

**REPORT
OF THE
STIRLING MAXWELL CENTRE
FOR THE STUDY OF
TEXT/IMAGE CULTURES
2014-15**



**Stirling
Maxwell Centre**
University
of Glasgow

This fourth year of the Centre's new incarnation, 2014-15, 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 Belgium, Japan and Canada, with subjects from the Renaissance to the 21st-century.**
- **prominent SMC presence at international conferences, including joint organisation of the 2015 *International Graphic Novel and Bande Dessinée* Conference in Paris (c. 150 delegates), and our own *Emblems in Everyday Life* conference to celebrate and contextualise GUL's successful bidding at the Christie's Yates, Thomson and Bright auction.**
- **continued work on the NEH-funded (\$280 000) *Emblematica Online II* project, of which the Centre is a key partner.**
- **preparations continue towards the 2016 exhibition, *Comic Invention*: high-visibility loans have been secured and sponsored, a book contract has been signed, and a £5000 grant won.**

- **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).**
- **Stirling Maxwell Fellows and visiting scholars from Brazil, Canada, Romania, France, Spain, Ireland and the USA, attracting associated external funding and bearing witness to the Centre's established international reputation.**
- **high-profile media attention for the Centre's activities including from BBC, STV, Sky, CBS and PBS news, *The Times*, *Herald*, *Record*, *Metro*, *Jewish Quarterly*, *THE*, *Montreal Gazette* et al.**

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:

Voyages International Comics Conference: Paris 2015

The Centre co-organised the Sixth International Graphic Novel and Ninth International Bande Dessinée Society joint conference under the theme of *Voyages*. Taking place at ULIP, Paris, from 22-26 June, the conference attracted over 150 delegates from 5 continents and was hailed as a resounding success. The Centre was also represented on the organising *comité scientifique* of the affiliated *Image railleuse* conference that took place at the Institut National d'Histoire de l'Art, Paris, from 25-17 June.

Emblems in Everyday Life Conference: Glasgow 2015

The *Emblems in Everyday Life* conference (2-4 September 2015) welcomed scholars from six countries and attracted international news coverage (see below). The conference celebrated GUL's outstanding success in acquiring, with key input from Centre members, 12 emblems books from the Christie's Yates Thomson and Bright auction in June 2014. It also formed the inaugural meeting of the Great Britain and Ireland branch of the Society for Emblem Studies.

Society for Renaissance Studies Conference: Glasgow 2016

The conference will take place in July, with key sessions on Word and Image, and associated input from SMC.

Ingenious Impressions

Members of the Centre gave key input to the highly successful *Ingenious Impressions* exhibition (Hunterian Art Gallery, 27 February to 21 June 2015), including gallery talks.

Comic Invention

Preparations continue for the Hunterian exhibition *Comic Invention* that will open on 18 March 2016. Loan partnerships are in place with Glasgow Life and the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art (including for Lichtenstein's *In the Car*). Further loans and associated funding have been secured, and the works received, from the David Kunzle Collection of Los Angeles (early editions and manuscript of work of Rodolphe Töpffer) and from Frank Quitely (DC artwork, including *Superman*, *The X-Men* and *Batman*). It will be the first time of public display for the vast majority of the Kunzle and Frank Quitely material.

A book contract has been agreed with Black Hearted Press for the accompanying volume. A £5000 grant has been secured from the Friends of Glasgow University Library.

Invited Lectures

Members of the Centre gave invited lectures on text/image subjects at the University of Aberdeen, Dundee Contemporary Arts, IMLR, University of London, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Institut National d'Histoire de l'Art, Paris, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, Beer Sheva, Toledo (International El Greco Conference) and the Instituto Cervantes, London.

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.

COLLABORATION WITH UNIVERSIDADE FEDERAL DO RIO DE JANEIRO

Following the return of our former research student Pedro Germano Leal to Brazil to take up a prestigious research position at the Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, the SMC has become involved as a partner institution in 3 important collaborative projects: 1. IRIS (2014 onwards) which seeks to refine the use of IconClass in image indexing; 2. Network of Iconography Studies in Brazil (2015 onwards) (funding results due shortly) which would involve SMC in collaborative workshops and conference planning; 3. *Mundus emblematicus*.

