

# French Studies Library Group

## Annual Review

Issue 3 (2006-7)

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# *French Studies Library Group Annual Review*

Issue 3 (2006-7)

## **Editors**

David Lowe  
Head of European Collections and Cataloguing  
Collection Development and Description  
Cambridge University Library  
West Road  
Cambridge CB3 9DR  
United Kingdom  
Tel. +44 (0) 1223 333094  
Fax: +44 (0) 1223 333160  
Email: [dkl1000@cam.ac.uk](mailto:dkl1000@cam.ac.uk)

Sarah Burn  
Academic Liaison and Research Support  
Librarian, Arts  
Senate House Library  
University of London Research Library  
Services  
Senate House, Malet Street  
London WC1E 7HU  
Tel. +44 (0)20 7862 8421  
Email: [Sarah.burn@london.ac.uk](mailto:Sarah.burn@london.ac.uk)

The *FSLG Annual Review* is an annual publication, produced for the members of the French Studies Library Group. The aims of the Group are:

- To act as a focus for librarians and others concerned with the provision of library resources and services in French studies;
- To facilitate cooperation in the provision, access, promotion and preservation of French printed and electronic resources;
- To provide a forum for the dissemination of information on these topics between libraries and the scholarly user community;
- To liaise with related library groups.

## **Membership**

Membership is open to any person or institution with an interest in the aims of the Group. Annual membership costs 15 pounds sterling. Please contact the Treasurer, Martin Hodgson ([martin.hodgson@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:martin.hodgson@kcl.ac.uk)).

## **Notes for contributors**

Contributions to future issues of the *Annual Review* are always welcome. Submissions should be preferably in electronic form (rich text format (RTF)). Please send them to the editor at the above address.

### **PLEASE NOTE**

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## **Electronic mailing lists**

FLSG has its own JISCmail list: **FSLG** (<http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/fslg.html>)

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## *Retirement of Jill Kempshall*

**David Lowe**, *Head of European Collections and Cataloguing, Cambridge University Library*

At the end of May 2007 Jill Kempshall retired from her post as Faculty Librarian for Humanities, Languages and Social Sciences at the University of the West of England. Her departure is a great loss to the French Studies Library Group, the German Studies Library Group and ACLAIR. A number of us find it difficult enough to take an active role in just one language group, but Jill was deeply involved and committed to all three. In her position as Faculty Librarian at UWE Jill's remit was extensive, both in the range of languages she covered and in her subject responsibilities. Her engagement was considerable, and gave her the ability to compare and contrast, print and electronic, humanities and social sciences, French, German and Spanish. Her outlook has always been extremely balanced.

I first got to know Jill when she co-hosted a GSLG conference at Bristol in September 1995 with Michael Howarth from Bristol University Library. It was one of the best German conferences, combining an excellent range of speakers with a lively social programme. With hindsight I realise that the conference was much like Jill herself. It had a lot of intellectual substance, it was lots of fun, and it was organised in an exemplary spirit of cooperation.

It must have been rather disheartening for Jill, late in her career, to see teaching emphases change at UWE, to the detriment of European language courses. In consequence she saw some parts of the collection she had worked so hard to build up standing unused, and subsequently being withdrawn. But so like Jill that she managed to turn a negative into a positive, working hard to find good homes for these withdrawn titles, always thinking about the national picture in addition to the situation in Bristol. How much easier it would have been just to discard the books. Cambridge has been one of a range of libraries to benefit from her efforts, plugging a number of gaps in its French sociological holdings.

Jill's own professional experience gave her first hand knowledge of the pressures to which language collections are exposed in British university libraries as language courses are axed. And in consequence she has seen the membership of the various language groups start to dwindle as posts for language specialists in academic libraries are suppressed. But here again Jill sought to make a positive out of a negative. If the language groups found it harder and harder to go it alone, an umbrella organization was needed. Thus it



was that WESLINE was born, thanks in large part to Jill's personal efforts and encapsulating her fundamental belief in the value of professional collaboration and shared experience. WESLINE is part of Jill's legacy to the rest of us. As the second convenor, I hope I can continue what Jill has started. Hers is a daunting example to follow.

## *Staff changes and promotions*

**David Lowe**, *Head of European Collections and Cataloguing, Cambridge University Library*

With the departure of Jill Kempshall there has been some reorganization at the University of the West of England. **Sarah Brain** has taken over many of Jill's language responsibilities – in particular, French, Spanish, area studies and linguistics.

At the Taylor Institution Library in Oxford **Vanya Murray** has taken over from Katherine Melling. Vanya has responsibility for both French and film studies, and is one of the speakers at September's conference at the Institute of Germanic and Romance Studies. Katherine has moved to the post of Deputy Librarian at Oxford's Social Science Library.

With the departure of Kathleen Manson **Hélène Fernandes** has been promoted to Deputy Librarian at Cambridge's Modern and Medieval Languages Library, whilst retaining all her responsibilities for Romance languages and the management of accounts. Catherine Minter, replacing Kathleen as the German and Dutch specialist, has also taken over responsibility for film studies from Hélène.

**Jamie Andrews**, a regular contributor to the *Annual Review*, has been promoted to Head of Modern Literary Manuscripts at the British Library. Jamie's latest contribution appears on pages 24-25 of this issue.

## *The French connection: French collections in the libraries of Senate House and the Institutes of Advanced Study.*

### The French collections at Senate House Library

**Christine Anderson**, *Academic Liaison Librarian, Arts Team, Senate House Library*

#### Monographs

The French collection forms part of the Romance collections (c. 60,000 items), and is the biggest component of those collections. Like the other modern language collections at SHL, it is generally stronger on literature than language. It also comprises material on and in Provençal/Occitan. In keeping with SHL's mission statement, the collections are not developed with undergraduates primarily in mind, although the collections are so strong that, the lack of multiple copies aside, they would be more than sufficient for any undergraduate's needs.

#### **French**

- The collection is broadly comprehensive, covering language and literature from the medieval period onwards, but it is particularly strong in literature from mid-19<sup>th</sup> century onwards. This partly reflects the explosion of literary output from that time, but it also ties in quite neatly with the SHL's formation and the collecting activity of those early years. The collection's most distinctive feature has been developed over the last twenty years or so, as a result of the Library's adventurous policy of collecting widely in contemporary writing. To illustrate the impact of this policy, approximately 750 authors who began their careers after 1960 are represented in the collection, compared with some 600 pre-1960 authors. Within this scope the collection is also very strong in literature from French-speaking Africa.
- Recognized strengths of the collection:  
20<sup>th</sup> century literature;  
Postcolonial writing (Francophone African, French Canadian, Belgian)
- The French-speaking Caribbean is covered in the Latin American and Caribbean Studies collection.
- A very small amount of Cajun material is held.

#### **Occitan and Provençal**

- Holdings in Occitan are modest (14 authors in the modern post-1789 age), some 200+ items in total.

**The French Collection** is exclusively print-based, with material obtained through a variety of sources. Primary works are acquired from a considerable number of different publishers, some of them mainstream (Gallimard), some of them rather more obscure. Critical works are sourced on

the whole from a smaller number of more established academic presses from America and Europe.

A number of 'classic' texts are freely available on the internet through services such as *ABU: la bibliothèque universelle* (contains nearly 300 texts by over 100 authors). There are links to this and similar websites from SHL's subject gateways and resources pages. The feasibility and desirability of acquiring electronic texts for lending is a project for the future.

### **Language(s) of collection**

Primary texts are collected mainly in the original language, but translations are collected quite extensively, particularly for French. However, this can be quite difficult for modern writers. Major works of criticism in the original language are collected, but there is a definite emphasis on English-language critical material.

### **Timeframe of collection**

Most of the collections cover the medieval period onwards, but as the individual statements above point out, the emphasis is really on mid-19<sup>th</sup> century to the present day.

### **Related SHL collections**

**Film:** Probably the most closely related collection. It is a link which has been strengthened with the recent development of the Film Studies collection and by the fact that many film-based courses within the university are offered in conjunction with English or a modern language. For a detailed description, see article by Sarah Burn on pages 9-11 of this issue.

**Philosophy:** The links between the French collection and the Philosophy collection are particularly strong, since a number of major French literary figures are also major figures in the history of French thought. These include Montesquieu, one of the key political philosophers of the Enlightenment, and Jean-Jacques Rousseau. A wide range of works by French philosophers including Descartes, La Mettrie, Condillac, Bergson, Merleau Ponty, Foucault, Lacoue-Labarthe, Derrida, Lyotard, Deleuze, Jean-Luc Nancy, Ricoeur, Michel Serres, Alain Badiou, by existentialists such as Sartre and de Beauvoir, and by important French feminist thinkers such as Irigaray are to be found.

