

The objects and aims of the Consortium of European Research Libraries (CERL) are to provide services to its members and to the library and scholarly world at large in the form of bibliographical databases, seminars, workshops, publications and co-operation with other library organisations and individual libraries and their staff. CERL concentrates its efforts on printed material from the hand-press period – up to the first half of the 19th century – and on manuscripts, both in analogue or digital format.

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New Members: a group of American libraries joins the Consortium

www.cerl.org/membership/list_members



The Beinecke Library at Yale University has taken the lead in the formation of a US group of libraries that plans to join CERL. The libraries of the Universities of Iowa, Michigan, Berkeley, Harvard, Stanford, as well as the Folger Shakespeare Library, Getty Research Institute and The Grolier Club have joined the group. As a follow-up to last year's CERL event during New York's 'Bibliography week', Cristina Dondi and Directors Kristian Jensen, Richard Ovenden and Edwin Schroeder, will put on a second CERL seminar. They will present the latest research activities and future plans of the Consortium at the Butler Library of Columbia University on 28 January 2016. The programme: https://www.cerl.org/services/seminars/main#other_seminars.



Winners of CERL Internship and Placement Grants 2015

www.cerl.org/collaboration/internship

The second call for applications for the CERL Grant was launched in June 2015 with a deadline of 15 September 2015. All CERL members were asked to send in proposals for potential internship places at their institution, and the opportunity was taken up by five of our members. Twenty-one applications were received (4 from men/17 from women), from over ten countries. The quality of the applications was very high and the selection was complex. CERL will actively seek supplementary funding so that we can support a higher number of internships in years to come.

In view of the quantity and quality of the applications received, and with the approval of the Coordinating Committee, the CERL Grant Committee awarded two grants: one to a scholar and the other to a librarian. One Grant was awarded to Francesca Rocchi, a graduate in Latin Palaeography at La Sapienza University, Rome, with previous internship experience at the Biblioteca Casanatense, Rome, to work within the Special Collections Department of the Bodleian Library, Oxford, under the supervision of Dr Irene Ceccherini, Lyell-Bodleian Research Fellow in Manuscript Studies. Francesca will produce an electronic version of the card indexes of Renaissance manuscripts, scribes, and illuminators, prepared by Prof Albinia ‘Tilly’ de la Mare (1932-2001). In this new format the records will be more easily accessible to scholars, in addition they will be uploaded to the CERL Thesaurus to increase records on manuscript production, and to support links with the CERL Portal.



The second 2015 Grant was awarded to Thomas Theyssens, a graduate in Early Modern History from the University of Louvain, with a Masters in Heritage Management in Libraries from the University of Antwerp, and working experience at Flanders Heritage Library. Thomas will work within the Printed Heritage Collections Department of the British Library, under the supervision of Dr Adrian Edwards, Head of the Printed Heritage Collections Department. The internship entails adding provenance data to the catalogue records from Horace Walpole’s (1717-1797) Library. Thomas will start with the identification of the Strawberry Hill books (and possibly manuscripts) that are now in the British Library collections. The aim is to create a finding aid that will be very valuable for curators and Walpole researchers alike.

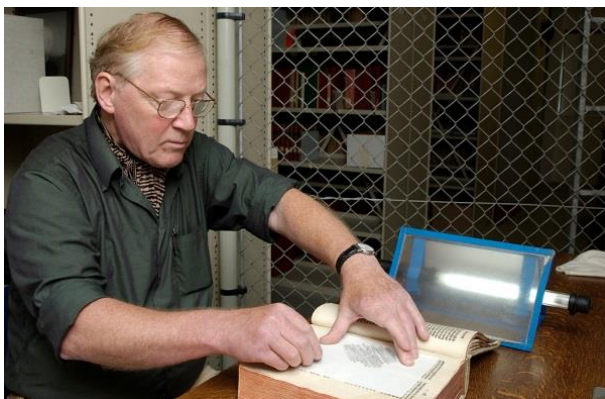
The European dimensions of popular print culture (EDPOP project)

CERL is a partner in this three-year project, led by the University of Utrecht. The aim of the project is to develop a VRE to collect, connect, make accessible and analyse European bibliographical data, repositories of popular texts and data on production, distribution and consumption. Furthermore, EDPOP aims to create an international platform for scholarly communication, exchange of expertise, electronic tools, research data and publications. Studying the European dimensions of popular print culture will shed new light on processes of cultural exchange, on the European characteristics of popular genres, on international collaboration in the book industry, on the organisation of transnational distribution networks and on the European dimensions of reception, appropriation and adaptation of stories, songs and images.

Although the project will not formally start until 1 January 2016, the Project Manager Jeroen Salman (Utrecht University) and the Data Conversion Group have already begun to explore how data relating to those that are involved in the production and distribution of this popular print material can be added to the CERL Thesaurus. Other project partners include the University of Valencia, the Newcastle University Humanities Research Institute, the 15cBOOKTRADE project, Italian-German Historical Institute (ISIG-FBK) in Trent and the John Rylands Research Institute at the University of Manchester. The formal kick-off meeting for the project will take place in Utrecht on 25-26 April 2016.

In Memoriam – Gerard van Thienen (1939-2015)

Gerard van Thienen worked for 35 years at the Koninklijke Bibliotheek, the National Library of The Netherlands, as a curator of incunabula and post incunabula (books up to 1540). He was a capable and diligent researcher and accomplished some major projects in his field of research. Upon his retirement, he earned the title ‘Incunabulist of the Low Countries’.¹ Van Thienen studied Dutch literature and philology at the University of Amsterdam and graduated under the supervision of the great book historian Wytze Hellinga. After his studies he started his career at the KB where he managed to complete some important projects besides his work as a curator.



First he created an inventory of all incunabula in Dutch public collections: *Incunabula in Dutch Libraries* (IDL), published in 1983. After that he compiled – together with John Goldfinch, then head of the Incunabula Short Title Catalogue (ISTC) in London – a new census of all incunabula printed in the Low Countries: *Incunabula printed in the Low Countries* (ILC) published in 1999.

Subsequently, he started collecting images of watermarks taken from paper from incunabula printed in the Low Countries. This resulted in the online database *Watermarks in Incunabula printed in the Low Countries* (WILC) (www.kb.nl/watermark) that is a very useful tool for dating undated incunabula and prints. In his publications Van Thienen presented more than once the strength of this database. In 2000 he started researching ‘las filigranas’ in Spanish incunabula. Again with great enthusiasm and stamina, Van Thienen collected images of watermarks from almost all 1,000 incunabula printed in Spain, resulting in 6,000 descriptions, published on the web as *Watermarks in Incunabula printed in España* (WIES) (www.ksbm.oeaw.ac.at/wies) in 2008. Great Britain needed to be done as well. Images of watermarks of incunabula printed in Great Britain were collected by Paul Needham, but still awaited publication on the internet. After ending WIES, Van Thienen was willing to lead another project *Watermarks in Incunabula printed in Great Britain* (WIGB). Paul Needham offered the images that were described by interns at the KB, with support of a grant of the Bibliographical Society in London. This generated a third collection of watermarks of incunabula from an individual country. All three collections were integrated in the European watermark database *Bernstein* (www.memoryofpaper.eu).

Van Thienen was an extraordinary man: driven, persistent, helpful, erudite and devoid of humbug. Through these capacities he managed to accomplish so many huge projects. He had a vast knowledge of the early book and shared this knowledge generously with others. With his passing, the Dutch book world lost one of the last true incunabulists. In decades to come, Gerard van Thienen’s pioneering research in the field of paper research will stand out as a major achievement in his long and dedicated career.

Marieke van Delft, Koninklijke Bibliotheek, The Hague

Gerard van Thienen Grant

Gerard van Thienen’s importance is also internationally recognised. As a mark of his respect, one of his colleagues abroad has made available a one-off grant to the value of 1,000 Euro. This allows the Koninklijke Bibliotheek, National Library of the Netherlands to support an early career researcher to undertake research focused on incunabula or watermarks. Proposals may be submitted to marieke.vandelft@kb.nl before 31 January 2016.

¹ A. Leerintveld, ‘Gerard van Thienen, incunabulist of the Low Countries’, in *Quaerendo* 36 (2006), p. 25-34. See also: Paul Needham, ‘IDL, ILC, WILC: Gerard van Thienen’s contributions to the study of incunabula’, in: *Quaerendo*, 36 (2006), p. 3-24 and the Bibliography in the Introduction to www.kb.nl/watermark.

CERL Annual Seminars

At the end of October 2015, CERL was the guest of the University of Antwerp. Pierre Delsaerdt together with a programming committee including Thomas Theyssens (LIS-programme), Susanna de Schepper (Vlaamse Erfgoed Bibliotheek, or Flanders Heritage Library) and Tom Deneire (Antwerp University Library, Special Collections), organised the CERL Seminar 2015: *Library History: Why, What, How?* An audience of over 110 participants confirmed that this was both a very welcome and timely topic to be addressed.

The presentations included fascinating insights into the detective work required in the reconstruction of the content of the libraries compiled by individuals such as Hartmann Schedel (a presentation by Bettina Wagner of the Bayerische Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek), James Joyce or Samuel Beckett (presentation by Dirk van Hulle of the University of Antwerp). In the case of Cardinal Mazarin, Yann Sordet of the Bibliothèque Mazarine, showed the attempts that were made to reconstruct how the Cardinal's books might have been ordered on the shelves. A second strand in the seminar was the reconstruction of libraries on the basis of physical evidence in the books, and/or on the basis of inventories - featuring presentations by Cristina Dondi and Alessandra Panzanelli (University of Oxford, 15cBOOKTRADE project) and Flavia Bruni (La Sapienza University, Rome). The third strand took a step back, with Dirk van Miert (University of Utrecht) reviewing library practices in building up and structuring collections, and how these practices might be illuminated by studying the historiography of learning, and a presentation by Richard Ovenden (Bodleian Library) reflecting on those who traditionally author library history publications and what might be required for future publications.

The final session, introduced and led by Kristian Jensen (British Library), noted that to date the study of library history had commonly been pursued in the context of the academic discipline of book history, and/or as a reflection of the history of the institution as a whole. It would however be preferable and far more profitable if the study of library history were conducted in wider contexts such as those of economic or social history. The construction of a collection, and the development the institution that houses it, cannot be separated from the era in which these activities took place. Conversely, and perhaps even more importantly, the study of library history has much valuable evidence to offer to socio-economic historians, and our evidence will give valuable colour and depth to their studies of an era, a movement and developments in society.

