

January 2009



Section on Rare Books and Manuscripts

Newsletter

Section's Homepage: <http://www.ifla.org/VII/s18/index.htm>

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People



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From the Editors

The present edition has been prepared by Chantal Keijsper and Ernst-Jan Munnik (Leiden University Library).

The newsletter will only be published in electronic format in future. This gives us the opportunity to include illustrations in the text and thus to enhance the visual attractiveness of the newsletter. **So please keep sending us texts, and if you can, include a digital image, too!**

IFLA 74th General Conference and Council in Québec 2008

Libraries without borders: navigating towards global understanding was the theme of the 74th IFLA Conference in Québec, Canada, from 10-14 August 2008. The Standing Committee of Rare Books and Manuscripts organized a session on Monday 11 August, which was titled: 'Expanding frontiers of knowledge: documents of exploration, discovery and travel.'



The following papers were included:

- 'L'Université Laval et l'exploration scientifique du grand nord canadien', James Lambert (Université Laval, Québec, Canada)
- 'The image of the Norwegian Polar Hero', Harald Østgaard (National Library of Norway, Oslo, Norway)
- 'Through the eyes of Louis Shotridge: sharing Alaska's native Tlingit history. A digital archive project at Penn Museum, Philadelphia', Lucy Fowler Williams and David McKnight (Penn Museum, Philadelphia, USA)
- 'La Bibliotheca Histórica de la Universidad Complutense de Madrid y su colección delibros de viajes', Pilar Moreno Garcia and Marta Torres Santo Domingo (Universidad Complutense de Madrid, Madrid, Spain)
- 'Memories of Chinese Buddhist scholars in connection with Nalanda Monastic International University India in the 7th century AD', R.H.I.S. Ranasinghe (University of Kelaniya, Sri Lanka)

All papers except the second one are available on IFLANET:
<http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla74/Programme2008.htm>.



The 74th conference of the IFLA was organized in Québec City. In this year, 2008, Québec City was celebrating its 400th anniversary. The beautiful city was filled with people in traditional costumes and a variety of attractions lured tourists into the city. The opening session was devoted to the history of Québec and the anniversary of the city. Dancers and singers alternated the talks by the mayor, the president of the IFLA and other officials.

The business meetings of the Rare Books and Manuscript Committee were held on Saturday 9 and Friday 15 August respectively.

'Expanding frontiers of knowledge: documents of exploration, discovery and travel' was the

theme of the session organized by Rare Books and Manuscripts. The second paper, by Harald Østgaard, was cancelled at the last minute. The four presented papers treated each of them a different aspect of historical libraries and their special collections. James Lambert of the Université Laval in Québec gave an overview of the interest that 'his' university displayed through the ages in the scientific exploration of the North. Lucy Fowler Williams and David McKnight from the Penn Museum in Philadelphia presented the Penn Museum's collaborative initiative with the Penn Library's Schoenberg Center for Electronic Text and Image to create the Louis Shotridge Digital Archive. The rich history and treasures of the Biblioteca Histórica "Marqués de Valdecilla" of the Universidad Complutense de Madrid was the subject of the third presentation, held by Pilar Moreno Garcia and Marta Torres Santo Domingo. The last presentation was devoted to the history and importance of the Nalanda Monastic University in India.

In 2009, the Rare Books and Manuscripts Section will organize a session about dispersed cultural collections in cooperation with the Preservation and Conservation Section and the Library History Section. Thanks to the initiative of our chair, Bettina Wagner, there will also be a pre-conference in München about early printed books as material objects. I hope to see you in München and Milan!

Chantal Keijsper



Fotos: Bettina Wagner

IFLA 75th General Conference and Council in Milan 2009



Call for papers

Theme: "Dispersed cultural collections: Preservation, reconstruction and access"

The IFLA Rare Books and Manuscripts Section, the Preservation and Conservation Section, and the Library History Section jointly invite proposals for presentations at the Sections' programme in Milan, 23-27 August 2009.

Following the main theme of the conference "Libraries create futures: Building on cultural heritage", papers should focus on dispersed cultural collections and their preservation and conservation, reconstruction, and access to them, preferably in electronic form.

- **Dispersed cultural collections** comprises libraries and other collections formerly held by institutions or private collectors which were dispersed through political events (wars, dissolution of monasteries) or through auctions and duplicate sales, and are today held in various public institutions (libraries, archives, museums) or in different sections of such institutions. The dispersed materials may be in different formats (manuscripts, printed books, archival documents, photographs) and may date from any period. Papers about individual collectors and dealers will also be considered
- **Preservation and conservation** deals with aspects of the physical assessment of an object for the better understanding of its contexts, with special regard to provenances. The role of the conservator should be given particular consideration, including procedures for preserving and documenting features relevant for the history of an item during conservation, such as provenance marks and former shelfmarks.
- **Reconstruction** should cover questions of identifying individual items which once belonged to such a collection; of investigating the survival of historical collections; or of maintaining inventories or archives of collections that have been dispersed. Papers should discuss methods of reconstruction, i.e. through identification of provenances, through matching of historical inventories with surviving items, or through digitization as well as methods for the creation of virtual libraries or databases of dispersed materials.
- **Access** refers to the questions concerning the needs of target groups of such projects (from researchers to the general public), the standards applied for cataloguing and presentation and problems of overcoming heterogeneous standards for diverse materials; technical solutions for their presentation; and also raising awareness and funds for such project.

Papers should place particular emphasis on issues of project management and methodology, e.g. policies regarding preservation and digitization; standards for

cataloguing and recording provenances; cross-institutional cooperation (national and international).

