

CHESTER BEATTY LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT 2004

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR 2004

TRUSTEES OF THE LIBRARY 2004

Chairman

Dr T.P. Hardiman

Sir Marc Cochrane

Dr Kate Coleman Moriarty

Mr Dermot Desmond

Mrs Joan Duff

Professor Seán Freyne

Ms Elizabeth Maguire

Mrs Louise O'Mahony (from April 2004)

Mrs Madeleine O'Sullivan

Ms Nóirín Slattery (to March 2004)

Professor Roger Stalley

OVERVIEW

The year 2004 was a very busy one with preparations for the programme to mark the 50th Anniversary of the Library's opening to the public in 1954. President Mary McAleese graciously consented to be the Patron of the 50th Anniversary year. In 1954, the Library was open only for a couple of afternoons a week and visitor numbers were very modest. Today, the institution has been transformed by the move to its new home and received 165,000 visitors during the course of the year. The 50th Anniversary programme contained a varied series of lectures, exhibitions, conferences and other events. Of particular importance were the lectures on the various collections by the curators - Mr Horton, Dr Pollard and Dr Wright. The lectures were very well received. Dr Wright organised an important and highly successful scholarly conference on Islamic metalwork in association with the exhibition *Persian Steel* which she curated. The proceedings of the conference will be published in due course by Wordwell Limited. *Persian Steel* showed the collection of the distinguished Iranian artist, Parviz Tanavoli. It was opened by the Minister for Arts, Sport and Tourism, Mr John O'Donoghue, T.D., on 6 June 2004. The design was by Event Communications.

The exhibition *Blue* which opened in February was a personal exploration of that colour by the distinguished novelist Colm Tóibín based on the collections of the Library. The exhibition received widespread publicity and critical appreciation and was very heavily visited. The design company Angel provided both the look of the display and also managed the design and production of the catalogue. In the autumn, *Pop Up Politics* was shown in the Temporary Exhibitions Gallery: this was an experimental exhibition exploring the nature of political cartoons by the artist Daphne Plessner. Mr Horton contributed a display of French revolutionary political cartoons to the exhibition, which served as an historical counterpoint to the contemporary work. In September a small exhibition commemorating Lafcadio Hearn was mounted in the East Asian section of the Artistic Traditions Gallery by Ms Laura Muldowney with the support of the Ireland-Japan Society and with loans from the National Museum and National Library of Ireland. In addition, fans from the Neville John Irons, and textiles from the Nicole Campbell bequests were placed on display in the first phase of a re-arrangement of the Chinese collections.

Late in the year an exhibition, *Yeats and Noh*, the Library's contribution to the celebrations of the centenary of the Abbey Theatre, was also mounted in the East Asian Gallery together with generous loans from the National Library of Ireland and the Abbey Theatre. Ms Jenny Siung, Education Officer, curated the exhibition with the support of Dr McCausland and Professor Brian Singleton of Trinity College. A small exhibition of manuscripts relating to Ulysses, from papyri to modern editions of the novel of the same name by James Joyce, was mounted by Mr Horton in the Western section of the Artistic Traditions Gallery to mark the centenary of Joyce's fictional odyssey of Leopold Bloom through the city of Dublin on 16th June 1904.

The inaugural Chester Beatty Lecture took place in November. It was delivered by the distinguished writer William Dalrymple and held at the House of Lords in the Bank of Ireland in College Green with the generous support of a member of the Board of Trustees and the sponsorship of the Bank of Ireland. The lecture marked the launch of the new membership programme of the Library in succession to the *Friends of the Chester Beatty Library* who wound up formally in 2003. The Trustees record their thanks and appreciation to the *Friends* who supported the Library generously for many years through lectures, visits and social events.

The final event of the celebrations in 2004 was the public conference *Understanding Islam* which was held in the Conference Centre of Dublin Castle and attended by 330 members of the public. *The Irish Times*, the British Council, Brooks Hotel and Dublin Castle sponsored the event which received widespread media coverage both in the *Irish Times* itself and on various radio stations. There was lively debate and as the second in the series of occasional public conferences, it confirmed the view that the Library should continue to organise these as opportunity offers.

As the 50th Anniversary celebration is to run from February 2004 to February 2005 the final exhibition in the programme, *Keeping the Books*, an exploration of conservation in the Library, will not open until 7th February 2005 which will be the 130th anniversary of the birth of Chester Beatty.

