

**REPORT
OF THE
STIRLING MAXWELL CENTRE
FOR THE STUDY OF
TEXT/IMAGE CULTURES
2013-14**



**Stirling
Maxwell Centre
University
of Glasgow**

This third year of the Centre's new incarnation, 2013-14, saw continued high-profile success and optimism for the future. Items of specific note included:

- **once again an expanded series of seminars, including speakers from Portugal, the Netherlands and France, as well as University of Glasgow scholars from Brazil, Ireland and Scotland, with subjects from the Renaissance to the 21st-century.**
- **prominent SMC presence at international conferences, including two of the keynotes at the Tenth International Emblem Conference in Kiel.**
- **work has begun on the NEH-funded (\$280 000) *Emblematica Online II* project, of which the Centre is a key partner.**
- **preparations continue towards the 2016 exhibition, *Through the Looking Glass: The World's First Comic?* and its accompanying publication.**
- **collaborative teaching ventures continue at both undergraduate and PG level, including new offerings on**

Text/Image Culture and Theory (MA Hons) and on The Graphic Novel (MLitt).

- **a key role in GUL's successful bidding at the Christie's Yates, Thomson and Bright auction.**
- **Stirling Maxwell Fellowship applications have been received from Brazil, Canada, Belgium and the USA, bearing witness to the Centre's established international reputation.**

FINANCES

The Centre's finances remained sufficient to fund the regular activities of the Centre. Recent funding awards (University of Florida, University of Wisconsin, University of Waikato) have supported Glasgow Emblem Studies.

EVENTS:

Tenth International Emblem Conference: Kiel 2014

The Centre continues to work closely with the Society for Emblem Studies and was closely consulted regarding the organisation of the Kiel 2014 conference. Numerous members of the Centre presented at the conference, and we have seen elected/co-opted representation for three of our members to the Society for Emblem Studies' Advisory Board or as National Representative.

Dundee 2014 Word & Image Conference

The Centre was represented by a full panel at this conference.

New York 2014 Renaissance Society of America Conference

Also saw active participation by Centre members

Through the Looking Glass: The World's First Comic?

Preparations continue for the Hunterian exhibition *Through the Looking Glass: The World's First Comic?* that will feature in the upstairs gallery in 2016. Loan requests (informal and formal) have been made to Glasgow Life, the Bibliothèque de Genève, the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art, and Tate Modern.

A formal partnership agreement has been made with the Bibliothèque de Genève.

Invited Lectures

Members of the Centre gave invited lectures on text/image subjects at the Université de Namur and at the Musée McCord, Montreal.

Yates, Thomson and Bright Auction, Christie's, London

Members of the Centre were key in advising GUL for its bid on this, the most important sale of emblem-related material in a generation. Resulting additions to the collection include editions of Alciato, Corrozet, and in particular, Scève's *Délie*, thereby filling the collections only major gap. The acquisition will be celebrated and contextualised in a forthcoming conference.

Archie Gilkison

The Centre has been instrumental in the organisation of a generous gift of a 1917 copy of Archie Gilkison's WWI cartoons. The cartoons and the Centre's work on them have received international media attention, in particular from BBC online, TV and radio.

EMBLEMATICA ONLINE II: NEH GRANT

In April 2013 the *Emblematica Online II* project, in partnership with Utrecht University, the Getty Research Library and the University of Illinois, was awarded \$280 000 from the NEH. A major element of the project is digitisation work from Glasgow.

OWRI

The Centre is playing a leading role in the University of Glasgow's Open World Research Initiative bid, an AHRC-funded £4 million programme. The bid will investigate the way in which images anchor language(s), or rather do not when languages, or their cultures, are untranslatable. The bid will be in partnership with the College of Social Sciences, and the Universities of Leeds, Edinburgh, and King's College London.

STIRLING MAXWELL CENTRE SEMINAR SERIES

The Centre welcomed papers from Ann Mackenzie (Glasgow, on Calderon and the Spanish Golden Age), Sara Augusto (Coimbra, on the Portuguese Baroque), Greg Kerr (Glasgow, on Viollet-le-Duc's *Habitation humaine*), Pedro Leal (Glasgow, on the transmission of hieroglyphs), Hugo Koning (Leiden, on Hercules in comics), Marie Chaufour (Bourgogne, on Jean Baudoin) and Zanne Lyttle (Glasgow, on Hollar's Abraham picture narratives).

