



Report for 2008-9

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 Krieble 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.

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.

Symposia

Gough Day

Friday 20 March 2009

This day marked the 200th anniversary of the bequest to the Bodleian Library of book and antiquarian collections by Richard Gough (1735-1809). The Seminar Room was open throughout the day, with a display of items from the collection including drawings by William Blake, a volume of sketches by antiquarian researchers of the 18th century of Roman remains in Britain, and a facsimile of the Gough Map, the first route map of Great Britain, dating from the 14th century.

During the day four short lectures on highlights of the collection were delivered by Julian Pooley (Surrey Records Office); Nick Millea (Bodleian Library, Maps Section); Mark Crosby, and Elizabeth Solopova (Bodleian Library, Medieval manuscripts cataloguer).

Professor Rosemary Sweet of the University of Leicester gave the plenary lecture in the Divinity School, on the subject of Richard Gough's importance in stimulating historical research in 18th century Britain.



Bodleian Library Western manuscripts curator Mike Webb (right) showing a manuscript catalogue of Richard Gough's collections to a delegate at Gough Day.

Anselm Day

Monday 27 April 2009

Marking 900 years since the death of Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury, the Centre hosted an event convened by Richard Sharpe (History Faculty) that brought together an illustrious group of scholars and an illustrious group of manuscript volumes (one from Trinity College, Cambridge, two from Lambeth Palace, and two from the Bodleian Library). Presentations by Prof. Sharpe, Teresa Webber, Samu Niskanen, and Michael Gullick combining historical, codicological, and palaeographical investigations allowed these eleventh- and twelfth-century witnesses to speak of how the works of a living author were published in the period of manuscript transmission, and how his collected works were compiled after his death.

Richard Palmer (Lambeth Palace Library), Richard Sharpe (History Faculty), and Teresa Webber (Trinity College, Cambridge) at Anselm Day in the Seminar Room, Bodleian Library, when the manuscripts MS. Bodley 271, MS. Rawlinson A. 392, Trinity College MS. B. 1. 37 and Lambeth Palace MSS. 59 and 224 were shown.



Seminars

Seminar on the History of the Book, 1450-1830

23 Jan. Professor M.M. Smith (University of Reading):

‘Hand rubrication: the mid-fifteenth-century method of textual articulation’ -- [see blog entry from the conveyor](#)

30 Jan. Dr Hans-Jörg Künast (University of Erlangen):

‘Konrad Peutinger’s Library (1466-1547): the history and reconstruction of a Renaissance collection’

6 Feb. Dr Malcolm Walsby (University of St Andrews):

‘Printers, booksellers and the printed word in fifteenth- and sixteenth-century Brittany’

13 Feb. Dr Giles Bergel:

‘Oral tradition, print culture and ‘The Wandering Jew’s Chronicle’, 1634-1830’

-- [see blog entry from the conveyor](#)

20 Feb. Dr Noel Malcolm:

‘The printing of Hobbes’s Leviathan, a case-study in material bibliography and textual criticism’ -- [see blog entry from the conveyor](#)

6 Mar. Dr Cristina Dondi:

‘Book provenance as evidence for economic and social history of the Renaissance’ -- [see blog entry from the conveyor](#)

13 Mar. Professor Michael Suarez (Fordham University):

‘Peers’ Pounds and Antiquaries’ Nons: Publishing learned pictures in Restoration and early eighteenth-century England’

Lectures

5 March 2009 (**The 14th annual McKenzie Lecture**)

Professor Jerome McGann (University of Virginia) ‘Philology in a New Key: Information Technology and the Transmission of Culture’. Presented in partnership with the McKenzie Trust, this was a timely discussion of the influence – benign and malign -- of digital media on scholarship, in providing surrogates for older and rare material and in allowing swift global communication.

Website, communications, and publications

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. <http://www.bodley.ox.ac.uk/csb/csbresearchdirectory.htm>

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

Papers from the first CSB symposium, on psalters, (June 2007) have been published in the *Bodleian Library Record* (Volume 21, Number I)

Proceedings of the Seminar on History of the Book, 1450-1830, have been noted in the weblog, "The Conveyor", which is published by the Centre. <http://theconveyor.wordpress.com/>

- Alexandra Franklin [reissued June 2012]