

REPORT
OF THE
STIRLING MAXWELL CENTRE
FOR THE STUDY OF
TEXT/IMAGE CULTURES
2016-17



Stirling
Maxwell Centre
University
of Glasgow

This sixth year of the Centre's new incarnation, 2016-17, saw continued high-profile success and optimism for the future, as well as new directions. Items of specific note included:

- Once again an eclectic series of seminars with speakers from varied backgrounds, and subjects ranging from Swedish comics to *Las Meninas*.
- The *Comic Invention* and *Frank Quitely: The Art of Comics* exhibitions were resounding successes, drawing worldwide attention.
- Members of the Centre gave a number of invited lectures and keynotes (Kelvinhall, Bangor, Dijon, Amsterdam, Mexico City, Chicago, Los Angeles, San Diego, Manchester, Coventry, Edinburgh), and most notably at the Eleventh International Emblem Conference in Nancy.
- Completion to submission by 2 PhD PGRs.
- Continued development of the €30 000 Toulouse-based *Scientific and Visual Images in Early Modern Europe* Construction de l'Espace Européen grant, with a view to future Glasgow events and digitisation projects.
- Numerous publications, including a major monograph on Hieronymus Bosch and *Emblems in Colonial Ibero-America* (GES 18).
- Stirling Maxwell Fellows from Portugal, France, Spain and the Netherlands, attracting associated external funding and bearing witness to the Centre's established international reputation.
- Centre activities were featured in a number of increasingly high-profile appearances on national and international TV and radio, as well as in mainstream international press.

FINANCES AND ADMINISTRATION

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

We saw successful securing of external funding with respect to the exhibitions and conferences: Glasgow Life/Renfrewshire Council direct funding for IBDS conference hospitality events (valued c. £4000); external financing to enable key exhibition loans (e.g. for the Kunzle Collection of LA); EU funding from the *Scientific and Visual Images in Early Modern Europe* project for the SES conference (€440).

In 2017 the Centre came under the financial aegis of SMLC, working in cooperation with the Visual Studies cluster.

EVENTS:

Comic Invention and Frank Quitely: The Art of Comics

Following the success of the 2016 Hunterian *Comic Invention*, its 2017 follow-up version at Clydebank Museum and Art Gallery, and associated outreach events, embraced the specifics of Dunbartonshire culture. Visitor numbers of 9121 (an average of c. 140 a day) were exceptionally high, and public feedback suggest objectives were achieved and surpassed.

Kelvingrove's *Frank Quitely: The Art of Comics* drew initial inspiration from the 2016 Hunterian *Comic Invention*. Key messages revisited include the status of comic artwork within a museum context, the ubiquity of the culture of comics, and Scotland's leading role in the art form's development and success.

Total footfall was 51 613, with income of £250 377. The University's Facebook Live broadcast (5 June 2017) with Laurence Grove and Frank Quitely reached a worldwide audience of over 35 000 and was viewed over 6 500 times.

Reviews have been universally positive. In terms of visitor feedback, the following unsolicited email underlined the essence of the exhibitions' impact, and was particularly gratifying:

Since participating in the comic art competition [in association with the Clydebank *Comic Invention*] and visiting the Frank Quitely exhibition at Kelvingrove, the pupils in my class here in Kilpatrick School have (quite frankly) been inspired. As you know, Kilpatrick is a school for children and young people who all have a wide range of significant additional support needs and to watch their enthusiasm and see the work that they have produced as a result of these two events has been so exciting and inspirational. [...] The level of engagement has been incredible and some of the young people have been communicating and interacting with people in ways that I have never seen before. It has been wonderful to see. They have produced dozens of comic strips, designed their own superheroes and done all sorts of art work, both as individuals and as part of collaborative projects.

Elaine McIlree, Teacher, Kilpatrick School, Dalmuir (8 June 2017)

Forward-looking opportunities have arisen: work is ongoing on recreating the theme of *Comic Invention* in further displays, with interest from Eindhoven, Melbourne and Montreal, and it is hoped that *Comic Invention* will prove to be a catalyst for a future National Centre for Comics.

Eleventh International Emblem Conference: Nancy 2017

The Centre was well represented at this June conference that attracted c. 150 international delegates. Centre members were active on the organising committee (Michael Bath, Laurence Grove), and Alison Adams gave the opening keynote on 'Emblems and Europe'.

International Graphic Novel and Tenth International Bande Dessinée Society Conference: Dundee and Glasgow 2017

This major international conference took place in June, attracting c. 150 international delegates. The third day of the conference was spent at the *Comic Invention* and *Frank Quitely: The Invention of Comics* exhibitions.