In 2004 agreement was finalised with the Graphic Studio Dublin for a further group exhibition inspired by the collections in the Library and the curators actively engaged with the participating artists in background studies for the creation of their works for the show. The exhibition will open in early summer 2005. The Library continued to attract major support from foundations, corporations and individuals. 2004 saw the first full year of operation of the conservation laboratory and the engagement during the summer months for the first time of a conservation intern. The value of the in-house conservation service to the Library is beyond question. The Trustees are deeply committed to establishing the laboratory on a secure footing and to drawing attention to the astonishing wealth and importance of the collection and its profound value for many peoples and cultures worldwide. Above all they are sensitive to the urgent need to provide this fragile and vulnerable inheritance with the best possible care. At present the Conservation Service within the Library is supported entirely by fundraising and this is a matter of grave concern.

CHALLENGES

The Annual Report of 2003 analysed the challenges facing the Library. The Library premises broadly continued to work well and attract favourable comment from the public throughout the year but it is clear that the infrastructure for events in the Library continues to give cause for concern. Storage is an increasing worry and office or study accommodation for visiting scholars and temporary staff and volunteers is increasingly difficult to provide.

The Library's own lecture room is inadequate, uncomfortable and works poorly for public events. The Library's Temporary Exhibition Gallery is too small, occupies a dead-end position in the building and does not encourage appropriate circulation during popular and heavily-attended exhibitions. These are a brake on the Library's growth and development and the size, location and equipment of the Temporary Exhibition Gallery and the size and layout of the Lecture Theatre militate against maximising the benefits of our portfolio of activities. In its strategic planning for the next phase of the Library's progress, the case for a custom-designed, modern lecture facility which can double as a venue for small-scale concerts and a dedicated temporary exhibition gallery of at least 350 - 400 sq. metres is strongly emphasised. The Library presented an outline of the case to the Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism during the course of the year in which a number of options for the improvement of the premises were put forward.

However, the main thrust of the Library's view is that an architectural study by the Office of Public Works should be commissioned with a view to improving and extending our facilities. As a consistent lender to exhibitions overseas, the Library has had to turn away opportunities to host collaborative exhibitions of substantial size in Dublin. The Library has the capacity to attract to Ireland exhibitions which would not normally be seen in this country. It is the Trustees' view that capitalising on the goodwill created by loans from the collections should be a high priority in planning future cultural provision for the citizens of Ireland.

While the Library has always been generous and understanding in its approach to the loan of exhibition material to sister institutions abroad, it is quite clear that this now imposes an unacceptable burden on our modest staff resources. It is doubtful if the Library can consider continuing to lend extensively in present circumstances. Indeed it is noteworthy that institutions far larger than the Chester Beatty Library are beginning to decline to lend on grounds of inadequate staffing or to impose near-punitive charges for loans. Unless the Library can receive significant reciprocation from institutions to which it lends, it faces the double burden not alone of lending but also of originating entirely its own exhibition programme in-house. Clearly this is unsustainable. The strategic requirement is that the staff of the Library be devoted to the care, maintenance and presentation of its very considerable collections. Supporting the exhibition ambitions of sister institutions abroad no matter how laudable, must always be a secondary, if not tertiary, consideration.

During the course of 2004, plans to address some of the major challenges were prepared and these include a strategic plan, a business plan and a staffing proposal. In the original planning for the development of the Library at Dublin Castle, the target number of visitors was 150,000. The Library's visitor numbers in 2004 were considerably in excess of this and all the evidence suggests that they have still further potential for growth. These are visitors coming to see the permanent exhibitions of the Library, often for the first time. However, the Library also attracts considerable numbers of repeat visits from Irish citizens. During the year the Library measured its peak visitor numbers in summer and the results are summarised in Appendix 2.

TRUSTEES

During the year, in succession to Ms Nóirín Slattery, Ms Louise O'Mahony was appointed to the Board of Trustees.

OPERATIONS, FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

The Trustees note with gratitude the continuing support of the Department of Arts, Sport and Tourism. The Trustees have frequently had recourse to the advice of the Department and members of staff consistently acknowledge the constructive engagement of officers of the Cultural Institutions Division with their work. During the last 15 years, with the exception of one year the annual grant-in-aid has been increased annually. The Office of Public Works has consistently provided invaluable help and advice and technical support without which the work of the institution would be exceptionally difficult. The Library's grant-in-aid for the year 2004 was €1,551,094.00. This represented a modest increase on the figure for 2003. However, with government-mandated pay awards, the Library finds it very difficult to manage from day-to-day on its grant and is therefore obliged to give a high priority to earnings, donations and to development work. The grant-in-aid currently represents a declining percentage of the Library's funding. Growth in the functions of the Library and the public demand for services, account for the increasing need for additional resources. When salaries and basic cleaning are paid there is very little available for the other core purposes: conservation, exhibition, education, research, public outreach and marketing. Summary accounts are presented in Appendix 1.

