

AMARC Newsletter

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Newsletter of the Association for Manuscripts and Archives in Research Collections

www.amarc.org.uk

THE WOLLATON MANUSCRIPTS



Image of a fool with a club, Psalm 52 from the Wollaton Antiphonal, c. 1430 (University of Nottingham MS 250, f. 228v)

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See report on AMARC summer meeting, p. 4.

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AMARC MEMBERSHIP

Membership can be personal or institutional. Institutional members receive two copies of mailings, have triple voting rights, and may send staff to meetings at the members' rate. Details and application forms are available from:

www.amarc.org.uk.

Enquiries about membership should be addressed to the Membership Secretary:

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Please make sure that Rachel Freeman has your correct e-mail address.

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Please send your payment to:
Dr Michael Stansfield
AMARC Treasurer
c/o Durham University Library
Palace Green
Durham DH1 3RN.

Payment by **standing order** is welcomed. Forms can be obtained from the Membership Secretary or Treasurer and are also available on

the website. If more members with UK bank accounts could pay by standing order it would considerably decrease the amount of time spent on administration.

AMARC GRANTS and how to apply for them

The Association can currently offer modest funding to enterprises that both:

- bring AMARC and its activities to a wider audience and
- support the stated aim of AMARC: to promote the accessibility, preservation and archives of all periods in libraries and other research collections in Great Britain and Ireland.

AMARC therefore invites applications from fully paid-up individual or institutional members for sterling grants in areas such as the following:

- Help in defraying the costs of holding conferences and workshops.
- Support for small projects such as the web-publication of unpublished catalogues of manuscripts.
- Assistance to scholars in obtaining reproductions or undertaking essential travel as part of projects whose aims are in line with those of AMARC.

- The provision of equipment, such as perhaps book supports, to facilitate access to manuscripts.
- Assistance with the necessary purchase of manuscripts and archives to benefit the AMARC community.
- Carrying out conservation work on manuscripts and archives.

NB Funds will NOT be made available towards the cost of commercial publication but will be allocated where they can be expected to provide the greatest benefit to the greatest number of people. Often this will be achieved by making several small awards rather than a few larger awards. Funding levels may vary from year to year, but it is anticipated that the Committee will make awards of not more than £1000 each, and of not more than £3000 in total each year.

Applications should comprise: a brief outline of the project, conference or work; its overall cost; the grant being sought; the names and addresses of two referees; details of the addressee for the cheque. Applications should be submitted to Dr Michael Stansfield, AMARC Treasurer, c/o Durham University Library, Palace Green, Durham DH1 3RN or m.m.n.stansfield@durham.ac.uk, at any time during the year. They will usually be considered at the next Committee meeting (usually held in April and October) and successful applicants will be informed soon thereafter.

Successful applicants will be required to submit for publication in this newsletter a brief report (300-500 words) of the use to which the grant was put. Full details appear on the AMARC website.

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The views expressed herein are those of the Editor and other named from named contributors. In addition to contributions individuals, information has been taken from a variety of websites, press releases etc., the accuracy of which cannot be guaranteed. You are advised to confirm details, especially if travelling to events or exhibitions.

DEADLINE for publication in **Issue no. 56** is **1 April 2011**.

Please send your articles or any news of interest to AMARC members to the editor:

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Images submitted should be at least 300 dpi and delivered on CD or via e-mail.

NEW ADDRESS FOR AMARC WEBSITE

www.amarc.org.uk

Please note that our website has a new, simpler address, and update your bookmarks accordingly. Our webmaster, Peter Kidd, has also made various other improvements to the website, including a calendar for events, and easy access to elec-

tronic versions of virtually all back numbers of the *Newsletter*, which can be accessed from www.amarc.org.uk/newsletter.htm (scroll down). Each *Newsletter* is added to the website once the next printed version has been circulated. Please contact Peter Kidd (pjkidd@gmail.com) if you have any problems using the website.

NEXT AMARC MEETING
Palaeography and Post-palaeography:
Manuscripts from the 1st to the 21st Century
London, 3 December 2010

Please note the date for our winter meeting, which will be held at the Institute of English Studies, University of London, Senate House, Malet St, WC1E 7HU. This one-day conference organized by Michelle Brown and Wim Van Mierlo at the Institute of English Studies, will look at aspects of manuscript culture before and after the advent of print. The aim is to discuss practices, problems, theories and methods of analysis irrespective of place or period to see where methodologies overlap or complement each other. Topics will include: medieval manuscript studies in the digital age; integrating and migrating methodologies - quantitative and qualitative, early and modern; what is a modern manuscript?; the codicology of modern paper; handwriting in the twentieth century. The programme will be circulated to members in good time.

AMARC SUMMER MEETING
The Wollaton Medieval Manuscripts Projects
University of Nottingham

7 July 2010

The AMARC summer meeting and AGM was held in the bosky surroundings of the attractive Lakeside campus of the University of Nottingham, and organised by Dr Dorothy Johnston, Head of Manuscripts and Special Collections at the University, and her colleagues. The programme focused on a collection of medieval manuscripts at the University of Nottingham and on a series of curatorial activities involving cataloguing, conservation, digitisation and widening access. The project has been supported since 2007 by the Heritage Lottery Fund, and a programme of research funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council. (The related volume of essays, *The Wollaton Medieval Manuscripts*, ed. Ralph Hanna & Thorlac Turville-Petre, is available at a discount to AMARC members, see the flyer enclosed with this Newsletter).

Talks were given by Prof. Thorlac Turville-Petre (University of Nottingham) on 'Exploring the Wollaton Library Collection through a family archive'; Prof. Ralph Hanna (Keble College, Oxford), on 'The booklet in medieval manuscript cataloguing'; Dr Alixe Bovey (University of Kent) on 'Chaworth's Antiphonal: From Wiverton to Wollaton'; Dr Christopher de Hamel (Corpus Christi College, Cambridge), on 'The Ceolfrith Bible and the Wollaton Archives' and by two members of the local team, Dr Dorothy Johnston, on 'Wollaton Medieval Manuscripts: curatorial problems and opportunities', and by her colleague in Manuscripts and Special Collections, Kathryn Sum-

merwill, 'Women in the Wollaton Manuscripts: developing a web resource' (see summary below).

The meeting provided members with an opportunity to see the related exhibition, 'Saints, Sinners and Storytellers'. Appreciative comments were made about the manuscripts displayed, the excellent layout, which allowed each item to be examined closely, and also the well-written information panels. The exhibition is still available online at www.nottingham.ac.uk/manuscriptsandspecialcollections/exhibitions/westongalleryexhibition.aspx, with links to other resources. A useful booklet on the exhibition, with much of the text from the exhibition labels and panels, can be downloaded from <http://issuu.com/lakesideartscentre/docs/saintssinnersandstorytellers>.

'Wives, Widows and Wimples': a new web resource based on material from the University of Nottingham's Wollaton Library Collection

By *Kathryn Summerwill*

The 'Saints, Sinners and Storytellers' exhibition at the University of Nottingham, which featured manuscripts from the Wollaton Library Collection (WLC) was one part of the programme to extend access to the manuscripts, following a major Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) award. Another strand was the creation of a web resource drawing on medieval material, for a non-specialist audience. This is now available on the Manuscripts and Special Collections website:

[http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/mss/learning/medievalwomen/introduction.as](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/mss/learning/medievalwomen/introduction.aspx)

[px](http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/mss/learning/medievalwomen/introduction.aspx). The resource is not intended to be a website about the history of women in the Middle Ages, but instead a showcase for the rather miscellaneous medieval material which we hold. Extracts are taken from WLC items and from our other collections of deeds, legal papers and printed books. However, the resource is presented thematically across four wide subject areas touching on women's status and position, marriage, education and behaviour, and religion. It is also possible to browse the material according to the collection it comes from, and to access the extracts via a chronological timeline. Each extract highlights a documentary representation of a woman, either in a real historical context, or in a literary work. It is intended for everyone, and no knowledge of medieval languages is required.

We began sourcing extracts in June 2008. Relevant passages from the WLC manuscripts were found by reading published editions and translations of the texts. Searches of our online catalogue (<http://mssweb.nottingham.ac.uk/catalogue/>) identified documents from other collections. Most of the material dates from before 1500, but we have stretched 'medieval' to around 1600, in order to make reference to the Reformation and the changes that it brought.

The resource was launched in April 2010 and contains 50 written extracts or documents - 33 from the Wollaton Library Collection and 17 from our other collections. The earliest is a grant by Aubrey de Vere, dating from around 1175, and the latest a copy of a poem, *Pleasant*

Quippes for Upstart Newfangled Gentlewomen, printed in 1596.

There are also five extracts of medieval material published in later printed volumes, 11 visual details from illuminations, miniatures or bindings, and a photograph of a 15th-century statue of St Zita.

Each extract is introduced by a brief commentary placing it in context, for instance by describing what had previously happened in a literary story, or the historical background of an original document. Users then follow a link to a full-size digital image of the extract and, for manuscript items, a transcription and a modern English summary.

Images can be viewed in one of two ways. A whole page can be viewed interactively through a Zoomify image viewer. Alternatively, users can choose to see a static image of just those lines which were chosen to be highlighted for the resource. Every page from each of the WLC volumes is being digitised as part of the HLF project, to create a bank of high-resolution preservation images.

The transcriptions were written by a small team consisting of me, Gavin Cole (the assistant on a parallel AHRC project to raise public awareness of the WLC manuscripts and their relevance to regional and national history), and two University of Nottingham postgraduate students. We aimed to produce transcriptions which reproduced the text of the original source document as much as possible, retaining the original spellings, layout and punctuation. The transcriptions are intended to assist people reading the original texts, who are likely to be academic researchers or students.

Alongside the transcriptions sit 'translations' of the texts – summaries of the content, in modern English. The summaries are intended to make the texts accessible to any interested person. This work was carried out by the same team, with assistance and advice from the network of academics involved with the HLF and AHRC projects.

Translations are always open to new interpretations, so we hope that academics might use 'Wives, Widows and Wimples' as a starting point to engage their own students in detailed work on these extracts. We also hope that anyone else with an interest in medieval manuscripts will find the resource interesting and entertaining.

