

**REPORT
OF THE
STIRLING MAXWELL CENTRE
FOR THE STUDY OF
TEXT/IMAGE CULTURES
2012-13**



**Stirling
Maxwell Centre
University
of Glasgow**

This second year of the Centre's new incarnation, 2012-13, 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 Italy, Russia, England, the USA and Canada, with subjects from the Renaissance to the 21st-century in line with our new broader text/image remit.**
- **the 2013 International Graphic Novel and IBDS Conference welcomed c 150 worldwide scholars to Glasgow and received international media attention.**
- **the *Emblematica Online II* project, of which the Centre is a key partner, was awarded \$280 000 from the NEH.**
- **final preparations and partnerships were completed towards the 2016/2017 Hunterian and Musée Rath exhibition, *The World's First Comic?***
- **collaborative teaching ventures continued at both undergraduate and PG level in partnership with the Hunterian and the NTS at Pollock House.**

- **invited lectures related to the Centre's activities were given at Nicosia, Manchester, Madison WI, Brussels, Paris and Geneva.**

FINANCES

The Centre's finances remained sufficient to fund the regular activities of the Centre.

EVENTS:

The International Graphic Novel and IBDS Conference: Glasgow 2013

The International Graphic Novel and IBDS Conference took place in Glasgow from the 24th to the 28th June 2013 under the auspices of the Stirling Maxwell Centre.

Following the successful model of the Ninth International Emblem Conference held in 2011, the event was attended by c. 150 delegates from five continents.

Partners include the University of Dundee, Glasgow City Council, the Alliance Française, Intellect, Routledge, Berghahn, and the Chancellor's Fund.

Keynote lectures were given by Grant Morrison, Sir Kenneth Calman, Nikola Witko, Tanitoc and Jean-Yves Ferri. The latter provided the first public event worldwide to promote the forthcoming *Astérix chez les Pictes*.

The conference received widespread acclaim from delegates and international media attention. The latter included items by STV, BBC radio, the *Times in India*, France 24, and national news outlets in Scotland, England, Spain, Italy, Belgium and the USA.

The World's First Comic?

Final preparations have been made for the Hunterian exhibition *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. The exhibition will travel to the Musée Rath, Geneva, in 2017.

IX Congreso Internacional de la Sociedad Española de Emblemática, Malaga 2013

Pedro Leal presented at the conference on behalf of the Centre.

Tenth International Emblem Conference: Kiel 2014

The Centre continues to work closely with the Society for Emblem Studies, and has been consulted regarding the organisation of the Kiel 2014 conference. It is expected that several members of the Centre will attend the conference.

Tristan, La Passion et les Passions, Paris Sorbonne, February 2015

The Centre will organise the Paris Sorbonne *Tristan, La Passion et les Passions* conference in association with the Hunterian, and in the light of the 2012 Rembrandt exhibition. Publication will follow in the Cahiers Tristan L'Hermitte (Garnier). The Centre is also actively involved in the *Tristan et la Culture Aristocratique* conference (Chateau de Versailles, 22 March 2014).

Invited Lectures

Members of the Centre gave invited lectures on text/image subjects at the Universities of Cyprus, Manchester Metropolitan, Wisconsin at Madison (keynote for the Spiritual Optiks Conference), ULIP (University of London Institute in Paris), the Université Libre de Bruxelles, and the Bibliothèque de Genève (keynote in association with the 19th Congrès International de Linguistique).

REF IMPACT CASE STUDY

The work of the Centre was at the core of the SMLC REF Impact case study, *Shifting the Educational Perceptions of Bande Dessinée*.

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 will be digitisation work from Glasgow.

FURTHER GRANTS AND APPLICATIONS

Generous funding was secured from the University of Waikato, New Zealand, the University of Madison WI and the University of Florida in respect of Glasgow Emblem Studies publications.

Applications are pending for:

British Comic Creators: AHRC, in association with University of Dundee. £26 673.

The European Origins of Comics: AHRC, in association with Queen's University Belfast. £35 102.

Pictures of an Exotic Past: RSE. £7 431.

STIRLING MAXWELL CENTRE SEMINAR SERIES

The Centre welcomed papers from Peter Smaill (Bach Network UK, on emblems and baroque music), Ingrid Johnston (Alberta, in association with the School of Education, on graphic novels in the classroom), Maria Vaccarella (King's College London, on illness in graphic storytelling), Simon McKeown (Marlborough College, on emblems in Sweden), Luca Guariento (Glasgow, on music, Robert Fludd and symbolism), Shamil Khairov (Glasgow, on post-Soviet symbolism) and Denis M. Provencher (Maryland, on queer Maghrebi-French self-portraits).

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

GLASGOW EMBLEM STUDIES

Volume 16, Denis Drysdall, *Hieroglyphs, Speaking Pictures and the Law: the Context of Alciato's Emblems*, published in July 2013.

Volume 17, *Emblems and Propaganda*, edited by Christine Probes and Sabine Mödersheim, is currently in advanced preparation.

IBDS and ECA

The International Bande Dessinée Society, affiliated with the Centre, held its 2013 conference in Glasgow (see above). The society's website and associated Twitter account, also hosted from Glasgow, has been revamped by Lise Tannahill, and has seen an upsurge in popularity (over 900 tweets during the June conference): <http://www.arts.gla.ac.uk/ibds>

European Comic Art, co-edited from Glasgow, published issues 5.2 (on cultural difference and diversity in French-language comics) and 6.1 (on adaptations of literary works).

Issue 6.2 (on the dialogue between comics and other arts) is in press.

FELLOWSHIPS

Jonathan Walker continues as Stirling Maxwell Fellow, working on emblematic references in his own creative fiction. Fellowship applications are pending from Maria Vaccarella (King's London), Mariachristina Bertoli (Basle) and Rikke Cortsen (Copenhagen).

It is hoped that the Centre will be able to support a further round of Melion and Massing scholarships.

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 Theory is under preparation.

We are delighted with the progress of Pedro Leal who is advancing steadily with his PhD on the reception of Renaissance hieroglyphs. Pedro is the holder of a prestigious scholarship award from the Brazilian Government.

Further PhD and MPhil students work in affiliated areas of text/image interaction: Kenan Kocak on the graphic journalism with specific reference to Turkey, Guillaume Lecomte on adaptation and BD, Sarah Lightman on autobiography in graphic novels, Lise Tannahill on BD and regionalism, Emiline Morin on adaptations, including graphic novels, of fairy tales, Zanne Lyttle on text/image Bible narratives.

Catriona MacLeod successfully defended her PhD thesis on women in bande dessinée and is currently in post at the University of London in Paris.

Further applications for PhDs on Catalan graphic novels and on Golden Age emblematics are pending.

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:

- participation by members of the Centre at the Dundee 2014 Word & Image conference
- participation by members of the Centre at the Tenth International Emblem Conference, Kiel 2014.
- participation by members of the Centre at the 2014 New York Renaissance Society of America conference
- a continuation of the publicity overhaul and a further increase of visibility
- prominent participation in the newly funded Emblematica Online II project
- a major funding bid for an associated area of our research, possibly via the *Pictures of an Exotic Past* project, or, for a Portuguese emblems digitisation project
- initial work towards a comparative 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*
- 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.
- organisation of the *Tristan, La Passion et les Passions* Paris Sorbonne conference to take place in February 2015
- progress towards the *World's First Comic?* exhibition in Glasgow and Geneva and towards its associated publication