

Chester Beatty Library

2007-2008

Report of the Trustees

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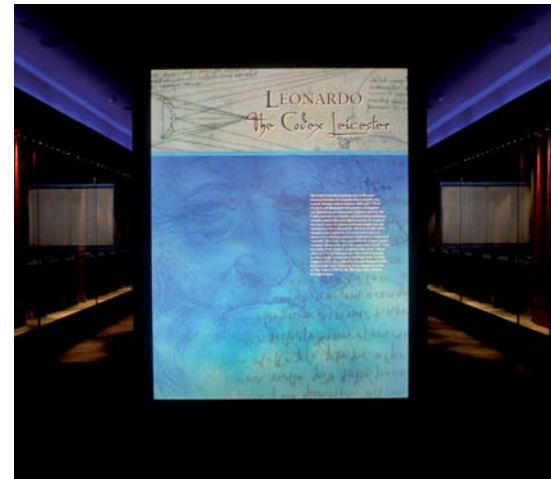
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Chester Beatty Library
Report of the Trustees

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TRUSTEES OF THE LIBRARY

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Mr Dermot Desmond

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Professor Seán Freyne

Ms Elizabeth Maguire

Mrs Louise O'Mahony

Mrs Madeleine O'Sullivan

Professor Roger Stalley

Mr Aongus Ó hAonghusa

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Chester Beatty Library

ANNUAL REPORT 2007

Overview

2007 was a landmark year for the Library. The highlight of the year was *Leonardo: the Codex Leicester*, a major exhibition displaying the famous manuscript of scientific writings of Leonardo da Vinci, on loan from Mr Bill Gates, which was opened by President McAleese on 12 June. During its two-month run, over 85,000 visitors viewed the exhibition, which received widespread positive publicity in the print and broadcast media, both national and international. The *Codex* was displayed in the first-floor gallery together with loans from the Edward Worth Library, Cambridge University Library and Trinity College Library and a substantial selection of material from the Library's collections chosen for the purposes of contextualising Renaissance science and the work of Leonardo. The major refurbishment of the first-floor gallery which began in preparation for the *Leonardo* exhibition continued after that exhibition closed and paved the way for the Library's new permanent exhibition, *Arts of the Book*, which is planned to open in 2008.

Autumn 2007 saw the display of another major loan exhibition, *One Hundred Aspects of the Moon: Japanese Woodblock Prints by Yoshitoshi*, borrowed from the Museum of New Mexico, which opened in the Library's temporary gallery on 16 November with a scheduled closing date of February 2008 (subsequently extended to April 2008). The exhibition was opened by HE Mr Keiichi Hiyashi, the Ambassador of Japan, as part of the year-long celebrations to mark 50 years of Irish-Japanese diplomatic relations. The early response to this exhibition from the public and the media was excellent. In addition to these two major exhibitions, the Library hosted a small exhibition of contemporary Irish calligraphy, entitled *Art in Ink*, celebrating the 25th anniversary of the calligraphy group Peannairí, which ran from 27 September to 21 October.

In addition to the Library's own exhibitions, loans were made to three external exhibitions in Ireland and overseas in 2007. The host museums were Dublin City Gallery The Hugh Lane, the British Library and the Asian Civilisations Museum, Singapore. This year also saw preparations continue for a major loan exhibition, *Muraqqa', Imperial Mughal Albums from the Chester Beatty Library*, which will tour the USA in 2008-09. Dr Elaine Wright, who devised the exhibition, dedicated much of the first half of the year to writing the text for the accompanying catalogue, which was submitted in July.

The Library's exceptionally strong exhibition programme in 2007 undoubtedly contributed to the significant rise in visitor numbers to 252,175 for the calendar year, up from 206,695 in 2006 and 174,000 in 2005.

Collections and Exhibitions

The staging of *Leonardo* demonstrated the Library's ability to attract interesting and exciting loan material and to install exhibitions to a world-class standard. Record visitor numbers were achieved, and the exhibition received substantial coverage nationally and internationally. The refurbishment of the first-floor gallery to accommodate the exhibition opened the way to a complete redisplay of the Library's permanent exhibition on the first floor, and significant economies of scale were achieved. The standard of the new permanent exhibition will more closely match the quality of the *Sacred Traditions* exhibition on the second floor and will display the Chester Beatty collections to the public in a fresh and more accessible way.

The Library made two acquisitions in 2007 to enhance important areas of the collections. The first was an exceptionally rare mezzotint, *A Tigress*, by Irish artist John Dixon (after a painting by George Stubbs), which complements the Library's existing holdings of Stubbs' engravings and will be displayed in the redesigned first-floor gallery when it re-opens in 2008. The acquisition of a contemporary Chinese book made by the 'new literati' artist Wang Chao, entitled *Images from Elsewhere (Yangxiang tu)*, continued the legacy of last year's *Chinese Printmaking Today* exhibition and will help to ensure the continuing relevance of the Library's Chinese collection.

The digitisation of the Library's collections remained a priority in 2007. A committee, chaired by Mr Charles Horton, was convened to study appropriate computer-based content management systems to replace the Library's existing, now obsolete software. The scanning of the microfilm of the Arabic collection continued as did the digitisation of the Japanese *Nara ehon* painting collection.

Major improvements were made in the Library's information technology infrastructure, enabling the more effective use of IT to present educational information to the public. For example, the investment in kiosks to display the innovative audio-visual materials that accompanied the *Leonardo* exhibition enabled the Library to present visitors with information on the permanent exhibitions in a more attractive and user-friendly way.

Education and Outreach

In 2007, the Library continued to enhance its education and outreach programmes. Ms Jenny Siung, Education Officer, participated in an international partnership exploring intercultural adult learning in museums, with funding provided by Léargas, Ireland's National EU Educational Agency, and also worked with four Dublin secondary schools to explore the Library's religious materials. Both projects produced DVDs which were distributed to all the participants.

Looking to the Future

The Library continued to discuss with the Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism and the Office of Public Works the future development of its infrastructure and services. Although the Library continues to labour under difficulties of limited staffing to undertake highly specialised activities, its success in attracting external funding has ensured its continued impact in core areas such as care of the collections and education and outreach. However, modest staff numbers continue to pose a threat to the Library's ability to maintain and present such a valuable public collection to the highest possible standards, and this is a continuing area of concern.

STAFF and DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Director

In the course of 2007, Dr Ryan concluded negotiations and arrangements for the *Leonardo* exhibition and curated the exhibition in association with his colleagues, Mr Charles Horton, Dr Elaine Wright and Dr Shane McCausland. He co-ordinated the production of the catalogue and contributed substantially to it together with his colleagues and the guest writers, Dr Michael John Gorman of Trinity College, Dr Philip Cottrell and the distinguished artist Ms Dorothy Cross. Additional research for the exhibition and work on the catalogue and information panels was conducted by Ms Lisa Lambert. The Director attended frequent meetings with the designers Event Communications throughout the period January to June 2007 and in March he visited Milan with representatives of Event to approve the progress in the design and development of the two large showcases for the *Leonardo*, which are to become a permanent feature of the *Arts of the Book* gallery.

In January, Dr Ryan visited the Museum of International Folk Art, Museum of New Mexico, to negotiate for the exhibition *One Hundred Aspects of the Moon*, which opened at the Library in November 2007. Having been nominated as organiser of

the European Museum of the Year Awards (EMYA) ceremony and associated conference in Dublin in 2008, the Director attended a number of preliminary meetings to plan for the event as well as the EMYA awards ceremony in Alicante in Spring. He also attended the opening of the *Sacred* exhibition at the British Library where important loans from the Chester Beatty collections were on display.

In addition, the Director attended the American Association of Museums annual convention in Chicago and participated in a number of seminars on education, legal ownership of expropriated material, display, security, etc.

During the year he spoke at a number of conferences, including the Council of National Cultural Institutions (CNCI) 'Case for Culture' conference in the RDS and the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland Conference in Galway, and also delivered an extended lecture at University College Cork. He continued to serve as Chair of the Discovery Programme. He was elected Senior Warden of the Company of Goldsmiths of Dublin and appointed an adjunct Professor of Archaeology at University College Dublin towards the end of the year.

He also continued to work for the Hunt Museum Evaluation Group and, in particular, prepared the way for the distinguished expert Dr Lynn Nicholas to visit Ireland to comment on the allegations made against the Hunt Museum, Limerick.

He was elected Chairman of ICOM-Ireland and in that capacity attended the General Assembly of ICOM in Vienna in August. He also attended the Academia Europaea Conference in Toledo on the 'Three Cultures of Spain in the Middle Ages'.

During the year the Director gave numerous interviews on national and local radio stations, on television and in the newspapers and wrote a short article for *The Irish Times*.

