

# News

January 2006

## New service improvements at Senate House Library

### Universal Access Policy

As from the 2005-06 academic session, any current member of a college or institution within the federal University of London can join Senate House Library. In most instances, production of that institution's identification card will be sufficient for registration purposes. More information can be found on our website at [www.uill.ac.uk/library/membership.shtml](http://www.uill.ac.uk/library/membership.shtml) or by emailing [membership@shl.lon.ac.uk](mailto:membership@shl.lon.ac.uk).

We would like to welcome the Central School of Speech and Drama and its community, as the newest member to join the other nineteen colleges and academic institutions in the University of London.

### New Copy Card Prices & Photocopier

'You have spoken, we are listening.'

In response to the 2005 User Survey, the Library is continuing to lower its photocopy card prices. Before:-

- £2 copy card = 15 copies
- £10 = 105 copies
- £20 = 225 copies

Now readers will get more value for money by increasing the number of copies:-

- £2 = 20 copies
- £10 = 160 copies
- £20 = 400 copies


Also from the User Survey, readers wanted photocopiers distributed throughout the Library. To accommodate this request, the Library has placed a photocopier on the 5th floor near the Journals above the Periodicals Reading Room. For more information on this and other service improvements email [userservices@shl.lon.ac.uk](mailto:userservices@shl.lon.ac.uk).

### Going To Graduate Soon? New Alumnus Membership

Senate House Library is pleased to announce that graduates of the University of London will be entitled to membership at a discounted rate of £45.00 per annum (normally £95) with a borrowing entitlement of 4 books. Graduates are eligible for this discounted rate for up to 3 years from the time of their degree award. Please email [membership@shl.lon.ac.uk](mailto:membership@shl.lon.ac.uk) for further information.

### Stop Press: Metafind Now 'Running On All Cylinders'

Tired of searching each database individually?

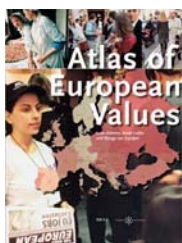
The Library's cross-database searching tool is up and fully operational. It can be found under 'Other Resources' on our [main catalogue page](#) . Metafind will search the biggest and most popular of our databases simultaneously. It has many other uses and benefits. To find out more about it stop by the Information Centre in Middlesex South or email [enquiries@shl.lon.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries@shl.lon.ac.uk).

### Refurbishment Update

In our ongoing efforts to improve the condition of our facilities, both of the public toilets on the 4th floor have been refurbished and modernised. We are also pleased to announce a new DDA compliant toilet. Additionally, new carpet has been placed in the Middlesex North, Middlesex South Reading rooms and the Music Library.

## Recent acquisitions

A selection of the Library's significant recent acquisitions:



An atlas depicting European ideas and beliefs in graph form. This work summarises the outcomes of the European Values Study, combined with results from the World Values Survey, two projects that have measured values over the past three decades:

- Loek Halman et al, eds., [Atlas of European Values](#)  
Leiden: Tilburg University, 2005

The correspondence of eighteenth-century French woman of letters and friend of Voltaire, documenting social, literary and political history as well as the daily life of Graffigny:

- Françoise d'Issembourg d'Happoncourt, Mme de Graffigny, [Correspondance de Madame de Graffigny](#)  
Préparé par Nicole Boursier et al  
Oxford: Voltaire Foundation, Taylor Institution, 1989-<2004>

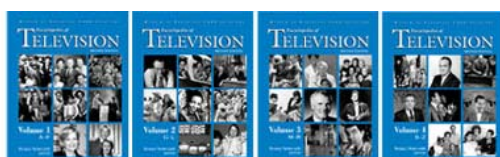
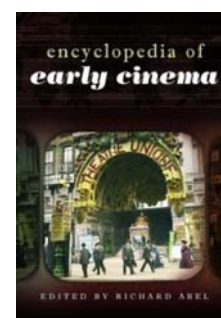


The third edition of this important reference work:

- Jean-Pierre de Beaumarchais et al., eds., [Dictionnaire des littératures de langue française](#)  
Paris: Larousse-Bordas, 1998

