

# Consortium of European Research Libraries

## Newsletter 6 December 2002

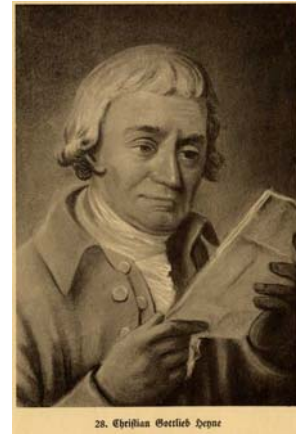
<http://www.cerl.org/>  
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### **New files on the Hand Press Book (HPB) database**

#### **Niedersächsische Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek, Göttingen**

This file, the 'GBV-Holdings of the Niedersächsische Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Göttingen', currently numbers 15,317 records and covers the period from the beginning of printing to the year 1830. The file is an extract from the Gemeinsamer Bibliotheksverbund (GBV) Union Catalogue, and represents the complete Göttingen holdings of one-volume works from this era. The file does not contain records of maps, microforms, online resources or music.

Göttingen University Library was founded in 1734 as a practical working library for the new university. Its founding collections are the library of the Göttingen Grammar School (with books mainly on history, classical philology and theology), the library of Joachim Hinrich von Bülow (1650-1724; a universal library with an emphasis on historical, political and legal literature), and duplicates from the Royal Library in Hanover. Several decades later it was enhanced by the collection of Friedrich Armand von Uffenbach (1687-1769), whose books on mathematics, engineering, topography and history of art came to the library in 1770. Through purchasing and the support of the university's founder and curator, Minister and Privy Councillor Gerlach Adolph Freiherr von Münchhausen (1688-1770), the Library steadily increased its holdings. Leading scholars, such as Johann Matthias Genser (1691-1765), and for almost fifty years, Christian Gottlieb Heyne (1763-1812), were in charge of the Library and did much to improve its collections.



*Christian Gottlieb Heyne*

In 1990 SUB Göttingen joined a national project aiming to create a German national library in retrospect. In collaboration with five other German libraries, SUB Göttingen is responsible for collecting German imprints and imprints in German published in the period 1701 to 1800.

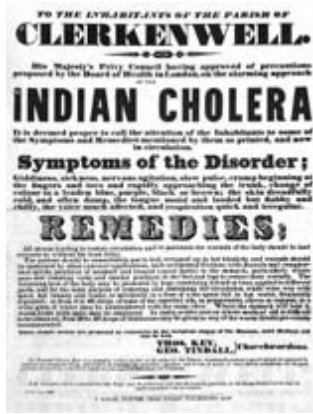
#### **The Wellcome Library for the History and Understanding of Medicine, London**

The Wellcome Library derives from the collecting activities of Sir Henry Solomon Wellcome (1853-1936), co-founder of the pharmaceutical company Burroughs Wellcome & Co, founded in 1880 and incorporated in 1924 as The Wellcome Foundation Ltd. (now absorbed into Glaxo Smithkline).

Sir Henry Wellcome's primary collecting interest was focussed on the history of medicine, in a broadly interpreted sense which included not only ancillary subjects like alchemy or witchcraft but also anthropology and ethnography. His interests were truly international and the broad coverage of languages and traditions is one of the Library's strengths.

Significant collections that found their place in the Library include a large part of William Morris's library (bought in 1898); the library of J. F. Payne, medical historian and Librarian of the Royal College of Physicians, purchased in 1911; over 100 items from the Kurt Wolff collection of incunabula, sold at auction in 1926; and the major part of the library of the Munich historian





Ernst Darmstaedter, bought in 1930.

The Early Printed Books collection contains about 66,000 books and periodicals published before 1851. There are over 600 incunabula, and more than 5,000 books from the 16th century. The two most important purchases of early printed books since Sir Henry Wellcome's death are Dr Francisco Guerra's collection of medical Americana (1962), and a large part of the Library of the Medical Society of London (1984). As well as medicine and pharmacy, the collection includes substantial holdings on science (particularly botany, chemistry and alchemy), travel, cookery, history and bibliography.