Conservation

Ms Jessica Baldwin, Conservation Manager, continued to work on all exhibitions and loans at the Library, including the framing and installation of *One Hundred Aspects of the Moon*. Ms Baldwin was heavily involved in the de-installation and redevelopment of the first floor gallery and introduction of new display cases. She was responsible for the mounting of the *Leonardo* exhibition and the co-ordination of loans from the Edward Worth Library, Trinity College Library and Cambridge University Library. She treated all Library items included in the *Leonardo* exhibition and started work on items to be included in the *Arts of the Book* permanent exhibition.

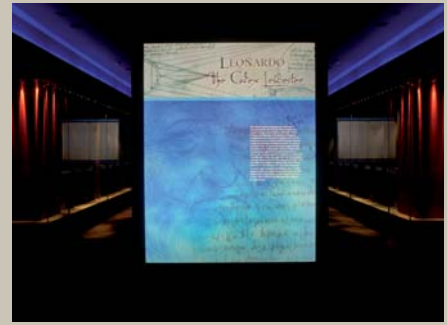
During the year Ms Baldwin worked with the Library's curators on the loan of eleven items. The exhibitions were *Louis le Brocquy and his Masters: Early Heroes, Later Homage* at Dublin City Gallery The Hugh Lane; *Sacred: discover what we share* at the British Library; *Beauty in Asia: 200 BCE to Today* at the Asian Civilisations Museum, Singapore. In all cases this involved writing detailed condition reports, treating items where appropriate and packing the items for transit, as well as acting as courier when necessary.

Ms Baldwin presented a lecture at the Society of Archivists conference in Belfast. She ran three training sessions on the disaster plan for Library staff and volunteers and gave handling workshops to new staff members Hyder Abbas and Tara Kelly. She attended meetings of the CNCI's conservation group and was asked to sit on interview panels for the Heritage Council internship scheme. Ms Baldwin continued her work as Chair of the Irish Professional Conservators' and Restorers' Association (IPCRA) and on the training sub-committee of the Institute for Conservation of Historic Art works in Ireland (ICHAWI).

Ms Rachael Smith, Conservation Fellow, continued her research into the conservation of Indian miniatures; this included a study trip to the British Library, V&A and Bodleian Library. She presented her research in talks to the Library's members, volunteers and the general public and contributed an article to *Heritage Outlook* and an essay to the *Muraqqa'* catalogue. Ms Smith's practical work focused on the conservation of over eighty-five Mughal miniatures and manuscripts in preparation for the travelling *Muraqqa'* exhibition in 2008. She assisted with all exhibitions and loans and acted as outbound courier for the loan to the Asian



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1. Yoshitoshi, *Moon Above the Sea at Daimotsu Bay* (detail), January 1886. Museum of International Folk Art, Museum of New Mexico.
2. *A Tigress*. Mezzotint by John Dixon after George Stubbs. 1772. CBL Wep 4172
3. Wu Jide (M, b. 1942), *Everlasting Friendship – Lu Xun and Uchiyama Kanzo*, 1980. Chinese Printmaking Today, cat. no. 17
4. Dr François Charette displaying the Library's 17th-century Iranian astrolabe during Maths Week Ireland

Leonardo: The Codex Leicester

5. *Leonardo: The Codex Leicester*
6. Early European printed scientific books
7. European scientific texts

over

8. Showing the complex lighting arrangements designed to present the manuscript safely
9. General view showing the design challenges of coping with very low light levels
10. Using the computer interactive programme designed by XCommunications
11. Enjoying the computer interactive programme



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Civilisations Museum, Singapore. Rachael's fellowship has been extended for a second year and continues to be co-funded by the generous support of the Heritage Council and the Library's Contributing members.

Ms Karen Horton, contract textile conservator, spent ten days working on Chinese dragon robe C1057 and Balinese textile Bal 1191 in preparation for *Arts of the Book* and the textile cover of manuscript In 22 for the *Muraqqa'* exhibition. Ms Ciara McQueirns joined the Library in June for a five-week summer placement, which focused on the conservation of the recently acquired mezzotint collection, and she completed the treatment of thirty-two prints. Ms Smith also worked on ten prints from this collection. The Arabic collection condition survey continued, thanks to the voluntary support of Ms Niamh MacAlister and Ms Justyna Chmielewska. Ms Kristine Rose was appointed Book Conservator for the Turkish collection, on a one-year contract funded by the Jookousky Family Foundation, and will start in March 2008. The photographic room next to the conservation laboratory was redeveloped by the OPW to use for book conservation and box making.

The Attendant Staff, especially Mr Albert Mason, Mr James Curran and Mr John Madden, played a vital role in the care of the collections through their on-going work on mounting and boxing projects. Over five hundred phase boxes and two hundred mounts were made. Mr Curran and Mr Mason continued to play a key role in all exhibition installations.

East Asian Collections

Dr Shane McCausland, Curator of the East Asian Collections, supervised the loan of Japanese prints to the Louis le Brocquy retrospective at Dublin City Gallery The Hugh Lane. He contributed to the mounting of *Leonardo*, and curated *One Hundred Aspects of the Moon: Japanese Woodblock Prints by Yoshitoshi*, borrowed from the Museum of New Mexico. He continued planning for upcoming exhibitions, including *Arts of the Book*, the reinstallation of the permanent collections; a loan exhibition from the Shanghai Museum for 2010; and the ASEMUS Travelling Exhibition, *Self and Other: Portraits from Asia and Europe* (2008-10).

Dr McCausland organised and participated in a programme of lectures and gallery tours, facilitated readers, and hosted the HUMI digitisation team's fifth visit. He attended meetings and/or lectured in Korea, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Taiwan and the UK. He also organised a panel on workshop painting at the annual conference of the Association of Art Historians in Belfast, and welcomed a party of delegates to the Library afterwards.

Dr McCausland supervised the on-going publication of facsimiles of the Library's Japanese paintings and oversaw the preparation of other catalogues and the Library's e-guide. He published three entries on visual arts in *The Seventy Wonders of China* (Thames & Hudson) and the text of a lecture on the Library's *Chōgonka* scrolls by Kanō Sansetsu (1591-1651) in *Japan Society Proceedings* (London, 2007). Dr McCausland was assisted in the Library by Ms Laura Muldowney, part-time Curatorial Assistant.

Western Collections

During 1997, Mr Charles Horton contributed to two important overseas loans, overseeing the exhibition of the Library's biblical papyri and other rare biblical manuscripts in Washington, DC, and in London. The return of the Chester Beatty Papyri from the Freer Gallery, Washington, DC, coincided with a symposium at the Smithsonian Institution where Mr Horton delivered a paper on Chester Beatty and the Biblical Collection. The second loan of major biblical holdings was to the British Library for their exhibition *Sacred: discover what we share*. These two exhibitions raised the profile of the Library and both venues gave prominence to the Chester Beatty exhibits. Mr Horton also accompanied the Director to the Rembrandthuis, Amsterdam, in preparation for a loan exhibition of the Dutch master's prints at the Library.

Mr Horton also contributed several entries for the main exhibition of the year, *Leonardo*, and was facilitator and curator of the temporary exhibition *Art in Ink: Contemporary Irish Calligraphy*, which showcased the work of Irish professional and amateur calligraphers.

During the course of the year Mr Horton attended training courses on the Management of Digital Projects at King's College, London, Care of Bookbindings at the British Library and an intensive Leadership Course at Harvard University.

Mr Horton's publications included 'From Time Immemorial: Archives from the ancient world in the Chester Beatty Library' in *Archives and Archivists* ed. by Ailsa C Holland and Kate Manning, Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2007, pp. 147-154; 'Illuminated Prayers', *Irish Arts Review*, Winter 2007, p.168; Ryan, M., et al., *Leonardo da Vinci; The Codex Leicester*. An exhibition at the Chester Beatty Library 12 June – 12 August 2007. London: Scala, 2007. Contributing author for exhibits 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 21, 24, 25.

Arising from the very kind donation made by Ronan and Ann Lambe, Mr Horton was very successful in acquiring an important collection of 18th-century mezzotints created by the Irish born artist Thomas Frye. These rare prints were obtained from the private collection of the Hon Christopher Lennox-Boyd, prior to the dispersal of his collection by auction. These acquisitions and the Library's collection of Western prints in general were much admired during a day-long visit of the UK Print Curators Forum.

Mr Horton, as Chair of the Royal Irish Academy's (RIA) Committee on Near Eastern Religions, devoted considerable energies to facilitating an Academy Discourse by Dr Stephen Emmel, Professor of Coptology at the University of Münster. Prof Emmel delivered a paper entitled 'The Discovery of the Gospel of Judas' and later a public lecture at the Library on 'Coptic Gnostic Books'. Mr Horton also served on the RIA's Board of Humanities and on its Humanities and Social Sciences Infrastructure Sub-committee.

Mr Horton delivered over 40 presentations to university departments and adult learning groups as well as to the Library's volunteers, Members and Patrons.