Once again the expanded range of topics reflected the Centre's broader text/image remit.

GLASGOW EMBLEM STUDIES

Volume 17, *Emblems and Propaganda*, edited by Christine Probes and Sabine Mödersheim, was published in June 2014.

Volume 18 on Latin American emblems (ed. Pedro Leal) and volume 19 on contemporary emblems (ed. Elizabeth Black) are under preparation.

IBDS and ECA

The International Bande Dessinée Society, affiliated with the Centre, will hold its 2015 conference in Paris (ULIP), co-organised from Glasgow. The society's website and associated Twitter account, also hosted from Glasgow, has been revamped by Lise Tannahill, and has seen a continued upsurge in popularity: <http://www.arts.gla.ac.uk/ibds>

European Comic Art, co-edited from Glasgow, published issues 6.2 (on comics in dialogue with other arts) and 7.1 (on the social world and challenging consensus). Issue 7.2 ('Perspectives on Authors, Perspectives from Authors') is in press.

FELLOWSHIPS

We welcomed Jonathan Walker (working on emblematic references in his own creative fiction) and Simon McKeown (Scandinavian emblems) as Stirling Maxwell Fellows.

Fellowship applications have been received from Pamela Sing (Alberta), Pedro Leal (Rio), Alexandra Marraccini (Chicago) and Sandro Jung (Ghent). The diversity of their topics and the international nature of their outlook and origins is a particular mark of the Centre's success.

TEACHING AND RESEARCH STUDENTS

Members of the Centre have continued to provide an Honours Option, open to students in French and Comparative Literature, and have contributed to the MLitt programme offered by GCMRS. A new Honours option on Text/Image Culture Theory is now under way.

Future plans are in the offing for a MLitt level module on the Graphic Novel.

We are particularly delighted to congratulate Pedro Leal whose PhD on the reception of Renaissance hieroglyphs received the highest praise from his examining board. Pedro is the holder of a prestigious scholarship award from the Brazilian Government.

Kenan Kocak has submitted his PhD on graphic journalism with specific reference to Turkey.

Zanne Lyttle has submitted her MTh on Hollar's image narratives.

Further PhD students work in affiliated areas of text/image interaction:

- Lucia Jackson on female superheroes
- Guillaume Lecomte on adaptation and BD
- Sarah Lightman on autobiography in graphic novels
- Zanne Lyttle on text/image Bible narratives
- Emiline Morin on adaptations, including graphic novels, of fairy tales
- Sandra Paterson-Reid on South American emblems
- Lise Tannahill on BD and regionalism.

Harriet Earle has submitted a BA application for a post-doc on graphic novels representing trauma.

WEBSITE AND PUBLICITY

The Centre has continued to update and improve its publicity material. The website is available at:

<http://www.gla.ac.uk/schools/mlc/research/thestirlingmaxwellcentre/>

FUTURE PLANS

The SMC's future plans include:

- continued participation in the newly funded Emblematica Online II project
- further work to supplement the Alciato digitisation project
- continued teaching and supervision at undergraduate and postgraduate levels
- further visiting scholars
- further volumes of Glasgow Emblem Studies and *European Comic Art*
- *Tristan autour du monde* to be edited from Glasgow with direct reference to SMAdd392
- Transforming Anthony Trollope: 'Dispossession', Victorianism and 19th-Century Word and Image to be edited from Glasgow and Chichester
- Further work towards volume 127 of *Yale French Studies* (2017), *Bande Dessinée: Thinking Outside the Box*, to be edited from Glasgow
- further collaboration with the Caricature et Satire Graphique network based at the Université de Montréal à Québec on the initial stages of a networking project on 19c text/image development
- Initial collaboration with Montreal for the 2015 International Graphic Novel and IBDS Conference in Paris, also in partnership with the Institut National d'Histoire de l'Art.
- progress towards the *Through the Looking Glass: The World's First Comic?* exhibition and towards its associated publication
- a Glasgow one-day conference celebrating the Christie's sale acquisitions