

CHESTER BEATTY LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT 2003

OVERVIEW

The year 2003 was particularly active in the Library. Two appointments of significance for the operation of the Library were made during the year - Development Manager, Ms Paula Shaloo and Conservation Manager, Ms Jessica Baldwin. Both posts supported by the fundraising efforts of the Library.

The Library was fortunate in attracting the support of a number of generous patrons and grants by two anonymous foundations, one in the United Kingdom and the other in the United States, enabled the Library to open its Conservation Laboratory. With the support of the Gladys Kriebel Delmas Foundation, additional equipment was purchased for the Laboratory and contributions by the public enabled particular pieces in the Collections to be conserved during the course of the year.

Ms Baldwin, through her participation in the planning of exhibitions, the monitoring of materials for loan to other institutions and practical work of conservation (both preventative and active conservation) has brought an extra dimension to the work of the Library in preserving the Collections. A dedicated conservation fund has been established to maintain and expand on the progress already achieved. Conservation is a core function of the Library and the Conservation Manager post should be part of the regular establishment of the institution.

Ms. Shaloo comes to the Library with a variety of experience of development in the university sector. She has brought much needed systematisation to the planning for events, the approach to Foundations and the analysis of the needs of the Library and matching them with potential sources of funding. She has met with potential sponsors and achieved significant progress in the fundraising activities of the Library.

As with curatorial posts and education, both of these appointments provide single individuals to manage tasks that in other institutions would be handled by more than one member of staff. The Library is indebted to the generous patrons and sponsors who have made this possible.

CHALLENGES

It is clear from the work in the Library in 2003 that demands for its services are increasing rapidly. With a small staff this clearly imposes considerable strain. A loan to an exhibition abroad requires the attention not just of the Curator but also of the Conservation Manager, the Operations Manager and security staff, as well as photographic services and occasionally specialist packing advice. The loan of even a single item is thus extremely time-consuming of the Library's limited staff resources. The demands of researchers are high and are continuing to grow. In addition, services to the public require constant direct and indirect input from the curatorial staff and this at times reaches unsustainable levels.

The need to provide a programme of changing exhibitions shows that the Temporary Exhibitions Gallery is quite inadequate for this task. The space is a dead end and as it is incapable of being fully adapted to the needs of modern exhibition (clean walls, sophisticated lighting, good circulation patterns, floor loading and size). With large numbers visiting the Hokusai exhibition in 2003 (as previously the Holy Show in 2002) it is clear that the room fails most tests of adequacy. It was chosen as part of the compromises which are inevitably made in any development programme, but its size and inconvenience precludes the Library from accepting many of the splendid exhibitions offered by institutions abroad. More importantly, it prevents the Library from being a full partner in the international exhibitions to which it is frequently an important contributor. The Lecture Theatre likewise is unable to meet the demands placed on it. A number of possibilities to develop the facilities at a reasonable cost have been explored.

Much could be done in a manner scarcely obtrusive in the Castle precinct to enable greater exhibition facilities to be provided and the Library has suggested to the Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism that they request that studies on improving matters be carried out.

The Library is confident that it can source finance allowing a significant contribution to such a development. The Library is equally confident that certain of the exhibitions which we will be enabled to bring to the institution will be self-sustaining and the increased number of visitors which they will bring in will have an important and continuing beneficial impact on the Library's capacity to earn revenue from its associated activities, including the shop, restaurant and appropriate events.

The Library has been in discussion with the Office of Public Works regarding much needed office, workshop and onsite storage for equipment within the existing footprint of the Clock Tower Building. The Library objectives include the establishment of a post of Exhibitions Manager to oversee both visiting and standing exhibitions.

It is clear that the Library objective for 150,000 visitors per annum set at the time of the move to Dublin Castle is now being achieved and a considerable potential for growth remains.

TRUSTEES

The Trustees note with sorrow the death of their former colleague and Vice-Chairman, Dr. James White in June. Dr. White, a distinguished scholar and art critic, was an outstanding Director of the Municipal Gallery and the National Gallery of Ireland. Author of numerous books, papers and monographs on Irish art, he enjoyed an international reputation. His contribution and commitment to the Library were outstanding and his loss is deeply regretted by Trustees and staff alike.

During the year Ms Madeleine O'Sullivan was appointed to the Board of Trustees by the Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism. Ms O'Sullivan brings to her position considerable experience in cultural organisation and a wide knowledge of the arts in Ireland.

OPERATIONS, FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

The Library's grant-in-aid in the year 2003 stood at €1.419 million, the same level as in 2002. The Library appreciates the continued generous support of the Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism and, in more difficult financial times, is happy that that support was maintained. A special grant made by the Department in the previous year enabled the Library to create its pilot Wi-Fi based hand-held PDA (personal digital assistant) tour of the collections. The grant-in-aid represents approximately 85% of the Library's costs in 2003 and the shortfall was made up from donations and earnings.