CERL hopes that our 2016 seminar which will focus on Manuscripts (25 October 2016, hosted by the Bibliothèque nationale de France), will lead to equally lively discussions, and will attract a similarly sizeable, engaged and attentive audience.

Thank you, Universiteit Antwerpen

CERL warmly thanks the colleagues at Antwerp for their hospitality in hosting the CERL meetings and CERL annual seminar in October 2015. The following report in words and pictures serves as both a souvenir and a lasting reminder of the very interesting tour of the special collections department of the University Library and of the Ruusbroec Institute that was offered to the CERL members.



More photographs on: www.facebook.com/groups/99706868239/

University of Antwerp Library – Special Collections

www.uantwerpen.be/en/library/collections/special-collections/ /Twitter: @bcubantwerpen



The Special Collections department of the University of Antwerp Library goes back to the rare books collection of the University's predecessor, a Jesuit business school (the *Institut Saint-Ignace*) founded in 1852. Today, it contains a small, but interesting collection of mainly old prints (ca. 10,000 titles), modern manuscripts and typescripts (by Flemish top authors Louis Paul Boon and Gerard Walschap, ca. 200 objects), and a print room primarily with etchings and lithos on the history of Antwerp (ca. 1,500 objects). The old print collection focuses on Jesuit literature, Dutch theatre production,

history of law, history of the Low Countries and classical literature. Other sub-collections feature fable literature, Latin school prize books, cartography and travel literature.

In 2011 the Special Collections department received the Flemish Government quality label of *Acknowledged Heritage Library*, together with its independent partner, the Library of the Ruusbroec Institute. This recognises the library's exemplary efforts regarding the acquisition, conservation, research and promotion of its special collections. In recent years, the department's activities have mainly revolved around projects of digitisation. Close to 1,000 old prints are electronically available through the library's digital platform, as is the complete collection of the print room. Other projects include a basic conservation program, the registration of archival materials and the online exhibition *Geographical Initiatives in Antwerp* (<http://kaga.anet.be>).

Tom Deneire, University of Antwerp Library

The Ruusbroec Institute Library

www.uantwerpen.be/ruusbroec-library

The Ruusbroec Institute (Ruusbroecgenootschap) is a research institute at the University of Antwerp focusing on the study of spiritual history and the mystical tradition in the Low Countries until the early twentieth century. The Institute and its library were founded in 1925 by four Jesuit scholars. The Ruusbroec Institute Library is an up-to-date research and heritage library, working closely together with the University Library in Antwerp (e.g. cataloguing), and is still owned by the Jesuit congregation in Antwerp. The special collections of the library consist of four important holdings. Catalogues of all special collections are available online, and digitisation projects are in progress. The manuscript collection consists of ca. 35 medieval manuscripts and over 100 fragments, and 400 post-medieval manuscripts. The latter represent a hand-written tradition that is often ignored. The incunabula and post-incunabula collection consists of ca. 270 items. Among its 90 incunabula the library houses the earliest printed book from Flanders: a 1473 print by Dirk Martens from Aalst. The core of the special collections however, are the 30,000 early-printed books. These early-printed books (in Dutch or Latin) are nearly all on Christian morality and private devotion, and often show marks of intensive use. Among them are books of prayer, books on miracles, on saints, on martyrs, on mystics, on pilgrimages, on Jesuits, etc. The final special collection is the devotional prints collection. With 40,000 prints and drawings (e.g. of saints, of Jesus, or of Mary) it is unequalled in the Low Countries.



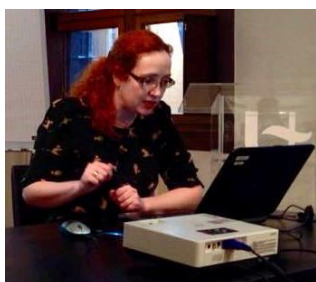
For ninety years the Ruusbroec Institute Library has facilitated the Institute's researchers and has welcomed many international researchers with an interest in religious culture, mysticism and spirituality. We hope to welcome you too, one day, in our reading room.

Daniël Ermens, Ruusbroec Institute

Goodbye and Hello

www.cerl.org/collaboration/projects/project_officers

Both the Europeana Cloud and CENDARI projects come to an end on 31 January 2016. We are very sad that as a consequence our current Project Officers will leave CERL. Ingeborg Versprille (who will stay on until 1 March 2016) has been with CERL for just over two years, and in this period she has produced an extensive analysis of the Europeana collections for the Cloud project in addition to working on the Collection Descriptions which will find their way into Europeana Research. She also has very energetically taken the CERL promotion and dissemination of our news to hand, and has been the driving force in the CERL Promotion Working Group. Ingeborg is looking for opportunities as a project manager, in policy work or as consultant to the heritage and library community and can be reached at ingeborgversprille@ziggo.nl.



Kathleen Walker-Meikle worked on the CENDARI project, where she helped to streamline the outputs of the project and edited and produced a large number of Archival Resource Guides, so that the project benefitted greatly from her extensive knowledge of the medieval period. The organisers of our March 2015 Printers' Devices seminar are very grateful for the work Kathleen has done to prepare the papers for print publication. From 4 January 2016, Kathleen will be working with Dr Sophie Page at University College London on the 'Inner Lives: Emotions and the Supernatural 1300-1500' project.