Materials presented should be placed in a broader cultural-historical context in order to demonstrate their relevance to a wide range of (academic) subjects and users, taking up the theme of IFLA president Claudia Lux for 2007-9: "Libraries on the Agenda".

Submissions:

- Papers can be given in any of the official IFLA languages (English, French, German, Russian, Spanish), but abstracts should be submitted in English.
- Papers should not be longer than 15 pages.
- The oral presentation of each paper should not exceed 20 minutes.

The proposals must be submitted in an electronic format and must contain:

- a. Title of paper
- b. Summary of paper (250 – 350 words max)
- c. Speaker's name, institutional affiliation, address, telephone
- d. **Important dates:**
 - deadline for submission of abstract **31 December 2008**
 - notification of acceptance **March 2009**
 - deadline for submission of paper: **1 May 2009**

All submissions should be sent via email to:

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Per Cullhed

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Hermina G.B. Anghelescu

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Please send your proposal to all three addresses.

IFLA RBMS Pre-conference in Munich

19-21 August 2009



The conference theme is **‘Early printed books as material objects – Principles, problems, perspectives’**. Papers will be given in English and focus mainly on the beginnings of the production of printed books in Europe in the 15th and 16th centuries, when printed books still had much in common with manuscripts. Therefore, it is important not just to treat them as textual sources, but also as material objects. In this context, the term ‘materiality’ refers both to the physical make-up of a printed book as a historical object (i.e. paper, binding) as well as to individual copy-specific features which are distinctive for each item, like manuscript annotations, ownership marks or waste-papers used in bindings. These aspects have recently come under close scrutiny from historians, librarians and conservators. They are relevant not only for the cataloguing, conservation and digitization of rare and older printed books, but also for the (virtual) reconstruction of historical libraries and for the history of reception. Thus, the pre-conference is intended to stimulate discussion and exchange among scholars, bibliographers, conservators and a wider audience.

Registration is now open through the website of the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek München, where more information about the conference programme, hotels and excursions is provided:

<http://www.bsb-muenchen.de/339.0.html?L=3> (English version)

<http://www.bsb-muenchen.de/339.0.html> (German version)

Deadline for registration:

May 15th, 2009

Maximum number of participants: 150

There is no registration fee.

Conference participants are required to arrange and pay for their own accommodation, food and excursions.



Please note that it is possible to apply for financial support for attending an international congress in Germany via BI-International für internationalen Fachaustausch:

http://www.bi-international.de/english/application_forms/

IFLA-preconference
Munich, 19-21 August 2009
Early printed books as material objects
Principles, problems, perspectives

Preliminary programme

Wednesday, 19.8.2009

14:00-14:15 Welcome

14:15-15:45

Methodological aspects (1): Principles

Chair: Jan Bos

[1] Björn Dal (University Library, Lund, Sweden):

Duplicates or unique objects: Changing perceptions of books in the hand-press period

[2] Paul Needham (Scheide Library, Princeton, USA):

Copy-specifics as produced in the printing shop

[3] David Pearson (University of London, UK):

The importance of the copy census as a methodology in book history

30 min Discussion

15:45-16:15 Break

16:15-17:45

Illustration: Hand decoration in incunabula

Chair: Marcia Reed

[4] Lilian Armstrong (Wellesley College, USA):

Information from Illumination: Learning from the Decoration of Incunabula in the 1470s

[5] Mayumi Ikeda (Courtauld Institute of Art, University of London, UK):

The First Experiments in Book Decoration at the Fust-Schöffer Press

[6] Christine Beier (Universität Wien, Austria):

Painted decoration in printed books. The Role of the Monasteries in Central Europe

30 min Discussion

Bettina Wagner (BSB):

The incunable collection of the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek Munich – from physical presence to virtual reality

18:30 Reception at the incunable exhibition of the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek

Thursday, 20.8.2009

9:00-10:30

Bindings (1): Fragments of manuscripts and printed books in bindings

Chair: to be announced

[7] Eric White (Bridwell Library, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, USA):

The Gutenberg Bibles that Survive as Binder's Waste

[8] Falk Eisermann (Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, Germany):

Wasted Words in Pasted Boards. Manuscript Fragments from 16th Century Bookbindings at Leipzig University Library

[9] Claire Bolton (University of Reading, UK):

Links between printer and binder in the 15th century

30 min Discussion

10:30-11:00 Break

Bindings (2): Binding databases and methods of description

Chair: to be announced

11:00-12:30

[10] Ulrike Marburger (Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, Germany):

The Database of historical bookbindings (EBDB): Aims and perspectives of a co-operative research tool

[11] Scott Husby (Princeton, USA):

The database of the bookbindings on incunabula in American library collections

[12] Helena Strömquist Dal (University of Lund, Sweden):

Manual for describing and recording bindings

30 min Discussion

12:30-14:00 Lunch break

14-15:30

Provenances (1): Private libraries in the 16th century

Chair: Richard Landon

[13] Chris Coppens (Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium):

An album amicorum from a sixteenth century Antwerp private library of a lawyer

[14] Angela Nuovo (University of Udine, Italy):

Private libraries in 16th-century Italy

[15] Raphaële Mouren (Ecole nationale supérieure des sciences de l'information et des bibliothèques, Lyon, France):

The Vettori library and questions of provenance

30 min Discussion

15:30-16:00 Break

16:00-17:30

Provenances (2): Practices for recording owners and authority files

Chair: Chantal Keijsper

[16] Michaela Scheibe / Ruth Weiß (Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin, Germany):

The "biography of copies": Provenance description in online catalogues

[17] Ivan Boserup (Royal Library, Copenhagen, Denmark):

