

CAN YOU HELP?

Many interesting queries from visitors and researchers find their way to the library, usually by email or over the phone. Occasionally we still receive letters through the post (remember those?!). Last month one such item arrived simply addressed to the Library with no covering explanatory letter and no indication as to who or where it came from. The picture on the left is a scan of part of the document. This is where you come in. We have no idea what this is. Can anyone identify the text for us? All answers on a postcard....seriously, if anyone can give us any information on this please email library@lincolncathedral.com

OLD FAVOURITES

The current display of books on the theme of music will soon be coming to an end. During August and September the books and manuscripts on display in the Wren and Medieval libraries will simply be a selection of some of our "old favourites". With so many at our disposal, the choice can be difficult but it will include the 10th century copy of Bede's Homilies, our oldest manuscript, brought to Lincoln by Remigius, the first Norman bishop; our earliest printed

book, The Epistles of St Jerome, printed in Rome in 1468 and Conrad Gesner's Historiae Animalium, one of the earliest zoological books ever printed and full of the most beautiful hand coloured images of birds and mammals. Also on display will be Habitus Praecipuorum Popularum, a fully illustrated 17th century book on world fashion and L'Art de bien vivre which contains the most intricate woodcut images demonstrating how

sophisticated printing had become in less than 50 years since its invention in 1455. An example can be seen on page two of this newsletter. The 11th century Lincoln Chapter Bible will also be making its annual appearance and whatever the theme of the display, there is always an early atlas for visitors to see.

A PLACE TO...

DISCOVER

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LINCOLN CATHEDRAL

LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2019



RESTORATION UPDATE

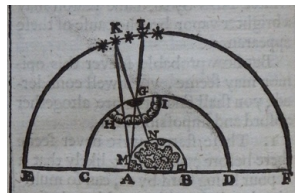
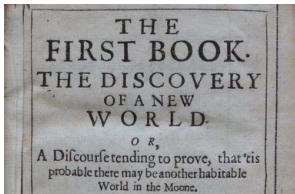
It is impossible not to have noticed the building work that has been going on around the Cathedral over the past few months. Most of this is part of the Lottery funded project which will eventually result in a new interpretation centre, education suite, café, shop and community spaces in the area behind the north wall of the cloister. The surrounding grounds will be landscaped and from next year visitors will be able to see the Wren Library, not only from the cloister, but also from the new

garden area. While these spaces will all be new, there is much conservation work being carried out on the existing buildings. Exchequergate Arch, which houses many library rooms, has been shrouded in scaffolding for several months while essential cleaning and restoration work is undertaken; badly fitting windows are being restored and replaced; the stonework is being cleaned and repaired, both to improve the look of the building as you approach the Cathedral, but also to

improve the conditions within the building in which the books and manuscripts are stored; vital structural repairs are also being undertaken. In the cloister, the supporting wall for the Wren Library is being repaired; many stones will be replaced and existing ones are currently being laser cleaned. The whole project should be completed by Spring next year.

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INSPIRING PEOPLE IN DIFFERENT WAYS



JOURNEY TO THE MOON

July 20th 2019 marks the 50th anniversary of the first moon landing by Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin. They were members of the Apollo 11 mission and were the first men to set foot on the moon's surface. Centuries before, people could only dream of such achievements. One such man was John Wilkins, one time Bishop of Chester, who's book *The Discovery of a New World*, printed in 1640 sits on the shelves in the Wren Library. It is one of the library's many

science books and it belonged to Dean Michael Honeywood. It is Wilkin's attempt to describe the moon: its physical appearance, whether there might be life there and whether, in the future, Man might be able to travel there. Wilkins stresses that the ideas that he puts forward are merely his opinions, and he is hopeful that future generations, with their greater skill and knowledge, will build on the knowledge of his time, in order to explore the moon further. "Time will come when

the endeavors of after ages, shall bring such things to light as now lie hid in obscuritie". What makes this book so much fun, are not just the ideas that Wilkins puts forward, but his turn of phrase and the way in which he expresses his opinions. He believes that Man may eventually be able to travel to the moon and that he will need a chariot of some kind in which to keep his suitcases and a supply of food as "hee shall scarce find any lodgings by the way"



THE JOURNEY CONTINUES

He concludes that in order to convey the chariot to the moon, Man could harness the power of wild swans from the East Indies which he believes were migrating to the moon. "so that notwithstanding all these seeming impossibilities, tis likely enough that there may be a meanes invented of journeying to the Moone; And how happy shall they be, that are first successful in this attempt". Wouldn't he have been amazed to see the advances that have been made in space travel and exploration since the 17th century! This book will be on display in the library during August and September.



KEEP CALM AND CARRY ON CATALOGUING

The library's online catalogue has been unavailable to the public since the end of March. This is because we are in the process of transferring to a new system called Calm. From past experience, transferring from one system to another tends not to be straight forward and records can become corrupted. Library staff and Reading Room volunteers will be busy for quite some time sorting out and amending the existing

records once the new system is up and running. The aim is to eventually have a catalogue that is much more informative and will include amongst other things extra descriptive details about marginalia, language and ownership of the books. There will also be the facility to add images of the individual books. The editing of the existing data and the addition of extra data will be an ongoing job. As well as including all the modern

reference books and pamphlets and the collection of rare early printed books (approximately 10,000 of the latter) the catalogue will eventually include, for the first time, detailed descriptions of the manuscript collection. This will all help to make the library's collections much more accessible to researchers from around the world. The catalogue will be available via the Cathedral website.

