Note from the Editor  Priscilla Barlow

Once again the new six page format has allowed us to include not only reports on our activities, our funding awards and routine information, but also articles which we believe will be of great interest to our membership.

We are particularly pleased to print Lesley Richmond’s article on the acquisition of the Templeton-Stoddard Archive, especially as the Friends have given a generous grant towards its purchase and cataloguing. Unfortunately the newsletter does not yet rise to full colour so sadly it was decided not to print the beautiful design samples. However the photos of the factory workers are interesting and highly reminiscent of bygone days. Iain Wotherspoon’s amusing and informative article illustrates how the Friends might encourage new members to join and take advantage of the Library’s magnificent holdings.

Thanks are again due to Helen Durndell for her lively report and to Ronald Singleton for his eagle-eyed proof reading.

A Rapier Visit

A small group of GUL Friends visited the Glasgow Museums Resource Centre, Nitshill on 4 June. We were guided by Ralph Moffat, Kelvingrove’s curator of European Arms & Armour through the inner sanctums of the vast, technology-controlled stores to see and hear more about RL Scott’s famed Collections. Reflecting over some 7000 swords, body-armour, lances, pistols and crossbows, he explained the development and arts involved in armour and its uses. One example was the Scots sword made c1400 and its unique design. The blade, as in many, was of high quality German origin from the iron ores available near the Swiss Alps.

The material and making of chain mail evolved to complex suits of armour, the Collection having some of the finest Continental suits surviving, dating from 1440. Remarkably, today’s infantryman’s fighting kit is heavier than a suit of armour.

For your Interest...

The Senate Dinner in Spring 2011 was attended by the University Librarian Helen Durndell, who kindly invited FGUL’s Chairman as her guest at the table hosted by Principal Moscatelli. The after-dinner speaker was the Bank of England’s Agent in Scotland who reports to the Bank’s Governor. His speech emphasised the need for clarity, cool heads, and major structural changes to the banking systems to avoid a repetition of the banking collapses.

In Scott’s Library of 3000 manuscripts and books we were shown 17th c letters on the buying and effectiveness of arms and 16th c illustrated coaching manuals (some coloured) on self defence. The Library is open for research, by appointment. Kelvingrove is planning a national exposition next September on Scott – the man, shipbuilder and collector.

Pop in and see ‘Breaking the Renaissance Code: Emblems and Emblem Books’ running until 4 October 2011 at the Hunterian Art Gallery, which displays precious examples from the Stirling Maxwell Collection. Glasgow University Library houses the world’s greatest collection of emblem books.

Earlier this year the Friends’ committee allocated funding to support the preservation and digitisation of the Stoddard-Templeton Archive. These funds are key to allowing Archive Services to make this internationally significant collection accessible to as wide an audience as possible. The awards are particularly timely as we currently have two Project Archivists in post cataloguing the Archive to make it available to the public in Autumn 2011.

The Archive brings together the design and corporate records of the world famous carpet manufacturers James Templeton & Co Ltd and Stoddard International Ltd. Templeton’s and Stoddard’s, which came together in 1980, were giants of the carpet manufacturing industry. Templeton’s in particular was at the forefront of developments in applied design and technical innovation. They enjoyed lucrative commissions, their carpets being in demand for coronations, including that of Queen Elizabeth II, for state buildings, including the White House and the House of Lords, and for luxury hotels and cruise liners, including the Titanic.

Their design archive, made up of around 9,000 design sketches and patterns, reflects the commercial application of stylistic developments from the mid-nineteenth century through to the beginning of the twenty-first century. The labels on the plan chest drawers give a sense of the designs that lie within - Turkish, Persian, Chinese, Art Nouveau, Art Deco, Classical, Jacobean, 1930s Modern and 1960s Contemporary. Occasionally, the labels tell us the designer - Morris, Silver Studio, Mackintosh - but more often than not, it is the designs themselves which bear the designer’s name. Both Templeton and Stoddard had their own talented in-house design teams, but they also commissioned the leading designers of the day. The cataloguing project team are highlighting some of these designers in our weekly Friday Gem blogs to the Library blog (universityofglasgowlibrary.wordpress.com). Marion Dorn, Frank William Brangwyn, Maxwell Armfield and the Festival Pattern Group all feature.