During the year the Library completed the necessary procedures to qualify staff for receipt of the pay award *Sustaining Progress* and benchmarking. Considerable flexibility and productivity was achieved with the Attendant staff adopting new approaches to work thus enabling in-house production of storage containers etc. to be resumed. Considerable efficiencies were achieved. Staff training continued under the supervision of the Operations Manager, Ms Derval O'Carroll. Staff were enabled to access computer training, financial management, personnel management and other skills. .

Ms Sinéad Ward, Rights and Reproductions Officer took leave of absence to pursue a course of study in the school of Oriental and African Studies in London. Ms Cara Williams undertook her duties for the period of her absence in 2003 and 2004. During Dr. Wright's study leave, Mr. Jonathan Kearney of University College, Dublin, carried her responsibilities. Ms. Selen Etingu, M.A. filled a nine-month internship at the Library working on Islamic material.

A draft Statement of Strategy and a Staffing Plan have been prepared for discussion and ratification in 2004.

During the year the Library was promoted by means of radio advertisements which are both cost effective and reach a wide audience and by occasional selected advertisement in the print media.

PR efforts have been successful in leading to reportage in all the national daily and weekly newspapers, on TV and radio, at home and abroad and public reaction to the exhibitions and services continues to be good. The Library continues to be advised on PR matters by Margaret Coyne and Partners.

DEVELOPMENT

The Library's development efforts were successful in 2003 with an 87.28% increase in private funds received as compared with 2002. Almost 77% of the total came from international foundations. Two major grants from corporate foundations in the US and UK enabled the Library to appoint a full-time Conservator and open the Conservation Laboratory. Eastman Kodak Company contributed a significant, two-year grant which will enable the Library to create an expanded image gallery on its website as part of its policy to encourage greater access to the Collections.

A number of individual donors who wish to remain anonymous contributed valuable unrestricted funds. Barakat Trust (UK) funded a conservation project, and Beverly Smyth contributed in-kind support for the Korean exhibition.

EXHIBITIONS

During the year the Library mounted a number of exhibitions. The year began with the final weeks of the exhibition *Illustration Ireland - the art of contemporary illumination* which showed the work of the Illustrators' Guild of Ireland. The summer exhibition, *The Art of Hokusai, Masterpieces of Japanese Woodblock Printing* devised by Dr Clare Pollard with the support of Ms Laura Muldowney and designed by Ms Ann Brady of Vermillion, opened in May. The opening ceremony was performed by H.E. Takeshi Kagami, Ambassador of Japan. The exhibition, which ran until September, was visited by over 30,000 people. It was accompanied by a specially written booklet by Dr Pollard, *The Art of Hokusai*, published by Town House on behalf of the Library, one of three titles which appeared during the year. The other two were a brief introduction to the biblical collections *Treasuring the Word* by Dr David Hutchinson Edgar of Trinity College and an account of Chester Beatty's collecting activities *Alfred Chester Beatty- From Miner to Bibliophile* by Mr Charles Horton, Curator of the Western Collections.

These welcome additions to the Library's portfolio of publications, which sold well throughout the year, were funded by a generous private donation.

On the conclusion of the Hokusai Exhibition, a special display of contemporary Korean painting, devised by the Cultural Department of the Foreign Ministry of Korea, was brought to the Library under the generous patronage of the Embassy of Korea. The Ambassador, H.E. Yang Lee, Ambassador of Korea and his colleagues at the Embassy, especially Mr Jung-Taek Lim and Ms Jennifer Keyes, were unfailingly supportive of the work of the Library. The exhibition attracted significant media attention.

In November an intervention in the Artistic Traditions gallery entitled *Boxes, Books, Bronzes* by the distinguished contemporary artist, Mr Ciáran Lennon, took place. It was celebrated at a reception which was addressed by Mr Enrique Juncosa, recently-appointed Director of the Irish Museum of Modern Art. Mr Lennon's exhibition also attracted critical media comment and was visited by a number of connoisseurs and gallery managers specialising in contemporary art. An essay on Mr Lennon's work was written for the guide to the intervention by the distinguished literary critic, Professor Vicky Mahaffey of the University of Pennsylvania. The exhibition will run until the end of January 2004.

LOANS TO EXHIBITIONS

In 2003, the Library's Islamic Collections were represented in three international exhibitions. Nine Persian paintings and pages of calligraphy were included in *The Legacy of Genghis Khan*, which had opened at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York in late 2002 and later moved to the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (13 April - 27 July 2003). *The Adventures of Hamza*, to which the Library lent one of its most important Mughal paintings, opened at the Brooklyn Museum of Art in late 2002 and then moved to the Victoria and Albert Museum, London (06 March 2003 - 08 June 2003). The Asia Society in New York was the first venue for *The Hunt for Paradise: Court Arts of Safavid Iran, 1501-76*, a major exhibition of Persian art that opened in October 2003 and to which the Library lent one painting; the exhibition will travel to Milan in 2004.

