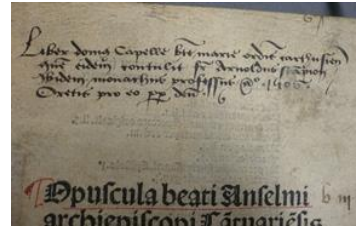


First successful CERL Internship and Placement Grant

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The project to catalogue the incunables from Lambeth Palace Library in the Material in Incunabula (MEI) database started in June 2014 on a voluntary basis and lasted for two months. It resumed in October 2014 thanks to the CERL Internship and Placement Grant and to the Fellowship offered by the Friends of Lambeth Palace Library, London. The provenance evidence of 286 incunables from Lambeth Palace Library has now been added to the database. Of these, 223 come from the collections of the Archbishops of Canterbury and 63 from the former library of Sion College, which was transferred to Lambeth Palace Library in 1996.



This project provides us with a richer and more detailed understanding of the history of both collections. For example, the shelfmarks and early library catalogue entries inform us of the transfer of Archbishops Whitgift and Bancroft's incunables from Lambeth to Cambridge University Library during the Civil War and their return to London later in the 17th century.

The records of the Sion College Library bear clear witness of the numerous gifts from clergymen, booksellers and private individuals to the library during the first few decades of its existence. Besides, the work on the Sion College Library incunables has revealed some particularly interesting bindings and inscriptions of German and Dutch monastic ownership. This new material, including some recently discovered items, will not only enhance ISTC and MEI but also the online catalogue of Lambeth Palace Library. It is planned that this information will be used to compile a printed catalogue of the incunables from Lambeth Palace Library. Unlike more traditional bibliographical descriptions, the catalogue will use the MEI approach to record provenance evidence in order to trace the history of each book through time and space. The catalogue will have an extensive illustrated introduction outlining the history of the collection as well as providing details of the main former owners. It will also have indexes of printers, owners and copy-specific features and will therefore be useful for scholars investigating a wide variety of book historical topics.

Angéline Rais, CERL intern in 2014, London