

## **Group for Literary Archives and Manuscripts**

### **21 March 2014, at The Keep, Woollards Way, Brighton, BN1 9BP**

**Theme: genre writing and archives: specialist repositories, collecting focuses, strategies for building collections, collecting policies, appropriateness.**

Presentations:

Wendy Thirkettle, Manx National Heritage

- an introduction to the literary archive holdings including those in Manx Gaelic
- Manx dialect playscripts, prose and poetry
- Science fiction content in the papers of Nigel Kneale

Jacky Hodgson, University of Sheffield

A short introduction to writing for drama" collections (theatre, TV, film, radio) at Sheffield

Richard Wiltshire, LMA

An introduction to publishers collections at LMA - including one of the first black publishing firms in the UK, Bogle L'Ouverture – Eric and Jessica Huntley

Rachel Foss, British Library

Developing modern literary manuscripts collecting strategy at the BL - posing some broad questions (f not quite answering them) around emerging areas of collecting.

## **General meeting**

### **1. Introductions and apologies**

Fran Baker, University of Manchester Library

Judy Burg, Hull University Archives at Hull History Centre

Fiona Courage, Sussex University / The Keep

Anne George, University of Birmingham

Joanne Fitton, University of Leeds

Rachel Foss, British Library

Melinda Haunton, The National Archives

Jacky Hodgson, University of Sheffield

Ian Johnson, University of Newcastle

Helen Melody, British Library

Alysoun Sanders, Macmillan

Charlotte Scott, London Metropolitan Archives

David Sutton, University of Reading

Wendy Thirkettle, Manx National Heritage

Wim Van Mierlo, University of London, School of Advanced Study

Richard Wiltshire, London Metropolitan Archives

## Apologies

Louise Clough, University of Gloucester; Sally Harrower, National Library of Scotland; Julie Johnstone, Scottish Poetry Library; Jo Klett, University of Liverpool; Hannah Lowery, University of Bristol; Mandy Marvin, St John's College, Cambridge; Patricia McGuire, King's College Cambridge; Caroline Sampson, University of Leicester; Claire Skinner, Wiltshire; Grace Timmins, Tennyson Research Centre, Lincoln Central Library; James Travers, TNA; Jenny Ulph, Downing College, Cambridge; Zoe Watson, University of Reading; Zoe Wilcox, British Library; John Wells, Cambridge University Library.

## **2. Minutes of meeting held on 9<sup>th</sup> September, 2013 at Senate House**

No amendments or additions.

## **3. Report from the GLAM committee**

### **Cataloguing Working Party**

The event in November was a massive success, over 80 people attended and there were more proposals for papers than they could accommodate. Congratulations from the committee to the CWP on this success.

There were lots of presentations from archivists researchers writers; with themes including challenges to objectivity, partnerships between writers and archivists and researchers, and one paper from overseas (Antwerp). A lot of papers are now available on the GLAM website.

This event was the culmination of the first phase of work. The next CWP meeting is in May – the group will discuss where to go next.

### **Treasurer –**

GLAM has spent some money – to support the cataloguing working party event at the BL £540 in total. New balance £560 - still with Co-op Bank.

We need to start looking at how we can generate some income. In the meantime, remaining funds should be used predominantly as a float (ie refunded) not as absolute expenditure.

Fiona Courage is standing down from September and the committee recorded a vote of thanks to her for her work.

### **IP rights in literary collections**

A survey to GLAM membership about attitudes and approaches to IP rights within collections is being drafted and will be circulated to members early April.

### **Project relating to orphan works in literary archives.**

The working group has begun to adapt a statement by SAA relating to best practice. The EU is about to publish guidelines on orphan works, hopefully by the end of 2014. The group will continue the work of adapting SAA statement – but park any further action until EU guidelines are issued and then look at them.

### **GLAM / Literary Manuscripts edition of ARC**

Copy deadline 8 August 2014, for October edition of ARC.

Two previous editions, 2012 introductory, 2013 revisited 10 x 10 talks from Manuscripts still Matter conference at the British Library.

2014 theme – working with literary manuscripts – to include presentations from CWP conference.