OBITUARY

Bruce Ferrini

Bruce Ferrini of Akron, Ohio, USA, who died in May at the age of 60, was a well-known ancient and medieval manuscripts dealer often described as a latter-day Otto Ege. He had started as a coin-collector at age 11, and at 18 bought his first illuminated manuscript leaf for \$14 from Ege's collection. Like Ege, he was responsible for breaking up many manuscripts to sell the leaves individually at a profit. Ferrini first became well-known in 1987 when he bought three Bibles at Christie's for \$1.7 million. During his career he sold items to the Getty Museum and donated others to the Pierpont Morgan Library. He was also credited with identifying stolen leaves and reporting them. His career as a dealer came to an end after his son died in 2001.

PROJECTS

Dynamics of the Medieval Manuscript: Medieval Text Collections from a European Perspective

Sponsored by HERA (Humanities in the European Research Area), *Dynamics of the Medieval Manuscript* is a three-year comparative study of later medieval miscellanies from the Low Countries, France, Germany, and England. Focusing on miscellanies containing shorter verse narratives, the team of researchers involved in this project hope to shed further light on principles of organization in miscellanies and on changes in miscellany structure over time, and aim to identify pan-European trends and miscellany favourites. The project is led by Dr Bart Besamusca of the University of Utrecht (who will work on Dutch miscellanies), Professor Matthias Meyer of the University of Vienna (who will work on German miscellanies), Professor Karen Pratt (who will work on French and Anglo-Norman miscellanies) and Professor Ad Putter (who together with Dr Gareth Griffith will focus on miscellanies containing Middle English romances). The programme of research, which commenced on 1 June 2010, will take three years to complete, and will culminate in a final conference to be held in Utrecht (April 2013). Details of this and other research events related to the project will be announced in future *Newsletters*. For further details see <http://www.heranet.info/Default.aspx?ID=356> or contact Dr Bart Besamusca at a.a.m.besamusca@uu.nl.

**Cambridge University Library
Incunabula Project**

CUL's Rare National Library's Digital Mirror (<http://www.llgc.org.uk/index.php?id=122>).

Books Department has announced its project to re-catalogue its incunabula online. A blog has been started to record progress and draw attention to new discoveries. Posts so far include 'A book from Parrhasius's library', 'Cicero re-ordered', which identifies the 1471 Venice edition of 'De finibus bonorum et malorum' as the *editio princeps* of that text, and an appeal for help in identifying some painted arms in a copy of Pomponius Mela's 'De chorographia'. For further details of the project see:

<http://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/deptserv/rarebooks/incunabulaproject.html>

The blog can be found at:

<http://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/deptserv/rarebooks/incblog/>

and the catalogue can be searched at: [http://ul-newton.lib.](http://ul-newton.lib.cam.ac.uk/vwebv/searchBasic)

[cam.ac.uk/vwebv/searchBasic](http://ul-newton.lib.cam.ac.uk/vwebv/searchBasic)

Contact: William Hale, Rare Books Department, tel. 01223 333122; e-mail: wah26@cam.ac.uk

CONFERENCE REPORTS

Writing England: Books 1000-1400

Beaumont Hall, University of Leicester

28–30 April 2010

Report by Orietta da Rold of the School of English, University of Leicester.

This three-day conference, organized by a team of staff from the School of English, focused on early English texts and manuscripts, broadly understood to be within a

chronological remit 1000-1400. It was the second such event, following the great success of 'Writing England: Books 1100-1200' which was held in 2007. The speakers of 'Writing England Books: 1000-1400' considered and discussed questions relating to manuscript studies, medieval documents, compilation of texts, the making of books, readers, audience and scribes at the heart of the medieval period in England.

Speakers adopted an interdisciplinary approach to the study of medieval manuscript production and use, contributing papers on English, Latin and French material. They revealed much about the complex matrix of competing and collaborating religious and intellectual movements in this period. Their papers presented different directions on how fast our knowledge of these central centuries is changing. Issues such as how revolutionary is the production of English books in this period, and how do these books sit within the writing and reading of other textual cultures, such as Latin and French, were debated and discussed in three plenaries and twenty one papers. Some speakers had to cancel because of the volcanic ash, others resorted to technology to deliver their papers, but volcano notwithstanding, we had an excellent line up.

Elaine Treharne (Florida State) opened the conference on Wednesday afternoon with a thought-provoking paper entitled 'The Sensual Book and its Readers, 1000-1400. Keep Your Wits About You'. Andrew Prescott (Glasgow), D. A. Woodman (Cambridge) and Kathryn

A. Lowe (Glasgow) made us re-think the role of charters in the English literary horizon. Aidan Conti (Bergen) and Jean-Pascal Pouzet (Limoges) considered the implications of considering the medieval and early modern readers of early manuscripts. John Thompson (Queen's Belfast), Philip A. Shaw (Leicester) and Malasree Home (Liverpool) discussed the writing and re-writing of literary histories; Mark Faulkner (Oxford), Erik Kwakkel (Victoria, British Columbia) and Orietta Da Rold (Leicester) debated how medieval books were produced and used. A discussion on the relationship between the vernaculars and their recording in books and accounts was offered by Jennifer Jahner (Pennsylvania), Helen Gittos (Kent), Joyce Hill (Leeds) and Mark Chambers and Louise Sylvester (Westminster). Jocelyn Wogan-Browne (York) closed Thursday's discussion, remarking on issues of periodicity and multilingualism in her 'Is there a Middle in the Middle of Middle English Literature?' On Friday morning, papers looked at the writing and re-writing of Old English in the contributions by Mark Atherton (Oxford) and Rob Payne (Cambridge). Hugh Thomas (Miami), Susanne Gärtner (München) and Fran J. Alvarez Lopez (Manchester) discussed the intricacies in tracing the relationship between owners and scribes. The conference concluded with a stimulating response by A.G.S. Edwards (De Montfort University) on future 'Directions in the Study of the Early English Manuscripts'.

This was a packed programme delivered to an audience of fifty delegates who participated vigorously and enthusiastically to the scholarly discussion in sessions and over a drink. Full details are available on the 'Writing England' website (<http://www2.le.ac.uk/departments/english/news/writing-england>). Orietta Da Rold wishes to thank Takako Kato and Hollie Morgan for their help, the speakers and the delegates for their contributions and good humour, and last but not least the sponsors: Brepols, British Library Publishing, Oxford University Press and, in particular, AMARC, for their generous support.

SECURING THE NATION'S LITERARY HERITAGE
The British Library, London
9 June 2010.

*Report by David Sutton, Director of Research Projects at Reading University Library. AMARC members will be familiar with his work on two indispensable resources, the **Location Register of 20th-century English Literary Manuscripts** (online at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/library/about-us/projects/lib-location-register.aspx>) and the **WATCH project** (Writers, Artists and their Copyright Holders, at <http://tyler.hrc.utexas.edu/>).*

In talking about locations of literary manuscripts, we always need to be aware of the 'Larkin trap.' This involves falling into the Eeyore-like gloom and pessimism which Philip Larkin regularly manifested when talking about literary papers – usually spiced with a carping tone of anti-Americanism.

Commentators who fall into the 'Larkin trap' have two main laments: first, that virtually all modern British and Irish literary manuscripts have been acquired by US institutions; and second, that this is a disaster for scholarship. The crude overstatement of these laments is more of a hindrance than a help to those of us who work to emphasise the importance of literary manuscripts and their key place in our own cultural heritage, and who want to encourage international cooperation.

The 'Larkin trap' was duly baited for **Securing the Nation's Literary Heritage**, an event jointly organised by the Royal Society of Literature and the UK Literary Heritage Working Group. Fortunately most of the contributors managed to avoid it most of the time; and writing in *The Guardian* a few days later, one of the panellists, Andrew Lycett gave a nicely nuanced view:

'A conference at the British Library on Wednesday mulled over these issues. The consensus was positive: since British libraries have upped their game, the threat of American rivals hoovering up our literary heritage has receded. AIL [acceptance in lieu], remarkably, is now in its 100th year and has helped to keep the papers of Anthony Powell, Kathleen Raine and others in Britain. However, the need for its extension to living authors was emphasised. To the benefit of our wider culture, this would help to inculcate a habit of preservation of literary archives (not just those of

writers but also publishers and agents) for the nation.'

The way in which British libraries upped their game, as Lycett puts it, is a remarkable thirty-year success-story. It culminates in the work of the Group for Literary Archives and Manuscripts (GLAM) and the UK Literary Heritage Working Group, both easy to Google, both founded in 2005, and both now actively promoting the cultural importance, the value and also the magic of literary manuscripts.

Speakers at the British Library event offered a wide range of views and perspectives. There were a number of accounts, notably by Victoria Glendinning and Andrew Lycett, of great journeys backwards and forwards across the USA in order to accomplish their research. Several speakers suggested that the view of cultural heritage here much more easily accommodates homes and gardens of a National Trust sort than it does archives, literary or otherwise. (I wonder, though, whether this is more the case in England than in Scotland, Wales and Ireland: an English problem perhaps. Certainly the pioneering roles of the National Library of Scotland and the National Library of Wales with modern literary archives deserve greater recognition.)

Andrew Motion spoke about his own engagement with literary papers, referring especially to those of Edward Thomas, Owen and Sassoon, and (of course) Philip Larkin. He also paid tribute to the change in collecting approaches by British and Irish literary archivists, and expressed his delight at the recent accessions of Alan Bennett, Ted Hughes and John Ber-

ger papers. He concluded that 'the playing field is much smoother than it used to be.'

Ronald Harwood gave an entertaining account of how his own papers ended up in the British Library, and told everyone how pleased he was to have his "stuff" alongside that of Harold Pinter.

Joan Winterkorn gave a well-informed account of how US collecting practices had developed, especially as US universities grew in the 1970s. She noted the preparedness to take risks and to deal with much younger authors; and suggested that this approach had made the collecting of modern and recent literary manuscripts mainstream worldwide. She talked about one of her own favourite collections: the Elaine Feinstein papers in the John Rylands University Library of Manchester.

In the main, the 'Larkin trap' was skirted, thank goodness. Many of us have been to meetings where laments are heard about the papers of 'those most English of authors' which have departed to the USA (and I know I have done it myself). The papers of Virginia Woolf in New York Public Library, Evelyn Waugh in the University of Texas, Angus Wilson in the University of Iowa, and J.R.R. Tolkien in the Marquette University in Milwaukee provide the easiest of examples over which to sigh.

Ultimately, however, this is a futile and backward-looking approach. The papers are there, usually beautifully conserved and attentively made available to the public, and (except in a tiny number of cases) they are not going to come back

across the Atlantic. The point is to look to the future, to celebrate the wonderful array of recent modern literary accessions here, and to continue to develop an awareness of literary manuscripts as a central part of the cultural heritage.