Stijn van Rossem (who will stay with CERL until 1 February 2016) worked with the CENDARI Trusted Users Group, for which he, together with Kathleen, prepared training materials, videos and organised web presentations. For CERL, Stijn has renewed our contacts with ABINIA and has opened up conversations with S.I.S.M.E.L. on the TRAME project, which shares some aims with the CERL Portal. We would like to congratulate Stijn on recently being awarded the Menno Herzberger incentive prize for his dissertation about the Antwerp printers Verdussen. This family was active in the printing and book industry for five generations, from 1589 to 1689.

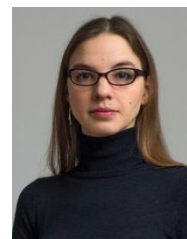


From 1 March, Stijn will be based at Senate House, London, where he takes up a post doc position at the Institute of Historical Research (School of Advanced Studies of the University of London).

From 1 February 2016, CERL will welcome Laura Carnelos, who will start work at the PATRIMONiT project. She was introduced to you in the June 2015 Newsletter.

Elena Liventsova joins Data Conversion Group, SUB Göttingen

After the departure of Jana Hentschke, earlier this year, the team at the Data Conversion Group has now been joined by Elena Liventsova. Elena started to work for the CERL Thesaurus at Göttingen University Library (SUB) in August 2015. After completing a Bachelor degree in Information Management at the University of Applied Sciences and Arts in Hanover, her interest in research metadata in libraries brought her to DCG. Her work for CERL Thesaurus involves mapping, improvement and conversion of metadata.



Promotion Working Group: analysis of CERL's use of social media

www.cerl.org/collaboration/work/promotion/main

CERL uses Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter to communicate with her members and the early book community at large. These social media are seen by experts as the most effective for our purposes. Other social media attract different audiences, Pinterest mostly women and children and Instagram is mostly used for business to consumer marketing. YouTube is almost too popular to use, because the volume of videos on offer makes it hard to stand out.

To optimise the use of CERL's Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter channels, Marian Lefferts and Ingeborg Versprille undertook an analysis of the audiences for each of the three services. This showed there was little overlap of the three. Around 44% of our Facebook community consists of CERL members; 10% of our LinkedIn community is drawn from the CERL membership, while of our followers on Twitter, only 4% represent CERL members. This means that our social media offerings (especially LinkedIn and Twitter) reach a community that is interested in the work of CERL and fall outside its immediate membership. It also means that announcements can be recycled across the various social media, and have to be circulated via additional channels in order to reach the CERL membership. The CERL mailing list, e-mail messages to committee members, and this Newsletter fill that gap.

We use the three channels in different ways: on Twitter we post about trends, new publications, vacancies, and what we learn at seminars and workshops. For Facebook we aim to be more visual and there we post photographs relating to our own events or events we attended, and news stories from other sources, e.g. the news aggregator Feedly (www.feedly.com). CERL encourages members to use the CERL social media platforms as vehicles for disseminating their own news and announcements. CERL members have particularly embraced the CERL mailing list and the Newsletter for this purpose.

The use of social media provides CERL with an easy way to communicate with all relevant staff at a member organisation. The communication with new members is sometimes intricate, as initial contacts with new members will mostly be with a Director, while subsequent messages may be more relevant to other members of staff. Social media allows CERL to develop an individual, personal relationship with staff at member institutions. In this networked world, the impact of personalised messages is much higher than the impact of messages sent by an organisation as a whole. It is easier for (potential) members to connect with real live persons than with an anonymous organisation. Though on Facebook and Twitter messages are sent to groups, the consequent communication is always with individuals, thus enabling organisations to show their human face. Join us and publish your news via:



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/99706868239/?fref=ts#>



https://twitter.com/cerl_org/



https://www.linkedin.com/?trk=login_reg_redirect

Ingeborg Versprille, CERL Project Officer

REBIUN-CERL Conference (Salamanca, 15 March 2016)

Programme: www.cerl.org/services/seminars/main#workshops

This seminar on recording provenance information is conceived of as a follow-up to a previous provenance event held at the Warburg Institute, London, on 11 March 2015 (see www.cerl.org/services/seminars/powerpoint_presentations_warburg). The venue for this event is the Universidad de Salamanca, Salón de actos de la Facultad de Traducción y Documentación, 9.30-4.00. The presentations will be in Spanish and English. Attendance is free, but please register with secretariat@cerl.org.

Exhibition project ‘Colard Mansion and the Bruges printing industry’

The Public Library of Bruges holds one of the most important collections of incunabula by Colard Mansion (active 1457-1484) in the world. In spring 2018 this collection will form the core of an exhibition on the Bruges-based scribe, book printer and book dealer, currently being prepared by the Public Library of Bruges and the Groeningemuseum (well-known for its collection of Flemish Primitives) in collaboration with a scientific committee of experts in the fields of art history, book history and social history. The exhibition sheds light on Colard Mansion’s manuscripts and incunabula within the international book production and trade in Bruges, his network relations, the traditional and innovative aspects in his oeuvre, his entrepreneurship and the provenance of his works. Since Mansion is one of the first book dealers to experiment with engraved illustrations in printed books, the exhibition aims to present Mansion’s oeuvre in interdisciplinary artistic context. The exhibition will focus on the combination of various techniques in one medium, holding up tradition versus innovation, and artistic networks beyond the boundaries of artistic disciplines. Besides a rich selection of manuscripts, incunabula and engravings, an additional selection of woodcuts, paintings, drawings, archival documents, engraved metal objects, woodcarvings and other works of art will be selected to indicate mutual relations. Colard Mansion is a *leitmotiv* in the exhibition and will be the point of departure in discussing the objects displayed.