**History:** The histories of most of the European countries, including France, are reasonably well represented in the History collection. This includes intellectual history and local history, in addition to the holdings on broader themes in European history.

**Linguistics:** For those studying Romance **languages** as opposed to **literatures**, the linguistics collection will be of value, providing vital support material on general linguistic theory.

**Literary theory/comparative literature:** The study of literary theory is now an integral part of many language and literature degrees, especially at PG level. Students of all modern languages including English will utilise this small but vital collection at some stage in their studies.

**Special Collections:** French studies material is to be found throughout the Special Collections held in the SHL. For a detailed description, see the article by Karen Attar on pages 12-13 of this issue.

**Palaeography:** Here the links are less obvious, but there are connections to manuscripts produced in the French language, and France. Manuscript catalogues of the Bibliothèque nationale are also held.

**History of the book:** The links here are surprisingly strong. There are reasonably good holdings on the history of the French book. Much of the material is in French and dates from late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries.

**Interdisciplinary focus and themes (within and across subject collections)**

There is already a strong interdisciplinary focus on literature and film, and literature and philosophy to a lesser extent. Potential future developments surround the emerging links between anthropology/ethnography and literary studies. Critical works are starting to emerge on this theme, and it could be an area of possible future development.

## Periodicals

SHL has long been noted for its outstanding periodicals collections, and the holdings for Romance studies are no exception. There are some 93 titles devoted specifically to the Romance collections, which are augmented by hundreds of other more general philology/literature-based titles, not to mention those in related collections such as film studies, philosophy, history, history of art, and book studies.

### Areas of significance

The Romance periodicals collection is dominated by French. Out of 93 titles on the “prom” list, 43 are devoted to French language/literature, with 18 French-language publications. As a collection, it is a classic example of how SHL periodicals acquisition differs from the colleges, with 39 titles having a “SHL only” status. A substantial number of these are more obscure esoteric titles, often published by literary societies, such as *Bulletin baudelairien*, *Bulletin d’informations proustiennes*, and *Rimbaud vivant*.

### Format

In terms of format, the journal holdings are predominantly print-based, with a steadily increasing number of electronic subscriptions. There are also a very small number of electronic titles which are freely available, and where such titles are identified, they are added to the subject links pages. Electronic-only journals – available through subscription services such as JSTOR – are added to the catalogue.

Whilst most of the titles emanate from established academic presses, SHL also collects comprehensively in less mainstream publications, often those produced by societies, and which are less likely to feature in college collections. This is certainly the case with the Romance collections.



**Geographic scope**

In terms of country of publication, titles come from as far a field as Australia, Canada, United States, and Japan. In terms of the geographic coverage of the periodicals, most seem to concentrate on the country of origin, although there are titles such as *International journal of Francophone studies*, which deals with the language and literature of all French-speaking parts of the world.

**Language(s) of collection**

Almost two-thirds of the collection (61 of 93 titles) is in a language other than English.

**Timeframe of collection**

In terms of the date of publication, the holdings are quite impressive with some titles going as far back as late-19<sup>th</sup> century. In terms of the periods covered, SHL has titles dedicated to the medieval period onwards, but it is probably strongest in its coverage of the 18<sup>th</sup> century onwards.

**Assessment of strengths/areas for development**

The collection is almost exclusively language and literature, although broader cultural studies-based journals are beginning to feature more prominently. It is desirable that the current portfolio should be maintained, but suggestions for new subscriptions are always welcome, if they correspond with the SHL's core mission.

**Interdisciplinary focus and themes (within and across subject collections)**

A number of the titles which SHL has acquired in the more recent past have an interdisciplinary flavour: *French cultural studies*; and *Sites: journal of 20<sup>th</sup> century/contemporary French studies*. This is reinforced by a broad range of general cultural/critical studies journals which often contain relevant material, pertaining to the cultural life of the 'Romance' countries.

## Resources for the study of French Film at Senate House Library

**Sarah Burn**, *Academic Liaison Librarian, Arts Team, Senate House Library*

The Film Studies collection at Senate House Library (part of the University of London Research Library Services) was established in 2002 by a grant from the University of London Vice-Chancellor's Development Fund. The grant enabled the Library to increase the monograph holdings, to acquire back runs of periodical titles and to establish a DVD collection of feature films. This collection was established primarily to support postgraduate teaching and research on film and is now continuously developed from the Library's ordinary collection development fund.

### Monographs

The 'Film and Media' monograph collection at Senate House Library covers all aspects of film studies including general film theory and criticism, thematic, and genre based works. This collection reflects the regional emphases of the Library as a whole and therefore its particular strength is research level historical, critical and biographical coverage of European, U.S. and

Latin American film. Further general information about the collection can be found on the Senate House Library website at <http://www.shl.lon.ac.uk/subjects/guides/film.shtml>

In this subject area the Library primarily collects works published in English and European languages. Looking at the French elements of the collection in more detail, there is a large number of works which discuss the history of French cinema, for example:

- Abel, R., *The ciné goes to town: French cinema, 1896-1914* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1994)
- Bertin-Maghit, J., *Le cinéma français sous l'occupation* (Paris: Presses Universitaires de France, 1994)
- Marie, M., *La nouvelle vague: une école artistique* (Paris: Nathan, 1997)
- Powrie, P., *French cinema in the 1990s: continuity and difference* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1999)
- Smith, A., *French cinema in the 1970s: the echoes of May* (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2005)

There are also many research monographs addressing themes such as gender, race or identity in French film, for example:

- Armes, R., *Postcolonial images: studies in North African film* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2005)
- Cairns, L., *Sapphism on screen: lesbian desire in French and Francophone cinema* (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2006)
- Dehée, Y., *Mythologies politiques du cinéma français, 1960-2000* (Paris: Presses universitaires de France, 2000)
- Dine, P.D., *Images of the Algerian War: French fiction and film, 1954-1992* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1994)
- Ezra, E., & Harris, S., (eds) *France in focus: film and national identity* (Oxford: Berg, 2000)
- Tarr, C., *Reframing difference: beur and banlieue filmmaking in France* (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2005)
- Vincendeau, G. *Stars and stardom in French cinema* (London: Continuum Publishing Co., 2000)

The coverage of Francophone film directors is also substantial, including for example, works about Luc Besson, Robert Bresson, Luis Buñuel, Claude Chabrol, Jean-Luc Godard, Diane Kurys, Louis Malle, Maurice Pialat, Jean Renoir, Alain Resnais, Éric Rohmer, François Truffaut and Agnès Varda.

In order to facilitate research the collection also includes a number of reference works and bibliographies. Researchers can use the annual printed *International Index to Film Periodicals* (Brussels: FIAF, 1972-) in the Information Centre, which also houses general reference works such as Gobel, A., ed., *International film index, 1895-1990* (London: Bowker-Saur, 1991) and Pendergast, T., ed., *International dictionary of films and film-makers* (London: St James Press, 2000). Other reference works held which are specifically devoted to French film include:

- Abel, R. *French film theory and criticism: a history* (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1988)
- Biggs, M. E., *French films, 1945-1993: a critical filmography of the 400 most important releases* (Jefferson, NC: McFarland, 1995)

- Pallister, J.L., *French-speaking women film directors: a guide* (Madison, NJ: Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 1997)

## Periodicals

Significant resources have been committed in order to develop a research level periodical collection in this subject area with over 30 titles held in print. This includes French language titles such as *Cahiers du cinéma*, *Contre bande*, *Positif* and *Vertigo*. Other periodical titles of interest include *Camera Obscura*, *Cinema Journal*, *Film History*, *Film Quarterly*, *Literature/Film Quarterly*, *New Cinemas*, *Screen*, *Sight and Sound*, *Studies in French Cinema* and *Velvet Light Trap*.

The printed periodical collection is supplemented by the specialist database *The International Index of Performing Arts (IIPA) Full Text*. This, and other online resources which contain material relevant to this subject area, are listed on the Senate House Library website at <http://www.shl.lon.ac.uk/subjects/guides/filmtools.shtml> .