In this regard, I suggested to the British Library audience that we could learn from the French example, with its strong emphasis on local connections. The papers of major French writers often go not to the great central institutions, but to the public library of their home town. The manuscripts of Flaubert in Rouen and Stendhal in Grenoble are well known, but we also find the papers of Sainte-Beuve in the public library at Boulogne-sur-Mer; the papers of Roger Vailland similarly in his home town of Bourg-en-Bresse; the papers of Marcel Aymé in the Bibliothèque municipale de Dole; the papers of Alfred Jarry in the town of Laval, where he was born; and a large collection of papers of Valéry Larbaud in the Bibliothèque municipale de Vichy.

A number of British institutions, such as the Universities of Exeter and Leicester, have started to take this localist approach to literary papers, and it certainly provides one intriguing way forward.

As someone who has spent thirty years working with literary manuscripts, I left the event at the British Library feeling that we really could now put all that Larkinian whingeing behind us and celebrate the new spirit of cooperation, adventure and positive thinking which is prevailing in the world of British and Irish literary archives.

**DC 2010 Archives & Records
Washington DC, USA,
10–15 August 2010**

*Report by Rose Roberto of Leeds
University Library.*

Choosing Washington DC as a conference venue for archivists is like planting them in their natural habitat. Not only is DC home to the National Archives, the Library of Congress and the various Smithsonian museums along with other excellent centres of research like the Folger-Shakespeare Library; the city itself generates its share of records and history every day. From 9-14 August 2010, I attended a joint annual meeting of the Council of State Archivists (CoSA), the National Association of Government Archives and Record Administrators (NAGARA), and the Society of American Archivists (SAA), with the assistance of a bursary from AMARC. As the US is a large country, and this was a joint conference, it was also on a much larger scale than equivalent conferences in Britain—over 1900 people attended it. As the conference sessions and plenary talks themselves are online, I will focus on my own workshop, two tours, and my impression of a conference session that I particularly enjoyed.

On Tuesday morning, August 10th, I presented a workshop called ‘Producing It Online: Planning and Expanding your Exhibition.’ This was an introductory workshop aimed at providing a practical guide to using tools and creating e-resources. Discussions covered ideas, planning methods, and workflow process, giving participants basic knowledge of how to set up/design large or

small virtual exhibitions. The maximum capacity of 35 people was reached, and the participants gave the session, overall, very positive feedback.

Tours were that afternoon and the next day, so I took the opportunity to visit the Library of Congress (LC) Preservation Directorate. The Directorate works to rescue, preserve, house, treat, and stabilize material for exhibitions, moves, and digital projects. The tour was welcomed by Diane Vogt-O'Connor, Chief of the Conservation division, and author of numerous books including the *Guide to Photographic Collections at the Smithsonian Institution*, the *Museum Handbook*, *Handbook for Digital Projects: A Management Tool for Preservation and Access* and (my personal favourite), with Mary Lynn Ritzenthaler, *Photographs: Archival Care and Management*. Her knowledge encompassed not just the photo collections in the Library of Congress, but also the National Archives and the Smithsonian collections. The group was then escorted downstairs where conservation staff showed us various labs, and their work on current projects, including cleaning photos for a Harry Houdini exhibition, steps taken to stabilize an annotated music manuscript of Aaron Copland, and repair work on the silk hem of a Tibetan *Tanka*. Our group was then led to an onsite mass de-acidification facility (there were others used by LC in Maryland and Pennsylvania) where they explained that the LC aims to treat 1,250,000 books and at least 5,000,000 sheets of manuscripts by the end of October 2010. LC uses de-acidification treatment for books that are acidic

and at risk of loss if no action is taken—selections for the process include endangered volumes from collections that are central to the Library's mission as the US's national library. Their long-term objective is to treat at least 250,000 books and 1,000,000 manuscript sheets annually for the next 30 years (the remaining 30 years of the 35-year plan).

Next we went into the hi-tech laboratory where sophisticated processes with their gadgets were shown to us, such as SEM (Scanning Electron Microscopy), which allows non-destructive analyses of pages, books, and other objects by putting these things in what looks like a little box. In the little box, the item is x-rayed and the computer makes a chemical analysis of what a blemish might be. They showed us a Persian manuscript that was growing some 'unknown black stuff.' By analysing what the blemish was made of they could advise the curator and conservators, what it was, how to clean it, and how to prevent it from growing back. Another technique using what looked like a monster microscope utilised X-ray fluorescence to detect what could possibly be President Lincoln's fingerprints on a draft of the Gettysburg Address. Additionally, a high-tech gadget shown to us was IRENE (Image, Reconstruct, Erase Noise, etc.), which allows old devices like wax cylinders and polyester records to be digitally scanned and a high-resolution digital map to be created of the surface. The computer then recreates 'sound' from the image and 'plays' it with a virtual stylus. I could very easily go

into a report only on this trip, but I will leave you all with this URL to <http://www.loc.gov/preserv/> learn about the LC's preservation research and testing. If only we all had the vast resources they did to do their work.

On the Wednesday morning I took a second tour of the Folger-Shakespeare Library, located right behind LC, and the underground stores are adjacent to LC stores, too. The Folger, opened in 1932 by Henry Clay Folger and Emily Jordan Folger, who had made their fortune from the oil industry, is administered by Amherst College, Henry Folger's *alma mater*. The Folger has largest collection of first-edition Shakespeare folios outside the UK. It also collects other rare Renaissance books, manuscripts, and works of art and is particularly strong in theatre-related items. International scholars use collections during summer and Christmas holidays ('We're busiest when everyone else is resting,' a librarian commented).

The Folger is also an innovator in book and manuscript preservation, as well. Conservator Frederick Bearman, author of *Fine and Historic Bookbindings from the Folger Shakespeare Library* talked with our group at length about a non-reversible and controversial practice called page splitting (only to be used in extreme cases, like when manuscripts have been so corroded with iron gall ink that that damage is not only on the pages with the ink, but reaches anything stored near the item). He also talked about the Folger's techniques for making boxes with Mylar spines.

Bearman explained, 'I actually hate acid free boxes, even though we make quite a lot of them, because I've always believed that if something is out of sight, it's out of mind.' He then proceeded to explain that at the LC, several years ago after a flood, several conservators went to assess the damage. Apparently as a rule, LC boxes everything. To the horror of the conservators, many of the boxes were empty. Someone or some people had managed to steal the contents over 200 boxes, but hid their theft by leaving the empty boxes on the appropriate shelf. The thieves could have taken the items at any point over many years. That gave us all something to think about. Although the United States is a wealthy nation, not all archivists have access to the vast resources of LC or even of the Folger. One of the sessions I attended was called *Real World Digitizing for Humble Shops Undertaking Hefty Digitization Projects* (see http://saa.archivists.org/Scripts/4Disapi.dll/4DCGI/events/eventdetail.html?Action=Events_Detail&InvID_W=1427). It was an incredibly practical session and I felt it reflected the issues that most of archivists face, especially now, given the widespread shortage of funding. The first speaker talked about her role during a grant funded local history project to help public libraries in rural Texas digitize their historical collections. During the two years that her university partnered with these local libraries, she had to get everyone up to speed with copy-right, workflow for digitization, new software, and archival thinking

and practices. The second speaker talked about the benefits gained by a small African-American museum that established a relationship with the local grad-school offering masters degrees in library or archival management, and how these students were given real world responsibility for a processing and digitizing entire collections. Digitizing by the Numbers was an especially useful hand-out. The third speaker, from Wayne State University, talked about the need for archivists to be practical and strategic. She had a business background, and therefore when it came to questions like 'how much should users be charged for photocopies or digital images' she provided very pragmatic advice, such as asking 'how much does it actually cost to provide the service?' then providing simple accounting formulas that could be used to calculate this answer for different institutions. These women were a wealth of information.

The digital theme was carried through the plenary talk by David Ferriero, the National Archivist (<http://vimeo.com/14239194>). He started humorously, describing how, before the National Archives was officially founded, researchers had to make their way through stores of 'dead cats and empty bottles of whisky' to get to the archival material they wanted. He made a comparison with this age of ever more complex records, saying that we are just as chaotic, and the profession needs to develop more tools archivists can use. Having a long career in research libraries before being appointed National Archivist, Ferriero said he was eager for a system to be

set up to enable researchers to contribute what they know not just to the library, but also for other researchers who follow them.

This conference was a very invigorating experience and immersed me in key discussions on how we can get researchers to best use our archive and manuscript collections.

FUTURE CONFERENCES

Patronage and the Sacred Book in the Medieval Mediterranean Brandeis University, Waltham, Ma., USA

18–19 October 2010

Information available at

<http://humweb.ucsc.edu/aarhms/news100131.php>.

Miniatures and Music at the Court of Anjou, Naples Leuven, 1-2 November 2010

The colloquium coincides with the important Anjou Bible exhibition in Leuven (see below, p. 19).

Keynote speakers will be John Lowden, Dinko Fabris, Cathleen Fleck, Alessandra Perriccioli, Lieve Watteeuw, Pedro Memelsdorff and Nicolas Bock. The full programme is available at:

<http://www.anjoubible.be/E/programme>. For registration and enquiries contact: Dr. Lieve Watteeuw, Illuminare, K.U. Leuven, Blijde-Inkomststraat 21, B-3000 Leuven; (lieve.watteeuw@arts.kuleuven.be).

Society for the Study of Medieval Languages & Literature:

The Medieval Library

Durham

6 November 2010

The Society for the Study of Medieval Languages and Literature, publisher of *Medium Ævum*, is announcing that registration is now open for its latest one-day conference, which is being hosted by the Institute of Medieval and Renaissance Studies at the University of Durham. The conference will consider the latest scholarship on various aspects of the medieval library, consciously taking a comparative and Europe-wide approach. The day will include a display of manuscripts.

Registration, including lunch and refreshments: £40 (£30 to members of the Society). The Society is also offering open bursaries for graduate attendance. Reasonably priced accommodation is available at the University. For full details visit the Society's website at:

http://mediumaevum.modhist.ox.ac.uk/conf_library.shtml. Payments (cheques payable to 'SSMML') to the Society at SSMML, c/o History Faculty, George St, Oxford, OX1 2RL; contact: the Society's Executive Officer, Dr David Rundle (ssmll@history.ox.ac.uk).