Title page *Ovide moralisé*
(Brugge: Colard Mansion,
1484) Brugge, Openbare
Bibliotheek, Inc. 3877

Evelien de Wilde, assistant curator prints and drawings, Groeningemuseum



Europeana Cloud project (2013-2016) – progress report

pro.europeana.eu/web/europeana-cloud

The Europeana Cloud project will formally come to an end on 31 January 2016. The Project Management team have, however, been granted a three-month extension specifically for and limited to the technical work package tasked with presenting the Europeana Cloud infrastructure. These three months will be used to migrate the 50 million metadata items that Europeana currently holds. The Cloud infrastructure will be the home for two additional project partners, The European Library and the Poznan Supercomputing and Networking Center (PSNC). After the end of the project, the user base for the Cloud infrastructure will be gradually expanded with the addition of three further aggregators in 2016.

In November 2015, the Europeana Cloud Network Project released a ground-breaking study developed by the Project’s Work Package responsible for assessing researchers’ needs for using digital content, tools and methods in the Cloud and ensuring community engagement. The aim of the report was to develop an empirically-based, comprehensive, list of non-prioritised User Requirements as well as a set of flexible Content recommendations. These will form the basis of future development of Europeana Research as part of the next round of Europeana funding.

Europeana Research was developed in the course of the Europeana Cloud project. It takes the shape of a website (see research.europeana.eu/) which allows users to explore featured collections, read special blog posts, and browse through collection level descriptions which present the holdings of Europeana in a context tailored to the academic research community. In the final months of the project, Ingeborg Versprille as a follow-up on the content analysis work she previously did in the project, will work on populating the website with ever more of these collection level descriptions.

CERL is also involved in metadata and content ingestion and three pilots on metadata enrichment. On behalf of CERL, the Data Conversion Group is exploring the possibilities for data uploading and data management via the Cloud API that will be made available to the users of the Europeana Cloud infrastructure. As a result of the three-month extension, the final review of the project is not expected to take place until May or June 2016.

Marian Lefferts, CERL

Glasgow Incunabula Project: the prices index

www.gla.ac.uk/services/incunabula/

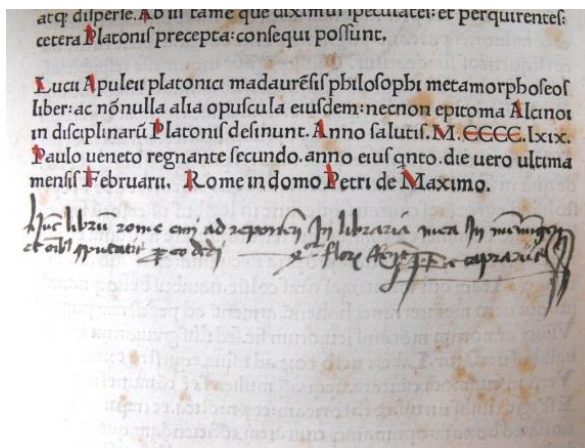


Illuminated initials: *Scriptores historiae Augustae*, Milan: Philippus de Lavagnia, 1475
(Sp Coll Hunterian Ds.2.6-7)

incunable is being closely examined and described in detail. An illustrated website catalogue makes the data accessible via a number of indexes to satisfy a range of research angles. The prices index is a good example of how newly discovered information is being presented. It references prices as actually recorded in the books, and also from other sources such as marked up booksellers' catalogues. It lists the prices chronologically (earliest first) and then in shelf-mark order, differentiating between currencies wherever possible.

Most evidence of the varying prices paid for our books has come from studying annotated book sales catalogues – hence, our data is richest for 18th and 19th century book collectors. However, occasionally early owners have also annotated their books with information on how much they paid for them. A copy of Sweynheim and Pannartz's 1469 edition of Apuleius, for example, provides rare evidence of a price paid very close to the year of publication. It bears the inscription of Petrus Mitte de Caprariis (d. 1479), Preceptor of the Antonine monastery in Memmingen from ca. 1442-1479.

He noted: 'Petrus de Caprariis purchased this book in Rome for my library and including all expenses I paid 4 Rhenish florins' - that is, the cost including rubrication and binding, not just the printed sheets of the book. Tracing the book's peregrinations further in the index, we see that in 1744 this particular volume was bought by the bookseller Thomas Osborne (d. 1767) for £5-5-0 from the collection of Lord Harley (1689-1741). It then entered the collection of Louis Jean Gaignat (1697-1768), and William Hunter (1718-1783) acquired it for 215 livres 1 sou at the Gaignat sale in 1769. Surveying some of the other prices Hunter paid for his incunabula shows that this was at the higher end of his purchases – although only half as much as a copy of Sweynhem and Pannartz's 1469 edition of a commentary on Caesar that he bought for a staggering 500 livres.