The increase in visitor numbers to the Library has had an obvious impact on the performance of the shop which, under the management of Ms Antonella Barbati, improved stock and continued to be a net contributor to the funding of the Library. In addition to the new publications, Ms Barbati sourced new stock and continued to develop a number of product lines based on the collections of the Library. She plans to source stock directly from Asia in the near future. The shop continues to receive favorable attention in the media.

The restaurant, under the management of Mr. Abraham Phelan, continues to do well and to garner substantial publicity. It is a significant contributor to the enjoyment of a visit to the Library.

COLLECTIONS

East Asian Collections

Lafcadio Hearn, marking the centenary of Hearn's death in Japan, was curated by Laura Muldowney, and *Yeats and Noh*, honouring the Abbey Theatre's centenary, was curated by Jenny Siung. Dr. McCausland also initiated re-installation and rotation of exhibits in the East Asian sections of the permanent exhibition galleries.

The Islamic Collections

In 2004, the Library's Islamic Collections participated in three international exhibitions, in Milan, Lisbon and London. In the spring, one of the Library's two 16th-century *Falnameh* paintings was on show at the Palazzo Reale in Milan as part of the exhibition, *Hunt for Paradise: Court Arts of Safavid Iran, 1501-76* (the exhibition opened in New York the previous autumn). Over the summer, eight of the Library's finest 17th-century Mughal paintings were included in the Gulbenkian Museum's exhibition, *Goa and the Great Mughal*, and then in the autumn another two of the Library's Mughal paintings were on display in London as part of the Victoria and Albert Museum's *Encounters* exhibition. In the spring the Library was awarded a grant of €165,000 by the Getty Foundation for the initial stage of the cataloguing of its Arabic manuscripts. The project will be overseen by Dr. Wright with the cataloguing carried out by a number of scholars. Images of almost 200 of the illustrations in the Library's *Shahnama* manuscripts were submitted as the Library's contribution to the international *Shahnama* Project, based in Cambridge.

Western Collections

In addition to work on the *Blue* and *Ulysses* exhibitions, Mr Horton participated in two projects to overhaul the Library's records and initiated experiments in digitising of records and collections images. Thirty-five Dürer prints were lent to an exhibition for the opening of the Glucksman Gallery in University College, Cork.

REFERENCE LIBRARY

Work began on the full cataloguing of the rare book collection, and phase boxing of this collection re-commenced. The Reference Librarian managed the exhibition of early printed books in the Artistic Traditions Gallery. The Reference Library continued to accommodate both reference and manuscript readers - 30 manuscript readers visited the Library during the year. Staff attended a two-day course in Library of Congress Subject Headings organised by ALCTS and held at Trinity College, Dublin in March. The implementation of subject headings in the reference library database was completed. 533 new items were accessioned.

CONSERVATION

The preventive conservation programme continued with members of the attendant staff making boxes, mounts, exhibition supports and microfilming collection material. A total of 460 boxes were made. John Madden made the major contribution to box-making, James Curran continued to make and copy microfilms. Albert Mason, Senior Attendant, concentrated on mounting of material. The Arabic collection continues to be a priority as are a number of projects related to the rare book collection. Expenditure on conservation this year was focused on supplies for the box and mount making programme and general supplies for the conservation laboratory.

Ms Baldwin treated a total of one-hundred and twenty-three items during the year. Freelance textile conservator Ms Rachel Phelan was contracted to repair a Tibetan thangka on-site for display in the exhibition *Blue*. The condition survey of the Arabic Collection continued with the help of Library volunteer Colleen Pixley. The treatment of Qu'ran IS 1615 by the Conservation Department at Trinity College Dublin continued to be monitored by Ms Baldwin and the repaired manuscript was returned in December. A three-week summer placement was offered to Louise O'Connor, a first year student from the MA course in Conservation at the University of Northumbria. This year has highlighted a number of essential conservation projects within the Library and the need for assistance in this area. It is hoped that external funding will be secured to enable the Library to offer an annual summer placement and eventually a one-year fellowship in conservation.