Islamic Collections

During the first half of 2007, Dr Elaine Wright, Curator of the Islamic Collections, was engaged mainly in the writing of the text for the catalogue to accompany the exhibition *Muraqqa', Imperial Mughal Albums from the Chester Beatty Library*, which will tour the US in 2008-09. The completed text was submitted to the exhibition organizers, Art Services International of Alexandria, Virginia, during the first week of July. Besides essays by Dr Wright, the text also includes essays by a number of international scholars, as well as other Library members of staff: Mr Charles Horton contributed an essay as did Ms Rachael Smith (in association with Ms Jessica Baldwin). In November, Dr Wright visited Washington, the first venue of the exhibition, for research purposes and to meet with the staff of the Sackler Gallery and with the designer of the *Muraqqa'* catalogue. During the year, Ms Jill Unkel continued to assist Dr Wright with various matters concerning the catalogue and exhibition, as well as other curatorial matters; she was employed on a part-time basis for most of the year, but full-time over the summer months. In early December, Dr Wright attended a conference at Cambridge University on the *Shahnama*, the Persian national epic, in connection, in part, with her plans for a major exhibition of the Library's *Shahnama* manuscripts in 2010. The conference was hosted by the *Shahnama* Project (which aims to make available on the web images from all existing *Shahnama* manuscripts), to which the Library has contributed. Over the summer months (2 May-23 September), three of the Library's mid-17th-century Indian paintings were on display at the Asian Civilisations Museum, Singapore, as part of the exhibition *Beauty in Asia: 200BCE to Today*.

Work on the project to catalogue the Library's Arabic manuscripts is progressing; however, although several scholars have agreed to contribute to the project, due to other demands on their time only two have so far been able to

begin cataloguing. One of these, Dr François Charette, visited the Library in the autumn in connection with his work on the project and while here presented the lecture *From Abacus to Zenith: The Islamic Mathematical Legacy in Early Modern Europe*, as part of Maths Week Ireland; the lecture was sponsored by the Centre for the Advancement of Learning of Maths, Science and Technology (CALMAST) at Waterford Institute of Technology. In July, Ms Elizabeth Omidvaran, Assistant to the Arabic Manuscripts Project, attended The Islamic Manuscripts Association (TIMA) annual conference at the University of Cambridge; both Ms Omidvaran and Dr Wright are members of TIMA's sub-committee on the cataloguing of Islamic manuscripts. In connection with her work on the Arabic Manuscripts Project, Dr Wright was invited by Oxford University's Centre for the Study of the Book to participate in a symposium on digitisation, which took place in late November.

Education

Jenny Siung, Education Officer, ran a number of projects with local, national and European partners. Ms Siung devised a project with four Dublin secondary schools with a particular focus on the Library's permanent exhibition *Sacred Traditions*. The project, *Exploring Different Faiths*, encouraged young adults to explore and engage with the Library's religious materials and to respond to them in a variety of media. The results were displayed in the Library in June 2007, and a DVD was distributed to all of the participants. The schools were St Michael's Holy Faith Secondary School, Finglas, Warrenmount Presentation Secondary School, St Paul's Secondary School and St Thomas' Community College, Bray. Partners were Blackrock Education Centre and DIT Pathways Through Education. The project was funded by the Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism.

The Library continued to participate in a number of outreach initiatives including its regular partnership with Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Festival of World Cultures in August and workshops in branches of local Dublin libraries as well as the National Museum and Irish Film Institute. The themes covered included Chinese, Japanese, Indian and European art workshops, and these were facilitated by artists from the multi-ethnic communities.

A programme of children's workshops ran for one week in July as part of the *Leonardo* exhibition. Eoin Gill and Sheila Donegan of CALMAST introduced children to science and engineering as explored by Leonardo da Vinci. Italian calligrapher Massimo Polello presented a calligraphy workshop and demonstration at the Library, sponsored by the Pen Corner, as part of the public programme to accompany the exhibition.

The Sichuan Opera were welcomed to the Library to mark the Chinese New Year. They visited Ireland by invitation of the Chinese-Irish community, and over 150 people attended their performance at the Library. Other family events during the year included a Thai Culture Family Day and Diwali Family Day.

The Library completed a two-year partnership with European cultural organisations as part of a project exploring intercultural adult learning in museums. A total of four seminars were held in each partner country and a DVD was made to document the process. The partners were Istituto per i Beni Artistici, Culturali e Naturali of Bologna, Italy, Engage, London, Imagine IC, Amsterdam and Settore Educazione al Patrimonio Culturale Citta di Torino, Italy. Léargas, our National EU Educational Agency, funded the programme.

Ms Siung was invited to provide two workshops as part of a conference in the UK in November and made reference to the Education Programme of the Library including the projects *Exploring Different Faiths* and *Stories from the Silk Road* (2004). She prepared and co-edited the content of the Library's newsletter with Ms Derval O'Carroll and Ms Paula Shalloo, and continued to supervise Ms Justyna Chmielewska, Volunteer Coordinator of the Library.

Volunteer Programme

The Volunteer Co-ordinator in 2007 was Justyna Chmielewska, a former Volunteer, who took up her new position in January. The Volunteers, who numbered twenty-nine at the end of 2007, continued to play crucial support roles at the Library, including assisting the Education Officer and Curators, and offering services to the general public as Visitor Service Representatives, Tour Guides and Shop Assistants. The seventeen guides gave 275 general tours to some 5,500 visitors. Monthly specialised training sessions, including field trips, were organised by the Volunteer Co-ordinator on collection areas, education and conservation. The valuable contribution of Volunteers was acknowledged by the Trustees and Director at a lunch held in their honour on International Volunteers' Day in January.

Operations

During the course of 2007, Ms Derval O'Carroll, Operations Manager, continued to successfully promote the Library through advertising and public relations. Working closely with Coyne Communications, events at the Library continued to attract regular editorial coverage in national newspapers and on radio and television. Visitor numbers reached 252,000 for the year.

Preparations for the Library's summer exhibition, *Leonardo*, occupied a large amount of Ms O'Carroll's time, including the introduction and successful roll-out of an online ticketing system, liaison with building contractors and the OPW, additional recruitment, security issues and extensive promotion of the exhibition.

Day-to-day activities continued including all personnel issues involved in government partnership agreements and pay awards, day-to-day management, industrial relations and operational issues concerning exhibitions, maintenance, security, visitor services and personnel affairs and in events and retail matters. She was also involved in the re-launch of the Library's website in May and took on the additional role of Website Content Editor.

Ms O'Carroll continued to sit on the CNCI Marketing subgroup, attended the 'Case for Culture' conference in March and gained a Certificate in First Aid in December.

Development

Ms Paula Shaloo, Development Manager, continued to seek resources for the Library from the private sector. During 2007, Ms Shaloo met with several prospective donors and sponsors and worked on a number of grant applications to foundations in Ireland and overseas. A major grant was secured from an Irish foundation which wishes to remain anonymous for an intercultural education project that will begin in 2008. *The Irish Times* and XCommunications provided extremely valuable sponsorship-in-kind for the *Leonardo* exhibition. The Heritage Council and the Library's Contributing Members continued to co-fund a Fellowship in Conservation. Vitra Ireland sponsored a second annual performance of Turkish music and poetry at the Library.

Ms Shaloo organised a programme of special events for Contributing Members, the Library's second annual Turkish Night and the annual Festival of Carols and Readings. She also liaised with Ms Derval O'Carroll and Margaret Coyne and Partners on public relations throughout the year.

Membership

Ms Mary Dowling, Membership Co-ordinator, continued to develop the Library's Membership programme in consultation with the Development Manager and the Membership Committee. Ms Dowling co-ordinated a varied and well-received programme of events including a series of Members-only gallery tours and lectures led by the Director, Curators and Conservation staff, in addition to a number of interesting visits to other cultural institutions in Ireland. A cultural trip to Milan to

view exhibitions and sites associated with Leonardo was one of the highlights of the year. The annual Summer Party took place in June and included a private viewing of the *Leonardo* exhibition. In September, Members enjoyed a trip to London to view exhibitions at the British Museum and the British Library. The autumn programme also included a Japanese-themed Winter Party with a private viewing of the exhibition *One Hundred Aspects of the Moon*.

Rights and Reproductions

During 2007 Ms Sinéad Ward coordinated images in preparation for the catalogue and related exhibition graphics for the Library's travelling exhibition, *Muraqqa'*. 2007 also saw the preparation of images for the forthcoming Library publication *Islam: Faith, Art, Culture*.

In early 2007 Ms Ward oversaw the launch of the Library's web-based image gallery, and was involved in the selection of images for the Library's new website. In addition Ms Ward supplied photographic material and negotiated rights for the inclusion of Library images in books, journals, documentaries, e-books, websites, exhibition catalogues and graphics, across the globe. The Library was particularly well represented in the fully-illustrated French edition of *The Tale of Genji* published that year. Academic research into the Library's holdings was facilitated through the supply of digital images and microfilms to many researchers and institutes, including a large scale project on Manichaean Papyri. With the assistance of the Library, Ms Ward also continued her part-time PhD research on Burmese manuscripts at SOAS, London, carrying out field work in Myanmar and Thailand, and presenting her research at the Discovery of Ramanya Desa conference in Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok.

