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Section on Rare Books and Manuscripts

# Newsletter

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

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*2006 IFLA RBMS Pre-conference at Hangzhou  
"Chinese written and Printed Cultural heritage and Library  
Work", 14 – 16 August, 2006*

Introduction by Lin Zuzao, Senior Librarian of Zhejiang Library, China

In our Section's Standing Committee Meeting at Oslo we confirmed to have a Pre-conference at Hangzhou in 2006, which is sponsored by Zhejiang Library. The theme of this Pre-conference was defined as Chinese Written and Printed Cultural Heritage and the Library Work. Almost everything for this pre-conference is advancing smoothly.

On October 12 2005, after consulting with our secretary Jan Bos, it was decided to have our Section (IFLA RBMS), and the Cultural Department of Zhejiang Provincial Government as the hosts of this pre-conference, Zhejiang Library as the sponsor of this pre-conference, and Zhejiang Provincial Society for Library Science, Zhejiang Provincial Society for Social Science and Information, Tienyi Ge Ancient Library and Hua Bao Zhai Company as the co-organizers.

In accordance with the decision in the RBMS Standing Committee Meeting in Oslo, the Pre-conference's Preparatory Committee was founded on March 16, 2006. Susan Allen, our Section's chair and Mr. Yang Jianxin, director of the Cultural Department of Zhejiang Provincial Government are the co-chairmen of this Preparatory Committee. Jan Bos, our Section's secretary. Mr. Jin Gengchu and Mr. Qi Youwei, who are deputy directors of the Cultural Department of Zhejiang Provincial Government, are the vice co-chairmen of this Preparatory Committee. Mrs. Cheng Xiaolan, Mrs. Xu Puying, Mr. Yu Haoxu, Mr. Jiang Shan and another 11 persons are the members of this Preparatory Committee. The working groups, which are the academic group, liaison group, financial group, promotional group, security group, and coordination group, were officially set up and have been engaging their own working responsibilities.

High quality papers are essentials for our pre-conference. After coordinating with our Section's secretary, Jan Bos, we sent out the call for papers, and received a total number of 65 proposed papers from different parts of the world and various corners in China. We have translated all the papers' abstracts and submitted them to Jan Bos. He selected about ten of them to be presented to the audience at our pre-conference, another two

for talks during visiting and inspecting the collection of wood blocks for printing in Zhejiang Library, and four papers will be included in the visit of the 440 years old Tianyi Ge Ancient Library. Many more papers will be distributed in printed form. All these papers cover the theme and the sub-themes of this pre-conference: the original Chinese writing brushes, the traditional printing techniques, the techniques of presentation and repairing the library's documents, the traditional Chinese paper-making, the collection of ancient Chinese libraries, the study of editions of Chinese ancient and rare books. The proposals came from various parts of the world including USA, Germany, Spain, South Korea, Singapore and China, which included the National Library, North East China of Heilong Jiang, Liaoning Provinces, North West of Shansi and Gansu Provinces, South China of Guangdong, Hongkong, East China of Shanghai, Jiangsu and Zhejiang Provinces. The authors of these papers are scholars, professors and senior librarians. In China, they come from the National Library, provincial libraries, university libraries and China's ancient libraries etc.

On April 10, 2006, the pre-conference place was decided to be at the Hangzhou Dragon Hotel, which is only 10 minutes to Zhejiang Library by walking, and at the rate of only 45 Euro/ room, day. Numerous colleagues from different parts of the world have already expressed their enthusiasm and aspiration to register and to participate in our Pre-conference. They come from the USA, from Canada, Sweden, Germany, France, Spain, Singapore, South Korea etc. and also from various parts of China. We are working hard to make this event a high level, high quality, far-reaching, significant and successful conference!



Main Building of Zhejiang Library in Hangzhou

The official and very interesting programme is now available, we give you a short overview. For details please go to [http://www.zjlib.cn/hpc2006ifla/yich\\_en.asp](http://www.zjlib.cn/hpc2006ifla/yich_en.asp).

August 14/2006: Grand Opening Ceremony, Keynote Speeches, Speaker's Presentation and Discussion of the following papers:

- Zhang Zhiqing (National Library, China): On the Influence of the Early Chinese Taoism Toward the Origin of the Printing Technique
- Chen Zhenghong (Fudan University, China): To Make a Proof Until Sample Printing – A Document On Ancient Chinese Book Printing Procedure from Proof to Sample Printing in a Book of “Yu Shu Tang Congshu”
- Yi Xuemei (Gansu Provincial Library, China): Written and Printed Cultural Heritage in Gansu Region – An Archaeological Study on the Technical Development of Wood Block Printing and Paper Making
- Lang Qing (Shanxi Provincial Library, China): An Unusual Flower in China's Block Printing Art – A Brief Introduction of Buddha Bible Picture Printed From an Engraved Plate
- Lin Zuzao (Zhejiang Library, China): One of the Great Wonder in Library's Collection – A Case Study on the Wood Blocks for Printing of Collection, Utilization and Preservation in Zhejiang Library
- Hartmut Walravens (Berlin State Library, Germany): Some Rare Ming /Early Qing Editions in Berlin State Library
- Ding Hong (Zhejiang Library, China): Wood Letters for Printing is Carrying on and Developing in Publishing the Genealogy in Zhejiang Province
- Li Dadong (Tianyi Ge Museum, China): To Repair and Recover the Damaged Ancient and Rare Books and Manuscripts Should Take the Principle of “Repairing the Old One Like the Original”
- Pan Mengbu (Wenzhou Library, China): The History of Ancient Paper Making at Wenzhou Area, Zhejiang, China