THE STIRLING MAXWELL RESEARCH PROJECT

Work continues on The Stirling Maxwell Research Project, directed by Hilary Macartney, with as main focus the study and contextualisation of the first photographically illustrated book on art: William Stirling Maxwell's *Annals of the Artists of Spain* (1848). The project is an international collaboration between the University of Glasgow, the National Media Museum, Bradford and, in Spain, the Prado Museum and the Centro de Estudios Europa Hispánica (CEEH), Madrid, with generous funding from Santander Universities, Santander Shareholders and the Kress Foundation. In related projects, Hilary Macartney has also worked in partnership with Glasgow Life to raise the funding needed for the Stirling Maxwell papers to stay in Glasgow, and with Glasgow Life and Museo Nacional de Prado on Stirling Maxwell's most famous painting, *The Lady in a Fur Wrap*, as a pilot for a larger project on the Stirling Maxwell collection of Spanish paintings

REF 2014

Research carried out through the Centre has been instrumental in defining a new canon, one whereby *bande dessinée* is given status and educational recognition on a par with other visual forms. As little as two decades ago the notion of comics, graphic novels or *bande dessinée* as an academic discipline could have seemed unthinkable. Now, thanks largely to this Glasgow-led research environment, BD is the new cinema studies. It is this shift in public thinking that formed the basis for the related REF impact study, *Shifting the Educational Perceptions of Bande dessinée*, submitted in December 2013, with specific reference to the Stirling Maxwell Centre. The results, released in December 2014, suggest beyond reasonable doubt that this study was awarded a 4-star rating.

CURRICULUM FOR EXCELLENCE

In close collaboration with Education Scotland, the SMC has been delighted to develop a national second level learning journey focusing on the cultural aspect of comic books in France and the French speaking world. This will include a pupil activity pack and associated prior learning material using *Astérix* and in particular *Astérix chez les Pictes*. Copyright has been obtained free of charge from Les Éditions Albert-René and the participation of *Astérix* author Jean-Yves Ferri has been agreed. From January 2016 the completed pack will be available on Education Scotland's website as part of support for the 1+2 approach to language learning. Although aimed at second level, opportunities to develop for pupils in S1 to S3 will also be suggested.

GU YOUTUBE

The Centre has contributed to the University's YouTube channel ('Prof Laurence Grove provides an insight to Cultural Education' and 'French and Text/Image Studies—World Changers Welcome').

EMBLEMATICA ONLINE II: NEH GRANT

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

EISNER AWARD

We were delighted to congratulate Sarah Lightman, one of our PhD candidates, on winning the prestigious Eisner Award for 'Best Scholarly/Academic Work'. Sarah's *Graphic Details: Jewish Women's Confessional Comics in Essays and Interviews* (McFarland) was chosen from a shortlist of six to be awarded at a gala ceremony during the 2015 San Diego Comic Con International.

NATIONAL COMICS ACADEMY

'Travelling Images', the Open World Research Initiative AHRC bid for £1,873,845 (Glasgow share), led through the SMC, was submitted in October 2014. External partners were the University of Edinburgh, KCL and the University of Leeds.

The application was unsuccessful, nonetheless informal feedback has indicated that the bid was highly regarded, and the connections made have led to further projects, including that of the National Comics Academy.

Initial work on the creation of a National Comics Academy based in Glasgow (potentially as part of the 2020 campus) has shown promise. Partnerships have been forged with the CCA, Black Hearted Press and the University of Dundee's Comics MLitt programme. An initial meeting with Humza Yousef, Minister for Europe and International Development, has raised hopes for Scottish Government future support.

STIRLING MAXWELL CENTRE SEMINAR SERIES

The Centre welcomed papers from Sandro Jung (Ghent, on Allan Ramsay), Saeko Yakazi (Glasgow, on manga), Natalie Sirett (independent scholar and artist, London, on her response to the Hawstead Panels), Alison Adams and Stephen Rawles (Glasgow, on Corrozet), Julie Gardham (Glasgow, on incunabula in association with the *Ingenious Impressions* exhibition), Catriona McAra (Leeds College of Art, on surrealism and Dorothy Tanning), and Pamela Sing (Alberta, on werewolves and *québécois* comics).

