

Group for Literary Archives and Manuscripts 20th September 2013

In the Seng T. Lee Centre for Manuscript and Book Studies, Senate House Library

Welcome from Wim Van Mierlo, Acting Director of the Institute for English Studies and Jonathan Harrison, Head of Special Collections, Senate House Library

Presentations and overviews of projects on the First World War theme

- Grant Repshire – Gloucester Archives and the University of Exeter F W Harvey, First World War poet

Undertaking collaborative PhD at the University of Exeter, related to the Gloucester Remembers World War One project. Working on F W Harvey, who served in the 5th Gloucestershire Regiment, which started the first trench newspaper – The 5th Gloucester Gazette. This had a literary focus, partly because of FWH, and received reviews in TLS amongst others. FWH wrote poetry as a prisoner of war, some of which the German authorities allowed to be sent back to the UK and was published during the war. Also wrote a fictionalised memoir, which is now being adapted as a play and used for educational purposes as part of the Gloucester Remembers WW1 project.

- Peter Monteith, Kings College Cambridge – Rupert Brooke: Introduction to Archives for a younger audience

Perception that undergraduates have a willingness to use archives but not necessarily the tools to do so. Project to produce an online guide to using archives, using papers relating to Rupert Brooke as examples. Will deal with principles such as provenance and the scattering of letters from an individual – case studies will make this less theoretical and more real. Will ask teachers for feedback and suggestions before launching the resource. The launch will be timed to coincide with the anniversary of RB's death.

- Rachel Foss – British Library plans for First World War commemorations, focussing on literary aspects

Projects connected to the Europeana Collections 1914-1918 – BL is a partner in this project. Building digital collections via the Europeana portal. Aim to build c. 400,000+ sources – full range of types of material – reflecting the importance of WW1 to the European identity.

BL will be digitising material from Rupert Brooke, Rosenberg, Virginia Woolf, Arthur Conan-Doyle and the Royal Literary Fund amongst others. Also project blog and crowd-sourcing project. All to be completed by 2014, then moves on to dissemination phase.

Exhibition about 'coping', Two conferences, one on music (at BL) on languages (at University of Antwerp); BL also producing a CD and hosting an artist in residence.

One collection being investigated – the Radford family archive, especially correspondence.

- Ian Johnson, Archives and Special Collections, Newcastle University

Material includes items relating to Rudyard Kipling, ephemera and propaganda. Will be undertaking schools workshops and education / outreach. Project relating to the Armstrong Memorial – research towards creating a digital memory book for the 200+ names on the memorial, resources on how to research memorials & names. UG students doing some of research. Focus each year: 2014 re the University at war, 2015 Gertrude Bell, 2016 reluctant radicals, 2017 Literature in WW1, 2018, The fallen remembered.

- Emma Saunders, Cambridge University Library –‘Europe at War, 2016’, including manuscripts from the Siegfried Sassoon archive

Commemorations in 2016 – based around Sassoon and the Somme. Literary component – but also social, political and military. Have Sassoon’s diaries, notebooks, drafts, letters home, and sketches. Also letters and diaries from others serving, correspondence collections, Library War Reserve Collection – gathered by previous University librarian – books, periodicals, journals, trench newsletters etc. Focus on Europe, but may open it up to colonial administration.

- Anna Jarvis, Heritage Lottery Fund, HLF funding for First World War Centenary projects
Guide to different heritage grants and opportunities for funding FWW-related projects.

www.hlf.org.uk/firstworldwar

Also highlighted the National Heritage Memorial Fund – set up in memory of those who had lost their lives in war service – will fund heritage acquisition.

General meeting and AGM business, followed by news and updates from members

1. Introductions and apologies

Attending

Louise Bruton (BL)
 Judy Burg (University of Hull),
 Fiona Courage (University of Sussex)
 Charlotte Dickerson (BL),
 Rachel Foss (BL),
 Anne George (University of Birmingham),
 Richard High (Brotherton, University of Leeds),
 Jacky Hodgson (University of Sheffield),
 Anna Jarvis (HLF),
 Ian Johnson (University of Newcastle),
 Helen Melody (BL),
 Peter Monteith (Kings College Cambridge),
 Grant Repshire (University of Exeter, and Gloucester Archives),
 David Sutton (University of Reading),
 Caroline Sampson (University of Leicester),
 Emma Saunders (Cambridge University Library),
 Fiona Talbot (HLF)
 James Travers (TNA),
 Wim Van Mierlo (University of London, School of Advanced Study),
 Charlotte Scott (LMA),
 Zoe Wilcox (BL)

