

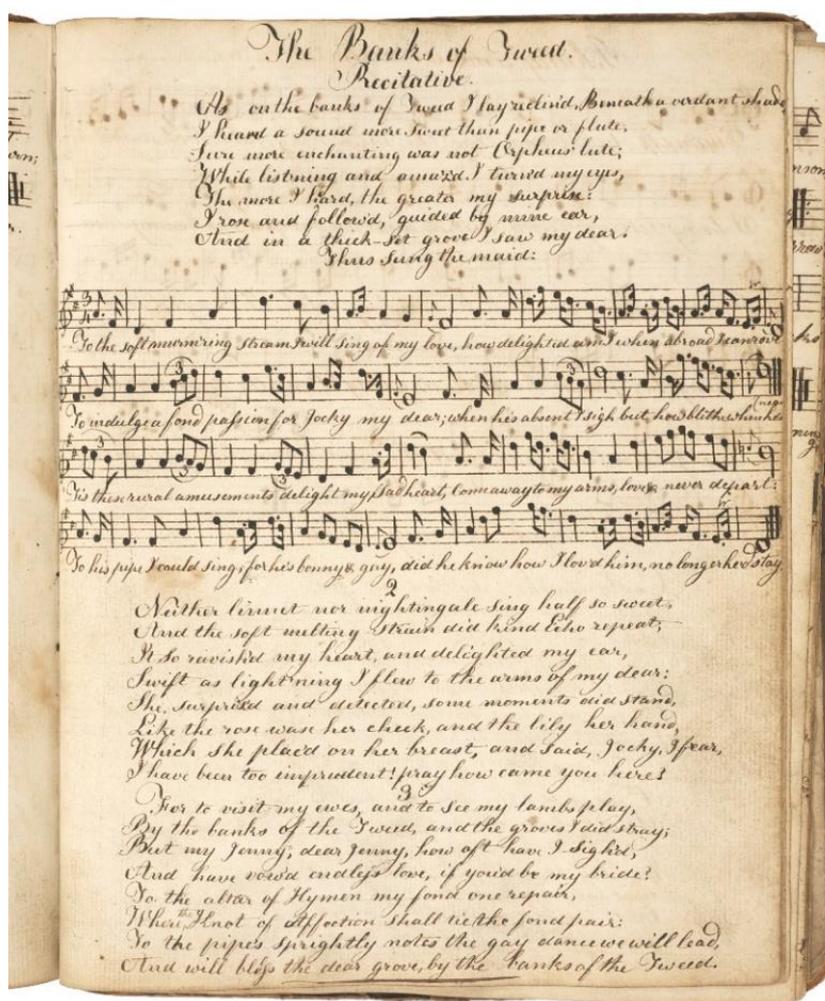


Newsletter

of the Association for Manuscripts
and Archives in Research Collections

Scottish songbook

The National Library of Scotland acquires a manuscript from c. 1800
containing around 100 Scottish songs and ballads with accompanying music



Scottish songbook (c. 1800), National Library of Scotland
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Acknowledgements

Many thanks to all contributors to this issue, including the following whose help or contributions are unattributed:

Lloyd de Beer, Claire Breay, Alison Day, Julian Harrison, Ulrike Hogg, Andrew Honey, Maredudd ap Huw, Bernard Meehan, Krista Murchison, Kathleen Neal, Julia Nurse, Naomi Speakman, Michael Stansfield, Helen Watt, Michael Webb, Richard Wragg.

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

Deadline

for publication in Issue no. 77 is **1 September 2021**. Please send your articles or any news of interest to the editors, Tuija Ainonen and Clark Drieschen at amarcnewsletter@gmail.com.

Images submitted should be delivered via e-mail or file-share.

Image on the right:

A gothic book coffer from the end of the 15th century, acquired by the Bodleian Library.

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AMARC Membership

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

Enquiries about membership should be addressed to the Membership Secretary:

Dr Richard Wragg, AMARC Membership Secretary, Collections Manager, The Library, University of Sussex, Brighton, BN1 9QL

email: r.d.wragg@sussex.ac.uk

Please do remember to inform the Membership Secretary of any change in your email or postal address.

Annual subscription rates (April–March) are:

Personal Membership: £10

Institutional Membership: £30

(For non-sterling cheques, please add £7 extra to cover bank charges).

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

Payment by standing order is welcomed. Forms can be obtained from the Membership Secretary or Treasurer. If more members with UK bank accounts could pay by standing order it would considerably decrease the amount of time spent on administration.



AMARC GRANTS

AMARC members are reminded that applications may be made for projects that bring AMARC and its activities to a wider audience and support the stated aim of AMARC: to promote the accessibility, preservation and archives of all periods in libraries and other research collections in Great Britain and Ireland. Typical examples are: contributing to the costs of holding conferences and workshops; support for small projects such as the web-publication of unpublished catalogues of manuscripts; assistance to scholars in obtaining reproductions or undertaking essential travel as part of projects whose aims are in line with those of AMARC; the provision of equipment to facilitate access to manuscripts; assistance with the necessary purchase of manuscripts and archives to benefit the AMARC community; carrying out conservation work on manuscripts and archives.

Applicants must be fully paid-up individual or institutional members, of at least one year's standing, and should read carefully the detailed information about applying found at www.amarc.org.uk/grants.htm.

Funding levels may vary from year to year, but it is anticipated that the Committee will make awards of not more than £500 each. Applications will particularly be encouraged from postgraduate, postdoctoral and early-career researchers.

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

Grant recipients will be required to submit for publication in this Newsletter a brief report (300-500 words) of the use to which the grant was put.

We wish to make readers aware of a change to how we manage bookings for events and meetings. In order to make the process as efficient as possible, we are trialling the use of Eventbrite.

We have amended our privacy policy <https://amarcsite.files.wordpress.com/2019/07/amarc-privacy-policy.pdf> to reflect this change but please be assured that your personal data remains secure and will not be processed without your knowledge.

AMARC MEETINGS

Virtual Seminar and AMARC AGM

The Fifteenth-Century Book: Manuscripts in the Early Age of Print

University of Glasgow Library Archives & Special Collections
21 April 2021, 14–16.30

The meeting will explore the fascinating transitional period of manuscript to print in the Fifteenth Century. The broad themes covered will include early ownership of both print and manuscript books, literacy and engagement with different texts in different formats, and the production and materiality of manuscripts in the age after print.

The programme will include a remote view of manuscript and print in the Hunterian Library: a mini presentation of books using the Special Collections visualiser.

Free, but booking required, further details are available on AMARC's website:

<https://amarcsite.wordpress.com/meetings/forthcoming-meetings/>

Westminster Abbey: manuscripts, archives, history – including curator-led tours of the Sanctuary, Library and Cosmati pavement

Westminster Abbey
24 March 2020, 9.30–16.30 **POSTPONED**

This meeting has been postponed until further notice. Those who registered will receive further information by email, and details will be announced on the AMARC website and in our next issue

AGM

The committee had planned to hold our AGM 2020 during the meeting at Glasgow University on 3 December 2020. As that meeting was postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions, we will exceptionally merge the 2020 AGM with the 2021 AGM.

A consolidated meeting will take place on 21 April, 16.30, immediately after the AMARC Virtual Seminar, *The Fifteenth-Century Book: Manuscripts in the Early Age of Print*, arranged by University of Glasgow Library Archives and Special Collections

AMARC STATEMENT

MARCH 2021

News has reached us all over the past few months of financial difficulties, restructures and redundancies in some institutions holding manuscripts and archives. Clearly this is a very difficult and anxious time for many of our members given the current situation and its likely impact into the future. While furlough schemes have given support to institutions and staff, they have also introduced new challenges. There are many long-term issues arising from the impact of the pandemic that the AMARC Committee, the manuscripts and archives sector and funding bodies will need to consider. Other representative organisations have issued statements calling on governing bodies to appreciate the need for adequate cohorts of staff to manage historic collections to agreed standards. RLUK (Research Libraries UK) has appealed to the Welsh Government to remember that 'without their staff libraries are nothing but dark warehouses' (<https://www.rluk.ac.uk/an-open-letter-in-support-of-the-national-library-of-wales/>), while the Historic Libraries Forum has expressed alarm at 'the growing number of reports about

large, often publicly funded, cultural and heritage institutions with libraries holding nationally or internationally important unique and distinctive collections proposing to make library and archives staff redundant' (<https://historiclibrariesforum.com/2021/03/16/statement-on-cuts-to-staff-and-services-udc/>).

Such cuts to staff and funding are particularly to be regretted at a time when public interest in manuscript and archive holdings has never been greater, driven as it has been by high standards of curatorial care and expertise, combined with research investment. Many in the sector have adapted rapidly to the new environment, with popular and successful digital initiatives.

The membership of AMARC has always been international, spanning both the staff and users of research collections. The long-term impacts of this global pandemic on the staffing and resourcing of our sector around the world is of great concern to us all, and an issue which the Committee will consider both at its next meeting and into the future.

Bernard Meehan (AMARC Chair)

MANUSCRIPT AND ARCHIVE RELATED NEWS

Lewis of Caerleon manuscript acquired by the British Library

*Submitted by Julian Harrison, Lead Curator
Medieval Historical Manuscripts*

The British Library has acquired an important manuscript of the works of Lewis of Caerleon, a medieval astronomer and physician to the household of King Henry VII. It is now Add MS 89442 and is available to view in full on the Library's Universal Viewer.

Made in the 1480s–90s, and perhaps begun while Lewis was imprisoned at the Tower of London, the manuscript has been in private hands for the last 500 years. It contains the most complete collection of his works, including texts that are not attested elsewhere. The manuscript is a lavish presentation copy, presumably intended as a gift for an important patron, and it retains its original blind-stamped binding, in near-pristine condition. We hope that its acquisition will allow scholars of medieval astronomy and science to identify Lewis's sources and to gain new insight into his writings.

Lewis of Caerleon (died c. 1495) studied medicine at the University of Cambridge and possibly also at Oxford. He bridged the gap between medieval Oxford astronomers, such as Simon Bredon and Richard Wallingford, and their early modern English successors. Lewis also drew upon the work of Arabic astronomers such as Al-Battānī, Jabir ibn Aflah and Abū Ishāq Ibrāhīm al-Zarqālī, all of whom are named in this compilation. He did not merely copy the works of previous astronomers, since he actively improved upon their observations using his own calculations.

There are indications that this manuscript was made under Lewis's own supervision, since there are numerous self-references and annotations throughout. The first recorded owner was the historian and antiquary Sir Henry Spelman (died 1641), who bought it in 1606. It next appeared in the library of Walter Clavell (died c. 1740), before ending up in the hands of the Earls of Macclesfield.

More recently, after leaving the Macclesfield collection, the manuscript had been sold to an

overseas purchaser. As part of the export licensing process, a case was brought before the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art and Objects of Cultural Interest, and its export was deferred temporarily to allow a UK institution to raise the matching funds to buy it. Despite the challenging circumstances brought about by Covid-19, the British Library was able to purchase this important manuscript thanks to the generous support of the Shaw Fund, the T.S. Blakeney Fund, the Bernard H. Breslauer Fund of the American Trust for the British Library, the British Library Collections Trust, the Friends of the National Libraries, and those who wish to remain anonymous.

For more information, please see our blogpost <https://blogs.bl.uk/digitisedmanuscripts/2020/11/11/ewis-of-caerleon-manuscript-saved-for-the-nation.html>

University of Sussex acquires barrister Jeremy Hutchinson's archive

Submitted by Richard Wragg, Collections Manager, University of Sussex Library

The archive of Jeremy Hutchinson, Baron Hutchinson of Lullington QC (1915 – 2017) has been acquired for the nation through the Acceptance in Lieu Scheme and allocated to the University of Sussex.

Hutchinson was a celebrated barrister, considered by many of his generation to be the finest silk in practice at the criminal bar. In a decades-long career, he defended Christine Keeler when she was tried for perjury. He represented the art forger Thomas Keating and the spies George Blake and John Vassall. Perhaps his most famous work was as part of the team which defended Penguin Books over their publication of *Lady Chatterley's Lover*.

Away from his legal career, Hutchinson served in the Royal Navy during World War II, and his wartime letters to his first wife, Peggy Ashcroft, can be found in the archive. He was the Labour Party's candidate for Westminster in the 1945 general election. Hutchinson's canvassing activities took him to 10 Downing Street where he asked to speak to the occupant, Winston Churchill. Later in life he was a trustee of the Tate Gallery.

The archive spans a century and covers two generations. In addition to Jeremy's wide-ranging papers, the letters to his parents, St John and Mary, are of great interest. Indeed, there is no sudden break between the papers stemming from Jeremy's parents and those related to his own life: the interests, in literature, art and

theatre continue and many of the friendships remain in place. Moreover, both father and son became leading criminal barristers, and both, at different times, became involved in cases involving the work of D. H. Lawrence. Five letters from Lawrence to St John Hutchinson detail the seizure of Lawrence's manuscripts, a curious foreshadowing to Jeremy's later representation of Penguin at the Chatterley trial.

The archive will be catalogued in due course and made available to researchers at The Keep in Brighton. Initial enquiries should be addressed to Richard Wragg at R.D.Wragg@sussex.ac.uk.

Late medieval book coffers acquired by the Bodleian Library and John Rylands Library

Submitted by Andrew Honey, Book Conservator, Research and Teaching, Bodleian Libraries

The Bodleian Library acquired a late gothic coffer with a woodcut print with support from the Art Fund, the Bodleian's Kenneth Rose Fund and the Friends of the Bodleian in 2017. The coffer—made from wood, covered in leather, and bound in iron straps—is of a type thought to have been used as a travelling book box. It was acquired from Les Enluminures of Paris and New York and came from the collection of over twenty such coffers formed by André and Marie-Thérèse Jammes and sold in 2007. The sale has prompted renewed interest in this very particular type of object – including an exhibition at the Cluny museum, Paris from late 2019 to early 2020 and an accompanying catalogue: *Mystérieux Coffrets: Estampes Au Temps De La Dame à La Licorne* (Paris, 2019).

Approximately 140 of this type of gothic coffers survive, with most thought to date from c. 1480-1530. The largest and most coherent group of them contain prints after Jean d'Ypres, a Parisian artist active 1490–1510 and the woodcut in the Bodleian coffer belongs to the group. It depicts God the Father in Majesty above three lines of xylographic text of a liturgical chant for the Feast of the Trinity, and derives from a design used for the full-page woodcut in the *Verdun Missal* printed in Paris by Jean du Pre in 1491. Our coffer is the 'talute' type with a stepped lid which provides a concealed shallow compartment within the coffer, the central part of the lid hinges separately and is now permanently closed and secured with nails.

The purchase of the coffer has prompted us to think about the people carrying books, through time and across cultures. It formed the centrepiece of a display of other book boxes and satchels (<https://www.cabinet.ox.ac.uk/thinking-inside-the-box>). In early 2021 the coffer was jointly presented and compared online with another coffer recently

purchased from the same source by the John Rylands Library as part of the Oxford Palaeography and Manuscript Studies series (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ilxlG6B6PhE>). The seminar prompted Martin Kauffmann to comment afterwards “I’ve been thinking about the discussion on use of the coffer, and realizing that it would also be possible to see the function of the print from exactly the opposite point of view – not as an altarpiece for a travelling altar/devotional toolkit, but as an image which conferred spiritual blessings on everyday contents”.