The fullness of the design archive is complemented by the comprehensive corporate archive. The financial ledgers, articles of association and order books document the management of the companies and their success. The staff records and company magazines, the Templetonian and the Glenpatrick Journal, provide an insight into the lives of the many women and men who worked in the factories and offices. These were complemented by surviving ephemera such as dance cards and menus from company dinners where dishes such as ‘chicken under glass’ were served. One interesting item is a ticket for ‘The Grand Redundancy Rag’ which was held following the closure of Gray’s in 1974 - the ticket proclaims that entry is by P45 only and one should bring one’s own handkerchief. The photographic collection, which dates from the late 19th century, ranges from images of carpets in production through to the finished product in situ in offices, boardrooms and state buildings around the world. The images of staff at work are of particular interest as they illustrate how both the carpet making process and clothing fashions changed over time. Again, the project team have been publicising their favourite images via the project blog: (stoddardtempleton.wordpress.com) and Flickr set: (www.flickr.com/photos/uofglibrary/sets/).

The Archive has great potential for research and study, from former employees wishing to reconnect with their careers and family historians, through current University students studying history, art, design, textile, archives and museums courses, to current designers looking for inspiration. Once catalogued, we will be able to make the Archive available for research and teaching, and take forward our plans for further digitisation and exhibition. In doing this, we will be working closely with our partners, Glasgow School of Art and Glasgow Life who hold the remaining parts of the Stoddard-Templeton Collection, the design library and heritage carpet collection. Taken together, the Collection is unrivalled in providing a comprehensive record of the carpet-making process, from design inspiration and initial drafting, to final agreement of pattern and colour, through to the production and marketing of the finished products.

Lesley Richmond
University Archivist
Historical Thesaurus of the Oxford English Dictionary

On 19 April, Professor Emeritus Christian Kay gave an entertaining and highly informative talk on her recent major publication, *Historical Thesaurus of the Oxford English Dictionary*. Professor Kay joined the English Language Department in 1969 as a Research Assistant on the thesaurus project. Forty years later, in 2009, the project was published by Oxford University Press as the *Historical Thesaurus of the Oxford English Dictionary* (HTOED). The book met with considerable media interest and critical acclaim, winning the Saltire Society Research Book of the Year Award in 2009. Professor Kay’s primary research interests are in historical semantics, classification, and the application of the cognitive semantics paradigm to the development of the English lexicon. She has also co-edited *A Thesaurus of Old English* (Roberts and Kay 2000), and directed its online version.

**Abstract**

The *Historical Thesaurus of the Oxford English Dictionary*¹ was published in book form by Oxford University Press in October 2009. It contains lists of most of the recorded vocabulary of English from Old English, first recorded around 700 AD, until about 2000. These lists are arranged in semantic categories, not alphabetically. The work is based on the second edition of the Oxford English Dictionary and contains over 600,000 words and almost 800,000 meanings. It is the result of 44 years of hard labour by a team in the English Language Department at Glasgow University, led originally by the late Professor Michael Samuels and latterly by myself.

The talk describes how the project was accomplished, moving from the early days of pencils and paper slips to the electronic versions available on the OED and English Language websites. As the material accumulated, a new system of classification suitable for a huge body of historical materials was implemented, based on three major divisions: I The External (or physical) World, II The Mental World, and III The Social World. Our guiding principle in classification was that the structure should arise from the words themselves rather than be imposed from outside.

As the talk demonstrates, in addition to presenting a completely new perspective on the history of the English vocabulary, HTOED is enabling other new lines of research, such as the development of metaphor, connections between sound and meaning, and reasons for lexical change.

Christian Kay

Befriend the Library!

By becoming a Friend your annual subscription and any donations will help to support the great University of Glasgow Library. The Friends’ Newsletter, published twice yearly, not only gives notice of talks and events but prints also articles of biographical, research and archival interest plus abstracts of the various talks. New Friends are warmly welcomed.

**Annual Subscription**

£15 or a higher amount if wished. Many members generously give a higher amount, which is much appreciated.

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In both categories of membership, and in donations, the signing of a GIFT AID form provides further support, at no cost to yourself. An additional 28% is then received from HM Revenue & Customs.

Keeper of Special Collections Retires

The University’s Keeper of Special Collections, and assistant library director, David Weston has announced he is retiring early in 2012. Since he became Keeper in 1996 he has been a keen and supportive ex-officio member of the Friends Committee.