August 15/2006: Visit of an Ancient Chinese Paper Making and Printing Cultural Village and of Tianyi Ge Ancient Library

August 16/2006: Visit of the Ancient and Rare Books Department of Zhejiang Provincial Library, of Jiaye Ancient Library and of the Hubi[湖笔] Chinese Traditional Writing Brush Museum

### *72nd IFLA General Conference and Council in Seoul 20 – 24 August, 2006*

The motto of this year's conference is "Libraries: Dynamic Engines for the Knowledge and Information Society". Our Section's business meetings will be held on Saturday 19 August and Friday 25 August, and the programme will be on Monday 21 August, 10:45 to 12:45. It is dedicated to the very

attracting theme: **West by East - East by West: Cultural and technological exchange - Old technology, new technology, collecting and describing rare materials**, which will be illustrated in four contributions:

- Hee-Jae Lee (Sookmyung Women's University, Seoul, Korea): Korean typography in the 15th century,
- Izumi Koide (Shibusawa Ei'ichi Memorial Foundation, Resource Center for the History of Economic Life, Tokyo, Japan): Picturing westernization and modernization: a wood-block print collection from late 19th century Japan,
- Valentina De Monte (Bibliothèque municipale de Lyon, Lyon, France): De la "Bibliothèque des Chinois en France" au "Fonds Chinois de la Bibliothèque municipale de Lyon",
- Ching-Chih Chen (Simmons College, Boston (MA), USA): West by East - East by West: Cultural and technological exchange in the case of Global Memory Net. The English version of all the papers can be read on <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla72/Programme2006.htm>

On Sunday, 20 August, 12:45 there will be a "Special PC Session - By invitation only: open to all members of Standing Committees": It is the Hearing session for Standing Committee members of all IFLA Sections to discuss the future of IFLA's professional structure, as proposed by the Professional Committee.

As several papers of other Sections are online, it will be best to go to <http://www.ifla.org/IV/ifla72/Programme2006.htm> and have a look. There is e. g. a paper on "friends of library groups" (83), preservation, digitization (90), and conservation training (96).

### *From the Libraries*

**Barcelona**, Biblioteca de Catalunya: Joana Escobedo writes from Spain.

*Don Quixote keeps on riding...*

*The latest in the Cervantine Collection of the Biblioteca de Catalunya*

The Biblioteca de Catalunya organised, in the context of the Year of the Book and Reading, an exhibition entitled *El Quixot. Un heroi de paper, els papers d'un heroi* (Don Quixote. A hero on paper, the papers of a hero) which took place in a gothic wing of its building to commemorate the fourth centenary of the publication of the first part of *Don Quixote - El ingenioso hidalgo don Quixote de la Mancha*, by Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra. *En Madrid: por Juan de la Cuesta, 1605*, which was completed ten years later with the second part *Segunda parte del ingenioso cavallero don Quixote de la Mancha*, by Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra, *autor de la segunda parte. En Madrid: por Juan de la Cuesta, 1615*. The exhibition was open to the public from the 27 October 2005 to the 31 January 2006.

The Biblioteca de Catalunya wanted to link this date with another date of considerable significance: the date of the death of the author, Miguel de Cervantes Saavedra, which occurred in 1616, the third centenary of which was the motive behind the donation to the Library by Isidre Bonsoms i Sicart (Barcelona 1849 – Valldemossa 1922) of his Cervantine collection - said at the time to be one of the most valuable in the world. Barcelona, the city which Cervantes may have visited and which he made his character visit in the second part of *Don Quixote*, has since then been home to a magnificent collection of Cervantine bibliography, which has been open to the public since 1916. The collection contains works by Cervantes in the original language, translations, biographical and critical works on Cervantes, works inspired by or adapted from works by Cervantes and iconography. Originally it consisted of 3,367 documents. Since then, the Biblioteca de Catalunya has continued to increase the collection. Recently, it has expanded the traditional formats to include those offered by the editorial industry and new technology.

In this exhibition, the Biblioteca de Catalunya is showing the editions of the Cervantine Collection and is also disseminating the bibliographic heritage of the Library. The exhibition contains two parts: a bibliographic route through the editions of *Don Quixote* and a presentation concerning the theme *Don Quixote and books*.

The bibliographic route through editions of *Don Quixote - a hero on paper* highlighted editions published throughout the years, either in the original language or in translation, many of them illustrated, in various formats, with either a delicate or a more conventional typography, for different readers, and divided into centuries, which were complemented by graphic and plastic arts items, with original iconography and with sound recordings.

The 17th century distinguished between those editions which were published prior to 1616 – the conventional date practically coinciding with the life of the author- and later editions. The 18th century emphasized on the difference that exists between the basic editions and the milestone editions. The 19th century showed the successive determining currents on the way to industrialization in the sector of publishing, while the 20th century (with a still tentative foot in the 21st), given the profusion of editions, was limited to editions produced to celebrate the third centenary (1905), to editions illustrated by famous artists and to scholarly editions.

