

**Meeting of the Group for Literary Archives and Manuscripts  
Monday 10 September 2007 at the British Library  
Minutes**

**Present:** Chris Sheppard (Leeds University Library, Chair), Jamie Andrews (British Library), Fran Baker (John Rylands University Library, Manchester), Guy Baxter (V&A Theatre Collections), Robert Brown (Faber and Faber), Alex Cave (Leicester University Library), Fiona Courage (Sussex University Library), Alison Cullingford (Bradford University Library), Christine Fauch (Exeter University Library), Chris Fletcher (Bodleian Library), Rachel Foss (British Library), Chris Fowler (Oxford Brookes University Library), Jessica Gardner (Exeter University Library), Stella Halkyard (John Rylands University Library, Manchester), Graeme Harper (National Institute for Excellence in the Creative Industries, Bangor University), Kathryn Johnson (British Library), Patricia McGuire (King's College Library, Cambridge), Samantha Rayner (National Institute for Excellence in the Creative Industries, Bangor University), Elinor Robinson (Seven Stories), Nicholas Robinson (Fitzwilliam Museum), Daniel Scott-Davies (Royal Air Force Museum), Robin Smith (National Library of Scotland), Eleanor Thornton (British Library), James Travers (TNA), John Wells (Cambridge University Library), Sue Willetts (London University, Institute of Classical Studies Library).

**1. Apologies for absence:** Sian Bowyer, Karen Brookfield, Sally Brown, Judy Burg, Andrew Carlin, Nia Daniel, Jo Elsworth, Philip Endean, John Gray, Dorothy Johnston, Julie Johnstone, Sarah Lawrance, Hannah Lowery, Sheila Noble, Ed Potten, Marie Reddan, Roger Sims, Susan Thomas, Diane Tyler, John Walker, Maureen Watry, Chris Webb, Deirdre Wildy, Anne Young.

**2. Minutes of the meeting held on 16 March 2007 at Cambridge University Library, and matters arising.**

The minutes were approved.

F. Baker thanked those who had supplied new images for the website, and Jan Whalen at the John Rylands University Library for uploading these and generally maintaining the website. She also thanked those who had sent suggestions for inclusion on the new 'useful resources' section of the website (which is still at planning stage).

**3. GLAM survey of collecting policy and practice**

C. Sheppard reported that the three committee members engaged in analysing the survey results will be putting together proposals and recommendations covering such areas as: formulating collecting policies for literary archives/MSS; ongoing monitoring of information about acquisitions; identifying gaps in collecting policies and practices; providing practical assistance to members, e.g. by means of workshops focusing on issues like the valuation of literary papers; and highlighting the uses to which literary archives/MSS can be put, to underpin advocacy.

These recommendations will be addressed to GLAM members and will go out to the membership for comment in time for the next meeting.

See the minutes of the committee meeting on 10 September 2007 for further details about plans for the survey.

#### 4. UK Literary Heritage Group report

JA reported on recent UKLHG developments:

##### ***Caring for our Collections:***

In June the Select Committee published its report on *Caring for our Collections* (available via <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmcomeds.htm>). This includes a section on authors' manuscripts, in which the committee recommends UKLH's proposals that the *douceur* be extended to income tax, and the Acceptance in Lieu scheme be extended to benefit living creators. The report is available as a link via the UKLH website, and will also be linked to from the GLAM website. The UKLHG will wait until the Comprehensive Spending Review is complete before taking things forward.

##### ***Publicity:***

Recent UKLH publicity activity has included: an *Independent on Sunday* article by Andrew Motion, who also spoke on the Radio 4 Today programme; and a letter to the *New Yorker*, written by J. Andrews in response to an earlier piece on the collecting practices of the Harry Ransom Center in Texas. Bill Simpson is currently drafting an article for a local authority audience; and Alan Howarth is drafting a piece for a parliamentary magazine.

J. Andrews is writing a piece for *The Author* (which is aimed at writers, agents and publishers). He asked GLAM members to email him during the next month with any suggestions of issues they feel authors should be made aware of ([Jamie.Andrews@bl.uk](mailto:Jamie.Andrews@bl.uk)).

##### ***Treasury:***

The Treasury approached the UKLHG for a meeting after the publication of *Caring for our Collections*, and a meeting was held between staff from the Treasury, the DCMS, and representatives from the UKLHG (J. Andrews, Ronald Milne and Eileen Kinghan). When the UKLHG proposals (re. the *douceur* and AiL) were explained in detail, the Treasury were more supportive; they appreciated the concrete details about acquisitions provided by the GLAM survey, and were reassured about potential abuses of the *douceur* proposal after collecting policies had been explained to them. Overall the meeting was a positive one, although there is no likelihood of any action being taken immediately.

#### 5. Publicity

C. Sheppard reported on his recent address to the Specialist Repositories Group of the Society of Archivists, which elicited a very positive response. Their renewed offer of funds stands as a clear endorsement of GLAM and its aims.

F. Baker reported that an invitation had been received from the editor of the *Archives* journal for a GLAM contribution, possibly to publicise the results of the survey.

## **6. Conference on literature, archives and literary archives being held at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, in July 2008.**

C. Sheppard referred to this conference ('Archive Fervour / Archive Further'), details of which were previously circulated to the GLAM list; he stressed that any joint contribution from GLAM would not be inconsistent with individual contributions to the conference, and encouraged members to submit proposals (the deadline is 1 December 2007).

The committee will think about a possible joint GLAM contribution, and C. Sheppard invited members to submit suggestions for this.

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

F. Baker reported that Seven Stories, The Centre for Children's Books, in Newcastle has offered to host the March 2008 meeting. There will be no external speaker at this meeting, which will focus on the work of Seven Stories itself.

A meeting at the National Library of Scotland has been pencilled in for September 2008; this will largely focus on the John Murray archive.

J. Gardner stressed the importance of scheduling time for talking and networking, and this will be taken into account when planning future meetings.

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

F. Baker reported on behalf of Judy Burg from the Brynmor Jones Library (University of Hull) that Hull History Centre has been successful in its Stage 2 bid to HLF, so the project is now going ahead. Building should be complete by summer 2009, and they would be happy to host a GLAM meeting after that date.

G. Baxter, Chair of the Theatre Information Group (TIG), suggested that there should be some dialogue between GLAM and TIG, which is a similar organisation focusing on the performing arts; he raised the possibility of a future joint event. TIG will supply GLAM with some information about themselves, and invited GLAM to submit similar information to TIG.

Thanks was extended to J. Andrews for hosting the meeting, and J. Travers for facilitating arrangements with both speakers.

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

The next meeting will take place at Seven Stories, The Centre for Children's Books, Newcastle, in March 2008; date and time to be confirmed.