At present, data is still being added to the project website for books held by other libraries in Glasgow. Once this work is complete, it is our aim to enhance the prices index as a research tool by reordering the data to prices paid from highest to lowest. In this way, we hope that it will provide easy access for analysing the fluctuating economic value of these books, making a significant contribution to our understanding of incunabula as cultural artefacts over the past 500 years.

Julie Gardham, University of Glasgow Library

New edition of 'Directory of Rare Book and Special Collections'

When the Rare Books Group of the Library Association was formed in 1966, the compilation of a directory of rare book and special collections in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland, to identify and describe such material wherever it was to be found in public (and occasionally private) hands in the British Isles, was one of its first objectives. A team of volunteers visited and inspected libraries thought to contain rare books and special collections, and either they or the relevant librarians prepared 'accurate and succinct' descriptions of the collections. The first edition appeared in 1985; a second one in 1997. This edition incorporated entries from all institutions represented in the first, merely omitting from policy some private collections. The third edition of the *Directory of Rare Book and Special Collections in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland* (2015) updates this work. It describes collections in 873 repositories, including alongside national, academic, and special libraries, books in public, subscription, school, hospital and company libraries, in museums, archives, London clubs, and stately homes – even one in a prison. Collection focuses range from local printing to the output of a specific person or publishing house and to the libraries of particular individuals. Subjects can be as weighty as economics or as frivolous as the game of draughts.



Sigmund von Herberstein,
Comentari della Moscovia
(Venice, 1550). M.S. Anderson
Collection of Writings on Russia
(1525-1917), Senate House
Library, University of London.

Gathering information from so many diverse repositories, we were fortunate to be building on an established base. We started contacting all named institutions and investigated which new libraries had come into being since 1997, and requested some existing libraries to report their holdings. For this work the email lists of JISC and CILIP proved to be a blessing. Other help came from the archives and the museums associations who advertised in their newsletters, as did the Historic Libraries Forum. The work on this edition of the *Directory* benefited from the fact that special collections are increasingly seen as jewels in the crown of their libraries – the distinguishing “unique and distinctive” feature of specific libraries -- and that many libraries want to raise their profiles. Firm credentials also helped, provided by the acceptance of the *Directory* from its previous editions as an established reference tool. Unfortunately, some libraries (especially school and public ones) did not contribute. Understaffing and (for public libraries) restructuring were challenges.

The overview of collections provided by the *Directory* reinforced the wealth and diversity of collections surveyed. Changes since 1997 had included numerous acquisitions of collections by the established libraries, which included antiquarian material from French Revolutionary pamphlets and other early items in the Malkiewicz Collection at the University of Edinburgh to the Nantwich Parochial Library at the John Rylands Library, Manchester, and the M.S. Anderson Collection of Writings on Russia Printed between 1525 and 1917 at Senate House Library, University of London. The *Directory* also features new organisations, such as Edinburgh Napier University (founded as Napier Technical College in 1964) which houses the Edward Clark Collection of around 5,000 items illustrating the development of the book from the 15th century onwards. It highlighted that many collections are outside standard academic, national and special research libraries (for example, in public libraries and in archives), and therefore perhaps outside the standard scholarly radar.

Survey responses taught us that many catalogues are not online; many of the online catalogues are available only from the specific institution (i.e. not linked to a union catalogue); and some union catalogues are not immediately obvious ports of call. Brighton Public Library, for example, is rich in rare materials – but how many researchers would think to look at the public library catalogue for East Sussex? Such issues underline the importance of a directory to inform users of collections everywhere. They also indicate how much work remains to be done to improve knowledge of the location of books. Producing a national directory of rare books is, given the travel of books, an international activity. It requires much effort and a great deal of good will from institutions and individuals to bring into being. But in my view the effort is very worthwhile.

Karen Attar, Senate House, London
Editor, *Directory of Rare Book and Special Collections in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland*

Bio-bibliographical handbook of calendar-makers, 1550-1750

www.presseforschung.uni-bremen.de/dokuwiki/doku.php?id=Startseite

The goal of this project – founded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft from April 2014 through to March 2017 – is to prepare a handbook of calendar-makers from 1550 to 1750, accessible both via internet and through a print publication. The handbook is to offer bio-bibliographical sketches of about 550 persons (and ca. 100 pseudonyms) who authored or published large ‘Schreibkalender’ (annual calendars in quarto format) – including the second part of a calendar, the astrological ‘Prognosticon’ – in the early modern period. Such a reference work is an essential prerequisite for any social-historical research on European calendar-making and the production of this printed material – material that found its way into nearly every household, including those of the illiterate.

Recent research has emphasised the importance of the calendar-makers in the differentiation of textual and iconographic content that emerged during the second third of the 17th century (see for example Klaus-Dieter Herbst (Ed.): *Astronomie – Literatur – Volksaufklärung. Der Schreibkalender der Frühen Neuzeit mit seinen Text- und Bildbeigaben*. Bremen, Jena 2012).