### National Library of Russia, St Petersburg

The National Library of Russia (NLR) regularly sends further updates to records already added to the HPB database. It has now sent catalogue records for Russian language books published in Russia between 1725 and 1800 (letters A to S) and the first results of the cataloguing of their 16th-century European holdings, totalling over 11,000 records.

### HPB files in progress

The c. 14,000 records contributed by the Biblioteca Nacional in Madrid will be added to the HPB later this year. Records from the Biblioteca Nacional in Lisbon, the Scandinavian collection of the British Library, the National Library of the Czech Republic, the Brancacciana collection in the Biblioteca Nazionale in Naples, the German national serials catalogue (Zeitschriften Datenbank), and the VD16 supplement of the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek are in preparation.

### CERL Thesaurus file



Authority records from the National and University Library in Zagreb, the Bibliothèque nationale de France, and the STCN office in The Hague have been added to the Imprint Names section of the CERL Thesaurus.

This is in preparation for the implementation of Assisted Searching on Imprint Names on the Eureka on the Web display which is scheduled early 2003. The CERL Thesaurus is at <http://www.cerl.org/Thesaurus/thesaurus.htm>.

### Organisational news

#### Annual General Meeting, The Hague, 9 November 2002: Chairman's Note

At the kind invitation of the Royal Library, the Annual General Meeting of the Full Membership was held in The Hague on Saturday 9 November, preceded by meetings of the Executive Committee and the Advisory Task Group (ATG). The customary CERL seminar was arranged this year as part of the Bibliopolis Conference, 'The Future History of the Book', which was being held in the Royal Library in the same week, and it was most useful to have the opportunity to discuss matters of common interest with Conference delegates. We very much appreciate the co-operation of the Royal Library, and, in particular, Drs Jan Bos, for considerable assistance and help.

The Annual General Meeting discussed and debated a number of important topics, and it was gratifying that members gave a clear steer on their views on future developments. The members endorsed the draft Development Plan for 2002 to 2007, with active encouragement to consider as part of the current plan steps to identify services that can be offered and developed among CERL members. The recommendations of the Manuscripts Working Group set up at the annual general meeting in Lyon in 2001 were discussed, and members accepted the Group's proposal for the next step of commissioning an independent professional and technical assessment of all the current options for cross-file searching of online manuscript resources. Further details of the proposals are given below. The members also indicated that consideration should be given to recognising the current work in the field of manuscripts more explicitly within the Consortium's statutes, and this matter will be investigated. It was a particular pleasure at the meeting to welcome most warmly the National Library of Lithuania, which has just announced that it will become a Full Member, and will contribute its files to the HPB database.



The next Full Membership meeting will take place in the National Library of Russia, St Petersburg, at the kind invitation of the Director, Dr Vladimir Zaitsev, in November 2003, a year that is very special for St Petersburg since it marks the 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding.

### **The Annual CERL Seminar, The Hague, 8 November 2002**

Each year, CERL's Annual General Meeting in November is preceded by a public seminar on a topic relating to the Consortium's work. This year's meetings in The Hague were timed to coincide with the Bibliopolis conference on 'The Future History of the Book' organised at the Koninklijke Bibliotheek. CERL's seminar on the theme 'Books beyond frontiers: the need for international collaboration in national retrospective bibliography', one of three parallel sessions on the final afternoon of the conference, was attended by about 50 people.

#### *ISTC: Supranational Collaboration on European Fifteenth-century Printing*

*John Goldfinch* (British Library, London) opened the seminar by giving an outline of the long history of work on the English national bibliography. One hundred and fifty years of work have eventually culminated in the development of the English Short Title Catalogue (ESTC) as a computer-based catalogue of all books printed in English territories and in the English language up to the year 1800. Mr Goldfinch pointed out the complicated definitions involved in determining the geographical and linguistic scope of the project (and the geographical range of participating libraries), and the need for the involvement of the appropriate national library for the successful completion of such a venture.