## DVDs

The DVD collection currently consists of over 700 feature films, documentaries and operas and is growing at a rate of over 70 new titles a year. The majority of the collection consists of feature films from Britain, Europe and Latin America but does include films from all over the world from the beginnings of filmmaking to the present. Here is just a selection of the titles we hold which may be of interest:

*À bout de souffle*. Dir. Jean-Luc Godard. Optimum Releasing. 1959  
*Alphaville*. Dir. Jean-Luc Godard. Warner Home Video. 1965.  
*Les amants du Pont-Neuf*. Dir. Léos Carax. Arrow Films. 1991  
*La battaglia di Algeri*. Dir. Gillo Pontecorvo. Argent Films. 1966.  
*Boudu sauvé des eaux*. Dir. Jean Renoir. Pathe Productions. 1932.  
*Cléo de 5 à 7*. Dir. Agnès Varda. Paramount Home Entertainment. 1962.  
*Comme une image*. Dir. Agnès Jaoui. 20th Century Fox Home Entertainment. 2004  
*Le corbeau*. Dir. Henri Georges Clouzot. Optimum Releasing. 1943  
*Delicatessen*. Dir. Jean-Pierre Jeunet. Momentum Pictures. 1990.  
*L'Ennui*. Dir. Cédric Kahn. Artificial Eye. 1998.  
*Hiroshima mon amour*. Dir Alain Resnais. Nouveaux Pictures. 1959  
*La jetée*. Dir. Chris Marker. Nouveaux Pictures. 1962.  
*À ma soeur!* Dir. Catherine Breillat. Tartan Video. 2001.  
*Les quatre cents coups*. Dir. Francois Truffaut. Tartan Home Video. 1959.  
*La reine Margot*. Dir. Patrice Chéreau. Pathe. 1994  
*Les rêveurs*. Dir. Bernardo Bertolucci. Twentieth Century Fox. 2003.  
*Vendredi soir*. Dir. Claire Denis. Tartan Video. 2002

If you would like any further information about the Film and Media collection at Senate House Library please contact me on [sarah.burn@london.ac.uk](mailto:sarah.burn@london.ac.uk)

## Uzanne et al at the University of London

**Karen Attar**, *Rare Books Librarian, Senate House Library*

In 2004, Senate House Library was bequeathed the Foskett Uzanne Collection. The donor was D.J. (Douglas) Foskett (1918-2004), Director of Central Library Services and Goldsmiths' Librarian of the University of London 1978-1983. The subject was Octave Uzanne (1852-1911), a little-known French writer who edited the work of minor French seventeenth-century poets and eighteenth-century prose authors before moving into two distinct spheres, as a student of bibliography and, perhaps more distinctively, as an historian of female fashion, whose titles include *L'Eventail* (1882) and *L'ombrelle, le gant, le manchon* (1883). He was interested in book design, internal and external, whereby he believed in striking and attractive book covers resembling chocolate boxes (and also, incidentally, in the superiority of French book design over that of other countries). Several of Uzanne's books have been translated into English; a small amount of his work into Swedish, German and Czech.

Comprising just 115 volumes - chiefly French works, with a few English translations – the Foskett Uzanne Collection is one of Senate House Library's smallest special collections. It is distinctive for the library, however, not just for the associations with the donor, who follows the librarians Reginald Arthur Rye and J.H.P. Pafford in his generosity to the institution he led, but for being the only special collection devoted to French literature. The collection was duly catalogued shortly after arrival. It has since featured in a display of new acquisitions and in articles in *FULLview*, the annual newsletter of the Senate House Library Friends, and in *The Private Library*.<sup>1</sup>

This is not to say that French books are lacking elsewhere in the library, some of them of considerable interest. The library of mathematician Augustus De Morgan (1806-1871), one of the founding collections of the University of London, contains approximately 500 French works. De Morgan collected primarily in the fields of mathematics and its history, and his collection includes such varied items as Edmund Wingate's *Arithmetique logarithmique* (Paris, 1625), with a long description of how De Morgan cajoled Scottish fellow-mathematician Thomas Galloway into yielding him the book in exchange for one by Kepler; *L'arithmetique de Nicolas Tartaglia Brescian* (1578); seventeenth-century treatises on equations and geometry by Jacques Ozanam; six translations of Euclid (of which the Paris edition of 1644 contains De Morgan's manuscript notes on the front flyleaf) and nineteenth-century French booksellers' catalogues and mathematical tracts.

A major boost to the Library came in 1903 with the gift of the Goldsmiths' Library of Economic Literature and money to develop it. With some 70,000 volumes published from approximately 1472 onwards, this is the largest of the named special collections. It contains 7,761 French-language items, ranging from sixteenth-century royal ordinances to early editions of Rousseau and nineteenth-century translations of Adam Smith's *Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations*. Further items pertain to French economic history, law and legislation, etc.

When Sir Edwin Durning-Lawrence (1837-1914) built up a library of about 5,750 items to support his belief that Francis Bacon wrote the works of William Shakespeare, he included 30 French translations of Bacon's works, from 1619 to the mid-nineteenth century; 17 French emblem books from 1555 to 1790 (in the composition of which Bacon was supposed to have had a hand); early editions of Montaigne (as having been written by Bacon); and a small but rare clutch of seventeenth-century

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<sup>1</sup> See K.E. Attar, 'Douglas Foskett's Uzanne Collection', *Private Library*, 5th ser., 8 (2005), 111-26.

French Rosicrucian books (since Bacon allegedly headed the Rosicrucians in England). The books came to the University of London in 1931.

More recently, of the 14,000 or so items in the Harry Price Library of Magical Literature, given to the University of London in 1948, 783 are French. Eleven sixteenth- and seventeenth-century French translations of the prophecies of Nostradamus jostle with works on legerdemain, with such titles as *Supplément à La magie blanche dévoilée* (by Henri Decremps; Paris, 1785, and later editions) and *Les 1,200 amusements et récréations de société* (Paris, 18--). The earliest of the works on the occult published on French soil was Angelo Gambiglioni's text on Roman law, *Accipite o clarissimi iudices opera aurea [et] pulcherrima in materia quotidiana* (Lyons, [1508]). The copy is attractive, with a picture on the title page and an ornamental capital on leaf CXIII having been hand-coloured in yellow, green and brown, and with some rubrication. The psychical researcher and publicist Harry Price himself singled out the volume in the introduction to the catalogue of his library which he compiled in 1929. With all the collector's desire to enhance the books in his collection, Price dated the volume to "ca 1490"; Henri Louis Baudrier in his *Bibliographie lyonnaise* (1895-1921) places it firmly within the post-incunable period.

Many of the 5,000 or so books in the Belgian Library, deposited in Senate House Library in 1967, are in French. These deal primarily with Belgian art, history and literature, but not exclusively so: it is in this collection that the Library's earliest edition of *A la recherche du temps perdu* (1914-1927) is held.

Early French books are sometimes present in less predictable sources than subject-based collections. The rarest items in the Elzevier Collection of Elzevier and other early Dutch imprints, given to Senate House by the Guildhall Library in 1950, are pirated Netherlandish editions of French plays, such as multi-volume editions of the *Oeuvres de Monsieur Moliere* from 1675 and 1679-1689 (attributed in the imprint to Jacques le Jeune) and two volumes of *Le théâtre de P. Corneille* (1664), "suivant la copie imprimée à Paris".

Of the 327 titles in the Crofton Collection, a cabinet collection of little books bequeathed by actor Cecil Crofton in 1932, 75 titles are in French. These are mostly eighteenth- and nineteenth century editions of French seventeenth- and eighteenth-century literature, with a few surprises, such as the two-volume *Le ministre de Wakefield* (1789) and a book of hours in French and Latin from 1685.

Recently the Library noticed among the bound pamphlets within the working library of one-time Vice-Chancellor George Grote (1794-1871), a founding collection of the University, 210 late-eighteenth-century French pamphlets in thirteen volumes pertaining to the French Revolution; these are among treasures awaiting electronic cataloguing.

Thus, more or less by chance, Senate House Library has amassed a respectable and varied number of books published in France and/or in French in various special collections generously donated to it. But the first specifically French-based special collection to come to the University, over 130 years after the Library was founded, remains special.

## French history at the Institute of Historical Research

**Robert Lyons**, *Librarian, Institute of Historical Research*

The Institute of Historical Research Library is an open access reference collection consisting of editions of primary sources, with supporting collections of bibliographies, archival guides, reference works, works of methodology and periodicals.

The Library holds over 20,000 volumes in French, of which about 15,000 form the French collection itself, with significant holdings of material on France in the Military and Naval and International Relations collections, on French colonies (mostly North America and the West Indies), the French cantons of Switzerland and the French-speaking part of Belgium. Titles in French are also widely distributed across other collections. The Library subscribes to over 40 historical periodicals in French.

French history is collected at both national and local level, and the collection is particularly strong for the period to the end of the First Empire, although the incorporation of the collection of the late Vincent Wright has greatly strengthened holdings for the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, particularly for political history. Notable features of the collections are French medieval cartularies (over 200 examples), sources for the history of the Revolution, and the history of Normandy in general and Rouen in particular. The Norman collections are in the process of being significantly augmented by books from the library of the late David Douglas. A substantial set of inventories of French departmental archives will become the most extensive in the country, once a larger collection donated by The National Archives and not yet on site can be added to it.