The **Royal Identification Marks** - From security measure to tool for provenance research

[18] David Shaw (Consortium of European Research Libraries, UK):

Resources for provenance research in the CERL Thesaurus

30 min Discussion

19:00 Dinner at traditional Bavarian restaurant (at participants' own expense)

Friday, 21.8.2009

9:00-10:30

Manuscript notes in printed books

Chair: to be announced

[19] Patricia Osmond (Iowa State University, USA / Rome, Italy):

Pomponio Leto's unpublished commentary on Sallust: five witnesses

[20] Armin Schlechter (LBZ / Pfälzische Landesbibliothek Speyer, Germany):

Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa in a marginal note in a Cicero incunable

[21] Cristina Dondi (University of Oxford, UK):

The Venetian Booktrade: a Methodological Approach to and First Results of Book-based Historical Research

30 min Discussion

10:30-11:00 Break

11:00-12:30

Methodological aspects (2): Perspectives

Chair: to be announced

[22] Wolfgang Undorf (National Library, Stockholm, Sweden):

A book is a book is a book - Multiple books: some case studies and general thoughts

[23] Marina Venier (Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale, Rome, Italy):

Many into one: identification methods for single libraries being part of a wider collection

[24] Kristian Jensen (British Library, London, UK):

Creating a better past - collectors of incunabula in the 18th century

30 min Concluding discussion

14:00 (optional) Excursion to Neuburg/Donau or Guided Tour of Munich or Guided Tour of Bavarian State Library (including exhibition and Digitization Centre)
or Onward travel to Milan for 75th IFLA General Conference and Assembly

From the Libraries

Leiden, University Library



In 2007 the Dutch national coalition for university libraries and the National Library (UKB) have founded a national Committee for Special Collections. Aim is to stimulate cooperation activities between the departments of special collections and to develop new policy on a national level. Under the umbrella of the new Committee, the existing working groups for Manuscripts, Printed books and Maps will be continued. Four new working groups have been set up to organize activities about the following themes:

- Encoded Archival Description
- A national project proposal to develop a digital 'libratory' for the humanities
- Born-digital special collections
- Metadata standards

The Committee is chaired by Chantal Keijsper, head curator of the University Library, Leiden.

Los Angeles, The Getty Research Institute



New Acquisitions:

Alselm Kiefer. *Die berühmten Orden der Nacht* (Self published, 1990s).

A unique book consists of 28 double-page spreads, most of which are photographs of sunflowers that have been inscribed and painted. The final six pages are starscapes painted in black and white. Of all major living artists, Kiefer arguably has been the most passionately engaged with the book form, and this volume is a quintessential work in its deft mixing of photography with drawing and painting, its juxtaposition of word and image, and its invocation of mythology and symbols. Kiefer produced this book for Jean-Louis Froment, who inaugurated the CAPC Bordeaux (one of the earliest and most important museums of contemporary art in Europe) with the artist's first personal exhibition in France.

The Orientalist Photography Collection.

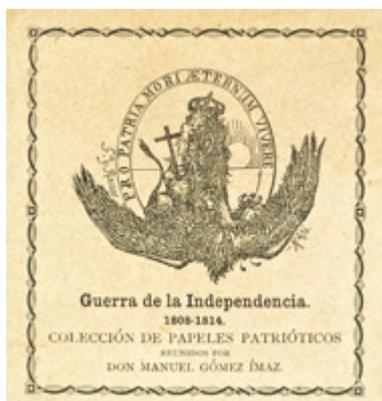
Nearly 4,500 photographic images of the Middle East and North Africa, the majority dating between 1843 and 1920, record a period when the Orient held a special allure for western viewers and was increasingly open to travelers, commerce, and ideas. Created by 164 different photographers and studios, views of Egypt, the Maghreb, and the Levant predominate, from Morocco in the west to Arabia and Syria in the east. Documentary, artistic, journalistic, expeditionary, and amateur photographs present the diverse cultures of Islam and the Holy Land, western responses to them, and their impact on 19th-century European arts and society.

J. Kirk T. Varnedoe (American, 1946-2003) papers. The research and project files of this prominent scholar, teacher and curator provide insight into the central role he played in advancing the knowledge of modern art among art historians and the general public. The collection was the gift of Elyn Zimmerman.

Madrid, National Library of Spain



La Colección Gómez Ímaz en la Biblioteca Nacional



Manuel Gómez Imaz gathered the best collection of the Spanish Independence War. The collection included manuscripts, rare books, magazines, pamphlets, maps, scores, engravings, documents and a great variety of objects of porcelain, wood and metal with arms, miniatures, flags, medals, etc. and it was auctioned by Saskia-Sotheby's in May 1977. An important part of it was purchased by the Biblioteca Nacional de España. This collection was used by Manuel Gómez Imaz for his publications, the most important of which was "Los periódicos durante la Guerra de Independencia (1808-1814)" that won the prize of the best bibliographical tool

in the contest organized by the National Library in 1908.

(<http://www.bne.es/esp/actividades/gomezimaz.htm>)

Fondos invisibles, colecciones en peligro

Professional meeting in May on the situation of documentary heritage and its legal regulations, with special attention to the conditions that must be settled down in the reception of donations of particular collections as well as the appropriate measures relating the protection of documentary heritage.

Jornada sobre Seguridad en Archivos, Museos y Bibliotecas

Professional meeting in November on different aspects of the security of art objects and special collections shown in exhibitions or consulted in reading rooms, and covering hazard situations.