John Goldfinch then turned to consider the ISTC project: an international catalogue of incunabula, intended to give access to information about all books printed before the end of the fifteenth century. In twenty years, the project had put over 27,000 editions on to its database. This represents the first tranche of national retrospective bibliography for many of the countries of Europe, and has proved to be something that had to be done on an international scale to achieve adequate coverage for each individual country. Of 9,800 books printed in Italy, only 8,200 are now located in Italian libraries. For Germany, 9,200 incunables are recorded, but 13% (1,200 editions) are recorded only in libraries outside Germany. The books that have only been traced outside their country of origin are typically school-books, law books, and ephemera. (Notes: ESTC is available to CERL members via RLG's database service. - ISTC is loaded on CERL's Hand Press Book database.)

#### *Borderlines in Historical Book Research: Can International Cooperation Create an Outcome?*



The next speakers were *Goran Proot* and *Sijm van Rossem* (STCV Project), who explained the background to the creation just over twenty years ago of the STCN (Short Title Catalogue Netherlands), which aimed to create a database catalogue of all printing in the Netherlands up to 1800, and also of all printing in the Dutch language. This project was later followed in 2000 by the STCV (Short Title Catalogus Vlaanderen, <http://www.stcv.be>), which is creating a similar database for books printed in Flanders

and 17th-century books in Dutch, and was made available to the public that week. Both STCN and STCV were faced with complicated problems of definition, partly political in nature: STCN had deliberately excluded books printed in Belgium, in the expectation of an eventual collaborative project; STCV currently excludes Dutch books printed in Wallonia and also in Flemish-speaking parts of north-eastern France. The two projects were faced by risks of failing to include material located outside the libraries they were currently cataloguing in their own territories, and both were faced with problems of false imprints.

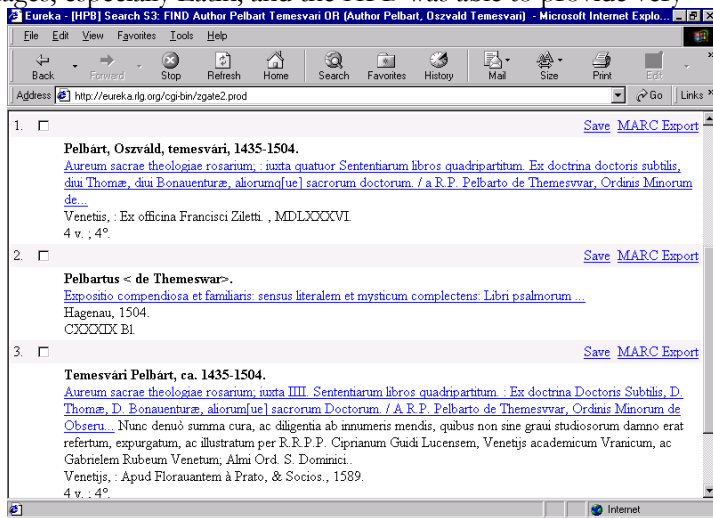
#### *The Search for Hidden Hungarica*

*Judit Vizkelety-Ecsedy* (National Széchényi Library, Budapest) explained that her Library, as the National Library of Hungary, was responsible for compiling a retrospective bibliography of Hungarica in three separate fields: works printed in the Hungarian language, works printed in the territory of Hungary, and also 'personal Hungarica', that is, books written by Hungarians,

including those published elsewhere in languages other than Hungarian. Work was progressing particularly on 16th-century books from ecclesiastical libraries. CERL's Hand-Press Book (HPB) database was regularly used for locating copies of relevant titles from beyond Hungary. There were relatively few books in Hungarian in the HPB, but there were many more which had been printed in Hungary in other languages, especially Latin, and the HPB was able to provide very great help with locating texts written by Hungarians which had a Europe-wide distribution, such as the religious writer Pelbart of Themesvar. There were important items of Hungarica printed in the Netherlands in the seventeenth century.

David Shaw led the speakers in a short round-table discussion, which emphasised the importance of the HPB for any sort of retrospective bibliographical work: national

frontiers were artificial barriers to the distribution of books. To be of maximum use, such databases needed accurate coding for language and country of origin (though this itself presented considerable difficulties of definition). Extension of the database to cover provenance information would allow further work on the intellectual history of the national groupings that had contributed to the history of the book in Europe. The CERL Thesaurus was beginning to provide a useful tool for assisted searching of imprint place names and was being extended to cover personal names in imprints and also personal names of authors; provision of assisted searching for names of owners of books was a gigantic task but one which needed to be addressed. A further difficult area that had been mentioned by several speakers was the question of 'false imprints'. CERL hopes to publish the papers from the seminar in The Hague during the course of 2003.