Post-doctoral Seminar

Visiting post-doctoral students Filipa Araújo (Universidade de Coimbra), Rosa de Marco (Université de Bourgogne), Carme Lopez (Universidade de Santiago de Compostela) along with Marie Chaufour (Université de Dijon) spoke on their research in the SM collection. Discussion widened to cover the nature of post-doctoral work.

Exhibition at the Prado Museum (Madrid) and Book Launch

IN 2016 Hilary Macartney curated a major exhibition at the Prado Museum, Madrid, showcasing her research on the Talbotype prints of Spanish art used by Sir William Stirling Maxwell. We supported the project with a guest lecture, book launch and exhibition in Archives and Special Collections of the University of Glasgow Library. The project was a partnership with the National Library of Scotland, Archives and Special Collections and the Prado Museum.

Invited Lectures

Members of the Centre gave invited lectures and keynotes on text/image subjects at the University of Bangor, Université de Bourgogne (Dijon), Universiteit van Amsterdam, Universidad Iberomaricana (UIA), Mexico City, University of Chicago (IL), the Université de Lorraine, Nancy, the J. Paul Getty Centre in Los Angeles, the American Jewish Society conference in San Diego, the University of Warwick, the John Rylands Library in Manchester, and the University of Edinburgh.

ASTÉRIX AND THE CURRICULUM FOR EXCELLENCE

Since going live in April 2016, the Education Scotland *Astérix* project has seen ongoing development and usage throughout 2017, at one stage reaching third place in the number of hits for all subjects across the country. The resource is a key outreach element and features in the forthcoming REF case study.

SCIENTIFIC AND VISUAL IMAGES IN EARLY MODERN EUROPE

Glasgow is a key partner for the successful €30 000 Toulouse-based *Scientific and Visual Images in Early Modern Europe* Construction de l'Espace Européen grant.

EMBLEMATICA ONLINE II: NEH GRANT

Work continues on the *Emblematica Online II* project, in partnership with Utrecht University, the Getty Research Library and the University of Illinois, which in April 2013 was awarded \$280 000 from the NEH.

GLASGOW EMBLEM STUDIES AND ECA

- Volume 18, *Emblems in Colonial Ibero-America*, edited by Pedro Leal, was published. We also welcomed Pedro to a post of Lecturer in Portuguese.
- Two further volumes are in preparation: *Ephemeral Emblems on the European Stage* edited by Rosa de Marco and Sandra Paterson-Reid, has already received generous sponsorship. The volume on contemporary emblems, edited by Elizabeth Black, is awaiting funding.
- *European Comic Art*, co-edited from Glasgow, published issues 9.2 (on Comics and Fine Art) and 10.1 (on Comics and Adaptation).

FURTHER PUBLICATIONS

The following is no more than a selection of publications by members of the Centre:

- Grove, Laurence, Kirsty Hunter and Sha Nazir. *Frank Quitely: The Art of Comics* (Glasgow: BHP Comics, 2017).
- Grove Laurence and Michael Syrotinski, eds. *Bande Dessinée: Thinking Outside the Boxes*. Numbers 131 and 132 (2017) of *Yale French Studies* (Yale University Press).
- Grove, Laurence. "Ferdinand de Saussure's Unknown *Bandes Dessinées*." *Bande Dessinée: Thinking Outside the Boxes*, *Yale French Studies*. pp. 46-61.
- Grove, Laurence. "Emblems and Impact." Eds. Ingrid Hoepel and Simon McKeown. *Emblems and Impact*. pp. 1-23 (Newcastle: Cambridge Scholars, 2017).
- Grove, Laurence. "The Stirling Maxwell Collection at the University of Glasgow." Eds. Ingrid Hoepel and Simon McKeown. *Emblems and Impact*. pp. 79-85 (Newcastle: Cambridge Scholars, 2017).
- Grove, Laurence. "La Métafiction en bandes dessinées anciennes et (post)modernes." *Textimage* (2017) [online journal]: https://www.revue-textimage.com/conferencier/07_image_fabrique_texte/grovel.html
- Macartney, Hilary, and Matilla, José Manuel (eds.), *Copied by the Sun: Talbotype Illustrations to the Annals of the Artists of Spain by Sir William Stirling Maxwell: Studies and Catalogue Raisonné* (Madrid: Centro de Estudios Europa Hispánica: 2016) [Catalogue of an exhibition held at the Museo del Prado, Madrid, May 18-September 4, 2016; illustrations in Talbotype illustrations to the *Annals of the Artists of Spain* executed under the supervision of William Stirling by Nicolaas Henneman]
- Macartney, Hilary, and Matilla, José Manuel (eds.), *Talbotype Illustrations to the Annals of the Artists of Spain* (Madrid: Centro de Estudios Europa Hispánica, 2016) [Reprint of a supplementary volume of Talbotype photographic illustrations produced to accompany William Stirling (Maxwell)s *Annals of the Artists of Spain*, published in 1847].
- Mercer, Lucy and Laurence Grove. "Emblems and Antiquity: An Exploration of Speculative Emblematics." Ed. Christopher Schliephake. *Ecocriticism, Ecology, and the Cultures of Antiquity*. pp. 243-258. (Lanham MD: Lexington Books, 2017).
- Strickland, Debra Higgs. *The Epiphany of Hieronymus Bosch: Imagining Antichrist and Others from the Middle Ages to the Reformation* (Turnhout: Brepols / Harvey Miller, 2016).