**Also – call for offers from GLAM members on issues such as creative work arising out of the archive, papers of artists in residence, outreach, education, creative use of IT, etc.**

## **Future meetings and themes**

**17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> September 2014**

**Boardroom, National Library of Wales, Aberystwyth**

### Theme

Collaboration and partnership– cross sector, different roles, literary societies, valuers, literary agents, publishers,

Strong content and good case studies to create an attractive programme and encourage people to attend.

Presentations will be fairly short – as many to include within the two days.

Format likely to feature 1- 1½ hour slots for groups of short presentations and round table discussions.

Possible content / speakers – all TBC:

- Literary societies – Kipling society, Dylan Thomas society, Norman Nicholson
- LMA - Friends of Huntley archives an unusual and successful model (LMA)
- Venues and literary houses
- publishers - Carcanet, Bloodaxe
- Birmingham city library – including Shakespeare library
- Cross sector – The Keep or Hull History Centre
- Swansea –work of Elisabeth Bennet – lots of collaborations
- literary agency archives - as a type of collection (Alexandra Cann JB, Curtis Brown, FC, Pollinger, LMA)
- Higher Education – collaborative PhD, PG teaching, creative writing
- content from NLW & University of Aberystwyth School of Information Studies and Department of English – reserved slot
- writers in residence – archives for London, Benjamin Zephania?

**Volunteers / ideas for contributions encouraged - please send details to David Sutton**

A suggestion was made that GLAM is represented at other meetings and events, within the literary world, to promote preservation of literary archives

### **Autumn 2015**

**venue tbc – any offers appreciated (preferably for a non-south-east location)**

Theme:

Publishing archives – working with, literary manuscripts within them, etc, encouraging use of publishing archives, including a closed session to exchange information on challenges of working with publishing archives.

### **Spring 2015**

**Venue: British Library**

Theme:

Work on how archivists negotiate with authors and heirs – practicalities of working towards acquisition. Preparatory work, things not to be forgotten, issues relating to valuation, donation / deposit. To explore the theme 'from both ends' – archivists' approach, also authors and heirs, including work being carried out through the Diasporic Literary Archive Network on guidance for

authors about what they should think about. Eg asking for conditions – re storage, how soon catalogued, levels of consultation about sensitivity / confidentiality, copyright compliance, etc; status of digital archives; maintaining a relationship

A sub group of the GLAM committee is to meet later in 2015 to formulate a programme for this meeting. Including a closed session for free exchange of information and views.

#### 4. News and updates from members attending

- Wim Van Mierlo, University of London, School of Advanced Study  
Conference “Forbidden access” about censoring books and archives – call for papers 6-7 November, 2014 at Senate House.

- Judy Burg, Hull University Archives at Hull History Centre  
Hull will be the UK’s City of Culture in 2017. Archives (and literary archives, particularly those of Philip Larkin) will feature during the year. Plans are at an early stage of development. The papers of Harry Chambers and the Phoenix literary archive arrived just before Christmas.

- Helen Melody, British Library  
We celebrate the life and work of the writer, poet and artist **Laurie Lee** (1914-1997). 2014 is the centenary of Lee’s birth and this event is part of a national programme to celebrate and re-examine Laurie Lee’s life and literary legacy. Laurie Lee, the writer, poet and artist, is probably best known for his autobiographical trilogy, 'Red Sky at Sunrise', which includes an account of his childhood in rural Gloucestershire in *Cider with Rosie* (1959) and his involvement with the International Brigade during the Spanish Civil War in *As I Walked Out One Midsummer Morning* (1969). Louis de Bernières, Tim Dee, Adam Horowitz, P.J. Kavanagh and Brian Patten will read from Lee’s work and give their personal reflections on its significance and impact upon them. There will be an opportunity for discussion and questions from the audience.  
In addition a small display entitled ‘Laurie Lee: Memories of War’ will be held in the Sir John Ritblat Treasures gallery from 17<sup>th</sup> April until 20<sup>th</sup> July. The display which will include drafts of Lee’s autobiographical works, *As I Walked Out One Midsummer Morning* and *A Moment of War*. Please let me know if you need any further information.