The Special Collections will now come under the responsibilities of the University Archivist, Lesley Richmond, who is also assistant library director, as part of the Library reorganisation. Lesley will continue the strong links with the Friends and looks forward to meeting more FGUL members at future events and on the guided tour round the Archives in Thurso Street on Saturday 17th September. More news in the next Newsletter.
MS Glasgow Hunter 252 Les Cent Nouvelles Nouvelles

On 26 February, Geoffrey Roger, who teaches French language and culture at the University of Glasgow, gave a most interesting talk to the Friends on the subject of his newly awarded PhD on the fifteenth-century collection of Middle-French short stories entitled Les Cent Nouvelles Nouvelles (MS Glasgow Hunter 252). He is part of a project team, including Graeme Small, Peter Davies and Jim Simpson, organising an international and interdisciplinary conference around the Cent Nouvelles Nouvelles, to be held in Glasgow in September 2011.

Publications include:

‘Natural Language Processing and Multimedia Browsing Concrete and Potential Contributions’ (Ambient Intelligence, Springer Berlin /Heidelberg, 2003).


Abstract

Prominent among the treasures which William Hunter bequeathed to the University of Glasgow is MS Hunter 252, the unique extant manuscript copy of the Middle-French collection of bawdy tales entitled Les Cent Nouvelles Nouvelles. These consist of a hundred different narratives, purportedly recounted by ostensibly authentic members of the court of the Duke of Burgundy, Philippe le Bon (1396-1467). With raconteurs from different geographical backgrounds (Burgundy, Low Countries, France, Brittany), remembering anecdotes from their journeys, or recounting those of characters whose own geographical origins extend further across Western Europe (Britain, Germany, Spain, Italy), the question of whether linguistic diversity is reflected in the text will notably be explored. The presentation will also ask how findings may help authenticate the mise en scène of the collection, and shed light on linguistic practices at the court of Burgundy at a time of dramatic territorial expansion. It will further unveil the exciting plans currently being made for a digital edition of the manuscript to be published online, with photographs of folios and matching searchable XML transcription of the text, accompanied by appropriate reference to early printed editions, linguistic atlases, and dialectological studies. The digital edition will make an outstanding resource for the study of Valois Burgundy and wider late-fifteenth century Europe, with links to online biographical and iconographic databases, historical atlases and GIS, encyclopaedia entries, and various related materials.

Geoffrey Roger

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From the Library Bulletin

“...The Scottish Theatre Archive within Special Collections, has been selected as the official repository for the archive of the National Theatre of Scotland. This decision represents a strong endorsement of the national importance of the Scottish Theatre Archive and of the service it provides.

19th Century Photographic Collection

Throughout the year as part of ongoing digitisation plans to aid discovery, provide remote access, and ultimately to preserve our 19th century photographic collection, several hundred original 19th century photographic prints formerly owned by the artist James McNeill Whistler have been digitised. These images will now be made accessible as links from their descriptions on the manuscripts catalogue. In addition the contents of four un-published albums of 19th century photographs have now been fully described and digitised.

University Book History Group

Special Collections now provides the physical forum for a new Book History Group involving academics and students from across the University who share an interest in the history of the book.

Edwin Morgan Scrapbooks

To mark the 90th birthday year of the distinguished Scottish poet, a selection of pages has been digitised for a virtual exhibition. This investigates the context, purpose and content of the scrapbooks, compiled from the 1930s to the 1960s, and their importance to Morgan as a creative outlet...”

Edwin Morgan died in 2010.
Dear Friends,

April saw glorious blue skies – typical exam weather – and a packed library. On Easter Monday 8258 people passed through the turnstiles. There were 1,308,651 visitors from August 2010 to April 2011, an 18% increase on the same period in 2010. It certainly has felt busy!

The University has prioritised capital spending on the exterior of the building, and a complete recladding project is currently being reviewed by Glasgow District Planning Office. In summer 2010 only a minimum level of redecoration on the west side of Level 3 was undertaken. No internal work is planned for summer 2011. In the autumn, a plan is being submitted to the University Estates Committee for the redevelopment of Levels 1, 2 and the remainder of Level 3. This plan will include an exhibitions area which will be part funded by bequests already received, with the potential for matched funding from the Friends of GUL.