Apologies:

Louise Clough (University of Gloucester), Alison Cullingford (University of Bradford), Nia Daniel (NLW), Christine Fauch (University of Exeter) , Sara Hepworth (University of Glasgow), Julie Johnstone (Scottish Poetry Library), Jo Klett (University of Liverpool), Katrina Legg (Swansea University) Mandy Marvin (St John’s College Cambridge), Bethany Sinclair (PRONI), Claire Skinner (Wiltshire Record Office), Wendy Thirkettle (Isle of Man), John Wells (Cambridge University Library), Frances White (Kingston University)

2. **Minutes** of meeting held on 21 March 2013 at Sydney Jones Library, University of Liverpool; and matters arising

Minutes confirmed

Matters arising: Guidance to living authors –Diasporic Literary network committed to this, but would like to do it in collaboration. David Sutton has spoken to Jeremy Crow at the Society of Authors about a collaboration. There seems to be no such document in existence yet – so there is clearly a need. David Sutton to convene a group to look at this in the future.

3. Report from the GLAM committee meeting

Charlotte Scott welcomed as a new member of the GLAM committee. Following the resignation of Chris Sheppard, the committee took the view that it would be useful to have representative from a local authority as a member and invited Charlotte, from LMA to join.

There are now 8 GLAM members from local authorities (from a total membership of c. 160 people). Renewed plea for knowledge of any other LA archive institutions with literary archives who might be encouraged to join GLAM.

The Committee looked at future meetings of GLAM:

2014 spring- (probably March) – invitation from The Keep (University of Sussex, East Sussex Record Office and the Royal Museums Brighton and Hove). Date tbc

A theme was suggested by committee discussion relating to genre writing and archives: specialist repositories, collecting focuses, strategies for building collections, collecting policies, appropriateness, etc

2014 (September) – possibility of meeting in Aberystwyth. This is a challenging location from a travel point of view, but worth visiting for its literary collections and the meeting would be timed to coincide with the Dylan Thomas 100 exhibition which is to run from end June to end December 2014.

To make attendance worthwhile (as an overnight stay would be needed) the intention is to supplement GLAM business and themed meeting, with a joint meeting with Aberystwyth University School of Information Studies – perhaps something like ‘Manuscripts Matters part 3’. The Committee will be looking for pledges from GLAM members to attend. The proposal was endorsed by the general meeting.

The Committee will do its best to make sure the Aberystwyth meeting is good and successful.

The Cataloguing Working group has organised special conference “Cataloguing creativity” 15th November 2013. This is open for registrations on the British Library website. It has received a small subsidy from GLAM funds to hold down costs to £12 and features a very rich programme

Rachel Foss proposed that GLAM initiate a project on rights permissions and copyright within the context of literary manuscripts. The committee considered that GLAM was an appropriate organisation to take a lead and that the timing was good, given current developments and initiatives in the UK and internationally.

First steps will be to undertake a survey of GLAM members to see what they do in relation to copyright (eg ignore it, try to take on either ownership or management; is it a problem or something that is set to one side). Responses would be anonymised. It is hoped to start the project soon enough to have some report of progress for the spring meeting.

As part of the project, there will also be some research relating to orphan works. Rachel Foss and David Sutton will look at the SAA document on best practice to determine how much is transferable to the UK, and, again hope to report back to the spring meeting as to whether we could adopt it for the UK, or whether a more UK-specific document is needed.

4. AGM business matters

4.1. Election / confirmation of Officers

No nominations received for officers, so current holders will continue for a further year.

4.2. GLAM membership (Secretary)

There are now 168 members (ie individuals) on the GLAM membership list, of which 91 are from HEIs, 28 from national institutions, (including the BL with 7 individual members), 8 from local authorities. JB plans to check institutions where individual e-mail contacts are out of date (for 8 people from the membership list) to seek new contacts & members.

Several new members were added to the list as a result of information from TNA (accessions to repositories) and the updating of the Location register.

4.3. Report from Treasurer

No expenditure as yet. However GLAM funds will be used as a contribution to the Cataloguing Working Party conference in November, to keep the price of attendance as low as possible.

A policy is to be drafted relating to the ways in which GLAM funding is used (eg as a float for cash-flow, for seed funding, or as a subsidy for events). It is also beneficial to report back to donors and supporters of the impact when funds are used – to help attract further funding. GLAM may need to replenish funds soon, as there may be costs associated with the meeting / event at Aberystwyth.

4.4. Report from Web Officer

The membership page has been updated with new information about institutions represented, following the development of the membership list. This will be kept up to date and where there are obvious gaps (ie institutions not represented) this will be followed up.