A major work covering all aspects of the early cinema (defined here as the first 20-25 years of the cinema's emergence, from the early 1890s to the middle 1910s). It contains nearly 1,000 entries, from short pieces to essays on aspects ranging from film production and filmmakers to individual films and genres:

- Richard Abel, ed., [Encyclopedia of early cinema](#)  
London: Routledge, 2005



The Museum of Broadcast Communications  
**Encyclopedia of Television**  
Four-Volume Set, 2nd Edition

The second edition of this authoritative A to Z work runs to four-volumes, with over 1,150 entries, featuring the latest criticism and research on television programmes, actors, directors and writers etc:

- Horace Newcomb, ed., [Encyclopedia of television](#)  
New York; London: Fitzroy Dearborn, 2004

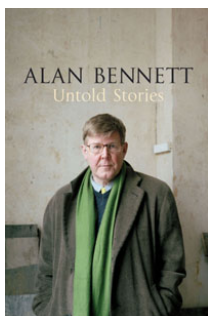
A ten-volume set, facsimile collection of Owenite Socialist and co-operative material:

- Gregory Claeys, [Owenite socialism: pamphlets and correspondence](#)  
London: Routledge, 2005

Recent acquisitions continued ...

Eight volumes of Defoe's satirical poetry, fantasy writings and works on the supernatural:

- Daniel Defoe, ed., [Satire, fantasy and writings on the supernatural](#)  
General editors, W.R. Owens and P.N. Furbank  
London: Pickering and Chatto, 2003-



A limited, signed edition of the best-selling playwright's latest work:

- Alan Bennett, [Untold stories](#)  
London: Faber and Faber, 2005

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## Discover databases



Eighteenth Century Collections Online (ECCO) is an ongoing project based on the English Short Title Catalogue, providing access to digital images of every page of 150,000 books published during the eighteenth century. It allows full-text searching of approx 26 million pages in the fields of history, literature, religion, law, the fine arts, science and more.

A variety of material is included in the collection: books and broadsides, Bibles, tracts and sermons, and printed ephemera. Works from many well-known authors are available, including the complete works of twenty-eight major eighteenth-century authors, including Henry Fielding, Edmund Burke, Alexander Pope and Benjamin Franklin. Significant collections of women writers of the eighteenth century and the French Revolution are also included. Where they add scholarly value or offer important differences, multiple editions of individual works are available in the database; for example, all 500 editions of Daniel Defoe's *Robinson Crusoe* are featured.

The collection is divided into seven subject areas:

- History and Geography
- Social Science and Fine Arts
- Medicine, Science and Technology
- Literature and Language
- Philosophy and Religion
- Law
- General Reference

You can navigate the collections in four ways. Both basic and advanced searching allow you the option of searching in either key fields or the full text of a work. Alternatively, you may browse an alphabetical list of authors. Selecting an author returns a list of results containing all the works attributed to that author. An alphabetical list of titles is also available, selecting a particular title returns a list of all items published under that title.

When you have completed your research you can email yourself the full citations of the records you are interested in, or download and read a PDF file of the documents.

To access Eighteenth Century Collections Online, please [click here](#) 

# The Conservation of Two Incunabula Printed in Holborn

The Year Books of the 34<sup>th</sup> and 37<sup>th</sup> years of Henry VI are two separate incunabula, bound together in a single volume, covering the years 1455-6 and 1458-9. William de Machlinia (fl. 1481-1486) printed the books in London in about 1486. The volume was acquired in 1965, with the aid of a generous grant from the Friends of the National Libraries.

## History

Year Books were written for the years 1292-1535, from the reigns of Edward II to Henry VIII. They are anonymous law reports, written in Law French, of cases in the English law courts, at Westminster or in eyre. Intended as professional memoranda of points of interest for lawyers rather than formal court records, they contain the discussions of the judges and counsel on points of law and the grounds of judgment. These copies of the Year Books were evidently read attentively, as they contain copious marginal notes in an early hand.