*Don Quixote and books -the papers of a hero-* exhibited some works, complementary to the main theme of the exhibition, that Cervantes or *Don Quixote* mentioned, commented on or recreated, that's to say works subjected to scrutiny in chapter 6 of the first part of *Don Quixote*, works mentioned, commented on or recreated throughout the book, works produced at the Barcelona printing shops of that period - *Don Quixote*

visited one of them - and Don Quixote by Fernández de Avellaneda. In this second field, the Biblioteca de Catalunya wished to exhibit works from its collections that are closely linked to the books whose ideas pervade Don Quixote.

If the first of these fields was fed by objective data, directly linked to the bibliography and the history of the book and of reading, the second, in which books play the leading role, followed the lines of texts, criticism, recreation and fantasy. The world depicted endures and persists and is even now focussed on two central points: the desire to be projected or to survive within a text and the desire to face the texts of others.

The journey through this extensive bibliography gave an idea of how the works of Cervantes have reached the public and the resonance that they have obtained: it also allowed to discover how the illustrators have grasped the descriptive capacity of the text, conceived in fundamentally visual terms, and how they have sealed with their art the image of the main characters; and, of course, it allowed to see how the editions of Don Quixote attest the trajectory of a constantly evolving typography to emerge.

A catalogue was published with articles by Martí de Riquer, José Manuel Blecua, Francisco Rico and Joana Escobedo, also acting as editor. It contains the bibliographical catalogue including images of all the items.

The virtual exhibition can still be consulted at the web of the Library: <http://www.bnc.es>. There are links that lead to the Cervantine Collection of the Library to be consulted online through the Library catalogue. The individual documents link with the digitised catalogue of Givanel-Plaza - Catálogo de la Colección Cervantina (Barcelona: Biblioteca Central, 1941-1964). The catalogue makes evident the importance of the collection, especially rich in historical editions. The Library holds all the princeps editions -except for the Galatea's- and the first translations into other languages.

**Berlin**, Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin: The Map Department of State Library recently made available online a new database called Berlin-Ansichten. At the moment you can search for photographs by Friedrich Albert Schwartz. As the database is work-in-progress not all photographs are yet online, however, titles and details of the images are given. The URL is <http://berlinansichten.staatsbibliothek-berlin.de/einfachesuche.php>

The building activities for the new Reading Room at Unter den Linden go on as scheduled. On April 24, foundation stone ceremony took place, the opening of the Reading Room is planned for 2008. Web cams of the building process (and progress) are on <http://bauen.staatsbibliothek-berlin.de/de/webcam/index.php>

**London**, Natural History Museum: In a Press Release on June 8, 2006, the Museum announced that the largest, most comprehensive collection of books by and about Charles Darwin has been bought, the Kohler Collection. "Assembled over 20 years, the Kohler Darwin Collection comprises almost 3,500 items in total. There are copies of almost all editions, issues and bindings of Darwin's publications, including a wide foreign language selection. These are complemented by a number of autographed letters by Darwin and his peers, and a range of other printed and original material that traces the growth of our understanding of evolution through the twentieth century." the Museum told the Press.

**Lund**, Lund University Library: Björn Dal sent us the following notes from Sweden.

*Digitising collections at Lund University Library*  
(Gunilla Wiberg and David Hansson)

Lund University Library is currently involved in a project aimed at showing digitised collections on a large scale on the web. We want to find an existing software solution that will help us to do this in a standardised way. We are also interested in exchanging data with other systems, as the National Union Catalogue of Swedish Libraries (LIBRIS) for items of national importance, and Google Earth for geographically relevant objects such as photographs.

The reason for doing this is to show old and possibly damaged collections, while at the same time preserving them for coming generations. Constructing a web interface and sending information about the collections to relevant search engines would increase their availability.

Within this framework we use the word 'digitising' for the whole process, from selection to presentation of the collections to the end user.

The whole project intends to find a rational and generic approach for the different tasks: choosing collections, connecting people responsible for what to publish digitally, developing a workflow system and deciding on principles of archiving. Within this process, a DOMS (Digital Object Management System) will be evaluated and the communication between relevant systems will be examined.

The current approach has been in progress since the beginning of 2006. Gunilla Wiberg and David Hansson have been chosen to coordinate the project. Different units of our library and Lund University are involved, as well as the National Library of Sweden and others.

*St Laurentius Digital Manuscript Library*  
(Eva Nilsson Nylander) <http://laurentius.lub.lu.se/>

The goal of this project is to preserve, protect and present the Mediaeval



manuscripts of Lund University Library. The catalogue and the digitized photographs are accessible on-line through an integrated database.

Further, an important dimension of the work is the creation of an ideally permanent, digital archival copy of the entire collection, one of the functions of which is to protect the fragile originals which suffer from manual handling, lighting and climatic fluctuations.

The collection of Mediaeval manuscripts in the Lund University Library is small. It consists of 71 volumes the majority of which are miscellanies and composite mss. The nucleus comes from the 12th century Cathedral in Lund dedicated to St Laurentius. Among these the oldest are the so called Necrologium Lundense (Mh 6) and the Liber daticus Lundensis vetustior (Mh 7), both record books from the Cathedral. Other books have come to the library through donations, acquisitions and testaments. They contain texts by Classical authors like Cicero and Virgil, by post-classical writers like Boethius and by medieval theologians like Thomas Aquinas and Bonaventure. Here are the divine revelations of the Swedish 14th century saint Birgitta of Vadstena, Danish and Swedish law texts as well as a Faroese ms with the so called Seydhabrevidh, a famous letter on sheep husbandry. Several astronomical treatises on the movements of the planets with descriptions of instruments with movable, three dimensional plans and diagrams are also present in the collection. Apart from the Nordic mss there are a few in other languages than Latin: Greek, Russian, Dutch, German, French and Syriac.