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National Library of Scotland acquires a Scottish songbook from c. 1800

Submitted by Ulrike Hogg, Curator of Gaelic, Medieval, Early Modern & Music Manuscripts

In December the Library was able to acquire a substantial manuscript volume containing around 100 Scottish songs and ballads with accompanying music. A number of these songs, but not all of them, appeared in the Scots Musical Museum (1787–1803), a project to which Robert Burns contributed significantly. However, a number of the songs in this manuscript contain variants and differences from those in the printed version. (Acc.14209)

National Library of Wales Funding

In January, the National Library of Wales announced that thirty professional posts were at risk, together with a curtailment of services, due to budgetary pressures. Grant-in-aid allocated by the Welsh Government, the Library’s main source of revenue, had remained almost level over the last ten years, leading to a significant real-terms budget cut. The Library’s workforce had been reduced through voluntary redundancies and natural wastage during the same period. The issue attracted attention in the media, resulting in a 14,000-signature petition addressed to the Welsh Senedd in February, and the subsequent announcement of a £2.25 million package for the Library by the Welsh Government for the years 2021–22. Discussions over future levels of funding are ongoing, and the Library announced that, whilst restructuring would go ahead in line with the new corporate strategy, there would be no compulsory redundancies.

Delayed publication of *A Repertory of Welsh Manuscripts and Scribes*

The long-awaited appearance of Daniel Huws’ three-volume *A Repertory of Welsh Manuscripts and Scribes*, which was due to be published in the Summer of 2020, has been delayed. Without access to institutional collections because of the Covid-19 crisis, last-minute checking and reviewing had to be paused, and the proposed associated conference in September was also postponed. It is hoped that the author’s work – the result of 25 years and more of research – will now appear in the Summer of 2021. Its launch is anticipated in September, followed by the academic conference, circumstances permitting, in 2022.

Durham’s Archives and Special Collections

Submitted by Michael Stansfield, Senior Manager, Archives and Special Collections

Staff have been back on site at all three of the Archives and Special Collections sites – Palace Green Library, 5 the College and Ushaw College Library since July, October and February respectively. Readers have been admitted on site, to a greater or lesser degree, since August.

Remote services have increased exponentially with much work focusing on digitisation, reprographics, and enquiries, the development of online subject guides and modules, and a visualiser service now available for reader and class access. Conservation have also been reviewing and experimenting with treatment

methods, including RTI (Reflectance Transformation Imaging) photography to create enhanced images showing surface distortions and impressions.

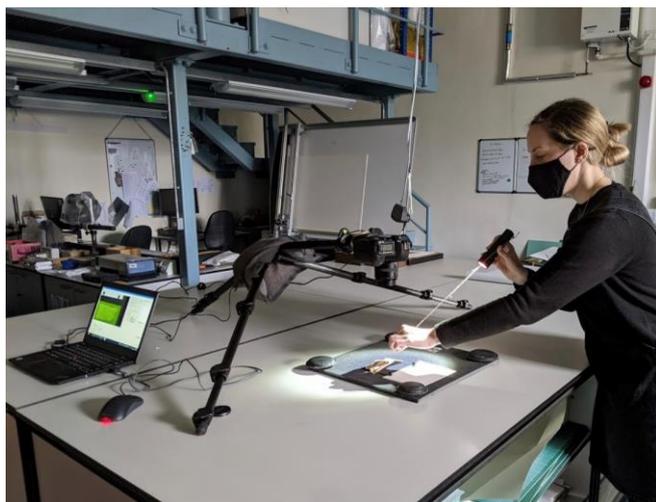


Image provided by Michael Stansfield.

The Book of Lismore returns to Cork

The Book of Lismore, which is considered to be one of the Great Books of medieval Ireland, has been donated by the Trustees of the Chatsworth Settlement to University College Cork.

The Book of Lismore was in the possession of the Cavendish Family and their ancestors since the 1640s. Initially it was kept at Lismore Castle, County Waterford. In the next century it was walled up, possibly for safe-keeping, and only rediscovered during renovation work in 1814. In more recent times the manuscript was kept at Chatsworth House in Derbyshire.

The Book of Lismore highlights an important part of the cultural heritage of Cork, Munster and Ireland. Like other surviving manuscripts in Irish, it illustrates the multi-layered histories and traditions of the past. The manuscript is also significant for its place in Irish manuscript and scribal traditions.

Compiled at Kilbrittain, County Cork, for Finghin Mac Carthaigh, Lord of Carbery (1478–1505), and his wife, Caitilín, it became known as *Leabhar Mhic Cárthaigh Riabhaigh*. Its contents are comprehensive in their representation of both religious and secular learning in the Irish language as preserved and promoted by the elite learned classes of late medieval Gaelic Ireland. It contains lives and miracles of Irish saints, texts on the History of the Lombards, the Conquests of Charlemagne, the only surviving Irish translation of the travels of Marco Polo, and the exploits of the popular mythological hero Fionn mac Cumhaill and the Fianna.

The Book of Lismore will eventually be displayed in a Treasures Gallery that UCC plans to develop in its Boole Library. This publicly accessible gallery will display items from the University collections, serving as an attractive destination for visitors to the region.

The Walters Art Museum Receives \$265,000 NEH Grant to Digitise Over 100 Flemish Manuscripts

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) has granted the Walters Art Museum \$265,000 for a three-year project to digitise, catalogue and distribute 113 illuminated medieval manuscripts from Flanders, present-day northeastern France and Belgium. The project, *Imaging the Hours: Creating a Digital Resource of Flemish Manuscripts*, will digitise 45,000 pages of text with over 3,000 pages of illumination from the 13th through 16th centuries. A highlight will be the digitization of a collection of 80 Books of Hours, often sumptuously decorated.

The grant allows the museum to continue its ambitious initiative to create, preserve and make accessible fully catalogued digital surrogates of its manuscripts. This initiative began in 2008 with a \$307,500 NEH Preservation and Access Grant to digitise its Islamic manuscripts and continues with a second NEH grant of \$315,000 for *Parchment to Pixel: Creating a Resource of Medieval Manuscripts*, to digitise the museum's Armenian, Byzantine, Dutch, English, Ethiopian and German manuscripts. To date, the Walters has taken 79,319 images of 112 Islamic manuscripts and 105 Parchment to Pixel manuscripts.

Whole digital surrogates of manuscripts that are “page-turnable” are available through the Walters' Works of Art site at <http://art.thewalters.org/>. Images, including high-res master tiffs, are available for download at www.thedigitalwalters.org. Additional images are posted regularly to the Walters Art Museum Illuminated Manuscripts' Flickr photostream at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/medmss>

Fragments of a Biblical scroll and other relics found in desert caves in Israel

Dozens of pieces of a biblical parchment scroll that is believed to have belonged to Jewish rebels who fled to the hills following a failed revolt against Roman rule in the second century have been discovered in Israel. It is the first such find of its kind since the early 1960s when similar fragments and some 40 skeletons were discovered at the site which became known as the Cave of Horror.

The scroll is written in Greek—the language adopted after the conquest of Judea by Alexander the Great in the fourth century BC—but features the name of God exclusively in Hebrew. The fragments contain verses from the books of Zechariah and Nahum, which form part of writings known as the Book of the Twelve Minor Prophets.

Located some 80m (260ft) beneath a cliff-top, the cave is practically inaccessible and could only be reached by teams abseiling down to it.

Searches of the cliffs and caves in the Judean Desert have yielded a treasure trove of finds over decades, including the Dead Sea Scrolls, the oldest known copies of Biblical books.

Lindisfarne Gospels to go on display in the North East in 2022

The Lindisfarne Gospels, the most spectacular surviving manuscript from early medieval England, will go on display in the North East on loan from the British Library in 2022.

The manuscript will feature in an exhibition at the Laing Art Gallery, Newcastle, with a supporting exhibition at neighbouring Newcastle City Library with the aim of attracting visitors from across the North and beyond.

To celebrate the Gospels going on display, venues across the North East will be invited to host supporting events and there will be an accompanying programme of activity for community groups and schools, as well as a high-profile artist commission to reimagine the Gospels for a 21st-century audience.

This is the fifth time since 1987 that the Lindisfarne Gospels has been on display in the North East. In 2013 the manuscript was the focus of an exhibition at Durham University, which attracted nearly 100,000 visitors, and told the historic story of the Gospels and its spiritual significance. The manuscript has also been to the Laing Art Gallery twice before, in 1996 and 2000.

The 2022 exhibition will focus on the meaning of the Lindisfarne Gospels in today's world and how its themes link to personal, regional and national pride and identity. Working with curators and other experts from the British Library, academics and cultural professionals from across the North East, exhibition curators will explore the ways in which the Gospel book written on Holy Island in the early eighth century can bring people together today by inspiring thinking about who we are and where we come from.

3,000-year-old Egyptian Book of the Dead discovered

Archaeologists in Egypt have unearthed a cache of treasures—including more than 50 wooden sarcophagi, a funerary temple dedicated to an Old Kingdom queen and a 13-foot-long *Book of the Dead* scroll—at the Saqqara necropolis, a vast burial ground south of Cairo.

Egyptologist Zahi Hawass and his colleagues discovered the coffins, which appear to date back to the New Kingdom era (1570–1069 B.C.), in 52 burial shafts measuring 33 to 40 feet deep. Paintings of ancient gods and excerpts from the *Book of the Dead*, which were thought to help the deceased navigate the afterlife, adorn the sarcophagi.

Researchers first started excavating the site, which stands next to the pyramid of King Teti, first of the Sixth Dynasty rulers of the Old Kingdom (2680–2180 B.C.), in 2010.

Now experts have finally identified the complex as the tomb of Teti's wife, Queen Naert.

The coffins found in the burial shafts probably hold the remains of followers of a Teti-worshipping cult formed after the pharaoh's death. Among the items found are hieroglyphic writings and fragments of a 13-foot-long and 3-foot-wide papyrus containing Chapter 17 of the *Book of the Dead*. The name of the scroll's owner, Pwkhaf, is inscribed on the papyrus, as well as on one sarcophagus and four sculptures.

Leaf from 13th-century 'Glastonbury Bible' returns to the South West

A manuscript leaf from a 13th-century Latin Bible that almost certainly originated from Glastonbury Abbey has been acquired by the University of Bristol Library's Special Collections.

The page contains the beginning of the Old Testament Books of Chronicles, narrating the history of Israel and Judah from the Creation.

The first word of the book, *Adam*, is marked by an illuminated *A*, made up of interlocking creatures and foliage. Fine penwork in the text and intricate initial letters evoke not only the monks' devotion to Scripture but also their careful scholarship. Founded in the seventh century, Glastonbury Abbey became one of the wealthiest Benedictine monasteries in medieval England. Its fortunes improved following the discovery, in 1191, of the supposed graves of King Arthur and Queen Guinevere, which attracted many visitors and pilgrims to the site, including royalty.

Abbeys played a key role, alongside universities, in the growth of higher education in the 13th century and beyond and Glastonbury was especially famous for its vast library of books and manuscripts. When King Henry VIII ordered the dissolution of the abbey in 1539 and the execution of its Abbot on Glastonbury Tor, the library and its contents were destroyed, dispersed or sold.

What happened to the 'Glastonbury Bible' after this is something of a mystery. It is known to have been in the collection of the antiquary and politician Roger Gale (1672–1744). Like many medieval manuscripts, the Glastonbury Bible was subsequently broken up, and beautifully illuminated leaves were cut out. Today, leaves from the same manuscript can be found in the Cleveland Museum of Art in Ohio and there is a very substantial fragment in the Schøyen Collection, based in London and Oslo.

The future of an important archive of Northern Ireland's Troubles run by Ulster University (UU) has been secured due to £150,000 of funding

Cain (Conflict Archive on the Internet) covers the history, key events and political issues concerning the Troubles, dating back to 1968. Based at UU's Magee campus in Londonderry, its future and staffing had been in doubt, but the new funding means the archive will be retained and will expand. It will also pay the salary costs of three staff.

Cain has been freely available online since March 1997 and new material about politics and society continues to be added to it. A vast number of images from the Troubles is available through the Cain archive. It includes thousands of documents, photographs, articles and biographies, and is widely used by academics and students researching the recent history of Northern Ireland.

A UU spokesperson said that the funding from Initiatives for Change was for two years but would ensure the future of the archive for longer.

The British Library acquires the archive of the Theatre Royal Stratford East, including that of the Theatre Workshop

Donated on behalf of the Theatre by the actor and Theatre Workshop alumnus Murray Melvin, the archive comprises 140 boxes containing a diverse array of material including scripts, performance recordings, letters, photographs, rehearsal notes, press cuttings and props. It sheds light on the work of Theatre Workshop's

visionary founder and director, Joan Littlewood, both before and during her tenure at the Theatre between 1953 and 1979.

Joan Littlewood was renowned for her radical vision, socialist principles and unorthodox working methods within the British theatre scene. Theatre Workshop's resulting innovative approach and international vision enjoyed great success, particularly in Europe. An example of innovation in the company was the use of the theories of movement developed by the pioneering dance artist and theorist, Rudolf Laban. Theatre Workshop were taught Laban's techniques by Jean Newlove, who had been Laban's first assistant when he came to England before the Second World War. A number of the Artistic Directors who followed Littlewood had worked with her, and through their work continued her legacy of socially and politically engaged theatre with strong local roots and an internationalist outlook.

This archive is a valuable new addition to the British Library's rich theatrical collection which includes material relating to playwrights, directors and actors such as Harold Pinter, Laurence Olivier and Joan Littlewood, as well as a vast historical collection of over 100,000 theatrical playbills from the 18th and 19th centuries. Joan Littlewood's archive was acquired by the Library in 2015.

Medieval 'birthing girdle' contains delivery fluid, milk, and honey

More than 500 years ago, an anxious woman faced one of the most dangerous moments known to medieval medicine: childbirth. To help her survive, she wrapped a 3-meter-long belt of parchment around her heaving belly, hoping the prayers and religious symbols that covered it would deliver her—and her baby—safely through the ordeal. Now, scientists examining the stitched-together sheepskin parchment, from 15th-century England, have found that she was still wearing it when she went into labour.

In the Middle Ages, it was frighteningly common for women and their children to die in labour. Medieval texts mention girdles lent to women by religious authorities to protect them during pregnancy and childbirth. Fashioned out of parchment or paper, such rolls combined elements of prayers and charms. The roll in question—Wellcome Collection's Manuscript 632—has an unusually long and thin shape (332 x 10 cm). It contains the names of saints associated with childbirth, and a promise that "If a woman travailing with child girds this measure

about her womb, she shall be delivered safely without peril.”

To discover whether the girdle might contain evidence for its use, researchers from Cambridge University applied a technique they had previously used to extract collagen from ancient parchments—and identify which animals they were made of. By gently rubbing the fragile girdle with an eraser, they were able to extract preserved proteins. Next, they compared their results with samples from a new piece of paper and an 18th-century parchment. The girdle contained traces of honey, milk, eggs, cereals, and legumes, and human proteins that are specific to cervico-vaginal fluid, suggesting that the birth girdle was used during labour itself. The food-linked proteins, moreover, were all ingredients mentioned in medieval medical texts for treating women during labour or pregnancy.