Ms Frances Narkiewicz worked as Rights and Reproductions Assistant throughout 2007. Her main focus was on the research and development of the Library's e-guide, in addition to researching images for inclusion in the Library's web-based image gallery.

Technical

During the course of 2007, Ms Lorna Tracey, Technical Manager, continued to investigate areas of the Library's Information Technology infrastructure for improvement and development. She then applied these findings and enhancements to all technical areas such as application, system updates/upgrades, equipment and maintenance. She continually supported all IT issues for internal staff, visitors of the Library and external lectures/events.

Ms Tracey was on the project management team for the *Leonardo* exhibition and refurbishment of the first floor gallery. In conjunction with the *Leonardo* exhibition, she developed and improved many IT areas within the Library. She oversaw projects, implementation and management of the Library's integrated PA system, projection equipment, kiosks and applications for the *Leonardo* exhibition. A complete overhaul of the Library's security systems was also necessary, and she was involved in the organisation of a new ACT database and server for all staff identification controlling access to various entry/exit areas in the Library. Also, within this upgrade, Ms Tracey supervised the installation of new CCTV equipment and back-end system, including upgrades to existing cameras in the Library and a new zoom system in the Reference Library. She designed a new front of house desk and installed all new equipment for additional ticketing staff. During the exhibition she assisted with the Building Management System and humidity control for the gallery.

Ms Tracey was involved in the redevelopment of the Library's website, new content management system and image gallery. She installed an integrated printer, photocopier and scanner for all staff and was involved in and managed the new audio visual-room equipment for the Lecture Theatre. This included overseeing the installation of a centrally controlled audio-visual integrated system and equipment purchases.

Ms Tracey completed a five day Digital Futures course in May 2007 in King's College, London. She attended an official Microsoft course for two weeks in December as well as Booksolve training for the Library's shop system.

Commercial Activities

The Library's commercial activities continued to contribute to generating financial resources and raising the Library's profile in 2007. The Silk Road Café and shop are popular destinations for visitors to the Library, but increased seating and shop space are needed to enhance the visitor experience and maximise the potential of the Library's commercial activities, particularly as annual visitor numbers continue to grow. Forty-four events of a semi-commercial nature and three events of a commercial nature were held at the Library during the past year, generating net income of €30,029. Some of the significant events hosted at the Library in 2007 included the Alliance Francaise Franco Irish Festival (28 April), now in its fourth year; the second Turkish Cultural Night and Turkish Cultural Afternoon (27-28 July); CHIME Music Conference, Reception and Concert (11-12 October) and the fifth annual Festival of Carols and Readings (6 December).

STAFF OF THE LIBRARY

DIRECTOR: Michael F. Ryan, MA, PhD, MRIA, FSA
CURATOR, WESTERN COLLECTIONS: Charles Horton, MA, Dip Archive Studies
CURATOR, EAST ASIAN COLLECTIONS: Shane McCausland, MA, PhD
CURATOR, ISLAMIC COLLECTIONS: Elaine Wright, MA, MPhil, DPhil
REFERENCE LIBRARIAN: Celine Ward, MA, MLIS
EDUCATION OFFICER: Jenny Siung, MLitt, HDip Arts Administration, HDip Adult and Community Education
OPERATIONS MANAGER: Derval O'Carroll, MA
TECHNICAL MANAGER: Lorna Tracey, BSc
FINANCE MANAGER: Vera Greif
CONSERVATION MANAGER: Jessica Baldwin
DEVELOPMENT MANAGER: Paula Shalloo, BA
PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO DIRECTOR: June Lattimore
SENIOR LIBRARY ASSISTANT: Olivia Lardner, BA, DipLIS; Hyder Abbas
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Sinéad Ward, MA, HDip Arts Administration
SHOP MANAGER: Antonella Barbati
MEMBERSHIP CO-ORDINATOR: Mary Dowling
EVENTS CO-ORDINATOR: Lisa Fitzsimons, MA
VOLUNTEER CO-ORDINATOR: Justyna Chmiewelska
CURATORIAL ASSISTANT: Laura Muldowney, MA
CURATORIAL ASSISTANT: Jill Unkel, BA, MS, MPhil
RIGHTS AND REPRODUCTIONS ASSISTANTS: Catherine Yvard, Frances Narkiewicz

Attendants

HEAD ATTENDANT: Anthony Hutchings
SENIOR ATTENDANTS: Albert Mason, Kevin Hackett
ATTENDANTS: James Curran, John Madden, Joseph Doyle, Val Kavanagh, David Holmes-O'Byrne, Michael O'Neill, Tony Gallagher, Frank Hyland, Brendan Lynch, David Steele, Martin O'Leary
CURATORIAL ASSISTANTS: Lisa Lambert, Rie Mishima

Volunteers

TOUR GUIDES: Cathriona Russell, Ciaran O'Leary, Delphine Kelly, Dorothy Dennis, Jack Fitzgerald, Janet Martin, Margaret Sheehy, Michael O'Connell, Orla Ryan, Patricia McCabe, Susan Dillon, Joan Barnewell, Nateghe Moane, Olaf Schneemann, Keiko Marutani
VISITOR SERVICES REPRESENTATIVES: Brian O'Neill, Colleen Fitzgerald, Hiromi Anzai, Kurt Kullmann, Mairin Cullen, Margaret Brady, Mary Neville, Maura Fennell, Noel Gorman, Pilar Morero, Rita Sutton, Tess Lee
CURATORIAL ASSISTANT: Nesta Butler
EDUCATION ASSISTANT: Andrea Dodd

BALANCE SHEET

31 December 2007

Fixed Assets

Tangible fixed assets	1,771,243	743,361
Investments	1,337,130	1,408,743
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	3,108,373	2,152,104

Current assets

Shop stocks	156,203	101,169
Debtors and prepayments	26,487	28,792
Bank deposit accounts	765,219	1,316,376
Bank current accounts	138,518	67,495
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,086,427	1,513,832

Current liabilities

Creditors and accruals	(352,015)	(277,884)
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Net current assets

	734,412	1,235,948
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	3,842,785	3,388,052

Capital and income funds

Capital funds	302,030	302,030
Restricted funds	1,984,923	1,848,148
Unrestricted funds	267,702	(121,869)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	2,554,655	2,028,309

Development Fund

	1,288,130	1,359,743
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	3,842,785	3,388,052

Trustees

Dr TP Hardiman
Prof R Stalley

Director/Librarian

Dr Michael Ryan

TRUSTEES OF THE LIBRARY

Chairman

Dr T.P. Hardiman

Sir Marc Cochrane

Dr Kate Coleman

Mr Dermot Desmond

Mrs Joan Duff

Professor Seán Freyne

Ms Elizabeth Maguire

Mrs Louise O'Mahony

Mrs Madeleine O'Sullivan

Professor Roger Stalley

Mr Aongus Ó hAonghusa



Chester Beatty Library

ANNUAL REPORT 2008

Overview

This year was a period of exceptional activity. The new permanent exhibition, *Arts of the Book*, was completed in time for a 'soft' opening in conjunction with the European Museum of the Year awards conference and presentation ceremony in May. Preparation for *Arts of the Book* involved a substantial commitment by the curators, Dr Shane McCausland, Mr Charles Horton and Dr Elaine Wright together with the Head of Conservation, Ms Jessica Baldwin, and her colleagues; the Head of Operations and Administration, Ms Derval O'Carroll, and other members of staff, including Mr Albert Mason, Mr James Curran and colleagues from the Attendant staff. The redesign was managed by Event Communications and involved further adjustments to the structure of the gallery, the design and manufacture of customised showcases by Goppion of Milan, and new lighting. The completion of the exhibition which was the highlight of the Library's programme domestically was preceded in the gallery by an exhibition of *Nara ehon* curated by Dr Shane McCausland to coincide with the international conference of specialists hosted by the Library in March. Following a period of observation and some adjustment, the exhibition was formally opened in November by the Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism, Mr Martin Cullen, TD. The opening of the exhibition received widespread positive publicity and was widely featured on both television and radio. Visitor response was excellent.

The special exhibition during the summer was *Rembrandt* – a superb display of etchings from the Rembrandthuis in Amsterdam generously supported by ING Ireland. It was accompanied by a catalogue raisonné of all the artist's prints. The exhibition was curated by Mr Charles Horton and associated programmes included demonstrations by contemporary print artists, lectures and gallery talks. Over 65,000 visitors saw the exhibition during the three months of its run.