(<http://www.bne.es/esp/actividades/jornadaseguridad.htm>)

Oslo, National Library of Norway



Nordic conference on book history

In October 2008 the National Library of Norway arranged a two days conference on Nordic book history, with emphasis on various book collections in the Nordic countries from the Middle Ages up to the 19th century. There were participants from Iceland, Finland, Sweden, Denmark and Norway. The Norwegian National Librarian, Vigdis Moe Skarstein, opened the conference and welcomed all to Oslo. The conference's first section started with an introduction by the Swedish National Librarian, Gunnar Sahlin, and a following panel discussion, led by Gunnar Sahlin and Kristin Bakken (Head of Dept. of Scholarship and Collections, National Library of Norway) on the theme "Nordic research on book history and the Nordic National Libraries".

Thereafter, Espen Karlsen (National Library of Norway), Gunilla Björkval (National Archives of Sweden/University of Stockholm), and Gunnar Pettersen (National Archives of Norway) presented their research on medieval fragments found in bindings from the early modern period in Norway and Sweden. Guðvardður Már Gunnlaugsson (Stofnun Árna Magnússonar, Reykjavík, Iceland) talked about different stages in Icelandic palaeography during the Middle Ages.

The conference's second day focused on book collections from the early modern period. From Sweden Wolfgang Undorf (Swedish library association) lectured on trends within the research on Danish and Swedish private libraries from the 16th century, and Otfried Czaika (National Library of Sweden) talked about the 16th century women, Elisabet Vasa, and her book collection. From Finland Terhi Kiiskinen (University of Helsinki) talked about the library of the Finnish nobleman, royal secretary and trustee Henrik Matsson (1540-1617). From Norway Gina Dahl (University of Bergen) lectured on book collections owned by Norwegian clerics and physicians 1650-1750, and Elisabeth Eide (National Library of Norway) talked about private and public book collections in Norway in the 19th century. From Denmark Henrik Horstbøll (National Library of Denmark) talked about Luxdorph's press freedom writings before the fall of Struensee in early 1770s Denmark-Norway.

A similar conference on Nordic book history will be arranged by the National Library of Sweden in 2009.

Gunnar Sahlin, National Librarian of Sweden, and Kristin Bakken, head of Dept. of Scholarship and Collections, National Library of Norway.



Conference participation

Elisabeth Eide participated in a SHARP-conference in Copenhagen in September, with a paper on 'Reading societies and lending libraries in Norway in the nineteenth century'. She also participated in a conference on 'Libraries and scholarship', arranged by the University of Oslo Library in Oslo in June, with a paper on the history of one large 18th century book collection in Norway.

Anne Eidsfeldt participated in a Norwegian history conference, where she presented a paper based on her research project on the collection history of the University of Oslo Library, called From legal deposit to purchase. The acquisition of Norwegian history books to the library from 1837 to 1857. The presentation showed how the abolition of the legal deposit in 1839 had serious consequences for the acquisition of Norwegian books to the library.

Exhibitions



Los Angeles, The Getty Research Institute

Tango with Cows: Book Art of the Russian Avant-Garde, 1910-1917

November 18, 2008- April 19, 2009

Curator: Nancy Perloff with Allison Pultz

Drawing principally from the Getty Research Institute's superb collection of Russian modernist books, "Tango with Cows: Book Art of the Russian Avant-Garde, 1910 – 1917" brings into focus a brief, but tumultuous period when Russian visual artists and poets, including Natalya Goncharova, Mikhail Larionov, Kazimir Malevich, Alexei Kruchenykh, and Velemir Khlebnikov, challenged Symbolism and revolutionized book art. They fabricated pocket-sized, hand-lithographed books and juxtaposed primitive and abstract imagery with a transrational poetry they called *zaum'* ("beyondsense"). The exhibition traces the avant-garde's use of the materials of their book art – imagery, language and its sounds, design, graphic technique – to convey humor, parody, and an intriguing ambivalence and apprehension about Russia's past, present, and future.

Walls of Algiers: Narratives of the Colonial City

May 19 – October 18, 2009

Curators: Frances Terpak and Zeynep Çelik, New Jersey Institute of Technology

The city of Algiers, legendary for its white walls cascading to the azure sea below, reflects the turbulent history of colonial occupation. *Walls of Algiers: Narratives of the Colonial City*, an exhibition featuring this city's urban fabric, will be mounted at the Getty Research Institute from its diverse 19th- and 20th-century visual sources collected over the last two decades. The exhibition maps, for example, an itinerary of the Casbah and the European quarters through vintage postcards; illustrates the discourse on the Algerian house with chromolithographic architectural renderings and early photographs; and juxtaposes the long-tradition of staged Orientalist representations of "indigenous" people with photojournalist coverage from the Algerian War. More than a colonial capital, Algiers served as a testing ground for urban renewal with its walls extending metaphorically across the Mediterranean to take part in the search for modernity. The exhibition is accompanied by a volume of essays on subjects shown and related to the exhibition.

Madrid, National Library of Spain



Miradas sobre la

Guerra de la Independencia (February-May).

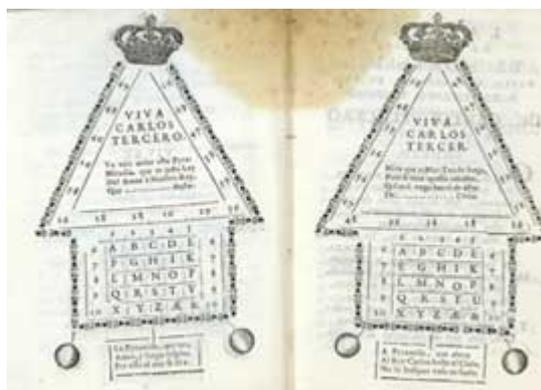
The Independence War is the theme for several engravings, drawings and prints in which inquire, satirize, praise, criticize, or argue from various ideological and political viewpoints. Most outstanding among these artistic manifestations is Francisco de Goya's *Desastres de la guerra*, which show the

greatest penetration and sharpness and constitute an important testimony of the tragedy that affected the Spanish population. Thus has a prominent place in the exhibition. (More information:

<http://www.bne.es/esp/actividades/guerraindependencia.htm> and the virtual visit: <http://www.bne.es/productos/guerraindependencia/Guerra.html>)

Imagen para el verso: del Siglo de Oro a la actualidad (March-May).