Development

The Library's development efforts met with considerable success in 2004, with a 46% increase in private funds received as compared with 2003. Twelve of the gifts received came from first-time donors and approximately two-thirds of total funds raised came from foundations, both private and corporate. Donations included grants from the Getty Trust (USA) for cataloguing of the Arabic Collection; Vodafone Ireland Foundation to complete phase two of the Library's multimedia tour; Dr Ronan Lambe, the Joukowsky Family Foundation (USA) and Treasury Holdings for general support; the Heritage Council for archival work; the Iran Heritage Foundation (UK) in support of the Persian Steel Conference; the Silver Family Foundation (Canada) to begin conservation of the Library's Hebrew and Samaritan collection and Beverly Smyth for the exhibition *Blue. The Irish Times*, Brooks Hotel and the British Council provided valuable, in-kind support for the *Understanding Islam* conference. Four donations in support of conservation were generated through the Library's new membership programme.

EVENTS

In the year 2004, a total of 101 events were held at the Chester Beatty Library.

Of these, forty were Library functions. Fifty nine events were organised and hosted by outside organisations, of a non-commercial and/or educational nature.

STAFF

Summary

The Trustees wish to pay tribute to the staff who have responded to the challenges facing them with considerable imagination and flexibility of working. Staff training continues to be a priority and considerable attention was devoted during the year to the upgrading of computer skills. *The Earliest Gospels: The Contribution of the Chester Beatty Gospel Codex, P45* and important collection of essays edited by Charles Horton was published during the year. The volume establishes current scholarly thinking on the Chester Beatty New Testament papyri. Dr. Elaine Wright organised a significant scholarly conference, a substantial exhibition, *Persian Steel*, and made a major contribution to *Understanding Islam*.

Dr. Clare Pollard, who had given such valuable service to the Library, left in May to take up an appointment at the Art Gallery of New South Wales. Before her departure, she had finalised her work (together with Mrs. Yoshiko Ushioda, former Japanese collections' curator) on the translation of the text of Yoshitsune's *Invasion of Hell* to be published with a facsimile of the scroll by Bensey Publishing in Tokyo - the first of a series agreed some time ago. Dr. Shane McCausland took up duty as Curator of the East Asian Collections in September. In addition to work associated with the exhibitions noted above, he prepared a survey of the Chinese paintings, the first in more than a generation. As well as curating the exhibition *Yeats and Noh*, Ms Jenny Siung, Education Officer has continued her studies in Mandarin and attended weekly classes with The Asian Institute. She attended a two week intensive course in Mandarin in July at the School of Oriental and African College, London. She also participated in the European Museum Forum Workshop. The Education Officer has been particularly active during the year with participation in Children's festivals, the production of a CD of *Stories from the Silk Road*, the successful and heavily-oversubscribed Silkworm Club for young children, schools' outreach, lectures and events.

Ms Jessica Baldwin, Conservation Manager, has been involved in a wide range of preservation activities in the Library this year. She has been involved in the installation of collection items in the permanent galleries, this included support design and treatment of items for fan and Chinese textile displays. She also worked on the installation of the temporary exhibitions entitled *Lafcadio Hearn* and *Yeats and Noh*, which involved co-ordinating with lending institutions and attended a number of training courses.

During the year Ms Nina Shiel and Ms Lisa Lambert filled temporary contract posts working on the development of the website sponsored by Kodak and the PDA-based tour of the Library sponsored by Vodafone. The assistance and support of a corps of volunteers facilitated public outreach, managed the visitor information desk and guided tours for the public. An intern, Ms Liz Doyle from Notre Dame University, conducted a detailed visitor survey under the supervision of the Operations Manager. During the year the Library pursued its policy of using PR as its principal means of drawing attention to its activities. It also continued to use radio advertisements and selected print media advertisements during the course of the year.

Mr. Stephen Farrell, Technical Manager, continued development work on the electronic tour of the Library's exhibitions, and upgrading the plant and other systems of the building.

STAFF ACTIVITIES

The Director

The Director worked closely with the Development Manager on fundraising matters and with the Operations Manager on pay and personnel issues. He devoted much of the year to developing strategic, staffing and business plans for the institution. He developed the plan for the ASEMUS (Asia - Europe Museum Network) education and Outreach Programme with Professor Penpan Jarerporn of Silpakorn University and attended the ICOM Triennial conference in Seoul and visited museums in Shanghai and Beijing with a view to developing co-operation. He continued to serve as President of the Royal Irish Academy and *ex officio* on the Board of Governors and Guardians of the National Gallery (Vice- Chair), on the Council of the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies and on the Board of Management of the Glucksman Gallery in University College, Cork. He chaired the Discovery Programme and the Council of National Cultural Institutions. He was elected an Honorary Fellow of Trinity College, Dublin and of the University of Wales (Lampeter) and a Member of the Company of Goldsmiths of Dublin. He published numerous encyclopaedia entries and two papers on insular art during the year.

Mr. Charles Horton

In addition to the publication of the conference proceedings *The Earliest Gospels: The Contribution of the Chester Beatty Gospel Codex, P45*, which he edited, Mr. Horton contributed to the exhibition *Blue*, mounted the *Ulysses* exhibition and made a number of changes to the permanent exhibition. He delivered a number of lectures in the Library and supervised two projects on the archives carried out by the company Arcline. He also prepared and with Jessica Baldwin, mounted a selection of the Library's Dürer prints for the opening of the Glucksman Gallery in University College, Cork. He also began preparation for the substantial Dürer exhibition to take place in the Library in November 2005.

Dr. Clare Pollard

Dr. Pollard left the Library in May to take up a curatorial post in Sydney. Before leaving she had completed her work on Yoshitsune's *Invasion of Hell* with Bensey Publishing in Tokyo. She contributed to the development of the *Blue* exhibition and had initiated, with Laura Muldowney, plans for the display of Irons and Campbell Bequest material. Since her arrival at the Library in 1997, Dr. Pollard had made an important contribution to the reestablishment of the institution in Dublin Castle and had curated a number of elegant and successful exhibitions. The Trustees and staff join in wishing her every success and happiness in the future.

Dr. Elaine Wright

In 2004, Dr. Wright curated the exhibition *Persian Steel: A Mirror of Life in Iran*, which took place in the Library's Temporary Gallery from 2 June - 15 September. In conjunction with the exhibition, she organized the conference, *Metals and Metalworking in Islamic Iran*, which was held 3 - 4 September; eighteen papers were presented by scholars from America, Britain, Ireland and Armenia, with others travelling from Qatar, Israel, Greece, America, France, Germany and Britain to attend. Dr. Wright and Dr. Ryan organized a second conference, *Understanding Islam*, aimed at the general public and which took place 6 - 8 December. Dr. Wright presented a paper at each of these conferences, entitled, respectively, 'Metals and Manuscripts: The Use of Gold and Other Metallic Pigments in the Decoration of Persian Manuscripts' and 'Sacred and Secular: Decorated Islamic Manuscripts'. She also presented a paper in March, 'From China to Spain: Chester Beatty's Islamic Collections', as part of the Library's lunchtime lecture series. Initial work on the cataloguing of the Library's Arabic Collections has begun, a project overseen by Dr. Wright. The proposal to Art Services International for an exhibition of the Library's Mughal paintings, slated to travel to five venues in America, was submitted by Dr. Wright in March. In the autumn she spent a month in Istanbul, mainly at the Topkapi Palace Library, conducting research on late 15th- and early 16th-century Mamluk manuscripts, which, it is planned, will culminate in an exhibition on the Mamluks. Her article, 'Firdausi and More: A Timurid Anthology of Epic Tales', an analysis of the Library's manuscript Per 114, was published in *Shahnama: The Visual Language of the Persian Book of Kings*, and she has also been working on a book, geared to the general public, on manuscripts in the Library relating to the Islamic faith.

Dr. Shane McCausland

After taking up his post in mid-September, Dr. McCausland set out to review the Chinese paintings collection, and to develop plans for its re-cataloguing, exhibition and publication. In the autumn and winter, he supervised the installation of two small temporary exhibitions.

In the autumn, Dr. McCausland facilitated the visit of a party from the HUMI digitization project based at Keio University, Tokyo. The group spent three weeks in November and December digitizing *Nara ehon* manuscripts. In the autumn, he lectured on Japanese art history at Trinity College. He also gave an academic paper, later accepted for publication in *The Art Bulletin*, on artistic relations between Japan, China and Britain in the early 20th century at a conference on the 'Chinese World of the Japanese Artist' at Leeds University. An essay, 'An art historical perspective on the Guan-Ge controversy', was published in *Song Ceramics: Art History, Archaeology and Technology* (Percival David Foundation Colloquies on Art and Archaeology in Asia No. 22). In collaboration with retired curator Mrs Yoshiko Ushioda, he continued work on the Library's publishing projects with Bensey Publishing Inc., Tokyo which had been initiated by Dr. Clare Pollard.

