How the Secularization of Religious Houses Transformed the Libraries of Europe, 16th–19th Centuries

Oxford, St Anne’s College, Thursday, 22 March – Saturday, 24 March 2012

THURSDAY, 22nd MARCH

MORNING SESSION

08.30–09.00: Registration

09.00–09.30: Greetings
Richard Sharpe, Oxford University – Introduction

Session 1: The territorial and temporal map of the dissolved collections
CHAIR: Richard Ovenden, Associate Director, Bodleian Library, Oxford

09.30–11.00
Fiorenzo Landi, Professor of Economic History, Università di Bologna – The dissolution of monasteries in Europe – an overall look and the economic implications
Richard Sharpe, Professor of Diplomatic, Oxford University – The consequences of an early dissolution: the English experience in the sixteenth century and after
Discussion (10 mins)

11.00–11.30 Coffee

11.30–13.00
Rudolf Gamper, Librarian, Kantonsbibliothek Vadiana, St. Gallen: From Reformation to Säkularisation: the dissolution of religious houses in Switzerland and the fate of their libraries
Martin Germann, Zürich: Zurich and the Books of the Monasteries: from the Reformation to the 19th Century
María Luisa López-Vidriero Abelló, Librarian, Biblioteca del Palacio Real, Madrid – Dissolved monastic collections in Spain from Philip II’s suppression to the 19th-century Desamortización
Discussion (15 mins)

13.00–14.00 Lunch
AFTERNOON SESSION

14.00–15.00

Tuomas Heikkilä, Assistant Professor of History, University of Helsinki, Finland – The Scandinavian situation, including the effect of the Thirty Years’ War in Germany

Jeffrey Garrett, Assistant Librarian for Special Libraries, Northwestern University – The expropriation of monastic libraries in Central Europe, 1773–1814

Discussion (10 mins)

15.00–15.45 Tea

Session 2: State policy toward book collections

CHAIR: Ian Maclean, Professor of Renaissance Studies, University of Oxford

15.45–16.45

Dorit Raines, Dep. Studi Umanistici, Università Ca’ Foscari, Venice – From predator to prey: The Venetian librarian Jacopo Morelli under Venetian, French, and Austrian governments

Vincenzo Trombetta, Professor of the History of the Book, Università di Salerno – La politica delle soppressioni e i nuovi poli bibliotecari a Napoli tra regalismo illuminista e Restaurazione, 1767–1815

Discussion (10 mins)

17.30–18.00 Bodleian Library: Display in Proscholium; Presentation in Convocation House – Monastic books in the Bodleian’s collections

18.00 Reception in Divinity School, Bodleian Library
FRIDAY, 23rd MARCH

MORNING SESSION

09.00–10.00
Luís Cabral, Librarian, Câmara Municipal do Porto – State policy concerning the dissolution of monastic book collections in Portugal, especially during the 19th century
Marie Pierre Laffitte, Department of Manuscripts, Bibliothèque nationale de France, Paris – Napoleon and the sequestration of Italian monastic book collections
Discussion (10 mins)

10.00–10.30 Coffee

Session 3: Sequestration, redistribution, or contribution to the foundation of public libraries
CHAIR: Dr Kristian Jensen, Head of Arts and Humanities, British Library

10.30–11.30
Jos A. A. M. Biemans, Professor of Palaeography and Codicology, University of Amsterdam – The 1578 foundation of the City Library of Amsterdam related to the history of other 16th-century Dutch libraries: the selection of manuscripts and printed books from monastic libraries
Emmanuelle Chapron, Université Aix-en-Provence – Libraries and dissolved monastic collections in Tuscany from Pietro Leopoldo to Napoleon
Discussion (10 mins)

11.30–12.30
Marina Venier, Department of Rare Books, Biblioteca nazionale centrale di Roma – Andreina Rita, Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana, Vatican City, La dispersione delle biblioteche degli ordini religiosi a Roma, dalla prima Repubblica romana (1799) a Roma capitale del Regno d’Italia (1873)
Marek Derwich, Professor of History, Wroclaw University – Oleh Dukh, Faculty of History, University of Lviv (Ukraine) – The dissolution of monasteries in Silesia and Poland (with contemporaries Belorusse, Lithuanie and Ukraine) and the fate of their libraries, 18th–19th centuries
Discussion (10 mins)

13.00–14.00 Lunch
AFTERNOON SESSION

14.00–16.00 Visits to College Libraries

Session 4: Migration of books, access to new publics
CHAIR: Kasper van Ommen, Coordinator Scaliger Institute, Leiden University

16.00–17.00
Antonella Barzazi, Dep. Storia, Università di Padova – Migration and re-use in the development of Italian religious collections (late 16th–18th century)
Bart op de Beeck, Bibliothèque Royale de Belgique, Brussels – Jesuit libraries in the Southern Netherlands, their eighteenth-century holdings, and the dispersion after 1773
Discussion (10 mins)

17.00–17.30 Tea

17.30–19.00
Javier Anton Pelayo, Universitat Autónoma de Barcelona – The secularization of books and the change in the habit of reading in Catalonia during XVIIIth and XIXth centuries [Spanish]
Bettina Wagner, Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, Munich – 1803 secularization in Bavaria and the book auctions of 1815–50
Pedro Rueda, Universitat de Barcelona – La secularización de las bibliotecas eclesiásticas en Latinoamérica de la Independencia a las nuevas repúblicas: continuidad y ruptura de las colecciones
Discussion (10 mins)

19.30 Conference dinner
SATURDAY, 24th MARCH

Session 5: Impact on book trade and the emergence of private collections
CHAIR: Giles Mandelbrote,
Librarian, Lambeth Palace Library

9.00–10.00
Dominique Varry, ENSSIB, Lyon – French book trade after the Revolution
Discussion (10 mins)

10.00–11.00
TOOLS FOR RESEARCH SESSION:
James Willoughby (Oxford) – Cristina Dondi (Oxford) – Giovanna Granata (Univ. Cagliari)
Presentation of databases which allow for the reconstruction of dispersed collections:
Medieval Libraries of Great Britain (MLGB3), Material Evidence in Incunabula (MEI), Index Possessorum Incunabulorum (IPI), CERL Thesaurus (CT); Ricerca sull'Inchiesta della Congregazione dell'Indice dei libri proibiti (RICI).

11.00–11.30 Coffee

11.30–12.30
William Stoneman, Florence Fearington Librarian of Houghton Library, Harvard University
– North American collection building: gathering monastic books from long ago and far away
Discussion (10 mins)

12.30–13.30
Conclusions
CHAIR: Nigel Palmer,
Professor of Medieval German Literature, Oxford

13.30–14.30 Lunch