This exhibition offers a sample of the long standing bond between the plastic image and the poem in a particular aspect: when the poetry is an image in itself. Labyrinths, acrostics, etc. are shown in a hundred of works from the Baroque to the 19th century. (More information:



<http://www.bne.es/esp/actividades/imagenverso.htm>)

Mapas Recuperados (May)

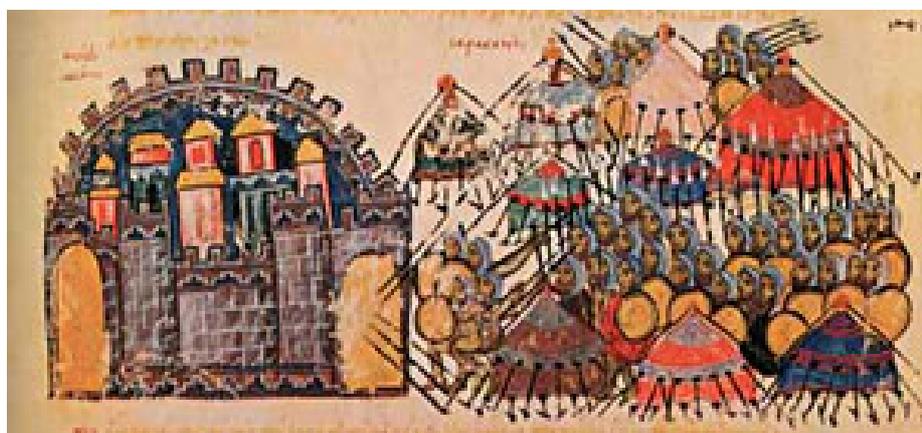
The 11 recovered leaves are displayed together the 9 books whose mutilation was discovered in August of 2007. (More information:

<http://www.bne.es/esp/actividades/mapasrecuperados.htm>)

Lecturas de Bizancio (September-November)

Exhibition organized on occasion of the 7th International Colloque of Greek Paleography (14-24th of September). A selection of Greek codices, fundamentally dated from the 9th to the 16th centuries, that illustrates not only the value and use of the book in the bizantine culture but also the role of Greek texts in the Spanish Renaissance. The so-called codex Skylitzes Matritensis was the most important manuscript shown. Originated in Sicily, this codex is an illustrated bizantine chronicle with 574 miniatures and it constitutes an unique source about the bizantine world in many aspects. (More information:

<http://www.bne.es/esp/actividades/lecturasbizancio.htm> and the virtual visite: <http://www.bne.es/productos/lecturasbizancio/index.html>)



Amadis de Gaula (1508): Quinientos años de libros de caballerias (October-January)

This exhibition is intended to be a tribute to one of the "most European" genres that Spain has given to the world. It also allows to understand how it was possible that more than eighty different works could be written, and how they could succeed in the period between the end of the 15th to the early 17th centuries. (More information: <http://www.bne.es/esp/actividades/amadis.htm> and the virtual visite: <http://www.bne.es/productos/Amadis/index.html>)

Sic vos non vobis. 150 años de Archiveros y Bibliotecarios

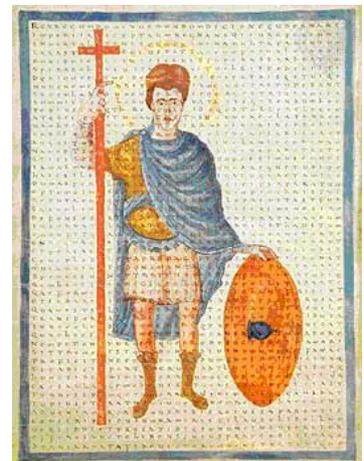
To celebrate the 150th anniversary of its creation, this exhibition makes a historical review and pays tribute to one of the oldest and most consolidated bodies of the Public Administration, the Facultative Body of Archivists, Librarians and Archaeologists. The major aim of its members is to protect and spread Spanish Cultural Heritage. (More information: <http://www.bne.es/esp/actividades/sicvos.htm>)

Item of the month

The Museo de la Biblioteca Nacional has devoted its "item of the month" activity to different manuscripts:



- De Laudibus Sanctae Crucis de Rabano Mauro (January) (<http://www.bne.es/esp/actividades/piezaenero08.htm>)
- Viaje de la Monja Egeria (June) (<http://www.bne.es/esp/actividades/monjaegeria.htm>)
- Beato de don Fernando y doña Sancha (November) (<http://www.bne.es/esp/actividades/piezanoviembre08.htm>)



- 7 January – 1 February 2009: *Gold und Glanz der Weihnacht in mittelalterlichen Handschriften*
- 9 February – 15 March 2009: *Liebe, Götter und Dämonen. Wertvolle asiatische Handschriften der Bayerischen Staatsbibliothek.*
(already shown in 2008)
- 30 March – 30 June 2009: *Bücher für Gelehrte.* Ausstellung anlässlich des 250. Jubiläums der Bayerischen Akademie der Wissenschaften
- 18 August – 1 November 2009: *Als die Lettern laufen lernten. Der Medienwandel von der Handschrift zum gedruckten Buch im 15. Jahrhundert*