'Natural, Unnatural, & Supernatural': 36th Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Medieval Association

Roanoke, VA, USA

18–20 November 2010

Noticed in Newsletter no. 54

13th International Seminar on the Care and Conservation of Manuscripts

**University of Copenhagen,
13–15 April 2011**

This seminar, arranged by the Arnarnagnæan Institute of the Department of Scandinavian Research and the Royal Library, will take place at the University Of Copenhagen's Faculty of Humanities and at the Royal Library. The practical arrangements are in the hands of M. J. Driscoll and Ragnheiður Mósesdóttir of the Arnarnagnæan Institute, and Ivan Boserup and Marie Vest of the Royal Library.

The seminar was originally modelled on a series of more informal meetings held by the 'Research group on manuscript evidence' based at the Parker Library, Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, where a relatively small group of scholars, librarians and conservators met to discuss manuscripts from as many different points of view as possible in order better to understand the manuscript as an historical artefact.

Following the success of the first Copenhagen meeting in April 1994, seminars have been held every 18 months since then, and the number of participants has grown steadily from 30 to well over 100. Here scholars, conservators, librarians and archivists from all over the world can hear presentations and meet informally, to exchange views on the latest developments in the field of manuscript studies and conservation. Some come from large manuscript-holding institutions such as national and university libraries while others are from small independent workshops.

The proceedings of the first eleven seminars have been published and are available from the publisher Museum Tusculanum Press. The

proceedings of the 12th seminar will be published in connection with the 13th seminar.

For further information see:

<http://nfi.ku.dk/cc/>

***Please note that the call for papers is now closed after a tremendous response.*

46th International Congress on Medieval Studies

Kalamazoo

12–15 May 2011

Sessions related to manuscripts include:

‘Medieval Writing Media: Papyrus, Parchment, Paper, and Beyond’, and ‘Books and Secrets: Epigraphs as Symbols/Ciphers as Signs’, both sponsored by the Research Group on Manuscript Evidence

(www.manuscriptevidence.org). For general information about the 2011 Congress, visit

www.wmich.edu/medieval/congress

***Notarum figura* : L’écriture musicale et le monde des signes au 9^e siècle**

Auxerre, Centre d’Etudes Médiévales

16–17 June 2011

This workshop will explore the ramifications of the term *notarum figura*, used for written musical notation in the 9th-century treatise *De musica disciplina*, situating it within the body of diverse written marks known as *notae*, such as punctuation marks and so on. The workshop will focus on the oldest noted sources from the 9th century to the beginning of the 10th, together with contemporary textual and iconographic sources. Papers are invited on relevant themes including: terminology

in written music notation and the underlying philosophical concepts; comparative evolution of systems of writing music; written music and Carolingian debates on the image; interaction between musical notation and other visual marks on specific manuscripts; decoration and calligraphy. Send proposals for 40-minute papers, in English, French, German, Italian or Spanish, (1200-1500 characters including spaces) with name and institutional affiliation or electronic address, to figuranotarum2011@hotmail.com by 31 October 2010.

Authors whose proposals are accepted will be asked to submit their finished text a month before the workshop. No registration fee is payable and the Centre d’Études Médiévales will provide lodgings and all meals gratis. Further information is available at:

www.compitum.fr/appels-a-contribution/1350-notarum-figuralécriture-musicale-et-le-monde-des-signes-au-ixe-siecle.

12th Biennial Conference of the Early Book Society & 12th York Manuscripts Conference

Out of Bounds: Mobility, Movement and Use of Manuscripts and Printed Books, 1350-1550

Centre for Medieval Studies

University of York

3–7 July 2011

Proposals for papers are invited for this joint conference, held in honour of Professor Toshiyuki Takamiya. The theme may be interpreted literally or figuratively: papers might consider unbound or rebound MSS and books, or MSS and books without bindings (rolls), or marginalia,

or the ways in which such boundaries might be created, or even MSS and books that travel from their place of origin. Secondary threads will be related to Prof. Takamiya's manuscripts or Nicholas Love (the conference includes a visit to Mount Grace Priory). Proposals for 20-minute papers relating to the conference themes should be sent by 1 December 2010, by post to Prof. Martha Driver, English Department, Pace University, 41 Park Row, 15th floor, New York, NY 10038, USA, or by e-mail to both Martha Driver (MDriver@pace.edu) and Linne Mooney (LRM3@york.ac.uk). Please include your name, title and affiliation, the proposed title of your paper, a brief abstract of your paper, and indication of any electronic aids requested (data projector, overhead, and/or slide projector).

**International Congress of the International Arthurian Society
University of Bristol
25–30 July 2011**

The 23rd triennial conference of the IAS will have five themes, including 'Arthurian manuscripts and early printed editions,' which will be of particular interest to AMARC members. The plenary speakers are Siân Echard (UBC), Christine Ferlampin-Acher (Rennes), Helen Fulton (York), Bart Besamusca (Utrecht) and Andrew Lynch (UWA). The conference programme includes master classes for postgraduate students and excursions to sites of Arthurian interest such as Glastonbury and Caerleon. For further information, please contact Arthur-2011@bristol.ac.uk, and see the conference website at

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/medievalcentre>.

LECTURES & SEMINARS

**Leiden University Library
Liefstinck Lectures in Medieval Manuscripts, 2010-11.**

The series began in September, and continues with the following:
9 Nov. 2010: Rosamond McKittrick (Professor of Medieval History, Cambridge University);
24 Jan. 2011 Charles Burnett (Professor of the History of Islamic Influences in Europe at the Warburg Institute, University of London);
March 2011: Albert Derolez (Emeritus hoogleraar, Université Libre de Bruxelles).

For full details and registration, contact Erik Kwakkel (e.kwakkel@hum.leidenuniv.nl)

**London, Senate House
Annual Palaeography Lecture,
14 October 2010**

James Carley, "'In private men's hands". The Library of Archbishop John Whitgift (d.1604): sources, catalogue, and dispersal.'

Seminars at Senate House

28 Oct. 2010, Simon Corcoran and/or Benet Salway on the new discovery at UCL of fragments of a late 5th/early 6th century legal codex (the *Fragmenta Londiniensia Anteiustiniana*, mentioned in *Newsletter no. 54*)

18 Nov. 2010, Jane Ringrose (CUL), (on the new *Catalogue of Additional MSS*).

2 Dec. 2010, Rebecca Rushforth, title to be announced.

20 Jan. 2011, Robert Gibbs (Glasgow) 'A short art-history of the

Liber Extra (Gregory IX's Decretals)'.
10 Feb. 2011, Debby Banham

(Cambridge) (on Sloane 1621, an 11th-century medical manuscript from Bury)

17 March 2011, Ardis Butterfield (UCL), title to be announced.

For further details contact cmpps@sas.ac.uk.

EXHIBITIONS

Information has been drawn from press-releases and websites as well as contributions from our members and colleagues. Please check opening dates and times and other details before travelling as these may vary from those given here.

ABERYSTWYTH, NATIONAL LIBRARY OF WALES

Writers of Wales

Until 26 November 2010

An exhibition celebrating the work of painter and writer Brenda Chamberlain (1912–71), and poet and novelist Caradog Prichard (1904–80). The second in a series of exhibitions featuring the most prominent authors of Wales.

Step by Step: Tracing your Ancestors

15 March 2010–4 March 2011

A step-by-step introduction to the process of tracing your family tree by displaying some of the main available sources used by family historians at the NLW.

Small World: Travel in Wales and beyond

16 October 2010–2 April 2011

A major exhibition on the history of travel and exploration in Wales and beyond through images, journals,

texts and items from the Library's unique collections.

Writers of Wales: Islwyn Ffowc Elis & Gillian Clarke

11 December 2010–26 November 2011

An exhibition celebrating the work of poet Gillian Clarke (1937–) and novelist Islwyn Ffowc Elis (1924–2004). The third in a series of exhibitions featuring the most prominent authors of Wales.

CAMBRIDGE, FITZWILLIAM MUSEUM

Epic of the Persian Kings: the Art of Ferdowsi's Shahnameh

11 September 2010–9 January 2011
Noticed in Newsletter 54.

To mark the millennium of the Persian 'Book of Kings', this exhibition brings together illuminated manuscripts from public and private collections in the UK, including examples from the Royal Collection at Windsor Castle.

For further information visit:

<http://www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk/what-son/exhibitions/article.html?2458>.

EDINBURGH, NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SCOTLAND,

George IV Bridge Building

'A Swing through Time': a Social History of Golf in Scotland from the 15th century to the present until 31 March 2011

This exhibition has now been extended from the original date, but there will probably be a closure period of up to three weeks from 15 November to allow some alteration to exhibits and design. Please check opening times before travelling.

The Scottish Reformation

Treasures Display Area,
1 September–November 2010.

A display of books and manuscripts to mark the 450th anniversary of the beginning of the Scottish Reformation.

The Aberdeen Breviary

Treasures Display Area,
5 November 2010–early January 2011

A display marking the completion of the printing of the Aberdeen Breviary in 1510, which will include contemporary books and manuscripts from the collections of the National Library of Scotland and the library of the University of Aberdeen.

A study day is planned on Saturday 20 November to accompany this exhibition at the National Library of Scotland, George IV Bridge, Edinburgh. Please contact Helen Vincent (h.vincent@nls.uk) for further information.

**THE HAGUE, MUSEUM
MEERMANN**

**Boekengeluk. Vijftig topstukken in
zomertentoonstelling**

Until 24 October 2010

50 masterpieces (manuscripts and printed books) from the Museum Meermanno's collections. The exhibition guide, in Dutch, can be consulted on the website:

<http://www.meermann.nl/index/-/p>

LEUVEN, MUSEUM M

**The Anjou Bible - Naples 1340:
A Royal Manuscript Revealed**

17 September–5 December 2010
Vanderkelenstraat 28

B-3000 Leuven

This exhibition presents the superbly illuminated pages of a little-known

manuscript created at the unruly royal court of Naples in the 14th century. The Anjou Bible was created at the court of Robert I of Anjou, King of Naples. After some years in royal circles, the book ended up on Brabantine soil in 1509. During the course of the next 500 years, the manuscript fell into oblivion, until two years ago. On 10 March 2008 the bible was officially recognized by the Flemish Community as 'a Masterpiece' and that year a major project was launched which involved researching and conserving the book and making it accessible to the public. The parchment folios of the Bible have been carefully taken apart to give the public the chance to admire them 'in the flesh'. Once the exhibition is over, the manuscript will be re-bound and returned for safe-keeping to the strongroom at the Maurits Sabbe Library of the Theology Faculty (K.U. Leuven). After that it will only be possible to view the bible online. See

<http://www.anjoubible.be/>.

For the related colloquium, see p. 14 above.