Academic staff and postgraduate students of all British universities are welcome to become members of the Institute. Further details of admissions policy, hours of opening and location can be found at <http://www.history.ac.uk/library/>.

## French legal collections at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies Library

**Lesley Young**, *Information Resources Manager, Institute of Advanced Legal Studies*

The Institute of Advanced Legal Studies Library was founded in 1947 and is a national and international resource for legal research as well as being the primary legal research library for the University of London. IALS Library collects material for a large number of jurisdictions, including the British Isles, Western Europe, the Commonwealth, and the USA, besides maintaining an extensive international law collection. Within Western Europe, the French collection is one of the strongest. The holdings include both print and electronic resources going back to the early eighteenth century and aim to provide a good historical and current collection of French legal research material. Most of the material is in the original language but the Library does acquire translations of major works where possible, usually the major codes and general introductions to the French legal system. The Library has produced a brief research guide to

French law which is available on its web site and also identifies and provides links to important free web resources on French law.

Legal materials are divided into primary resources, which include legislation (*lois, décrets, codes*), and case reports together with their finding aids such as digests and case citators and secondary resources which include journals and treatises. In France, as in most civil law jurisdictions, treatises can in some cases be regarded as primary materials in their own right because of the importance given to *doctrine*, scholarly legal literature.

The Library subscribes to a major French online database, *LexisNexisJurisClasseur*, which includes electronic versions of most of the codes and the individual laws from the *Journal Officiel* from 1990 onwards, selected law reports, legal encyclopaedias and around 25 journals.

At IALS older French laws are available in print in the *Bulletin des lois* from 1789 until 1931 and from about 1907 in successive editions of the annotated commercially published *Codes Dalloz*. These collect together the texts of the 5 main codes (the original Napoleonic codes: civil, civil procedure, penal, criminal procedure and commercial) and the various specialised codes together with associated statutes. Three general law periodicals, held in the library with the earliest holdings going back to 1845, also include legislation, although not all is in full text.

Case law in civil jurisdictions such as France does not have the same binding authority as in common law jurisdictions and there is really only one official series the *Bulletin des arrêts de la Cour de Cassation* which the Library holds in print from 1986. The 3 main law journals carry a large selection of law reports from all courts. In total, the Library has 11 series of printed case reports.

Encyclopaedias provide a major source of legal information for the main subject areas and the Library maintains a current electronic set on *LexisNexisJurisClasseur*. It also holds a good selection in looseleaf format, although these are no longer updated.

As already noted, journals are an important source of primary material as well as scholarly research articles and the Library holds 28 titles in print. In order to aid research, the library subscribes to two online journal indexing services: *Le Doctrinal* which indexes over 200 French legal journals and the *Index to foreign legal periodicals* which indexes a wide selection of non-English language titles including French.

IALS Library holds a good collection of standard treatises in print covering all the major subject areas of law. Some are published in many volumes and are more or less continually updated while others are monographs.

In addition to purchasing print and electronic resources, the IALS library creates the legal content for *Intute*, a national service which identifies, reviews and catalogues the best free web resources in a wide variety of subject areas and which was described in the 2005/06 FSLG *Annual Review*. IALS has contributed 60 records of interest to French legal researchers including legislation, case law, governmental sites, professional organisations, resource guides and web portals. Most of the sites are in French (some with interfaces in English and other languages) but there are a number of guides to French law available in English.

The library also hosts the FLAG Foreign Law Guide database which it helped to create. FLAG provides researchers with a national guide to the location of primary French (as well as many other jurisdictions) legal resources in print throughout the UK.

## French Holdings of the Warburg Institute Library

**Francois Quiviger**, *Assistant Librarian, The Warburg Institute Library*

The core collections of the Warburg Institute Library were assembled in Hamburg in the first third of the 20th century during perhaps one of the least Francophile periods of German history. France and French culture are nevertheless represented in most sections of the interdisciplinary classification system of the Library, both in the original collection and in the acquisitions of later years. The coverage focuses on the period 1200-1700.

The French history section contains many basic texts and studies; but the culture of the French political elites is also represented in the sections on festivals, banqueting and hunting, which include rare pamphlets describing French Royal entries and pageantry - some of which are available as free digital copies on our website.

While our French literature holdings consist of a run of the main vernacular authors (a number of which came from the library of Eugénie Droz), many literary texts are located in other sections where their vicinity to European writings highlights their ties with international traditions and trends. Thus, French mystery plays and early lives of saints feature in the religious history section; Grail literature from France is placed in a section retracing the survival and development of medieval legends; French emblem books share the shelves with those produced in Italy, Spain, the Low Countries and Germany; French humanists, antiquarians and philosophers, are surrounded by their European colleagues; and the history of French universities and academies is framed by that of other similar European institutions. The section on travel has books written by visitors to France as well as works by French travellers who recorded their impressions of the early modern world.

Last but not least, our art historical holdings include texts on art produced in France from the late Middle Ages onwards. There is also a topographical section - with monographs on French regions, cities, churches, monuments and museums - and an extensive collection of studies on all aspects of French art. With the exception of the topographical section where books are arranged alphabetically, most areas of the Library follow a chronological, geographical and thematic layout, which facilitates browsing and reveals how disciplines evolved and developed across time and space.



## ULRLS archival database - a new resource for researchers

**Andrew Janes**, *Project Archives Assistant, University of London Research Library Services*

The University of London Research Library Services (ULRLS), which comprises Senate House Library and the libraries of the School of Advanced Study, has spent the past 18 months developing an electronic catalogue for archives and manuscripts. Our new ADLIB database complements the descriptions of printed books, periodicals and other publications on the libraries' Innopac catalogue and makes descriptions of more than 2,000 unique collections searchable online in one place for the first time.

The range of material listed on the catalogue is extraordinarily diverse, covering many different aspects of world history and culture over more than 1,000 years. More than 10% of the collections include a significant amount of material in Romance languages. Notable archives held at Senate House Library include papers concerning religion and upper class society in Spain between the late 14th and mid 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, in the Eliot-Phelips collections, and material on economics and finance in Western Europe since the early modern period, much of it acquired with the Goldsmiths' Library of Economic Literature. A large collection of 20th century pamphlets and other materials produced by Latin American political parties, trade unions and pressure groups is held at the Institute for the Study of the Americas. ULRLS holdings of published material in Romance languages, including rare books and other items unavailable elsewhere in the UK, are described on the main library catalogue.

The ULRLS archives and manuscripts catalogue was launched officially on Thursday 31 May 2007, and is available online for researcher consultation at: <http://archives.ulrls.lon.ac.uk/>. User feedback is welcomed: please relay comments via the link on the website.

## *Reference tools currently or soon to be available, concerning French early printed books*

**Des McTernan**, *Curator, French Language Imprints 1501-1850, The British Library*

### A new printed catalogue

Attention is drawn to the following book which is due for publication in November 2007:

French vernacular books: books published in the French language before 1601. / Edited by Andrew Pettegree, Malcolm Walsby and Alexander Wilkinson. – Leiden: Brill, 2007

ISBN 978 9004156 87 6

This is the first ever comprehensive catalogue of books printed in France and in French from the beginning of printing until 1601. No equivalent exists. It includes scholarly apparatus and introduction, is destined to become a standard work of reference and is a remarkable achievement by a group of British academics and bibliographers.

For further details or to place an order, see Brill's website at:

[www.brill.nl](http://www.brill.nl)

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### English Short-Title Catalogue (ESTC) now freely available online

The purpose of the ESTC is to give a complete bibliographic description of all works published in the British Isles and all British colonies, including the USA, from the beginning of printing until the end of the year 1800. It is now hosted by the British Library, is freely available on-site and on the internet at <http://estc.bl.uk> or via the BL's website ([www.bl.uk](http://www.bl.uk)) and is searchable in exactly the same way as the British Library Integrated Catalogue.

The ESTC currently lists approximately 470,000 records held by the British Library and over 2000 other institutions worldwide. It covers all forms of the printed word e.g. serials, broadsheets, monographs and atlases but excludes any works consisting solely or mainly of engravings, e.g. printed music and printed maps.

If they fall within the prescribed geographical areas, material published in languages other than English is also included in the ESTC as are imprints which give a British, American, Irish or British colonial place of publication even if that imprint is known to be false.

In his article *French-language publishing in London to 1900* (in *Foreign-language printing in London 1500-1900*. – London: British Library, 2002), David Shaw has identified the main areas of British life in which French rather than English was the preferred language for the printed word up to the year 1800. They are:

- 1) Law (tradition of Norman-French dating from the conquest to the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century)
- 2) Teaching manuals & grammar books
- 3) Liturgical works (to serve the various Protestant Francophone communities in the capital)

These were obviously fairly restricted groups and their publishing output was small. How then, besides reliance on the very substantial book import market, was the interested reader to keep abreast of the mainstream of French life? The ESTC shows us the way and thereby demonstrates its uniqueness as a resource for investigating and assessing the spread and impact of French culture, via the printed word, throughout British territories. And indeed, as a search of various titles through the ESTC, and throughout the period that it covers makes clear, there was, in Britain, a strong and continuous interest in all aspects of French culture, politics, political thought and literature.