More information on <http://www.bsb-muenchen.de/>



Rome, Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale (BNCR)

La strada che parte da Roma (The road starting from Rome) is the title of the current exhibition in the National Library of Rome (13th October 2008-21st March 2009). The road is the first human sign on the territory; since the origins of the human history it was a conquest and adventure place, favorising on the other hand intellectual and spiritual exchanges. The exhibition focuses on the Roman roads, from the antiquity to these days. It is divided into the following sections: The Roman consular road network and the Roman gates; Saints and pilgrims roads; Travelling in the 16th through the 19th century; Road brigands and women brigands; Travels witnesses of the XXth century; Nowadays traffic. Beside ancient and modern books and maps, and medieval and modern manuscripts, there are drawings, pictures and other kinds of documents and objects. The exhibition was coordinated by Flora Parisi, with the participation of other Italian cultural institutions.

Projects

Helsinki, National Library of Finland



Dissertationes Academiae Aboensis

The National Library of Finland has started to digitize the old Finnish dissertations defended at the Academy of Turku (Aboa) 1642–1827. The Academy of Turku, the first university in Finland, was founded in 1640 and, after the destruction of the city of Turku, the former capital of Finland by a great fire in September 1827, it was transferred to Helsinki.

The digitization project of the old Finnish dissertations is funded by Mr. Ilkka Paatero, bibliophile and managing director. As a bibliophile, Mr. Paatero has had a generous idea to make the Finnish history of learning widely accessible through the digitization of the collection of the old Finnish dissertations, a coherent source for the study of the Finnish history of learning and science.



The size of the collection *Dissertationes Academiae Aboensis* is limited, comprising altogether 4,500 dissertations, the number of pages of each dissertation ranging from not more than about ten to fifty. The collection has been catalogued and the dissertations are searchable in the library's database *Fennica*. Besides this, there is an outstanding printed catalogue of the dissertations, compiled by professor Jorma Vallinkoski: *Die Dissertationen der alten Universität Turku. Helsinki 1962–1966*. This

published catalogue has been of great use in choosing the best copy to be digitized and in finding the possible variant copies with different dedications and gratulations.

Illustration showing tar-burning in the 18th century, engraved by J.H. Seeliger. – In: C. F. Mennander, *Tiäritilwärcckningen i Österbotn. ... Disputation, under... Carl Fridric Mennanders inseende utg. af Eric Juuelius. Åbo: Joh. Kämpe 1747.*

This project is a typical boutique digitization project, the material can't be treated in an industrial manner as it is done in the mass digitization projects. The basic idea of the project is to make the old Turku (Aboa) dissertations accessible to the researchers and to the "general public". In order to make this possible, the existing metadata will be enriched by translating the Latin titles into Finnish and by adding specific indexing terms.

So far, 1800 dissertations have been digitized. The possible variant dedications and gratulations have also been digitized and added to the basic digitized version of the dissertation. This was considered necessary, for the dedications and gratulations in the dissertations present an important feature in the Finnish history of learning. They belong to the field of rhetoric and poetry, and they also reveal the refined network of human and scientific relations in Turku (Aboa) academic circles.

The project focuses on the presentation of the contents of the digitized items and it is strongly dependent on the sympathy and cooperation of the Finnish historians of learning. Without this cooperation it would not be possible to translate the Latin titles into Finnish and to enrich considerably the indexing of the dissertations. Luckily, the Finnish researchers have regarded the project most important, and they are willing to participate in it as experts.

It is now left for the library to organize this cooperation between the researchers and the library, to decide the form of the new metadata and to build, possibly, a new thesaurus for the history of learning. Let us hope that the well begun cooperation will also continue well.

Los Angeles, The Getty Research Institute

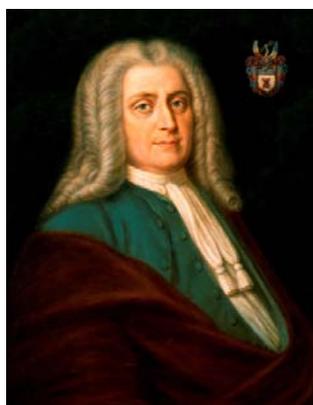


The Research Library was one of 15 libraries selected from 118 applications to receive a Cataloging Hidden Special Collections and Archives grant from the Council on Library and Information Resources. The CLIR grant was given to support the project “Uncovering Archives and Rare Photographs: Two Models for Creating Accession-level Finding Aids Using Archivists’ Toolkit.” The project begins in January 2009 and activities (to be completed by September 30, 2010) will result in improved access to seven archives that document the intersection of art and language in the 20th-century; and 34 collections and albums of rare 19th- and early 20th-century photographs in three subject areas: Asia and Orientalism, Cities and Sites, and Expositions and World Fairs. The goal of the project is to develop procedures and workflow for making a majority of collections available for research shortly after their acquisition.

Lund University Library



Reconstruction of BIBLIOTHECA DÖBELIANA



Johan Jacob Döbelius was born in Rostock on 29 March 1674. After studying in Rostock, Copenhagen, Danzig and Warsaw he obtained a doctor’s degree in Rostock 1695. On a trip to England in 1696 a westerly storm blew the ship to Gothenburg – and Döbelius chose to stay and practice medicine in Sweden. From 1710 he was Professor of Medicine at Lund University. He discovered, examined and opened the health spa in Ramlösa for public use. In our day his portrait on the Ramlösa bottle labels has been spread all over the world.