The Library lent several folios from the Chester Beatty *Rosarium* to the Royal Academy London for their exhibition *Illuminating the Renaissance* and prints to Fermanagh County Museum to augment *The Holy Show*.

PROGRAMME PLANNING

Preparations were very active in the latter part of 2003 for the development of exhibitions and other activities for the year 2004. The Library invited Mr Colm Tóibín to curate an exhibition on the colour blue to open in February 2004. Mr Tóibín spent a considerable amount of time researching in the Library over the summer months, and later, working with Mr Horton, Dr Pollard and Dr Wright, to develop the exhibition. A series of meetings took place also in the second half of 2003 with representatives of the Graphic Studio to prepare the way for an exhibition in 2005 on the theme "The Garden of Earthly Delights". The Library is pleased to be collaborating once again with the studio on an exhibition by a group of contemporary artists who will create works of art inspired by themes derived from the Collections of the Library.

Dr. Pollard chaired a working party to develop an outline programme of exhibitions for the next few years, including a focus on the *Nara Ehon* collection, aspects of the Islamic miniature Collections, loans from abroad and other activities for the Library. Special consideration was given to events for the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Library to the public in 1954.

A contract was concluded with Dr Henry Ginsberg of the British Library to complete the catalogue of the Thai manuscripts and prepare a book on the subject which will be published on behalf of the Library by White Orchid Press.

The Director and Dr Pollard participated in meetings of ASEMUS, a network of European and Asian museums under the auspices of the Asia Europe Foundation, respectively in Antwerp and Shanghai; the Library is committed to playing its full part in the development of that body. The Director proposed a co-operative educational programme between Asian and European partner museums and will present this to potential patrons on behalf of ASEMUS at the Singapore meeting in 2004.

Dr Pollard attended the network meetings in Shanghai and as a result the Library is committed to co-operating with the Asia Europe joint travelling exhibition and with the development of a virtual museum.

The Library was represented in Copenhagen at the 2003 European Museum of the Year Awards by the Director who addressed a plenary session and returned the EMOY trophy to the judges. The winner of the title for the year 2003 was the Victoria and Albert Museum, London.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENTS

During the year, funding granted by Eastman Kodak became available to the Library and a programme of photography designed to enhance the Library's website, was initiated. In September the Library hosted a visit by Dr Sam Weller of Kodak to show the progress which had been made. Redesign of the website and provision of the necessary database and content management systems is in planning to handle the new developments to be implemented in early 2004. A multi-functional website is planned to support all the major activities of the Library.

The Technical Manager, Mr Stephen Farrell, who had steadily been creating a Wi-Fi network for the Library over the past two years, conducted experiments in 2003 which proved the feasibility of using wireless technology to manage a PDA (essentially hand-held computers) based digital tour of the Library. The initial choice of equipment for the tour did not prove satisfactory and given the rapid advances in screen technology, the final choice will be made in 2004. With the assistance of Mr Patrick Sammon who scripted a pilot tour, a software company was appointed to develop Mr. Farrell's concept with the Library. Following rigorous testing by members of staff, the indications are that a different approach, diverging strongly from the traditional taped sound-guidance systems in widespread use in museums, will be developed. Work on this will begin early in 2004 and it is hoped to have an operational version by mid-year. Most tours using hand-held computers being developed elsewhere are dependent either on regular synchronisation of machines with files on a server or with somewhat inflexible WAP technology.

With the proposed content management system, the Library's Wi-Fi based tour will be highly flexible and will be capable of being changed in real time. Current plans call for an initial, simple tour with the addition of layers of sophistication and various language tracks in the future.

The provision of a computerised tour of the Collections will not obviate the need for the volunteer guides who provide a welcome and normally heavily over-subscribed service to our public.

The Library provides public access through the Wi-Fi system to the Internet and has been mentioned a number of times in the national media for pioneering this service. Mr. Farrell has used terminal services technology to replace a number of aging machines this year, enabling the Library to reduce costs and also provided some unique features such as the ability to resume work sessions seamlessly at any terminal in the building. We have been able to recycle some of our older PCs as 'thin' clients for terminal services. This technology will also enable us to progress part of the Library's remote working scheme planned for implementation in 2004.

This year Mr. Farrell initiated trials for our remote working policy. We have enabled a VPN (virtual private network), which permits secure connections from remote locations over the Internet. VOIP technology has been tested to enable the use of telephone services from a remote location to be supported.

During the year, Mr. Peter Wood provided upgraded features for the Collections' Management System and some progress was made in enriching the database.