Here is a famous example. Michel de Montaigne published the first 3-volume edition of his *Essais* in 1588. Between then and 1603, there were about 5 French editions. In 1603 appeared the first English-language edition, translated by John Florio (extremely active in making French and Italian works available in English):

*The essayes or morall, politike and militarie discourses of Lo: Michaell de Montaigne... and now done into English... by John Florio.* – Printed at London: by Val. Sims for Edward Blount..., 1603

From this 1603 edition to 1800 (197 years), the ESTC currently records 22 separate editions of the *Essais*, all of which were published in London except for the Dublin edition of 1760. They appear at fairly regular intervals except for a long hiatus from 1632 to 1685 and they clearly reply to sustained demand as no printer/publisher would have considered issuing such a massive work as the *Essais*, especially in the face of continual imported editions, without guaranteed financial success. They are all in English except for 8 editions which are in French and 6 of these 8 are unequivocally British publications. These 6 are all published in London in the 18<sup>th</sup> century (1724-1771) and all, except the earliest edition, came from the printing house of Jean Nourse which, besides specialising in texts on economics and science, also favoured learned works in French or translations from that language. The following example illustrates these points and demonstrates

the quality of French knowledge which was available on the British market as well as the quality of printing which was available to embody and disseminate it:

The philosophical history and memoirs of the Royal Academy of Science at Paris: or, an abridgement of all the papers relating to natural philosophy, which have been publish'd by the members... Illustrated with copper-plates. The whole translated and abridged, by John Martyn... and Ephraim Chambers in five volumes. – London: printed for John and Paul Knapton; and John Nourse, 1742

If British public demand now permanently included Montaigne in its canon of intellectual writers, the ESTC allows us to scrutinise far more accurately the nature and vagaries of the reception which other French writings received, especially those which are now regarded as seminal. Descartes' *Discours de la méthode* is a case in point. It was first published in French in 1637. Its first English-language edition appeared 12 years later:

*A discourse of a method for the wel-guiding of reason, and the discovery of truth in the sciences. Being a translation out of that famous philosopher Renaldus Des Cartes.* – London: printed by Tho. Newcomb..., 1649.

Two further editions were issued by the same printer in the same year but, otherwise, the ESTC currently records no further English-language editions before 1801. This is a curious fact considering how famous Descartes already was and how much commentary, as ESTC shows, the *Discours* generated in the second half of the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

One further feature, amply borne out by ESTC and with us still, is that translations of scholarly and literary works are most often the work of individual readers who, discovering a text of worth in a foreign language, commit themselves to bringing it into their own language and culture. They usually work alone and undertake such work in addition to their other obligations. Hence the great delays between the publication of the original and the publication of the translation: 15 years in the case of Montaigne and 12 in the case of Descartes. The proportion of works translated, against those published, is always very small and of that proportion, only a tiny number receive the status of immediate translation. The cultural repercussions of belated translation are deserving of investigation and the ESTC offers the relevant tools and material.

The latest news was always worthy of translation, especially if it was short and sharp in delivery and certainly London always had a great appetite for news from France. The events of the Fronde were closely followed, especially as they seemed to mirror England's Civil War with its downfall of the great, as the following shows:

*News from France. Or, a description of the library of Cardinall Mazarini: before it was utterly ruined. Sent in a letter from Monsieur Naudaeus, keeper of the Publick Library.* – London: printed for Timothy Garthwait..., 1652. – [2], 6p.

It is in the British tradition that where politics leads, satire and mockery quickly follow and prominent French figures were rapidly co-opted for these purposes as we see in the following playlet which dwells on the price to be paid for political failure and lack of accountability:

*Hell's higher court of justice; or, the triall of the three politick ghosts, viz. Oliver Cromwell, king of Sweden and Cardinal Mazarine.* – London: [s.n.], printed in the year 1661

The same held good 132 years later for the great changes setting the French revolution in motion and utterly transforming a French Body Politic and a religious identity which had seemed immutable. In late 1787, Louis XVI decreed religious toleration for non-Catholics in France and his decree was immediately translated:

*The royal edict, given at Versailles, in November 1787. For granting toleration throughout His Most Christian Majesty's dominions, to dissenters from the established church.* Registered in Parliament, January 29, 1788. – London: printed by J.P. Coughlin... 1788

Similar examples abound as do instances of books published in French in London, which, for various political reasons, could not be published in France during the Revolutionary period.

Intertwined with such publications was a growing tradition of British historiography and political commentary whose subject was France. It often has a flavour all its own as the following anonymous tract evinces:

*The most Christian Turk. Or, a view of the life and bloody reign of Lewis XIV, present king of France. Containing an account of his monstrous birth, the transactions that happened during his minority under Cardinal Mazarine; afterwards his own unjust enterprises in war and peace, as breach of leagues, oaths, &c. The blasphemous titles given him, his love intrigues, his confederacy with the Turk to invade Christendom, the cruel persecution of his Protestant subjects, his conniving with pirates, his unjustly invading the Empire &c. Laying all waste before him with fire and sword, his quarrels with the Pope and Genoieze, his treachery against England, Scotland and Ireland, the engagements of the confederate princes against him; with all the battles, sieges and sea fights, that have happened of consequence to this time.* – London: printed for Henry Rhodes..., 1690.

Lest it be thought that the British attitude to France was one of enduring covert hostility, the ESTC can demonstrably prove otherwise. As the following early guidebook shows, there was a long-standing admiration for the built environment which the French managed to create and works about it were translated and appreciated:

*An historical explication of what there is most remarkable in that wonder of the world, the French king's royal house at Versailles, and in that of Monsieur, at St. Cloud. Written in the French tongue by the sieur Combes, and now faithfully done into English. Together with a compendious inventory of the treasury of S. Denis.* – London: printed for Matthew Turner..., 1684

I hope that the above remarks are some indication of the value of the ESTC as it relates to French studies.

## *British Library News*

**Teresa Vernon**, *Acting Head, French Collections, The British Library*

The BL's current major exhibition, *Sacred*, showcasing Jewish, Christian and Muslim sacred texts from the Library's own collections alongside treasures on loan from other institutions runs at St Pancras until 23 September 2007.

The next major exhibition will be *Breaking the rules: the European Avant Garde 1900-1937*. This exhibition, focusing on the printed face of the Avant Garde, will run from 9 November 2007 to 30 March 2008. Chris Michaelides is responsible for the important Paris section and Teresa Vernon for the Brussels section.

A book has been prepared to accompany the exhibition and there will be a related programme of events. Notable related acquisitions include:

- Blaise Cendrars, Sonia Delaunay. *La prose du Transsibérien et de la petite Jehanne de France*. Paris: Editions des hommes nouveaux, 1913. One of the most innovative artists's books ever produced.
- André Breton. *Nadja*. Paris: Editions de la Nouvelle Revue française, 1928. Original edition. Photographically illustrated.
- *Bifur*. Paris: Editions du Carrefour, 1929-1931. Original edition of this important avant-garde periodical, photographically illustrated, edited by Georges Ribemont-Dessaignes.
- Gisèle Prassinos. *La sauterelle arthritique*. Paris: GLM, 1935. With frontispiece photograph by Man Ray, showing the fourteen-year old Prassinos reading her work to a gathering of Surrealists including Breton, Eluard, Char and Péret.
- Juranville, Clarisse [i.e. Paul Nougé and René Magritte]. *Quelques écrits et quelques dessins*. Bruxelles: René Henriquez, 1927. A spoof book claiming that the poems and drawings were recovered works by Clarisse Juranville, the author of numerous improving works for young minds.

### **The British Library's Content Strategy**

A summary of all the 143 responses received to the BL's consultation paper 'The British Library's Content Strategy – Meeting the Knowledge Needs of the Nation', a list of the 68 respondents who gave permission for their responses to be published (this includes the FSLG and WESLINE) and a preliminary action plan may be found on the BL website (<http://www.bl.uk/contentstrategy>). As part of the implementation of the content strategies for the arts and humanities and social sciences the Library is assigning lead content experts and teams to each of the RAE 2008 subject categories to engage directly with the research community. At the time of writing the French Collection curators, Morna Daniels, Des McTernan and Teresa Vernon (Lead) together with Dorian Hayes (Canadian Collections) and Jamie Andrews, Head of Literary Manuscripts (and FSLG member) have been assigned to the team for French.