He was knighted von Döbeln in 1717; in 1733 he became a member of the Royal Swedish Society of Sciences in Uppsala and in 1736 of the German Acad. Naturae Curiosorum. Johan Jacob von Döbeln died on 14 January 1743.

The Library

In 1718 von Döbeln delivered a considerable collection of books, 'not present in the library, but yet necessary'. This involved about 1,400 works bound in about a thousand volumes. The main part of the collection comes from von Döbeln's private library, enriched by inheritances from his father and maternal grandfather.

The majority of the books are bound in contemporary parchment. Most fields are represented, but medicine, theology, philosophy, classical authors, history and linguistics dominate – one fifth of the collection consists of medicine.



This treasure of books 'disappeared' when it was incorporated with the library's main collection during the latter part of the 19th century. The now ongoing project intends to reconstruct the collection of books, by identifying, cataloguing and physically recreating the old library.

Reconstruction and access

At the time of the donation the titles were briefly recorded in an accession catalogue. From these the works have been identified by Professor Dr Karl-Heinz Jügelt of Rostock, and with the help of the library staff the volumes have been retrieved from the main collection.

In the accession catalogue, as was customary, the books are divided according to size. The three groups named Pi (fol.), Rho (4:o) and Si (8:o) are now restored. There are quite a lot of interesting detective work of establishing the provenance of Döbelius books – there can have been several copies of a work coming into and leaving the Unioersity Library during 300 years.

The collection will have several search options in the electronic catalogue, not only author and title but also provenance and binding. Pictures will be added to each work and that information will be most valuable for research, but also as "fingerprints" of our copies. Bibliotheca Döbeliana will also be presented in a lavishly printed volume.

Madrid, National Library of Spain



Hemeroteca Digital

49 new titles with 332.866 pages have been included in October. Some newspapers were printed in 18th century (for example *Diario noticioso, curioso, erudito y comercial público y económico* (1758-1781), *Diario curioso, erudito, económico y comercial* (1772-1773), etc.) and 19th century (as *Correo de Gerona* (1808), *Gazeta de Ayamonte* (1810), *El Español libre* (1813), *La Colmena* (1820), *Barcelona Cómica* (1889-1900), etc.). (<http://hemerotecadigital.bne.es/presentacion.htm>)

Massive digitization

Works printed in 18th-19th centuries on different subjects such as sports, hunting, fishing, celebrations, travels, bull fights, medicine, botany, etc. are being selected to be digitized from the end of 2008 to 2012, as well as manuscripts, engravings, photographs and scores.

Portal del Teatro del Siglo de Oro

Authographs of more than 40 authors of the Siglo de Oro, like Lope de Vega, Calderón or Tirso de Molina, are being digitized in collaboration with the "Biblioteca Virtual Miguel de Cervantes" and are going to constitute the base of this project.

Munich, Bayerische Staatsbibliothek



In January and February 2009, two major new projects will begin in the Department of Manuscripts and Rare Books:

- **Cataloguing and Digitization of Blockbooks in Bavarian Collections**

A total of c. 90 blockbooks (15th-century xylographic editions) are currently held in various public and private institutions in Bavaria. The Bayerische Staatsbibliothek alone owns 47 of these extremely rare and consequently very valuable monuments of early printing. In the course of three years, all blockbooks will be digitized and made available online together with detailed description, with particular focus of the iconography of the illustrations. As paper evidence is crucial for dating the blockbooks, watermarks will be documented using a thermographic camera.

- **Virtual Reconstruction of the Monastic Libraries of South German Nunneries**

In cooperation with the Bavarian Main State Archives at Munich and the chair of mediaeval history at the University of Münster, the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek will digitize and catalogue the manuscripts and early printed books of five South German nunneries, a total of c. 400 items. On the basis of this material, a (partial) virtual reconstruction of the monastic libraries and the investigation of the written production of the convents will become possible. In order to allow a comparative studies, female houses belonging to different orders (Dominicans, Brigittines, Franciscans and Benedictines) were selected.

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Oslo, National Library of Norway



Elisabeth Eide is working on a project about private book collections in Norway in the 19th century. Her work is based on visits to approx. 80 private homes around the country, where it is known or assumed that the collections have not been split up. In addition she has examined book auction catalogues from the same period, and some of the few private collections that have

been kept as an entity in scholarly libraries. Results of the project have so far been lectures and articles in scholarly journals, another possible result may be a book on the subject, calculated for a wider audience.

Anne Eidsfeldt is working on a project about the collection development of history books at the University of Oslo Library from 1817 to 1865. The acquisition of Norwegian books is particularly studied. The result of the project will be presented in 2011, the bicentenary of the founding of the University of Oslo.

The Hague, Koninklijke Bibliotheek



Short-Title Catalogue, Netherlands (STCN)

The Short -Title Catalogue, Netherlands, the Dutch retrospective bibliography for the period up to 1800, will be completed on 25 June, 2009. Since 1982, the Koninklijke Bibliotheek has been cataloguing printed books published in the Netherlands and books in the Dutch language published abroad before 1801 both from its own and other collections.

By June 2009, the STCN-database will contain the entire collections of such material of the Koninklijke Bibliotheek, Dutch university libraries, the libraries of several Dutch municipal archives, public libraries and some international libraries. Approximately half a million copies of books have been described, resulting in some 200.000 editions.

The STCN offers a complete survey of the Dutch book production before 1801. It covers the rise of the book industry in the Netherlands and the development into 'the Bookshop of the World'. During this period more than 200.000 publications produced in the Netherlands were spread all over the world: Latin texts for scholars, French novels for the upper classes, and prayer books, political pamphlets, almanac etc. for everyone. Therefore, the STCN is an internationally indispensable instrument in the study of history and culture of the period.

