

# CATHEDRAL LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER, SUMMER 2009

I am glad to introduce the Summer 2009 issue of the Cathedral Libraries and Archives Association Newsletter. I am honoured to have been elected at the Annual Meeting of the Association held on 3<sup>rd</sup> June to serve as Chair for another year, and I take this opportunity to thank the officers and committee members for their hard work and dedication.

The Annual Meeting at Westminster Abbey was well attended, and gave positive encouragement to the Committee to go ahead with plans for a residential conference in the summer of 2010. Please note what is said about that in this Newsletter and reserve the dates now.

It was also good to hear so much positive news from many libraries and archives up and down the country. Please send the editor more news of your institution, as well as your comments. Like the editors of most newsletters, she works hard to gather articles and items of news: and like the editors of all newsletters she would much rather that at least some of this were unsolicited!

*Peter Atkinson, Chairman, CLAA*

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## FORTHCOMING EVENTS

### **CLAA Triennial Conference 2010**

The 2010 Triennial Conference will take place between Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2010, at Norwich Cathedral. The theme will be 'Libraries and Archives: education and outreach'.

Norwich Cathedral grounds its work in the principles of its Benedictine founders: worship, hospitality and learning. Library, education and outreach work together to deliver the principle of learning, not only through the wonderful new facilities of library reading room, classroom and community room, part of the major building campaign at the cathedral, but also through partnerships with the Norfolk Record Office, and other learning and heritage organisations in the city and beyond.

Further details will be available in due course; in the meantime, please reserve the dates in your diaries.

*Gudrun Warren, Norwich Cathedral Library*

### **Small Historic Libraries and the Book trade**

The CILIP Rare Books & Special Collections Group Annual Study Conference this year is entitled 'A Special Relationship? Special Collections and the Antiquarian Book and Manuscripts Trade.' It will be held at Clare College, Cambridge, from 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> September. For further details, see <http://www.cilip.org.uk/specialinterestgroups/bysubject/rarebooks/events>

I have been volunteered to do a paper for this conference on the relationship between smaller historic libraries and the book trade and I would welcome any comments that anyone in cathedral libraries or archives might like to give me. My own experiences of the book trade have sometimes been frustrating and sometimes very fruitful. I would very much like to hear whether people feel they have any relationship with the book trade, any interesting stories and any views you would like me to express on your behalf.

*Sheila Hingley, Durham University Library  
(Durham Cathedral Archives)*

## **New Techniques for Old Problems: conservation in Canterbury Cathedral, recent projects and research**

This one-day symposium to be held on 15<sup>th</sup> October 2009 will include presentations from conservators from a range of disciplines who will share their experiences of working on cathedral collections. The day will cover stained glass, paper, textile and paintings conservation, and also the environmental monitoring system installed throughout the cathedral in 2008. There will be a series of on-site visits on 16<sup>th</sup> October. Contact Cathi Martin for more information, tel 01227-762862, or email [cathim@canterbury-cathedral.org](mailto:cathim@canterbury-cathedral.org)

*Cressida Williams, Canterbury Cathedral Archives*

## **The 2011 Trust**

As mentioned in the Winter newsletter, the 2011 Trust has been established to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible, which was completed in 1611. For further information go to [www.2011trust.org](http://www.2011trust.org). If you have an idea for an exhibition or event, or any other comments or suggestions, please do get in touch.

*Gudrun Warren, Norwich Cathedral Library*

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## **RECENT EVENTS**

### **Religious Archives Group Conference**

The Religious Archives Group conference 2009 took place in March in the impressive surroundings, old and new, of the John Rylands Library in Manchester—a northern departure, since the conference has taken place in London for some years. The conference theme was 'Personal Papers in Religious Archives', and delegates enjoyed papers from David Hart (University of Manchester) giving insights into 18<sup>th</sup>-century Methodist preachers, and from Professor Clyde Binfield (University of Sheffield), speaking on Congregational biography. Tamara Thornhill (Westminster Diocesan Archives) offered insights, from the archivist's perspective, on the papers of Cardinals Manning and Hume. A further viewpoint came with remarks by Joan Winterkorn (Bernard Quaritch Ltd) on the valuation and sale of personal religious papers, and Bill Williams (Centre for Jewish Studies, University of Manchester) broadened the perspective beyond the Christian angle by speaking on the importance of personal records in British Jewish history.