RESEARCH

Dr Wright, with the support of the Getty Foundation spent some three months in research, initially in St. Petersburg and for a more extended period in Istanbul. This research will bear fruit in a number of domestic exhibitions and in some fundamental preparations for our touring exhibition of Mughal paintings in the United States in the year 2007.

During the year the Library reached agreement with Keio University Tokyo for a programme of digitisation of the *Nara Ehon* to commence in early 2004. The digital resources will be shared equally between the two institutions. The Library is participating in the Shahnama Project, based in Cambridge, which aims to compile a computer record of all Shahnama images in existence.

REFERENCE LIBRARY

Work continued on the Reference Library records following the conversion to the *Libero* automated library system, including the provision of Library of Congress Subject Headings. Internet access to the Reference and Rare Book catalogues was provided from April 2003 (<http://opac.cbl.ie>). 877 new items were accessioned during the year. Staff were assisted by volunteers during the year - tasks undertaken included the addition of short records for the Chinese, Japanese and Tibetan printed books to the Rare Book catalogue, and the translation of Japanese language material for cataloguing purposes. The Reference Library accommodated manuscript and reference readers on an appointment basis - 20 manuscript readers visited the Library during the year. Management of the early printed book collection became the responsibility of Ms. Celine Ward, Reference Librarian.

Training: Ms Celine Ward and Ms Olivia Lardner received training in basic Arabic and attended a two-day course on the *Libero* automated library system.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Ms. Celine Ward acts as Freedom of Information Officer. No requests were received during 2003. Ms. Derval O'Carroll, FOI Decision Maker, attended an Advanced FOI course in October 2003.

VISITORS TO THE LIBRARY

During the year the Library was privileged to receive many distinguished visitors, including Their Majesties, the King and Queen of Malaysia; Her Royal Highness, Princess Astrid of Belgium and Prince Lorenz her Consort; and on the 50th anniversary of the announcement of the structure of the DNA molecule, the co-discoverer and Nobel Laureate, Professor James Watson and Mrs Watson.

Her Imperial Highness, Princess Takamado of Japan visited in June. The Taoiseach, Mr Bertie Ahern TD, visited the Library on 8th December, after unveiling a sculpture commemorating the holding of the Special Olympics. With an active programme of exhibitions, lectures and visits by special groups, total attendance at the Library in the year 2003 numbered 150,000. The Library is pleased thus to have achieved its target audience as laid out in various papers dealing with the planning for the move to Dublin Castle.

COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES

The increase in visitor numbers to the Library had an obvious impact on the performance of the shop which, under the management of Ms Antonella Barbati improved sales by 25% and became a net contributor to the funding of the Library. In addition to the new publications, Ms Barbati sourced other fresh material for sale and developed a number of product lines based on the collections of the Library in association with suppliers. The shop received considerable attention in the last quarter of the year in newspaper supplements dealing with Christmas shopping.

The Library hosted eighty-eight events of a commercial and semi-commercial nature and additional tours of the Library were arranged for specialist and other groups.

EDUCATION

2003 was a busy and active year with a number of key events in Education. Special Programmes included *Stories from the Silk Road*, with the generous funding from the Paul Hamlyn and Calouste Gulbenkian Foundations, a project with primary schools which was successfully completed in May 2003. Pupils from the Muslim NS, Clonskeagh and Star of the Sea Boys Parish School, Sandymount worked with a number of storytellers and artists as well as the Education Officer. They met well-known characters from the Silk Road and followed their adventures through the galleries and returned to school to create their own impressions in log books based on the different formats found in the Collection; these went on display in June 2003. To mark the end of a three year sponsorship programme. the Library produced a CD of stories from the Silk Road. A copy will be presented to each school, the two Foundations and the storytellers.

A number of lunch time talks and workshops were arranged to complement *The Art of Hokusai, Masterpieces of Japanese Woodblock Printing* from June to September.

Highlights of the Music in the Atrium programme included collaborations with ESB *Routes and Rhythm* series as well as Lebanese, Indian, classical, medieval and other music.

Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown's Festival of World Cultures invited the Chester Beatty Library to participate in August. Freelance artists provided workshops in Japanese and Indian adornment.

Four family days were held during the year to mark cultures reflected in the Collections; the Chinese New Year in February, Bedouin Life in June, Diwali in November and a Bulgarian Christmas in December.

CONSERVATION

Conservation priorities are being identified and expenditure on conservation this year was mostly focused on equipping the Conservation Laboratory with essential items including a stereo microscope, a digital camera and a UV lamp to use for examination purposes and condition reporting. A number of smaller purchases were made of items need for practical work. An outline for the Disaster Response Plan has been prepared. The Hanwell environmental monitoring system was re-installed and is being used to monitor conditions within the permanent displays and the storage areas.