#### *The Jarring Collection of Eastern Turkestan Manuscripts*

(Gunilla Törnvall) <http://laurentius.lub.lu.se/jarring/>

In 1982 the Swedish diplomat and philologist Gunnar Jarring (1907-2002) donated his unique collection of manuscripts from Eastern Turkestan to the University Library in Lund. The manuscripts come from the periphery of the Islamic world in Central Asia, nowadays the Chinese province of Xinjiang.

The Jarring Collection consists of 560 manuscripts, of which many are miscellanies, dating from the 16th to the 20th century. Gunnar Jarring bought part of the collection himself during his stay in the area in 1929-1930 while making field studies for his doctoral thesis in Turkish languages. Besides reflecting the Eastern Turkestan society and culture with classic and folk literature, Islamic religious manuscripts, judicial and historic documents, manuals of medicine, trades and mysticism etc., the collection also includes many items from the activities of the Mission Covenant Church of Sweden in Eastern Turkestan.

The primary goal of the present project is to deal with the aspect of preservation and to make accessible on-line a summary catalogue of the collection. Until now a condition survey of all the manuscripts has been done and new protecting boxes have been custom made for each volume. About 10 % of the collection will be digitised and published on the web-

site. The catalogue entries so far available contain mostly a physical description of the manuscripts. For the contents basic editorial titles are given.

*Catalogue of the papyrus collection at Lund University Library*  
(Karin Kulneff-Eriksson)

The most extensive collection of papyri in Sweden belongs to the University library in Lund. This collection, mentioned in several international lists of papyrus collections, consists of about 800 papyri from Egypt. Almost all texts are in Greek and from the centuries around the birth of Christ. Only 50 of these texts have been edited, while the others are unknown and in practice inaccessible since neither a catalogue nor an inventory has been made. Among the edited papyri are e.g. a text of Homer, private letters, a receipt for a lease, a warrant of arrest, an astronomical calendar, as well as different texts concerning administration and management. Papyrus research does not only give information about Greek language, Greek scripts and Greek literature but is equally important for research concerning history, medicine, law and social life in Egypt during a long period and under different political and social circumstances. The papyri will be scanned, catalogued and made available on the Internet. The work will be carried out in collaboration with APIS, "Advanced Papyrological Information System" and the result presented in an international union catalogue.

**Madrid**, Biblioteca Nacional de España: The graphic design of the web page (<http://www.bne.es>) has been changed and new contents have been introduced. The main page has dynamic information about the most interesting activities and services. It offers two accesses adapted for two important groups: researchers and librarians. There are three links to be mentioned especially:

- the digital version of all spanish cataloguing rules from 1815 to 1999 (<http://www.bne.es/esp/servicios/reglascatalogacion1815-1999.htm>)
- "El Quijote en la BN", virtual exhibition in the Digital Collections (<http://www.bne.es/eng/catalogues/coleccionesdigitales.htm>) includes the main editions showed last year to celebrate the 400 anniversary of its publication.
- the National Library of Spain Authority file is now accessible on the web (<http://www.bne.es/eng/catalogues/autoridades.htm>) This file, continuously updated, offers at this moment access to more than 300.000 authority records for the headings used in the bibliographic records of the catalogue.

A professional meeting about "La preservación del patrimonio digital: conceptos básicos y principales iniciativas" (*Preservation of digital heritage: basic concepts and main initiatives*) (Madrid, March 14-26, 2006) organized by the Working group of Digital Heritage of Ministry of Culture, presented several projects developed in Spain and served to

exchange experiences with specialists from Germany, the United States of America, The Netherlands, Portugal and the United Kingdom. During this meeting the spanish Digital Resources Harvester OAI and the Directory LDAP of digital collections were introduced (<http://www.mcu.es/roai/es/inicio/inicio.cmd>).

"Cita en la Biblioteca Nacional". Since May 2006 a new cultural program has been developed in The National Library of Spain to make collections and librarian work available to researchers and public in general. In a monthly round table a collection will be showed or a professional matter will be discussed.

The Prize of Bibliography of The National Library, 2005 edition, has been awarded to Sonia Garza for her work "El original de imprenta (1472-1684). Estudio histórico y catálogo".

**Oslo**, National Library in Norway: Elizabeth Eide writes from Norway. The National Library in Norway has made it part of its policy to promote work on library history and research in the history of the book. Recently two people were appointed to new positions within this field at the library. The appointments are to be taken as proof that the library now will place strong emphasis on research on these topics. Of the two newcomers one has a solid classical education and has worked with texts whereas the other has her base in Norwegian history and studies in the history of the book.

This autumn five employees at the library will work within the field of Library and book history. This augurs well for a good ambiance at the National Library for studies in the history of the book in Norway.