The protein technique could be used to examine the use of other birthing girdles – nearly a dozen similar rolls survive from England and France – or analyse stained medical texts to see whether they were open on the operating table during surgeries.

Researchers read sealed 17th-century letter without opening it

‘Virtual unfolding’ is hailed a breakthrough in the study of historic documents as unopened letter from 1697 is read for the first time using X-ray technology. In a world first for the study of historic documents, an unopened letter has been read without breaking the seal.

The letter, dated 31 July 1697 and sent from French merchant Jacques Sennacques in Lille to his cousin Pierre Le Pers in The Hague, had been closed using ‘letterlocking’, a process in which the letter is folded to become its own envelope, in effect locking it to keep it private. It is part of a collection of some 2,600 undelivered letters sent from all over Europe to The Hague between 1689 and 1706, 600 of which have never been opened.

The letters had been preserved by the chief postmasters of The Hague, Simon de Brienne and Marie Germain and donated to the postal museum in 1926. When letters could not be delivered in the 17th and 18th century, they were held on to by employees because the recipient, rather than the sender, paid for a letter. Undelivered letters could be worth something if someone came to claim them.

The team of researchers from MIT, King’s College London, Queen Mary University London, Utrecht University and Leiden University, worked

with X-ray microtomography scans of the letter, which use X-rays to look inside the document, slice by slice, and create a 3D image. They applied computational flattening algorithms to the scans to enable them to virtually unfold the letter without ever opening it, and discovered that Sennacques had been asking his cousin for a certified copy of a death notice of one Daniel Le Pers.

The Unlocking History research group, which includes historians, conservators and scientists, published their findings in *Nature Communications*. They say this is the first time an unopened letter from Renaissance Europe has been read without breaking its seal or damaging it in any way. It is a breakthrough for the study of historic documents because the papers’ folds, tucks, and slits provide valuable evidence for historians and conservators.

Norwich Castle medieval manuscripts to be restored in an extensive conservation project

The Castle Acre Processional and the Commonplace Book of Henry Appleyard are two of the greatest medieval treasures at Norwich Castle Museum. Both manuscripts will now be restored in a conservation project that was funded by a £20,350 grant from the National Manuscripts Conservation Trust, which will carry out the work.

The £13.5m Norwich Castle: Royal Palace Reborn project, which began in August 2020, will have more than 1,000 objects in a new permanent display telling the stories of medieval Norfolk. Among them will be the Castle Acre Processional, a 15th-century manuscript, likely to have been made and used by monks at Castle Acre Priory. Eventually, digital displays will invite visitors to turn its pages while listening to the recreated music of the monastic chants for the first time since the dissolution of the monasteries.

The Commonplace Book of Henry Appleyard, meanwhile, offers a glimpse into the intellectual, moral and spiritual legacy of one Norfolk family in the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. It is believed the manuscript was begun around 1560 by Henry’s father John Appleyard, owner of the manor—now a hotel—at Dunston, near Norwich.

Father and son penned information on a vast range of subjects including science, astronomy, the deeds of Roman emperors, and lists of mayors and sheriffs of Norwich. Illustrations include delicate diagrams of the solar system and a fold-out world map.

Rare Books uncovered at the Bar Convent

A major cataloguing project has uncovered rare and historically significant books of the Bar Convent library, York. It will soon be made available on a global database, giving its little-known collection an international profile. The project, completed with the help of Durham University, will result in the details of all c.1,800 rare books being made available on the global database Jisc Library Hub. The reference library of c. 3,000 vols will also be catalogued and made available in digital form for the first time.

The research has uncovered previously unseen documentation from a well-known 18th-century Catholic book distributor, J. P. Coghlan, who was active from c.1750 until his death in 1800. Coghlan was responsible for the movement of thousands of Catholic books around Europe and amongst the beleaguered Catholic community in England and Wales. A full study of his surviving correspondence was published in 2007, but new letters from the London bookseller, corresponding with the convent in 1783, have now been discovered. This finding casts important new light on the movement of Catholic books in post-Reformation England, illuminating an international network of book distribution.

Research is currently ongoing, with plans to have the catalogue of books available on the database later in the year, and the books on display in 2022.

British Library makes 40,000 maps and views freely available online

The material forms part of the Topographical Collection of King George III (K. Top) held by the British Library and captures four centuries of visual impressions of places throughout the world, from maps and atlases to architectural drawings, cartoons and watercolours. The images are available for anyone to view online via the British Library's digital Flickr Commons collection.

The collection is a distinct part of the larger King's Library which was presented to the Nation by George IV in 1823. As a collection of maps and views that was built during the formative period of the British Empire, it is an important resource for the study of how Britain viewed and interacted with the wider world during this period.

The collection consists of printed and hand-drawn works dating between 1500 and 1824 and covers a broad variety of themes. Highlights include the hand-drawn map of New York City, presented to the future James II in 1664; early 18th-century architectural drawings by Nicholas

Hawksmoor for commissions including Castle Howard and London 'Queen Anne' churches; the vast Kangxi Map of China of 1719 made by the Italian Jesuit Matteo Ripa; James Cook's large manuscript map of the islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon, 1763; watercolours by noted 18th-century artists such as Paul Sandby and Samuel Hieronymus Grimm; military maps of English south-coast harbours including Plymouth from the 1780s, precursors of the Ordnance Survey; views of parts of modern-day Ontario, Canada, drawn by the artist Elizabeth Simcoe in around 1792; and the earliest comprehensive land-use map of London from 1800.

Over seven years, a team of expert cataloguers, curators, conservators and imaging specialists at the Library have worked to catalogue, conserve and digitise the K.Top collection. The first batch of 18,000 images is now freely available to explore via the British Library's page on Flickr Commons (<https://www.flickr.com/photos/tags/georgeiiiitopographicalcollection>), alongside over 1 million copyright-free images from the Library's collection of printed books.

The maps will also be made available on the British Library's 'Georeferencer', an interactive application that allows volunteers to turn maps into data by adding locations to digitised British Library collections, initiating innovative new forms of discovery and research.

Trinity College Dublin Library acquires the archive of Samuel Beckett's play *Rockaby*, building on its world-leading Beckett collections

Marking the acquisition of the 1981 play *Rockaby*, one of the iconic plays of the Beckett canon, an online exhibition curated by Dr Jane Maxwell has been launched. The entire archive will be made available online later this year as part of the Library's Digital Collections. It includes 30 items of correspondence from Beckett; copies of the original play and its French translation; productions notes; photographs; and a printed commemoration booklet of photographs from the premiere, among other items.

The Nobel Laureate Samuel Beckett is one of the most famous alumni of Trinity College Dublin. He studied at Trinity, he taught there, and (alone of the many similar honours offered) he accepted an honorary degree from Trinity College in 1959. In 1969, with the generosity for which he was renowned, Samuel Beckett also founded the Trinity College Beckett Literary Archive with a gift of four notebooks.

British Library acquires unique 15th-century Lucas Psalter manuscript featuring previously unknown work by the Master of Edward IV

The British Library has acquired the Lucas Psalter, an important and hitherto unknown copy of the Psalms dating from the second half of the 15th century.

Made in Bruges for an English patron, the late medieval manuscript is known as the Lucas Psalter after the added arms of Thomas Houchon Lucas (1460–1539) of Suffolk, the secretary to Jasper Tudor and Solicitor General under Henry VII.

Featuring eight large, finely painted initials, the manuscript is a previously unknown example of the work of the Master of Edward IV, one of the most influential artists of the late Middle Ages. This Psalter is an unusual example of his painting in a sacred text, which might have originally formed part of a breviary volume or set of volumes. The artist is known for his contributions to manuscripts made for Edward IV, the majority of them now in the Royal collection in the British Library.

One of a handful of independent Psalter manuscripts dating from the second half of the 15th century in England, the Lucas Psalter offers

considerable research potential in the selection and iconography of images for the major divisions of the text, the nature of the liturgical elements such as antiphons and hymns and its context and use.

The British Library will digitise the Lucas Psalter to make it freely available online at Digitised Manuscripts before putting it on display in the free permanent Sir John Ritblat Gallery: Treasures of the British Library

Major new benefaction to secure future of Hebrew and Jewish curatorship

The Bodleian Libraries are pleased to announce that the future of the Libraries' Curator of Hebraica & Judaica has been secured thanks to a generous benefaction.

Sir Victor Blank, a UK businessman and philanthropist, has generously agreed to endow this post, and is doing so jointly with the Rothschild Foundation Hanadiv Europe. Sir Victor was until recently the Chairman of the Trustees of the Rothschild Foundation Hanadiv Europe. In recognition, the post will be named 'The Victor Blank Curator of Hebraica and Judaica'. In addition, the lecture theatre in the Weston Library will be named 'The Sir Victor Blank Lecture Theatre' for a period of 25 years.

PROJECTS AND DIGITAL RESOURCES

The Northern Way project

Submitted by Helen Watt, Research Fellow, Borthwick Institute for Archives

The Northern Way Project, managed by the University of York in partnership with The National Archives and funded by the AHRC, is making digital images from the 14th-century registers of the archbishops of York with descriptive metadata available online. The registers give invaluable insights into the workings of York Province; documenting such business as the archbishop's oversight of the clergy; the spiritual life of parishioners; his interaction with royal government and the management of his estates.

Launched in February 2019, the project attracted worldwide media attention through a press release about the extraordinary story of Joan of Leeds, nun of Clementhorpe Priory, York. Having faked her own death and burial, Joan absconded

to Beverley, where she was living a life of 'carnal lust', so that, in 1318, the archbishop ordered her return to the priory. Although this story is published in Latin in Dr David Robinson's edition of a section of Archbishop Melton's register (The Register of William Melton Archbishop of York 1317-1340, Vol. 6 (2011); Borthwick Institute for Archives, Reg 9A, f. 326v), and although entries in the registers relating to runaway religious are not uncommon (see F. Donald Logan, *Runaway Religious in Medieval England, c. 1240-1540* (1996)), the detail in Joan's story is unusual. Already the subject of Candace Robb's historical novel 'The Nun's Tale' (1990), Joan's story took off: a young, innovative theatre group, Breach Theatre Company, turned it into a play staged in London in December 2019. This imaginative, hilariously funny production combined themes of feminism and discovery of sexuality with elements of the York Mystery Plays and historical details from the registers, even immortalising in

song a translation from the Latin, made by Dr Paul Dryburgh, Project Co-Investigator.

Nevertheless, the excitement over Joan's escapades has continued. During lockdown and while looking for evidence of parliaments held in York, Helen Watt, Project Research Fellow, stumbled across further details of Joan's story (Reg 9B, f. 690v). An unpublished entry details the archbishop's order for an inquiry into the validity of Joan's vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. Joan had apparently sought an audience with Brother John, the papal penitentiary, and, having thrown herself weeping at his feet, she declared that she had been forced to enter the nunnery by her parents and had never professed any vows, grounds enough for her release. Again, this type of action is not uncommon (see E. Makowski, *Apostate Nuns in the Later Middle Ages* (2019)), but this entry begs more questions than it answers. Was her 'confession' a ploy by Joan to finalise her escape and marry? Did she travel from Beverley to the papal penitentiary, then supposed to be in Leicestershire? Who was he and how had she heard he was in England? All these questions remain to be elucidated.

A further discovery, by Paul Dryburgh, was made of another unpublished entry recording the decrees for reform of Clementhorpe Priory made by the archbishop following one of his periodic visitations or inspections of religious houses (Reg 9A, ff. 161r-v). Among the orders is a reference to a nun who had just died. Could this be Joan? Perhaps we will never know or get to the bottom of the story.

These are only a very few of the extraordinary and fascinating entries coming to light as the project progresses. So keep checking the project website <https://archbishopsregisters.york.ac.uk/>.

The Ayscough Project

Lady Ayscough's 17th-century manuscript of 'Receits of phisick and chirurgery' at Wellcome Collection is notable because it was both the first domestic recipe book to enter the collection and the earliest documented library acquisition. Purchased in 1897, it was the first of many manuscript recipe books acquired by Henry Wellcome.

Wellcome Collection has now fully digitised Ayscough's manuscript. Moreover, it was fully transcribed in a 'transcribathon' organised by the Early Modern Recipes Online Collective on 4 March of this year (see <https://emroc.hypotheses.org/transcribathon-2021>)

Bound in its original vellum, Ayscough's book was written in a clear English script from 1692. Containing over 200 pages, the manuscript features 138 recipes. Most of these are medicinal recipes, but there are also a few pages of culinary recipes at the end. The strategy of turning the book upside down to enter recipes at the 'back' of the volume was widely adopted and is known as 'reverse casting-off of blanks'. It was a way of separating medical from culinary recipes as well as filing other miscellaneous information that the owner might want to include.

Much can be gleaned about healthcare and society during the late 17th century by analysing Ayscough's recipe book. The act of compiling the recipes in her book is consistent with the way in which knowledge was collected at the time. The fact that women were at the centre of this collating reinforces their role within the household. While some recipes and conditions appear familiar, those that are less so offer a window into a world in which classical traditions and reliance on age-old ingredients seem unusual to us today.

Invisible East

During the half millennium that followed the coming of Islam (8th to 12th centuries CE), the region stretching from eastern Iran to Tibet (known as the Islamicate East) witnessed a mixing of cultures and religions that was both unique in itself and extraordinarily influential upon neighbouring societies.

Local texts from Afghanistan's Bamiyan and Ghur regions in this time period have recently become publicly available. They include documents, letters and literary fragments that were written by local Jewish and Muslim traders, businesspeople, clerics, mothers and fathers, poets and rebels. They attest to an array of relationships, of coexistence, cooperation, and conflict

between people of different religions in the 11th to 13th centuries CE. Several hundred more local texts from the medieval Islamicate East found in parts of the modern states of Iran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and the wider Central Asian region (Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan and Khotan in China) have not yet been analysed for their historical content.

The new Invisible East programme at the University of Oxford's Oriental Institute brings the medieval Islamicate East to the forefront of historical research by studying these local texts. The programme is funded for the next five years (2019–25) with a core staff of seven researchers funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and European Research Council (under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme Grant agreement No. 851607). The research projects are part of the Invisible East programme directed by Senior Research Fellow at the Oriental Institute, Arezou Azad.

Invisible East will also result in valuable new resources designed to support further study at a variety of levels, including a digital corpus.

For more information, see:

<https://www.torch.ox.ac.uk/article/introducing-oxfords-invisible-east-programme>

Righting and Rewriting History: Recovering and Analysing Manuscript Archives Destroyed During World War II

Submitted by Dr Krista A. Murchison, Leiden University

I have recently embarked upon a 4-year Dutch Research Council-funded project, entitled "Righting and Rewriting History: Recovering and Analysing Manuscript Archives Destroyed During World War II." The goal of the project is to explore the relationship between manuscript collections that were destroyed during the war and key questions in archival studies.

The project is centred around the creation and analysis of a digital database of manuscripts that were destroyed during World War II. To keep the scope of the project feasible, it is focused, in this initial stage, on the manuscripts that were

destroyed from four nations: The Netherlands, Belgium, France, and the UK. These nations have been selected because the scope of their wartime losses makes them documentable. While it would of course be ideal to include manuscripts from a nation like Germany or Italy in the project, the scope of these countries' war-time losses makes such a goal impractical within the limits of the current project. With the same goal of maintaining a realistic scope, the present investigation is limited to manuscripts that were in public collections.