A detailed condition survey of the Hebrew Collection was completed; this information was used by the Development Manager and Curator of the Western Collection to formulate an application for funding the treatment of this Collection. A condition survey of the Arabic Collection was started and has been used to generate a container programme. Working with the Conservation Manager, the Reference Library staff carried out a Book Store survey leading to a re-housing project.

The preventive conservation programme was continued with members of the security staff making mounts and exhibition supports for special materials and microfilming of Collection material.

The container fabrication programme was relaunched this year, with the help of the security staff and a total of 120 boxes for vulnerable material has been completed to date. The Arabic Collection is a priority and a number of projects for the Reference Library and the East Asian collections have also been started. The treatment of Qur'an IS 1615 by the conservation department at Trinity College Dublin continued; the project is now being overseen by Ms Jessica Baldwin with monthly visits and regular updates on progress.

Freelance textile conservator Ms Rachel Phelan advised on the hanging of a number of textile pieces for the *Contemporary Art from Korea* exhibition and was engaged to add a hanging system to a large painted linen canvas.

This year has highlighted a number of conservation projects within the Library which will need external funding and the use of contract conservators. It is hoped that the Library will soon be in a position to offer a student placement in conservation.

RIGHTS AND REPRODUCTIONS

Thanks to the generous grant from Eastman Kodak, Ms. Cara Williams began work in July on digitising existing photographs and ordering new photography in preparation for plans to expand the Library's website. A total of 500 new images is planned. Of these 167 were newly photographed by the year's end and over 300 images were digitised. The subjects included printed books, Western, Islamic and east Asian manuscripts and prints. Work continued on the photographic room with OPW working on the storage shelves for transparencies and prints to make it more functional and increase the storage size.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME

The Volunteers play a significant role within the Chester Beatty Library in that they are part of the public face of the institution. During 2003 the Volunteer Programme grew steadily: in total there are now 40 Volunteers involved in practically all Library activities, from assisting curators to helping the ever increasing numbers of visitors. In 2003 Volunteer tour guides gave 302 general tours; a total of 6475 people attended these.

In acknowledging their contributions to the library, Volunteers attended a lunch in December to celebrate International Volunteer's Day. They also attended specialized training sessions on a monthly basis, organized by the Volunteer Co-ordinator. Topics covered included:

- Visitor Service Representative Training with Marisa Tome Valiente
- Tour Guide Training with Jenny Siung
- General tour of the Collections with Dr. Michael Ryan
- Lecture and Demonstration: The Greek Alphabet with Paddy Sammon
- Curatorial Address with Dr. Elaine Wright
- Curatorial Address with Mr. Charles Horton
- Field Trip to The Jewish Museum

Breakdown of the corps of volunteers by function:

Tour Guides	16
Visitor Services Representatives	14
Workshop Assistants	3
Curatorial Assistants	3
PDA Assistants	3
Development Assistants	1
Total	40

FRIENDS OF THE CHESTER BEATTY LIBRARY

During the course of 2002 and 2003 discussions took place with the Friends of the Chester Beatty Library on ways in which their interest might be supported. In March 2003, tentative agreement was reached that the way forward might be for the Friends to be replaced by a membership organisation run by the Library. During the course of the year legal advice was taken on the establishment of such an organisation and following discussions with the Director, the Friends held a general meeting in October at which the matter was discussed and it was agreed to call an Extraordinary General Meeting of members early in the New Year to decide the matter.

STAFF ACTIVITIES

Dr. Michael Ryan, PRIA, Director and Librarian

During the year, Dr. Ryan served as Chair of the Partnership Committee, participated in pay-related negotiations and served on the Council of National Cultural Institutions. In May he attended the European Museum of the Year ceremonies in Copenhagen and addressed the meeting on the work of the Library. In June he attended the meeting of ASEMUS in Antwerp where he proposed as a project for the exchange of museum educators between Asian and European Museums. He was invited to develop the proposal with Professor Jarernporn of Silpakorn University, Bangkok and to present it to potential patrons at the Singapore meeting in 2004. He was also invited to draft structural arrangements for sustaining ASEMUS and to present these at Singapore. During the year priorities included development matters and drafting the Statement of Strategy and Staffing Plan for the Library. As President of the Royal Irish Academy he serves *ex officio* as a Governor and Guardian of the National Gallery (he was elected Vice-Chairman of the Board) and as a member of the Council of the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies. He is also Chair of the Discovery Programme. During the year he was a guest of the Government of Taiwan visiting museums, cultural organisations and scholarly institutes. He attended the 400th anniversary celebrations of the Pontifical Academy of Science and attended and spoke at a number of international meetings on the subject of science policy. During the year he published articles on the Library and its work, pursued personal research, attended a number of conferences in Ireland and joined the Management Board of the Glucksman Gallery at University College, Cork.