Ms. Jennifer Siung

Jennifer Siung, Education Officer, conducted a number of projects over the course of 2004 which included the completion of an audio CD *Stories from the Silk Road*, as part of the final phase of a three year programme sponsored by the Paul Hamlyn and the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundations. The CD was presented to the foundations, schools and storytellers involved. A number of collaborative events took place, ranging from a talk by Dr Erguner a Sufi scholar from Turkey as well as workshops promoting education at Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown's Festival of World Cultures. Five family days were held during the year to mark cultures reflected in the collection: the Chinese New Year, Easter Celebrations, Stories from the Silk Road Festival, Diwali, and Egyptian Stories. Ms Siung continued her training in Mandarin and promoted a Chinese language discussion group at the Library.

Ms Derval O'Carroll

Ms. Derval O'Carroll, Operations Manager, participated in the marketing group of the Council of National Cultural Institutions and successfully promoted the Library through advertising and public relations. Working closely with Coyne Communications, events at the Chester Beatty Library attracted regular, and at times exceptional, editorial coverage in national newspapers and on radio and television.

Her range of duties is extensive and she has worked intensively on the personnel issues involved in government pay awards. She has responsibility for all operations and her work has been key to the successful mounting of the exhibitions shown during the year. She represented the Library at the European Museum of the Year Awards in Athens in May. Her work continued to centre around marketing and promotion of the Library, day to day management, industrial relations and operational issues concerning exhibitions, maintenance, security, visitor services and personnel affairs and in events and retail matters. Ms O'Carroll attended the Irish Museums Association Conference in February and continued to liaise with the Heritage Council in the pilot Museums Accreditation Scheme - which culminated in the Library reaching full accreditation in March. In August, she attended a Media Skills course with Carr Communications and as part of the Library's commitment to the requirements of the Official Languages Act 2003, Ms O'Carroll attended a week long residential Irish language course in the Connemara Gaeltacht in September followed by a three day course in November. Also in November, she attended a seminar on 'Emergency Fire Evacuation for Persons with Special Needs'. Ms O'Carroll was re-elected Treasurer of the Irish Museums Association for a further year in October 2004. She also became a founding Director of the Irish Museums Association Ltd in 2004.

Ms. Jessica Baldwin

Ms Baldwin continued to work on the installation of exhibitions in the Temporary Gallery. She oversaw the de-installation and repacking of *Contemporary art from Korea* and was involved with the installation of *Blue, Persian Steel, and Pop-up-Politics*. She is preparing an exhibition on conservation entitled *Keeping the Books* which opens in February 2005.

Ms Baldwin worked with the curators on the loan of fifty-one items to external exhibitions. In all cases this involved writing detailed condition reports (including photographic documentation) treating items where appropriate and packing the items for transit; as well as acting as courier when necessary. In May, Ms Baldwin gave a talk to the Library volunteers on installing exhibitions. In August, Ms Baldwin attended a two-week *Master-class on Japanese Paper Conservation Techniques* held at Newcastle University, England.

The course was given by Kazunori Oryu, Oriental Paintings Conservator and Associate Professor, Kyoto University of Art. In November, Ms Baldwin gave a lecture entitled

'Writing condition reports for loans' at a workshop organised by ICHAWI on *Art Handling for Exhibitions and Loans* held at the Irish Museum of Modern Art. She also attended a four-day workshop on *The Conservation of Indian Miniature Paintings* held at The Victoria & Albert Museum.

Ms Baldwin was elected to the Board of Directors for the Institute for Conservation of Historic Art works in Ireland (ICHAWI) and is on the Institute's training sub-committee. She has continued her involvement with the Irish Professional Conservator's and Restorers' Association (IPCRA) as secretary and as co-editor of the Association's bi-annual journal.

Ms. Paula Shalloo

Ms Paula Shalloo, Development Manager, worked on a number of successful grant applications as outlined under Development above. Following a review of similar programmes worldwide, Ms Shalloo created a new Membership Programme for the Library and recruited a part-time Membership Co-ordinator to implement the programme. The new Membership scheme was launched in November 2004 and over 90 subscriptions had been received by the end of the year. As a special project, Ms Shalloo consolidated a number of existing databases into a centralised database of over 3,000 records to facilitate communications with the Library's constituents and automate administrative processes. She also developed written procedures for data management and provided training for other staff members. To strengthen links with the business community she organised a Business2Arts Members' Evening at the Library in February 2004. Ms Shalloo also liaised with Derval O'Carroll and Coyne Communications on public relations throughout the year.