Information has also been added about the Cataloguing Creativity conference, and a post about Seamus Heaney. There is a post forthcoming about the Edwin Morgan papers.

Appeal for people to contribute post for the website – can be short pieces or news snippets, not necessarily full articles.

4.5. Chair's report and review

There is plenty of evidence from growing membership, successful meetings conferences and business via e-mail etc that GLAM is thriving – it has a role that is appreciated. This was also especially reflected in the GLAM issue of ARC – an excellent tribute to the diversity and excellence of work done by GLAM members. We have feedback that it is the most popular and well read issue of the year.

5. News, updates or queries from members attending

Judy Burg (Hull University Archives, Hull History Centre). We are hoping to acquire the papers of Harry Chambers and the Phoenix literary archive. Work is continuing on the papers of Alan Plater

Jacky Hodgson (University of Sheffield) The library holds the Private Press books collection, and a colleague is developing a project with the School of English – relating to book art, works of poets, works from small presses that include both poetry, plays and book art. There will be events in Sheffield in the autumn – archival and literary elements.

Ian Johnson (University of Newcastle) Forthcoming project: Act Create AHRC project in the digital translations programme. Project to digitise the Bloodaxe Books archive - an archivist will be appointed to catalogue, and researchers will do outreach work and create a different visualisation of

material and pathways through it. Newcastle have learnt a lot from the experiences of JRUL relating to Carcarnet archive.

Charlotte Scott (LMA) LMA is no longer responsible for the management of Keats's House. The collection, including some manuscripts, is still housed at LMA but acquisition and cataloguing are now managed by the Museums Curator.

Emma Saunders (Cambridge University Library), currently working as project archivist on the Sassoon collection – also working on smaller Sassoon-related collections within the library holdings.

Grace Timmins (Lincoln Central Library / Tennyson Research Centre), The archive is filled with Tennyson's personal papers – manuscript proofs and also his family's material, including papers of later family members around the time of the First World War. Tennyson's home in the Isle of Wight is now owned by enthusiasts, so there is the possibility of a growth in tourism to IoW and possibly also the Lincoln centre.

Rachel Foss (BL). A theatre archive project has been running for c 9 years with Sheffield and then De Montfort Universities – it has aimed to reinvestigate post war British theatre 1945-68 – defining moments of a wide range of types of people. This project has now been reinvigorated – a post doctorate fellow will be appointed. The intention is to expand the scope of the project to look at Shakespeare in performance and to cover the period beyond 1968.

The British Library is also hosting an international translation day on 30th September – in conjunction with – English PEN, the Translators Association and others. – The day will feature an interview with Ngugi wa Thiong'o, a Kenyan writer, and also Henning Wehn, as part of the evening event on comedy in translation.

The British Library is also hosting a collaborative PhD student with UCL to work on the Michael Meyer archive (he translated Ibsen and others) – in relation to Ibsen on the British stage.

James Travers (TNA), Relevant initiatives at TNA currently, include the Archiving the Arts survey – aimed at sharing knowledge of collection, gaps, digitisation and best practice.

Also the HLF Collecting Cultures programme – this has been extended to archives – to help the proactive collection of material in a particular area. HLF grants under this scheme will provide money in advance to collect in a particular area. Funding for archives from November 2013 Accreditation - is now up and running. This also places emphasis on active collecting.

Fiona Courage (University of Sussex / The Keep) – Have recently acquired Virginia Woolf's engagement diaries – and subsequently also the papers of Livia Bell who edited the diaries. Mass Observation archive – have HLF funds from a Your Heritage Grant – for an educational project using MO diaries – they will be working with school children and prisoners in local prison. University of Sussex archives have now moved to The Keep along with East Sussex Record Office and Brighton & Hove Museums.

Anne George (University of Birmingham), - The cataloguing of the archives of Jean Fuller, a poet and biographer who died in 2004. She was a frequent correspondent with Martin Booth who founded the Sceptre Press. A PhD student is working on the papers of the Centre for Contemporary Culture which has its 50th anniversary next year

Helen Melody (BL), New studentships – to compile collection level descriptions of Caribbean collections. Also work on the papers of the writer and journalist Andrew Salkey. The BL and partners are looking at black British poets especially performance poets – partly to consider whether

the label is dismissive – should they just be British poets. There will be a new exhibition in the Folio Gallery about children's book illustrations.

Caroline Sampson (University of Leicester) relatively new in post – so on a learning curve in relation to collections. There are Joe Orton-related anniversaries coming up –which will be marked by various events.