STIRLING MAXWELL CENTRE SEMINAR SERIES

The Centre welcomed papers from Erin La Cour (Utrecht, on comics as minor literature), Hilary Macartney (Glasgow, on *Copied by the Sun*), Malcolm Jones (Sheffield, on *alba amicorum*), Simon Grennan (Chester / graphic novelist, on his *Dispossession* graphic novel), Rik Spanjers (Amsterdam, on *Maus*), Wendy Bird (independent scholar, on *Las Meninas*) and Robert Aman (Glasgow, on the *Johan Vilde* comics). Once again the expanded range of topics reflected the Centre's broader text/image remit.

STIRLING MAXWELL FELLOWSHIPS

We welcomed Filipa Araújo (Universidade de Coimbra, on Portuguese emblematics), Rosa de Marco (Université de Bourgogne, on Jesuit festivals), Carme Lopez (Universidade de Santiago de Compostela, on emblems in South-West Europe) and Rik Spanjers (Universiteit van Amsterdam, on *Maus*).

In all cases the applications generated funding from the scholar's home institution or national research bodies. The diversity of their topics and the international nature of their outlook is a particular mark of the Centre's success.

FRANK QUITELY

Laurence Grove sponsored Frank Quitely for the Honorary degree of Doctor of Letters, which was awarded on Commemoration Day, attracting considerable media attention

TEACHING AND RESEARCH STUDENTS

Members of the Centre have continued to provide an Honours Option, open to students in French and Comparative Literature, and text-image focused courses in History of Art, including the new Renaissance Art History MLitt. Future plans are in the offing for an MLitt on *Superhero Studies* in partnership with GSA.

We are pleased to congratulate Sarah Lightman and Zanne Demoney-Lyttle both of whom have submitted their doctoral thesis.

Further PGR students work in affiliated areas of text/image interaction:

- Sophie Conaghan-Sexon on queer approaches to medieval devotional texts and images (AHRC)
- Adam Flint on monstrosity in early modern wonder books (GU College Scholarship)
- Lauren Gatting (LKAS scholarship) on comics and cancer care
- Andrew Godfrey on comics and medicine (AHRC with Dundee)
- Lucia Jackson on female superheroes
- Guillaume Lecomte on adaptation and BD
- Johanna Pollick on medieval texts and images related to Christ's wounds (AHRC)
- Gareth Vile on comics and theatre theory (AHRC with Dundee)
- Nyla Ahmad is working for an MPhil on Islamic comics
- Chris Vezza is working for an MPhil on emblematic aspects of album covers.

IN THE MEDIA

The Stirling Maxwell Centre has been called upon fully by international media to comment on text/image matters, and *Frank Quitely: The Art of Comics* received coverage worldwide. A Kelvingrove live streaming attracted over 5000 views in two hours. STV's *The People's History Show* has had episodes on the *Glasgow Looking Glass* and on the cartoons of Archie Gilkison. Laurence Grove was also involved in the filming of *Les Mystères de Tintin* for TV5.

FUTURE PLANS

The SMC's future plans include:

- continued participation in the NEH-funded Emblematica Online II project
- continued teaching and supervision at undergraduate and postgraduate levels
- further visiting scholars
- updating of the Centre's website at <http://www.gla.ac.uk/schools/mlc/research/stirlingmaxwellcentre/>
- further volumes of Glasgow Emblem Studies and *European Comic Art*
- initial development towards an MLitt on *Superhero Studies* in partnership with GSA
- Building on the momentum of the *Comic Invention* exhibition and events, further progress towards the creation of a National Comics Academy
- Progress towards a royal entries digitisation project and associated funding
- Work on the *Unwrapping an Icon: Lady in a Fur Wrap and related portraits* project and associated funding