There was also an opportunity to hear about innovative projects at the John Rylands Library, and

an update on progress by the RAG working party including development of the RAG web pages; a funding bid for a systematic high-level survey of religious archives; publication of Clive Field's survey on nonconformist archives (*Archives*, April 2008) and plans to mark the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Act of Uniformity and the so-called 'Great Ejectment', often considered the formal foundation of nonconformity, in 2012. Conference participants also took the opportunity to update colleagues on developments in their own areas. You can see photographs from the conference on the RAG website, and a conference summary will follow shortly:

<http://rylibweb.web.its.manchester.ac.uk/rag2>

The 2010 conference will take the theme of modern records in religious archives, and will take place on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, at the British Library. Further details will be announced shortly.

For more information about RAG, and to join the email discussion list, please contact Rachel Cosgrave: [rachel.cosgrave@c-of-e.org.uk](mailto:rachel.cosgrave@c-of-e.org.uk)

*Rachel Cosgrave, Lambeth Palace Library*

## NEWS FROM MEMBERS

### Canterbury Cathedral

We were delighted to hear in January that the Cathedral Grants Scheme has awarded £230,000 of matched funding to Canterbury Cathedral's fundraising campaign for repairs to the Cathedral Library. Extensive work is required on the fabric of the Library buildings, including improvements to the building envelope and heating system to provide better control of the internal environment, essential roof repairs and the conservation of 17<sup>th</sup>-century stone and brickwork. The Cathedral Grants Scheme is administered jointly by English Heritage and the Wolfson Foundation, and was launched in 1991. The work will be underway shortly, and is expected to last until early 2010.

Most of the Library's rare books are now unavailable. Access will be retained to some books and also to books identified as required for specific areas of study during the closure period. For further information, please contact the Library, email [library@canterbury-cathedral.org](mailto:library@canterbury-cathedral.org), telephone 01227-865288. Access to the collections of the Cathedral Archives remains unaffected.

Canterbury is amongst those cathedrals which have lent items from their collections to the major exhibition at the British Library commemorating the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the accession of King Henry VIII. With the title 'Henry VIII: man and monarch', this is guest-curated by Dr David Starkey, and runs until 6<sup>th</sup> September. It is an extraordinary rich and inspiring exhibition, which brings together books, manuscripts, portraits and artefacts relating to the whole of Henry's reign. Supposed fragments of Becket's shrine have been lent by the Cathedral Archives.

In addition, three cathedrals are amongst the seven venues in the country which will host the travelling exhibition produced by the British Library: Canterbury, Peterborough and York. This exhibition will consist of panels drawing on the main exhibition, as well as two computer stations exploring themes in more depth. The host venues will be running a series of outreach and educational events, for which the British Library has generously provided some funding. For further details, see the main exhibition website at [www.bl.uk/henry](http://www.bl.uk/henry)

The display will be coming to Canterbury for the month of October. During this time, we will be holding a public lecture, Tudor-themed tours of the cathedral for children, themed school visits, and a range of weekend and half-term activities (including a drama and clay modelling workshop, held by an external facilitator). We are looking forward to this opportunity to expand our educational and outreach work in innovative ways, made possible by the available funding. We are also looking forward to reflecting further on the legacy and interpretation of England's most famous monarch, so central to the history and architecture of our cathedrals and churches.

