GLAM Committee Meeting Minutes March 22nd, Cambridge

Present: Rachel Foss, David Sutton, John Wells, Charlotte Scott, Sarah Prescott, Clare George

Apologies: James Travers, Joanne Fitton, Fran Baker

1. Minutes: minutes of previous meeting agreed.
2. Date of next meeting: 15th October, 2018, London
3. Chair’s Report:
4. **Events Officer Role**: Welcome to CG, overview of role requirements.

ACTION: JF to put together brief for CG, to be seen by committee

1. **Committee discussion on ARA affiliation**:

Possible benefits of ARA affiliation – similar to Health archives group

DS: meeting with John Chambers several years ago: ARA would not seek to create its own literary section, but would operate an information exchange with GLAM, recognising independence. A framework was agreed in principle 2 years ago. This is still in place but little has been actioned.

CG: New Professionals group was started independently but moved to ARA.

JW: risk that ARA might pigeonhole membership as professional organisation – rather than welcoming wider usage.

DS: suggesting revisiting partnership, e.g. distributing GLAM information via ARAs networks

ACTION: RF to contact Health Archives group chair to discuss how this works for them/what benefits received.

1. Membership report:
   1. Membership numbers remain the same.
   2. Communications update proposal: Sending all membership communications from one personal mailbox is not sustainable. Also need to be cognisant of impact of GDPR. Suggestions:
      * create a jiscmail list for all GLAM communications.
      * Email to all members asking them to sign up to list, stating that no further communications will come through email. Stating the GLAM is cognizant of GDPR regulations – this communication to be approved by committee before being sent out.
      * Use GLAM gmail account for any email communications necessary.
      * Cross-post event invitations in NRA list.
      * Eventbrite will continue to be used for event invitations.

Anticipate significant drop off in membership numbers, but, hope that this will more accurately reflect active participation in group.

RF: Eventbrite does not register apologies. Include suggestion that any apologies be sent to GLAM gmail.

DS: need to clarify what posts appropriate for list?

ACTION: JF/SP create jiscmail list, draft membership communication. Contact members once statement approved by committee.

1. Treasurers Report
2. No transactions. Balance remains:
3. DS: reported on Strachey Trust meeting. Trust to make a contribution of £600 to GLAM funds. Strachey Trust may consider further application in future.

ACTION: DS to thank Strachey Trust & contact FB to arrange transfer.

1. ACTION: FB following up on letter to John Murray trust, to be picked up after meeting RF & FB meet to discuss.
2. Web Officers Report
   1. Report on website refresh.
   2. Request for Committee Members to submit images which can be used on the website.

ACTION: SP to circulate image requirements

1. Future meetings
   1. CS: update on Southbank/ National Poetry Centre meeting: to include Archives Studio visit.
   2. October 2018: discussion on theme & potential speakers

Themes: Future of poetry archives/Collecting policies? What will collecting policies be in 20 years time?

RF: scope for collections development piece/poetry production collections/ distinctive elements of poetry archive collecting/Representation of poetry performance/AV poetry archives

DS: could do piece on collections development internationally as potential back stop

* 1. March 2019: New professionals meeting – date to be determined.

UPDATE: Offer of venue at International Anthony Burgess Foundation in Manchester. Leeds also possible.

Suggested theme of diversity, both within collecting policies & then diversity within profession.

CG: LMA unofficially supporting Para-professional group on diversity, potential for papers building on Things Come Together SCOLMA 2018 conference (see <https://scolma.org/event/scolma-conference-2018-things-come-together-literary-archives-from-in-and-for-africa/>) Also scope for museums association to discuss work they’ve done on diversity.

GLAM General Meeting Minutes March 22nd, Cambridge

Welcome: JW/RF

Introduction & Welcome from Jess Gardner (Cambridge University Librarian) founding member of GLAM committee. Jess gave an overview of the background to literary collecting at Cambridge.

Papers:

**Staging the Archive: Text-genetic digital editing of Arthur Schnitzler’s middle** **period works** Annja Neumann and Andrew Webber

Presenters gave an overview of the background of the collections, and showed examples of the materiality of manuscripts to illustrate wealth of research interest.