In September 2006 Jude England was appointed to the new post of Head of Social Sciences Collections and Research. The aim of the Social Sciences Team is to exploit the BL's social science collections and raise their profile with the research community.

The new **European Documentation Centre (EDC)** launched on 4 July 2007. Situated in the Social Sciences Reading Room at St Pancras, the Centre offers access to a collection of recent EU reports and documents (many transferred from Westminster Reference Library). The BL received all EU material back to 1966: these historic collections are held offsite, but documents from them are available for consultation in the Reading Room at 48 hours notice. The Centre also offers:

- The Official Journal L and C series on microfiche or in print from 1974 to the present, covering legislation
- Commission (COM) documents on microfiche, 1983-2002, covering proposals for new legislation; subsequently available online
- A classified database of links to free EU resources on the Internet (including Eurostat materials)
- Access to Eurolaw (online database of legal materials in full text)
- Specialist reference staff support in using the collection (NB: FSLG (inter alia!) member Grace Hudson (University of Bradford), with her EDC Librarian hat on, ran a two-day workshop in March 2007 to train BL staff ahead of the launch of the EDC).

Users will also benefit from access to the British Library's complementary holdings of books, reports and journals which provide comment on, and analysis of, European issues.

For more information and access to the directory of online links please visit <http://www.bl.uk/collections/social/eudoc.html>

From October 2007 the new **British Library Centre for Conservation** will offer regular behind the scenes tours and workshops demonstrating aspects of conservation. In the meantime an interactive exhibition in the Centre's foyer is already open to the public.

### **Colindale Newspapers Migration Strategy**

In March 2007 the BL announced major plans to move its newspaper collection from its current home in Colindale, North London, to a new storage facility which will provide improved preservation facilities. Digital and microfilm access to the collection will be provided from the Library's St Pancras site. The move will take place from 2007 to 2011 and Colindale will be closed by December 2012.

### **Staff activity**

Lynne Brindley, Chief Executive of the British Library, was elected the new Chair of the European Library Management Board in March 2007.

John Tuck, Head of British Collections, gave a presentation on the British Library's brand and image at the Annual Conference of the Association des Bibliothécaires de France in Nantes, 8 June 2007.

European Collections has joined the AHRC-funded Research Training Network in Modern Foreign Languages for 2006-2007.

Morna Daniels and Des McTernan, French Collections, attended the Society for the Study of French History Annual Conference at the University of St Andrews, 1-3 July 2007.

A BL/University of Sheffield Concordat Scholarship on 'Representations of Napoleon III' has been awarded starting in 2007-2008. Dr Timothy Baycroft (University of Sheffield Department of History) will be the lead supervisor and Morna Daniels will be the BL supervisor.

## *Recent activity in British Library Manuscript Collections*

**Jamie Andrews**, *Head of Modern Literary Manuscripts, The British Library*

The MSS Department has acquired the archive of George D. Painter (biographer of Proust, Gide, Chateaubriand; British Museum incunabulist) at the Sotheby's sale on 12 July 2007. Letters written to Painter by numerous literary figures and other individuals of note (including Sylvia Townsend Warner, Enid Bagnold, and the Romanian-French writer Marthe Bibesco), the majority relating to Painter's biography of Proust and their thoughts on and readings of Proust's texts. The Library already holds the Schiff Papers (Add. 52916 – 52923) which include at Add. 52921 a collection of letters from Marcel Proust (along with letters from Proust's brother, niece and housekeeper) to Sydney and Violet Schiff. Add. 53431 and Add. 52311 include letters and poems from Proust to Marthe Bibesco.

The MSS Department has also purchased a small collection of Lawrence Durrell material relating to his fourth (and final) wife Ghislaine de Boysson, model and actress whom he married in 1973. The archive - comprising 46 postcards, 21 letters (all unpublished), together with photographs, drawings, a scrapbook with further ephemera relating to the wedding of Durrell and Ghislaine - provides an intimate portrait of Durrell's latter years, and of his fourth and final marriage. The domestic (practicalities of maintaining their house in the *Midi*, financial worries linked to publishing and contracts) mixes with the deeply personal, as letters expressing Durrell's early feelings for Ghislaine move to starkly revealing letters regarding their divorce. The use of Durrell's surname reappears in letters around this time, and his attitude to it is revealed by the comment that he hopes the divorce *n'est pas une rupture* [!]. Although many of the items are postcards, these are nonetheless rich in content, and his style - mixing French and English language (often in the same clause), moving from Petrarch, Mallarmé to the vagaries of the French Social Security System and the iniquities of the *fisc* (the French Inland Revenue) in one card - is distinctive. The collection fits excellently with our existing papers that track Durrell's earlier years and works, but that contains little for this period of his life. [Note that, in addition to the Durrell papers in Manuscript Collections, the BL also holds a special collection of books and periodicals by, about or associated with Lawrence Durrell (<http://www.bl.uk/collections/british/modbridurrell.html>)]

Autograph Letter (in French) from Prosper Mérimée to Henry Milne-Edwards (naturalist and Professor of Zoology at the Museum of Natural History in Paris) asking his advice on moving



part of the British Museum's collection. In the letter, written at the request of Sir Anthony Panizzi, Mérimée asks Milne-Edwards's advice on whether the Museum's natural history collection or its antiquities should be moved elsewhere for reasons of space. In the end, the natural history collection was moved in the 1880s to the site of the present Natural History Museum in South Kensington. The letter builds nicely on the Library's numerous letters from Mérimée to Panizzi, written within the period of Panizzi's tenureship as Principal Librarian (Eg.3677 and at Add.36716-36727), and including letters relating specifically to the subject of collection building in the British Museum. For an account of Panizzi's friendship with Mérimée, see Audrey C. Brodhurst, 'A Side-Light on Panizzi in the Letters of Prosper Mérimée', *British Library Journal* vol. 5 (1979), pp. 57-75.

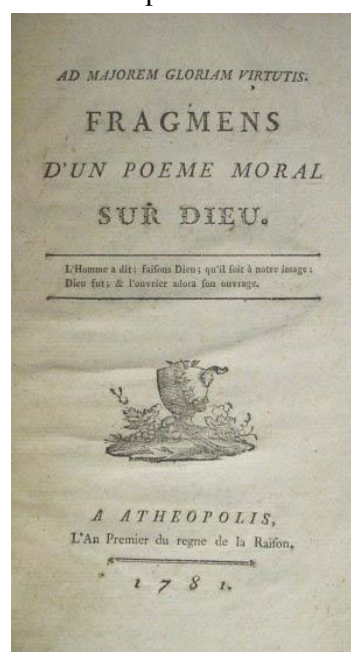
The British Library's collection of Arthur Rimbaud manuscripts will be on display at a forthcoming exhibition, *Rimbaud*, at *La Casa Encendida* in Madrid. The exhibition opens in October, before transferring to *the Casa-Museo Federico García Lorca* in Granada from January 2008. The manuscript volume, part of the Stefan Zweig collection, contains autograph fair copies of poems composed between 1870/71 known under the title *Poésies* (Zweig 181). [Note that Zweig's copy of the first edition of Rimbaud's *Une saison en enfer* (Brussels, 1873) also forms part of the Zweig Collection (Zweig 202). See Chris Michaelides 'Stefan Zweig's copy of Rimbaud, *Une Saison en Enfer* (1873) in *The British Library Journal*, vol. 14, no. 2 (Autumn1988), pp. 199-203].

## *French antiquarian acquisitions at Cambridge University Library*

**William Hale**, *Rare Book Specialist, Cambridge University Library*

Thanks in part to special collections such as the Leigh collection of material by or relating to Rousseau and the L.C.G. Clarke collection of Restif de la Bretonne, the Library already has considerable strengths in French literature and philosophy of the eighteenth and early nineteenth century. We have been attempting to build on those foundations in our antiquarian purchasing.

Literary acquisitions include poetry such as *Fragmens d'un poëme moral sur Dieu* (1781) by the philosopher and socialist Sylvain Maréchal. The author, who was to lose his post as an under-librarian at the Collège Mazarin because of his radical views, here sets up Nature in place of God and Reason and Virtue in place of faith. Too controversial to be published in France, the poem was instead entrusted to J.P. Brissot who organised its printing by the Société Typographique de Neufchâtel in Switzerland. The printers' identity is concealed by the imprint "A Athéopolis, l'am premier du règne de la Raison". It joins other works by Maréchal held by the Library including his *Culte et loix d'une société sans Dieu* (1798) and his *Dictionnaire des athées anciens et modernes* (2nd ed., 1833). François-Antoine Chevrier's *Poëmes sur des sujets pris de l'histoire de notre tems* (1758) would have been almost as controversial in its time. It is a collection of mock-heroic verse on topical subjects, including the Seven Years War and Louis Mandrin, a French Robin Hood figure who smuggled goods between Switzerland, France and Savoy, undercutting the punitive taxes of the *fermiers généraux*. Here the author is identified only by a single initial and publication is attributed to an unnamed company in Liège; the book was in fact printed in Paris.



