

GLAM General Meeting, University of East Anglia, 23 March 2012

Presentations by:

Sarah Elsegood: '40 Years of Creative Writing at UEA: building up literary archives to support research and teaching'.

Christine Fauch and Zoe Wilcox: GLAM Cataloguing Working Party

Tom Overton, a collaborative doctoral award candidate at the British Library about working on the John Berger archive.

Meeting:

1. Introductions and apologies

Attending:

Bridget Gillies (UEA)

Louise Bruton

Judy Burg, University of Hull (Secretary),

Gavin Clarke (National Theatre)

Sarah Elsegood - UEA

Christine Fauch (Exeter University)

Jacqui Grainger (Chawton House Library)

Hannah Green, Seven Stories

Sally Harrower (National Library of Scotland)

Rose Lock (University of Sussex)

Helen Melody (BL)

Tom Overton (Kings College London)

Sarah Prescott (Leeds University)

Nicholas Robinson (Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge)

Bethany Sinclair (PRONI)

Simon Springare (archives student from Sweden)

David Sutton (Reading University)

Susan Thomas, Bodleian Library

James Travers (TNA)

John Wells (University of Cambridge)

Zoe Wilcox, (British Library and Cataloguing Working Party)

Apologies

Fran Baker, JRUL

Alex Cave, University of Leicester

Fiona Courage, University of Sussex

Alison Cullingford, University of Bradford

Nia Mai Daniel, National Library of Wales

Anne George, Project Archivist, University of Birmingham

Sarah Hepworth, University of Glasgow

Dorothy Johnston, University of Nottingham

Julie Johnstone, Scottish Poetry Library

Katrina Legg, Richard Burton Archives,

Patricia McGuire, Kings College

Alysoun Sanders, Macmillan Publishers Ltd

Chris Sheppard, Leeds University

Frances White Kingston University

Janet Wilkinson, JRUL

2. Minutes of meeting held on 4th 3rd October 2011 at the British Library and matters arising
Agreed, with one minor amendment under item 7

Matters arising –

General call to GLAM members for news items and other content to post to the GLAM website / blog – especially project cataloguers.

Update on the GLAM-NA project on how people use archives. This is an interesting piece of research. It is Yale-specific, looking, for example at the role of archives within research, what is easy and difficult, and the graphic presentation of research.

David Sutton will contact Heather Dean (the primary author) to see if there is anything she can share with GLAM at this stage.

ICA Section on Lit archives- David Sutton will continue as chair until 2015

Leverhulme archive network. The first workshop is in June. Attendance is by invitation, but proceedings / outcome will be published on the website.

The announcement about the Palgrave publication appeared on the GLAM website.

3. Report from the GLAM Committee meeting

Cataloguing Working Party: Work is nearly completed. The CWP are awaiting copyright permissions – eg relating to the Getty Art & Architecture thesaurus, which has been extensively quoted. Once these are forthcoming, the document will put up on website in draft form (without circulating to committee first). ICA gave permission to quote – ISAD(G) – and would like a copy of the report when published, partly in order to promote it more widely.

Website: Zoe Wilcox has been getting enquiries directed to the GLAM website that should have gone to member institutions (possibly as a result of prioritised Google searching.).

Enquiries have been forwarded – and they have now reduced in frequency.

GLAM members are again encouraged to post on the website, so that content is regularly changing. The most recent meeting minutes will be added to the appropriate section of the website, once minutes are confirmed.

Treasurer's report: Nothing to report. GLAM has funds of £1100.

GLAM representation (official or unofficial) on other groups :

- UKLHG: David Sutton officially represents GLAM on the UKLHG
- ARA Data Standards Group: Susan Thomas, committee member, other GLAM members are also members of DSG
- International Council on Archives section on literary archives: David Sutton reports to and from GLAM. ICA uses GLAM as a model for co-operation.
- Society of American Archivists and GLAM-NA: David Sutton undertakes liaison with GLAM-NA and also SAA (eg joint presentation at SAA conference in August 2011 in Chicago, further presentation at SAA with GLAM-NA planned for later this year)

Request for information from GLAM members about membership of other committees, steering groups or other relevant organisations, where they are in a position to report to/from GLAM. Details to be sent to j.burg@hull.ac.uk

Date location & theme for next meeting:

Autumn 2012: Senate House, London, September, theme of e-mails as part of literary archives – Wendy Cope and Carcanet archives as case studies – then more general discussion about e-mails and electronic archives. Date tbc.

Future possible venues and themes:

- Spring 2012 - tbc

- Autumn 2013,

Offer from Chawton House Library (Centre for the Study of Early English Women's Writing, 1600-1830, in Jane Austen's former home - her brother's house), near Alton in Hampshire, with thanks from Jacqui Grainger

- 2014

We have an offer from Nia Mai Daniel from the National Library of Wales to host a meeting in 2014, to coincide with an exhibition on Dylan Thomas (100 years since his birth).

Possible future theme

- How literary manuscripts are (and can be) used (link to GLAM-NA research)
- use of archives in education
- orphan works, discussions in light of the Hargreaves report (<http://www.ipo.gov.uk/ipreview>), any proposals around any legal reform and also European Union guidance
- working within FOI – principles of access – with all the difficulties of personal papers.