They are in the – extremely lengthy – process of creating a digital Critical Edition. The team at Cambridge is working in partnership with researchers in Germany and Vienna.

Presenters gave an overview of the transcription process, and tools (Transcribo) used to create a genetic edition, showing the palimpsest of layers, i.e. how the page works in chronological terms.

More information about the project can be found here: <http://www.mml.cam.ac.uk/german/research/schnitzler>

**Translators’s papers at the John Rylands Library: the example of Elaine Feinstein’s Marina Tsvetayeva** Florence Impens

As a literary critic, Florence is concerned with the archives of poetry translators who have attempted to import something missing from their own national literature.

Her recent work has focused on the Elaine Feinstein’s work translating poems of Marina Tsvetayeva. She discussed criticism of Feinstein’s translations of Tsvetayeva, and how the archive reveals Feinstein’s process: research involved in translations, her decision not to emphasis the formal aspect of Tsvetayeva’s work, but to focus on conveying emotion/passion.

Genetic criticism gives insight into creative process, exposing rationales for translation, and the series of decisions involved in the work. The role of collaborator also becomes visible–e.g. reviews of poems only mention Feinstein’s role – rather than input of Russian speaking specialists.

**Endangered Poetry Project**, Chris McCabe

Chris discussed the development of Southbank Centre National Poetry Library’s collecting policy over 60 years. The traditional collecting policy was conservative: they only took in English versions of translations, but has come to prioritise original language over time. Half of world’s languages will have died out by the end of this century, therefore an urgent situation.

The 2012 Poetry Parnassus festival was the occasion for a major shift in thinking, with 205 poets from around the world attending. The Library made the opportunistic decision to collect the books of original language poetry brought in as part of this, which signified a shift in collecting policy. The Library now gives primacy to original language and to oral versions of poems.

Chris described a recent project to commission poems in 50 endangered languages. The poems were received digitally (both oral and text) and are printed on handmade paper. Exhibition at South Bank. Developing further projects in collaboration with SOAS. Project integrated into collecting policy.

**Literary papers of German-speaking exiles at the Institute of Modern Languages Research, Clare George,**

Clare gave a background to Institute (archives at Senate House Library, University of London) which has been acquiring archives since its foundation just after the end of WWII.

Donors had left Germany/Austria during the Nazi regime. Early acquisitions were as a result of personal connections with institute, rather than pro-active collecting policy. Came to document literary activities in exile. Exiled German writers worked with the BBC producing anti-Nazi propaganda during the War, and many of the Institutes collections reflect this. Collections include Radio Scripts and material relating to broadcasts. Clare showed a short film which used audio recording of a Hitler parody broadcast.

The Institute became more active collecting exile papers during the mid 1990s, but didn’t employ an archivist until 2009. Collections are managed by Senate House library, and staff are working to address issues resulting from lack of archival management over decades.

Members updates:

British Library:

         The British Library’s first Translator in Residence Jen Calleja finishes soon, recently hosting a 2 day masterclass on Translation and Creative writers, the next Translator in Residence is set to be recruited soon.

         Opening in March In Shanghai of an exhibition featuring BL manuscripts from five British authors, alongside Chinese translations, adaptations and responses to the works.

         Opening of an exhibition about Windrush in June, including material from Carribean literary archives held at the BL such as James Berry and Andrew Salkey.

         A series of events will accompany the exhibition, including one called ‘Windrush Women’ in partnership with Wasafiri, whose archive we acquired a couple of years ago.

         New acquisitions include the archive of novelist D.M. Thomas and the archive of Margaret Forster.

         The Will Self Archive is now catalogued and available live, a recent blog has publicised it.

Senate House Library:

         Recent acquisition of the correspondence of Alan Denson, literary executor for poet and literary critic Herbert Palmer. This complements the Denson/Palmer collection taken in a few years ago.

         Current exhibition in Senate House Library is on queer literature: ‘Queer between the Covers’ runs until 16 June. Although it is not entirely based on archival material it includes some important mss such as Auden's poem ‘Stop all the clocks’. One digital output of the exhibition is the audience response project, which encourages exhibition visitors to post images from the exhibition with comments to Instagram, which are then reposted on SHL website.