

## Dossier Bodleian Library

Ce dossier comprend 3 documents :

- Document 1 : extrait de The Guardian, Sunday 25 September 2011
- Document 2 : extrait de <http://bodleian.ox.ac.uk/dbooks>
- Document 3 : extrait de <http://bbc.co.uk/news/education>, 6 October 2010

## DOCUMENT 1

### **Bodleian Library shows off treasures, from Magna Carta to Shakespeare**

Oxford library to ask exhibition visitors which items deserve permanent display - including a First Folio it once threw away

**Maev Kennedy**

**The Guardian**, Sunday 25 September 2011 20.43 BST

A spectacular exhibition of the greatest treasures of one of the most famous libraries in the world features a monument to past folly: a large battered leather volume the Bodleian Library in Oxford sold off as surplus to requirements in 1664 and had to raise a fortune to buy back almost 250 years later.

5 Now, rather than getting rid of the exhibits, it is holding them in storage. Visitors to the Bodleian's new exhibition, will be invited to suggest which ones deserve to be given permanent display in the new gallery.

The £78m transformation of the New Bodleian will give the library climate-controlled stores and reading rooms, and a museum-quality gallery for the first time.

10 But few outsiders have any idea of how extraordinary its contents are.

They include Magna Carta; a pristine Gutenberg Bible; a dazzling 14th-century travels of Marco Polo; Philip Pullman; William Blake; Jane Austen's handwritten compendium of her own earliest writings; a 13th-century bestiary showing an elephant being strangled by the only animal it fears, a serpent like dragon; the Codex Mendoza, an account made for the first Spanish viceroy of the Aztec civilisation Spain was destroying; Mary Shelley's draft of Frankenstein with suggestions scribbled in by Shelley; and the earliest almost complete copy of a poem by Sappho, from a cache of extraordinary documents found in a rubbish dump in Egypt in the 19th century.

20 Curator Stephen Hebron asked every member of staff in the Bodleian for their favourite, then reduced by half the 150 books, maps, letters and documents they regarded as unmissable, with some dating back more than 2,000 years.

25 Some are in for their content, some for their beauty: one is both hideous and illegible, but Hebron has included it because it is so extraordinary: three charred scrolls from a library in Herculaneum buried by the eruption of Vesuvius which also destroyed Pompeii, presented by George IV.

"It shows that the concept of what we regard as treasure can change dramatically over the years," he said.

30 "We have documents that we now regard as priceless which were just scraps of paper when they came in. The Shakespeare was in the category which our founder, Bodley, described as 'idle books and riff-raffs'."

35 The library had the first collection of Shakespeare's plays, gathered by his friends from tattered actors' copies and published seven years after his death, as loose-leaf pages straight from the printers. Bound in plain brown leather, it was among the chained books of Duke Humfrey's Library, part of the Bodleian.

However by 1664 it acquired the Third Folio – much smarter but with six plays now regarded as not Shakespeare – and got rid of the tatty First. It vanished for centuries into private collections, and then in the late 19th century a man brought it in to the Bodleian for identification, when it was recognised by a young librarian.

40 The library had to raise £3,000 to buy back the Shakespeare First Folio it had so casually disposed of. Last year another copy made £2.8m at auction.

"It was a staggering sum of money for the library to have to raise," Hebron said. "The most they'd ever paid for a book until then was a few hundred pounds. It was a very expensive lesson."

45 Hebron mourns everything he had to leave out, including the only poem in John Donne's handwriting – "not his best, but still ..." – and the Audubon Birds of America, printed on pages so huge the size is known as double elephant. A copy set a new world record for any book last year at £7m.

50 "This exhibition is teaching us things," Hebron said. "We now know we need a double elephant-sized display case in the new gallery."

## DOCUMENT 2

### Oxford Google Books Project

1 In 2004, Oxford University entered into partnership with Google to scan the Bodleian Libraries' out-of-copyright holdings, in particular those from the 19th century. We were one of the original "big five" institutions to sign-up to Google's Library Partnership Project, and the first from outside the US. The initial phase of this work  
5 completed in the summer of 2009, with several hundred thousand of our books being scanned and made available via Google Books (<http://books.google.com/>).

Items were selected solely on their copyright status and suitability for scanning, and the works that have been digitized cover a wide range of languages, disciplines, and genres. They include the first English translation of Newton's "Mathematical  
10 principles of natural philosophy" from 1729, the first edition of Jane Austen's "Emma", and John Cassell's "Illustrated history of England".

<http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/dbooks>

### DOCUMENT 3

## Vast bookstore opens as famed library runs out of space

A warehouse big enough to store eight million books and maps for Oxford University's overflowing Bodleian Library has been unveiled.

6 October 2010 Last updated at 23:00 GMT

The £26m site near Swindon, Wiltshire, has 153 miles (246km) of shelving.

The library, which is entitled to a copy of every book published in the UK, had been running out of space to store works for decades.

5 With 1,000 new books arriving each day, the head librarian said the situation had become "desperate".

The new warehouse has enough space to support the Bodleian for the next 20 years.

Over the next year, nearly six million books and more than 1.2 million maps will be transferred from Oxford to the storage facility.

10 It will be predominantly low-usage books and maps which will be stored at the 13-acre site, 28 miles from Oxford.

More popular items and special collections - including four original manuscripts of the 13th century Magna Carta - will remain in Oxford.  
Bodleian warehouse High-density shelving means there is space to store 8.4 million books and maps

15 The warehouse, which can be expanded in future if needed, has 3,224 bays with 95,000 shelf levels.

There are 600 map cabinets which will hold 1.2 million maps and other larger items.

The floor space of the unit is the same as 1.6 football pitches - although the total shelf surface area is 10 times that, thanks to high-density shelving.

20 Students have been told that if they order a book from the new unit by 1000 in the morning, it should be delivered to the Oxford reading room of their choice by 1500 that afternoon.

Library staff will use forklift trucks to retrieve books which will then be transported to Oxford by road in a twice-daily service.

25 Some items will be scanned and sent to students' computers electronically.

It is estimated there will be 200,000 requests for items each year.

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Librarian Dr Sarah Thomas said it was important to preserve all the books so that future generations could have access to the recorded knowledge of the past.

30 "The BSF will prove a long-awaited solution to the space problem that has long challenged the Bodleian," said Dr Thomas.

"We have been running out of space since the 1970s and the situation has become increasingly desperate in the last few years."

35 Oxford University's Vice Chancellor Professor Andrew Hamilton said: "The importance of the Bodleian Libraries and their extraordinary collections cannot be overestimated."

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/education>