William de Machlinia, a native of Mechlin in Flanders, printed the books. His earliest work was with Johannes Lettou ca 1481-1883, but he worked on alone until 1490. He was not a good printer, but his place in printing history is significant. His output included the Bull of Pope Innocent VIII granting the dispensation for the marriage of Henry VII with Elizabeth of York and an edition of the *Chronicles of England*. He specialised in the productive area of legal printing. He had previously, with Lettou, printed the Year Books 33, 35 and 36 Henry VII; these are the first three of the 16 *Year Books* printed during the incunabula period.

Year Book 34 Henry VI is especially significant for its imprint, which reads: “Enp[re]nte p[er] moy Willia[m] Maclyn en Holborn” – “Printed for me, William Machlinia, in Holborn”. While this has significant local interest for the University of London, it is even more important in the history of printing. Machlinia’s books can be grouped into two by the sort of typeface he used: one a square gothic type, the other a regular English type. The imprint in Year Book 34 Henry VI has given the type used in this second group of books the name “Holborn type”. This is the only known imprint which mentions Holborn.

## Condition

The book was in such poor condition that access had to be restricted. The late Dr Nicholas Hadgraft undertook a detailed condition survey of the incunabula in 1999. The following text is quoted verbatim from his report:

“The two words are bound together in what is probably their original, first binding of 16<sup>th</sup>-century limp vellum. [The volume is] composed of substrate medieval antique laid paper, with paper endleaves, sewn with 4 tawed bands, plain edges, parchment cover and a paste spine lining. [The binding is comprised of a] disintegrated limp vellum structure, but [the] cover should be re-used after conservation of the text-block. [There is] extensive damage from water and mould activity. Presence of much mould staining indicating the threat of continuing damage arising mainly from any use the book may be put to. The chemical agents present as a result of the mould activity have destroyed the sizing of the paper, rendering it very soft and brittle in parts. The fore-edge of the book is very powdery and continues to lose fragments. The ink is stable, but ink used in annotations will require testing prior to any aqueous treatments.

The book needs re-sewing and the 16<sup>th</sup>-century cover re-attached to the conserved textblock. Having recorded the extant sewing structure, the book needs to be completely dismantled. The leaves require washing in a de-acidification solution (recommend a solution of magnesium bicarbonate). This will remove any soluble acids arising from the mould activity. The leaves should be sized in a solution of gelatine to restore



Before Conservation



After Conservation

the strength of the paper and to return it to the familiar crackle and feel of rag papers dating from this period.

I suggest that the stubs at the front and back of the volume be removed and stored in the box as a separate entity on account of their narrowness and unsuitability for repair. In order to make the cover fit it will be necessary to make up the textblock thickness at the back of the volume with leaves of handmade paper. Alternatively blank leaves of handmade paper could be sewn in position to represent the missing leaves.

A drop spine box should be provided, with a compartment for the stubs removed from the front and back of the volume.

## Treatment

An appeal was made to The Friends of Senate House Library for support to conserve the volume. The Friends responded positively and made a grant in honour of Roy Moxham, the retiring Senior Conservator, 'in recognition of [his] contribution to the work of the Library'.

The book was sent out to an experienced conservator, Lizzie Neville and her studio. Ms Neville noted that there were earlier sewing threads so this was not the first binding.

The treatment began with lifting the endleaves by humidifying them to enable the sewing supports to be unlaced from the vellum cover. Once free of its cover the old adhesive on the spine was removed and the sewing was cut away, but retaining the old supports and thread path. The text leaves were dry cleaned and washed to remove acid left by the mould activity. The leaves were then treated with an appropriate de-acidification solution, dried and re-sized using a gelatine solution to give some strength. The leaves were repaired with a Japanese paper, especially the fragile mould damaged areas. Although Japanese paper is not comparable to fifteenth-century western papers, it has strong, thin, flexible, fibres that make it invaluable for repairing western papers.

The vellum cover was humidified and re-shaped. A strong, unbleached cotton fabric was hooked around the first and last sections to give strength where the text block is re-attached to the cover. The treated leaves were re-sewn onto supports of leather and vellum using the original sewing holes. The spine was lined with Japanese paper. The leather supports were re-laced into the cover with extra leaves to compensate for the missing text block.