2008 saw the completion of preparations for the *Muraqqa'* touring exhibition – a collection of the Library's Mughal portraits and pages of calligraphy from Imperial albums of the reigns of Jahangir and Shah Jahan (who is known to the world as the builder of the Taj Mahal). The exhibition was devised by Dr Elaine Wright who wrote the greater part of the splendid catalogue, prepared textual materials for the exhibition and supervised the mounting in various venues as well as lecturing on the subject. Supported by generous patrons in the United States, Culture Ireland also recognised the importance of the venture with a grant to assist the Library and Art Services International (ASI), Richmond, Virginia, in the development of the project. The Library wishes to record here its gratitude to the board and executive of Culture Ireland for its generous action which highlighted the international nature of Ireland's cultural possessions, which now reflect the changing demography of the country. The exhibition was organised in the US by ASI and opened at the Sackler Gallery of the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, in April where it was seen by over 279,000 people. It later moved to Detroit where it was shown at the Institute of Arts. In December it moved to the Honolulu Academy of Art. Dr Wright's commitment enabled the Library to bring an appreciation of the extraordinary riches of the Mughal collection to the land of Chester Beatty's birth. The preparation of the catalogue required contributions from other members of staff – Mr Charles Horton and Ms Rachael Smith with Ms Jessica Baldwin contributed two chapters to the text. The paintings were conserved and prepared for shipping by the Conservation Laboratory. Ms Sinéad Ward supervised photography for the book and Ms Jill Unkel provided important support in the form of general and photographic research.

The catalogue received a number of awards in recognition both of its design and scholarship. The opening in April was attended by the Chairman, Dr TP Hardiman, and representatives of the Library Board and staff, which presented an opportunity to develop the relationship between the Sackler Gallery and the Library. The Director of the Sackler Gallery, Dr Julian Raby, suggested a number of practical ways to enhance co-operation.

Towards the end of the year preparations were in hand for the group exhibition *Artist's Proof* organised in association with the Library by the Graphic Studio Dublin. The exhibition is scheduled to open in January 2009. Negotiations for the proposed exhibition *Telling Images of China* from the Shanghai Museum were completed by Dr McCausland.

Two major publications by the Library with Scala books were in an advanced stage of preparation in late 2008 – *Islam: Faith, Art, Culture* by Dr Wright and *Chinese Romance from a Japanese Brush* by Dr McCausland, both to appear in early 2009. Both titles promise to be exceptional in their design and appeal.

A committee consisting of Mr Charles Horton, Ms Celine Ward and Ms Lorna Tracey examined collections management systems for the Library and by the year's end had recommended an appropriate system to replace the older CMS. Meetings are planned for 2009 with the manufacturer with a view to having the system in place by mid-year. The Library proposes to capture the essential data on its old system by the end of 2009 and to progressively populate the new system with enriched data as time, expertise and funds permit.

Finance and Administration

The year saw continuing generous support from the Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism but with the changing financial climate there were cuts to the allocation to the Library. The situation is set to worsen in 2009 and the Library cannot expect to be immune to the downturn. However, the Library is a frugal institution and while the year 2008 saw some exceptional expenditure there will clearly be fewer resources available for 2009-2010. The prospects for fundraising from private companies are bleak and even foundations which have supported the Library in the past are suffering in the downturn and restricting their programmes. Nevertheless, the Head of Development was successful in nurturing a supportive relationship with ING Ireland and opening interesting conversations with a number of potential patrons, both corporate and private. The work of development which has been successful in sourcing support for the Library must continue in difficult as well as in good times to develop partnerships with individuals and business to support and promote the work of the Library. Without the support of generous patrons it would have been impossible to develop the strong and active conservation laboratory team and to acquire resources to enable the Library to manage the *Muraqqa'* exhibition in the United States.

The Trustees have consistently drawn attention to the modest core staff at its disposal to protect, present and manage the most valuable public collection in Ireland. It is a collection with a remarkable variety of material which demands specialist attention on many levels – curatorial, conservation, education, security and housekeeping. In order to achieve this, the Library relies on contract staff to make it possible to live up to many of its responsibilities, and the inability to employ contract research assistants and conservators would be viewed with alarm by the Board. The permanent Education staff of the Library is one professional and this is clearly inadequate. There is only one permanent conservator and a mere three professional curators for this exceptional and varied collection.

The Library has within its holdings several world-class collections and it is imperative for the institution and the nation to keep faith with the generosity of the founder and to sustain Ireland's reputation as a safe place in which to entrust precious cultural gifts. The response to the impending downturn in 2009 bids fair to undercut the ability of the Library to maintain standards of care and interpretation of its collections. The Trustees propose to devote their limited resources to

cushioning as much as possible the effects of the developing recession but these funds are limited and will soon run down. Amongst the projects to which the Board is committed are the implementation of the new IT-based collections management system during 2009. Staff numbers are low and the Board is concerned that the loss of even a single skilled member of staff will have a disproportionate effect on the Library. It is no exaggeration to state that the well-being of the Library, even in conditions of comparative affluence, hangs by a thread.

During 2008, the Library embarked on a detailed, year-long study of its visitors with a view to establishing as complete a profile as possible of those who come to the exhibitions throughout the year. Organised with TNS-MRBI by Ms Derval O'Carroll, the results of the survey are summarised in Appendix I. It is clear that the Library makes an important contribution to cultural tourism in Ireland and receives consistent and remarkably favourable feedback from its varied public. It is consistently featured with high praise in international guidebooks and is one of only two cultural attractions in Dublin to receive three Michelin stars – an accolade which signifies to Michelin readers that a visit to the Library alone justifies the journey to Dublin.

During the year the Library made substantial progress in reviewing its operations with the Internal Auditor and with the help and support of its annual auditors (PricewaterhouseCoopers) in strengthening aspects of its management processes. It is important to note, however, that with only one member of staff dealing full time with finance, the checks and balances needed with the Library's increasingly complex financial affairs are difficult to sustain. Here too the small size of the staff leaves the Library exposed to risk if, for any reason, the Finance Manager is unavailable. Nevertheless, the Library manages to prepare for and complete its audit process every year within the month of February and to present its accounts to the Audit and Finance Committee no later than early April each year. The Trustees, however, note with concern that there is no cover in the existing situation and no spare capacity to separate financial processes. The management of all institutions is growing ever more complex and a variety of legislative and other regulations are imposed on the Library as if it had a large and well-staffed administration. This is not so, and it is unreasonable to expect a small organisation with no more than a skeleton staff to carry such a large administrative overhead. Clearly, the staffing of the Library at management, curatorial, conservation and service levels is completely inadequate for modern conditions, and the Trustees draw attention to the paradox that the Chester Beatty Collection is one of remarkable significance, artistically, culturally and in other ways and is arguably the most valuable collection open to the public in Ireland.

A restructuring of the Library staffing took place in an effort to strengthen the management team; the posts of Head of Collections and Head of Operations and Administration were established and filled by internal appointment. While the reorganisation reflects the increasing complexity of the Library and the intensifying of the workloads, its effect is diminished by the fact that it carried with it no increase in staff. As part of the reorganisation, the posts in Education and the Reference Library were upgraded to reflect the responsibilities and workload of the roles.

The position of Rights and Reproductions Officer was regraded to reflect the growing complexity of the tasks of dealing with copyright and digitisation issues. While glad of the opportunity to effect these changes, the Trustees are of the view that the quality and eclecticism of the collections requires at least a doubling of the curatorial and conservation staff and a strengthening of the Library's administration.

STAFF and DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES

Director

The Director is Chief Executive Officer of the Library and acts as Secretary to the Board of Trustees and the Audit and Finance Committee. During the year he participated in meetings with trade union officials and with IBEC together with Ms O'Carroll. With the Chairman and Trustees, he represented the Library at the



1. *Arts of the Book* exhibition

over

2. HE Mr Yvon Roé d'Albert, the Ambassador of France and Madame Roé d'Albert with the Director, Dr Ryan, on the occasion of the insignia of Officer of the Order of Arts and Letters, December 2008
3. Professor Mikhail Piotrovsky delivers the Chester Beatty Lecture in St Patrick's Hall, Dublin Castle
4. Mr Charles Horton and Ms Lisa Lambert at the Chester Beatty Lecture
5. Mr Seamus Hosey, RTÉ producer, Thomas Davis Lectures; Professor Jerusha McCormack, Thomas Davis Lectures series editor; HE Mr Liu Biwei, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China
6. HE Mr Liu Biwei; Mr Cathal Goan, RTÉ Director-General; Mr Seamus Hosey

Opening of Rembrandt Show

7. Mr Charles Horton shows Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism, Mr Martin Cullen, TD, the *Rembrandt* exhibition
8. Mr Charles Horton, Mr Barry Fehily, Managing Director, ING Ireland, Minister Martin Cullen, Dr TP Hardiman, Chairman of the Trustees of the Library
9. Guests enjoying the opening reception for *Rembrandt*
10. The Occasional Singers begin the 2008 Festival of Carols

