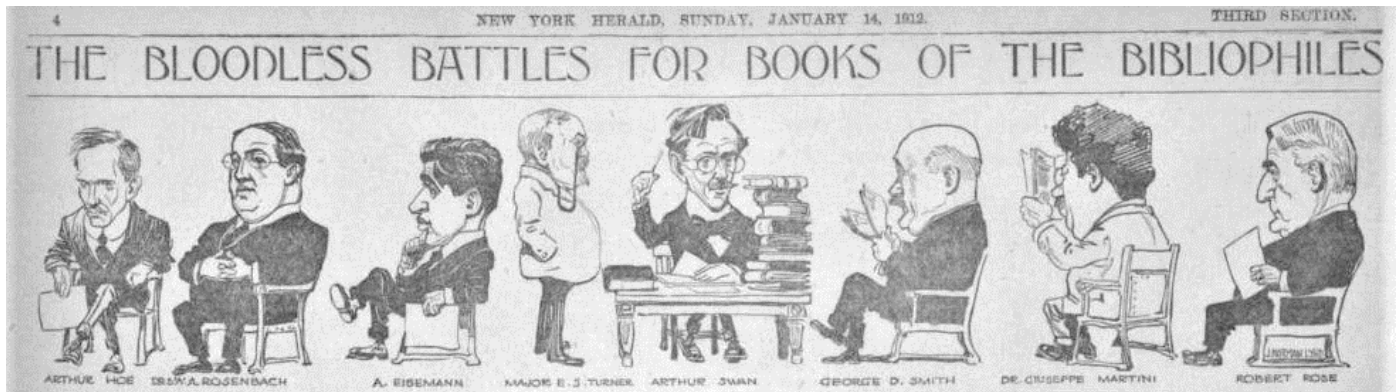


The International Trade in Pre-Modern Manuscripts 1890-1945 and the Making of the Middle Ages

Conference | School of Advanced Study, University of London | 20-23 September 2022



Between 1890 and 1945 an enormous number of manuscripts made before c.1600 changed hands. Some appeared at auction multiple times, while others were sold as part of complete libraries. Many manuscripts entered collections where they have since remained. These repositories included well-known libraries that bear their founders' names, such as the Beatty, Folger, Huntington, Morgan, and Rylands libraries and the Gulbenkian Foundation, as well as "national" collections including the British Museum, KBR and the Bibliothèque Nationale. The choices of the super-rich shaped their collections, but also dictated what was available to those with smaller purses, who had to settle for what the richest collectors did not want or find alternative means of obtaining books in an increasingly expensive and international market. At the same time, wealthy collectors, often advised by those working in museums, financed catalogues and studies of the works they owned, bringing them to greater public attention. This scholarship helped to shape attitudes to pre-modern books, which were categorised as art works, national literature, Shakespeareana, historical documents (or some combination of these), depending on their contents and the context in which they were being described. The manuscripts were and are important source material for medieval and Renaissance history and culture, and early twentieth-century approaches to them have helped to shape both popular and scholarly attitudes to the Middle Ages. This conference, which is organised by the Cultivate MSS project (funded by the European Research Council under the Horizon 2020 work programme) aims to bring together scholars from different disciplinary backgrounds to examine the trade in pre-modern manuscripts and its consequences.

Programme

Tuesday 20 September 2022

10.15 Registration and Coffee

Welcome 10.45 – Laura Cleaver

Session 1 11.00-12.30: Collectors and Dealers

- a) Francesca Manzari (Sapienza Università di Roma), Illuminations from Northern and Central Italy in the little-known collection of the dealer Vittorio Forti
- b) Nigel Ramsay (UCL/IES, University of London), Chronicling the Market in Rare Books and Manuscripts: William Roberts and Seymour de Ricci
- c) Gaia Grizzi (Les Enluminures/École des Chartes), Exhibiting Italian Books Outside Italy: Tammaro De Marinis and his efforts to promote National Heritage

Lunch 12.30-13.30

Session 2 13.30-15.30: Manuscripts and National Identity on the European Continent

- a) Hannah Morcos (IES, University of London), 'Reclaiming Manuscripts for the Nation: Henri Omont and the Phillipps Collection'
- b) Federico Botana (IES, University of London), The Acquisitions of Italian Public Libraries at the Time of the Great American Collectors
- c) Paola Paesano (Vallicelliana Library), The Vallicelliana Library
- d) Livia Marcelli (Vallicelliana Library), The fates of the manuscripts from the Vallicelliana Libraries of Rome in the early twentieth century

Tea 15.30-16.00

Session 3 16.00-17.00: Austria and Germany

- a) Katharina Kaska & Christoph Egger (Vienna), Fuelling the Market – Sales from Austrian monasteries 1919-1938
- b) Angéline Rais (IES, University of London), Jacques Rosenthal's Marketing Strategies: An Analysis of *Bibliotheca medii aevi manuscripta*, 1925–1928

Reception/Exhibition?