Although the scope of the project is necessarily limited in this way, the project is not, of course, limited to manuscripts from the geographical regions or archives under investigation. Many manuscripts travelled far from where they were copied, both in the medieval period and after it, so the lost collections represent heritage objects from a variety of different locations and institutions. For this reason, recreating the manuscript collections of the four nations under investigation will provide insight into a relatively broad cross-section of medieval collections.

In this first stage of the project, I am gathering together the fragments of manuscripts that remain. This process draws on a range of media, such as pre-war photographs of the manuscripts, medieval library catalogues, and edited texts. These remnants will enable me to analyse the destroyed manuscripts, including what texts they contained, the script or handwriting used in the manuscripts, and even the date at which they were produced. These multimedia remnants, including images and textual fragments, will enable a multidimensional recreation of the destroyed manuscripts.

Once this information is compiled, I will use it as the basis of a catalogue of lost manuscripts. The catalogue will be designed with the internationally recognized FAIR principles (Findability, Accessibility, Interoperability, Reuse of digital assets) in mind in order to mitigate any future losses. This catalogue will then be analysed in order to explore the ways in which digital technology can help reconceptualise archival practice. Technological developments of the past three decades

have enabled manuscript collections to exist in an immaterial form—one with no grounding in material objects. By creating a catalogue of ‘ghost’ manuscripts, effectively allowing the user to explore collections with no remaining physical form, this project will highlight the potential of wholly immaterial archival practice. In this way, the project aims to bring lost collections back to life, while also exploring the ways in which manuscript collections have been, and can be, productively transformed by digital culture.

Key Middle English manuscripts from the John Rylands Library digitised

The Middle English manuscripts held at the John Rylands Library are of paramount importance to key subject areas, including literature, history, theology, linguistics and art history. They date from the mid-14th century to the beginning of the 16th. The manuscripts were originally digitised as part of a JISC (the Joint Information Systems Committee) funded project called *In the Bigynnyng*.

The 33 selected manuscripts available in this digital collection include key works of medieval literature, such as the *Canterbury Tales* and John Lydgate’s two major poems; the richly illuminated *Troy Book* and a deluxe copy of *Fall of Princes*. There are also several copies of the *Brut* chronicle the medieval history of England, ranging in date from the mid-14th century to the second half of the 15th.

Further notable works include numerous copies of the *New Testament*, translated into English by John Wycliffe the 14th-century radical and church reformer. Alongside these are other devotional texts meditating on the life of Christ and *The Pricke of Conscience*, a work traditionally attributed to the mystic Richard Rolle de Hampole.

Other highlights include a multi-language legal commonplace book and medical texts such as *On Urines*, plus a rare late 14th-century copy of the *Forme of Cury* (‘proper method of cookery’), a recipe book compiled by the master cook of Richard II.

Books of Duchesses: Mapping Women Book Owners in Francophone Europe, 1350–1550

Books of Duchesses is a collaborative project run by Dr S.C. Kaplan and Dr Sarah Wilma Watson. It collects, organises, and presents data related to late-medieval laywomen and their books. Through an interactive map of Europe, users are able to visualize networks of manuscripts, texts, and readers and explore the libraries and peregrinations of woman book owners.

The data collected in the project has the potential to shift scholarly paradigms by challenging narratives of national literary history and uncovering the active role played by women in creating, consuming literary and material culture and in circulating texts across national, geographic, and generational borders.

The geographic scope of the project is initially limited to England and French-speaking regions on the continent, including France and Burgundy. The time frame of the project is currently bounded between 1350 and 1550, a period of intense political, interfamilial, and interpersonal changes and exchanges due to the Hundred Years War and its aftermath. The project focuses on laywomen and therefore excludes books owned by enclosed religious women and female religious institutions. At the moment, the core of the data concerns aristocratic laywomen, as this information is the most readily available. In the future, the scope of the project will expand to include women from other social classes, additional geographic and linguistic regions in and beyond Europe, and data from the 13th and 16th centuries.

The Project currently includes 170 women owners, 881 books, and 963 texts. See: <https://booksofduchesses.com>

John Hopkins University Library’s Women of the Book collection digitised

The Sheridan Libraries’ Women of the Book collection, which contains more than 425 books, manuscripts, and other printed ephemera produced between 1460 and 1800, has now been fully digitised and is freely available at the Internet Archive. Acquired by the John Hopkins University in

2017, the collection centres on the lives of nuns and holy women in Europe and parts of South America. It includes details of their daily devotions, records of their entrances into convents and religious orders, mystical accounts of their encounters with saints and angels, and even public announcements of their symbolic marriages with Christ. Through their association with the church, these nuns were granted access to tools of the printed word that would enable them to preserve their histories. Collectively, *Women of the Book* offers a rare look into the lives of early modern women. See: <https://archive.org/details/womenofthebook>

One hundred manuscripts from the Abbey of St Truiden digitised

The Medieval Manuscripts in Flemish Collections projects has now made 100 manuscripts from the abbey of St-Truiden digitally available, including the manuscript of the *Ysengrimus*, a beast epic written in Ghent in the mid-12th century, the original source for all the vernacular versions of the *History of Reynard the Fox*. For more information, see: <https://donum.uliege.be/>

New project to map hidden medieval manuscripts in Flanders

The *Comites lantes* ('Hidden friends') project receives €99,000 to add understudied manuscript collections in Flanders to the database of Medieval Manuscripts in Flemish Collections, which was developed in 2019–2020 and features over 3400 manuscripts from 56 collections. The three-year project will focus on less accessible collections kept at ecclesiastical institutions, monasteries and parish churches. To digitise and catalogue their various collections of manuscript fragments, *Comites lantes* collaborates with the international *Fragmentarium* project.

***Palladium*: The Carcanet Press's email archive**

In late 2019 the University of Manchester Library was awarded funding by Arts Council England to confront the difficult and fascinating challenge of both managing and providing access to modern literary archives in digital formats. Supported by this funding, the *Palladium* (Providing Access to Large Literary Archives in a Digital Medium)

project focuses on the vast email archive of the Carcanet Press. This is the celebrated Manchester-based literary publisher, which forms a substantial part of one of the Library's richest and most important literary collections.

The Carcanet archive contains more than 300,000 emails, including attachments, with more on the way. The emails document all aspects of the Press's work from the early 2000s to the present, and will prove invaluable to researchers interested in Carcanet and its authors, as well as wider literary debates involving the Press and its related magazine, *PN Review*. The email archive, however, presents some difficult problems, not least the daunting number of items it contains and the inherent long-term technical challenges that come with managing digital formats. The *Palladium* project team will consider the long-term preservation and management of the email archive, examine the technical, legal and legal issues relating to email archives, explore ways to provide researchers access to the archive, and invite creative responses to it from artists and writers.

As an experiment in archival methodologies, *Palladium* makes use of and helps develop ePADD, a free and open source software developed by Stanford University's Special Collections and University Library.

Digital archive 'Education & Activism: Women at Oxford, 1878–1920' launched

October 2020 marked the centenary of the formal admission of women to the University of Oxford, 100 years since women were granted the right to matriculate and therefore to take degrees. Despite the significance of this landmark year, women had studied at the University of Oxford long before 1920. Indeed, they had been making their mark on the University and advocating for women's access to an Oxford education since the 1860s.

Education and Activism: Women at Oxford, 1878–1920, is a digital archive project that commemorates the centenary year by bringing together records of the former women's colleges (Lady Margaret Hall, Somerville, St Anne's, St Hilda's and St Hugh's) into a central digital archive. Through the digitization of more than 7,000

archival images, which include admissions records, annual reports, calendars, photographs, scrapbooks, minutes and letters, this project will change the way that we understand and research the history of higher education in Oxford, the United Kingdom and beyond. The digital archive project will also facilitate scholars in developing a better understanding of the overall history of women's education and activism, as well as the experiences of individual women, campaign groups and institutions. Digitization of this material is expected to be completed by April 2021.

Further information and resources are available on the *Education and Activism* website:

<https://www.firstwomenatoxford.ox.ac.uk/>

Sinai Manuscripts Digital Library

A publication of St. Catherine's Monastery of the Sinai, Egypt St. Catherine's Monastery of the Sinai, in partnership with the Early Manuscripts Electronic Library (EMEL) and the UCLA Library, welcomes you to the Sinai Manuscripts Digital Library. Widely recognized as the world's oldest continually operating library, the manuscript holdings of St. Catherine's Monastery represent an unparalleled resource to study the history and literature of the Eastern Mediterranean from late antiquity until early modernity.

<https://sinaimanuscripts.library.ucla.edu/>

Kirk records bring Scottish history to life online

Thousands of volumes of historic Church of Scotland records held in the collections of National Records of Scotland are now available online for the first time.

Images of more than a million pages from the kirk session and other ecclesiastical court records containing details of key events in communities across the country between 1559 and 1900 have been added to ScotlandsPeople, the National Records of Scotland's online research service.

These records offer remarkable insights into the everyday lives of ordinary Scots, recording important moments such as births, marriages and deaths. The church also adjudicated on paternity of children and provided basic education, as well as

disciplining parishioners for what could be called anti-social behaviour: drunkenness, cursing and breaking the Sabbath.

The newly added records also include accounts of how people dealt with exceptional historical events such as wars, epidemics, crop failures and extreme weather.

The records of kirk sessions and of higher church courts, such as presbyteries and synods, are the first in a series of digitised record sets that National Records of Scotland will make available via ScotlandsPeople throughout 2021 and beyond.

The documents can be viewed for free at:

<https://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/virtual-volumes>

Resource with over 1,000 eyewitness accounts to Nazi persecution and genocide online

During the 1950s researchers at The Wiener Holocaust Library, Britain's national archive on the Holocaust and genocide, gathered over 1,000 accounts from eyewitnesses to Nazi persecution and genocide. These accounts cover a wide range of subjects, with material touching on almost every aspect of the Holocaust.

These accounts are now freely available in the Wiener Holocaust Library's new digital resource *Testifying to the Truth*. This online database shares eyewitness accounts from the Holocaust, many of which have never been available to the public online before and have been translated from German into English for the first time.

Cataloguing, translating and editing of The Wiener Holocaust Library's collections of early eyewitness accounts have been ongoing on a small scale since 2011. However, it was only in April 2014 that more intensive work could begin with a grant provided by the Department of Communities and Local Government, resulting in the publication of the resource in January 2021.

For more information, see:

<https://www.testifyingtothetruth.co.uk/>

Index of Middle English Prose Online

The Index of Middle English Prose, which began publication in 1984, aims to catalogue all items of Middle English prose surviving in manuscript form. Its founding General Editor was A.S.G. Edwards. Twenty-three volumes, covering the contents of over seventy manuscript collections, have now been published by D.S. Brewer, Cambridge.

This first version of the IMEP website (<http://imep.lib.cam.ac.uk/>), which launched in the autumn of 2020, contains a full list of volumes and summary lists of the prose contents of the first twenty. There is also an explanatory list of abbreviated names of all the manuscript collections.

More importantly, and courtesy of Boydell & Brewer, the website gives access to searchable indexes to the first twenty volumes, providing a valuable research tool for Middle English scholars.

The British Library acquires the Melford Hall Manuscript of John Donne poetry

Submitted by Dr Alexander Lock, Curator of Modern Archives and Manuscripts

The British Library has recently acquired a rare 17th-century volume containing extensive copies of the poetry of John Donne (1572–1631), one of the most popular poets of the English Renaissance. Dating from the 1620s or early 1630s, the Melford Hall Manuscript comprises over 130 poems by Donne and is one of the largest near contemporary scribal collections of his work.

The manuscript has never been properly studied and was unknown to scholarship until it was discovered in 2018 in the library at Melford Hall, Suffolk. As one of the largest extant manuscript collections of Donne's poetry, it covers the entire range of his poetical output, and – until its sale – it was probably the most significant manuscript collection of Donne's poetry to remain in private hands.

The recent discovery of the manuscript is particularly exciting as it provides new evidence for the study of Donne's poetry and the literary culture in which it was created. John Donne should be understood as a 'coterie' poet, in the sense that his poetry was almost entirely distributed in manuscript copy

amongst a select circle (or coterie) of privileged friends, acquaintances, patrons and patronesses. Donne famously eschewed the print publication of his poetry and only one English poem written in Donne's hand has survived. As such, much of what we know about Donne's poetical output comes from manuscript copies – such as the Melford Hall Manuscript – made for, and by, his 'coterie' of readers. The Melford Hall manuscript, therefore, is of outstanding literary significance because it provides new evidence as to how Donne's poetry was written, copied, circulated, and received in the early 17th century. It also offers scholars important new evidence for the study of the manuscript transmission of poetry in the early modern period more broadly.

Alongside the poetry of Donne, the volume features verse by other contemporary writers such as Francis Beaumont (1584–1616), Thomas Carew (1595–1640) and Sir Thomas Overbury (1581–1613). It also contains a series of six currently unknown and unattributed 17th-century poems and towards the back of the volume, added in a later 17th-century hand, are notes made on the sermons of Robert Meldrum (c.1653–1699), minister at Yester, East Lothian.

The manuscript has now been fully catalogued and digitised and is freely available online on the British Library's 'Digitised Manuscripts' platform with the manuscript reference: Egerton MS 3884. The acquisition and digitisation of this manuscript was made possible with a grant from the National Heritage Memorial Fund (NHMF) and with funding from the Friends of the National Libraries, the British Library Collections Trust, the T.S. Blakeney Fund, the Bridgewater Fund, and the American Trust for the British Library with thanks to Paul Chrzanowski and Patrick Donovan.

LECTURES

Graham Pollard Memorial Lecture:

Edward Wilson-Lee, 'Hernando Colón and the Universal Library Machine'

Online (zoom), 20 April 2021, 5.30–7.30pm

This lecture will give a brief overview of the extraordinary bibliographical project of Hernando Colón, natural son of the explorer Columbus, who set out to build a library that would focus on printed works and would contain a copy of every book in every language and in every subject. As well as sketching the contents and organisation of the library, the lecture will briefly consider the implications of Hernando's projects for our understanding of the early modern book world and the role of library catalogues within it.

To book, see

<https://www.ies.sas.ac.uk/events/event/24087>

Oxford Bibliographical Society Lectures

Jacob Ridley, Polemo-Middinia: scatalogical Scots-Latin at the Sheldonian Press

6 May, 5.15pm, venue TBC or online

Leverhulme Doctoral Students: Publication beyond print (five short talks)

27 May 5.15pm, Lecture Theatre, Weston Library or online

Dirk Van Hulle, Genetic criticism and bibliography: a *rapprochement*

8 June 5.15pm, Oakeshott Room, Lincoln College or online

For more information, see:

<https://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/csb/events>

Food Scribes, Food Lives: Uncovering food in British Library manuscripts.

Online, 11 May 2021, 5.30–6.30pm

This is an online event hosted on the British Library platform. Join three expert manuscript curators from across the British Library as they select their favourite historical food manuscripts from the collections. From medieval recipes written on vellum, to the cookery memoranda of 17th-century aristocratic women, to the varied food ingredients described within our Turkic

collections, this session will examine what these items can tell us about cooking, diet, attitudes to food and how manuscripts offer wholly unique insights into food histories across time and place.