J.J.C. von Grimmelshausen

Although a small subset of the leading scholars who made calendars is known (including writers such as Johann Jakob Christoffel von Grimmelshausen, professors such as Johann Christoph Sturm and Georg Albrecht Hamberger, physicians such as Johann Magirus, astronomers like Gottfried Kirch, or clergyman such as Christoph Richter), shedding more light on the broad spectrum of calendar-makers remains an important *desideratum*. A handbook of calendar-makers would provide the foundation for exploring biographical, literary, and publishing relationships between this group of publicists and others, such as scholars at universities and academies, literary writers and poets, editors of newspapers and journals, printers and publishers and political elites in city councils and princely courts.

Biographical information is derived from a variety of sources (e.g., a birthday found in a parish register), and each source (books, VD16, VD17 or CERL) is recorded in the record (in ‘Nachweis’). When identified, the pseudonyms are linked to the real person. Currently, of the 650 names in the Handbook around 220 names are not recorded in the CERL Thesaurus (for example, calendar-maker Paul Aichlin, and his pseudonym ‘Necho von Alkair’). In other cases, information in the handbook corrects information held in the CERL-Thesaurus (for example, the CERL Thesaurus mixes Christian Grüneberg, a calendar-maker who was born ca. 1639 in Stettin and died 1701 as a professor of mathematics at the University of Frankfurt/Oder with another Christian Grüneberg who was born in Holstein and worked in 1649 as a Theologian at the University of Wittenberg).

The data given in the bio-bibliographical handbook of the calendar-makers from 1550 to 1750 can therefore supplement and amend some details in the CERL Thesaurus. From early 2017 it will be possible to start moving the data of the calendar-maker’s handbook into the CERL-Thesaurus.

*Klaus-Dieter Herbst, University of Bremen,
Institut Deutsche Presseforschung (Prof. Dr. Holger Böning)*

Plague!

www.nls.uk/exhibitions/plague

This exhibition, running at the National Library of Scotland from 11 December 2015 until 29 May 2016, explores the contagious diseases afflicting people in Scotland over the past 700 years, along with society’s reactions to contagion. Discover how Scotland dealt with contagious diseases, through official and personal papers, religious writings, literature, press reactions and responses from folk medicine and the sciences.



RDA and Rare Materials Seminar, Edinburgh, 6 November 2015

Presentations: www.slideshare.net/CIGScotland/

On 6 November 2015, a one-day international seminar on RDA & Rare Materials, in conjunction with members of the Association of College & Research Libraries' Rare Books and Manuscripts Section (RBMS), the European RDA Interest Group (EURIG), the CILIP Rare Books and Special Collections Group (RBSCG), CERL, the CILIP Cataloguing & Indexing Group (CIG), the IFLA Rare Books and Special Collections Section and RDA Joint Steering Committee took place. This seminar was the culmination of a full week's worth of business meetings and open sessions of the DCRM-RDA task force, a group from the RBMS who are working towards producing guidelines for describing rare materials in an RDA environment.



The one-day seminar, which was held at the University of Edinburgh's Carbon Innovation Centre, began with a presentation of the current work of the DCRM-RDA task force, and how rare books catalogue records are going to look in an RDA environment. The presentation, given by Francis Lapka (chair of the task force) and Audrey Pearson, set the stage with a brief overview of the history of Anglo-American rare books cataloguing guidelines and an introduction to RDA, and then provided some very useful examples of where the "RDA-ification" of rare materials records would be affected the most (title transcription, physical description, supplied information). The new guidelines for DCRM-RDA will be published, potentially as early as 2017, as a compendium of policy statements which are intended as additions to the core RDA toolkit.

The rest of the day was given over to presentations from library administrators (How will these changes affect our systems and workflows? What are the real, systemic changes, and what changes are superficial?), cataloguers (How will these changes affect how we describe books? What are the impacts at a local level? What can rare books cataloguers who are working in a library which is transitioning to RDA do in order to retain DCRM guidelines but also comply with the new framework?), and academics (What does all of this mean? What are the potential advantages to academia with RDA?). The presentations that were given from a local perspective, which included papers given by Christian Aliverti (Swiss National Library) and Renate Behrens (Deutsche Nationalbibliothek), Alasdair Macdonald and Elizabeth Quarmby Lawrence (University of Edinburgh), Marja Smolenaars (Koninklijke Bibliotheek), and Josie Caplehorne and Rachel Dickinson (University of Kent), provided useful insight into how individual institutions or national and international partnerships were introducing RDA to a cultural heritage environment, what they found worked well and what had to be adapted to fit local practices. The presentations from academics who work closely with catalogues of rare material (Flavia Bruni, Sapienza University of Rome) and those who are creating their own databases relevant to the rare materials sector (Nicholas Pickwoad and Athanasios Velios, Ligatus, University of the Arts London) instead showed the opportunity that the library community has in adapting new rules and guidelines for describing collections in our care. The seminar was brought to a close with an insightful overview by Jennifer Schaffner of scholarly projects which have relied on metadata created by the library community and what these projects may look like in an RDA-rich future.

Discussion after the presentations centred around local practices of title transcription, the steps taken to introduce RDA to rare materials librarians, and the work of the DCRM-RDA task force. Paul Cunnea, the event organiser and secretary of CIG Scotland, has provided access to the slides of the presenters online for free www.slideshare.net/CIGScotland/. The Rare Books and Special Collections Section of IFLA has decided to continue with a key theme from this seminar for their one-day mid-term conference on the 22nd of February at the Biblioteca Nacional de Portugal (Lisbon), entitled 'A common international standard for rare materials cataloguing? Why? And how?' More information on this conference can be found on the Section's website, www.ifla.org/rare-books-and-special-collections.