**Rome**, Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale: Francesca Niutta sent the following text from Italy.

#### *Online and surroundings*

The original catalogues of the manuscript collections and the autograph card catalogue of the National Library of Rome have been entirely digitized as a part of the BDI (Biblioteca Digitale Italiana) project, launched by the Ministry for Cultural Heritage, General Libraries Direction. They are available online, together with the historical catalogues of 34 more Italian libraries (Margherita Breccia and Leonardo Lattarulo)

<http://cataloghistorici.bdi.sbn.it/code/index.asp>

The Biblioteca Nonantolana Virtuale is a full collection of digital facsimilia of manuscripts from the Benedictine Abbey of Nonantula. The Abbey of Nonantula had a well known scriptorium and library; the greatest part of its surviving manuscripts, 45 items, are kept in the National Library of Rome. All of them have been fully digitized, and at present the BNV can be consulted locally. Access on the web will be provided shortly. It is the

first attempt to a virtual reconstruction of a medieval library on the web. It is hoped that in the future BNV will also include the dozen of manuscripts from Nonantula now in other European libraries, thanks to the latter's aid. (Francesca Niutta)

<http://www.bnrcrm.librari.beniculturali.it/ita/bibliote/fsbiblioteca.htm>

Two new virtual exhibitions are available on the website of the National Library of Rome.

The first one, *I manoscritti dal VI all'XI secolo*, presents some of our most ancient medieval manuscripts; among them St. Augustin's *De genesi ad litteram* (6th century) and the famous codex *Hersfeldensis* with Tacitus' *Germania* (Vitt. Em 1631, 9th century). The exhibition was organized on the occasion of an international meeting on medieval manuscripts. Some of the meeting papers were also published online within the exhibition portal.

The second one, *Renaissance Herbals – Plantarum Aetatis Novae Tabulae*, was arranged in October 2005 together with the presentation of the PLANT project aiming at creating a web site on Medicinal plants in antiquity. (Margherita Breccia).

<http://www.bnrcrm.librari.beniculturali.it/ita/esposizi/virtuali.htm>

MAR.T.E (Marche Tipografiche ed Editoriali) is the name of a brand new online data base with 17th century Italian printers and publishers devices. It was presented on November 2005. It is still a work in progress. Till now 850 records are available on the website of the National Library. They include, beside reproductions of the devices, an analytic description, reference to Iconclass, and bibliography. Contributions from libraries and scholars are welcome. (Marina Venier and Riccardo Mazza)

<http://www.bnrcrm.librari.beniculturali.it/>

Among the last publications of the National Library of Rome, the volume *Manoscritti antichi e moderni, Roma, Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale, 2005, pp. 240 (Quaderni della Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Roma, 11)*, includes 19 essays on its manuscript collections.

## *Exhibitions*

### **Berlin, Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin:**

An important exhibition has been staged in the Exhibition Hall at Potsdamer Straße: "Exotische Typen Buchdruck im Orient – Orient im Buchdruck" on publishing in oriental languages in April – June. A beautiful catalogue is available (ISBN 3-88053-132-3).

7 July - 26 August 2006 "Willi Moegle. Die Sachfotografie". More details on this exhibition curated by Bildarchiv Preußischer Kulturbesitz are on

<http://staatsbibliothek-berlin.de/deutsch/aktuelles/pressemitteilungen/060622.html> .

In August/September an exhibition - organised by the Department of Manuscripts - celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Berlin honorary citizenship of Alexander von Humboldt will be shown in the Berlin Town Hall. An additional internet online presentation will be available.

We are looking forward to "...gewaltig viel Noten, lieber Mozart", an exhibition of the Music Department to be starting 26 October 2006. It will present the most famous Mozart autographs held by Staatsbibliothek, among them *Idomeneo*, *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*, *Le nozze di Figaro*, *Così fan tutte*, *Die Zauberflöte* and *La clemenza di Tito*, symphonies (incl. Jupiter-Sinfonie KV 551), and a choice of different piano concerts, string quartets, divertimenti, serenades and piano sonatas.

**London, British Library:** 25 May to 8 October 2006 "Front Page – Celebrating 100 Years of the British Newspaper 1906 -2006" is this summer's main exhibition. "Fox Talbot: Inventor, Pioneer, Scientist and Scholar", "In a monastery library: Preserving Codex Sinaiticus and the Greek written heritage", "George Bernard Shaw (1856 – 1950)", and "'A Particular English Music' John Betjeman, 1906 – 1984" are some of the smaller exhibits.

**Madrid, Biblioteca Nacional de España:** 15 March to 25 August 2006 "Escribir es ver. Ibsen contemporáneo" The garden of the National Library of Spain shows this exhibition organised by the Royal Embassy of Norway to celebrate the centenary of the author's death. Textual and graphic information are combined in nine cubes to show several recurrent matters in the work of the playwright.

7 June to 10 September 2006: "La Vida de los números" The numbers and their circumstances are the main subject of this exhibition organised during the celebration of the International Congress of Mathematicians in Madrid.

## *Events*

### **October 2005, London**

Jan Bos sent us a report on the Chapbooks conference, October last year, he had got directly from the V & A.:

*Report of the chapbooks study day  
held on the 24th of October 2005 at the Victoria & Albert Museum.*

In January 2005 the Bibliographical Society contacted interested parties in relation to the possibility of creating a checklist of chapbooks published up to the latter part of the nineteenth century, to be eventually published by the Society.

A Steering Committee was set up and regular meetings have been held at St. Bride Library, London. In order to map the way ahead and gauge public interest, a Chapbooks Study Day was organised by the National Art Library, Victoria & Albert Museum, held on the 24th of October 2005.

Prof. David Flood, President of the Bibliographical Society and John Meriton, Deputy Keeper of the Word and Image Department, Victoria & Albert Museum, in the chair.

