



Renewing Guildhall Library

Newsletter No.2 March 2009

The work to expand storage facilities for the Printed Books Section has been completed and all the collections affected by this work are accessible once more. New rolling stacks have replaced a 35 year old shelving system and been extended into redundant workshop areas.

Visitors to the Library over the last 3 months will have observed crates of books in the Printed Books reading room. These were among more than 1,000 crates containing books displaced by the work. Our team of Services Assistants were responsible for packing, moving and then reshelving almost 60,000 volumes and we are very grateful for all their hard work. After reshelving existing collections we now have an additional 620 metres of shelf space.



New rolling stacks in the Printed Books storage area

The design of the new reading rooms has been finalised with the specialist design company Bisset Adams. We will now choose furniture and shelf styles and this will enable the production of computer generated views of the new Library interior. Once these are finalised we will put them on display.

The Prints and Maps Section will be moving permanently to London Metropolitan Archives at the end of April 2009 and in preparation some elements of their collections - such as the theatre bills and programmes, banquet menus and invitations, playing cards, Granger portraits and certain Ordnance Survey plans and county maps - have already moved. However a full enquiry service is being maintained as far as possible and all enquiries should continue to be directed to the Prints and Maps Section although prospective visitors are advised to check the availability of material before visiting the Library. Following the move to LMA access to the *Collage* database of over 30,000 images will continue to be available in Guildhall Library and a wide selection of facsimile maps will be made available.

The modernisation of the Manuscripts Section's reading room, the record office for the "square mile" of the City of London, is expected to start in May 2009 and last up to six months with improved facilities for readers including access to digitised family history sources. During the building work the Manuscripts reading room will be closed after the 17th April and access to its holdings will be offered at the reading rooms of London Metropolitan Archives, in Clerkenwell (40 Northampton Road, London EC1 OHB) from 20th April with material already on microfilm being made available at LMA. All other records will be produced at LMA but will need to be ordered 48 hours in advance as they will still be stored in the City. Guildhall Manuscripts staff will be on hand at Clerkenwell to give help and advice as usual during the closure. Readers intending to visit Guildhall Library during this period are encouraged to discuss their research plans at an early date.

This phase of the project will also see the extensive refurbishment and remodelling of the space vacated by the Prints and Maps Section in preparation for the move of the Printed Books Section from the ground floor of the Library to the first floor.

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Visit our Website at www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/guildhalllibrary

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