Daryl Green, University of St Andrews Library

Reports on CERL-led Expert Seminar (The Hague) and CENDARI Outreach Workshop (Ghent)

www.cendari.eu

In October of this year, CERL organised an Expert Seminar in The Hague and an Outreach Workshop at the University of Ghent. Both events were designed to showcase developments of the CENDARI (Collaborative European Digital Archive Infrastructure), in which CERL is a project partner.



The CENDARI Expert Seminar, titled 'Large-scale digital infrastructures and their users' was held on the 6 October 2015 in the Koninklijke Bibliotheek, The Hague. It addressed the problem of creating large-scale digital infrastructures and finding the researchers who will use the infrastructure's digital humanities tools. The CENDARI project, developed by various institutions and consortia at an international level, is an example of such a project. The role of user in digitisation projects and digital infrastructures was the focus of both the papers and the extensive discussion by audience members and speakers. Questions covered included the initial decisions on which tools are created or project funded, if it was possible to define a target audience, and how to involve future users in the creation, testing and subsequent adjustment of digital infrastructures and tools.

Audience members and panellists also discussed their experience of involving users in current and past projects. The afternoon started with a warm welcome by Marian Lefferts from CERL. Papers were given by Joris van Zundert (Researcher and Developer Computational and Digital Humanities Huygens ING), Emiliano Degl'Innocenti (Associate Editor at Frontiers in Digital Humanities SISMEI, DARIAH-IT), Alastair Dunning (Programme Manager, Europeana), Marnix van Berchum (Head of Data Services, DANS), Stijn Van Rossem and Kathleen Walker-Meikle (CERL Project Officers on the CENDARI project.) This was followed by a lively discussion led by Marco de Niet (Director, Digital Heritage Netherlands - DEN), including a lengthy brainstorming session (aided by post-it notes) on the needs of users, problems encountered in the past, and best practice.



On 29 October, CERL organised an Outreach Workshop at the University of Ghent. The workshop was part of Library Lab, a new department of the Faculty Library of Arts and Humanities where researchers, teachers and students can explore the possibilities of digital research tools and techniques.

Stijn van Rossem and Kathleen Walker-Meikle gave a demonstration of the CENDARI Note-Taking Environment, including a presentation and discussion that covered digital content and management, research needs and technical development of this digital infrastructure. The audience was made up by staff and student members from Ghent, who were very keen to login to the system, create and upload documents and material, examine the accompanying digital Archival Directory, use the search functions, and explore entity resolution and Named Entity Recognition (NERD) service.

Kathleen Walker-Meikle and Stijn van Rossem, Project Officers CERL

Some highlights of the news reported at the CERL AGM

The **15cBOOKTRADE** project, led by Dr Cristina Dondi, has launched its project website: 15cbooktrade.ox.ac.uk/. It is very rich information, and covers topics such as Distribution & Use, Cost & Prices, Reading Practices, Visualisation, Illustration, as well as news about the project. One of the achievements of the project, **TextInc** a corpus of texts printed in the 15th century, is presented on a separate website: textinc.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/.

In the meantime, Alex Jahnke of the Data Conversion Group (DCG) has worked on moving CERL databases from their Avanti server to a **new technical infrastructure**, based on a modern NoSQL database (Apache CouchDB) and Elasticsearch as index engine. With it we will be able to offer faster and more elaborate searches, supporting for example range searches, similarity search (fuzzy search) or search within defined geographic boundaries. The new web design can easily be configured and adapted to any metadata format, so that we can now set up smaller databases on topics related to book history without much effort, and give a home to data gathered in smaller research projects or similar, which else could not be made available to the public. At the request of the National Library of Scotland, and as proof of concept, the **Scottish Book Trade Index** was set up as in this manner (see data.cerl.org/sbti/search). An editing client will be added, so information can continue to be added to this invaluable resource on the history of printing and book trade in Scotland.

Further databases that were migrated to the new environment were the **Material Evidence in Incunabula** database and the datasets closely related to it (Holding Institutions, Former Owners, Area Codes). The **CERL Thesaurus** (CT – currently just over 1 million records) is the next database to be migrated to this new environment in the first half of 2016. The CT continues to be a resource that is intensively used, with **over 28k searches per month**, excluding the traffic that is generated by the assisted searching facility on the CERL Portal and the Heritage of the Printed Book database (HPB). CERL published an **open invitation to contribute bibliographical records to the HPB** (now containing over 6.2 million records, and in 2015 downloads by users went up by 127%). Numerous expressions of interest came in very quickly, from members and non-members alike. In the coming time we look forward to processing datasets from the British Library, the UK National Archives, Johns Hopkins, University of Utrecht, Trinity College Cambridge, to name but a few. Together with Maike Kittelmann (DCG), the Coordinating Committee has reviewed the information that we provide for those interested in offering content. The resulting **fact sheet** will be first used at the CERL US seminar in January 2016, and the infographic will be added to the CERL website. Simultaneously, DCG have also developed an **automated analysis and reporting tool**, to make the preparation of the analysis reports for HPB file contributions more efficient.

The CERL Secretariat wishes you a 'good enough' 2016, with inspiring partnerships, fruitful collaboration and excellent results.



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