

GLAM General Meeting, London Metropolitan Archives 12 September 2012

Huntley Room, London Metropolitan Archives

General meeting

11.45 General meeting: Theme – born-digital archives
Presentations with Q&A, followed by general discussion

- Fran Baker, John Rylands Library, the Carcanet project
- Helen Melody and Sophie Baldock, British Library

1.45 General meeting

Present

Fran Baker (JRL), Sophie Baldock (British Library), Judy Burg (Hull), Frances Clarke (National Library of Ireland), Ann George (University of Birmingham), Bridget Gillies (UEA), Jacky Hodgson (Sheffield), Hannah Izod (Seven Stories), Helen Melody (British Library), Joanna Norledge (V&A), Sarah Prescott (University of Leeds), Alysoun Sanders (Macmillan), Emma Saunders (University of Cambridge), Caroline Shaw (Schroder Archive). Maria Sheridan (University of St Andrews), Lianne Smith (Kings College, London), David Sutton (Reading), Susan Thomas (Bodleian), Wim Van Mierlo (University of London), John Wells (University of Cambridge), Zoe Wilcox (British Library)

1. Introductions and apologies

Apologies:

Louise Clough (University of Gloucester), Fiona Courage (Sussex), Alison Cullingford (University of Bradford), Simon Dixon (University of Leicester), Christine Fauch (University of Exeter), Jacqui Grainger (Chawton House), Sally Harrower (National Library of Scotland), Jo Klett (University of Liverpool), Katrina Legg (Swansea University), Patricia McGuire (Kings, Cambridge), Della Murphy (National Library of Ireland) Wendy Thirkettle (Manx), James Travers (TNA), Frances White (Kingston)

2. Minutes of meeting held on 23 March 2012 at UEA and matters arising

Agreed, with minor amendment to item 6

Matters arising:

Heather Dean of Yale is happy to share the powerpoint presentation from SAA with GLAM. DS will forward a copy to ZW for the GLAM website,

There were no comments or objections from GLAM members to the new constitution so it is now adopted.

3. Report from GLAM Committee meeting

- **Membership and links to other organisations.**

There are now 152 members of GLAM (118 in March 2012), following a successful and fruitful posting on the archives-nra listserv. Members from higher education institutions still make up the largest group, at 85 (76) people, but the proportion of members from other types of institution is growing. 21 (18) members are from national libraries or museums and 6 (2) are from local authority archives. In addition to this increase in members, there are a further 19 institutions identified (from

the revision of the Location Register, from TNA returns of accessions to repositories and from GLAM committee members' suggestions) as having holdings of literary archives. Further institutions might be identified from data gathered c.2004 for a project for LASER on literary papers in public archives.

Information has also been gathered on membership of other related groups amongst GLAM members. Adding to information previously reported the list is:

Group / organisation	GLAM member and link
ARA Data Standards Group	Susan Thomas (Bodleian Library) Committee member
CILIP Rare Books and Special Collections Group	Alison Cullingford (University of Bradford) Committee member
GLAM-NA	David Sutton undertakes liaison on behalf of GLAM
ICA Section on Literary Archives	David Sutton reports to and from GLAM
Literary Homes and Museums of Great Britain www.lithouses.org	Geoff Pick (London Metropolitan Archives) Founder member and remains involved.
RLUK (Research Libraries UK)	Alison Cullingford (University of Bradford) Managing a project relating to unique and distinctive collections in research libraries.
Society of American Archivists	David Sutton undertakes liaison on behalf of GLAM
Science Fiction Collections Consortium (based in North America)	Andy Sawyer (University of Liverpool) Member (possibly the only member outside North America)
Science Fiction Foundation	Andy Sawyer (University of Liverpool) Committee member
UK Literary Heritage Working Group (UKLHWG)	David Sutton, officially represents GLAM

Further action:

- JB to follow up additional institutions identified as having literary holdings
- JB to check with new members that individuals also represent their employing organisation and then to pass details (as appropriate) to ZW for adding to list of institutional members on GLAM website.
- JB to approach tutors on archive courses, to raise awareness of GLAM amongst students and also to highlight the subject of literary archives (and issues relating to them) as a rich source for dissertation topics.

- **Cataloguing Working Party (ZW)**

The Cataloguing Working Party have received a good response from members with feedback and comments on the Cataloguing Guidelines. These are now being revised and a new version should be ready some time in the new year. Christine Fauch has had to step down from the CWP, so new members are needed to help take forward the work of the group. GLAM members who have given feedback have been asked if they are interested in contributing. The group meets twice a year, usually in London and Helen Melody is now chair. The committee thanked Christine for all her work on the group.