On 25 June, 2009 a new enhanced website will be launched, offering users advanced search options, full-text links to STCN publications, web expositions and more. The STCN is available free of charge at www.kb.nl/stcn.

Europeana: digital paintings, books, films and archives

Europeana, the European digital library, museum and archive, was launched on November 20th, 2008. On the first day of its launch, Europeana was overwhelmed by the interest shown by millions of users. On the basis of expert advice, Europeana had anticipated up to 5 million hits per hour on the site. The real interest was 3 times as strong, which slowed down the service so much the website had to be taken down. The European Commission and the experts from the Europeana project are working on a more robust version of Europeana, which will be fully operational in early 2009. For the time being, a demo version of Europeana will be available at <http://dev.europeana.eu/>.

The project is run by a team based in the Koninklijke Bibliotheek. It builds on the project management and technical expertise developed by the European Library, which is a service of the Conference of European national Librarians. See also <http://www.europeana.eu/>.

Publications

Madrid, National Library of Spain



Guides

Bibliographical instruments that include different resources published in traditional or electronic format on a subject or topic:

- Guía de recursos sobre la Guerra de la Independencia (<http://www.bne.es/esp/servicios/guerraindep.htm>)
- Literatura española (<http://www.bne.es/productos/guialiteratura/coleccionesybibliotecasdigitales.htm>)

Munich, Bayerische Staatsbibliothek



Ex Bibliotheca Corviniana. Die acht Münchener Handschriften aus dem Besitz von König Matthias Corvinus. [Begleitband zur Schatzkammerausstellung der Bayerischen Staatsbibliothek Die Münchner "Corvinen" – Handschriften im UNESCO-Weltdokumentenerbe vom 30. Januar bis 24. Februar 2008] / hrsg. von Claudia Fabian u.a. Budapest, 2008. (Bavarica et Hungarica 1; Supplementum Corvinianum 1)

Oslo, National Library of Norway



Anne Eidsfeldt has published a book on the collection history of the Oslo University Library, focusing on books about English history published between 1500 and 1800. This is a catalogue, a collection analysis, and a survey on English historiography in the mentioned period: *Engelsk historiografi 1500-1800, en presentasjon av UBOS samlinger om engelsk politisk historie utgitt i perioden. Katalog med historiografisk innledning*. Oslo, Universitetsbiblioteket. Skrifter fra Universitetsbiblioteket i Oslo, nr. 3.

Rome, Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale (BNCR)

- *I manoscritti datati della Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana* Firenze. I. Plutei 12-34. A cura di Teresa De Robertis, Cinzia Di Deo e Michaelangiola Marchiaro. Con il contributo di Ida Giovanna 

Rao. Firenze: SISMEI Il Galluzzo, 2008 (Manoscritti datati d'Italia, 19). pp. X, 132, 114 tav. +1 CDROM (www.sismel.it).

A new volume in the series *Manoscritti datati d'Italia*.

- Paolo VENEZIANI, *Tracce sul foglio. Saggi di storia della tipografia*. A cura di Paola Piacentini. Roma: Roma nel Rinascimento, 2007 (RR inedita, 38). pp. XXV, 218 (www.romanelrinascimento.it).
A posthumous book by one of the most celebrated Italian incunabulist (died 2006).
- Konrad HAEBLER, *Konrad e l'incunabolistica come disciplina storica*. Introduzione e traduzione di Alessandro Ledda. Milano: Edizioni C.U.S.L., 2008 (pp. LII, 245 (www.cusl.it)).
The Italian translation with an introduction of the famous *Handbuch der Inkunabelkunde* by Konrad Haebler.
- *La strada che parte da Roma*. [Catalogo della mostra] Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale, Roma, 13 ottobre 2008-31 marzo 2009. A cura di Flora Parisi. Roma: Editore Colombo, 2008, pp. XXIII, 208 (www.editorecolombo.it).
Also see the section on exhibitions.

Symposium organised by
the Royal Library of Belgium (KBR), the Université Libre de
Bruxelles (ULB) and the *Consortium of European Research
Libraries (CERL)*



Urban networks and the printing trade in early modern Europe (15th - 17th century)

Call for papers:

On 6 November 2009, the Royal Library of Belgium and the Université Libre de Bruxelles are organising a symposium on the theme of the printer in town, within the framework of the project “City and Society in the Low Countries, 1200-1800 : space, knowledge, social capital” (IAP VI/32), in collaboration with the *Consortium of European Research Libraries*.

Since it appeared in the middle of the 15th century, printing has imbued Western culture of the Ancien Régime and conquered the urban space. Typography is indeed the point of convergence in a series of intellectual, industrial and commercial circuits. It is in town that the printer found openings and the competences favourable to the development of his activity. This is why we are proposing to encourage international encounters and exchanges during this symposium, between researchers in horizontal disciplines, based on the problem of the printer in town. Developing the methodological and historiographic discussions conducted in urban history and within the framework of the history of the book, the aim is to take a new look at the urban identity of the printer as a cultural mediator. In which environment is he evolving? What about his spatial and social foundation? Are there specificities, continuities, processes governing the organisation of relationships between the printer and urban elites?

Proposed papers may focus on various aspects of work, allowing the following issues to be better defined:

- a. Analysis of the printer’s social networks (family, professional, intellectual, solidarity, etc.) with the desire to associate individual and organisational approaches.
- Study of the relationships maintained between the printer and the various levels of power (guild, the Church, civil authorities, etc.) with a special focus on the resulting collaborations, benefits and constraints.
- Study of the commercial strategies developed by typographers (distribution networks, competition between workshops, local / “international” market) and their applications in editorial policies.

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