The University is currently making adjustments to deal with the challenging financial climate. In that context, the Library has had to make savings of around 12% on the salary budget over the past 18 months, with another 3% to come by summer 2012. There has been an excellent response to the University’s Voluntary Severance/Early Retirement Scheme and around 20 will leave by the end of July.

As we strive to maintain standards of service as demand increases this situation will open opportunities for many younger colleagues to flourish and demonstrate their skills and flexibility.

Our rare books and manuscripts remain an important part of the University’s internationalisation agenda, attracting scholars from all over the world. A wonderful current example of the willingness of former members of staff to continue to share their expertise and knowledge of the collections is that of Jack Baldwin, formerly Keeper of Special Collections, who is leading the Glasgow Incunabula Project.

From legacies and monies donated we have been able to make grants this year, 2011, to the Library totalling some £13,000 as follows –

- £5000 towards the conservation and rebuilding of a 16thc Mexican manuscript “Historia de Tlaxcala” - Hunter MS 242.
- £2400 for the digitisation of 250 selected larger designs of the Stoddard Templeton Collection.
- £2000 to procure an archives plan chest in steel.
- £1200 for the digitisation of 100 outsize Gilbert Scott architectural plans.
- £545 towards development and training courses for Library staff.

Susan Dunsmore has been co-opted as a committee member of the Friends and we look forward to her active involvement.

From 2012 members’ evening meetings will normally start at 7pm unless otherwise stated. Times and venues will be clearly stated as always in the Newsletter and on University web pages.

From the Chairman

Graeme Smith

10. Priscilla Barlow

Born in Prestwick, educated at Ayr Academy, Priscilla matriculated at the University of Glasgow but did not complete her degree. Returning to university as a mature student many years later, she graduated and embarked on research in medieval drama. Always one for being sidetracked, the PhD was abandoned and her interest focussed on Scottish theatre history. With Professor Jan McDonald, she compiled a bibliography of Scottish Theatrical Literature since 1900 (currently being digitised) and in 1995 published Wise Enough to Play the Fool, a biography of the actor Duncan Macrae. She has contributed reviews to Shakespeare Quarterly, Theatre Research International, entries in the Dictionary of National Biography, and subject chapters online to The Glasgow Story. She is (sporadically) researching the history of the first Glasgow Theatres Royal, a project set up with her late husband, Graham. Priscilla has edited the newsletter since 2007.
A Private Researcher Works in the Library

Iain Wotherspoon is a University of Glasgow graduate with a Library reader’s ticket. When ‘resting’ from his acting career he can be found in the library researching the history of an actor family member. This has resulted in a fascinating perspective on theatre history, some of it Scottish.

Iain has demonstrated how the Library facilities have speeded his research. We hope his experience will encourage other private historians to use the Library and prompt potential readers to become ‘a Friend of the Library.

“I think she married an actor.” These were my Grandfather’s vague memories of a great aunt, Mary Rodger of Stranraer. Many years later, my aunt found the record of the said lady’s marriage in 1886 to Charles Browne, a “comedian”. He clearly was a “theatrical”, so “That’s your department”, I was told, “See what you can find”. And thus, at long last, a valid research purpose was found for my Life Membership of the University Library - a bargain purchase for ten pounds in 1979.

Having established that the gentleman’s stage-name was Weir rather than Browne a search through several sources within the Library would prove invaluable. A name search in The Scottish Theatre Archive in Special Collections, a fully catalogued and indexed resource, produced several playbills of Charles’s appearances at the Lyceum Theatre in Edinburgh. An enjoyable time was spent in the Library Research Annexe in Saracen Street trawling through The Times archive, looking for reviews of Charles’s London performances; the staff there were particularly welcoming and helpful. Perhaps most exciting, on the shelves of theatre journals on Level 11 were copies of The Play Pictorial containing several photographs of Charles in When Knights Were Bold, a comedy in which he appeared at Wyndham’s Theatre in 1907.

Thanks to the Library, along with other resources such as the Victoria and Albert Museum Theatre Archive and the Mander and Mitchenson Collection at Trinity College, Greenwich, I have managed to piece together a full history of Charles’s career stretching from his first “notice” in 1876 until his death in 1916.