## Executive Manager has moved to The Hague, The Netherlands

From the beginning of September of this year, the Executive Manager has been based at the Koninklijke Bibliotheek in The Hague. The Consortium is grateful to the Royal Library for its help in providing facilities for these new working arrangements. The contact details for the London office remain the same and may be found on the last page of this Newsletter, or at <http://www.cerl.org>.



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## CERL Committee Members

### *Directors*

At the 2001 AGM it was decided to increase the number of Directors from six to eight, in order to ensure proper representation of CERL's ever expanding membership. At the 2002 AGM, Dr Kai Ekholm (Helsinki University Library) and Mr Graham Jefcoate (Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin) were elected to fill the two additional posts of Director for a three-year term. No nominations were received for the third vacancy, and the AGM meeting asked Dr Vladimir Zaitsev to continue as a CERL Director for a further term, a request to which he graciously agreed.

### *Executive Committee (EC)*

There was one vacancy and the AGM meeting elected Dr Kristian Jensen of the British Library to join the Executive Committee. He replaces Mr Mike Crump of the British Library. CERL would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Crump for his years on the EC, his great enthusiasm for the work of Consortium, and his keen interest in its further development.



## New CERL Members

### *Full Members and Clusters*

We note with great pleasure that the National Martynas Mažvydas Library of Lithuania in Vilnius has announced its intention to become a Full Member. The Biblioteca Nacional de España in Madrid has proposed the University Library of Salamanca as a cluster library. For a full list of CERL members, see <http://www.cerl.org/CERL/cerl.htm>.

### **New Contact at RLG – Pamela Wilkes**

During the previous year Mr Wes Taoka was CERL's interim contact person with RLG, after the departure of Dr Curtis Lavery. Dr Lavery's position has now been filled by Ms Pamela Wilkes. She took a BA in literature at the University of California, Santa Cruz, and an MA in Library and Information Studies at UC Berkeley. Since then she has gained a mix of academic and corporate library experience, having worked in the libraries of Stanford University, MIT, the University of California, Hewlett-Packard and Agilent Technologies. She has also spent a number of years working in database management in the online information field, at Dialog Information Services and at Stanford University's HighWire Press. She says: 'A common thread across most of these positions has been working closely with online publishers and database providers on both management and technical issues, which I hope will serve me in good stead in working with CERL and the Hand Press Book database'. CERL is pleased that Wes Taoka, who will be Ms Wilkes's manager, will continue to work with CERL, and warmly welcomes Pamela Wilkes to CERL. We look forward to meeting her at the ATG and EC meetings in March 2003.



### **Manuscripts Working Group**

At the AGM of November 2001 a small working party was set up under the chairmanship of Dr Lotte Hellinga to continue the exploration of the feasibility of creating facilities for cross-file searching of existing databases of manuscript materials. The first outcome was a list of manuscript cataloguing projects accessible on the Web; this is now available on the CERL website and additions to it are welcomed. Mr Gordon Dunsire, who had given a presentation on Z39.50 to the AGM of 2001, reported to the AGM of 2002 on his investigation of Z39.50 access to manuscript cataloguing projects. Following a questionnaire addressed to all known projects, he concentrated on the few and mainly small catalogues with such access. In addition, Mrs Cristina Ashby produced a report on recently developed information retrieval systems, at present mainly applied to full text searching.