The *Lettres turques* of Germain-François Poullain de Saint-Foix (1748) are in the tradition of Montesquieu's *Lettres persanes*, veiling criticism of European institutions under the guise of letters on European customs and politics, purporting to come from a Turkish visitor. The library has acquired a counterfeit edition apparently from the press of the prolific but non-existent printer Pierre Marteau, which attributes Saint-Foix's work to his more illustrious predecessor. Another favourite form of political satire, the Utopian fantasy, is represented by Stanisław Leszczyński's *Entretien d'un Européan avec un insulaire du royaume de Dumocala* (1755). The author was the former king of Poland, who after being forced to abdicate for the second time in 1736 settled at Lunéville in France as duke of Lorraine and devoted himself to literary and scientific pursuits. The work purports to be a transcript of a manuscript of 1630 in which a traveller is shipwrecked on the coast of Dumocala, an island in which Stanisław visualises his notion of the ideal state. It includes trenchant criticism of European institutions and practices, and concludes with a *Réponse à la lettre d'un ami* in which the former king discusses whether his vision is capable of realisation.

François René Jean de Pommereul's *Recherches sur l'origine de l'esclavage religieux & politique du peuple, en France* (1783) covers similar ground in a more serious fashion. A pamphlet which traces the oppression of the French people back to ancient times, the work argues that just as in the time of Caesar the chief powers in the lands were the druids and the nobles, so in modern times power is divided between the clergy and the nobility. The author, a captain in the artillery who later became director of the booktrade, hopes for a ruler on the Enlightenment model to emancipate the people.

Such anti-religious writing was of course commonplace in Enlightenment circles; one work on the other side of the question is Joseph Adrien Lelarge de Lignac's, *Presence corporelle de l'homme en plusieurs lieux, prouvée possible par les principes de la bonne philosophie* (1764). Despite a title which suggests the occult, this is in fact a reasonably orthodox defence of the doctrine of transubstantiation, using both the writings of the Fathers and complex metaphysical arguments to prove that the same physical body can be in two places at once. Written by an Oratorian priest and follower of Descartes, the work was produced in response to a challenge by David Renaud Boullier, a Dutch protestant pastor. Our first edition was edited posthumously by M.-J. Brisson, naturalist, physicist and translator of Joseph Priestley.



Rather les orthodox is a volume of items concerning the cult of "Theophilanthropy", invented in 1796 by Jean-Baptiste Chemin-Dupontès, a Parisian printer and bookseller. A Deist cult which abandoned all dogma other than a belief in a Deity and in the immortality of the soul, Theophilanthropy gained some official support in post-revolutionary France before being suppressed in the early 1800s. Chemin-Dupontès wrote and printed a number of works defending and defining his invention, as well as a Code pratique for the use of its adherents, which included homilies, catechisms and hymns. The illustration shows the vestments of a "professor" of the cult.

On a lighter note we have acquired a number of novels such as a rare copy of the marquis de Puységur's *Histoire de Madame de Bellerive, ou, Principes sur l'amour et sur l'amitié* (1768). This was the Marquis's only novel, telling the story of the sentimental education of the young noblewoman of the title. A contemporary manuscript note reads "Ce roman sans aventure, et écrit avec esprit, es[t] par un homme du monde". It is something of an anomaly among his works, which include a study of Chinese military tactics and critical explorations of the place of the Church in the French body politic. One of the latter, already held by the Library, is *Discussion intéressante sur la prétention du clergé d'être le premier ordre d'un État* (1767). This earned the censure of the authorities in the year the *Histoire* was published. A less complementary note by an early reader can be found in our copy of the comte de Vignacourt's *Le prince turc* (1724), a romantic novel set in Hungary at the time of the Ottoman wars. This is in a binding with the arms of Diane-Adelaïde, duchesse de Mailly (d. 1769); she or another early owner was unimpressed with the tale, writing on the fly leaf "Fiction ridicule. Stile médiocre." The author was a member of a family of knights of Malta who published a number of novels with exotic settings.

Works of literary criticism include the *Lettres sur M. de Fontenelle* by Pierre-Louis d'Aquin de Chateau-Lyon (1751). This contains six letters on the prolific author of *Entretiens sur la pluralité des mondes*, then still living at the age of 94. The author, who is not named in the work, was a doctor who published several other works in prose and verse on literary themes; he concentrates on works by Fontenelle which are now less well remembered. A more humorous approach is adopted by the authors of *Le tribunal d'Apollon* (1799). This is a critical catalogue of contemporary French writers, arranged in alphabetical order. The criticism is trenchant, the tone often satirical. The authors are unable to raise a smile, however, for the author of "l'immoral chef d'oeuvre, *Les liaisons dangereuses*." "Il est prouvé qu'il a fait plus de mal aux mœurs depuis quelques années que n'en ont fait dans un siècle entier toutes les productions de ce genre." We hope to add many more "productions de ce genre" to the University's holdings in future years.

## *Darwin Collection at the Natural History Museum*

**Zara Frenkiel**, *Exchange Librarian, Library and Information Services, The Natural History Museum*

The Kohler Darwin Collection was acquired by the Library of the Natural History Museum just over a year ago, and is currently being catalogued. Now known simply as the Darwin Collection, it consists of 150 autograph letters, 1,628 works by Darwin and 1,722 works about Darwin and the theory of evolution through natural selection. As well as almost every edition published by Darwin, the collection also includes translations of Darwin's works into many languages - some of them obscure. It also has works about Darwin in a range of European languages.

## *Significant modern acquisitions at Cambridge University Library, 2006-2007.*

**David Lowe**, *Head of European Collections and Cataloguing, Cambridge University Library*

The days when Cambridge used to generate dozens of new standing orders each year for journals and monographic series in European languages are a very distant memory. Nowadays we think long and hard before placing new orders which involve recurrent expenditure. All such proposals are considered by an Accessions Committee consisting of the Deputy Librarian, the Head of Collection Development and Description and the Head of Electronic Services and Systems. This meets twice a year. The following items, which are either in French or include French related subject matter, were approved in financial year 2006/2007.

### Print

#### *Afrique et histoire*

Lagrasse : Verdier, 2003-

Articles in French and English. One review concluded "du bel ouvrage que l'on souhaite trouver dans toutes les bonnes bibliothèques"

#### *Etudes céliniennes*

Paris : Société des études céliniennes, 2005-

"Conçue dans le prolongement des activités de la Société des études céliniennes (SEC) et en complément des Actes de colloques internationaux, la revue *Etudes céliniennes* a pour programme de donner une nouvelle tribune aux travaux en cours sur l'œuvre et la vie de Louis-Ferdinand Céline."

#### *Etudes platoniciennes*

Paris : Belles lettres, 2005-

Texts mostly in French and English, with some Italian and Spanish. The serial contains substantial articles by major Platonic scholars.

#### *Revue Fontenelle*

Mont-Saint-Aignan : Université de Rouen, 2003-

Produced by the Société Fontenelle. One issue per year. The *Revue* is linked to the first critical edition of Fontenelle's Oeuvres, and, like them, originates from Université de Rouen.

#### *Seizième siècle*

Paris : Société française d'étude du XVI<sup>e</sup> siècle, 2005-

This is a continuation of *Nouvelle revue du XVI<sup>e</sup> siècle*, to which Cambridge subscribed. The Renaissance and 16<sup>th</sup> century French literature are key aspects of our collection development policy.

## Electronic resources

The University Library has taken out a subscription to Project MUSE e-journals, initially for one year to gauge demand. The subscription covers the Premium Collection, which includes all 355 titles available in 2007 from over 70 publishers, making it the most significant addition to date to holdings of current e-journals in the arts, humanities and social sciences. A university-wide subscription was held by the library from 2002-2005 but statistics showed somewhat limited use. Since then e-journal use in the arts, humanities, and social sciences has grown substantially. At the end of the year there will be a review of usage statistics and consultation on the future of the subscription will be carried out by the University Library Journals Coordination Scheme and users jointly in the light of its outcome.

The Department of Linguistics has purchased perpetual access to the *Elsevier Encyclopedia of Language and Linguistics*, which is being made available on a university-wide basis.

*Dictionnaire de la langue française du seizième siècle* / Edmond Huguet.