Muraqqa' Exhibition

11. Entrance to the Sackler Gallery
12. Director of the Freer and Sackler Galleries, Dr Julian Raby, HE the Ambassador of India and the Director of the Chester Beatty Library cutting the ribbon to open the *Muraqqa'* exhibition
13. Ms Jill Sackler, Dr Ryan and Curator of *Muraqqa'*, Dr Elaine Wright, at the opening ceremony
14. Dr Julian Raby, Dr TP Hardiman, Chairman of the Trustees of the Library and HE Michael Collins, Ambassador of Ireland to the United States at the Members' opening of *Muraqqa'*
15. Brendan and Alison Parsons, Earl and Countess of Rosse (left and centre), and Dr Hwee-san Tan, formerly UCD

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opening of the *Muraqqa'* exhibition in Washington, DC, and later at the Honolulu Academy of Arts, in the process making four speeches and meeting members of the press. He participated in the negotiations for the *Rembrandt* exhibition and for the *Artist's Proof* exhibition with the Graphic Studio as well as greeting and guiding a number of distinguished visitors to the Library. He worked with Ms Paula Shalloo, Head of Development, on fundraising and related tasks and sat ex officio on committees within the Library. In addition to a heavy administrative burden, he served on the Council of National Cultural Institutions, as a member of the Board of the Glucksman Gallery, University College Cork, and as Chair of ICOM-Ireland in which capacity he attended the Advisory Committee and General Assembly in Paris. As chief organiser, he was deeply concerned in the planning of the European Museum of the Year Awards ceremony and conference in partnership with the National Gallery and with Clara Clark, a professional conference organiser. He raised the funds to make the event possible. The event, under the patronage of HM Queen Fabiola, was attended by 180 museum colleagues from all parts of Europe. The proceedings were opened by Mr Martin Cullen, TD, Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism, in his first official appearance at a cultural occasion since taking office. In late June-early July the Director acted as president of the World Archaeology Conference (WAC 6) which was held in University College, Dublin.

In October he was elected Master Warden of the Company of Goldsmiths of Dublin and in December he was made an Officer of the Order of Arts and Letters by the Government of France in a ceremony at the French Embassy.

Development

Ms Paula Shalloo, Head of Development, continued to develop new resources for the Library, primarily from the private sector, in 2008. Ms Shalloo successfully secured major sponsorship for the *Rembrandt* exhibition from ING Ireland, the first such sponsorship undertaken by the company in Ireland. The State Street Foundation and the ESB also supported the Library for the first time in 2008, with grants for Education projects. CALMAST at Waterford Institute of Technology sponsored a second annual lecture at the Library as part of Maths Week Ireland, in October.

The Library's Contributing Members continued to provide valuable annual support for Conservation.

In February, Ms Shalloo accompanied the Director to Washington, where she attended a dinner hosted by the Irish Embassy to promote the *Muraqqa'* exhibition, in addition to meeting with other potential supporters in the Washington area. During that trip, she arranged an interview for the Director with Ms Trina Vargo, President of the US-Ireland Alliance, which was subsequently circulated as a podcast to the Alliance's supporters. She returned to Washington in May for the *Muraqqa'* opening and organised a private reception and preview of the exhibition at the Sackler Gallery, which was attended by over 70 guests.

Ms Shalloo assisted the Director with the organisation of the Chester Beatty Lecture, given by Professor Mikhail Piotrovsky, Director of the Hermitage Museum, St Petersburg, in February. At the invitation of Business to Arts, she joined a new Development Forum for development professionals from key arts and cultural organisations in Ireland and attended the first meeting of the Forum in December. She continued to liaise with Ms Derval O'Carroll and Margaret Coyne and Partners on public relations throughout the year and to co-edit the Library's newsletter with Ms O'Carroll and Ms Jenny Siung.

Operations and Administration

During the course of 2008, Ms Derval O'Carroll, Head of Operations and Administration, continued to successfully promote the Library through advertising and public relations, working closely with Coyne Communications. Events and exhibitions at the Library continued to attract regular editorial coverage in national newspapers and on radio and television. Visitor numbers reached 226,543 for the year.

Preparations for the re-launch of the Library's permanent *Arts of the Book* exhibition in May and temporary exhibition *Rembrandt* in June occupied a large amount of her time, including liaison with building contractors and the OPW, security issues and extensive promotion of both exhibitions.

Her day-to-day activities continued, including all issues involved in government partnership agreements and pay awards, day-to-day management, industrial relations and operational issues concerning exhibitions, maintenance, security, visitor services, industrial relations and personnel affairs and in events and retail matters. Ms O'Carroll commissioned a year-long extensive visitor survey which commenced in July and also continued her role as Website Content Editor.

Ms O'Carroll continued to play an active role on the CNCI Marketing subgroup and regularly advised other cultural and sister institutions on operational, marketing and personnel matters.

East Asian Collections

Dr Shane McCausland was Curator of the East Asian Collections and also assumed the post of Head of Collections in October. He mounted two temporary exhibitions. *One Hundred Aspects of the Moon: Japanese Woodblock Prints by Yoshitoshi* was borrowed from the Museum of New Mexico. *The Art of Story-telling in Japan, 16th-18th Century: An Exhibition of Nara ehon from the Chester Beatty Library Collection* was organised to coincide with an international conference attended by more than 50 scholars. He also curated the East Asian section of the new permanent exhibition, *Arts of the Book*. Dr McCausland visited the Shanghai Museum where he gave a paper and continued planning for the major loan exhibition, *Telling Images of China: Narrative and Figure Paintings, 15th-20th Century, from the Shanghai Museum*, which comes to the Library in 2010. He continued to participate in the development of ASEMUS exhibition and web projects.

Dr McCausland organised and participated in a programme of lectures and gallery tours. In conjunction with RTÉ, the Library hosted the launch of the 2008 Thomas Davis Lectures, *China and the Irish*, to which he contributed a lecture. He facilitated readers, and hosted the HUMI digitisation team's sixth expedition.

Dr McCausland collaborated on a book on the *Chōgonka* scrolls to be published by Scala in 2009, and oversaw the publication of two facsimiles of the Library's Japanese paintings. He was a member of the Executive Committee of ASIA (Asian Studies Ireland Association), and was appointed to the Cultural Liaison Committee of the Royal Irish Academy's Digital Humanities Observatory. Dr McCausland was assisted in the Library by Ms Laura Muldowney, part-time Curatorial Assistant.

Islamic Collections

Throughout 2008, various matters concerning the exhibition *Muraqqa', Imperial Mughal Albums from the Chester Beatty Library* occupied much of the time of Dr Elaine Wright, Curator of the Islamic Collections. The exhibition opened at the Sackler Gallery of Art in Washington, DC, on 3 May, then at the Detroit Institute of the Arts on 23 August and at the Honolulu Academy of Arts on 17 December. Dr Wright and Ms Baldwin oversaw the installation of the exhibition in Washington, and then for the other two venues, Dr Wright alone oversaw the installation while Ms Baldwin oversaw the de-installation at each site. The exhibition will continue to tour the US in 2009. The accompanying 500-page exhibition catalogue was published in April.

Thanks to a generous donation from the Joukouwsky Family Foundation, in the spring Ms Kristine Rose, a specialist Islamic bookbinder, began work on a project to conserve the Library's late Ottoman manuscripts.

Work on the Arabic Manuscripts Project has continued, and Dr François Charette has almost completed his cataloguing of the 138 astrology and astronomy manuscripts and is scheduled to begin work in the New Year on the natural science manuscripts. The work of the other cataloguers continues to progress slowly due to

the pressing demands of their full-time positions. The grant received from the Getty Foundation for the initial years of the project has now come to an end and new sources of funding will be sought. Ms Elizabeth Omidvaran continues to work three days a week as Assistant to the Arabic Manuscripts Project. In the summer, she and Dr Wright attended The Islamic Manuscripts Association (TIMA) annual conference at the University of Cambridge. In October, Dr Wright also attended the first biennial conference of the Historians of Islamic Art, held in Philadelphia.

Ms Jill Unkel continued as a part-time curatorial assistant, her duties now focusing on the compiling of a digital image archive of the Islamic collections. She also assisted Dr Wright with the re-installation of the Islamic section of the *Arts of the Book* exhibition in May.

The final editing of Dr Wright's book for the general public, *Islam: Faith, Art, Culture*, took place in the autumn, a project that also involved considerable work by Ms Sinéad Ward in Rights and Reproductions; Ms Jill Unkel also assisted, compiling the appendices of the book.

Western Collections

The main focus of curatorial activities centered on the redisplay of the permanent collection in the *Arts of the Book* and the redesign of text panels for the *Sacred Traditions* gallery. Mr Charles Horton, curator of the Western Collections also mounted the loan exhibition from the Rembrandthuis, Amsterdam, which received extensive media interest and reviews. He also attended the following conferences: Art, Academia, and the Trade. The career of Sir Sydney Cockerell (1867-1962) The Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge; LIBER (Library Collection Security) Conference, The British Library, London; American Association for Museums Conference, Denver.

