

## TREASURIES OF KNOWLEDGE

COLLECTING AND TRANSMITTING INFORMATION IN THE EARLY MODERN PERIOD

*8 April 2016, Knox Shaw Room, Sidney Sussex College, University of Cambridge*

Early modern people understood collections of information as ‘treasuries’, both in a metaphorical and a material sense. Collecting and storing information created a useful, cumulative repository for present and future reference. Collections were preserved in jewel houses or treasure rooms, their contents locked up in chests or boxes, thus reinforcing the idea that information was a valuable commodity to which access should be moderated. They were situated at the interface between past and future, particular documents and larger structures. They also raise questions of secrecy and access, value and materiality. In discussing treasuries, this one-day workshop directs the conversation towards their utility and value, their form and location, and the hierarchies they constituted. It provides a platform for further exchanges among the diverse scholars working on collecting, and invites scholars to reflect further on the common denominator of the utility of collections and the significance of their location and accessibility.

Confirmed speakers are Shanti Graheli (St Andrews), Sundar Henny (Basel and Cambridge), Stéphane Jettot (Oxford and Paris IV), Helen Kemp (Essex), Eric Ketelaar (Amsterdam), Frances Maguire (York), Jessica Malay (Huddersfield), Brooke Palmieri (UCL), Marco Schnyder (Geneva), Emma Spary (Cambridge), Djoeke van Netten (Amsterdam), as well as Fabio Antonini and Giacomo Giudici from the ARCHIVES project (Birkbeck), Sietske Fransen and Katherine Reinhart from the project ‘Making Visible: The Visual and Graphic Practices of the Early Royal Society’ (Cambridge), and Matt Symonds from the Centre for Editing Lives and Letters (UCL). See below for the full programme.

To register, please fill in the registration form and send it along with the registration fee of £25 in cash or by cheque to the address listed on the form. This fee helps us cover catering (a buffet lunch and two coffee breaks) as well as room hire, in addition to the generous support we have received from the GM Trevelyan Fund of the History Faculty.

We look forward to seeing you in April!

Jennifer Bishop, Liesbeth Corens, Tom Hamilton

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Registration Form  
Deadline: 23 March 2016

**Personal details**

Title:

Forename:

Surname:

Address:

Telephone:

Email:

Institution (if any):

**Special requirements**

*Please inform us of any special requirements, e.g. dietary or mobility*

Do you give permission for your name, institution, research interests  
and email address to be included in a list of conference attendees?

YES       NO

Registration fee: £25. Deadline for registration: 23 March 2016.

Address for completed forms and cheques/cash:

Dr Tom Hamilton

D8 Burrell's Field – Trinity College

56-62 Grange Road

Cambridge CB3 9DH

United Kingdom

*For any further information, please email [treasuriescamb@gmail.com](mailto:treasuriescamb@gmail.com).*

‘TREASURIES OF KNOWLEDGE’ PROGRAMME

9.00 Welcome and Introduction

**9.15 Session 1: Treasuries of Knowledge**

*Eric Ketelaar* (Amsterdam), ‘A Gentleman’s Treasuries in the Dutch Republic’

*Emma Spary* (Cambridge), ‘Plants as Tributes and Treasures in Early Modern France’

*Helen Kemp* (Essex), ‘All my Manuscripts Papers of my Own Hand to be Carefully Preserved in the Study of the Said Library’

10.45 Coffee

**11.00 Session 2: Mediating Access**

*Sundar Henny* (Basel and Cambridge), ‘Masters of Useless Information’

*Fabio Antonini* and *Giacomo Giudici* (ARCHIVES project, Birkbeck), ‘Italian Archives: administration and scholarship’

*Djoeke van Netten* (Amsterdam), ‘Collecting and guarding information just before and after the establishment of the Dutch East India Company (1602)’

12.30 Lunch

**13.30 Session 3: Networks and Hierarchies**

*Jessica Malay* (Huddersfield), ‘Historical Constructions: Anne Clifford’s Great Books of Record and the Clifford Muniments’

*Frances Maguire* (York), ‘Printed receipts and personal solvency: Collecting the paperwork of Hearth Tax’

*Shanti Graheli* (St Andrews), ‘Gui Patin and the Search for Medical Dissertations’

15.00 Coffee

**15.15 Session 4: Crossing Borders**

*Marco Schnyder* (Geneva), ‘Knowledge, Action, and Identity: The Swiss Merchant Nation in Lyon and its Archive (17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> centuries)’

*Brooke Palmieri* (UCL): ‘A Little world of Strangeness’

*Stéphane Jettot* (Oxford and Paris IV): ‘Treasuries of Refugees: The Collection of Genealogical Archives by Exiled Jacobites in the Reign of Louis XIV’

16.45 Break

**17.00 Roundtable: What can Digitisation do for the Structure of Collections?**

*Matt Symonds*, Centre for Editing Lives and Letters (UCL)

*Sietske Franssen* and *Katherine Reinhart*, Making Visible: The Visual and Graphic Practices of the Early Royal Society (Cambridge)

18.00 End of Conference