

38th Annual Conference on Book Trade History

THE DESTRUCTION OF BOOKS:

**Loss, recycling and remaking of books
since the 15th century**



**Sunday 27 & Monday 28 November 2016
at Stationers' Hall**

Ave Maria Lane, London EC4M 7DD

*Organised by Robin Myers,
Michael Harris & Giles Mandelbrote
in association with the ABA Educational Trust*

INTRODUCTION

This year's conference is concerned with the attrition and loss of books and manuscripts. The speakers will explore some of the misfortunes that can befall books, ranging from accidental or wilful destruction of particular classes of books to the cutting up and re-use of text and pictures for extra-illustration or to create albums. The impact of book-trade practices and changing fashions in collecting, with the recycling of paper and parchment and the rebinding of books, will form another major theme.

THE SPEAKERS

Brian Cummings, FSA, is Anniversary Professor at the University of York in the Department of English and Related Literature. His latest book, *Mortal Thoughts: Religion, Secularity & Identity in Shakespeare and Early Modern Culture* (OUP), appeared in 2013. He guest-curated the 2012 exhibition at Lambeth Palace Library, London, on the Book of Common Prayer, and in 2012-13 gave the Clarendon Lectures at Oxford University.

Christopher de Hamel is Fellow Librarian of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. From 1975 until 2000 he was responsible for all sales of illuminated manuscripts at Sotheby's. His most recent book, due for publication in 2016, is 'Meetings with Remarkable Manuscripts'.

John Goldfinch was formerly Curator of Incunabula at the British Library, responsible also for the Incunabula Short Title Catalogue (ISTC). He has published on the history of the British Library's incunabula collections and on the library of King George III.

Giles Mandelbrote is Librarian and Archivist of Lambeth Palace Library. His recent publications include *Libraries within the Library: The Origins of the British Library's Printed Collections* (2009), and *The Arcadian Library: Bindings and Provenance* (2014). Much of his current research focuses on booksellers', publishers' and book auction catalogues printed throughout Europe in the 16th and 17th centuries.

Samantha Matthews is Senior Lecturer in Victorian Literature at the University of Bristol, and author of *Poets' Graves, Bodies, and Books in the Nineteenth Century* (OUP, 2004). She is completing a monograph *Album Verses: The Album Poem in Nineteenth-Century Manuscript and Print Culture*, and editing Charles Lamb's poetry for *The Complete Works of Charles and Mary Lamb* (OUP).

Nicholas Pickwood worked as a book conservator from 1977 to 1989, and as Adviser to the National Trust since 1978. After working at Harvard (1992-95), he now leads the St Catherine's Monastery Library Project at the University of the Arts London, where he is director of the Ligatus Research Centre, which is dedicated to on the history of bookbinding.

Sandy Wilkinson is a Senior Lecturer at University College Dublin. He leads *Iberian Books*, a Mellon-funded project to provide a foundational STC for Spain, Portugal and the New World. His publications include: *Mary Queen of Scots and French Public Opinion* (2004), *French Vernacular Books* (co-editor, 2007), and *Iberian Books, 1472-1650* (2010 & 2015).

PROGRAMME

Sunday 27 November

10.00 – 10.30 am Registration and coffee

10.30 – 11.45 am **Brian Cummings**: A Brief History of Book Burning

11.45 – 12.15 pm Coffee

12.15 – 1.30 pm **Sandy Wilkinson**: Estimating What Has Been Destroyed: The Case of the Early-Modern Spanish Book World

1.30 – 3.00 pm Buffet Lunch. During the lunch break, Robin Myers, Archivist Emeritus, will give a brief talk about the history of the Hall and Andrea Cameron, Stationers' Company Honorary Librarian, will lead a tour of the building. Alternatively, join Michael Harris for a short walking tour of the neighbourhood to assess damage to the book trade by the Great Fire.

3.00 – 4.15 pm **Giles Mandelbrote**: Cutting up Books: A Seventeenth-Century Solution to Information Overload

4.15– 4.45 pm Tea

4.45 – 6.00 pm **Samantha Matthews**: 'A Medley of Scraps': Cutting and Creativity in Nineteenth-Century Manuscript Albums

6.00 – 7.00 pm Reception at Stationers' Hall, *sponsored by Bernard Quaritch Ltd*
Rare books & manuscripts since 1847

Monday 28 November

10.00 – 10.30 am Coffee

10.30 – 11.45 am **Christopher de Hamel**: Cutting up Manuscripts to Decorate Other Books

11.45 – 12.15 pm Coffee

12.15 – 1.30 pm **John Goldfinch**: Killing with Kindness: Turning Incunabula into Collectable Objects

1.30 – 2.30 pm Lunch

2.30 – 3.45 pm **Nicholas Pickwood**: Salvage and Salvation: Bookbindings as Agents of Preservation

3.45 pm Tea and end of formal proceedings

4.30 – 6.30 pm Visit to the Fire of London exhibition, Guildhall Library: 'That Dreadful Fire: the Hand of God, a Great Wind and a Very Dry Season'.

NOTES

The conference is organised by Michael Harris, Giles Mandelbrote and Robin Myers, in association with the Antiquarian Booksellers' Association Educational Trust.



ABA
EDUCATIONAL
TRUST

The conference will include a visit to the Guildhall Library on Monday between 4.30 and 6.30pm.

The proceedings of previous conferences and a selection of antiquarian books will be available for purchase during the conference.

FEES

The conference fee includes coffee, tea and lunch on both days, the reception on Sunday evening, and the visit to the Guildhall Library.

Registered students may apply for a limited number of reduced-rate places, sponsored by the Bibliographical Society.

Conference fee: £95

Student conference fee: £60*

Single-day fee: £60*

Student single-day fee: £50*

* Limited availability in each category

Early booking is recommended and places will be offered in order of receipt.

CANCELLATION POLICY

A 50% refund will be made for cancellations received in writing at the ABA Office by 18 November 2016. No refund will be given for any cancellation received after that date.

For a booking form, or for more information, please contact:

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