For more information, see:

<https://www.bl.uk/events/food-scribes-food-lives>

LRBS Special Event: Simon Eliot and Ian Dooley, Printing and Printing Ink in the Industrial Period

12 May 2021, 5–7pm

In 1800 the process of printing was essentially the same as it had been in Gutenberg's time. By 1900 paper making and printing had been transformed by the Industrial Revolution into a communications machine that informed and shaped society and the individuals within it. This London Rare Books School special event will survey the technologies that made it possible, and the changes in readers that made it profitable. Additionally, it will offer an introduction to the under-researched area of printing ink manufacture.

Homee and Phiroze Randeria Lecture:

Mirjam Foot, New movements in French twentieth-century binding design: the importance of patronage

Online (Zoom), 18 May 2021, 5.30–7.30pm

In the first half of the 20th century, a group of designers in France, initially encouraged by an enlightened patron and book collector, started to produce wonderfully varied, and often amazingly beautiful designs for bindings, applying to books and bindings the philosophy and artistic skills that had inspired their drawings, engravings or etchings, as well as their designs for furniture and PKlceramics. They chose the best forwarders and finishers to carry out their designs, producing the most stunning results. Their work was mostly, but not entirely, intended for discerning collectors. This talk will concentrate on this group of designers who worked mainly in Paris until c. 1960.

To book, see:

<https://www.ies.sas.ac.uk/events/event/24088>

Oxford Seminars in Cartography

Shipwrecks and treasure in the manuscript maps of William Hack

Online, 20 May 2021, 4.30pm

Chet Van Duzer (The Lazarus Project, University of Rochester) looks at the late 17th-century manuscript maps of the pirate

William Hack, featuring some exciting material about the records of shipwrecks on his maps, and how they change over time.

Free, advance booking required:

<https://visit.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/event/shipwreck-s-and-treasure-in-the-manuscript-maps-of-william-hack>

GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

The Friends of the National Libraries Grant

Application Deadline: 1st of March, June and November, annually (however, urgent applications may be submitted at any time)

The Friends of the National Libraries (FNL) helps university libraries, national libraries, museums, art galleries and record offices acquire books, manuscripts and archives that you would not otherwise have resources for to purchase. Its two main criteria when awarding grants are the historical, literary and other qualities of the proposed acquisition and its significance to your collection. It also takes into account price, condition and provenance.

Grants typically range from £500-£20,000. The FNL usually contributes part of the cost of an acquisition, but may be willing to meet the total cost. Receiving a grant from the FNL often helps unlock other sources of funding and, if you require additional funding, it may be able to suggest possible sources to which you can apply.

To apply please complete a form at <https://www.fnl.org.uk/pages/22-applying-for-grants> or, for further details, visit: <https://www.fnl.org.uk/pages/24-faq>

National Conservation Service: Conservation Grants Fund

Application Deadline: rolling

The NCS Conservation Grants Fund has been established to promote fund-raising for conservation and to provide small grants. You can donate to the NCS Fund, apply for a grant from it or set up your own campaign to raise funds for a project.

The Fund is intended to offer small grants (typically £500-£1,000) for a range of purposes detailed on their website:

<http://ncs.org.uk/ncsgrantfund.php>. All heritage collecting institutions (public and private) that make their collections available to researchers in some form are eligible to apply for a grant. Any collection or object type can be the subject of a grant application. There is no fixed timetable for grant applications.

The NCS has also teamed up with the charity fund-raising support organisation CharityCheckout to provide a means of donating to the Fund and they would be delighted if AMARC members were to consider doing so. The Fund also provides a mechanism to promote crowd-funding by institutions and by their users. If you are an archive, library or museum with a user group, or a user/researcher who wishes an otherwise inaccessible item to be conserved and made available, you can use the Fund Raise option on their website to start a campaign amongst your friends or community to raise funds towards a project. The donations made to your campaign will automatically be ring-fenced for that purpose.

National Manuscripts Conservation Trust

Application Deadline: 1 October and 1 April, annually

Grants of £1,000-£20,000 are available to non-national institutions such as county record offices, museums, university archives / special collections, cathedral archives and libraries and other specialist collection institutions. The NMCT is particularly interested in projects that have a training element (e.g. internships; enhancing skills of experience conservators; etc.). This is not mandatory but welcomed as part of the grant application.

Application forms and FAQs can be found on our website: www.nmct.co.uk

CALL FOR PAPERS AND SUBMISSIONS

On the Way to the Future of Digital Manuscript Studies

Radboud University Nijmegen, 27-29 October 2021

Over the last decades, digital technology has radically changed research in the field of manuscript studies. From the most basic facilities, such as the increasing availability of digitised images and documents, to attempts at automatizing the entire process of critical editing, the development of digital tools is extraordinary. It has created unprecedented opportunities to mine data, achieve innovative results, and display these in ways which previously could only be imagined. In such a dynamic context, the number of valuable enterprises continues to grow. This workshop, organised by the ERC Project Passim, aims to reflect on past achievements, and the foundations that current work is laying for long-term developments of the field.

The organisers welcome proposals for 25-minute papers, including but not limited to the following subjects: approaches to historical dynamics through digital study of manuscripts; data management, sustainability, interoperability; digital stemmatology; computational approaches, machine learning, deep learning applied to scholarly problems; epistemological problems with regard to the interaction between the machine and the human scholar; development of visualization strategies and tools to outline and interpret the results on complex queries.

The workshop will be held either in Nijmegen or online. Abstracts (c. 350 words) must be sent with a CV (max. 1 page) to Riccardo Macchioro (r.macchioro@let.ru.nl) and Gleb Schmidt (gleb.schmidt@ru.nl) by **10 May 2021**.

Medieval and Early Modern Studies Summer Festival, Online Conference

Online, 18–19 June 2021

The Centre for Medieval and Early Modern Studies at the University of Kent will host its 7th annual Summer Festival, a two-day event which celebrates Medieval and Early Modern history, 400–1800. The organisers welcome proposals for 20-minute papers on a wide range of interdisciplinary topics, including but

not limited to, politics, religion, economics, art, drama, literature, and domestic culture. MEMS Fest aims to be an informal space in which postgraduate students, early career researchers, and academics can share ideas and foster conversations, whilst building a greater sense of community. Undergraduate students in their final year of study are also welcome at the conference.

MEMS Fest invites abstracts of up to 250 words for individual research papers or 700-word abstracts for a three-person panel.

The deadline for all proposals is **30 April 2021**. Applications must be sent to memsfestival@gmail.com.

Shades of Purple: Purple Ornament in Medieval Manuscripts'

University of Zurich, 25–26 November 2021

Recent advances in the technical analysis of purple colorants have spurred new interest in the aesthetics of purple ornament in medieval manuscripts. This most prestigious embellishment, associated with imperial splendour, underwent stunning transformations between the 8th and the 11th century. Purple dyes (mostly produced from lichens) were not only used to colour the entire parchment surfaces of sacred books, but purple colorants were also used selectively to highlight specific texts, pages and miniatures corresponding to the content, topology, imagery, and script of individual manuscripts. Various techniques and methods were employed to create multi-sensory purple textures, combining shades of purple from red to dark blue and evoking different purple-coloured materials such as silks and porphyry.

“Textures of Sacred Scripture. Materials and Semantics of Sacred Book Ornament in the Western Middle Ages, 780–1300 (<https://textures-of-scripture.ch>)” is a research project funded by the Swiss National Science Foundation at the Chair of Medieval Art History at the University of Zurich. The project invites proposals for 30-minute papers that consider the aesthetic possibilities of purple ornamentation, and analyse their specific contexts and semantics throughout the Middle Ages, with a special focus on Carolingian and Ottonian manuscripts.

The conference languages are English, German, French and Italian. Submissions should include a title, an abstract (max. 300 words), as well as the name, contact information, and a short CV of the speaker. Proposals should be submitted to thomas.rainer@uzh.ch by **30 April 2021**. The workshop is currently planned as an in-person meeting. Travel expenses and on-site accommodation of all speakers will be covered.

18th ILAB Breslauer Prize for Bibliography

Deadline: December 2021

Submissions are open for the prestigious 18th ILAB Breslauer Prize for Bibliography, to be awarded in May 2022 for new bibliographical publications printed between 2018 and 2021. The prize winner will receive \$10,000 and an additional second and third prize of \$5,000 and \$3,000 will be awarded.

Any aspect of bibliography (enumerative, textual, history of the book, design, binding, the book trade, etc.) is considered and only certain categories are not eligible, notably catalogues of books intended for sale and translations of works appearing in another language.

Submissions are made by sending a copy of the publication to

Fabrizio Govi,
ILAB Breslauer Prize for Bibliography
Chair,
Libreria Govi,
via Bononcini 24,
I-41124 Modena,
Italy.

For rules, past submissions and winners see: <https://ilabprize.org/> and to discuss an entry, please contact secretariat@ilab.org

CONFERENCES

Thomas Becket: Life, Death and Legacy *Canterbury Cathedral, University of Kent, and Canterbury Christ Church University Online (Zoom), 28–30 April 2021*

On 29 December 1170, four of King Henry II's knights murdered Archbishop Thomas Becket inside Canterbury Cathedral. News of this sacrilegious violence spread quickly and, in a matter of months, this merchant's son from Cheapside had transformed into one of the most famous martyrs in medieval Europe. Supported by the circulation of new liturgies, miracle stories, sacred objects and holy relics, the cult of Becket dominated the sacred landscape of Christendom, stretching from Trondheim (Norway) to Monreale (Sicily) and reaching from Reykjavik (Iceland) to Tarsus (Turkey). His cult also attracted devotion from all ranks of society. Before the destruction of his shrine during the Reformation in 1538, innumerable pilgrims, including peasants, kings, lepers, monks, prisoners, mothers, and soldiers, ventured to Canterbury and returned with their very own relics and souvenirs. From Geoffrey Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* to T. S. Eliot's *Murder in the Cathedral*, the stories of Becket's martyrdom and of the pilgrims who journeyed to Canterbury have continued to captivate the public imagination.

The year 2020 marked the 850th anniversary of Becket's martyrdom and the 800th anniversary of the translation of his body into the Trinity Chapel of Canterbury Cathedral. To commemorate his extraordinary life and legacy at Canterbury, scholars at Canterbury Cathedral, Canterbury Christ Church University, and the University of Kent will co-host an academic conference to be held online via Zoom.

The conference examines the history, visual and material culture, archaeology, architecture, literature, liturgy, musicology, and reception of Becket's cult at Canterbury, across Europe and beyond, with keynote papers by Rachel Koopmans, Paul Webster, and Alec Ryrie. Be guided by experts on a series of virtual tours, taking you right into the heart of Canterbury Cathedral and the surrounding area, allowing you to get up close with some of the stunning architecture and artefacts from Becket's long and storied history.

The conference will cost £25 per day, £10 per day for students, and free for a limited number of students of Canterbury Christ Church University and the University of Kent. For more information, visit: <https://becket2020.com/> or contact: canterburybecket2020@gmail.com

Tobias Smollett at 300: the work of writing

Institute of English Studies, School of Advanced Studies University of London Online (Zoom), 13–14 May 2021

Tobias Smollett (1721–1771) probably wrote more words than any other writer in the 18th century. This has often been overlooked because the words were not always his own. Smollett laboured over vast works of compilation, including historical works, reviews, magazines, translations and compendiums. Even his novels – which sit a little awkwardly in the stories that have been told about the rise of the novel – embraced a similar practice. As a result, Smollett has never been quite able to achieve the reputation which he rightly deserves – that is, as one of the great literary figures of the mid-18th century.

This year marks the 300th anniversary of Smollett's birth and this provides the excuse to ask some questions about his 'work of writing'. This is the kind of work that might stand as an image of the Enlightenment; it is also a labour that, as Smollett predicted, exhausted him and contributed to his death. We will want to ask how Smollett understood the task that he set himself. Is it right to speak of him as a historian or translator or critic or poet or novelist or hack? How can we understand the kind of creativity Smollett shows in his work? What might this tell us about the work of writing in the 18th century – or how might it change our understanding of the Enlightenment itself?

The conference is free to attend but registration is required. For programme details, see: <https://www.ies.sas.ac.uk/events/conferences/tobias-smollett-300-work-writing>

MELCom International, 42nd annual conference

Online (Zoom), 18–19 May 2021

MELCom International, the European Association of Middle East Librarians, is a non-governmental organisation, devoted to promoting collaboration between individuals and institutions in Europe, the Middle East and throughout the world concerned with all aspects of (Middle East) librarianship, book collecting, the book trade and publishing. This annual conference (programme will be sent to those who have pre-registered online) focuses on

librarianship, cataloguing policies and practices, manuscripts and rare books, digital projects and resources, digital humanities and Middle Eastern collections, and cooperation projects between libraries with Middle Eastern collections.

For more information, see <http://www.melcominternational.org/>

Reading the Virtues: Literary Culture and the Good Life in Europe, 1450–1750

The Warburg Institute Online (Zoom), 28 May 2021

The close link between ethics and 'literature', in the wide sense of 'litterae', is one of the defining features of early modern culture. The emphasis on the good life and on self-cultivation, typical of early modern ethics, required differentiated sets of genres and readerships, stimulating their readers intellectually, while also involving them emotionally in the process of moral refinement. This workshop will investigate how virtue, language, and learning belonged together. How did literary culture provide guidance in institutional contexts (e.g. language academies and literary societies), through material features (e.g. books as artefacts with their own mediality), literary aspects (e.g. genre and narrative), and philosophical discussions concerning ethical issues in literature and literary topoi in ethics? Furthermore, this workshop will explore the thoroughly European dimension of early modern literary and moral culture: How did key notions, genres, and forms of life circulate in Europe? How were they communicated, and by whom? What role did translations, intermediary figures, and semantic differences in key words play in shaping the development and reception of these debates?

For more information, see: <https://warburg.sas.ac.uk/events/event/24164>

The Ninth Annual Symposium on Medieval and Renaissance Studies

St. Louis University, St. Louis, Missouri 21–23 June 2021

The Annual Symposium on Medieval and Renaissance Studies (June 21–23, 2021) promotes serious scholarly investigation into all topics and in all disciplines of medieval and early modern studies. This year's programme has yet to be confirmed, but the plenary

speakers are David Abulafia and Barbara Rosenwein.

While attending the Symposium participants are free to use the Vatican Film Library, the Rare Book and Manuscripts Collection, and the general collection at Saint Louis University's Pius XII Memorial Library.

For more information, see: <https://www.smrs-slu.org/>

Cistercian Worlds

***Centre for Medieval Studies, York
Online, 1–2 July, 2021***

Scholars have explained the success of the Cistercians materially through the perspectives of archaeology, architecture and art, and historians, theologians and literary scholars have analysed the achievements of Cistercian thought and spiritual practices. More recently, investigations have broadened the range of sources used (e.g. works of medicine and natural science, exempla collections), in addition to analysing this evidence using novel, paradigm-shifting approaches (history of emotions, neuroscience, queer theory).

A two-day conference offers a forum for researchers to build upon existing modes of scholarship and bring together discussions currently occurring across disciplines. How did an initial shared world-view create many different Cistercian 'worlds'? What were the boundaries – real or imagined – of these spheres? Who composed them? In which ways did they extend, shrink, overlap and evolve? What approaches can be used to study them? Keynote speakers: Professors Emilia Jamrozik and Constance Mews.