Would welcome further offers of venues – especially from the north of England or Scotland – to j.burg@hull.ac.uk

4. AGM business matters

- Election / Confirmation of officers:

David. Sutton as Chair,

Judy Burg as Secretary

Fiona Courage as Treasurer.

Zoe Wilcox, Web Officer

Meeting agreed that existing officers are elected for a further year.

- GLAM membership (Judy Burg)

Membership: 118 (last year, 111) members, of which 76 (76) are from HEIs, 18 (17) from national archives or museums and 2 (2) from local authorities, 3 publishers.

There is still scope to refresh out of date contact details and extend membership, particularly amongst other LA archives with literary material. This is being followed up by Judy Burg and other committee members.

- Chair's report and review

There is an outstanding question in connection with GLAM constitution, which needs to be amended in light of the new officers of Treasurer and Web Officer. An amended version was circulated to the meeting. It was agreed that this will be circulated to all members by e-mail and if there are no objections within 2 weeks, will be adopted as the new constitution.

In meetings and in the way that people perceive GLAM, we continue to go from strength to strength— in the work that we do, in making progress, and increasingly as an international model. There is US and other international interest in the way that we as literary archivists come together and discuss issues, sharing good practice and knowledge.

5. GLAM participation in UKLH Group Conference

UKLHG: Second conference of the UK Literary Heritage Group at the British Library, 30th April.

“Manuscripts Still Matter. There is information on the GLAM website and the British Library website.

This is to be more upbeat than the previous conference in 2006, which took a rather ‘Larkinesque’ view.

Content include: using literary manuscripts in higher education , use of literary manuscripts in the creative industries, funding opportunities, being in the archives – chaired by Andrew Motion, a look at the wider archive sector.

There will be 10 presentations of 10 minutes, in pairs throughout the day, to reflect the breadth of archive collecting across the UK and to emphasise the positive outlook –difficulties, but also successes. Organisations represented include: National Library of Scotland, National Library of Wales, Seven Stories, Gloucestershire Archives, Cambridge University, London Metropolitan Archives /Keats House, Kingston University, University of Reading.

There is more information on GLAM blog and the British Library website.

The intended audience is not just archivists, but also archival users, scholars, biographers, writers in residence, members of the Society of Authors, Government ministers and advisors.

6. AOB - news, updates queries or issues from members attending

Simon Springare – from Sweden, living in Helsinki. Undergraduate thesis relates to research on literary archives and archival theory, the archivist as interpreter, original order, provenance.

University of Hull (Judy Burg: Just taking in the papers of Anthony Thwaite, as one of the two literary executors of Philip Larkin. (Another category of material, which might make a future theme for GLAM discussion.)

University of Cambridge (John Wells): Has taken in additional papers of Siegfried Sassoon. The original acquisition has become magnet for other papers – from single letters to significant collections.

National Library of Scotland (Sally Harrower): in the process of acquiring their first born-digital archive – of Don Paterson – dating back to mid 1990s (by purchase). There were difficulties in coming to a valuation. NLS already had paper notebooks (already purchased). They are purchasing the removable hard-drive.

TNA (James Travers): Looking at the attitude of trade and funding bodies towards born digital. TNA is half way through a survey of accessions to repositories. They should produce a digest of literary archives around June.

Bodleian Library (Susan Thomas): Working with a literary agent at the moment – is interested in talking to anyone who has dealt with a literary agent. (There is the Polinger archive at LMA, Zoe

Wilcox has worked on archives of two literary agents, and there are the papers of Charles Pick at UEA.)

University of Exeter (Christine Faunch): At Exeter Central Library there is an exhibition of children's literature, with material from the University. It runs from 2nd April to the end of May.

Chawton House Library (Jacqui Grainger): the Deirdre le Faye papers are coming to Chawton House Library. 28th June for 2 weeks – exhibition 'Jane Austen's bookshop', about the shop in Winchester where she bought many of her books.

Leeds University (Sarah Prescott): Chris Sheppard is moving roles in April. He will become an Hon Fellow, involved in fundraising and literary archives. Katy Goodrum will be taking his post.

University of Sussex (Rose Lock): In the throes of moving in to The Keep, with the local authority archive. The move starts may next year, which will also be the University's 50th and the Mass Observation project's 75th

British Library (Helen Melody): UKLHG conference in April. BL is hosting an exhibition – "Writing Britain" the literature of the British Isles, starting on 8th may – about writing and sense of place.

British Library (Zoe Wilcox) – some new acquisitions in the pipeline. ZW is working on the papers of Keith Waterhouse, N.F. Simpson and James Berry, a British-Caribbean writer.

National Theatre Archive (Gavin Clarke): Launching a project website – the history of black Britain - playwrights and plays. Including a union catalogue of locations of papers. Will launch in April.

7. Date and location of next meeting – theme and contributions

See above

8. A.O.B.

The special GLAM issue of ARC is to be an annual issue – for 2012 it will be the April issue.

There will be 10 articles from GLAM members. Rose Roberto said she "thought they were all very good and only needed minor edits. The images submitted were particularly good, the designer and I agree that they also added visually to the issue."

Many thanks to Sarah Elsegood and UEA Library for hosting the meeting.