Mr Charles Horton, Curator of the Western Collections

Publication responsibilities remained the main thrust of activities in the Western Section during 2003, with work continuing on the final version of *The Earliest Gospels: The Contribution of the Chester Beatty Gospel-codex, P45*, which has been edited by Mr Horton.

Another new publication by him issued during the year was *Alfred Chester Beatty: From Miner to Bibliophile*, a general introduction to the life of the Library's founder. The highly successful Holy Show Exhibition inspired by the Library's Old Testament holdings was shown at Limerick, Dingle, Enniskillen, Monaghan, two Swedish venues and Bray in 2003. The Fermanagh County Museum augmented the exhibition with some Old Master prints from the CBL collection and the exhibition was opened by Mr Horton. A major project undertaken during the year focused on digitising the Library's Manichaean papyri. The feasibility study undertaken on behalf of the Library by the Institute for the Study and Preservation of Ancient Religious Texts at Brigham Young University using multi spectrum photography and with the help of many international scholars was overseen by Mr Horton.

Dr. Clare Pollard, Curator of the East Asian Collections

From mid-November 2002 until mid-June 2003, Dr. Pollard was absent on maternity leave and Ms Laura Muldowney curated the East Asian Collections in her place. *The Art of Hokusai; masterpieces of Japanese Woodblock Printing*, an exhibition of works by the Japanese print designer Hokusai, was held from June to September. Dr. Pollard wrote an accompanying booklet for the exhibition (The Art of Hokusai – Masterpieces of Japanese Printing in the Chester Beatty Library) and organized an accompanying series of lectures on Japanese art. She gave a talk on 'Hokusai's surimono: privately published prints by the master of Japanese print-making' as part of this series.

She also published her doctoral thesis (*Potter of Meiji Japan: Makuzu Kozan (1842-1916) and his workshop*) as part of Oxford University Press's Oxford Oriental Monographs series and gave a lecture on the subject at the Oriental Ceramic Society, London, in October.

She represented the CBL at a conference on Japanese *Nara ehon* painting at Keio University, Tokyo, in August, and at an ASEMUS workshop in Shanghai in September. She continued to work on publishing projects with Orchid Press, Thailand and Bensey Publishing Inc., Tokyo.

Dr. Elaine Wright, Curator of the Islamic Collections

Dr. Wright spent three months on study leave compiling research for a study of 15th-century manuscript patronage in Timurid Iran, Ottoman Turkey and Mamluk Egypt. A research project funded by a Curatorial Research Fellowship from the Getty Foundation in Los Angeles. The bulk of Dr. Wright's research was carried out at the Topkapi Palace Library and several other libraries in Istanbul; but she spent two weeks in St. Petersburg working mainly at the Hermitage and the Institute for Oriental Studies. Earlier in the year Dr. Wright carried out a major change-over of the Islamic sections of the permanent galleries. She presented two academic lectures. In June she spoke on 'Patronage of the Arts of the Book in Early 14th-Century Shiraz' as part of the conference *Beyond the Legacy of Genghis Khan*, which took place in Los Angeles, held in conjunction with the L.A. venue of the exhibition *The Legacy of Genghis Khan*, to which the Library lent several paintings and pages of calligraphy. 'Decorated Manuscripts of the Later Mamluks, A Preliminary Examination' was the title of the lecture she gave in early December at the Royal Asiatic Society, London, for the symposium *The Last Mamluks*. In June, as part of the continuing training of the Library's tour-guides and other volunteers, she presented a two-hour session on Islamic paper. In September, Dr. Wright's article on 'The Calligraphers of Shiraz and the Development of Nasta'liq Script' was published in the journal *Manuscripta Orientalia*. Dr. Wright also served as part of the organizing committee for the symposium *Ireland and the Near East*, which took place at the Royal Irish Academy in September. In the autumn she attended an international conference on the Qur'an, held at the Isma'ili Centre in London. Her two-year term as a member of the Board of the Historians of Islamic Art ended in 2003.

Ms. Celine Ward, Reference Librarian

Ms. Ward continued the process of developing the opac system for the Library catalogue, assumed responsibility for the rare book collection and managed the Reference Library reading room. The Reference Library was used for manuscript readers thus relieving pressure on the other members of the curatorial staff. Ms. Ward acts as FOI Officer for the Library.

Ms Jennifer Siung, Education Officer

In April 2003 Ms. Siung completed a four week internship with the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts, Richmond USA. She worked closely with the Director of the Education & Outreach Department. Activities included family days, children's workshops, outreach programmes, teacher/staff meetings as well as a one-day workshop as part of *The Asian Pacific American Heritage Month* in the Freer and Sackler Museum in Washington DC. Meetings were set up with staff in the Asia Society in New York and a number of visits were made to key cultural institutions during that time. Other activities in 2003 include public lectures in the National Gallery of Ireland and Hunt Museum based on Japanese influence on 19th century Irish Art and an introduction to multi cultural education as part of CREATE's Culturally Diverse Arts Programming seminar. Ms Siung represented the Library at the European Museum of the Year workshop: European & Non European Diaspora and their impact on European Museums, Prato, Italy. She is currently studying Mandarin with The Asian Institute, UCD.