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

GLASGOW EMBLEM STUDIES AND ECA

- 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.
- *European Comic Art*, co-edited from Glasgow, published issues 7.2 ('Perspectives on Authors: Perspectives from Authors') and 8.1 ('Boundary Crossing').
- Issue 8.2 ('The Great War in Comics') is in press.

FURTHER PUBLICATIONS

- *Transforming Anthony Trollope: Dispossession, Victorianism and Nineteenth-Century Word and Image*, ed. Laurence Grove and Simon Grennan (Leuven: Leuven University Press, 2015).
- Contributions to the University's YouTube channel ('Prof Laurence Grove provides an insight to Cultural Education' and 'French and Text/Image Studies—World Changers Welcome').
- Debra Higgs Strickland, 'Meanings of Muhammad in Later Medieval Art', in *The Image of the Prophet Between Idea and Ideology: A Scholarly Investigation*, ed. Christiane J. Gruber and Avinoam Shalem (Berlin: Verlag Walter de Gruyter, 2014), 147-63.

FELLOWSHIPS AND VISITING SCHOLARS

We welcomed Pamela Sing (Alberta, on *québécois* comics), Sandro Jung (Ghent, on Allan Ramsay), Pedro Leal (Rio de Janeiro, on systems of emblematic classification), Marie Chaufour (Bourgogne, on Jean Baudoin), Andreea Catalina (Bucharest, on the context of

Romania folk comics), Carmen González Román (Malaga, on festival books) and Lynn Bannon (UQAM, on the semiotics of emblems)

In all but one (self-financed) case the applications generated funding from the scholar's home institution or national research bodies.

Fellowship applications have been received from Catherine Emerson (Galway), Alexandra Marraccini (Chicago) and Dominic Hardy (UQAM). 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, have contributed to the MLitt programme offered by GCMRS, and text-image focused courses in History of Art. 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 Kenan Kocak whose PhD on comics journalism with specific reference to Turkish comics received the highest praise from his examining board. Kenan was the holder of a prestigious scholarship award from the Turkish Government. Likewise Zanne Lyttle graduated with a highly-praised MTh on Hollar's image narratives.

Lise Tannahill has submitted her PhD on BD and regionalism.

Emiline Morin has submitted her PhD on adaptations, including graphic novels, of fairy tales.

Sara Oberg-Stradl has completed her PhD on text and image in medieval medical manuscripts

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

- Zanne Domoney-Lyttle on text/image Bible narratives
- Andrew Godfrey on comics and medicine (AHRC with Dundee)
- Lucia Jackson on female superheroes
- Guillaume Lecomte on adaptation and BD
- Sarah Lightman on autobiography in graphic novels
- Sandra Paterson-Reid on South American emblems
- Gareth Vile on comics and theatre theory (AHRC with Dundee)
- Nyla Ahmad is working for an MPhil on Islamic comics

IN THE MEDIA

The Stirling Maxwell Centre has been called upon fully by international media to comment on text/image matters. Principally these have been:

- the context of French cartooning in the wake of the *Charlie Hebdo* shootings
- the World War I cartoons of Archie Gilkison
- the world's first printed image of a tennis match in the newly acquired SMAdd.469

- the mythical figure of Prester John (for *In Our Time* with Melvyn Bragg)

Outlets include, but are not limited to Sky News, BBC Scotland, BBC Radio 4, STV news, CBC News online, National Public Radio USA, *South China Morning Post*, SpeakingTree.In, *Washington Post*, QZ.com, *The Montreal Gazette*, *The Vancouver Sun*, Globo.com Brazil, *The Guardian*, *THE*, *The Conversation*.

FUTURE PLANS

The SMC's future plans include:

- continued participation in the NEH-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
- updating of the Centre's website at
- <http://www.gla.ac.uk/schools/mlc/research/stirlingmaxwellcentre/>
- further volumes of Glasgow Emblem Studies and *European Comic Art*
- submission of copy for 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 development towards a cross-College MLitt Graphic Novel module
- completion and national launch of the Curriculum for Excellence second level learning journey focusing on the cultural aspect of comic books in France
- *Comic Invention* to show at the Hunterian from 18 March to 17 July 2016 with associated outreach events
- Publication of *Comic Invention* the accompanying book
- Building on the momentum of the *Comic Invention* exhibition and events, further progress towards the creation of a National Comics Academy