**LONDON, BRITISH LIBRARY
Evolving English: One Language,
Many Voices.**

12 November 2010–3 April 2011
English today is spoken by a third of the world's population. In November the British Library will be holding the first ever exhibition to explore and celebrate the English language, from Anglo-Saxon runes to modern-day rap.

This will be a unique opportunity to see and hear the evolution of English from a language spoken on a

small island to a global language spoken by 1.8 billion people. From Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* to Papua-New Guinea Pidgin, the exhibition will examine where the language is now, where it has come from and where it is heading. New varieties of English appearing in world literature and on the internet show that this incredible story is by no means over. The exhibition will also look beneath the tip of the linguistic iceberg at comics, adverts, text messages, posters, newspapers, trading records and dialect recordings that make up the bulk of everyday English. Visitors to the gallery and the website will be able to contribute by recording their own voices for the benefit of future research.

Among the manuscripts on display will be *Beowulf*, the *Anglo-Saxon Chronicles*, autograph materials by Henry V and James I, the manuscript of Shelley's 'Masque of Anarchy', the proofs of George Bernard Shaw's *Pygmalion*, and archival materials on loan from the Oxford English Dictionary.

For further information see:
www.bl.uk/evolvingenglish.

**MÜNCHEN, BAYERISCHE
STAATSBIBLIOTHEK**
The Wonders of Creation
**Manuscripts of the Bavarian State
Library from the Islamic World**
16 September–5 Dec 2010

Part of the series exhibitions and events 'Changing views: 100 years after the exhibition *Meisterwerke muhammedanischer Kunst*,' (see <http://www.changing-views.de/>). The 1910 exhibition was the largest ever display of Islamic art. In com-

memoration, the BSB presents a selection of Islamic manuscripts, looking back to the library's 1910 exhibition with a collection of precious objects from the original presentation in the Fürstensaal, whilst also displaying valuable new acquisitions of the last 100 years in the 'Schatzkammer' (treasury). The exhibits include Koran manuscripts and prayer books, illustrated Arabic manuscripts, Persian and Turkish miniatures, calligraphy, and selected samples of special book-making techniques.

For further information, contact:
Peter Schnitzlein, tel. 0049 89 28638 2429; e-mail:
peter.schnitzlein@bsb-muenchen.de, or Dr. Helga Rebhan, tel. 0049 89 28638 2477, e-mail:
helga.rebhan.@bsb-muenchen.de.
For the exhibition catalogue see below, p. 29.

PARIS, LES ENLUMINURES
**France 1500: the Pictorial Arts at
the Dawn of the Renaissance**

9 September–28 November 2010
This exhibition coincides with a major international exhibition, 'Entre Moyen Âge et Renaissance: France 1500,' organized by the Réunion des musées nationaux (Paris) and the Art Institute of Chicago, held at the Grand Palais, Paris, from 6 October 2010 to 10 January, 2011, then moving to Chicago (26 February 2011 to 30 May, 2011).

For further information contact:
info@lesenluminures.com, or visit
www.lesenluminures.com.

NEW ARRIVALS

Librarians, archivists and users are invited to inform the Editor of any notable new accessions to institutional collections.

ABERYSTWYTH, NATIONAL LIBRARY OF WALES

Submitted by Maredudd ap Huw, Manuscripts Librarian.

Papers of the Wales Women's National Coalition, 1997-2010, an umbrella organisation representing women's groups in Wales (*Women's Archive of Wales*).

Six letters, 1873-76, from Sir John Rhys (1840-1915), first Professor of Celtic at the University of Oxford, to the Rev. William Henry Bliss (1835-1909) (*NLW MS 23981E*).

A further collection of Dylan Thomas (1914-53) poetry manuscripts, accumulated by book dealer Jeff Towns of Dylan's Book Store, Swansea (*Jeff Towns Collection*), together with a further group of manuscripts by author Jan Morris (1926-), including novels, notebooks, and correspondence (*Jan Morris Papers*).

A manuscript letter, 1757, from Thomas Pennant (1726-98) to fellow naturalist Emanuel Mendes da Costa (1717-91) (*NLW MS 23981E*).

A manuscript music book for the harp, 1800-10, by Elizabeth Giffard of Nerquis Hall, Flintshire (*NLW MS 24006*).

A substantial collection of papers accumulated by Welsh academic and cultural historian Hywel Teifi Edwards (1934-2010), including lectures and research papers (*Hywel Teifi Edwards Papers*).

Six occasional diaries and notebooks kept by former Prime Minister

David Lloyd George (1863-1945), mainly during the Second World War (Bloomsbury Auctions, 8 July 2010, lot 217) (*NLW ex 2691*).

DURHAM

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

A 9th-century Bede fragment

Report by Sheila Hingley, Head of Heritage Collections

The only leaf known to survive from a 9th-century manuscript copy of a work by Bede has been bought by Durham University Library, with the assistance of the MLA/V & A Purchase Fund and the Friends of the National Libraries. The manuscript from which this leaf comes was written in the German monastery of Fulda and was copied from an original written in Bede's scriptorium of Wearmouth-Jarrow. This gives it special resonance and importance for Durham.

The leaf also fills a lacuna in the Durham's manuscript collections, for hitherto the University Library, Cathedral Library and Ushaw College library have all lacked any item from the 9th century and thus in Caroline minuscule. The fact that this leaf but also contains part of a text of a work by Bede adds enormously to its relevance. A few manuscripts from Bede's own monastery of Wearmouth-Jarrow are in Durham as, of course, is his tomb and the archival records relating to it. (*Durham University has a long and distinguished tradition of Bede studies, and AMARC members will recall the 2008 colloquium and exhibition devoted to the manuscripts of Bede, organised by Prof. Richard Gameson: see Newsletter no. 51*).

EDINBURGH, NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SCOTLAND

Significant accessions for the period March–August 2010, selected by Kenneth Dunn.

Papers, 17th-20th centuries, of the Irvine Robertson family (NLS Acc. 13156).

Pocket book, 1679-80, of Sir John Werden, Diplomat & Politician (1640-1716) (NLS Acc. 13144).

Account Book, 1745-6, of expenditure on behalf of the Duke of Cumberland (NLS Acc. 13137).

Manuscript of an unpublished poem, 1772-73, of Robert Fergusson on the Edinburgh Cape Club in the form of a comical verse epistle (NLS Acc. 13190).

Letters, 1794-1830, to and concerning the family of Mungo Park (NLS Acc. 13149).

Letters, 1799-1828, of Francis Irvine (1786-1855) to his father, Alexander Irvine of Drum Castle, concerning his service in the East India Company & Afghanistan (NLS Acc. 13147).

Papers, 18th-20th centuries, of the Burns Begg family, descendants of the family of Robert Burns's sister, Isabella (previously on deposit) (NLS Acc. 13138).

Manuscripts and business records, 1819-1990, of W. & R. Chambers, publishers, with some family papers (NLS Acc. 13178).

Letters, 1841-6, between George Henry Lewes, English philosopher and critic, and James Frederick Ferrier, Scottish metaphysical philosopher (NLS Acc. 13139).

Correspondence and papers, 1861-64, relating to Ebenezer Henderson's research for his biography of James

Ferguson, FRS (1710-76) (NLS Acc. 13166).

Autobiography and diaries, 1861-1923, of John William Ballantyne (NLS Acc. 13189).

Photographic prints and negatives, c.1935-c.1970, of Joan Leigh Fermor (NLS Acc. 13179).

Letters and postcards, 1970-80 & undated, of W.S. Graham to William Featherston with cognate correspondence, manuscripts of poems and related papers (NLS Acc. 13163).

LONDON, BRITISH LIBRARY

Submitted by Michael St. John McAlister of the Department of Manuscripts.

Salman Rushdie Campaign Archive, 1989-1992 (Add. MS 88930).

Mervyn Peake Archive, 20th cent. (Add. MS 88931).

Stella Benson Papers, 1908-1938 (Add. MS 88932).

Patti Smith fair copy of 'My Blakean Year', 2004 (Add. MS 88935).

Laurie Lee papers, 1897-1999 (Add. MS 88936).

The Punch Archive, 1830-2006 (Add. MS 88937).

J. G. Ballard Papers, 1931-2010 (Add. MS 88938).

Robert Southey letters, c. 1800-1820s (Add. MS 88940).

Fox Talbot Archive, 1810-77 (Add. MS 88942).

Observations on Magna Carta, late 17th cent. (Add. MS 88945).

Letter from W. E. Gladstone re Codex Sinaiticus, 1870s (Add. MS 88946).

**The Ushaw Prayer Roll
British Library, Add. MS 88929**

(Briefly noticed in Newsletter no. 54)

The British Library recently acquired this unique, late-medieval document, also known as Henry VIII's prayer roll, for it contains one of only three surviving examples of his handwriting from before his accession in 1509. Produced in England in the late fifteenth century, it is one of the finest surviving English prayer rolls and consists of four parchment strips sewn end to end that measure some four metres long when fully unrolled. The roll contains thirteen illuminations - images of Christ, focusing on the Passion, its Instruments and the Sacred Blood, as well as depictions of various saints and their martyrdoms. Accompanying these is a two-column text, with prayers in Latin and rubrics (religious instructions) in English. The rubrics promise that the recital of certain of the prayers will offer safety from physical danger, sickness or disease; others will shorten, by specified amounts, the agony of Purgatory, while the placing of the roll on the belly of a woman in labour will ensure a safe childbirth.

The prayer roll was once owned and used by Prince Henry, evidenced by the inclusion of Henry's royal badges at the head of the roll. These include two Tudor roses, the Prince of Wales crowned ostrich feather, as well as Katherine of Aragon's personal symbol of the arrow-sheaf of Aragón. At some point prior to 1509 Henry presented the roll to William Thomas, a Gentleman of his Privy Chamber, and added an inscription at the top of the second membrane, under the central image of Christ's Passion: 'Wylliam thomas I pray

yow pray for me your lovyng master Prynce Henry'. Illustrated on p. 35 below.

BOOK REVIEWS

Joseph Dane, *Abstractions of Evidence in the Study of Manuscripts and Early Printed Books* (Farnham, Surrey: Ashgate, 2009). pp. 184 + 8 black and white illustrations.

ISBN: 978-0-7546-6501-4. £55.

Reviewed by **Dr Julia Walworth**, Research Fellow and Librarian at Merton College, Oxford.