VOLUNTEERS

The Volunteers continue to play a significant role within the Chester Beatty Library. Currently there are 40 Volunteers involved in practically all library activities from assisting Curators and the Conservation Manager to offering services to the general public including guided tours and participating in education projects. In 2004 the Volunteer tour guides gave 339 tours - an increase on of 37 on last year's total.

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

- Conservation and Preservation with Jessica Baldwin (Conservation Manager at the CBL)
- Persian Steel with Dr. Elaine Wright
- Book binding with Charles Horton
- Public speaking with Noel O'Beara of Toast Masters
- Evacuation procedure with Tony Hutchings (Head of Security at the CBL)
- Field Trips included: a visit to Farmleigh and a tour of the Botanic Gardens

Volunteers also attended the *Persian Metalwork Conference* (September) and the *Understanding Islam Conference*, (December).

In August the Volunteer Co-ordinator established an advisory committee consisting of 6 volunteers. The ideas and input of this committee will be important in shaping the programme to meet the needs of the library and the needs of the volunteers. Our hope is that the development of the volunteer programme will benefit directly from the experience of these committed volunteers.

Rhoda Judge continues the role of Volunteer Co-ordinator. Her duties range from liaising with the Curators and Education Officer, the devising of training programmes for the Volunteers as well as working on community projects with Education.

Ms Lisa Fitzsimons

During the course of the year, Ms Fitzsimons managed 35 daytime and 18 evening events. In addition to events management, she assisted Ms O'Carroll in marketing duties and also worked part-time in the gift and bookshop.

STAFF OF THE LIBRARY

Director: Michael Ryan, MA Ph.D. PRIA FSA

Curator, Western Collections: Charles Horton, MA, Dip. Archive Studies

Curator, East Asian Collections: (to May 04) Clare Pollard, MA, D. Phil

From mid September Dr Shane McCausland MA, PhD.

Curator, Islamic Collections: Elaine Wright, MA, M. Phil, D. Phil

Reference Librarian: Celine Ward, MA, MLIS

Education Officer: Jenny Siung, M.Litt, H.Dip Arts Administration, H.Dip Adult and Community Education

Operations Manager: Derval O'Carroll, MA

Technical Manager: Stephen Farrell, BA (Mod.)

Finance Manager: Vera Greif

Conservation Manager: Jessica Baldwin

Development Manager: Paula Shalloo

Personal Assistant to Director: June Lattimore

Senior Library Assistant: Olivia Lardner, BA, Dip.LIS

Administrative Assistant: Sinéad Ward, MA, H.Dip. Arts Administration,

Shop Manager Antonella Barbati

Membership Co-ordinator Janet Sheahan, H.Dip. Physio., Dip. Arts Administration

Events Co-ordinator (from June): Lisa Fitzsimons, MA

Volunteer Co-ordinator: Rhoda Judge

Curatorial Assistant: Ms Laura Muldowney, MA

SHOP ASSISTANTS:

Ms Naoise Soughley BA (Mod.)

Mr. John Synnott

Ms. Catherine Yvard

Attendants

Head Attendant: Anthony Hutchings

Senior Attendants: Albert Mason, Kevin Hackett

Attendants: James Curran, John Madden, Joseph Doyle, Val Kavanagh,

David Holmes-O'Byrne, Michael O'Neill, Tony Gallagher, Frank Hyland, Brendan Lynch

Consultants/Advisors

Yoshiko Ushioda

Exhibition Designers: Vermillion Design

Design of Promotional Literature: Vermillion Design and Geraldine Garland

Public Relations: Coyne Communications

Photography: Roy Hewson and Barry Mason

Conservation: Susan Corr, Cliodna Devitt, Niamh McGuinne, Mathew Hatton

Breakdown of volunteers by function:

Tour Guides	16
Visitor Services Representatives	13
Workshop Assistants	3
Development Assistants	1
Shop Assistants	2
Education Assistants	3
Conservation Assistant	1
Administrative Assistant	1
Total	40

Listed below are the names and positions held by the volunteers:

Tour Guides

Delphine Kelly

Marian Grimes

Margaret Sheehy

Dorothy Dennis

Cathriona Russell

Jack FitzGerald

Ciaran O'Leary

Orla Ryan

Janet Martin

Michael O'Connell

Mary Dowling

Susan Dillon

Aimee van Wylick

Heidi O'Rourke

Saskia Sievert

Stephanie Claudel

Workshop Assistants

Wioletta Swardz

Philippa Towers

Triona Langan

Visitor Service Representative

Kathleen Hickey

Maura Fennell

Margaret Brady

Mary Neville

Vera Murtagh

Millie Cullivan

Alan Marshall

Kurt Kullman

Tess Lee
Meiling Yu
Geraldine Cox
Mairin Cullen
Echo Huang

Development Assistants

Kathleen Farrington

Education Assistants

Niki Collier
Cathy Gerrard
Andrea Dodd

Shop Assistants

Aki Tsukioka
Rumiko Tsuji

Administrative Assistant

Ali Davey

Conservation Assistant

Colleen Prixley

APPENDIX 1

	Notes	2004 €	2003 €
Current assets			
Shop stocks		101,747	66,605
Debtors and prepayments		14,447	14,251
Investments	9	1,060,338	931,931
Bank balances and cash	9	404,304	264,656
		<u>1,580,836</u>	<u>1,277,443</u>
Current liabilities			
Creditors and accruals		<u>(91,039)</u>	<u>(98,782)</u>
Net current assets		1,489,797	1,178,661
Fixed assets			
	7	<u>114,721</u>	<u>135,285</u>
		<u>1,604,518</u>	<u>1,313,946</u>
Capital and reserves			
	8	493,180	351,015
Development fund			
	9	<u>1,111,338</u>	<u>962,931</u>
		<u>1,604,518</u>	<u>1,313,946</u>

Trustees

Dr TP Hardiman

Professor Roger Stalley

Director/Librarian

Dr Michael Ryan

APPENDIX 2

VISITOR SURVEY

This visitor survey was conducted in June and July 2004. Two hundred and seventy-seven surveys were completed, comprised of one hundred and fifty-nine females (57%) and one hundred and eighteen males (43%).

The largest age group represented was age 21-30 (71 / 25.5%), followed by age 51-60 (48 / 17%). The majority of respondents resided in Europe (67 / 24%), followed by North America (66 / 24%) and then the greater Dublin area (62 / 22%). Compared to the 2001 survey, these statistics have changed dramatically: in that year, 78% of visitors were from the Republic of Ireland. This year, only 29% of visitors were from the Dublin area and the Republic of Ireland combined.

The working status categories most strongly represented were those of “full-time employment” (117 / 42%) and “student” (70 / 25%).

Many respondents (216 / 78%) were first-time visitors to the Chester Beatty Library. This number has increased since the 2001 survey; in that year, only 76% were first-time visitors.

An incredible number of respondents (236 / 85%) indicated that they did not bring children to the Library with them. Of those that did (34 / 12.5%), the most mean age of visiting children was 13 years. There were useful suggestions from visitors about how to promote the Library to families with children and how to make the galleries more child-oriented.

Over half of the respondents (146 / 53%) spent 1-2 hours touring the galleries.

The visitors were asked about their familiarity with the Library, its galleries, the different cultures represented, and the public events programmes. When asked about their awareness of the galleries, 124 / 45% said they were aware that the Library housed galleries prior to visiting; 147 / 53% said they were not. Most visitors (197 / 71%) were familiar with different cultures prior to their visit; 43 / 16% were not. Only 77 / 28% of respondents were aware of the Library's public programmes; 199 / 71.8% were not.

The most common ways people heard about the Library were through word of mouth (93 / 34%) or in tourist guidebooks (76 / 27%).

When asked about other attractions they intended to visit in Dublin, the most popular answers were “Museums” (206 / 74%), “Art Galleries” (169 / 61%), and “Heritage Centres” (113 / 41%).

A very high percentage of visitors indicated that they were Very Satisfied (199 / 72%) or Satisfied (53 / 19%) with their overall experience in the Library (TOTAL: 252 / 91%). Most visitors found the staff to be 'Very Friendly' (195 / 70%) or 'Friendly' (57 / 21%) during their visit (TOTAL: 252 / 91%). Of the 141 visitors that commented on the Museum Shop, 129 / 91% were either 'Very Satisfied' or 'Satisfied'. Of the 120 visitors that commented on the Silk Road Café, 109 / 91% were either 'Very Satisfied' or 'Satisfied'.