Also project - Poets in the City – creating new work inspired by the collections. Working with other organisations, including St Paul’s Cathedras and the Royal College of Surgeons. Andrew Motion is involved in the project and is looking at First World War archives. There will be a launch event for the project at the British Library in November.

A weekend festival was held at the BL to coincide with the inaugural Folio Fiction prize. There were interviews with writers, and an event using the reading room space (for the first time) on a Sunday.

- Ian Johnson, University of Newcastle  
The Bloodaxe archive AHRC-funded project is underway – cataloguing, and working with academics. The project archivist is speaking at the ARA conference. Another small publishing archive has been acquired – Iron Press, and Flambar. A NCGP grant has been obtained for work on the Michael and Sid Chaplin archive. Catherine Cookson’s biographer has made an approach - in relation to research but also possibly the deposit of papers.

- Melinda Haunton, The National Archives  
The writer of the month programme will be continuing in 2014. The Explore your Archive scheme is expected to run again – with the same identity but new verb, “archive remembered” (still to be

confirmed). TNA has received HLF funding within the Catalyst programme – raising archive sector's capacity to fundraise – eg negotiating lifetime giving- including acquisition. The Accessions to Repositories survey is continuing – an archives digest will be issued soon. A funding call under this year's round of the NCGP has just been announced.

- Fran Baker JRUL / Manchester University Library

There has been a further digital deposit - of e-mails from Carcanet, and the entire collection of Carcanet e-mails have been ingested into the digital repository – c. 215,000 e-mails and 65,000 attachments. Ingest doubled the size of the content. A solr index has been created, but there is no user interface yet – a developer is working on it, Papers have been acquired of Herbert Lomas, 1924-2011 poet and translator (particularly from Finnish). 2014 is the Centenary of Norman Nicholson, a Cumbrian poet and there will be an exhibition in the summer.

- Anne George, University of Birmingham

Have submitted a bid to the Noel Coward foundation for an archivist and conservator to work on literary papers. They are revising the budget and working with schools and the university to make a collaborative project.

Recent accessions – papers of Edith Barling – Birmingham writer; and an MA thesis by Henry Reed about the works of Thomas Hardy. LGBT Week was marked by a talk about the Henry Reed papers (he is famous for the poem Naming of Parts)

- Fiona Courage, University of Sussex / The Keep

They have funding for an archivist to catalogue the papers of Grace Lake, the avant-garde poet, and feminist activist. New acquisition: papers of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century novelist May Sinclair.

- Wendy Thirkettle, Manx National Heritage

Possible acquisitions: papers of Vivian Allen, writer and biographer; papers of Paul Levinsky, editor and actor.

- David Sutton, University of Reading / Diasporic Literary Archives Network.

Location Register Project – another grant has been obtained from The British Academy to fund work from mid-2014 to mid-2015

Diasporic Literary Archives Network – Monique Roffey's papers are being relocated at the University of the West Indies – they are presently held at the University of Reading for safekeeping. This is a great result in terms of appropriateness of place of deposit - and is possibly the first example of post-colonial relocation where the best final destination was outside the UK. University of the West Indies has fine literary collections.

DLAN are instigating a project relating to archives in danger –an international project – with a literary theme – and the ambitious target of covering the whole world. It will involve UNESCO, IFLA (The International Federation of Library Associations), PEN, Amnesty International, ICA and British Library Endangered Archives Programme. The project has already started working on literary archives in Syria. Adonis (Ali Ahmed Said) papers have been rescued from Syria, with an agreement that they would be returned if/when the situation improves. The project will also work in Madagascar, Congo (Brazzaville), Grenada; and will cover papers of political dissidents and authors. There is a proposal to get PEN and UNESCO to endorse a paper – relating to the permanent recognition of papers of dissident authors, and the way in which papers can be rescued and held on a temporary goodwill basis, with a contract or other agreement that they be returned to their home country. A case in point is Zimbabwe – where some authors feel that if they deposited papers with the national record office they would be destroyed- so papers need a temporary home.