New Bownde: New Scholarship in Early Modern Binding
Folger Shakespeare Library, 15–16 August 2013

Introduction

The Folger Shakespeare Library hosts a two-day, international conference to explore new tools for the study of English and Continental bookbinding and share new scholarship in the materiality of the book. Fifteen scholars from seven countries present papers on different aspects of bookbindings, and four international experts conduct workshops exploring new tools and instruments for the study of early modern bindings.

New Bownde: New Scholarship in Early Modern Binding marks the culmination of a two-year project to build an online database of binding images from the Folger collection.

The conference is preceded by a unique, free of charge workshop on Wednesday 14 August 2013 about "digital rubbings" of early modern bookbindings.

Wednesday 14 August 2013
Pre-conference Workshop: Digitizing Bindings with Omnimulti-Directional Lighting (Mini-dome)

In this workshop Lieve Watteeuw (Illuminare, Centre for the Study of Medieval Arts, KU Leuven Belgium) and Hendrik Hameeuw (Ancient Near Eastern Studies, KU Leuven) will demonstrate the Mini-dome, an innovative digital imaging tool for researching, studying, and exploring material characteristics of library materials produced in medieval and early modern times. Originally the Mini-dome was created for reading cuneiform tablets. The second generation of this device creates "digital rubbings", sharp and exact visualizations of bookbinding stamps that are otherwise difficult to see. The Mini-dome will be used to create digital rubbings of early modern books in the collections of the Folger Shakespeare Library, the first institution on the American continent where the Mini-dome is used for this purpose.
Thursday 15 August 2013
Sessions 1–4

9–10:20  Registration | Coffee & tea, Foulke Room
10:20–10:30  Official Opening by the Librarian, Theatre
10:30–noon  Session 1, Theatre

Timothy Leonard, Curator of Manuscripts and Rare Books, Capitulary Library of Vercelli, Italy
*Early bookbindings on incunabula in the Newberry Library: A working census*

Emmanuelle Maïsetti, CESR Tours, France
*Binding structures from the late 15th and 16th century: Results, needs and difficulties*

Alexandra Gillespie, University of Toronto, Canada
*Horn buttons, parchment tackets, and blue stitching: Binding English notebooks at end of the Middle Ages*

noon–1:30  Lunch

1:30–3  Session 2, Theatre

Aaron T. Pratt, Yale University, USA
*Stab-stitching and the status of playbooks as literature*

Erik Geleijns, National Library of the Netherlands, Netherlands
*“Neatly bound in ye* *low boards” – Dutch printed bindings from the eighteenth century*

Andrew Honey, Bodleian Library, Oxford, UK
*The vellum trade: the binding of Jane Austen's fiction manuscripts*

3–3:30  Break | Coffee & tea, Foulke Room

3:30–5  Session 3, Theatre

Nicholas Pickwoad, Ligatus Research Centre, University of the Arts, London, UK
*Exploring the workings of the booktrade through the study of binding structures*

Robert J. Milevski, Independent Researcher, Princeton, New Jersey, USA
*A short introduction to signed bindings*

Jim Kuhn & Frank Mowery, Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, DC, USA
*Demonstration of the Folger Luna Digital Image Database*

5–5:30  Break

5:30–6:30  Public Lecture, Theatre

Frank Mowery, Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, DC, USA
*The Folger Shakespeare Library Gwynn Bindings*

6:30–8  Closing Reception in honor of Frank Mowery, Reading Room

8  Conference Dinner
Friday 16 August 2013
Sessions 5–7

9–10:30 Session 5, Theatre

Ellen Storms, Keeper of Historical Collections, Antwerp University, Belgium
*A new perspective on prize binding research*

Isabelle Blivet, Independant Book Conservator, France
*Tools for the old binding's codicological description and their preservation conditions*

Lieve Watteeuw, KU Leuven, Illuminare, Centre for the Study of Medieval Arts, Belgium
*Digital Rubbings: Imaging the topography of bookbinding stamps with the Minidome (RICH)*

10:30–11 Break | Coffee & tea, Foulke Room

11–12:30 Session 6, Workshops

Workshop leaders: Mme Fabienne le Bars (Bibliothèque nationale de France), Chris Coppens (KU Leuven), Per Cullhed (University Library Uppsala, Sweden), and Philip Oldfield (Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, University of Toronto, Canada)

12:30–2 Lunch

2–3 Session 6, Theatre

Matthew Day, Newman University, Birmingham, UK
*Binding agents? – The role of binders in the suppression of texts in Early Modern England*

L. Elizabeth Upper, Munby Fellow in Bibliography, Cambridge University Library, Cambridge, UK
*Palimpsests of functions. The reuse of frisket sheets for colour printmaking in bindings*

3:30–4 Break | Coffee & tea, Foulke Room

3:30–5 Session 7, Workshops

Workshop leaders: Mme Fabienne le Bars (Bibliothèque nationale de France), Chris Coppens (KU Leuven), Per Cullhed (University Library Uppsala, Sweden), and Philip Oldfield (Thomas Fisher Rare Book Library, University of Toronto, Canada)

Conclusion, Theatre

For more information or questions, please contact Goran Proot, gproot@folger.edu or 202-675 0356 (office hours).