Wednesday 21 September 2022

Session 4 9.30-11.00: Manuscripts and Meaning

- a) Alan Mitchell, The Biography and Value of John Ruskin's Blue Psalter, Bibliothèque Royale, Brussels, MS IV 1013
- b) Dongwon Esther Kim (University of Toronto), Forgetting the Bedford Psalter and Hours: Making and Un-making of National Identity in the Acquisition of an "English" Manuscript
- c) A. S. G. Edwards, Exporting the Vernacular: The Trade in Middle English Manuscripts between England and America up to 1945

Coffee 11.00-11.30

Session 5 11.30-13.00: The Dispersal of British Manuscript Collections

- a) Mark Purcell (University of Cambridge), The Medieval Manuscript and the British Country House, 1890-1945
- b) Olivia Baskerville (IES, University of London), From Bloomsbury to Bloomington? Re-examining the Henry Yates Thompson correspondence at the Lilly Library
- c) Alexandra Plane (Newcastle University/National Library of Scotland), Henry Yates Thompson vs. the public? The 'Hundred Manuscripts', uncommercial motives, and public access to a private collection

Lunch 13.00-14.00

Session 6 14.00-15.30: Manuscript Scholarship in England

- a) Kate Falardeau (University of Cambridge), Phillipps MS 24275 and the Nineteenth- and Early-Twentieth-Century Historiography of Bede's Martyrology
- b) Christine Jakobi-Mirwald, Stories of an Antiquary: The Legacy of M. R. James
- c) William P. Stoneman (Retired Curator of Early Books & Manuscripts, Houghton Library, Harvard University), A Reference Book for Scholars and Collectors: Eric Millar's English Illuminated Manuscripts (1926-1928)

Tea 15.30-16.00

Session 7 16.00-17.30: Collecting English Literature

- a) Rosalyn Sklar and Jim Ranahan (Shakespeare Birthplace Trust), 'To be, or not to be?' Market Forces and the Making of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust Collections
- b) Rhiannon Lawrence-Francis (Brotherton Library, University of Leeds), The one that got away: how Lord Brotherton lost a book and founded a library
- c) Danielle Magnusson (IES, University of London), Dollars and Dramas: Early English Plays and the American Book Trade (1920-1929)

Thursday 22 September 2022

Session 8 9.30-11.00: Women

- a) Toby Burrows (Oxford University), Manuscript collecting by women in the United States in the 20th century: the evidence from de Ricci's Census
- b) Natalia Fantetti (IES, University of London), Isabella Stewart Gardner: Producing Culture, Reproducing the Self
- c) Jill Unkel (Chester Beatty Library), Edith Beatty as a Collector

Coffee 11.00-11.30

Session 9 11.30-13.30: Collectors

- a) Martina Lanza (National Library, Florence), A Private Library and the Making of the Middle Ages in Florence

- b) Ana Dias (IES, University of London/Durham University), Theodore Irwin of Oswego: An Early American Collector of Medieval Manuscripts
- c) Nathalie Roman (University of Lausanne), The Judicious Acquisitions of Paul Durrieu (1855-1924)
- d) Cynthia Johnston (IES, University of London), "To collect, in one volume, from various sources, some information not otherwise accessible, useful and interesting TO BOOK-LOVERS"; Books on Book Collecting 1870-1950

Lunch 13.30-14.30

Session 10 14.30-15.45: Collecting Non-European Manuscripts

- a) Karen Winslow (IES), Becoming a gentleman collector. Alfred Chester Beatty's influence on Calouste Sarkis Gulbenkian's Eastern manuscript collection.
- b) Hallie Nell Swanson (University of Pennsylvania), From Manners and Conduct to Travels and Adventures: The Indo-Persian Romance in the American Rare Book Library

Tea 15.45-16.15

Session 11 16.15-17.45: Cuttings, Leaves and Fragments

- a) Peter Kidd, Celotti and Ottley, Northwick and Holford: Collecting and Dispersing Illuminated Cuttings in England from the 1820s to the 1920s
- b) Margaret Connolly (University of St Andrews), Tracking the Sale of Medieval Manuscript Fragments through the 1920s Auction House
- c) Lisa Fagin Davis (Medieval Academy), Buying and Breaking with Otto and Philip

17.45-19.00 reception and book launch

Friday 23 September 2022

Session 12 9.30-11.00: Manuscripts and Networks

- e) Mitch Fraas (University of Pennsylvania), Feeding the American market: Bernard Quaritch Ltd. and its American customers, 1890-1920
- f) Pierre-Louis Pinault (IES, University of London), Bibliophilic clubs, learned societies and the trade in premodern manuscripts c. 1890-1939
- g) Nora Moroney (Trinity College Dublin), "God Save the Queene off Englande": Translation, Tradition and Tracing the History of an Irish Manuscript Primer

Coffee 11.00-11.30

Session 13 11.30-12.30: Fortunes of War

- a) Laura Cleaver (IES), The Trade in Medieval Manuscripts in London during the First World War
- b) Hanno Wijsman and Jérémy Delmulle (IRHT), Provenance Research on Lost Manuscripts: The Case of Leuven University Library 1915-1940

Closing Discussion

Lunch 13.00-14.00