*Simon Eliot*, Professor of History of the Book in the Institute of English Studies, School of Advanced Study, University of London and Deputy Director of the Centre for Manuscript and Print Studies, University of London, addressed the issues at hand in the first session of the day. The importance of chapbooks as a vital resource for the study of early popular culture was stressed. A chapbook long-title catalogue with links to digitised illustrations would be a valuable tool for researching popular culture and the history of images. 'Access' could be a very powerful argument to attract funding and help promote the project. Five major areas of concern were identified:

*Dr. Giles Bergel*, 'Dr. Giles Bergel, Visiting Lecturer and Research Assistant, Royal Holloway, University of London, outlined a working history of the chapbook, using the holdings of Harvard College Library as a case study; points of interest included the Charles Welsh and Charles Tillinghast Catalogue of English and American Chapbooks and Broadside Ballads in Harvard College Library (Library of Harvard College Bibliographical Contributions No. 56, 1905); subsequent Harvard library catalogues; and the collections of James Boswell and others held by the Houghton Library. Miscellaneous collections of chapbooks, like other forms of cheap print, were unusually persistent within larger collections. 'Chapbook' is an unsatisfactory description of the diverse range of materials held under that heading. Nor is the name of a collector, under which chapbook titles are typically organised, a good description; however, this provenance is frequently of considerable historical interest, not least in tracing the history of the imputed form. The aim of a chapbook catalogue might be not so much to produce a catalogue of chapbooks, but rather to catalogue more fully those books historically known as chapbooks. A project might be permissive when accepting titles for inclusion, but prescriptive as to the minimum standard of their description. Existing generic and functional categories (such as the jest-book, criminal biography, metrical romance, household manual or moral tract) might be usable initial parameters within which to place the chapbook.

*Barry McKay*, Bookseller and Independent Book Historian, proposed a working definition of the much used and abused term "chapbooks". The current literature provides conflicting definitions (John Carter, Fred Ratcliffe, Harry Weiss) and historical evidence points in different directions

as well. In attempting to define what a chapbook is, one ought to take into account a number of characteristics. These will include books that were usually printed on a single sheet or part thereof; that were not usually produced to the most exacting standards; that were usually of an entertaining or informative nature, and were usually hawked by itinerant sellers rather than sold retail from bookseller's shop. In producing a catalogue of chapbooks one will have to be inclusive rather than exclusive; to exclude all the small publications of all the various religious publishing houses would be erroneous. A catalogue of chapbooks should be a work that transcends the traditional boundaries of bibliographical reference material. A corpus of examples of popular prints, part of the visual culture of the British peoples, should be included.

*Carlo Dumontet*, Special Collections Bibliographer, National Art Library, Victoria & Albert Museum, offered some thoughts on the possibility of cataloguing chapbooks using the MARC format. This approach would allow the database to be hosted on a library catalogue and would facilitate the importation of bibliographical records from other library catalogues. The importance of using internationally recognised cataloguing standards was stressed and, in particular, the flexibility and comprehensiveness of the Art and Architecture Thesaurus was praised.

*Moira Goff*, ESTC Project Manager at the British Library outlined chapbook coverage in the ESTC. Virtually all the British Library's holdings of pre-1801 chapbooks are recorded, as well as those held by many other contributors. More chapbooks will be added as ESTC coverage is extended between now and mid-2007. ESTC catalogue records are compiled to international standards; future enhancements include full title and imprint transcription and subject indexing of post-1701 as well as pre-1700 records. In autumn 2006, ESTC will, for the first time, be made freely available for information retrieval through the British Library's website. ESTC records can provide basic bibliographical descriptions and the locations of many copies of surviving chapbooks. Links can also be made from ESTC records to digital images of the chapbooks.

*Eoin Shallo*, Rare Books Curator at the National Library of Scotland, introduced the Scottish Chapbook Project, an initiative of Glasgow University Library. The main outcome of the project to date has been the Scottish Chapbook Catalogue, an online database of chapbooks printed in Scotland. This database currently contains approximately 2,300 records from four institutions with another 2,200 to be added by the end of 2005. Users of the catalogue can search in a variety of ways: title (including titles of ballads in chapbooks), date, printer and place of publication. Ballads and songs represent a very relevant aspect of Scottish chapbook publishing and hence the importance of recording their first lines/verses to compare different editions of songs and the transmission of texts. The importance of editorial control in any national project/database was also stressed.

*Sheila O'Connell*, Keeper of Popular Prints, at BM Prints and Drawings, British Museum, considered illustrations in chapbooks from an art historian's point of view. There is a growing interest in the bottom end of the visual art market and in popular iconography, and an illustrated on-line catalogue of chapbooks would be a valuable resource for scholars. Illustrations in chapbooks were often printed from woodblocks that were also used for illustrations on cheap ballads and broadsides. They remained in use for many decades, often appearing in contexts that were relevant only in the loosest possible way. Chapbook publishers set no store by originality and there are many versions of the same images. In order to distinguish one from another, relatively high resolution digital images will be essential. A standard 600 dpi was agreed, and it was also clear that whenever possible images should be made from originals rather than from reproductions.

*Alexandra Franklin*, Oriental Digital Surrogates Project Manager, Bodleian Library, proposed models for the iconographic indexing of chapbook illustrations. Digitization of all the pages in chapbooks containing illustrations and their indexing would significantly increase access to this body of popular imagery. The Bodleian Broadside Ballads Database ([www.bodley.ox.ac.uk/ballads](http://www.bodley.ox.ac.uk/ballads)) which provides this type of access to images was described. The potential of some thesauri for the description of illustrations, and as aids to the cataloguer were discussed, in particular the Art and Architecture Thesaurus, the Thesaurus for Graphic Materials and ICONCLASS. None of the thesauri available was found to offer a tailor-made solution reflecting the specific nature of chapbook illustrations. The project might therefore contemplate two further solutions:

1. an in-house select list of terms.
2. a catalogue naming specific cuts found in the chapbooks in the style of McKerrow & Ferguson's list of title-page borders. A "name" list of images might also capture cuts associated with the illustration of particular stories even when appearing in chapbooks of different tales.