For more information, email cms-office@york.ac.uk

Precarious Lives: Loss, Recovery and/or Survival of MSS & Early Printed Books, 1350-1550

***Early Book Society, Bangor University
Online, 12–16 July 2021***

This conference focuses on the history and materiality of manuscripts and books from 1350 to 1550. The programme is yet to be confirmed, but papers are likely to discuss research related to borrowed and lost books,

books or libraries reconstructed from mentions in wills, and manuscripts and books that derive from lost originals, as well as medieval libraries that are still in existence. Other subjects for consideration are texts that exist only in a singular form but seem to refer to a lost source or the examination of fragments in bindings or elsewhere.

Some papers will be pre-recorded with live session times used to discuss the ideas put forward in a paper or a cluster of papers that have been viewed previously by participants. There will also be informal gatherings where scholars can discuss specific topics as well as wine hours and virtual visits to collections of interest.

The conference is free to all paid EBS members.

Liturgy, Literature & History: Oswald of Northumbria and the Cult of Saints in the High Middle Ages

Online, 5–6 August 2021

The centrality of the cult of saints to medieval Christianity is reflected in surviving liturgical, historical, literary and administrative texts, material culture and architecture. Too often, however, disciplinary boundaries mean these sources are studied in isolation from one another. A multi-disciplinary approach is needed if we are to properly understand both the mechanisms by which saints' cults spread and also the manner in which veneration of the saints drove other forms of political, cultural and social expression.

The conference, focussed on the cult of Oswald of Northumbria in the high Middle Ages, brings together historians, literary scholars, musicologists and art historians to explore the cult of saints through texts, objects, space, sound and the senses and particularly interrogates the influence of the liturgy on society. The conference was intended to include a performance of Oswald's feast-day liturgy drawn from Peterborough manuscripts and enacted in the space for which it was originally envisioned, we hope this recreation will be possible on Oswald's feast day in 2022.

For more information, see <https://oswaldusrex.co.uk/conference/>

COURSES

Institute of English, School of Advanced Studies University of London

Digital Scholarly Editing: An Introduction *Online (Zoom), 3–7 May 2021*

This short course on Digital Scholarly Editing will survey the traditions and principles of scholarly editing and textual scholarship, complemented with training on the fundamentals of creating digital editions. It aims to provide an understanding of the history of editorial practice, including the study of manuscripts, the theory of copy text editing, and the decisions relating to textual and contextual apparatus that inform the design of an edition. We will focus on encoding documents in Markdown and in XML using the standards of the Text Encoding Initiative (TEI). Students will also learn about HTML, CSS, and publishing options.

Scholarly editing involves various philosophical commitments, arguments, and interpretive strategies for organising and publishing texts and works. The aim of this short course is to combine the how of editing with the why, as well as the pragmatic functions of editions in the digital space, emphasising thinking tools, in addition to technological ones.

Courses fees are £175 (standard) and £100 (student).

German Palaeography *Online (Zoom), 4–5 May 2021*

This German Palaeography class is a reading class. Its aim is to familiarize students with the particularities of Kurrentschrift through a number of different handwritings. A variety of texts will be examined and read: private correspondence, official correspondence of German courts and the Habsburg monarchy, petitions by individuals, replies by authorities, appeals, etc., from the 17th to the 20th centuries. The course will be flexible in as much as it will be possible to present documents from different centuries and handwriting styles in order to suit the needs of the participants. It is therefore helpful to state on the Registration Form which particular research interests the applicant is pursuing.

Courses fees are £100 (standard) and £75 (student).

Introduction to Music in Medieval Manuscripts

Online (Zoom), 11–12 May 2021

This course offers a brief introduction to medieval music palaeography, especially between the 9th and 14th centuries. It provides an overview of musical scripts used in medieval Europe, the graphic features that distinguish them, and developments in music writing technologies over the course of the period. By considering various regional notational styles, students will learn how musical notation can aid in situating manuscripts chronologically and geographically. In addition, students will briefly be introduced to resources that can help identify the content of musical manuscripts.

Rather than focusing on the transcription of medieval musical notation, or its semiotic qualities, this course focuses exclusively on its palaeographic features. No knowledge of modern musical notation is required, nor is musical experience necessary. In your application, please indicate your previous experience in palaeography and codicology.

Courses fees are £100 (standard) and £75 (student).

Middle English Palaeography

Online (Zoom), 17–18 May 2021

This course will provide an introduction to Middle English scribal hands in literary manuscripts from the 13th to the 15th centuries. As such it will be aimed at students with little or limited experience of reading Middle English manuscripts. The aim of the course will be to give some overview of the range of scripts and of the questions of transcription they raise for the beginning student. It will include discussion of the procedures and protocols involved in transcribing Middle English manuscripts and will involve various exercises in transcription from facsimiles of manuscripts across the period, in verse and prose.

Courses fees are £100 (standard) and £75 (student).

For more information on the courses above, see: <https://www.ies.sas.ac.uk/study-training/short-courses>

Study Weeks organised by the Institute of English Studies, School of Advanced Study University of London

London International Palaeography Summer School

Online (Zoom or Teams), 7–18 June, 2021

The Summer School returns in 2021 with a wide range of *online courses* on Latin, Old English, Middle English, Early Modern English, German and Greek palaeography, illuminated manuscripts, codicology, manuscript editing and liturgical and devotional manuscripts.

LIPSS is a series of intensive courses on palaeography and manuscript studies. It will start with a beginners' course on palaeography (7–11 June), followed by a week of a week of in-depth courses on palaeography, manuscript production, patronage, reading and editing manuscripts (14–18 June).

For more information, see:

<https://www.ies.sas.ac.uk/study-training/study-weeks/london-international-palaeography-summer-school>

LIPSS and LRBS Bursaries

LRBS and LIPSS offer a limited number of bursaries- awarded from partners the Bibliographical Society, the Antiquarian Booksellers Association, and the Institute's Sambrook Fund- for the summer sessions for both short and long courses.

There is space on the booking form to specify if you would like to apply for a bursary. Bursary applications close on Tuesday 4 May 2021. For more information, contact: iesevents@sas.ac.uk

London Rare Book School

Online (Zoom or Teams), 21 June–9 July

The LRBS returns in 2021 with a wide range of online courses on medieval and early modern manuscripts, printed books, and maps.

LRBS is a series of intensive online courses on a variety of book-related subjects. LRBS 2021 will take place from 21–25 June (week one), 28 June–2 July (week two), and 5–9 July (week three). Applications are accepted on a rolling basis until a course is full.

For more information, see

www.ies.sas.ac.uk/study-training/study-weeks/london-rare-books-school

Mouse & Manuscript: Lessons in codicology and palaeography based on manuscripts from the Middle East, Islamic Africa and beyond

This is a collection of lessons in codicology and palaeography from the Muslim world. The lessons will guide you through the ways books were made and used there before the printing press, by investigating the traces left by producers, owners and readers of manuscripts. Using your mouse, you will come close to people in the manuscript age as they produced, transmitted, cherished and “consumed” the written texts. The lessons are centred around fully digitised manuscripts from the oriental collection of Leiden University Libraries. They include samples in Arabic, Persian and Coptic, from cultures ranging from the Maghrib to Mughal India. The lessons can be read in any order. All include suggestions for further reading and questions (with answers) or assignments. See: <https://mouse.digitalscholarship.nl/>

EXHIBITIONS

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

[NB: [Changes likely due to COVID-19 responses, please check for updates](#)]

**ABERYSTWYTH, LLYFRGELL
GENEDLAETHOL CYMRU / NATIONAL
LIBRARY OF WALES**

Due to the current COVID-19 crisis, access to the Library building and all timings of exhibitions are subject to change: please see the Library's website for details before planning a visit.

**The Literary World of Paul Peter Piech
1 February 2020–December 2021**

Graphic artist and printmaker Paul Peter Piech (1920–96) is known for his striking political posters, but a portion of his work is concerned with the literary world. He spent the last decade of his life in Porthcawl, where he continued to work and was heavily influenced by Welsh culture and the Welsh language. This exhibition celebrates his contribution to visual art in Wales, as well as to the writers he portrayed.

**Nick Treharne 20:20 Vision, A Portrait of Wales
29 May 2021–28 May 2022**

Since 2018, Treharne's 'vision' has been to build a comprehensive portfolio of life in Wales. Much of his work is observational as he seeks out engaging moments in the streets, the countryside and the many events that take place during each year. From events and traditions that are an integral part of Welsh life, to portraits of the inspirational and interesting characters he meets on his journey, this 'lover of the split second' transforms ordinary everyday subjects into something extraordinary.

**Ar Bapur / On Paper
17 July 2021–12 February 2022**

The term 'work on paper' is very broad, embracing oil paintings, linocut prints and scraps of paper decorated with doodles. What they all have in common is that they were created on paper, and more often than not, also celebrate that versatile material. With topics ranging from explorations of political activism, racism and refugee life alongside more traditional themes such as the human form and the natural world, this exhibition offers an insight into the diversity and richness of the works on paper collection within the The National Library of Wales.

**Beibl i Bawb
10 October 2021–2 April 2022**

A belated exhibition celebrating the 400th anniversary of the publication of the 1620 edition of the Welsh Bible, the influential translation widely used in Wales until 1988, and corresponding in influence with the 1611 English Authorized Version. The exhibition will also celebrate the life and contribution of Dr John Davies (c. 1567–1644) of Mallwyd, Merioneth, editor-in-chief of the 1620 Bible, scholar and author of many other influential works. This will also be a rare opportunity to view, side-by-side, the two surviving Bibles carried by Mary Jones from Bala to Llanfihangel-y-Pennant in 1800.

CAMBRIDGE, THE FITZWILLIAM MUSEUM

**The Macclesfield Psalter
16 December 2020 to May 2021**

The Macclesfield Psalter (MS 1–2005) is a small but remarkable book, filled with rich and beautiful illustrations as well as strange and fascinating grotesques in the margins. Originally produced for a high-status patron in East Anglia, probably Norwich, between 1330 and 1340, the book was discovered on the shelves in the library of the Earls of Macclesfield of Shirburn Castle in the early 2000s. The impressive visual programme is

undoubtedly the work of several accomplished artists and assistants. The psalter is representative of a distinct East Anglian manuscript tradition, that combines religious scenes illustrating the psalms themselves with depictions of animals and contemporary life as well as fanciful creatures, imaginary hybrids and bawdy or obscene motifs. Many of these marginal depictions may seem strange to modern viewers, but to medieval audiences they functioned as aide-memoires, helping the reader navigate the text, as well as illustrations of the psalms or ideas within them. The visual schema also borrowed motifs from other oral, textual, and visual sources, such as religious plays, secular romances, and fables that entertained courtly audiences and townsfolk alike.

The book contains many signs of its previous owners. In the marginal illustration of St Dunstan using a pair of tongs to pull a devil's nose, the devil's face has been scratched away. This is very probably a sign of an intense emotional reaction to the frightening motif. The book is exhibited alongside a manuscript cutting that contains signs of devotional wear and tear, and a rare instance of a medieval artist signing their work. In an Italian Nativity scene (MS McClean 201.95) the face of the Virgin Mary has been kissed so frequently that her features have been entirely worn away and had to be drawn again. Similarly, the Final Judgment (MS 330.iii) scene contains a note from the illuminator bearing his own name. A soul being saved for heaven says 'W[illiam] de Braile[s] made me'. This stunning page also has areas of deliberate damage to the gold leaf backgrounds. The gold may have been removed to be used in medical treatments.

CHICAGO, THE NEWBERRY LIBRARY

**¡Viva la Libertad! Latin America and the Age of
Revolutions
2 April–24 July, 2021**

As revolutions broke out in the United States, France, and Haiti, freedom movements took root in Latin America, where the colonies of Spain and Portugal fought for their own independence. In hindsight, it is easy to assume the revolutionary floodgates opened and freedom spread inexorably throughout the hemisphere. But bitter independence struggles lasted decades.

Featuring maps, manuscripts, and rare books from the Age of Revolutions, this exhibition returns to the 1820s, when new countries emerged from colonial rule across the Americas—from Mexico to Chile. These countries faced many challenges, including how best to govern, allocate resources, and treat their diverse populations.

¡Viva la Libertad! explores these challenges while asking questions at the heart of struggles for independence: What does it mean to declare independence? Who is included and who is left out?

DURHAM UNIVERSITY, PALACE GREEN LIBRARY

If you are bored of being stuck at home, why not set sail on a voyage around the globe with our new online exhibition *Journeys: Reading the World*.

Using the books, manuscripts and archives from the Durham University Special Collections, the immersive exhibition offers top tips for travellers across the centuries and explores debates around the value and danger of foreign travel. There is also a chance to take a unique tour of 18th-century Italy, seen through the eyes of lucky travellers able to visit at the time.

For more information, see:

<https://stories.durham.ac.uk/journeys-prologue/>

LONDON, THE BRITISH LIBRARY

Hebrew Manuscripts: Journeys of the Written Word

1 September, 2020–6 June 2021

Journey beyond the Bible to discover the history, culture and traditions of Jewish people from all corners of the world through the ages.

Through rarely-seen treasures from as far back as the 10th century, this exhibition takes you from Europe and North Africa, through to the Middle East and China to explore the relationships between Jews and their neighbours in the communities that they lived in. How much knowledge and culture were exchanged between these groups? Fascinating works displayed on music, science and philosophy by famous Jewish scholars suggest there was more than we might think.

Pre-booking required, for more information see <https://www.bl.uk/events/hebrew-manuscripts>

LONDON, THE BRITISH MUSEUM

Thomas Becket: murder and the making of a saint

May–August 2021

Submitted by Lloyd de Beer and Naomi Speakman, Lead curators of the Becket exhibition

In May 2021, after delays due to the pandemic, the British Museum will open the first major exhibition on the life, death, and legacy of Thomas Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury and adversary

of King Henry II of England. *Thomas Becket: murder and the making of a saint* explores over 400 years of history, drawing together objects from the British Museum's collection and 22 lenders from the UK and Europe, including medieval manuscripts, stained glass, reliquary caskets, sculpture, jewellery and pilgrims' badges.

Thomas Becket had a stratospheric rise to become one of the most powerful people in 12th-century England, first appointed royal chancellor to the young King Henry II in 1154, and then, Archbishop of Canterbury, in 1162. Becket was initially a close friend of the king. During his eight years as chancellor, he was part of Henry's inner circle, but once he became archbishop his loyalties shifted and he began to oppose the king. It led to their dramatic falling out, with dire consequences. Finally, in a shocking event no one could have predicted, Becket was murdered on 29 December 1170 by four knights from Henry's entourage. In recognition of his martyrdom and the hundreds of miracles attributed to him, Becket was canonised by pope Alexander III in February 1173 as St Thomas of Canterbury. Organised chronologically, the exhibition begins with Becket's birth in London around 1120. It explores his rise and fall, murder, canonisation, pilgrimage cult and the saint's tumultuous relationship with the Tudor dynasty.

Few surviving objects can be directly connected to Becket, apart from a number of manuscripts he collected and left to Canterbury Cathedral, which were dispersed during the English Reformation. These include classical books such as Livy's *History of Rome*, contemporary works such as John of Salisbury's *Policraticus* (the copy believed to have been presented to Becket by the author is on loan from Corpus Christi College, Cambridge), and biblical texts such as a glossed copy of the Gospels containing what is possibly the only known image of Becket made during his lifetime (on loan from Trinity College, Cambridge).