This volume brings together nine separate studies, four of which have appeared previously, with framing chapters providing an introduction and conclusion. Each essay focuses on a case study of a specific textual or bibliographical problem in which the material evidence of particular manuscripts or copies of printed books is used to question or to bring into relief scholarly principles or assumptions, whether in the field of textual criticism, historical bibliography or descriptive cataloguing. Three chapters concern evidence from manuscript books: the different manuscript versions of the text of the prologue of Chaucer's *Legend of Good Women*; assumptions about the contemporary performance of the plays *La Seinte Resurreccion* and Adam de la Halle's *Le Jeu du Robin et Marion*; and the scholarly creation of the figure of the Wakefield Master. Printed books of the 15th and 16th centuries are featured in studies of the textual critical status of facsimiles of Shakespeare texts; the interpretation of the surviving evidence for

printed editions of *Everyman*; concepts of bibliographical identity and the 1542 Chaucer and the 1486 and 1487 printings of the *De Vita contemplative* of pseudo-Prosper Aquitanus; the 1476 edition of Boccaccio's *De Casibus virorum illustrium* and concepts of what constitutes a perfect copy; Caxton's *Recuyell of the Historyes of Troye*; and the influence of contemporary bibliographical catalogues on the treatment of composite volumes by the early 19th-century collector Leander van Ess (much of whose library is now in the Huntington and Union Theological Seminary).

The value of these studies lies in large part in Dane's analysis and description of the history of scholarship or the scholarly historical context, tracing assumptions and practices through several centuries. Some of the individual hypotheses put forward in the case studies regarding the particular volumes or texts in the cases studies are more convincing than others, though those in relevant fields will be glad to have them easily accessible. Throughout the volume Dane demonstrates how easily established scholarly practices and assumptions, for example 'ideal copy' and 'ideal text', can become principles that obscure the evidence of actual volumes and texts.

A study concerning scribal and typographical details and variations makes the reader more sensitive than usual to any shortcomings in the physical presentation of the volume in hand, even though these blemishes are probably due only to haste or financial considerations in the production of the volume. It is a pity that in Chapter 2, pp. 31-33 for

instance the textual passages that are the subject of comparison could not be laid out side by side so that the reader does not have to turn the pages back and forth to see the variant texts (ironic in a discussion of how these passages are physically presented to the reader in several scholarly editions of the text). Similarly, the description in Chapter 4 (p. 67) of the layout of text lines on fol. 39 recto of the Towneley Plays manuscript (Huntington Library HM1), which is not that easy to visualize if the reader is not familiar with the manuscript, faces an image of HM1 fol. 3r, a folio that is not discussed in any detail. Typographical errors, the sort that in an early printed book a bibliographer would immediately discount, are nevertheless distracting, e.g. 'title-leaf' in Bowers' original text becomes 'tile-leaf' in a quote on p.86; 'implicit' for 'incipit' p. 135, n.33. Other unusual phrases, such as 'The histories of the desperate [read 'disparate'?] definitions of these states...' (p. 154) are presumably also typographical mistakes, but in such a self-conscious book as this, the reader can begin to believe that past scholarly enterprises have indeed been 'desperate'. A more substantive problem is the inadequate method of citing individual manuscripts in the index to the volume, which is regrettable when the point of several of the essays is the importance of understanding particular manuscript books. Lack of a key to the abbreviations for titles of journals cited in the notes causes inconvenience to the non-specialist.

Some readers will come to *Abstractions of evidence* for access to particular essays in their field of interest. The articles in this collection, with their combination of scholarship history, case study and reflectively critical approaches will also be useful for teachers of bibliography, book history and textual criticism. Those that choose to read all the essays along with the disarming (ironic?) conclusion, itself an amended version of an independent paper will have the pleasant surprise of discovering that these collected independent articles somehow also form a series of concatenated bibliographical and intellectual-autobiographical adventures bringing together scholarship history and the intellectual history of the scholar.

Jayne Ringrose, *Summary Catalogue of the Additional Medieval Manuscripts in Cambridge University Library acquired before 1940* (Woodbridge: Boydell Press, 2009). pp. xxxvi+340. ISBN 978-1-84383-487 8. £90.

Reviewed by Richard Gameson, Professor of the History of the Book at the University of Durham.

Between 1867 and 1939 Cambridge University Library acquired some 300 medieval manuscripts. A few arrived as part of pre-existing collections - notably those of Brent Leigh parish library, of Samuel Smith Sanders and Stephen Gisele, and those within the Bible collection of Arthur William Young - but most trickled in individually by gift or purchase. With 'active collecting' characterised only by a focus on volumes that were interesting more

for their texts than for illumination, and on ones with local associations, the resulting accumulation was highly miscellaneous. There are examples from most European countries (also, possibly, North Africa) alongside an inevitable preponderance from England, and from almost every century between the sixth and the sixteenth (albeit with over half of the total of fifteenth-century date and two-thirds of the remainder dating from the thirteenth or fourteenth century). Such a range of material, while fascinating, would test the expertise of the most cataloguers: earlier forays by such great names as M.R. James and Roger Minors having never been brought to fruition, the work has finally been completed by Jayne Ringrose - almost forty years after she started.

Although the result is modestly entitled a 'Summary Catalogue', the descriptions are relatively full. A head-note giving date, size and foliation is followed by a full itemisation of content. Although incipit's and explicit are rarely supplied, all the texts are identified, editions are cited, and notes offered on points of interest. The account of the complicated content of the fifteenth-century humanistic miscellany, Add. 6188, for instance, detailing not just the variety of original texts but the many insertions, reflects meticulous scholarship; and for Add. 6860, in addition to explicating the complicated series of natural science texts that comprise its main content, a full account is given of the flyleaves - recycled from a Peter Comes or, with a content list added by Henry de Kristie, then

supplemented by another hand. Finally, information is provided on toxicology and palaeography, and on origin and provenance, often with discussion of comparanda (the analysis of the sixteenth-century binding of Add. 4081, for instance, notes its similarities to others of Syon provenance). Inscriptions bearing on the history of the volume are generally transcribed (such as the intriguing seventeenth-century example in Add. 4129: 'mad Susan Laye her book') and connections with other manuscripts highlighted (the various Bury books with a content-list by James Cobbes are cross-referenced, for example).

As well as an index of former owners (including the enigmatic 'GF' [6858] and 'LR' [2993], not to mention 'SA?DRH' [4103]) and one of cited manuscripts in other collections, there is a superb general index. So clear and comprehensive is this last that it more than makes up for the lack of an index of incipits (a resource rendered impossible in any case by their absence from the descriptions themselves): authors, texts, annotations all appear - along with much else - in full formulations, with references not just to the relevant manuscripts but often to the very folios (or other parts) in question. A few examples will illustrate its merits and delights: 'Pelagius, a pope: *spuria, De libris recipiendis et non recipiendis*: 3313, 58r-59v'; 'Prudentius Clemens, Aurelius: extract from Amartigenia: 6676, 140r-140v; 'Saviour, St, added to calendar 25 May: 3474; 9 Nov, 6657'; 'Skeat, Walter William, note by, kept with, 4219'; and, perhaps the fullest of all, 'Pavia, priory of Santa Maria de

Giosafat: Investiture of Damianus de Landulfis with land belonging to prioress and nuns: 1848, lining of cover'. Perusal of this resource rapidly brings the collection to life.

It is sad to have to say that this long-awaited, herculean labour has not been well served by its publisher: the format of the book is too small and much of the text is presented in such tiny print that it is uncomfortable to read; the price is outrageous for a small-format volume without illustrations, and for which there was apparently a subvention (p. x). The lack of plates is particularly to be regretted. Whilst the imminently-expected catalogue of illuminated manuscripts in the CUL as a whole will doubtless include some of these volumes, most are not decorated and have never been reproduced. Yet there is a wealth of script, minor ornament, binding features and ownership marks that deserved to be shown and are difficult to visualise from purely verbal descriptions: it is frustrating to read of interesting elements (such as the script of the ninth-century Add. 563, highlighted as 'particularly fine' (p. xv)) but not to be able to see them. Not only would illustrations have expedited the process of linking these disparate and little known manuscripts to their relatives in other collections, they could also have enlisted external expertise for those items whose localisation appears to have defeated the cataloguers (extreme cases are Add. 733/2 ('Southern Europe'), 3118 ('Northern Europe'), and 4456 ('unknown') - what can a book look like to be so alien from any thing known that it

cannot even tentatively be assigned to a region as broad as half of Europe?).

It is also a great shame that, while manuscript fragments that were allotted a shelf-mark of their own are included, those which were grouped together under a common number (e.g. Add. 5964) are not. The omission appears arbitrary: if the labour of cataloguing the fragments in question seemed daunting, surely a summary listing could have been included, which would have been better than nothing. Moreover, one cannot help but observe that since the cut-off date for inclusion is 1939, as many years of collecting have since elapsed as are actually covered. In view of the time taken to bring this work to completion, one must regret that the opportunity was not taken to continue the coverage up to a more recent date.

It would be inappropriate, however, to end on a negative note. Though time-consuming to produce, a good manuscript catalogue will have a very long working life. This one makes a fascinating and little-known cross-section of medieval book readily available – at least to those who can read excessively small print. The general index provides an enticing *accessus* to this varied collection and should be required reading for anyone with an interest in medieval, renaissance and even early modern studies.

SOME RECENT PUBLICATIONS

Bibliographical details are as given by contributors, press releases or

websites and the amount of information is variable.