Thesauri contain uniform terminology to make indexing and searching easier and consistent. If a wordlist specific to the chapbooks project is devised, publishing this list on the website of the database would help indexers and researchers to find the appropriate term.

The day closed with a plenary session in which the issues raised were further discussed. It was finally agreed that a Working Party led by the Bibliographical Society should be set up to carry the Chapbooks project forward.

### **19 – 21 October 2006, Munich**

The annual meeting of Arbeitskreis Einbandforschung (AEB) will take place



at the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek München. Details of the preliminary programme can be found on the homepage of the AEB <http://aeb.sbb.spk-berlin.de/programm.html> . Speakers will be Anthony R. A. Hobson, Anja Freckmann (München), Michaela Schuller (Wien), Karin Eckstein (München), Nicholas Pickwood (London), Margit J. Smith (San Diego), Jim Bloxam (Cambridge), Stanislaw Rowinski (Hamburg), Agnes Scholla (Nürnberg), Armin Schlechter (Heidelberg), and Randall Herz (Erlangen). Final date for registration is 31 July, 2006.

### **24 – 26 October 2006, St. Petersburg**

"5th International scientific-practical conference "Scoring of Cultural Memorials Safety: Traditional Approaches - Nontraditional Decisions"" is the motto of a conference in the National Library of Russia. The call for papers, giving an idea of the meeting, is available at <http://www.nlr.ru/eng/ser/fcc/261006.html>

### **30 October 2006, London**

Henry Snyder writes about ESTC:

#### *ESTC Conference*

The English Short Title Catalogue will become freely accessible on the British Library's website from autumn 2006. This momentous change will open new possibilities for ESTC. Research has changed profoundly since the ESTC Project began. ESTC must change too if it is to meet the needs of researchers in the future.

On 30 October the British Library, in association with ESTC North America, will hold a conference to celebrate the new role of ESTC as a free internet resource and to explore how ESTC might develop in the future.

Researchers with a wide variety of interests, from the US and from the UK, will help us begin this debate, addressing the issue from the point of view of their own research or research projects.

Speakers will include Ian Gadd, Michael Hunter, David McKitterick, Ian Maclean, James Raven, Henry Snyder, Michael Suarez, Stephen Tabor, and David Van Der Meulen. Participation is free, but registration is required.

For details of the programme and for registration please get in touch with Teresa Harrington, British and Early Printed Collections, The British Library, 96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB, United Kingdom. Telephone +44 (0)20-7412 7785; email: [teresa.harrington@bl.uk](mailto:teresa.harrington@bl.uk).

### **1 – 2 December 2006, London**

"Books on the move: Tracking Copies through Collections and the Book Trade" is the theme of this year's annual conference in Book Trade History. Details on HoBo-Site (<http://www.english.ox.ac.uk/Old%20Site/hobo/>)

### **11 December 2006, London**

The British Library will hold a conference to celebrate a new catalogue, edited and compiled by Lotte Hellinga with contributions from Paul Needham, Margaret Nickson and John Goldfinch. It is volume XI of the Catalogue of Books Printed in the XVth Century Now in the British Library (BMC). Speakers will include Maureen Bell, Julia Boffey, Cristina Dondi, A.S.G. Edwards, Mary Erler, Margaret Ford, William Kuskin, James Mosley, Paul Needham, David Pearson, and Susan Powell.

Participation is free, but registration is required.

For further information, please contact John Goldfinch, [john.goldfinch@bl.uk](mailto:john.goldfinch@bl.uk), and to register please contact Teresa Harrington, British and Early Printed Collections, The British Library, 96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB, United Kingdom.

### **9 – 10 March 2007, Venice**

Call for papers (valid till October 15, 2006) is just out for a SHARP conference in Venice: "The Books of Venice: A Conference on the Book in Venice" Details at <http://www.sharpweb.org/venice.html>

### **11-13 April 2007, Brighton**

A call for papers for an International Conference to launch the Online Database of British Archival Resources Relating to German-speaking Refugees, 1933-1950 (BARGE) at the Centre for German-Jewish Studies, University of Sussex, came out in June. The database project started in 2004 and will list holdings of archives and personal collections widely scattered throughout the British Isles. Details on the project and the database can be found at

<http://www.sussex.ac.uk/Units/cgjs/barg/index.html>.

## *Projects*

*St. Petersburg, Russian National Library:* PAL, the Preservation Academy Leipzig, recently installed a de-acidification unit in St. Petersburg. The National Library of Russia houses the Federal Document Conservation Center. In October, a conference on preservation will be held in the library (v. Events for details).

*Heinrich-Heine-Portal* <http://www.heine-portal.de/> announced a plan to digitize all Heine correspondence in the Bibliotheque Nationale Paris. Whereas you can find all published material in the database, there are only a few facsimiles mainly from Heine-Institut. The database is work-in-progress and is updated on a regular basis.