Becket's murder sits at the heart of his story and at the centre of the exhibition. One of the highlights is a manuscript containing one of the earliest known images of the murder, on loan from the British Library. Dating from the mid-1180s, it is within an early copy of Alan of Tewkesbury's collection of correspondence related to Becket and Henry's dispute.

On public display in the UK for the first time in decades, *The Becket Leaves* are the sole surviving fragments of an illustrated life of St Thomas of Canterbury. They show Becket's exile in France, his close relationship with pope

Alexander III, and his return to England in December 1170.

An entire stained-glass window from Canterbury Cathedral will be the centrepiece of the show. It is the fifth in a series of twelve windows, depicting the life, death, and posthumous miracles of St Thomas. Seven of these survive *in situ* and are the only known representations of Becket's miracles in any media. They reveal the myriad ways he intervened in the lives of everyday people.

Thomas Becket: murder and the making of a saint will be accompanied by a richly illustrated publication and a public programme with events focused on Becket and music, and collaborations with the British Academy.

MADRID, BIBLIOTECA NACIONAL DE ESPAÑA

Luces del norte: manuscritos iluminados de la Biblioteca Nacional de España 20 April–5 September, 2021

The exhibition presents BNE's rich collection of illuminated manuscripts from northern Europe, mainly from France, Netherlands and England. Over seventy manuscripts will be on display.

The exhibited works showcase important works of art, some of which are from the most prominent northern European artists and workshops from the Middle Ages to the Renaissance. Featured masters include, for example, the Master of Mary of Burgundy, Simon Marmion (c. 1425–1489) and Jean Poyer (1445–1503).

The exhibition forms a chronological journey, which allows the visitors to understand the evolution of the art of the miniature over seven hundred years. It starts with an exceptional manuscript: the so-called Codex of Metz, commissioned by the son of Charlemagne, Bishop Drogo de Metz (801–855), which constitutes one of the most important Carolingian astrological codices. An important set of Bibles from the 13th century allows us to appreciate the quality of the French miniatures in the time of Saint Louis. The chronological approach is enriched by thematic sections: law, religion, history, literature, science.

NASHVILLE, FRIST ART MUSEUM

Medieval Bologna: Art for a University City

5 November, 2021–30 January, 2022

This is the first museum exhibition in the United States to focus on medieval art made in the northern Italian city of Bologna. Home to the oldest university in Europe, Bologna fostered a unique artistic culture at the end of the Middle Ages. With its large population of sophisticated

readers, the city became the preeminent centre of manuscript production south of the Alps and it helped bring about a revolution in the medieval book trade. Manuscripts circulated in a thriving market of scribes, illuminators, booksellers, and customers operating mostly outside traditional monastic scriptoria. The university initially specialized in law, and many law books were illuminated in Bologna with brightly coloured scenes. University professors enjoyed high social status and were buried in impressive stone tombs carved with classroom scenes.

The approximately 70 objects in the exhibition span from the mid-1200s to 1400, from the first great flowering of manuscript illumination in Bologna to the beginnings of the construction and decoration of the ambitious Basilica of San Petronio in the city's Piazza Maggiore.

The exhibition will be accompanied by a catalogue with seven essays, and, while it is on view, the Frist Art Museum will host the Andrew Ladis Memorial Trecento Conference, a biannual event that brings together historians of medieval and Renaissance art from around the world.

<https://fristartmuseum.org/exhibition/medieval-bologna-art-for-a-university-city/>

NEW YORK, THE MORGAN LIBRARY & MUSEUM

Poetry and Patronage: The Laubespine-Villeroy Library Rediscovered

October 16, 2020–May 16, 2021

Young, handsome, and highborn, Claude III de Laubespine lived in luxury after marrying an heiress and obtaining the favour of King Charles IX. His brilliant career at court was cut short in 1570, when he died at the age of 25. He left behind a splendid library, which was dispersed, and only recently have his books been identified and properly appreciated for their superb quality and fine bindings. Laubespine now ranks among the great collectors of the French Renaissance.

For the first time in more than 400 years, this exhibition brings together some of the most spectacular bindings in that collection, exquisite examples of Renaissance ornamental design. They will be shown along with related artwork and literary memorials of Laubespine. He left his books to his sister, a patron of the poet Pierre de Ronsard, who praised her country estate, the library, and its perfumed bindings, which, he said, "smells as good as your orange trees." This exhibition will evoke the sensual pleasure and literary connoisseurship implicit in a noble library of that era.

ST. GALLEN, STIFTSBEZIRK ST. GALLEN

Prayer – Conversing with God

Abbey Library

8 December, 2020–7 November, 2021

Prayer is common in most societies. People address God or the Divine. They plead, praise or give thanks, sometimes they lament or even curse. Because it connects with another world, prayer comes to have a particular freedom of form. In rituals, conversely, it is highly structured and adheres to conventions such as the amen, with which almost every Christian prayer closes.

The exhibition illustrates the development of Christian prayer in its many different forms. It is complemented by Katharina Heigl's photographic

exhibition entitled *Faces in Prayer* which presents interreligious expressions of prayer.

Aqua – Monks and water

Exhibition Space

28 January 2021 – 26 January 2022

In early medieval founding histories, there is hardly a miraculous event that does not take place on or near water. For monks, water had, above all, a spiritual significance. The use of this resource was therefore closely interwoven with the religious culture of a monastery. Aware of the necessity of water for survival, the monks would build their monasteries close to watercourses or lakes. Often, the name of the water source would supersede that of the saint who founded the monastery.

HIGHLIGHTS OF RECENT ACCESSIONS

ABERYSTWYTH, LLYFRGELL GENEDLAETHOL CYMRU / NATIONAL LIBRARY OF WALES

Submitted by Dr Maredudd ap Huw, Curator of Manuscripts

A document, dated 8 October 1645, acknowledging receipt 'by mee Edward Lord Herbert of Cherbury' of £10 from Thomas Lord Fauconberg, Receiver General, being his weekly allowance by warrant of 1 June 1645 (formerly part of the Enys Collection of Autograph Manuscripts, unsold at Bonhams, 28 September 2004, lot 356) (added to NLW MS 24045F).

A transcript, dated 1729, of *Antiquitates Parochiales*, a treatise on Anglesey history originally written in 1710 by Henry Rowlands (1655–1723) of Llanidan. The manuscript was written by 'GM' [William Morgan (1674–1742), vicar of Llanddeusant, Anglesey], who acted as amanuensis to Rowlands, and who produced a number of manuscript copies of the *Antiquitates* following the author's death. The present copy derives from the Wynn library at Bodysgallen, Conwy (NLW MS 24170).

Three travel journals of the Rev. Thomas Prior (1765–1843), Fellow and sometime Vice-Provost of Trinity College, Dublin. The first volume is a 'Journal of a Tour through North Wales, Cheshire, Derbyshire, Yorkshire, Westmorland, Cumberland, and Lancashire, in the months of July & August 1800 ... in company with Jas Bessonnet Esq.', and the second an account of an 'Excursion to Wales', 27 August to 29 October 1802 (Fonsie Mealy Auctioneers, Castlecomer, 9 December 2020, lot 859) (NLW MS 24171).

Two travel journals written by stationer and printer Thomas Letts (1803–73), the first beginning in Birmingham and touring around Britain in 1831, and the second of a tour around Germany written in 1853. They are added to a collection of similar journals by Letts at the Library (NLW MSS 24168–9).

A procurement diary, May 1942–October 1944, recording items of clothing collected in Aberdare, Glamorgan for distribution by the Red Cross to named Welsh soldiers incarcerated in prisoner of war camps in Germany (Sworders Fine Art Auctioneers, Essex, 25 November 2020, lot 87) (NLW ex 3044).

A collection of ephemera and papers relating to Sister (Miss) Florence Mulfra Williams (1902–83) of London, originally of Swansea, Glamorgan, who served during the Second World War in Queen Alexandra's Imperial Military Nursing Service (QAIMNS), and was one of the first nurses to enter Bergen-Belsen concentration camp (Bainbridges Auctions, West Ruislip, 10 December 2020, lot 315) (NLW ex 3045).

Correspondence and papers accumulated by theatre historian and publicist Walter James MacQueen-Pope (1888–1960) in preparation for his book *Ivor, The Story of an Achievement* (1951), the first biography of Cardiff-born composer and actor Ivor Novello (1893–1951) (W. MacQueen-Pope (Ivor Novello) Papers).

Three scrapbooks, 1928–1936, relating to Mollie Doreen Phillips (1907–94), the Carmarthenshire-based ice skater who competed at the 1932 and 1936 Olympic Games, and was a pioneering female flag-bearer at the 1932 Lake Placid Winter Olympics. The scrapbooks include letters and

photographs relating to the eight years during which she was a leading figure skater (Graham Budd Auctions, 10 November 2020, lot 820) (NLW ex 3043).

A series of letters, 1930–4, written by novelist and poet Glyn Jones (1905–95) to his fiancée, Phyllis Doreen Jones, whom he later married. The letters were written on the eve of Jones's first appearance in print, and of his first association with fellow poet Dylan Thomas (added to Glyn Jones Papers).

Papers added recently to the Welsh Political Archive include additional personal and political papers of Labour politicians Jim Griffiths (1890–1971) (added to James Griffiths Papers), Don Touhig (1947–) (added to Lord Touhig Papers) and Paul Murphy (1948–) (added to Lord Murphy of Torfaen Papers).

EDINBURGH, NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SCOTLAND

Significant accessions submitted by Dr Ulrike Hogg, Curator (Gaelic, Medieval, Early Modern & Music Manuscripts), Archives & Manuscript Collections

Conveyance document, 1773, of John Walker, John Strachan and James Geddes to Robert Scott Moncrieff, relating to property in Tobago, including the transfer of enslaved people. (Acc.14178)

Letter, 1786, of John Fergusson to Hugh Hamilton on his Jamaican sugar plantation. (Acc.14204)

Letter, 1793, of Sir Ralph Abercromby to an unidentified correspondent, discussing military matters at the start of the French Revolutionary Wars. (Acc.14184)

Scottish songbook, c. 1800, containing copies of songs of Robert Burns and others, together with tunes. (Acc.14209) (*See separate news item above.*)

Correspondence concerning the Peninsular War, 1811–1813, of Sir Charles Stuart de Rothesay. (Acc.14176 and Acc.14202)

Photograph album, c. 1860 or earlier, of the family of the Scottish historian and economist John Hill Burton (1809–1881), including photographs of his brother's school in Dalmeny. (Acc.14200)

Autograph manuscript, 1871, of Robert M. Ballantyne's novel *The Iron Horse*. (Acc.14210)

R.M. Ballantyne, Study (ink and wash drawing) for an illustration in his book *The Young Trawler* (1884). (Acc.14189)

Diary, 1885, of Anita Guthrie Williamson, daughter of Stephen Williamson, Liverpool shipping magnate and Scottish Liberal Party MP. (Acc.14193)

Notebook, c. 1890–1900, of Maggie Wilson, Gourrock, Scotland, containing thoughts on marriage and choosing a husband. (Acc.14177)

Volume 4, for 1900, of the magazine of the Leith Congregational Church Literary Society. (Acc.14211)

Photograph album of Dugald Christie, 20th century, Church of Scotland medical missionary in China. (Acc.14196)

A sketch book, of 43 pencil profile portraits of officers of the Royal Scots, created during the First World War. (Acc.14190)

LONDON, BRITISH LIBRARY

Significant accessions submitted by Dr Claire Breay, Head of Ancient, Medieval and Early Modern Manuscripts

Melford Hall manuscript: poems by John Donne and other authors, 1620–1759 (Egerton MS 3884).

Lewis of Caerleon, collected astronomical and mathematical works, 1485–c. 1495 (Add MS 89442).

Manuscript map of the town of Tangier, produced by Thomas Philips as part of the English mission to evacuate and destroy the town, 1683–1684 (Add MS 89443).

Letter from Thomas Grenville to Robert Harding Evans, 1841 (Add MS 89446).

Memoir of the 1898 Klondike Gold Rush, by Arthur Waller, 1898–1942 (Add MS 89449).

Letters of Princess Mary, Duchess of Gloucester, to Charlotte Sophia Selwyn, 1810–1854 (Add MS 89452).

Collection of letters from Granville Leveson-Gower, 2nd Earl Granville, 1831–1890 (Add MS 89454).

Gerald Brenan: History of Poor Robinson, manuscript draft, 1925–1965 (Add MS 89456).

Account of the coronation of Queen Anne, 1702 (Add MS 89457).

LONDON, LAMBETH PALACE LIBRARY

Submitted by Alison Day

Lambeth Palace Library is still undertaking the colossal task of moving all the collections to the new library. Understandably, this has been

hampered by the pandemic and the move was once again paused in December 2020 due to a third national lockdown. It is hoped that with restrictions lifting, we will be able to finish moving the collections and look to open again to readers at some point this year.

Due to the move project, the majority of offers of accessions are on hold until the library reopens, with the exception of internal documents forming core records. However, a few important new items have joined the collection, including a manuscript about Archbishop Laud's tortoise called "The Longevity of the Tortoise" by Francis Grose, dating from c.1800. The original tortoise shell is on display in Lambeth Palace in a case beneath a portrait of its owner. Archbishop Laud brought his pet tortoise from Westminster to Lambeth, where it lived in the gardens. It survived for many years after Laud's execution in 1645, until it was unfortunately woken from hibernation too early and subsequently died. There has been some interest in the tortoise over the years, including correspondence between Archbishop Benson's wife Mary, and the Natural History Museum to find out more about the taxonomy.

Some existing collections which were less well-known have been digitised and are available to view on Luna, the online image database. These include MS4840–4855, detailing everyday life in Russia during the late 19th and early 20th centuries; some of the archbishops' Estate Documents, dating back to the 13th century; and papers of Archbishops Davidson and Benson

All Library staff are still working from home, on tasks to make the collections more accessible online. Tasks include uploading and augmenting catalogue information on the National Archives Discovery Catalogue and to the Archives Hub. Work is also ongoing on tagging digital images on the Luna database for easier keyword searching.

LONDON, WELLCOME COLLECTION

Submitted by Julia Nurse, Research Development Specialist

Wellcome Collection has acquired a rare and unusual collection of medically themed sermons (1553), intended for delivery throughout the period of Lent; believed to exist only in a handful of copies in Spain and Brazil, in the Spanish vernacular. The book testifies to the lived experience of health in early modern Europe, which is under-represented in Wellcome Collection, including thorough descriptions of minor medical treatments of which the author had knowledge and may have administered to lay people.