*Cressida Williams, Canterbury Cathedral Archives*

### Dublin, Christ Church Cathedral

Fodor's travel guide to Ireland describes Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, as the flagship of the Church of Ireland. The cathedral itself has never made this claim, but the arguments in favour of it are understandable. It is Dublin's oldest building, though much changed in the course of its thousand year history. Architecturally, it is famed for its Norman crypt (the second largest in Britain or Ireland) and for the arcading of the nave which is considered to be the finest example of Early English in the country. It is probably both liturgically and musically the most ambitious of Ireland's Anglican places of worship, the choir's CDs earning plaudits from *The Gramophone* and *Classic FM Magazine*. The peal of bells, which traditionally rings in the New Year in Dublin, was augmented in 1999 to become one of the largest in the world.

A Viking foundation at the very centre of the ancient city of Dublin, the cathedral's history has always been entwined with that of the city and the country. The Irish parliament frequently met there. Lambert Simnel was crowned in Christ Church. James II heard mass there (it was Ireland's chapel royal) on his way to meet William of Orange at the Boyne, the latter, in thanksgiving for his victory over James, by the presenting a magnificent set of communion plate, on view in the treasury. At the Reformation Henry VIII changed the priory of

Augustinian Canons into a secular dean and chapter (the same personnel remaining in place!). A later change of immense significance was the gaining of Irish political independence, and Christ Church has continued to foster its relations with state and city, the royal pew now designated 'presidential'. This former chapel royal is now the home of the Irish Guild of the Church (Cumann Gaelach na hEaglaise) which exists to promote the use of the Irish language in the services of the Church of Ireland.

Probably of greatest interest to members of CLAA would be our archives. Irish cathedrals are nothing like so rich in archives as are their equivalents in Great Britain, but those of Christ Church are remarkable and unique in Ireland. In fact the only Irish archives comparable to those of Christ Church are those of Dublin City Council. The most valuable documents are in the custody of the library of the Representative Church Body, the Church's Dublin-based trustees, though from time to time the more spectacular items are exhibited in the cathedral treasury. These include two compilations: the 14<sup>th</sup> century 'liber niger', and the 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> century 'liber albus'. Of great importance are transcripts of the Christ Church deeds, running from 1174 to 1699, the originals having been victims of the destruction of the Public Record Office of Ireland in the civil war of 1922. Since the year 2000, when a major *History* of the cathedral was published, eight ancillary volumes of archival material have been published by Four Courts Press, Dublin.

Archival policy is set by a voluntary (but highly-qualified) Culture Committee of the cathedral board which is also responsible for 'continuing education', largely comprising lectures and exhibitions. A recent venture was a two-venue summer school, our partner being an arts centre on one of the Aran Islands. The Culture Committee is also responsible for the care of the cathedral's 130 or so monuments.

We value our membership of CLAA, and appreciate the welcome that we have received. We for our part look forward to welcoming CLAA members, either individually or, hopefully some time,

corporately. Do let us know if you are coming to Dublin and before doing so visit our website <[www.cccdub.ie](http://www.cccdub.ie)> for details of contacts.

*Kenneth Milne, Hon. Keeper of the Archives and  
Chairman of the Christ Church Culture  
Committee, Christ Church, Dublin*

### **Dublin, St Patrick's Cathedral**

A new history of St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, has been published by Four Courts Press at £45. *St Patrick's cathedral, Dublin: a history* has been edited by Prof. Raymond Gillespie, National University of Ireland Maynooth, and the Revd Dr John Crawford, the recently retired senior canon of St Patrick's. In addition there are contributions from Dr Toby Barnard (Hertford College, Oxford), Prof. Alan Fletcher (University College Dublin), Dr Victor Griffin (a former dean), Dr Kerry Houston (Dublin Institute of Technology Conservatory), Dr Robert MacCarthy (Dean of St Patrick's), Dr Kenneth Milne (Historiographer of the Church of Ireland), Dr Michael O'Neill (a freelance architectural historian) and Dr Raymond Refaussé (Representative Church Body Library).

*Raymond Refaussé,  
Representative Church Body Library*

### **Durham Cathedral**

The beautifully illustrated *Manuscript Treasures of Durham Cathedral* by Richard Gameson is due for publication in March 2010. Durham possesses the finest collection of medieval manuscripts of any English cathedral, and this volume presents the highlights. Anyone wishing to order a copy (with a discount for advance orders) should contact Third Millennium Publishing, website [www.tmiltd.com](http://www.tmiltd.com), tel 020 7336 0144.

