Book Collecting in Ireland and Britain, 1650-1850

Chester Beatty Library, Dublin: Friday 25 November 2016

This international event, organised by the Rare Books Group of Ireland in conjunction with the British Book History Research Network and the Edward Worth Library, Dublin, was opened by Dr Philip Cohen, President of the Library Association of Ireland.

Three sessions, chaired by Dr Marc Caball (University College Dublin), Dr Giles Mandelbrote (Librarian, Lambeth Palace Library) and Dr Elizabethanne Boran (Librarian, the Edward Worth Library, Dublin) respectively, focused on book collecting in Ireland, Scotland and England and included the following presentations:

1. Dr Bernadette Cunningham (Royal Irish Academy): ‘Readers or collectors? Manuscripts and books in the lives of Irish scholars in late seventeenth-century Connacht’.
2. Ms Barbara McCormack (Maynooth University): ‘The Otway-Maurice collection: Ecclesiastical collecting in late seventeenth to mid eighteenth-century Ireland.’
6. Dr Rebecca Bowd (Special Collections, Leeds University Library): ‘Lending Libraries in Georgian Leeds, 1768-1815.’

These sessions were followed by a keynote address by Professor Andrew Pettegree and Mr Arthur der Weduwen (University of St. Andrew’s): ‘The Library as a Weapon of State. The Fagel Collection in Dublin.’ The conference ended with the launch of Dr Karen Attar’s The Directory of Rare Book and Special Collections in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (London: Facet, 2016).

The author of this report is currently preparing these presentations, along with other commissioned pieces, for publication.

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