The conserved book and the removed sewing supports were put into a custom-made box with a dedication to Roy gold-tooled on the cover.

The book can now be put on display or consulted by readers.



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## Relocation of Statistical material

The Census and a selection of other statistical series have been relocated to the Middlesex South Reading Room. Some backruns and parts of backruns are now in the stack; and readers with enquiries about this material should go to the Information Centre in the Middlesex South Reading Room. We are also enhancing the catalogue records for series that we no longer take, by adding links to the up-to-date series in full text on the National Statistics Website, where the material is available online.

## Chadwyck Healey Microfiche Set of Parliamentary Papers for the 19th Century

Senate House Library's Chadwyck Healey microfiche set of 19<sup>th</sup>-century Parliamentary Papers has been relocated to the Information Centre (Middlesex South Reading Room) where it is possible to use the reader/printers to obtain print outs of the full text from this material.

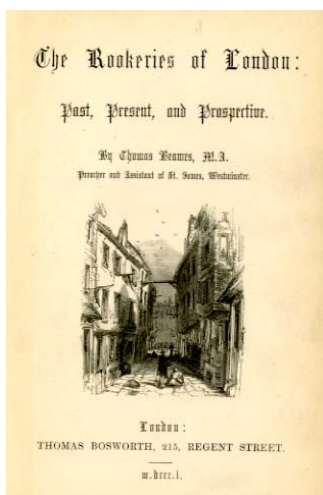
# Special Collections Focus

## - the Ron Heisler Collection

Some years ago the Library was approached by Mr Ron Heisler with the offer of a donation of a large collection of material for the study of labour and radicalism in the widest sense. Senate House Library holds collections with considerable coverage in this field – notably the Goldsmiths' Library of Economic Literature (presented by the Worshipful Company of Goldsmiths in 1903), the Family Welfare Association Library (deposited in 1963) and the John Burns Collection (placed on long term deposit by the trades union Amicus, formerly known as the Amalgamated Engineering Union, in 1996).

The Library entered into a period of assessment of the collection and discussions with Mr Heisler. It became apparent that the bulk of the collection was published from around the end of the First World War through to the present day, providing a chronological continuation of the holdings in the other related collections. Moreover, it was clear from Mr Heisler's extensive bibliographic knowledge and our scrutiny of the collection, that many items were either not present in public collections or not widely available.

The rookeries of London: past, present, and prospective  
Thomas Beames  
London: T. Bosworth, 1850



It soon became obvious, when several library staff visited Mr Heisler, that the collection was very large indeed. Mr Heisler estimated in 2003 that there were about 19,000 pamphlets, c. 3,000 periodical titles and around 17,500 books. Roy Moxham, the Library's Conservator at the time, measured the collection and estimated that it ran to just over 553 metres. In 2004, the collection was received at the Depository Library, Egham in the first instance. Cataloguing commenced in 2005.

Mr Heisler's very broad interpretation of the study of labour and radicalism comprehends political expression in art, drama and literature. Thus, the first batch of items catalogued were art books, very few of which were already represented in the ULRs. Among the items currently being catalogued there are novels, including a good number published during and

dealing with the liberation period in South Africa, many of which have not been discovered on the bibliographic database of the Consortium of University and Research Libraries (CURL).

Much of the collection consists of books, pamphlets, periodicals, and ephemera published by or relating to labour and radical political movements. There are also some manuscripts and artefacts. Many of the pamphlets and periodicals were published in very small quantities, and not widely represented in British libraries, if at all. Circulating among networks of radical groups, a lot of this fugitive material was assiduously collected by Mr Heisler from small bookshops, stalls, street sellers and acquaintances. Mr Heisler also sought out older material, which he acquired at street markets, house clearances and again through personal contacts.

Mr Heisler has amassed many hundreds of 19th-century books and pamphlets – and some periodicals – including Chartist and early friendly society items. From the early to mid-20th-century there are many publications of Trotskyist groups, the Independent Labour Party and the Communist Party; from later in the century the collection is particularly strong for local and desktop publishers since the 1960s. New Left material from the 1960s and 1970s is very extensive, and there are some uncommon publications from the women's movement of that period.

