

Lectures Proposed by the Library Syndicate

MICHAELMAS 2006

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The University Library offers a user education programme open to all its readers. This includes sessions on the basic use of the Library and on its online catalogue Newton, as well as talks on subject specific resources, electronic resources and demonstrations of datasets.

Full details are available on the Library's website at <http://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/Courses/> and on posters in the Library and distributed throughout the University.

Enquiries about the programme may be addressed to the Reference Department of the University Library (tel. 01223 333016/333066, e-mail user-education@lib.cam.ac.uk).

SANDARS LECTURES 2007

SARAH TYACKE, CB

*Leverhulme Emeritus Fellow, Royal Holloway**Distinguished Senior Research Fellow at the School of Advanced Study, University of London*

Conversations with maps: world views in early modern Europe

The three lectures will be given Monday 5 March, Tuesday 6 March and Thursday 8 March, 2007 at 5pm in Cambridge University Library.

Lecture 1: Monday 5 March

Will be about the history of cartography in the 20th century as it applies to the early modern European expansion or cultural encounter with other places and people in the world, reflecting upon contemporaries' use of maps and charts and our subsequent historical constructions borne of national and other pre-conceptions and theories. There are other such artefactual or cultural histories like the history of the book which exhibit similar and different pre-occupations.

This is the essential 'conversation' between the past and the present and colours the other two lectures.

Lecture 2: Tuesday 6 March

Will address what the 'practitioners' in E.G.R. Taylor's phrase thought they were doing in making maps and charts of the world. Were they just getting from A to B? How they actually did it showing particular examples. What were the connections between the travel and exploratory and promotional literature of the time and the graphic material which survives? What is lost and does it matter? Were there distinctive 'schools' of manuscript cartography and how did the transmission of information take place? *This is the second conversation and reflects on of the 'conversations' and practices of varying sorts amongst contemporary (and sometimes later) professionals themselves and what we can actually know about these.*

Lecture 3: Thursday 8 March

Will deal with the 'causes' of cartographic activity and progression or lack of it. Was it linear, self-reflective, speculative, or rather dependent upon other factors like war, trade and religious, territorial and political competition or fashion and public interest for its rates of activity, and visual and technical characteristics? Was what was known, for example, lost and then re-discovered later on? Again what was the relationship of the manuscript chart and map to the printed and published in the early modern period?

This is the third conversation and relates to the changing picture of the world over time from the perspectives of the early modern European protagonists and what if any relationship it had to the places and people they met and to their changing audiences: a never ending conversation!

All the primary cartographical evidence that will be cited will be from the period 1480-1750 approx.

About the Lecturer:

Sarah Tyacke, CB, FSA, FRHistS, Hon D Phil, is the former Chief Executive of the National Archives and was previously Director of Special Collections at the British Library, and long-time Assistant Keeper in the Map Library there. She is now a Leverhulme Emeritus Fellow researching in the History of Cartography based at Royal Holloway, and a Distinguished Senior Research Fellow at the School of Advanced Study, University of London. See also www.sarahtyacke.com for further information on her career and present work in archives as well as cartography.

Venue:

Morison Room, Cambridge University Library, West Road, Cambridge CB1 7XE