*Joan Williams, Durham Cathedral Library*

## Exeter Cathedral

As many will know the future of the Library and Archives at Exeter Cathedral has been in doubt for a number of years. It is therefore good to share, on behalf of Peter Thomas, Michael Howarth, and Angela Doughty our good news.

Earlier this year, the Dean and Chapter purchased the West Wing of the Bishop's Palace, in which part of the Cathedral Library is currently situated. With the prospect of trebling the floor space, this will enable the library collections, stored in three different locations, together with the Archives, to be housed in one building.

The vision is for an archival repository on the ground floor, a reading/research facility on the first floor and a study/conference centre on the second floor.

An unsuccessful Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) application was made last autumn, however we were advised by the HLF Regional Officers to re-submit, and we await anxiously the outcome expected in July'09. In the meantime following an information evening connected with the Cathedral's Fund Raising Campaign, a Chairman of a Trust came forward wanting to visit the Library and to discuss our plans. This has resulted in a grant of £750,000 being offered over the next three years which will enable us to undertake the building of the repository to meet BS5454 standards as a first phase of the project.

Other funding to undertake the preservation and conservation of the building, the collections and cataloguing of archive material has also been received. In total we have now raised £900,000 towards an estimated cost of the proposed project of £3.5m.

After 50 years of only limited development, it is exciting to be contemplating 'Another Chapter' in the care of this 1000 year old resource and making it more accessible to others.

*Ann Barwood,  
Canon Librarian. Exeter Cathedral.*

## Gloucester Cathedral

Following the retirement of Lowinger Maddison, there has been a hiatus at Gloucester Cathedral Library. Heather Forbes, formerly of Canterbury Cathedral Archives and now Gloucestershire County Archivist, was called in by the Chapter of Gloucester to write a report suggesting how the cathedral archives and library could go forward. I happened to be visiting Heather around this time and I was allowed to go in with her to see the Library. We both felt that it was the archives which had a greater need for organisation and cataloguing since the books have been well catalogued in the past. The Chapter accepted her report and a part-time archivist, Chris Jeens has been appointed. Chris was formerly the County Archivist in Warwickshire and is currently also the Archivist at Jesus College, Oxford (a post he will retain one day a week). His normal working days will be Monday to Wednesday.

*Sheila Hingley, Durham University Library  
(Durham Cathedral Archives)*

## Lambeth Palace Library: the Mothers' Union Archive

Disarmament, euthanasia, film censorship, immigration...These may not be the first things that spring to mind at the thought of the Mothers' Union. They are, however, just a handful of the topics encountered in the society's archive, which was presented to Lambeth Palace Library last summer.

The Mothers' Union was established in 1876 to promote marriage and family life, an aim which encouraged the organisation to address many of the religious, social and political issues of the day. The early 20<sup>th</sup> century, for example, saw the Union investigating the effects of war on the alcohol consumption of women and its opinion was sought by the Home Secretary on the appointment of women police officers. The Education Department, meanwhile, was busy combating the 'menace' of spiritualism, which had increased during the First World War and which was believed to employ the use of child mediums. Socialist Sunday schools were

another topic high on the agenda—designed to instruct children in the principles of socialism, they were regarded as being 'out to destroy religion' and undermine the stability of society. Today the Mothers' Union is active in 78 countries and contributes to healthcare, education and the reduction of poverty across the globe. The society's

archive is currently the subject of a cataloguing project which aims to have the archive searchable via the Lambeth Palace Library's online catalogue in 2010.

