

**REPORT
OF THE
STIRLING MAXWELL CENTRE
FOR THE STUDY OF
TEXT/IMAGE CULTURES
2011-12**



**Stirling
Maxwell Centre
University
of Glasgow**

This first year of the Centre's new incarnation, 2011-12, was marked with success and optimism for the future. High points included:

- **the securing of generous external scholarships that enabled us to welcome colleagues from Lyon, Burgundy and Saint Petersburg.**
- **an expanded series of seminars, including that of the Chancellor Sir Kenneth Calman, in line with our new broader text/image remit.**
- **the securing of the 2013 International Graphic Novel and IBDS Conference whereby we will welcome c 150-200 worldwide scholars to Glasgow.**
- **first steps toward the 2015 Hunterian exhibition, *Scotland and the Birth of Comics*, with possible touring venues at the V&A (Dundee or London) and Geneva.**
- **collaborative teaching ventures in partnership with the Hunterian and the National Trust for Scotland at Pollock House.**

FINANCES

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

EVENTS:

FIDEM

The Centre sponsored a session at the thirty-second conference of the International Art Medal Federation, held in the University in July. Specifically centred on the relationship between medals, books and emblems, papers by Simon McKeown (Marlborough College, Stirling Maxwell Fellow), Cristina Fontcuberta (Barcelona), and Stephen Rawles (Stirling Maxwell Centre) were presented, covering Swedish, Catalanian and French medallic and numismatic material. An important contribution by Olga Vassileva-Codognet on medallic influences in the work of Vaenius had unfortunately to be withdrawn at the last minute.

Erasmus House, Brussels, 7 September 2012

At the invitation of the Erasmus House several members of the Centre took part in a one day event on 'Théories de l'emblème & frontières du genre'.

The International Graphic Novel and IBDS Conference: Glasgow 2013

It was agreed that the International Graphic Novel and IBDS Conference will take place in Glasgow from the 24th to the 28th June 2013 under the auspices of the Stirling Maxwell Centre.

We will follow the successful model of the Ninth International Emblem Conference held in 2011. Estimated attendance will be between 150-200 delegates with a strong North American representation.

Partners include the University of Dundee, the Alliance Française, Intellect, Routledge, Berghahn, and, it is hoped, the Chancellor's Fund.

Tristan, La Passion et les Passions, Paris Sorbonne, February 2014

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 current Rembrandt exhibition. Publication will follow in the Cahiers Tristan L'Hermite (Garnier).

Scotland and the Birth of Comics

Work is beginning on the Hunterian exhibition *Scotland and the Birth of Comics* that will feature in the upstairs gallery in 2015.

It is hope that the exhibition will tour furth of Glasgow, possibly to the Victoria & Albert (Dundee or London) and to the Bibliothèque de Genève.

Other Invited Lectures

Members of the Centre gave invited lectures on text/image subjects at the Universities of Cyprus, Durham, Edinburgh, Odense, Pittsburgh (opening plenary, Idea of France Conference) Strasbourg and the ENS Lyon. MORE?

LORNA MCINTOSH RSE

We were delighted and proud to hear that the emblem-inspired artist Lorna McIntosh has been elected an academician of the Royal Scottish Academy. Lorna has spoken about her work to the Emblem Group and regularly attends the Society for Emblem Studies international conferences.

SOCIETY FOR EMBLEM STUDIES AND THE OPENEMBLEM PORTAL

The Centre continues to work closely with the Society for Emblem Studies, specifically with respect to the OpenEmblem project. A bid was submitted via the University of Illinois with the Centre as key partner.

GLASGOW EMBLEM GROUP

The Centre welcomed papers from Sarah Lightman (Glasgow, on autobiographical graphic novels), Hilary Macartney (Glasgow, on Stirling Maxwell), Judi Loach (Cardiff, on inter-war private press books), Andy Stafford (Leeds, on André Bazin and early photography), Valérie Hayaert (Christ Church, Canterbury, on modern propaganda) and Sir Kenneth Calman (Glasgow, on cartoons and caricature in medicine).

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

GLASGOW EMBLEM STUDIES

Volume 15, *Otto Vaenius and his Emblem Books*, edited by Simon McKeown, was published in August.

Future volumes will be on Emblems and Propaganda, edited by Christine Probes and Sabine Modersheim (vol. 16) and on Alciato, a collection of work by Denis Drysdall (vol. 17).

The series' co-editors are now Alison Adams, Luis Gomes, Laurence Grove and Stephen Rawles.

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. From 2011-12 the Centre has provided a strand to SMLC's MLitt in European Cultures.

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 novels of Joe Sacco, 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.

Harriet Kennedy completed her MLitt on BD in Quebec.

Catriona MacLeod has submitted 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 French and Spanish graphic novels and on Golden Age emblematics are pending.

FELLOWSHIPS

Thanks to the generosity of Walter Melion and Jean Michel Massing, the Society for Emblem Studies offered two one-time fellowships of up to £500 for young scholars to use the Centre's resources in 2011-12. We were delighted to receive Audrey Lecoeur (ENS Lyon) and Marie Chaufour (Université de Bourgogne).

The generosity of the Hermitage Foundation UK allowed us to welcome Julia Balakhanova. Current and ongoing Stirling Maxwell Fellows are Jamie Mulherron (University of Cambridge) and Simon McKeown (Marlborough College).

The diversity of these visiting scholars pays tribute to the international esteem in which the Centre is held.

WEBSITE AND PUBLICITY

This year has seen new website, logo and general publicity material.

The website is available at:

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

FUTURE PLANS

The SMC's future plans include:

- A continuation of the publicity overhaul
- continued participation in the OpenEmblem digitisation project
- a major funding bid for an associated area of our research, possibly via the *Pictures of an Exotic Past* project, or, in association with the Centre for Medical Humanities, a post-doctoral fellowship for Maria Vaccarella (King College London) on graphic story-telling and medicine.
- continued teaching and supervision at undergraduate and postgraduate levels
- further visiting scholars
- further volumes of Glasgow Emblem Studies
- hosting the 2013 Graphic Novels and International Bande Dessinée Society Conference
- *Scotland and the Birth of Comics* exhibition