Dr. Anne Korteweg, curator of medieval manuscripts in the Koninklijke Bibliotheek, The Hague, will publish a book on the private collections of the dukes of Nassau and the princes of Orange in 2007. During her

research she discovered that 15 books originally belonging to Willem van Oranje are now in Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin. Dr. Korteweg assumes the books came to Berlin with Louise Henriette when she married Friedrich Wilhelm, the Grand Elector, in 1646. For more details go to <http://www.kb.nl/nieuws/2006/oranje.html>

## *Publications*

*RBM* 7,1 (Spring 2006) is mainly on education of Special Collections Librarians (with an article by Marc Dimunition, by the way, on "what we didn't learn in Library School).

*Collections – A journal for Museum and Archives Professionals* has had two special issues lately. Vol. 2, Issue 3, February 2006 was on Conversation Issues, and Vol. 2, Issue 4, May 2006 on Legal Issues.

Volumes 1 and 2 of *History of the Book in Canada* have been published by University of Toronto Press and Les Presses de l'Université de Montréal. Volume 3, 1918 – 1980 , is scheduled for 2007.

Also out is *The Oxford History of the Irish Book*, Volume III: The Irish Book in English, 1550-1800. - Edited by Raymond Gillespie and Andrew Hadfield in February by OUP.

There is information about different new publications sent from Spain:  
De la palabra a la imagen : el Quijote de la Academia de 1780 / edición Elena Santiago Páez. - Madrid : Biblioteca Nacional, 2006

Catálogo de la Colección Cervantina de la Biblioteca Nacional : ediciones del Quijote en castellano / coordinación Pilar Egoscozábal Carrasco ; catalogación Pilar Egoscozábal Carrasco, Elena Laguna del Cojo, Isabel Moyano Andrés. - Madrid : Biblioteca Nacional, 2006

Corpus Barga : inventario de su archivo personal / [elaboración del inventario, introducción e índices María José Rucio Zamorano y Eva María Molleja López ; dirección Julián Martín Abad]. - Madrid : Biblioteca Nacional, 2005 (Colecciones Singulares de la Biblioteca Nacional ; 8)

Toponomástica / Isabel Moyano Andrés. - [Madrid] : Arco/Libros, [2006]

## *Web News*

*Cushing Memorial Library and Archives, Texas A&M University, TAMU* : In July 2006, Cushing Library announced the opening of its Historic Images Collection website <http://cushing.tamu.edu/collections/images/>. It contains more than 5500 historic images and photographs of the Texas

A&M University community. Over 2000 images are being added to the site monthly. Cushing Library houses the University Archives, and so owns over 200,000 photos of life at A&M from its early days in the 1890s to the present.

There is a new article on PECIA: manuscripts of Anne of Brittany, for details go to <http://perso.orange.fr/pecia/Anne%20de%20Bretagne.htm>

2010 Digital Libraries Initiative has some news on its homepage [http://europa.eu.int/information\\_society/activities/digital\\_libraries/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/information_society/activities/digital_libraries/index_en.htm) esp. on the High Level Expert Group formed in March.

Electronic British Library Journal has new articles by David Frank Allen on the travel journals of an eighteenth century French Knight Hospitaller of St John (<http://www.bl.uk/collections/eblj/2006/article1.html>), by P. J. M. Marks on A. W. Franks and Armorial Bookbindings (<http://www.bl.uk/collections/eblj/2006/article2.html>), by Janet Ashton on the correspondence between the last Empress of Russia, Aleksandra Feodorovna, and the English Bishop William Boyd Carpenter (<http://www.bl.uk/collections/eblj/2006/article4.html>), by Morna Daniels on manuscripts and editions of Little Red Riding-Hood (<http://www.bl.uk/collections/eblj/2006/article5.html>), and by Margaret Mulvihill on the experiences of four Gordon Highlanders in Paris in 1896 (<http://www.bl.uk/collections/eblj/2006/article6.html>).

Historic Libraries Forum has just published its Bulletin No 7 (June 2006) with a report on the Summer workshops, held 24th-25th May 2006, on Cataloguing antiquarian, special and early printed collections, and other interesting news. Go to <http://www.historiclibrariesforum.org.uk/hlf/publications.html> for details.

### *From the Editors*

We are very happy that so many of our readers contributed to this new issue of our newsletter. So this time we are able to offer a really colourful journey through the past, present and future activities of many manuscript and rare books collections – in Europe. We presume that also in many other places all over the world interesting exhibitions and events took place or will be organized worth to be reported about, but unfortunately we did not receive any other special announcements. We thus would like to invite you very cordially to contribute more continuously to our newsletter. Please bear in mind that this newsletter is distributed world wide and that it is a very comfortable instrument for advertising your libraries' activities! All your contributions are very welcome.

The newsletter is appearing just a few weeks before many of us will travel to East Asia: In Hangzhou and in Seoul very attracting programmes have

been prepared for our section. We will enjoy joining our colleagues in China and Korea and we are looking forward to exchanging ideas and knowing about our libraries, which in fact can be regarded as dynamic engines for the knowledge. Information about the famous Chinese written and printed cultural heritage and how library work in China deals with it will give many of us a much deeper knowledge about the preconditions for the cultural and technological exchange between East and West. The focus will be on technology and strategies for collecting and describing rare materials, but surely discussion will lead us much further. Once again the common interest in the materials we are responsible for and the necessity to succeed in preserving them for future generations will lead our discussions.

We wish all of us a very successful participation in both conferences. Have a good time there and enjoy visiting China and Korea,

Jutta and Regina

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