Ms Derval O'Carroll, Operations Manager

Ms. O'Carroll's activities continued to centre around marketing and promotion of the library, day to day management and operational issues concerning exhibitions, maintenance, security, visitor services and personnel affairs and in events, marketing and retail matters. Ms O'Carroll attended the Irish Museums Association Conference in February and a Customer Care Workshop run by Business2Arts in May. She represented the Library in a promotional capacity on the Heritage Island stand at the Holiday Fair in January 2003. As a decision-maker under FOI, she attended a training session to further her knowledge in this area. She led the implementation of a new flexible working hours system in the Library and undertook negotiations under the national agreement 'Sustaining Progress'. She continued to liaise with the Heritage Council in the Museums Accreditation Scheme and was a member of a revived CNCI Marketing Group. She was re-elected as Treasurer of the Irish Museums Association for a further year in October 2003. With Town House Publications, she managed the publication of three books on the Collection.

Mr Stephen Farrell, Technical Manager

Mr Farrell piloted the PDA tour of the Library, sourced new software including Terminal Services to improve computer support of the Library's work. He managed the amendments to the Collections' Management Database, tested and made the WiFi services operational. Worked with the Conservation Manager, Security and Operations to maintain the building's systems and supervised alterations to other systems within the Library.

Ms Vera Greif, Finance Manager

As the finances of the Library have increased and diversified so has the work load; tasks included management of budgets, bank accounts, minimizing of charges and maximizing interest potential, liaising with Library stockbrokers, creating spreadsheets to control individual cost-centres, and dealing with all queries from our auditors. The year was notable for a number of complex pay adjustments, each very time-consuming. Ms Greif maintains close contact with the Shop Manager and the Technical Manager regarding purchases and creating payment plans. As a charity, the Library may not develop debt and cash flow management is of particular importance.

Ms Paula Shaloo, Development Manager

Ms Shaloo joined the Library as Development Manager in June. Initial activities centred on setting up the development office including the purchase and installation of professional development software. Ms Shaloo conducted individual meetings with members of the Development Committee and the follow up of development approaches. She also oversaw the installation of a Patrons' Board in the foyer to acknowledge the support of the Library's donors. As a priority project, Ms Shaloo worked with Dr Elaine Wright on an extensive proposal to fund the first two years of a major, multi-year project to produce a new and comprehensive catalogue of the Library's Arabic manuscripts. The proposal was submitted to a private US foundation in December and will be reviewed in early 2004. Together with Mr Charles Horton and Ms Jessica Baldwin, she prepared and submitted a proposal to conserve the Library's Jewish holdings.

She began work on a proposal to fund the facilities required for the Library's new PDA tour. In an effort to raise awareness of the Library with the business community, she established closer links with Business2Arts, including the placement of a promotional piece in the December issue of the Business2Arts newsletter and an invitation to host a Members' Evening at the Library during the first half of 2004. Ms Shaloo joined the Library's Programming Committee and attended a Business2Arts course in Negotiation.

Ms Jessica Baldwin, Conservation Manager

Ms Baldwin joined the Library in July and initiated a wide range of preservation activities in the Library. She participated in the Disaster Prevention and Recovery Committee and drafted an outline Disaster Response Plan for the Library.

Ms Baldwin assisted in the de-installation of the *Hokusai* exhibition, she oversaw the installation of two exhibitions: *Contemporary Art from Korea* (opened 17 November), and Ciarán Lennon's gallery intervention *Boxes, Books, Bronzes* (opened 30 October). She will continue to work on the installation of exhibitions in the Temporary Gallery and has been involved in the planning process for the *Blue* and *Persian Steel* exhibitions which will open 2004.

Ms Baldwin worked with the curators on a number of loans to other institutions, including the return of nine Islamic collection items from the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (August 2003). The loan of Per 395.1 to the Asian Society, New York. (September 2003) and the loan of 3 folios from WMs.99 to Royal Academy, London. (November 2003). In all cases this involved writing detailed condition reports (including photographic documentation) and packing the items for transit; as well as treating Per 395.1 before it travelled. Ms Baldwin has advised on handling during photography sessions, and assisted in handling the Manichaean papyri during a multi spectral photography project.

Ms Baldwin gave a talk on conservation to the Library's Volunteers in November, including a tour of the Conservation Laboratory. She attended the Forbes Symposium on Scientific Research in the Field of Asian Art at the Freer Gallery, Washington, DC in September, her trip being generously supported by the Institute for the Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works in Ireland (ICHAWI). She continued her involvement with the Irish Professional Conservators and Restorers Association (IPCRA) as secretary and co-editor of the Association's journal and worked as a member of Training Sub-committee for ICHAWI.