*Rachel Freeman, Lambeth Palace Library*

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## OTHER NEWS

### Obituary: Ben Benedikz

Ben Benedikz, who died on 25 March 2009, aged 76, was a long-standing member of the Cathedral Libraries and Archives Association. He was a practising Anglican and, although never a full-time member of a cathedral cloister, was as much at home in one as in the university libraries in which he spent his career. His first university post was at Durham, where he worked from 1959-1967. He and his wife, Phyllis, spent part of their courtship cataloguing the large collection of the See of Durham at Auckland Castle, and he also reorganised the library of St Chad's College, the alma mater of so many clergymen, many of whom he knew and never forgot. In his next post, at the new University of Ulster at Coleraine, he negotiated the deposit of the collection of rare books and manuscripts belonging to the Anglican diocese of Derry and Raphoe. While teaching bibliography at Leeds Polytechnic, from 1971-1973, he was consultant to the Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Clogher on the foundation of a Diocesan Archive. From 1973-1995 he was Head of Special Collections at the University of Birmingham where, to his delight, he was able to continue his involvement with diocesan collections by acting as consultant librarian to the Cathedral Libraries of Lichfield and Worcester and to the Hurd Library at Hartlebury Castle. He compiled catalogues of manuscripts at both cathedrals and of the papers of Dean Savage at Lichfield and he organised the cataloguing by qualified archivists of the early Worcester archives.

Ben was an unforgettable character, combining hard work and an encyclopaedic knowledge with an amiable eccentricity, in a style which is becoming

all too rare, but which would have been well appreciated in the age of Dr Johnson. As a friend said, on hearing of his death, the world is now a duller place.

*Christine Penney*

### Provenance enquiries at CERL

The Consortium of European Research Libraries (CERL) has started to develop a set of web pages to provide information on provenance topics. One of these includes a page which displays queries (and answers) about provenance identifications. Recent successful requests have been for identification of library stamps and armorial binding stamps. Other pages include lists of publications on provenance and lists of on-line provenance resources. The CERL provenance pages can be found at <http://www.cerl.org/web/en/resources/provenance/main>.

If you would like to have a question put on to the provenance 'Can you help?' page, please send a description of the item in question, with a digital photograph if possible, to me at [djshaw@cerl.org](mailto:djshaw@cerl.org). I would also welcome information on new publications and web resources in the provenance field.

CERL's main activity is the development of three databases in the area of the history of the book:

- the Heritage of the Printed Book Database: books printed in Europe between 1450 and 1830 (access restricted to libraries which are members of CERL);

- the CERL Thesaurus: multi-language indexes of names of towns, authors, printers, booksellers and book owners from the period up to 1830 (free to all on the web); CERL hopes that the index of former owners will develop into an important provenance resource;
- the CERL Portal: a search engine for distributed manuscript and early printed books databases (free to all on the web).

Further information about CERL and its activities can be found on the CERL web site at <http://www.cerl.org/>.

*David Shaw. Joint Secretary, CERL*

## THE CATHEDRAL LIBRARIES AND ARCHIVES ASSOCIATION

The aims of the Cathedral Libraries and Archives Association are:

To advance education by the promotion, preservation and protection of cathedral libraries and archives in the United Kingdom and Ireland  
The provision of appropriate access thereto

For our webpages, see <http://www.cofe.anglican.org/about/librariesandarchives/cathanddioceslibs/claabasicdetails.html>

Enquiries about membership should be directed to the Honorary Secretary or Treasurer. A directory of CLAA members is available on our webpages, and from the Honorary Secretary, to whom any amendments should be sent.

### Committee contacts

Chairman:

The Very Rev Peter Atkinson, Dean of Worcester

Vice-Chairman

Canon Dr Trevor Dennis, Vice-Dean of Chester

Treasurer:

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We aim to produce two issues of this letter each year, in summer and winter. Any contributions should be sent to the Editor, Mrs Cressida Williams, either by email to [cressida.williams@btinternet.com](mailto:cressida.williams@btinternet.com), or by post to Canterbury Cathedral Archives, The Precincts, Canterbury CT1 2EH, to reach her by 31<sup>st</sup> October for the winter issue, or 30<sup>th</sup> April for the summer issue. She would also welcome comments or suggestions for content.