The meeting noted that a consolidation process is going on both between and within institutions, where separate catalogues of manuscripts are coming together as single databases. The members agreed that CERL should try to bring together the larger projects by cross-file searching, rather than in the first instance expending effort on the consolidation of smaller catalogues. A further important point arose from the discussions, namely that the HPB database of printed materials should also be included in any such cross-file searching, thus bridging the often artificially maintained divide of manuscript and print. The AGM accepted the recommendation that CERL should commission a technical report from appropriate experts. The first phase of such a report has now been commissioned from Radcliffe Interactive, Oxford, with whom the Consortium has worked in the past. It will evaluate on a broad basis the existing options for cross-file searching of web-based manuscript catalogues. In order not to duplicate what is already being done, the report will take account of a variety of new initiatives applied to related material that are in progress, such as the further development of Z39.50, the Open Archives Initiative (OAI), RLG's Archival Resources facility and OCLC's iPort and TEL. CERL will take the opportunity of the March 2003 LIBER Conference of European Manuscripts librarians in The Hague to present and discuss the findings with manuscripts specialists across Europe. The consultants will by then have completed their preliminary report, following which a test system may be set up in the summer of 2003; the final report to be circulated to members before the next AGM in November 2003.



Lyon, Bibliothèque Municipale, MS828

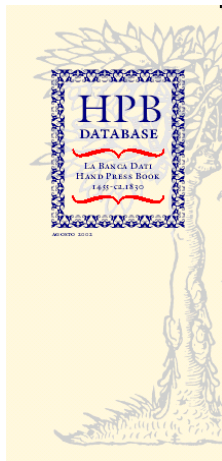
## Manuscripts Studies Portal – University of London Library

The Manuscript Studies Portal is an online research support service developed at the University of London Library (ULL) for manuscript scholars everywhere, offering depth of coverage in the core disciplines connected with the study of Western manuscripts from the ancient to the early modern period, namely palaeography, codicology, diplomatic, manuscript illumination, the history of writing and textual transmission, and the history of libraries, collections and readers.

The Manuscripts Studies portal is a 'one search' point of access, bringing back item level results, such as digital images, journal articles, manuscript descriptions, etc. It gives access to licensed resources such as the International Medieval Bibliography and the Index for Christian Art, as well as public resources such as  **Manuscript Studies Portal** as the Digital Scriptorium. Very importantly, the Manuscript Studies Portal also offers a communication service, going above and beyond access to resources, by promoting current awareness in the field, and fostering the exchange of ideas and sharing information. The Portal makes use of an open source content management system that may be used to support a range of research contexts from conventional research to offline, distance and online research. It is a modular Virtual Research Environment (VRE) incorporating a meta-search engine for distributed searching across databases and formats via the Portal interface, and a wide range of value-added services for the manuscripts scholar.

ULL is currently seeking data contributors and consultative partners interested in collaboration. The development work of the Manuscripts Studies Portal has started in September 2002 and a test website is now available at <http://test.manuscripts.vre.org.uk/>. The prototype Portal will be available for testing from July 2003.

## Promotion of CERL



### CERL Leaflets

The promotion leaflets designed by Mr Justin Howes have now been translated into French, Italian and Russian. A German translation is envisaged. The French and Italian leaflets have been sent to members in these countries and much positive feedback has been received.

### Workshops

- On 12 September Mrs Gunilla Jonsson and Dr David Shaw gave presentations at a workshop organised by the National Library of Russia, St Petersburg, for colleagues the former Soviet Union.
  - There are a number of proposals for workshops, notably from the Centro di Ateneo per le Biblioteche Università degli studi di Padova (for its Cluster Members), The British Library (for libraries within the M25 area), the National Library of Scotland, and the ENSSIB/BnF for librarians in France.
- In September 2003 the National Library of Russia will organise its fifth workshop for librarians in the former Soviet Republic.

## Security Management of Historical Collections in European Libraries

Following the Conference held in the Royal Library, Copenhagen in May 2002, a proposal to create a security network among European research libraries to assist trans-national co-operation in anticipating and dealing with thefts from historical collections was recommended to the LIBER Executive Board. The Copenhagen Principles can be found at the following web address: <http://www.kb.dk/liber/news/copenhagenprinciples.htm>.

At its meeting in Graz in July 2002, the Board accepted the proposal and deputed the Royal Library, Copenhagen, to undertake the work of establishing the LIBER Security Network (LSN) in autumn 2002. The Security Network has now been created, and further information, including criteria for participation can be found at <http://www.kb.dk/liber/news/librarysecurity.htm>. The procedures for applying, and an Application Form for membership, can be found at the following web address: <http://www.kb.dk/kb/security/applicationform-network.htm>.