La catalogazione dei manoscritti miniati come strumento di conoscenza. Esperienze, metodologia, prospettive, ed. Silvia Maddalo (Atti del Convegno internazionale di studi Viterbo, 4-5 marzo 2009; Istituto Storico Italiano per il Medio Evo: Nuovi Studi Storici no. 87, Rome, 2010). ISBN 978-88-89190-66-1. Contents: A. Quintavalle, 'Le botteghe, il disegno, i modelli,' pp. 11-46; P. Stirnemann, 'The Catalogue of Illuminated Manuscripts as an Intellectual Tool,' pp. 47-54; M.A. Miranda, 'Da investigação à catalogação dos manuscritos dos fundos portugueses. Problemas et métodos de uma base de dados em iconografia,' pp. 55-65; S. Panayotova, 'Cataloguing Manuscripts in Cambridge Collections: Aims, Challenges and Discoveries,' pp. 67-74; L. Dal Poz, 'La miniature ai confine: I codici medievali delle biblioteche trentine,' pp. 75-82; M. Bollati, M. Petoletti, 'I manoscritti miniati della Biblioteca Ambrosiana di Milano: contributo per un catalogo,' pp. 83-91; G. Orofino, 'Il catalogo dei codici decorati dell'Archivio di Montecassino,' pp. 93-101; S. Maddalo, 'Dalla biblioteca del principe alla biblioteca di un collezionista,' pp. 103-14; G. Baroffio, 'Catalogare manoscritti liturgici: tipologie semplici e complesse,' pp. 115-26; F. Toniolo, 'Il libri corali del Trecento della biblioteca Capitolare di Padova: il catalogo delle miniature e la ricezione dei modelli giotteschi,' pp. 127-40; F. Manzari, 'Libri d'ore e strumenti per la devozione italiani e nordeu-

ropei nel tardo medioevo: temi e aspetti della ricerca e della catalogazione,' pp. 141-60 ; S. Sansone, 'Libri medullitus delectant, colloquuntur consulunt. Il libri del "diletto" nella biblioteca de Federico di Montfeltro,' pp. 161-67; G.M. Canova, 'La catalogazione dei manoscritti miniati della cultura laica: aspetti e problemi,' pp. 169-82; M. Palma, 'La definizione della scrittura nei cataloghi di manoscritti medievali,' pp. 183-93; C. Federici, 'La conservazione dei manoscritti: lo stato della questione,' pp. 195-206; M. Torquati, 'Mostrare per conoscere: riflessioni intorno al manoscritto esposto,' pp. 207-16; E. Caldelli, 'Antiposte e clipei iscritti: suggestioni per una ricerca,' pp. 217-28; G. M. Fachechi, 'Il "catalogo per autori" e la ricezione figurative di un testo antico nel medioevo,' pp. 229-39; E. Ponzi, 'Frammenti di una collezione libraria,' pp. 241-47; A. Piazzoni, 'Prospettiva: cataloghi cartacei, cataloghi informatici,' pp. 249-60 ; J.J.G Alexander, 'On catalogues and cataloguing,' p. 261-3.

Giovanni Giacomo Decio, Il miniatore dei corali de Vigevano, by Pier Luigi Mulas (Vigevano: Società Storica Vigevanense, 2009), 205pp. ISBN 978-88-95873-07-7.

Le livre dans la région toulousaine et ailleurs au Moyen Age, ed. S. Cassagnes-Brouquet & M. Fournié (collection 'Médiennes', CNRS / Université de Toulouse-Le Mirail, 2010), 217 pp. ISBN 978-2-912025-63-0. €25.
Contents: S. Cassagnes-Brouquet, 'Le métier de parcheminier à Toulouse à la fin du Moyen Age,' pp.

13-31; V. Lamazou-Duplan et L. Soula, 'Artisans et métiers du livre à Toulouse aux XIVe et XVe siècles: échos des registres de notaires,' pp. 33-56; H. Haruna-Czaplicki, 'Note sur le ms. 1252 de la Bibliothèque municipale de Toulouse: un sacramentaire d'Albi réalisé au tournant du XIIIe et du XIVe siècle et son décor à filigranes à l'encre,' pp. 59-71; M.A. Bilotta, 'Nouvelles considérations sur un manuscrit toulousain du Décret de Gratien reconstitué,' pp. 73-83; C. Rabel, 'Sous le manteau de la Vierge: le missel des Carmes de Toulouse (vers 1390-1400),' pp. 85-106; C. Stunault, 'La Vierge dans la poésie des troubadours,' pp. 109-20; C. Daydé, 'Un *unicum* méconnu: la *Repetitio de inquisitione hereticorum* de Nicolas Bertrand (Toulouse 1512),' pp. 121-34; E. Pujeau, 'Enjeux autour du latin dans l'Italie du seizième siècle,' pp. 135-49; E. Nadal, 'Une recherche en cours: les commanditaires ecclésiastiques de manuscrits enluminés dans le Midi de la France au XIVe siècle,' pp. 153-68; P. Foissac, 'Les bibliothèques des collèges universitaires de Cahors et Toulouse (XIVe-XVe siècles),' pp. 169-81; E. Goujard, 'Les bibliothèques perpignaises à la fin du Moyen Age: approche sociale du lecteur roussillonnais,' p. 183-200; M. Desachy, 'Bibliophiles d'oncle à neveu: livres et bibliothèques de Jean et Hélicon Jouffroy (vers 1460-1530),' pp. 201-15.

Material Restoration. A Fragment from Eleventh-Century Echternach in a Nineteenth-Century Parisian Codex, C. Viricillo Franklin (Turnhout: Brepols, 2010) xvi + 242 pp.,

18 b/w ills., ISBN 978-2-503-52909-7. € 60.

Les matériaux du livre médiéval, ed. C. Bourlet, M. Zerdoun, (Turnhout: Brepols, 2010). 400 pp., ISBN 978-2-503-53386-5, approx. € 70.

Notes de bibliologie. Livres d'heures et manuscrits du Moyen Âge identifiés (Turnhout: Brepols, 2010) 320 pp., 62 b/w ill. + 8 colour ill., ISBN: 978-2-503-53279-0. €65.

Volume 7 of the series, *Pecia: Le Livre et l'écrit*. Provides descriptions of several books of hours whose owners have been identified by indicators such as their coats of arms; with useful information on particular scribes. For further details see www.pecia.fr or www.brepols.net/.

Le recueil au Moyen Âge. Le Moyen Âge central, ed. Y. Foehr-Janssens, O. Collet (Turnhout: Brepols, 2010). 304 pp. ISBN 978-2-503-52281-4. € 59.

Textual Cultures: Cultural Texts, ed. Orietta Da Rold & Elaine Treharne (Cambridge: D.S. Brewer, 2010), 242 pp. 2 colour & 16 black-and-white illustrations. ISBN 978-1-84384-239-2. £30. 25% discount to AMARC members: see flyer enclosed with this Newsletter. This book will be reviewed in a forthcoming Newsletter.

Très Riches Heures de Jean, Duc de Berry (Barcelona: Moleiro). 412 pp. Full colour facsimile edition, with commentary by Patricia Stirnemann et Inès Villela-Petit. See www.moleiro.com.

The Woodcut in Fifteenth-Century Europe, ed. Peter Parshall (New Haven & London: Yale University Press, 2009). 352 pp. ISBN 978-0300121636. £55.

The Wollaton Medieval Manuscripts, ed. Ralph Hanna & Thorlac Turville-Petre (Woodbridge: Boydell & Brewer, forthcoming November 2010). 248 pp. 50 colour and 15 black & white illustrations. ISBN 978-1-90315-3345. £50.

25% discount to AMARC members: see flyer enclosed with this Newsletter. See also above, pp. 4-6. A review of this book will be published in a forthcoming Newsletter.

Die Wunder der Schöpfung: Handschriften aus dem islamischen Kulturkreis / The Wonders of Creation: Manuscripts of the Bavarian State Library from the Islamic world, ed. Helga Rebhan (Wiesbaden, Harrassowitz, 2010). Catalogue of the exhibition at the BSB, see p. 20 above.

Electronic Publications

Catalogue of Islamic Manuscripts in the Svetozar Markovic University Library, Belgrade. E-book with 600+ items written in Arabic, Ottoman Turkish and Persian, see: <http://sites.google.com/site/acatalogueofislamicmanuscripts/home>.

Periodicals

The Mediæval Journal

This new journal has been announced by Brepols Publishers and the St Andrews Institute of Mediæval Studies, starting in 2011 beginning with two issues.

The Mediaeval Journal is a European-based cross-disciplinary and multinational journal of Mediaeval Studies published in English in both print and online formats, which welcomes submissions from mediaevalists worldwide, in traditional disciplines such as Art History, History, Archaeology, Theology, European Languages/Literatures (including English), as well as burgeoning areas such as Islamic Studies, Jewish Studies, Manuscript Studies, Mediaevalisms, Material Culture, History of Medicine and Science, History of Ideas, Queer Studies, Postcolonial Studies, and Musicology, to name a few. *The Mediaeval Journal* will also contain timely and expert reviews. Contact: Dr Ian Johnson (irj@st-andrews.ac.uk) and Dr Margaret Connolly (mc29@st-andrews.ac.uk). To order contact: periodicals@brepols.net.

Nottingham Medieval Studies

ISSN 0078-2122

Published yearly since 1957, from vol. LIV (2010) this journal will be published by Brepols, with Dr Julia Barrow as editor (julia.barrow@nottingham.ac.uk), and Dr Joanna Martin as deputy editor (joanna.martin@nottingham.ac.uk). Contributions are invited on all aspects of medieval studies, including the journal's traditional areas of strength – western European literature and history - or related fields such as archaeology, art history, linguistics, musicology, and philosophy. For subscriptions, available in print-only and print & online, contact periodicals@brepols.net

@brepols.net. Articles are also available on a pay-per-view basis via <http://brepols.metapress.com>.

Electronic Periodicals

Manuscripts on my Mind is the e-newsletter of the Vatican Film Library at Saint Louis University. To subscribe or contribute contact the editor, Susan L'Engle (lengles@slu.edu).

South African Medieval and Renaissance Newsletter

(<http://sasmarsnewsletter.blogspot.com/>) Includes details of forthcoming conferences, new publications and other activities.

WEBSITES & ONLINE

RESOURCES

BSB-Ink (Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, München)

<http://www.bsb-muenchen.de/Inkunabelkatalog-BSB-Ink.181.0.html>

The BSB's online database of the incunable catalogue has recently been updated and now contains descriptions of 9,742 incunable editions with 20,010 copies. A total of 168 editions and 235 copies are now recorded which had not yet been included in the printed version of the catalogue (7 vols. Wiesbaden: Reichert Verlag, 1988-2009). This comprises all incunabula acquired from 1986 up to and including 2009, partly thanks to funding from the 'Sammlung deutscher Drucke'; new acquisitions can be found by entering 'erworben' in the 'Provenienz' field. The database also contains records on incunabula found among the library's collections, e.g. in the course

of digitization projects, and a growing number of incunabula fragments and binding waste.

Hyperlinks lead to the *Gesamtkatalog der Wiegendrucke* (GW) and *Incunabula Short Title Catalogue* (ISTC).

Incunabula which were digitized in our current project funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft are hyperlinked with the descriptions of the copies. Some minor additions were made to the descriptions. References to the catalogues of Latin and German manuscript fragments by Hermann Hauke (1994 and 2001) and Karin Schneider (2005) have been added. Similarly, references to the *Verzeichnis der im deutschen Sprachraum erschienenen Drucke des 16. Jahrhunderts* (VD 16) were added to post-incunabula and 16th-century printed editions contained in composite volumes.

