

**Meeting of the Group for Literary Archives and Manuscripts  
Monday 10 March 2008 at Seven Stories,  
the Centre for Children's Books**

**Minutes**

**Present:** Chris Sheppard (Leeds University Library, Chair), Jamie Andrews (British Library), Fran Baker (John Rylands University Library, Manchester), Judy Burg (Hull University Archives), Alex Cave (Leicester University Library), Fiona Courage (Sussex University Library), Nia Daniel (National Library of Wales; left meeting early, at agenda item 5), Rachel Foss (British Library), Hannah Green (Seven Stories), Richard Higgins (Durham University Library), Ruth MacLeod (Senate House Library), Elinor Robinson (Seven Stories), Chris Webb (Borthwick Institute, York University), John Wells (Cambridge University Library).

**1. Apologies for absence:** Andrew Carlin, Alison Cullingford, Chris Fletcher, Jess Gardner, Stella Halkyard, Katy Hooper, Dorothy Johnston, Julie Johnstone, Patricia McGuire, Ed Potten, Samantha Rayner, David Sutton, Susan Thomas, James Travers, Maureen Watry, Anne Young.

**2. Minutes of the meeting held on 10 September 2007 at the British Library**

The minutes were approved.

**3. GLAM Survey report**

C. Sheppard explained that the survey's recommendations will largely be directed at the GLAM membership, but also beyond this to members' institutions and the UKLH Group.

He reported on some of the draft recommendations in the areas of policies, practice, and use. See committee meeting minutes for further details.

C. Sheppard aims to produce a final draft of the survey report and recommendations by (or shortly after) Easter, and will circulate this to the committee for comment.

J. Burg stressed the importance of communicating the survey's findings and recommendations to the UKLH Group and, through their auspices, to other interested bodies. F. Baker also suggested wider dissemination by means of listservs, newsletters and other publications.

**4. Report on the last UK Literary Heritage Group meeting**

C. Sheppard reported that the last meeting of the group took place on 6 February. It marked his first meeting since replacing Bill Simpson; in future, the Chair of GLAM will be a standing member of the UKLH Group.

For details of his report, see the committee meeting minutes.

In relation to the use of literary archives and manuscripts, C. Sheppard added that Andrew Motion was under the impression that not much was being done in terms of

teaching and other initiatives; the GLAM survey should demonstrate that this assumption is wrong.

J. Andrews requested GLAM members to continue submitting information about new acquisitions to Eileen Kinghan (copying to F. Baker) for the UKLH website.

#### **5. Report on CURL Special Collections discussion event on 5 February**

C. Sheppard explained that membership of CURL (Consortium of Research Libraries in the British Isles) is primarily drawn from the larger university libraries. Its name is going to be changed to Research Libraries UK. He reported briefly on the discussion event (see committee meeting minutes), which focused among other things on raising the profile of Special Collections departments and promoting them as central to the work of universities. There is likely to be a report and recommendations arising from the CURL event.

F. Courage commented that it would be useful, especially for member institutions' senior management, to see this report.

J. Burg queried whether the name change implied a widening of the membership; R. Higgins didn't think this was likely.

#### **6. Future meeting venues and topics**

Ideas suggested at the morning's committee meeting were discussed. The idea of a workshop on access and use was well received. A. Cave suggested bringing in 'end users' of access/use initiatives, e.g. teachers or students, to describe their experiences. R. Higgins suggested inviting funders as well.

#### **7. GLAM website**

F. Baker reported on the useful resources section of the website, and invited members to submit information about useful books or articles on literary archives/MSS for the bibliography she is putting together. She also reported on the archiving of the site by UKWAC and the recent approach from the UK Legal Deposit Advisory Panel (see committee meeting minutes for details).

#### **8. A.O.B.**

J. Andrews reported on the British Records Association annual meeting which is being hosted by the British Library on 2 December. The programme will focus on literary archives and manuscripts. Seven Stories are already being represented, as is the John Murray Archive, and there will also be a conservation workshop. It is hoped that a GLAM panel will also be included.

C. Sheppard reminded members about the Archive Fervour / Archive Further conference which is taking place at Aberystwyth University on 9-11 July. A number of GLAM members are speaking at this event focusing on 'literature, archives and literary archives', and other members are encouraged to attend.

#### **9. Date and location of next meeting**

F. Baker reported that the National Library of Scotland has offered to host the next meeting in September. Robin Smith has suggested a programme which focuses on the Murray archive, including a talk from their current writer in residence, and the possibility of a talk from one of the staff working on interpretative and educational projects connected to the archive.

The Edinburgh-based CILIP Rare Books conference was mentioned, and F. Baker undertook to check dates and confirm things with the NLS. *[Post-meeting note: the CILIP event, which is focusing on the history of the Scottish book, will be taking place on 10-12 September; 9 September has therefore been pencilled in as the date for the GLAM meeting].*

Seven Stories staff were thanked for hosting the GLAM meeting, and for their presentations on some of the inspiring access initiatives being carried out at Seven Stories.