- **Website (ZW)**

Zoe is keen to encourage posting stories about literary archives from member institutions on the

GLAM blog- please contact her with any material to publish. For anyone wanting their own access to the blog, ZW can provide user names and logins.

David Sutton highlighted other related websites: The Diasporic Literary Archives Network is trying to encourage blog posts in other languages. The Literary Archives section of the ICA is also trying to encourage contributions. Their current lead story relates to a project to protect the papers of dissident writers. GLAM-NA also has a website & blog.

These blogs will be added to GLAM's blog roll.

- **UKLHWG**

Discussions are continuing about the future shape and membership of UKLHWG – so there will be discussions next year about the relationship between UKLHWG and GLAM. There seems to be good split of membership & roles : GLAM is mainly professionals & those working with literary archives, members of UKLHWG are better positioned to lobby government, etc. This will be on the agenda for the next committee meeting

- **Future meetings- location and themes.**

- Spring 2013

There is currently no offer to host the spring meeting. The suggestion was made to investigate the possibility of a visit to the University of Liverpool and if that was not possible to meet at John Rylands Library, Manchester.

- Autumn 2013

As previously reported, there is an offer from Chawton House Library.

- 2014

As previously reported, there is an offer from the National Library of Wales for 2014. The feasibility of a visit to NLW (in terms of GLAM members being able to justify the time and expense of a journey and probable overnight stay) was discussed. Various options were suggested, including combining a GLAM meeting (or having it coincide) with a related group meeting or conference or training day; and holding the meeting on a Friday to reduce work days lost to travel.

Possible future themes:

- Spring 2013: use of literary archives and obstacles to use (including IPR). See also project proposal, below.
- Other themes previously discussed include: use of archives in education; orphan works and the Hargreaves report; working with FOI an principles of access.

- **Ideas for future projects –**

Rachel Foss (British Library):

The British Library is undertaking a periodic review of the question of rights in collections and is increasingly trying to reach agreement about exploitation of material and including this into agreements and workflow. (Not necessarily with the view of acquiring rights, this is not likely or always appropriate, but to agree some sort of licensing agreement, as was the case with the papers of Mervyn Peake.) Increasingly the question of rights is likely to influence decisions about acquisition. There is also an increasing view in the arts & heritage arena of the importance of thinking about rights & rights exploitation. This was illustrated by a recent conference on rights and rights exploitation organised jointly by the BBC and Arts Council. (This event led to the production of a toolkit which is available on the Arts Council website.) There seems to be a view that institutions' attitude to risk (reputational risk) was changing.

The suggestion is for a GLAM project involving a consultation exercise / survey – with creators,

donors & also with dealers – to create an evidence base; and also an information-gathering exercise with collecting institutions relating to their views & activities.

GLAM members endorsed the idea as a GLAM project.

Rachel Foss agreed to draw up a scoping note & work plan – to circulate to volunteers, then committee and then membership; with a view to reporting on progress and next steps at the GLAM meeting in spring 2013.

Others interested in contributing: David Sutton, Hannah Izod (Seven Stories) Susan Thomas, tbc (Bodleian Library), John Wells (Cambridge University Library)

Fran Baker (JRL):

Issue raised by a volunteer cataloguer at JRL who is cataloguing the papers of Tony Dyson - including the Norwich Tapes, featuring writers & critics talking about their work and others. The tapes are documented in the archive, but there are no copies of tapes themselves. The volunteer has identified institutions which do or might hold copies of the tapes. Would this make a possible GLAM project to find out where tapes exist, have them digitised and make them available?

The committee's view as that this should be discussed with colleagues from the former British Sound Archive (now part of the British Library) to see if there is potential for a joint GLAM / BL project on audio material. The successor body to the British Sound archive has been working on issue of rights and there are many GLAM members will have audio / video material within their literary archive collections.

RF & ZW agreed to follow this up with colleagues at BL.

- **ARC GLAM issue.**

The GLAM special issue for 2013 will be the August issue of ARC. Copy deadline will be early June (date tbc). Feedback from the ARC editorial team is that the GLAM issue is the most interesting to edit. It is hoped to include several of the articles from GLAM's 10 x 10 presentations at the British Library Manuscripts Still Matter conference

4. Diasporic Literary Archives Network (David Sutton)

Background to the network: members come from the UK, USA, France, Italy, Trinidad, Namibia. Funding from the Leverhulme Trust runs from 2012 to 2014 for a website and network meetings. The first meeting (described on the website) was held in Reading in June. It was intended to be preview meeting of issues that would be covered during life of project 2012-14.