Most of the collection was published in Britain, but a very substantial proportion deals with or was published in the rest of the world. There are very good holdings on Africa, particularly South Africa. Also there is good representation of items from Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United States and the West Indies. West European countries are represented with material from and about France, Germany, Italy and Spain (notably the Spanish Civil War). There are publications from and about the former Soviet Union, some in Russian.

An ongoing project to catalogue the Ron Heisler Collection is underway, and records for books from the collection are becoming viewable on the Main Catalogue, over 700 have been catalogued so far. It is possible to see those records by simply entering [Heisler](#) as a classmark (mixed/local) search. Progress has also been made on the manuscript items, and a record for them is on the [Library's Archive & Manuscript catalogue](#), and [AIM25](#).

## Exhibition news

## Icons of Western Literature



The library exhibition running from 7 November 2005 until 7 April 2006 takes up in a new way a talk and display given by David Pearson to the Friends of Senate House Library in November 2004. The talk had been about books with a profound impact on western thought, from Euclid's *Elements* to Newton's *Principia* to A.A. Milne's *Winnie-The-Pooh* and D.H. Lawrence's *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, and items displayed were first editions. This exhibition continues the idea of icons. It limits the display to western fiction, while extending the display beyond first editions to imaginative written and pictorial reactions to significant works ranging from antiquity to the nineteenth century, on the basis that the impact of works can be judged by the urge to translate, illustrate or imitate them. To preserve distance and give posterity time to judge, the masterpieces selected end with Dickens's final work, from 1870. However, twentieth-century texts demonstrate responses to earlier works, such as the first edition of James Joyce's *Ulysses*.

The subjects of the particular cases are: Homer; Beowulf; Chaucer; poetry and drama; the novel; Shakespeare; fairy tale and fable. Individual exhibits range from 32mo editions of the *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, only 86 millimetres high, to a large folio of *Les Contes de Perrault*, illustrated by Gustave Doré, 37 centimetres tall. Illustrations take us from fifteenth-century woodcuts to the twentieth-century art of the American poster artist Rockwell Kent via Blake's illustrations of Dante. Translators include Alexander Pope and Tobias Smollett; publishers represented include the seventeenth-century Dutch dynasty of the Elzeviers and William Morris's Kelmscott Press. The selection of fictional icons invites a view of some manifestations of and reactions to some of the classics which have shaped our cultural heritage.

In all exhibitions the foremost criterion is to select appealing material to promote the theme of the particular exhibition. As a secondary consideration, we like where feasible to represent a range of collections. We are pleased through the Homer case in the icons exhibition to introduce two of the lesser-known named special collections of printed books. One is the Elzevier Collection, comprising over 700 books printed by members of the Elzevir family, chiefly in the seventeenth century, and approximately 450 books connected with the Elzevirs or produced by other seventeenth-century Dutch presses. The Elzevier Collection was catalogued online in 2002, and its contents simultaneously reported to the Short Title Catalogue of the Netherlands (STCN) for incorporation into their database held by the Royal Library in the Hague. Dr Jacob Harskamp of the British Library published an account of the Elzeviers and the collection in *FULLview*, the newsletter of the Friends of Senate House Library, that year. These improved knowledge of the collection. However, many of the books in the Elzevier Collection are too tightly bound to be exhibited without damaging the book structure, which is why it is a privilege to be able to show one of the more robust items here. The second collection to be represented for the first time is the Graveley Parish Library, about 1,875 volumes from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries deposited at Senate House by Jesus College, Cambridge in 1960. This library originally belonged to Henry Trotter (d. 1766), rector of the parish of Graveley, near Ely in Cambridgeshire. Not surprisingly, it specialises in theology.

The exhibition booklet containing the full text of the exhibition is available on the Senate House Library website at: [www.shl.lon.ac.uk/exhibitions/homepage.shtml](http://www.shl.lon.ac.uk/exhibitions/homepage.shtml). But captions can do no more than complement and elucidate the actual items; for the entire effect, we can only invite Newsletter readers to take time when they come in to linger over the actual exhibition.

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To view the newsletter archive please [click here](#)