Michael McCarthy, retired professor of the History of Art at UCD, donated a substantial collection of reference books on Piranesi and other Italian printmakers which substantially added to the Reference Library collection.

Particular mention should also be made of the assistance Mr Horton received from the numerous volunteers, particularly Dr Nesta Butler who added immensely to the documentation on the Library's Piranesi collection and who lectured on this collection to several groups during the year. Ms Lois Jenkins (Smith College, Northampton) completed her internship on the Chester Beatty archives and Ms Tara Kelly, curatorial assistant, assisted on documentation and exhibition preparation.

Mr Horton, as Chair of the Royal Irish Academy's Committee on Near Eastern Religions, devoted considerable energies to facilitating the Academy's Committee and also served on the RIA's Board of Humanities.

Dr Scot McKendrick, Head of Western Manuscripts, British Library, paid a professional visit and discussed areas of future co-operation.

Dr Rowan Watson, Senior Curator at the Department of Text and Image in the National Art Library at the Victoria and Albert Museum, delivered a lecture on 19th-century manuscript collectors. Dr Watson has a long time connection with the Library since his father, an eminent Chinese specialist, was Beatty's advisor on his jade books. As a young boy Dr Watson was a guest of Chester Beatty many times when his family came to Dublin to work on the Chinese collection. Dr Watson teaches at University College London.

Mr Horton delivered over 40 presentations to university departments, adult learning groups as well as to the Chester Beatty volunteers, Members and Patrons.

Education

The Library celebrated the EU Year of Intercultural Dialogue in 2008 with a number of projects and events. These included *Tell Your Story*, an intercultural storytelling project for children with partner Draíocht Arts Centre; the launch of a stamp by An Post celebrating intercultural dialogue; a Japanese *Manga/Anime* weekend, and a Thai Cultural Family Day. The Library also participated in a Grundtvig Learning

Partnership with other European museums and arts centres. Ms Jenny Siung, Head of Education, presented on intercultural education at a conference in Bologna in June and at the Intercultural Ireland seminar in Brussels in November. This was organised by the Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism, NCCRI, Culture Ireland and the Arts Council.

Other programmes for 2008 included the Silk Worm Summer Club for 6-11 year-olds where children engaged with the *Rembrandt* exhibition, a classical Indian music performance, participation in Dun Laoghaire Rathdown's Festival of World Cultures in August, the facilitation of a Fulbright Scholar, Ms Kara Waxman, resulting in an exhibition of her paintings based on the collections and a classical Indian dance workshop.

Conservation

Conservation staff continued to be involved with the installation of every item in the temporary and permanent galleries, especially the refurbishment of the first floor gallery and installation of the collection in the permanent *Arts of the Book* exhibition. Ms Kristine Rose was appointed Book Conservator for the Turkish collection; this one-year contract was funded by the Joukowsky Family Foundation and started in March. Ms Rose has condition surveyed 224 Turkish manuscripts, implemented a treatment strategy and conserved 26 manuscripts. Ms Rachael Smith completed her internship funded by the Heritage Council and the Library's Contributing Members in November and continued to work as a paper conservator.

A total of 704 items were conserved in the Conservation Laboratory in 2008. Of this total, 415 stuff bottles were carefully cleaned for photography; 83 items were treated for loan; 206 items were fully conserved for in-house exhibition and ongoing preservation programmes. In other projects, 173 prints were condition checked for temporary loan exhibitions *One Hundred Aspects of the Moon: Japanese Woodblock Prints by Yoshitoshi* and *Rembrandt: Etchings from the Rembrandthuis*. Ms Karen Horton, textile conservator, treated a Chinese dragon robe (C1052) in preparation for the *Arts of the Book* exhibition and condition surveyed and repacked a further four dragon robes. A damaged Chinese vase (C1528) was restored by ceramics conservator Ms Lorna Barnes and the rest of the Chinese vase collection was condition surveyed.

Final work on the *Muraqqa'* exhibition was completed by April and the 86 items were packed and crated for transportation to the Sackler Gallery, Washington. Ms Baldwin oversaw the initial condition reporting, framing and mounting at the Gallery with Dr Wright. She returned in August to de-install the exhibition and again to de-install at the Detroit Institute of Arts in November. The Arabic collection condition survey continued, thanks to the voluntary support of Ms Nadja Delmonte and Ms Colleen Fitzgerald.

The conservation staff attended training courses on a variety of different topics, including Integrated Pest Management, the history, use and properties of lapis lazuli, the construction of traditional Ottoman books and the treatment of iron gall ink. Ms Smith and Ms Rose presented recent treatment projects at the IPCRA conference on 12 November at the National Gallery of Ireland.

Ms Baldwin attended meetings of the CNCI's conservation group and was asked to sit on interview panels for the Heritage Council internship scheme. Ms Baldwin was appointed a Director of the Institute for Conservation of Historic Art works in Ireland (ICHAWI) and continued her work on the Institute's training sub-committee and on the committee of the Irish Professional Conservators' and Restorers' Association (IPCRA).

The Attendant Staff, especially Mr Albert Mason, Mr James Curran and Mr John Madden, played a vital role in the care of the collections through their on-going work on mounting and boxing projects. Mr Curran and Mr Mason continued to play a key role in all exhibition installations.

Technical

For the period of 2008, Ms Lorna Tracey, Technical Manager, continued to improve and develop the Library's Information Technology Infrastructure. She investigated enhancements of all technical areas such as application, hardware, system updates/upgrades, training, security, documentation, equipment and maintenance. She continually supported all Information Technology issues for internal staff, visitors of the Library and external lectures/events inclusive of all audio-visual equipment utilised on these occasions.

Ms Tracey was involved in the technical areas related to the opening of *Arts of the Book*. She oversaw projects, implementation and management of the Library's IT infrastructure. There were several upgrades and enhancements to systems improving IT performance and best practice. She was involved in various projects such as ongoing Digitisation Project development, audio-visual, File Registry System project management and installation, e-guide tour and CMS investigations.

Ms Tracey attended the LIBER (Library Collection Security) Conference hosted by the British Library in May 2008 and an Audio Tours Symposium in Tate Modern September, 2008 to investigate future improvements and concepts for the Library's own audio-visual tours.

Membership

Ms Mary Dowling, Membership Co-ordinator, continued to develop and expand the Library's Membership programme in consultation with the Head of Development and the Membership Committee. Ms Dowling devised and co-ordinated a highly varied and interesting range of events throughout the year, and the response from the Library's Members was very positive. The highlight of the year was a cultural trip to Berlin in July with a special focus on Rembrandt to complement the Library's summer exhibition. The group enjoyed a memorable private viewing at the Kupferstichkabinett in addition to interesting visits to other cultural institutions, a day trip to Potsdam and dinner at the Reichstag. The visit to Berlin was preceded by the annual Summer Party in June with a private viewing of the *Rembrandt* exhibition.

Day trips in Ireland included visits to NUI Maynooth to view an exhibition in the Russell Library followed by guided tours in Carton House and Castletown House, to the Royal Dublin Society for a private tour and viewing of the exhibition *RDS and the Linen Industry* and to the Islamic Cultural Centre in Clonskeagh for a calligraphy demonstration and workshop. Ms Dowling also devised new, innovative events such as a private tour of Glasnevin Cemetery with Shane MacThomais, which included a visit to the grave of Chester Beatty, and a guided tour of the Dubh Linn Gardens in Dublin Castle.

Ms Dowling also organised two Members' events in association with the Ireland Japan Association: a Japanese literature lecture with Barbara Geraghty, University of Limerick, followed by a *koto* performance and a demonstration of the Japanese tea ceremony, and a talk by author Mr Yasuyuki Ozeki followed by a sushi reception supported by Bridgestone. Other Members' events at the Library in 2008 included a private screening of the film 'Russian Ark' featuring Professor Mikhail Piotrovsky, Director of the Hermitage Museum, St Petersburg; a Palestinian food tasting event in The Silk Road Café, and a French-themed children's storytelling event, supported by the French Embassy.

A survey of the Members conducted in 2008 received a good response and provided valuable feedback for the further development of the Membership programme.

Rights and Reproductions

2008 was a busy year for Rights and Reproductions with a switch to digital photography and the relocation of photographic archives. Ms Sinéad Ward began to outline plans for the digitisation of the collection, as well as the transfer of existing

digital images to a central image repository. As part of the Library's digitisation plans, research was carried out on suitable DAMS and collection databases.

With the assistance of the OPW, existing space was converted into a dedicated photographic room, allowing the Library to further its plans to create a central digital image resource.

Extensive new photography was undertaken for two forthcoming catalogues of the snuff bottle collection and the *Chōgonka* scroll, and also for the redesign of the permanent exhibitions. The Library continued to contribute to academic research projects through the digitisation of Manichaean papyri. Exploratory photographic work also began on the Kephalaia codex.