Title page of the *Sermonario Quadragesimal Medicinal* (1553)

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD, BODLEIAN LIBRARIES, WESTON LIBRARY

Submitted by Michael Webb, Curator of Early Modern Archives and Manuscripts, Weston Library

In June 2019 the Bodleian acquired the papers of the Villiers family, Earls of Clarendon of the 2nd creation, that were not acquired in 2012. In 2012, the political papers of George Villiers, 4th Earl of Clarendon, Lord Lieutenant of Ireland (1847–52) and Foreign Secretary (1853–8, 1865–6, 1868–70) were acquired by the Bodleian mainly by allocation under the Acceptance in Lieu scheme, and partly with a grant from the National Heritage Memorial Fund (NHMF). The papers had been deposited in the Library in 1949, along with further family papers which remained on deposit at that time. In June 2019, thanks to a generous grant from the NHMF, and support from the Friends of the National Libraries and the Friends of the Bodleian, the Library was able to purchase the remainder of the deposit which includes the papers of Thomas Villiers, 1st Earl of Clarendon, ambassador to Saxony-Poland and then Prussia, 1738–46; the papers of the Barham family relating to their sugar plantations in Jamaica and political activities in England, 18th to early 19th century; and various heraldic and literary papers. An inventory of the papers, drawn up when it was still

on deposit, is at

<https://archives.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/repositories/2/repositories/2615>.

The 2019 purchase also includes Villiers papers that had remained with the family and were never deposited in the Bodleian. These include:

- many private letters of the 4th Earl and his wife Katharine, Lady Clarendon;
- letters from St Petersburg and Madrid in the 1820s and 1830s from the 4th Earl to his mother during his early career as a junior diplomat and Minister in Spain;

- letters from Queen Victoria and Prince Albert to the 4th Earl, mainly when he was Foreign Secretary;
- further papers of the 1st Earl, including a volume of diplomatic correspondence when he was Minister in Prussia;
- and papers of George Villiers, 6th Earl of Clarendon, Governor-General of the Union of South Africa from 1931 to 1937.

The formerly deposited part of the archive is available to researchers, and the newly transferred papers will be available once they have been catalogued.

BOOK REVIEW

The Household Roll of Eleanor de Montford, Countess of Leicester and Pembroke, 1265. British Library, Additional MS 8877, ed. & trans. Louise J. Wilkinson, Publications of the Pipe Roll Society, vol. 101, n.s. 63 (Boydell Press, 2020); cxxxvi, 171 pp.; ISBN 978-0-901134-77-6; hardback; RRP £60

Reviewed by Dr Kathleen B. Neal, Monash University, Australia

It is a most happy chance that the household account roll of Eleanor de Montford, Countess of Leicester, should survive for 1265, in particular. The account opens with the countess's husband, Earl Simon de Montfort, in charge of a baronial government, and the king and other senior members of the royal family in captivity. It ends after a stunning reversal of fortunes for the comital family, following the death of the earl and many of his supporters at the Battle of Evesham (4 August 1265), and the exile of a number of their adult sons. That scholars should be afforded a glimpse into the running of this particular household in this particular moment is a precious opportunity. Louise Wilkinson's much anticipated edition of the roll does not disappoint.

The volume, prepared for the Pipe Roll Society, includes both a Latin edition and English translation of all thirteen membranes of this extraordinary document. Each entry in the account has been assigned a unique number to facilitate easy reference, and the footnotes provide detailed commentary on the palaeographic minutiae of the text as well as clarifying the identities of people and unfamiliar

vocabulary. The edition is thus eminently usable for both specialists and beginners.

The real joy of this volume, however, is the extensive, 123-page introduction. Its clear discussion of the production and structuring of medieval accounts will be of great use to graduate students or scholars new to such documents, and the thorough cross-referencing of the introduction to items of account provides an excellent aide to interpreting its terse terminology for beginners. Professor Wilkinson also applies her deep familiarity with the period, and the life of Countess Eleanor in particular, to provide commentary that illustrates the many additional layers of interpretation the account can facilitate. These range, as she shows, from the pragmatics of household personnel and organisation, expenditure, consumption and 'food miles', to questions of fluctuating political fortunes, and their impact on activities like travel, letter-writing, gift-giving, and hosting guests. The many and complex consequences of Evesham are evident, for instance, in the changing expenses on clothing and food, the household servants who were paid off, the disruption of supply chains, and investments made both in strengthening defences and bringing in fodder for horses, and in carts hired against the necessity of sudden flight. We catch fleeting glimpses of the many merchants, servants, religious figures, messengers, farmers, lordly allies and kin whose activities impinged in some way on the household and its affairs; a whirlwind of activity centred on the countess and her family. We see something of the countess's involvement in political affairs, from her purchase of luxury foodstuffs for her

brother, Richard of Cornwall, and meeting the expenses of a barber for her nephew, the future Edward I, while both were in Montfortian captivity; to her active engagement in networks of information through messengers, letters and visitors. At one, poignant point, we see the countess's children giving gifts to the children of the castellan of Dover; part of their induction into adult political life. Wilkinson's rich discussion of the account brings Countess Eleanor's household alive, both in its ascendancy and in crisis.

A very minor quibble is the complex arrangement of the index under a series of category headings, which are not wholly self-evident and may take the beginner some practice to master. But once achieved, the comprehensive listings will further enrich the uses to which the edition can be put. It is destined to become a classic citation in financial, familial and feminist historical studies for generations to come.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Accounts and Accountability in Late Medieval Europe. I. Epurescu-Pascovici (2020). VII + 303pp. ISBN: 9782503588537

The Angela Burdett-Coutts Collection of Greek Manuscripts. A. Cataldi Palau (06/2021). approx. 250pp. ISBN: 9782503593760

Armenian Manuscripts. Catalogues, Collections, Libraries, 2nd rev. edn. B. Couillie (2020). XIX + 463pp. ISBN: 9782503590349

The Art & Science of Illuminated Manuscripts: A Handbook. S. Panayotova (2020). 528pp. ISBN: 9781912554591

Between the Text and the Page: Studies on the Transmission of Medieval Ideas in Honour of Frank T. Coulson. Ed. H. Anderson and D.T. Cura (2020). 376pp. ISBN: 9780888448330

Beyond Words: New Research on Manuscripts in Boston Collections. Ed. J. F. Hamburger, L. Fagin Davis, and A. Eze (05/2021). 394pp. ISBN: 9780888442215

Book Ownership in Stuart England. D. Pearson (2021). 352pp. ISBN: 9780198870128

Booksellers and Printers in Provincial France 1470–1600. M. Walsby (2020). X + 902pp. ISBN: 9789004324138

Calendar of Inquisitions Post Mortem and Other Analogous Documents Preserved in The National Archives XXXV: Richard III (1483–1485). Ed. M. Hicks and G. McKelvie (2021). 208pp. ISBN: 9781783275595

The Cambridge Companion to Medieval British Manuscripts. O. Da Rold and E. Treharne (2020). pp. ISBN: 9781107500143

Catalogue de manuscrits syriaques et garshuni de Charfetl. Fonds Rahmani 1-125. Y. Dergham (2021). approx. 525pp. ISBN: 9782503570426

Les chartes constitutionnelles des villes d'Allemagne du Sud (XIVe-XVe siècle). D. Adrian (2021). 206pp. ISBN: 9782503589381

Clóliosta: Printing in the Irish language, 1571–1871. An Attempt at Narrative Bibliography. R. Sharpe and M. Hoyne (2020). XXXVIII + 1253pp. ISBN: 9781855002449

Collections de Normandie, Bibliothèque nationale de France et bibliothèques parisiennes. C. Meyer (2021). approx. 544pp. ISBN: 9782503593388

Directory of Rare Book and Special Collections in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland, 3rd edn, ed. K. Attar (2021). 640pp. ISBN: 9781783304264

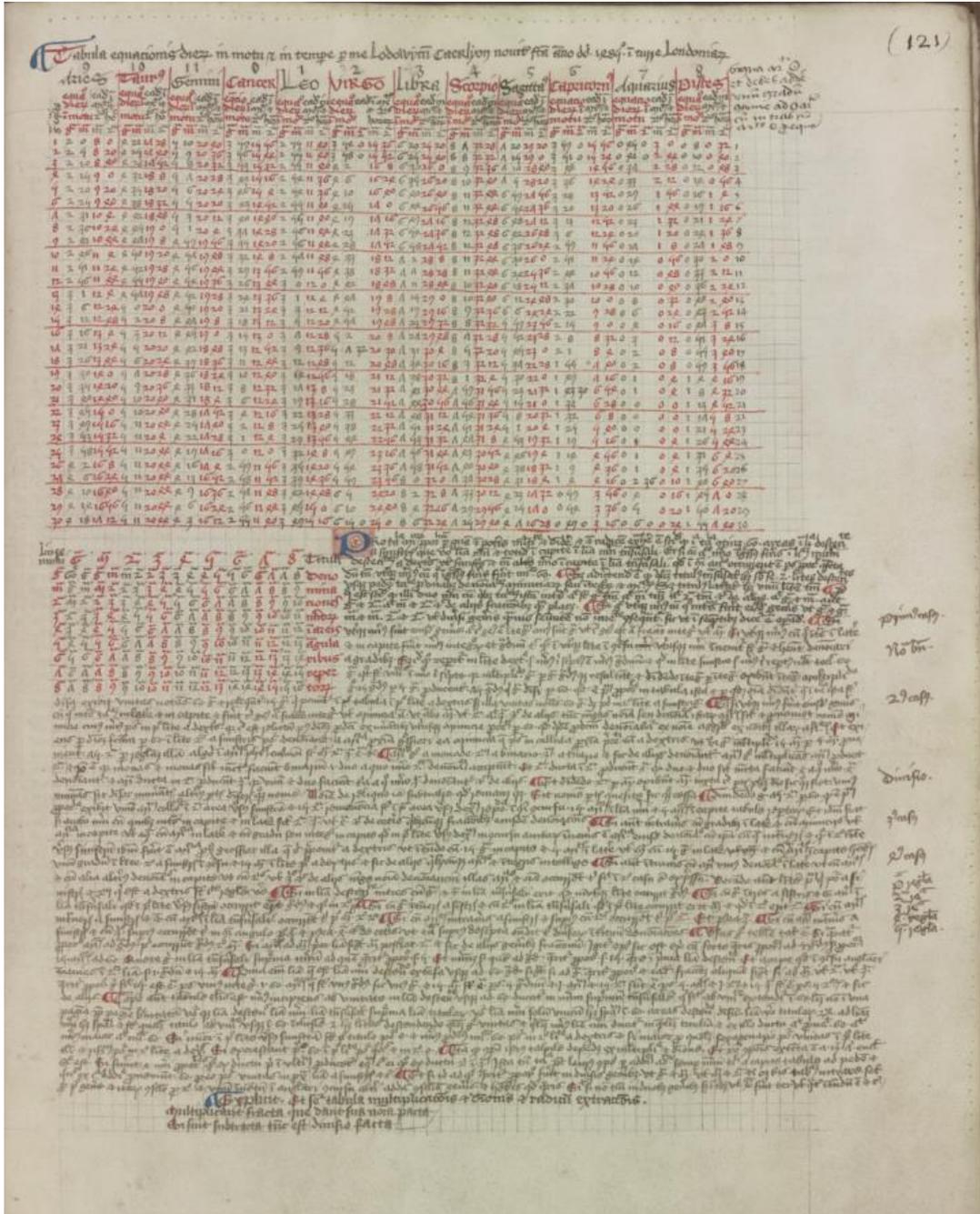
Early Colour Printing: German Renaissance Woodcuts at the British Museum. E. Savage with introduction by O. Horbatsch (2021). 256pp. ISBN: 9781911300755

Episodes in the Life of the Early Modern Learned Book. Ian Maclean (2020). XIV + 424pp. ISBN: 9789004440074

Essays on the Making of the Early Hebrew Book. Ed. M. J. Heller (2021). ISBN: 9789004441156

- Euclid in Print, 1482–1703: A Catalogue of the Editions of the Elements and Other Euclidean works.* Ed. B. Wardhaugh with P. Beeley and Y. Nasifoglu (2020). [online]
- The Flowering of Ecology: Maria Sibylla Merian's Caterpillar Book.* K. Etheridge (2020). XXVI + 386pp. ISBN: 9789004284791
- Forms, Formats and the Circulation of Knowledge: British Printscape's Innovations, 1688–1832.* L. Ferlier and B. Miyamoto (2020). XIV + 298pp. ISBN: 9789004433663
- Hidden Hands: The Lives of Manuscripts and Their Makers.* M. Wellesley (07/2021). 386pp. ISBN: 9781529400939
- The Interlinear glosses to the « Regula Sancti Benedicti » in London, British Library, Cotton Tiberius A. III., ff. 118r–163v with the Anglo-Saxon.* C. de Bonis (06/2021). approx. 450pp. ISBN: 9782503542669
- An Inventory of Syriac Texts Published from Manuscripts in the British Library.* S. P. Brock (2020). 334pp. ISBN: 9781463242145
- L: 50 Objects, Stories & Discoveries from the Linnean Society of London.* Ed. S. Knapp, L. Berwick, I. Charmantier (2020). 124pp. ISBN: 9780993551017
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- Liber Uricrisiarum: A Reading Edition.* Ed. E. Ruth Harvey, M. T. Tavormina, and S. Star (2020). 532pp.
- The Letters and Charters of Henry II, King of England 1154–1189.* Ed. N. Vincent, 7 vols (2020). 736, 560, 544, 688, 384, 432, 1028pp.
- Manuscripts in the Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms: Cultures and connections.* Ed. C. Breay and J. Story (2021). 264pp. ISBN: 9781846828669
- Medieval Documents as Artefacts: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Codicology, Palaeography and Diplomatics.* Ed. E. C. Dijkhof (2020). 320pp. ISBN: 9789087045685
- Objects of Affection: The Book and the Household in Late Medieval England.* M. Seaman (2021). 296pp. ISBN: 9781526143815
- The Old English Metrical Calendar (Menologium).* Ed. K. Karasawa (2021). 245pp. ISBN: 9789110007239
- The Politics of Print During the French Wars of Religion.* G. P. Haake (2020). X + 351pp. ISBN: 9789004440807
- Le ragioni della scrittura. Piccoli scritti di paleografia, a cura di T. De Robertis e N. Giovè Marchioli.* S. Zamponi (2021). 284pp. ISBN: 8833137368
- The Reception of Chaucer's Shorter Poems, 1400–1450: Female Audiences, English Manuscripts, French Contexts.* K. A. Doyle (06/2021). 244pp. ISBN: 9781843845904
- The Texture of Images: The Relic Book in Late-Medieval Religiosity and Early Modern Aesthetics.* L. Cárdenas (2020). XXVI + 548pp. ISBN: 9789004404489
- Trinity College Library Dublin: A catalogue of manuscripts containing Middle English and some Old English.* J. Scattergood, with N. Pattwell & E. Williams (2021) 420pp. ISBN: 9781846828522
- The Unfinished Book.* A. Gillespie and D. Lynch (2020). pp. ISBN: 9780198830801
- Life at Saint Victor: The Liber Ordinis, the Life of William of Æbelholt, and a Selection of Works of Hugh, Richard, and Odo of Saint Victor, and Other Authors.* F. van Liere and J. Mouseau (2021). 488pp. ISBN: 978-2-503-58066-1
- The Works of Richard Methley.* Trans. B. Newman with introduction by L. S. Miles (2021). 224pp. ISBN: 9780879072865
- Writing the Jerusalem Pilgrimage in the Late Middle Ages.* M. Boyle (2020). 252pp. ISBN: 9781843845805

The British Library saves important Lewis of Caerleon manuscript for the nation



An astronomical table made by Lewis of Caerleon while imprisoned at the Tower of London in 1485 (London, British Library, Add MS 89442, p. 121). See p. 3 inside.
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