This is the most comprehensive and reliable dictionary of 16th-century French with over 100,000 entries. The dictionary is recommended to undergraduates in French who are all required to cover translating 16th-century texts in their language classes, and also to those studying French Renaissance literature and the history of the French language. It is a key research tool for students and scholars working on Renaissance French. It is particularly valuable in that it not only provides modern French equivalents of the forms, many of which are no longer current in contemporary usage, but also offers all the orthographic variants attested in texts of the period.

\*\* Electronic resources for the history of the French language are viewed as of increasing importance. A member of the French Department, Wendy Ayres-Bennett, has been awarded an AHRC Major Research Grant for a project on Observations and Remarks on the French Language (see <http://www.mml.cam.ac.uk/french/observations/>). Professor Bennett is leading a team of international scholars who are producing electronic and paper versions of major works in the history of linguistic thought. \*\*

## O'Donoghue collection on gemstones and minerals

**Michael O'Donoghue / David Lowe, Cambridge University Library**

Mr Michael O'Donoghue has presented Cambridge University Library with his collection of books and journals on minerals, gemstones and synthetic/imitation materials with ornamental significance. All major international journal titles are included (new issues are added as published), and of the 1550 monographs in the collection only a very small percentage was previously held by the University Library. These range in publication date from the early 19<sup>th</sup> century to the present day, and many items are notable for their colour illustrations.

A significant number of titles deal with gem testing, the identification of rough and fashioned stones using scientific methods from the simple 10x hand lens to infra-red and Raman

spectroscopy. Other technical subjects covered include the fashioning of gems, the manufacture of imitations with no natural counterpart, and the crystal growth of ornamental materials with a natural counterpart, known as synthesis. There are also volumes on prospecting for mineral species world-wide, and the geological methods used to identify locations. Monographs on jewellery, some on specific individuals such as Fabergé and Maubusson, form another important component of the collection. There are a representative number of sale catalogues.

The language range of the collection is very diverse. All major European languages are represented. The French titles were published between 1878 and 1999, and many of them will be unique entries on COPAC. A number are published by professional bodies such as the Association française de gemmologie and the Institut national de gemmology, others by specialist museums such as the Musée national d'histoire naturelle and the Musée d'histoire naturelle de Neuchâtel. Small regional publications are also included, from places such as Le Perray-en-Yvelines, Issy-les-Moulineaux and Meung-sur-Loire.

Approximately one third of the foreign language material has been catalogued as of July 2007.

## *Chair's report to the FSLG, 2005-2006*

**Teresa Vernon**, *Acting Head, French Collections, The British Library*

This year's AGM sees the departure of Antony Loveland and Robert Lyons from the Committee. Antony has been appointed Head of Library Services at the Central School of Speech and Drama, University of London, and Robert is resigning owing to pressure of work as Librarian of the Institute of Historical Research. Antony's contribution to the work of the FSLG and of WESLINE has been outstanding. Among other achievements he, with David Lowe, created and edited the first issue of the *FSLG Annual Review*. Antony also set up and maintained the WESLINE website. Antony and Robert are the joint organisers of this year's first conference of the West European Studies Library (WESLINE) Library Groups. We extend heartfelt thanks to both Antony and Robert and wish them the very best for the future. In Antony's place we are delighted to welcome Christine Anderson who was co-opted to the Committee in April. Chris Smart resigned from the Committee in November and we are very grateful to Damien McManus who agreed to take over as List Owner.

The second issue of the *FSLG Annual Review* is now available on the FSLG (<http://fslg.libr.port.ac.uk/>) and WESLINE (<http://www.urls.lon.ac.uk/wesline/>) websites. David Lowe has assumed sole editorship and therefore took over the production role, ably assisted by his colleagues Eléonore Miguet and Rachel Marsh. The second issue continues the pattern established in the first issue of an informative mix of in-depth articles and news round-up. Future contributions are always welcome and should be addressed to David as editor.

I am pleased to report that, following the return from maternity leave of the Technician who updates our website based at the University of Portsmouth, the website is once again up to date. Suggestions for future content should be addressed to our Website Officer, Anne Worden.

In July 2006 the Group responded to the British Library's Content Strategy Consultation. The response is available on the FSLG website. Special thanks are due to Anne Worden who compiled the response on behalf of the Group.

Collaboration with other groups continues. We had an excellent combined conference with the GSLG in Oxford in 2005 most ably organised by Jill Hughes and Catherine Hilliard. The programme admirably balanced professional and academic and French and German topics and concerns and was complemented by delicious food and wine in the prestigious setting of Oriel College. As noted above this year sees the first joint conference of ACLAIR, FSLG, GSLG and ISLG under the aegis of WESLINE. This year our AGM is again held jointly with the GSLG. However, there has as yet been no date given for the first meeting of the Steering Group involving representatives of all interested foreign-language/area studies library groups. I attended the annual one-day conference of the Association of University Professors and Heads of French (AUPHF) held at the Institut français in May and Anne Cobby attended the Society for French Studies (SFS) AGM and Conference at the University of St Andrews in July.

This year there has been considerable discussion at our Committee meetings about future activities and what form they should take. The earlier idea for a training event on the successful



ISLG model is still a possibility; another suggestion was that there should be more dissemination about collections and their particular strengths, significant microfilm and newspaper holdings, etc. Inevitably, however, other work commitments had in the event to take precedence to taking these ideas further. Meanwhile it is a concern that the FSLG is not doing enough in this area.

Finally, on behalf of FSLG, I would like to express a big thank you to all on the Committee. In addition to the contributions of Antony Loveland, David Lowe, Robert Lyons and Anne Worden already highlighted, special thanks are due to Damien McManus for taking over as List Owner, Ann Farr, our Secretary, also for her many creative ideas this year, and Martin Hodgson, our Treasurer.

## *FSLG committee membership*

**Teresa Vernon** (Chair)  
Curator, French Collections  
British Library  
96 Euston Road  
London NW1 2DB  
**Tel.** +44 (0)20 7412 7568  
**E-mail:** [teresa.vernon@bl.uk](mailto:teresa.vernon@bl.uk)

**Ann Farr** (Secretary)  
Faculty Team Librarian  
Arts Faculties Team  
Brotherton Library  
University of Leeds  
Leeds LS2 9JT  
**Tel.** +44 (0)113 34 34986  
**Email:** [a.c.farr@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:a.c.farr@leeds.ac.uk)

**Martin Hodgson** (Treasurer)  
Information Specialist (Humanities)  
Maughan Library and ISC  
King's College London  
Chancery Lane  
London WC2A 1LR  
**Tel.** +44 (0)20 7848 2186  
**Email:** [martin.hodgson@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:martin.hodgson@kcl.ac.uk)

**Damien McManus** (Mailing list owner)  
Subject Librarian, Arts and Languages  
Arts and Social Sciences Library  
University of Bristol  
Tyndall Avenue  
Bristol BS8 1TJ  
**Tel.** +44 (0)117 928 8033  
**Email:** [Damien.McManus@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:Damien.McManus@bristol.ac.uk)

**Anne Worden** (Website officer)  
Subject Librarian: Languages, Geography,  
Social and Political Studies  
Frewen Library  
University of Portsmouth  
Cambridge Road  
Portsmouth PO1 2ST  
**Tel.** +44 (0)23 9284 3243  
**Email:** [Anne.Worden@port.ac.uk](mailto:Anne.Worden@port.ac.uk)

**David Lowe** (Annual Review editor)  
Head of European Collections and Cataloguing  
Cambridge University Library  
West Road  
Cambridge CB3 9DR  
**Tel.** +44 (0) 1223 333094  
**Email:** [dk11000@cam.ac.uk](mailto:dk11000@cam.ac.uk)

**Christine Anderson** (Member)  
Latin American studies and Romance languages  
Senate House Library  
University of London Research Library Services  
Senate House  
Malet Street  
London WC1E 7HU  
**Tel.** +44 (0)20 7862 8456  
**Email:** [Christine.anderson@london.ac.uk](mailto:Christine.anderson@london.ac.uk)

**Morna Daniels** (Member)  
Curator, French Collections  
The British Library  
96 Euston Road  
London NW1 2DB  
**Tel.** +44 (0)20 7412 7568  
**Email:** [Morna.daniels@bl.uk](mailto:Morna.daniels@bl.uk)

**Sarah Burn** (Co-opted member)  
Academic Liaison and Research Support  
Librarian, Arts  
Senate House Library  
University of London Research Library Services  
Senate House  
Malet Street  
London WC1E 7HU  
**Tel.** +44 (0)20 7862 8421  
**Email:** [Sarah.burn@london.ac.uk](mailto:Sarah.burn@london.ac.uk)

**Jill Kempshall** (Co-opted member)  
Faculty Librarian: Humanities, Languages, and  
Social Sciences  
Bolland Library  
University of the West of England  
Coldharbour Lane  
Bristol BS16 1QY