Ms Olivia Lardner, Senior Library Assistant

Ms Lardner continued to assist the Reference Librarian in the routine operation of the Reading Room. She worked extensively on enriching and improving existing records, and accessioning new material. She also began a condition survey of older Reference stock, with the support of Ms Baldwin.

Ms. Cara Williams. Rights and Reproductions

Ms Sinéad Ward left on sabbatical for a year in September and Ms Cara Williams was appointed as her replacement. Requests for images have been received steadily with the number of microfilm orders increasing towards the end of the year. In November Ms Williams worked closely with designers at the Irish Arts Review to illustrate an article written by Dr M Ryan celebrating the 50th Anniversary of the Library.

Time has also been spent on cataloguing a back-log of unidentified transparencies and negatives, and indexing existing digitised images. A spread sheet was produced to establish where there are gaps in the collection for digitisation and supporting the work of exhibition and the development of the PDA tour.

Ms Rhoda Judge, Volunteer Co-ordinator

Ms Rhoda Judge was appointed Volunteer Co-ordinator in August 2003, succeeding Ms Marisa Tome Valiente. Having graduated from Trinity College with a BA in Biblical and Theological Studies and participated in the Volunteer Programme in 2000, she is familiar with the Collections and the Programme.

During the year she continued the work of training the Volunteers and recruiting new members of the group of people who generously give of their time to the Library.

Mr Patrick Sammon – First Secretary, Department of Foreign Affairs on secondment to the Library

In February 2003 Mr Sammon gave four illustrated lunchtime lectures on Greek Theatre in association with ‘A Stage for Dionysus’ an exhibition associated with the Athens Olympics shown at Dublin Castle through the good offices of the Embassy of Greece. This ran in parallel with an event for children in the Library, ‘Excavating a Greek Theatre’. The attendance included children with sensory and learning problems. In June the lunchtime talks covered ‘Lafcadio Hearn: Rathmines Boy makes good in Japan’, also the title of his contribution to the book ‘With Trust in Place’, published by Townhouse.

Coinciding with the Hokusai exhibition, in July he spoke on St Francis Xavier and the Jesuit influence in Japan (1549 to today). In September he spoke on the changing seasons in Japan, with the assistance of the Japanese Embassy. In December he spoke on Icons and Paintings of the Virgin and Child.

He also organised a series of three lectures in October on India and Ireland by Malcolm Sen, a young academic from Kolkota (Calcutta) studying at UCD who spoke on Friction Fiction: Indo-Anglian authors and the English Language; Modern Indian and Irish Poetry: Revising the Canon; and Ireland and India: The Two Jewels of the Crown.

In October he also started a twice-weekly Modern Greek class for members of staff and others.

During the year he gave guided tours to a large number of groups and VIP visitors, including journalists, and gave interviews for RTE’s Artszone programme.

During the year he drafted a text for the guided tour using the Personal Digital Assistant, a first pilot of which was completed in November.

VOLUNTEERS:

Tour Guides

Delphine Kelly

Marian Grimes

Margaret Sheehy

Dorothy Dennis

Cathriona Russell

Jack FitzGerald

Ciaran O'Leary

Joan Walker

Roisin Stimpson

Eithne Owens

Orla Ryan

Hailing Haung

Jennifer Hoffmann

Janet Martin

Jeff Black

Michael Chen

Toby Bull

Wioletta Swardz

Workshop Assistants

Donna Harrod

Deepika Gargya

Visitor Service Representatives

Kathleen Hickey

Maura Fennell
Margaret Brady
Mary Neville
Vera Murtagh
Millie Cullivan
Aileen Flynn
Alan Marshall
Kate Robinson
Kurt Kullman
Susan Dillon
Tess Lee

Volunteer Curatorial Assistants

Nina Shiel
Aki Tsukioka
Rumiko Tsuji

PDA Assistant

Kathleen Farrington

Balance Sheet
31 December 2003

	Notes	2003 €	2002 €
Current assets			
Shop stocks		66,605	69,806
Debtors and prepayments		14,251	3,193
Investments	9	931,931	895,073
Bank balances and cash	9	<u>264,656</u>	<u>158,186</u>
		1,277,443	1,126,258
Current liabilities			
Creditors and accruals		<u>(98,782)</u>	<u>(55,790)</u>
Net current assets		1,178,661	1,070,468
Fixed assets	7	<u>135,285</u>	<u>65,407</u>
		<u>1,313,946</u>	<u>1,135,875</u>
Capital and reserves	8	351,015	209,802
Development fund	9	<u>962,931</u>	<u>926,073</u>
		<u>1,313,946</u>	<u>1,135,875</u>