Please send any corrections or other suggestions to Bettina Wagner (bettina.wagner@bsb-muenchen.de).

BSB on iPod/iPad app

The BSB now offers a selection of its medieval and early modern treasures on a dedicated iPod/iPad app. The selection includes manuscripts such as the Nibelungenlied, Parzival and Ottheinrich Bible, incunabula such as the Gutenberg Bible and Schedel Chronicle, as well as numerous others, located under the heading 'Famous Books' or 'Treasures of the Bavarian State Library' on iTunes.

A preview is available at:

<http://ax.itunes.apple.com/us/app/famous-books-treasures-bavarian/id380668385?mt=8>

The OPAC of the library and the Bavarian Union Catalogue are also available in a customized version for smartphones, see:

<http://opacplus.bsb-muenchen.de>

For further information (in German) see <http://www.bsb-muenchen.de/Mobiler-OPACplus.2771.0.html>

Harry Ransom Center: Medieval and Early Modern Manuscripts Collection

<http://research.hrc.utexas.edu/pubmenem/>

This collection, at the University of Austin, Texas, has launched an online database for its medieval and early modern manuscripts collection. The database includes more than 7,000 digital images. The manuscripts collection contains 215 items dating from the 11th to the 17th centuries, comprising items from various collections, including those of George Atherton Aitken, W. H. Crain, Carlton Lake, Edward A. Parsons, Sir Thomas Phillipps, Walter Emile Van Wijk, Evelyn Waugh, and John Henry Wrenn.

The Ransom Center is digitizing all of its collection items, which will be added to the database as they are completed. At present, digital images are available for 27 of the items. The database contains item-level descriptions for all 215 items, and the collection is searchable by keyword and by various categories and subjects.

Books in Books: Reflections on Reading and Writing in the Middle Ages

This exhibition, held from April to June 2010 at the Houghton Library Harvard University, Cambridge (MA), is still available online at <http://tinyurl.com/2aozrey>.

Thomas Phillips and the Greatest Little Library in Wales

<http://www.trinitysaintdavid.ac.uk/en/rbla/thomasphillipsexhibition/>

On-line version of an exhibition recently held in the Roderic Bowen Library and Archives at the former University of Wales, Lampeter, now the Lampeter campus of the recently formed University of Wales Trinity-St David. Celebrating the 250th anniversary of the birth of Thomas Phillips (1760-1851), generous benefactor of the University Library, this exhibition was conceived and curated by Peter Hopkins. It reveals the wealth and diversity of Phillips' collection and celebrates his life. Arranged chronologically, it includes manuscripts from the 13th century onwards and printed material from the 15th to 19th centuries. This website is expected to remain available for the foreseeable future.

History of the book at the École des chartes

The École des chartes now has section of its website devoted to the history of the book, at www.enc.sorbonne.fr/histoiredulivre/ This section includes bibliographies (under *Instruments de travail*), lists, catalogues, and texts of lectures (under *Ressources*), and details of activities such as conferences, lectures and seminars (under *Agenda*). The website is updated regularly and also has an RSS feed. Users are invited to submit details of forthcoming

conferences and colloquia, seminars, lectures and vivas for inclusion, by sending them to secretariat.bibliotheque@enc.sorbonne.fr

European Royal & Imperial Documents

<http://www.hgw-online.net/abbildungsverzeichnis/>

The image inventory of the European royal and imperial documents from before 1200, compiled by Irmgard Fees and Peter Worm, has been updated and relaunched. In addition to bibliographic details of approximately 5000 documents, the inventory links to online reproductions of books and particularly of the Lichtbildarchiv älterer Originalurkunden at Marburg University. Much remains to be done to make the inventory comprehensive and comments and suggestion are welcome. Contact: hgw-online@lrz.uni-muenchen.de.

Harry Ransom Center Medieval and Early Modern Manuscripts Collection

<http://research.hrc.utexas.edu/pubmenem/>

The Harry Ransom Center, a humanities research library and museum at the University of Texas at Austin, has introduced an online database for its medieval and early modern manuscripts collection. The database includes more than 7,000 digital images.

The medieval and early modern manuscripts collection contains 215 items dating from the 11th to the 17th centuries, and comprises items from various collections. The Ransom Center is digitizing all of the collection items, which will be

added to the database as they are completed. At present, digital images are available for 27 of the items for a total of 7,288 pages. The database contains item-level descriptions for all 215 items, and the collection is searchable by keyword and by combining categories such as name, country of origin, century, language, format (such as charters or diaries), subject and physical features (such as musical notation or wax seals). The website is expected to be useful for teaching purposes as well as for research.

The collection is particularly strong in humanistic manuscripts, vernacular literature and religious documents. Other represented subjects include alchemy, architecture, astronomy, botany, cartography, classical literature, diplomacy, drama, genealogy, government, heraldry, history, kings and rulers, law, mathematics, medicine, monasticism and religious orders, music, philosophy, poetry, science and war.

The earliest item in the collection is the Tegernsee Miscellany, an 11th-century Austrian codex compiled by Abbot Ellinger of Tegernsee. Other highlights include 11 Books of Hours, most notably the 'Belleville Hours,' and a 15th-century German ferial psalter and hymnal, significant because of its possible stylistic relationship to the Gutenberg Bible and early printed psalters. There are copies of Classical texts by Cicero, Horace, Ovid and Plato, and medieval literary works by Chaucer, Dante and Petrarch.

The historical documents in the collection represent numerous European monarchs, such as Henry VIII of England, Louis XIII of France

and Philip III of Spain, as well as notable historical figures such as Oliver Cromwell, Martin Luther, John Milton, Sir Isaac Newton, Abraham Ortelius and Sir Walter Raleigh. Document types include charters, commonplace books, contracts, correspondence, decrees, deeds, diaries, government records, indentures, letters patent, minutes, notarial documents, notes, papal bulls, petitions, pontificals, receipts, reports, speeches and writs. The manuscripts derive from countries as diverse as Austria, Bohemia, Bolivia, Byzantium, England, Flanders, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Scotland, Spain and the USA, and include texts in Dutch, English, Flemish, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Italian, Latin, Middle English, Old English and Spanish.

Base des actes originaux conservés en France antérieurs à 1121 (*olim* Artem)

<http://www.cn-telma.fr/originaux>

This database, started in 1978 and hitherto only available in Nancy is now online using the Telma platform. It includes the text (reproductions coming soon) of all surviving pre-1121 charters in France, approx. 5000 charters, with full search tools. The website is a partnership between the Centre de médiévistique Jean Schneider (ERL 7229, Nancy, successor to the Artemteam) and the IRHT, with the support of GDR 'Diplomatique'.

e-codices: Virtual Manuscript Library of Switzerland
(www.e-codices.unifr.ch)

A recent update (June, 2010) saw the addition of 27 manuscripts to the website, bringing the current total content to 649 digitized manuscripts from 27 different libraries.

Newly digitized manuscripts of particular interest include: a papyrus/parchment manuscript from the 7th/8th centuries containing sermons by Augustine (Bibliothèque de Genève, MS Lat. 16; a 9th-century manuscript, probably originating in Fulda, containing the fourth book of *De compendiosa doctrina* by Nonius Marcellus, with corrections by Lupus of Ferrières (Bibliothèque de Genève, MS lat. 84; the *Hornbacher Sakramentar* (Eburnant-Codex), written and illuminated before 983 at Reichenau (Solothurn, Domschatz der St.-Ursen-Kathedrale, Cod. U 1; the second-oldest surviving book of the chapter office of the Abbey of St. Gallen, containing, among other items, records of brothers who became members of the abbey, the Rule of St. Benedict, and a martyrology with necrology (St. Gallen, Stiftsbibliothek, Cod. Sang. 453.

The Abuna Garima Gospels

Following the completion of the conservation project, a full account is now available at <http://ethiopianheritagefund.org/completed.html>.

MSS & ARCHIVES NEWS

Vatican Library

The library reopened officially on 20 September. Users are advised to check new arrangements for admissions by visiting the website:

www.vaticanlibrary.va/home.php?pag=riapertura.

Chair of Palaeography at King's College London

Despite the enormous outcry and representations from scholars worldwide (see *Newsletter no. 54*), and notwithstanding some over-optimistic statements in the press, King's College London has withdrawn funding from the Chair of Palaeography which has been held since 1997 by Professor David Ganz, whose employment has been terminated. The college stated that 'due to financial constraints associated with cuts in Higher Education Funding, it would no longer be able to fund the current Chair in Palaeography. [...] The College has since [January 2010] re-examined the situation as part of the 90-day consultation exercise and believes that it may be able to establish a new Chair of Palaeography and Manuscript Studies at some point in the future.'

The working party's report can be accessed from www.kcl.ac.uk/news/news_details.php?year=2010&news_id=1408.

Meanwhile, the University of London's Institute of English Studies responded to the working party's report, welcoming the recommendation to re-establish a Chair but noting that members of the London Palaeography Teachers Group were not included in the consultation exercise, and questioned the accuracy of some of the information in the report.

UNESCO UK Memory of the World Register

Among the first inscriptions to the UK Memory of the World Register announced in July 2010 is the National Library of Wales's Peniarth Manuscripts collection, the most important collection of manuscripts ever assembled in Wales. It consists of 561 works in Welsh, English, Latin, French and Cornish, dating from the 12th to the 19th centuries. A nucleus of rather more than four-fifths of these formed the well-known Hengwrt Collection, which was established by the antiquary Robert Vaughan (c.1592-1667) who gathered in his library priceless manuscripts such as the 'Hengwrt Chaucer', an illustrated copy of the medieval Welsh laws, known as the Laws of Hywel Dda, and the Middle Cornish mystery play *Beunans Meriasek*.

Vaughan's main interest was manuscripts written in Welsh, and in Hengwrt, his house in Merionethshire, he amassed a great number of the most significant Welsh-language manuscripts, including the Black Book of Carmarthen, the Book of Taliesin, the White Book of Rhydderch, and the Hendregadredd Manuscript. These and other important manuscripts have been digitised, and can be seen in full on the National Library's Digital Mirror (<http://www.llgc.org.uk/index.php?id=122>).

The Ushaw Prayer Roll



British Library, Add. MS 88929

See p. 23. © The British Library Board

DEFACING A SCRIBE



The author, Dictis, writing. Miniature from Benoît de Sainte-Maure's 'Roman de Troie' in an early 13th-century volume of French romances and fabliaux. Manuscripts and Special Collections, The University of Nottingham, WLC/LM/6, f.126v.

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See pp. 4-6 above.