These included: born-digital records, digitisation, the politics of location (particularly relevant to Trinidad & Namibia); privacy and confidentiality (with a message that confidentiality might be less of an issue for some writers, who write about their own life); the way in which literary archives become diasporic (Chris Fletcher from the Bodleian Library spoke about the example of Kafka archive – which travelled from Austria to Israel to Switzerland and is now in the joint ownership of the Bodleian and Deutsches Literaturarchiv in Marbach); copyright, permissions, appropriateness of location, UNESCO's role re cultural heritage, split collections as particular feature of literary archives (Rachel Foss spoke about Ted Hughes archive – at Emory and British Library), the need for co-operation between repositories of special collections.

Future meetings of the network: the next meeting is in Italy – specifically on issue of split collections & collaboration. There is also a meeting in France in 2013. Meetings in 2014 are in Trinidad – focussing on the politics of location – including speakers from US and Trinidad; and at Yale – focussing on all aspects re born-digital and digitised material.

At the end of the project there will be a report which will cover all aspects; the network will hand over their papers to the ICA section on literary archives.

5. News, updates, questions or issues from members attending

Hull History Centre	An archivist is working on the papers of Archie Markham
British Library	The Writing Britain Exhibition closes on 25 th Sept. The 'Manuscripts Still Matter' conference was very successful. BL hopes to make contributions available on website – link will be circulated to GLAM members.
Institute of English Studies, University of London	Conference on 15-16 March on book history – but also related to archives, writers and their libraries. (information will be circulated to GLAM members)
University of Birmingham	Expecting a deposit of Noel Coward records (Uof B already has Noel Coward material – some of which is closed). Also putting on an exhibition about children as writers (September to December 2012) – on Birmingham campus and also images on flickr and/or website, Also still working on Norman Painting archive.
Sheffield University	Jack Rosenthal / Maureen Lipman exhibition has just finished and it is hoped that it will transfer to the Manchester Jewish Museum. SU also hopes to do an exhibition next year on the use of dialect in writing – to coincide with the Festival of Steel in Sheffield.
University of St Andrews	Are more actively collecting poets' literary archives. Raised a question about use of material for outreach in schools. Response from Seven Stories
Kings College London	Literary papers form a small part of overall collections. They include unpublished mss of Katherine Mansfield – found recently (it had been catalogued)– This was widely publicised on the BBC and in the Independent and has led to a re-focus on literary papers within the collections.
Reading	The Location Register is half way through a three-year project to refresh and extend the register in Britain and Ireland – www.locationregister.com Colleague Julia Hallam has now left so work is continuing using part time short term research assistants. They are hoping to make significant progress on listing new accessions since 2000 and sometime next year will start to bring together and publish findings on new types of literary mss and archives which are now increasingly becoming the norm since 2000. Thanks to many GLAM members who have been helping Julia & David by making catalogues available.
John Rylands University Library	Work is continuing on the Carcanet e-mails. There have also been a few small recent accessions
V&A	The V&A archives have just reopened their reading rooms after a closure period for building work. Recent accessions include Malcolm Chapman's Tony Hancock collection of scripts and other papers.
University of East Anglia	UEA archives are blogging every week about their work with literary mss – it has been a useful creative exercise
Seven Stories	Planning an Enid Blyton exhibition in May 2013 – if anyone has any Blyton-related material, especially illustrations, please let Hannah know.
Leeds	Recent accessions include papers relating to Graham Greene Ian Duhig, Simon Armitage. They are planning an exhibition for January about Branwell Bronte's childhood mss.
Bodleian	The Bodleian is a member of a group working on born digital material – putting together mss for all areas of literary archives – hoping to publish first draft in October or November, probably on their website – for comments.

Cambridge University Library	Work is continuing on the Siegfried Sassoon papers. Recent accessions include the papers of Joanne Limburg – a Cambridge writer at a relatively early stage in her career (see GLAM blog) and also the papers of the novelist, poet and educationist David Holbrook, including the draft of his novel <i>Flesh Wounds</i> .
National Library of Ireland	Work is continuing on a catalogue of literary mss. It is hoped that it will be finished late autumn and made available. The project has been heavily flagged in the Irish media.

Many of the updates from members mentioned work on collection development (policies and strategies) and it was thought that the subject of local appropriateness and collecting papers of regional writers might make a theme for a future GLAM meeting.

6. Date and location of next meeting

Liverpool – tbc (see above)

7. AOB

There was no other business.