The Library continued to contribute images to both academic and commercial projects throughout the world.

During 2008 Ms Ward was assisted by Ms Frances Narkiewicz, who began work on the redevelopment of the Library's web-based image gallery. The newly developed image gallery will allow for further search options, zoom features and greater audience interaction with the works on display.

In the course of 2008 Ms Ward represented the Library at the annual conference of the Visual Resources Association in San Diego, and also at the MILE project conference in London.

Volunteer Programme

The Volunteer Programme continued to play a significant role at the Library. At the end of the year there were thirty two Volunteers participating in all aspects of the Library's activities. Volunteers act as Tour Guides, Visitor Service Representatives, Curatorial and Education Assistants, Membership Assistants and Retail Assistants.

In 2008 Volunteer Tour Guides gave 264 tours, including public tours, specialised tours, primary/secondary/ third level education tours and adults/active retirement tours.

To celebrate International Volunteers Day (December 5), Volunteers were invited to the National Gallery of Ireland for a guided tour of *Northern Stars & Southern Lights – the Golden Age of Finnish Art 1870-1920* exhibition, followed by refreshments.

Volunteers attended specialised training sessions on a monthly basis, organised by the Volunteer Co-ordinator. Themes covered included: curatorial addresses with Dr Elaine Wright, Dr Shane McCausland and Mr Charles Horton; conservation addresses with Ms Jessica Baldwin and Ms Kristine Rose; Dealing with primary and post-primary school students with Ms Jenny Siung and Ms Justyna Chmielewska; temporary exhibitions preparation – *Artist's Proof* with Mr Robert Russell; field trip to the National Gallery of Ireland.

Justyna Chmielewska continues the role of the Volunteer Co-ordinator; her duties include liaising with the Curators and the Head of Education, organising regular education training sessions and working on community projects.

STAFF OF THE LIBRARY

DIRECTOR: Michael F. Ryan, MA, PhD, MRIA, FSA
HEAD OF COLLECTIONS AND CURATOR, EAST ASIAN COLLECTIONS: Shane McCausland, MA, PhD
HEAD OF OPERATIONS: Derval O'Carroll, MA
CURATOR, WESTERN COLLECTIONS: Charles Horton, MA, Dip Archive Studies
CURATOR, ISLAMIC COLLECTIONS: Elaine Wright, MA, MPhil, DPhil
REFERENCE LIBRARIAN: Celine Ward, MA, MLIS
HEAD OF EDUCATION: Jenny Siung, MLitt, HDip Arts Administration, HDip Adult and Community Education
TECHNICAL MANAGER: Lorna Tracey, BSc
FINANCE MANAGER: Vera Greif
HEAD OF CONSERVATION: Jessica Baldwin
HEAD OF DEVELOPMENT: Paula Shalloo, BA
PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO DIRECTOR: June Lattimore
SENIOR LIBRARY ASSISTANT: Olivia Lardner, BA, DipLIS; Hyder Abbas
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Sinéad Ward, MA, HDip Arts Administration
SHOP MANAGER: Antonella Barbati
MEMBERSHIP CO-ORDINATOR: Mary Dowling
EVENTS CO-ORDINATOR: Lisa Fitzsimons, MA
VOLUNTEER CO-ORDINATOR: Justyna Chmiewelska
CURATORIAL ASSISTANT: Laura Muldowney, MA
CURATORIAL ASSISTANT: Jill Unkel, BA, MS, MPhil
RIGHTS AND REPRODUCTIONS ASSISTANTS: Catherine Yvard, Frances Narkiewicz

Attendants

HEAD ATTENDANT: Anthony Hutchings
SENIOR ATTENDANTS: Albert Mason, Kevin Hackett
ATTENDANTS: James Curran, John Madden, Joseph Doyle, Val Kavanagh, David Holmes-O'Byrne, Michael O'Neill, Tony Gallagher, Frank Hyland, Brendan Lynch, David Steele, Martin O'Leary
CURATORIAL ASSISTANTS: Lisa Lambert, Rie Mishima

Volunteers

TOUR GUIDES: Cathriona Russell, Ciaran O'Leary, Delphine Kelly, Dorothy Dennis, Jack Fitzgerald, Janet Martin, Margaret Sheehy, Michael O'Connell, Patricia McCabe, Susan Dillon, Joan Barnewell, Nateghe Moane, Mary O'Riordan
VISITOR SERVICES REPRESENTATIVES: Brian O'Neill, Colleen Fitzgerald, Hiromi Anzai, Kurt Kullmann, Mairin Cullen, Margaret Brady, Mary Neville, Maura Fennell, Noel Gorman, Pilar Morero, Rita Sutton, Emlyn Cullen
CURATORIAL ASSISTANT: Nesta Butler
EDUCATION ASSISTANT: Regina Fitzpatrick, Magali Briquet
MEMBERSHIP ASSISTANTS: Andrea Dodd, Mary McGrath
RETAIL ASSISTANTS: Nicola Dunne, Marta Przylucka

BALANCE SHEET
31 December 2008

	2008 €	2007 €
Fixed Assets		
Tangible fixed assets	2,110,357	1,771,243
Investments	1,032,739	1,337,130
	<hr/> 3,143,096	<hr/> 3,108,373
 Current assets		
Shop stocks	151,315	156,203
Debtors and prepayments	31,813	26,487
Bank deposit accounts	711,482	765,219
Bank current accounts	264,864	138,518
	<hr/> 1,159,474	<hr/> 1,086,427
 Current liabilities		
Creditors and accruals	(155,394)	(352,015)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Net current assets	1,004,080	734,412
	<hr/> 4,147,176	<hr/> 3,842,785
 Capital and income funds		
Capital funds	302,030	302,030
Restricted funds	2,246,580	1,984,923
Unrestricted funds	665,827	267,702
	<hr/> 3,214,437	<hr/> 2,554,655
Development Fund	932,739	1,288,130
	<hr/> 4,147,176	<hr/> 3,842,785

Trustees

Dr TP Hardiman
 Prof R Stalley

Director/Librarian

Dr Michael Ryan

Appendix

In July 2008 the Library embarked on a year-long study of its visitors. The research, organised by TNS mrobi, was commissioned primarily to understand who the Library's visitors are and also to identify: the key contact points for visitors and how best to utilise these points; the ease of use of the Library and its various aspects; whether respondents are generally first-time visitors to the gallery or repeat visitors; satisfaction with the Library's facilities.

Summary of survey results from July to December 2008

Three in four visitors (74%) report an 'excellent' experience, which is overwhelmingly positive. Ratings for overall experience marginally decrease on the weekends and during the summer months, perhaps due to the Library being more crowded during those times.

- Satisfaction with facilities is very positive – most facilities measure a mean score of 8 out of 10 or higher.
- The majority of visitors are Irish, at 37%, followed by Americans / Canadians (17%) and UK residents (12%). The number of overseas visitors was marginally higher in October-December compared to July-September, despite the strength of the euro against the dollar and the pound.
- The Library attracts a reasonably even spread across both gender and age demographics.
- Visitors are quite skewed towards the ABC1 social classes, with over 90% of visitors falling into this category.
- Tourist information, i.e. travel guide books and tourist offices, is primarily how visitors first hear about the Library (50%). Word of mouth receives the next highest number of mentions, at 26%. For domestic visitors word of mouth is the most mentioned source of information, followed by radio / TV communications.
- 96% of visitors find the Library without encountering any problems. Those who have some difficulties frequently mention signage both inside and outside Dublin Castle as the primary difficulty. This issue also arises when respondents are questioned on what improvements they would make to the Library.
- Once inside the Library, the vast majority of visitors (98%) report that it is easy to find their way around.
- Ratings for helpfulness of staff improved significantly to 74% during October-December, up from 64% from July to September, probably because a lower volume of traffic enables staff to spend more time with visitors.
- The main reason for visiting the Library is to see the exhibitions. Most visitors spend a considerable amount of time in the Library, with nearly 90% spending an hour or more there during their visit. Those aged 55 or over are more likely to have longer visits.
- The *Rembrandt* exhibition was the highest-mentioned reason for visiting the Library between July and September, with one in three visitors coming for this reason.
- Three in four visits to the Library are planned visits (76%). There is a slightly higher tendency for female visitors to have planned their visit beforehand, and younger age groups are more inclined to make spur of the moment visits.
- Just over one in four visitors have visited the Library before. Of the repeat visitors from July to September, 40% had visited once every six months or more frequently. The incidence of visiting at least every three months increased from 22% in July-September to 33% in October-December.
- Almost half of visitors visit the Silk Road Café and the gift shop. One in three visitors avail of the service at the Information Desk. The proportion of those attending demonstrations increased significantly from October to December, from 3% to 21%. The incidence of those claiming to use the e-guide also rose from 11% to 22% over the same period.