

**REPORT
OF THE
CENTRE FOR EMBLEM STUDIES
2010-11**



**Stirling
Maxwell Centre**
University
of Glasgow

2010-11 was a particularly successful year for the Centre: the high points were the Ninth International Emblem Conference, attended by approximately one hundred delegates from five continents, the highly successful Hunterian exhibition *Breaking the Renaissance Code*, and the formal launch of the Centre's newly expanded identity as the Stirling Maxwell Centre.

Finances

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

The Ninth International Emblem Conference: Glasgow 2011

The 2011 SES Conference took place in Glasgow from 27 June to 1 July, with the organisational team drawn from members of the Centre. We welcomed over one hundred participants, from five continents.

For many this event was a 'homecoming' echoing the founding conferences of 1987 and 1990, and as such allowed us to assess the evolution of emblem studies. This was reflected in the theme of the conference, 'Looking Back and Looking Forward'.

The conference excursion took in the painted ceiling of Pinkie House and Hamilton Finlay's Little Sparta.

Papers from the conference are planned for publication in future numbers of *Emblematica* and of Glasgow Emblem Studies.

The Society for Emblem Studies newsletter has referred to the conference's 'perfect atmosphere' and will give a full report in its Winter 2011 issue.

Breaking the Renaissance Code

In tandem with the conference, the Centre for Emblem Studies and the Hunterian Art Gallery (under the auspices of Peter Black) produced *Breaking the Renaissance Code: Emblems and Emblem Books*, which ran from June to October. As well as treasures from the Stirling Maxwell collection the exhibition included works by Dürer, Rembrandt, Hamilton Finlay and Picasso, as well as contemporary artists working in the field.

The exhibition proved popular in terms of visitor numbers, and was included in *The List's* 'Hit List' of top events, having received a four-star rating.

Society for Emblem Studies

The Centre continues to work closely with the Society for Emblem Studies, specifically, this year, with respect to the Ninth International Conference and *Breaking the Renaissance Code*. Plans are ongoing for high-level participation in the OpenEmblem project.

Glasgow Emblem Group

The Centre had papers from Pedro Leal (Glasgow, on hieroglyphs in England), Jean-Jacques Chardin (Strasbourg, on Peacham's Minerva *Britanna*), Michael Bath (Glasgow, on Four Seasons Tapestries) and Walter Melion (Emory, on Van Vee and Venus).

Glasgow Emblem Studies

Volume 14, *Transmigrations: Essays in Honour of Alison Adams and Stephen Rawles*, edited by Alison Saunders and Laurence Grove was presented at the Ninth International Emblem Conference.

Glasgow Emblem Studies continues to be produced in-house and distributed by Droz, although we are actively seeking an outside publisher. Alison Adams and Stephen Rawles have agreed to return to playing a prominent role in the editing of future volumes. Volume 15, edited by Simon McKeown, will be on Vaenius.

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. In 2011-12 the Centre will provide 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, Catriona MacLeod on women in bande dessinée (all PhDs); Harriet Kennedy on BD in Quebec, Candace Howie on depictions of Mary in books of hours and emblem books and Lise Tannahill on Bécassine (MPhils).

Fellowships

We have continued to welcome Jean-Jacques Chardin (Université de Strasbourg), working on Henry Peacham, as Stirling Maxwell fellow.

Sanja Cvetnic (University of Zagreb) and Tina Montone (University of Bologna) are in the process of arranging suitable dates in which to take up future scholarships. The diversity of these applicants pays tribute to the international esteem in which the Centre is held.

Thanks to the generosity of Walter Melion and Jean Michel Massing, the Society for Emblem Studies will offer two one-time fellowships of up to £500 for young scholars to use the Centre's resources in 2011-12.

Stirling Maxwell Centre

We were successful in our bid for new Centre status, with the result that the Stirling Maxwell Centre for the Study of Text/Image Cultures was launched by the Principal on 28 June. The Stirling Maxwell Centre (SMC) will continue the excellent work of the Centre for Emblem

Studies, whilst looking to expand its remit so as to emphasise text/image forms across the centuries.

The SMC's proposal, costings and five-year planning document are attached.

Future Plans

The SMC's future plans include:

- A publicity overhaul, included an updated website under the auspices of Pedro Leal
- continued participation in the OpenEmblem digitisation project
- a major funding bid for an associated area of our research, possibly *The New Renaissance: The Past as the Exotic of the Future*
- 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