



Society for the Preservation of Rare Books

C/O Bodleian Library, Clarendon Reception, Broad Street, Oxford OX1 3BG, UK

Oxford, 01/09/2017

Dear Friend,

We are writing to invite you to become a member of the newly founded **Society for the Preservation of Rare Books**. The first and foremost objective of the SPRB is to help small libraries and institutions with emergency funding for conservation and targeted digitisation projects.

Recent events have shown how easily our cultural heritage can be lost forever. But as many books are lost to conflicts and natural disasters, an equal number is lost to neglect: this is where the SPRB can make a difference.

The SPRB will reach those libraries and institutions that usually fall out of the scope of large grants, and invest 50-60% of its budget sharing it between emergency conservation and digitisation projects targeting relevant texts and editions at risk of being lost forever. For instance, by supporting the conservation of the few manuscripts and rare books in the National Library of Corfu, where the entire library is being devoured by silverfish, or the digitisation of the only incunable ever printed in the Sardinian language, which survives in only two copies in the world.

Beyond this primary concern, the SPRB also aims at:

- i) providing partial funding towards the inclusion of small libraries (public and private) in international cataloguing projects: the more we know about small collections, the better we can protect them. It is always worth remembering that, if a book is not catalogued, *it does not exist* (30-40% of budget);
- ii) fostering a new generation of book collectors. Bibliophilia is not declining, but young collectors and book-lovers are increasingly scattered and isolated: the SPRB will encourage the formation and support the activities of student bibliophile associations (10% of budget);
- iii) raising funds to provide an endowment, whose revenue will enable the SPRB to provide immediate financial support when needed in an emergency.

Advisory Committee

The SPRB will select projects with the aid of an advisory committee of specialists, and, on an annual basis, it will report to its members, updating them on all the current projects and on all completed activities.

Current members include Nicolas Barker (London), Scott Clemons (Grolier), Andrea De Pasquale (Roma), Cristina Dondi (Oxford), Clare Hills-Nova (Oxford), Leonora Navari (Athens), Paul Needham (Princeton), Adalbert Roth (Vatican), Edwin Schroeder (Yale), William Stoneman (Harvard), Agamemnon Tselikas (Athens) and Henry Woudhuysen (Oxford).

Benefits

As a member of the SPRB, you will join a lively and energetic network of benefactors of the written cultural heritage. Among other benefits, the SPRB will provide, free on request, the following services:

- i) should you require an expert to consult on your private collection, the SPRB can connect you to the top scholars in the field;
- ii) the SPRB can act as a filter for anyone, scholar or otherwise, wishing to access a private collection, such as your own, vetting the applicants, advising on applications for access and enabling secure arrangements for it;
- iii) connection between members visiting other cities and countries. The SPRB will endeavour to encourage contact and communication between its members, towards a larger and more integrated community of book-lovers and library supporters.

We very much hope you will accept our invitation and join the Society for the Preservation of Rare Books.

Best wishes,

Gerì Della Rocca de Candal, President

Sofía Crespí de Valldaura, Secretary

Paul Ostwald, Treasurer

SPRB Annual Membership

Ordinary Membership: £150
Supporting Membership: £300
Patron Membership: £450

Under-30 Membership: £40
Under-35 Membership: £100
Academic Membership: £100

To minimise administrative costs, the SPRB encourages members to set up a standing order, payable on 1 January.

Account Name: **Society for the Preservation of Rare Books**
Bank: **HSBC BANK PLC - Oxford, Cornmarket Street**

UK payments:
Sort code: 40-35-34, **Account number:** 44075498

International payments:
IBAN: GB22 HBUK 4035 3444 0754 98
SWIFT/BIC: HBUKGB4B

Seed capital and foundation contributions

The SPRB would be most grateful if members were to consider providing extra help by means of foundation contributions, of any amount: this would be instrumental in i) creating pump-priming funds, and ii) allowing the Society to start operations as soon as possible.

Gifts and bequests

Gifts and bequests are always welcome, and the SPRB encourages members to look into supporting specific projects, particularly if they feel close to a specific collection the SPRB intends to support.

Targeted donations

The SPRB endorses donations towards specific digitisation/conservation projects sponsored by member offering a targeted donation.



Application Form

Title or Institution:	
Name:	
Surname:	
Address:	
Town or City:	
Postcode:	
Country:	
Telephone:	
Email:	

Membership

- Ordinary Membership: £150
- Supporting Membership: £300
- Patron Membership: £450

- Under-30 Membership: £40
- Under-35 Membership: £100
- Academic Membership: £100

Payment

- I will make annual payments by banker's order (please complete the form below)
- I will make annual payment by cheque or electronic transfer

Signature:

Date:

Completed forms should be mailed to SPRB, C/O Bodleian Library, Clarendon Reception, Broad Street, Oxford OX1 3BG, UK, or e-mailed to sprb.org.uk@gmail.com.



Banker's Order

To the manager (full name and address of member's bank)

Sort Code:
Account Number:

Please pay to the account of the
SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF RARE BOOKS
(account no. 44075498) at HSBC Bank plc, Oxford City Office,
65 Cornmarket Street, Oxford, OX1 3HY, UK (bank sort code 40-35-34),
the sum of:

£
Amount in words:

Now and on the 1st day of January, annually, and until further notice. This replaces any existing order in favour of the Society for the Preservation of Rare Books.

Signature:

Date:
