the movement of literary goods in a mass market – that are now regarded as key to understanding cultural developments in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Several current Bodleian Library and Oxford-based research projects and online resources draw upon the Harding Collection:

Digital Miscellanies; 1000 poetry anthologies, printed in the 18<sup>th</sup> century

<http://digitalmiscellaniesindex.org/>

Broadside Ballads; 15,000 broadside ballads in Harding's collection, from the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries

<http://ballads.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/>

Mapping Crime; 19<sup>th</sup>-century broadsides and songs of murders and executions



The Harding Collection arriving in the library: Robert Shackleton, Julian Roberts, and Michael Turner opening the first crate of books in 1975.

## **February 9, 2012**

### **McKenzie Lecture**

Professor John B. Thompson (Professor of Sociology, University of Cambridge)

*Merchants of Culture*

The annual lecture in honour of Donald McKenzie was delivered on the subject of modern Anglo-American trade publishing. A capacity audience of 100 heard John Thompson speak in the Bodleian Library Convocation House.

## **Conference: How the secularization of religious houses transformed the libraries of Europe, 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> centuries**

**March 22-24, 2012**

The focus of this conference was the fate of monastic book collections as religious houses were secularized throughout Europe over a long period from the Reformation to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Where did monastic collections go, and how did the incorporation of these collections into state, university, or private libraries affect the history of libraries in Europe?

Conveners:

*Richard Sharpe, University of Oxford*

*Cristina Dondi, University of Oxford*

*Dorit Raines, Università Ca' Foscari, Venice*

### Programme

The conference hosted 94 delegates from the US, Europe, and UK over two and a half days, and in addition to the speakers, featured visits to three college libraries (Merton, Magdalen, and St John's colleges) to see books formerly in monastic houses, and presentations of databases which allow for the reconstruction of dispersed collections: Medieval Libraries of Great Britain (MLGB3), Material Evidence in Incunabula (MEI), Index Possessorum Incunabulorum (IPI), CERL Thesaurus (CT); Ricerca sull'Inchiesta della Congregazione dell'Indice dei libri proibiti (RICI).

The CSB has blogged detailed information about incunables formerly in monastic houses, now in Bodleian collections, with a set of images showing the evidence of earlier ownership. <http://theconveyor.wordpress.com/2012/03/09/case-studies-evidence-and-provenance-histories-of-monastic-books-now-in-the-bodleian-library/>

## **The Douglas Byrne Marconi Lecture, 11 May 2012**

Efstathios Arapostathis (University of Athens)

*Owning and Disowning Wireless: Inventions, Experts and the Law Courts, 1890-1930*



Jim Bennett, Director of the Museum, and Dr Efstathios Arapostathis at the Museum of the History of Science on 11 May 2012

# CSB Fellows in 2011



(l-r)

Kristine Haugen (California Institute of Technology), *Renaissance Society of America/Bodleian Research Fellow*, "Intellectuals in prison: John Selden and Thomas Lydiat"

Simon Mills (Queen Mary, University of London, Council for British Research in the Levant), *British Society for Eighteenth-century Studies/Bodleian Research Fellow*, "Mapping the geography and antiquities of the Levant in 18th-century England: the papers of Thomas Shaw (1694-1751)"

Shlomo Berger (University of Amsterdam), *Humfrey Wanley Fellow*, "Between East and West: Yiddish books in early modern Prague"

Efstathios Arapostathis (University of Edinburgh/University of Leeds), *Douglas Byrne Marconi Fellow*, "Lawyers, Experts and Judges in Action: Owning and Disowning Wireless in the Law Courts"

## CSB Projects in 2011-12

### Project coordination

The CSB is the library home of several grant-funded projects

[Blockbooks](#)

[Ballads](#)

[Digital Miscellanies](#)

### Project development

Provenance evidence: survey of library information.

Scoping and development of a project plan for provenance evidence collection and display has been the impetus for the ongoing CSB coordination of

- \* Conference, *How the secularization of monastic houses transformed the libraries of Europe, 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century*, March 22-24, 2012 (noted above).
- \* Library internship, Feb.-May 2012, enabling testing of workflows for the transfer of existing provenance information from card indexes to online catalogue records.  
Intern, Marie-Eugénie Lecouffe (ENSSIB)
  - Testing of the creation of an online image collection to display provenance evidence
  - Transfer of the printed Provenance Index from the Catalogue of 15<sup>th</sup>-century books now in the Bodleian Library (Bod-Inc) to a searchable online form

# CSB Partnerships in 2011

## Blockbooks of the 15<sup>th</sup> century

February 16-17, 2012: Munich, at the Bavarian State Library

In partnership with the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, the Bodleian Libraries CSB funded a conference at the BSB-Munich focussing on early blockbooks.

*Eine Experimentierphase im frühen Buchdruck: Blockbücher des 15. Jahrhunderts / An experimental phase in early printing : 15<sup>th</sup>-century blockbooks* was partly sponsored by the Bodleian Library's Blockbooks digitization project.

[http://digital.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/blockbooks\\_home](http://digital.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/blockbooks_home)

The results of the conference point to the advantages of particular types of technological analysis of blockbooks and demonstrate the bibliographical and book-historical insights that can be gained from these studies.

This conference, convened by Dr Bettina Wagner, curator of early printed books at the BSB, met in Munich with 14 guest speakers before an international audience of 100, to explore the material features and the textual and graphic content of 15<sup>th</sup>-century European blockbooks.

The results of the conference point to the advantages of particular types of technological analysis of blockbooks, such as thermographic imaging, and demonstrate the bibliographical and book-historical insights that can be gained from these studies.

Professor Nigel Palmer (Oxford, Faculty of Medieval and Modern Languages) and Andrew Honey (Bodleian Library, Conservation) presented papers at the conference.

Andrew Honey's paper was titled, 'The binding of blockbooks: searching for evidence of contemporary binding methods', and Nigel Palmer's paper was: 'The first blockbook? A literary-studies approach to the "Exercitium super Pater noster"'

## Polonsky Foundation – Vatican Library Travel Grants

In 2011, the donation from the Polonsky Foundation, fostering partnership between the Bodleian and Vatican Libraries, enabled grants to five scholars from the University of Oxford for the purpose of research visits to the BAV. These were:

Conrad Leyser [Fellow of Worcester College]: *The Medieval Transmission of the Collectio Avellana*

Johannes Depnering [DPhil candidate, St Edmund Hall, Oxford]: *sermons attributed to Berthold von Regensburg (ca. 1210-1272)*

Nicholas Hardy [DPhil candidate, University College, Oxford]: *Classical philology, biblical criticism and patristic scholarship, illustrated in the Barberini archive (Holstenius; John Price; Girolamo Aleandro (the younger) and the so-called 'Calendar of Constantine')*

Paul Howard [DPhil candidate, Balliol College, Oxford]: *the Italian poet Giuseppe Gioachino Belli (Rome, 1791-1863)*

David Rundle [Academic Director for Europeum MA]: *'Scottish Scribes in Rome in the 1450s'*

## Provenance : library records responding to scholarship

In response to the University of Leiden-hosted conference and consultation on [Provenance on 19 November, 2010](#), and the [Oxford CSB symposium in May 2010](#), the Bodleian Library Rare Books section started a pilot project on the further inclusion of provenance records into the online catalogue, and the presentation of [provenance evidence in visual form](#).