

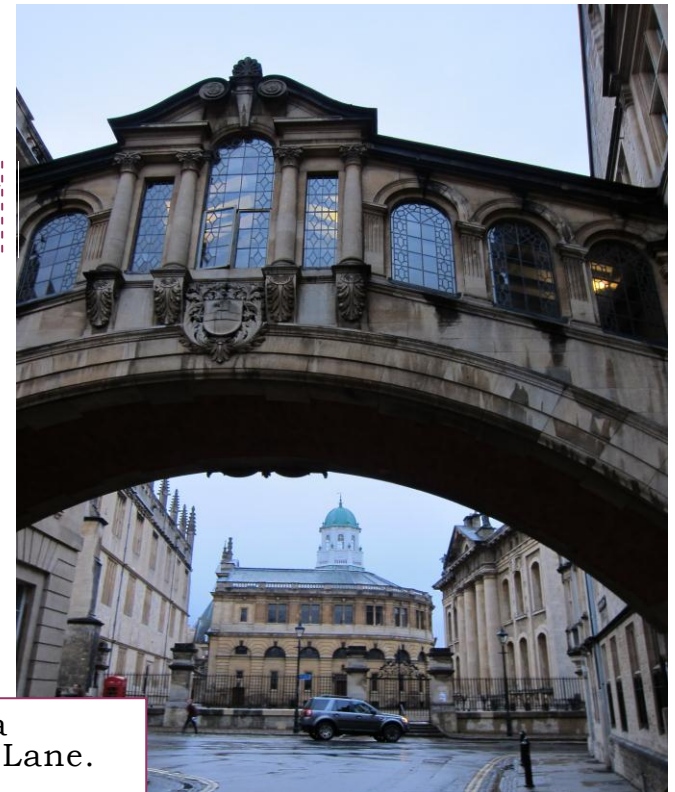
Tuesday, 22. February 2011

Tour of the City of Oxford & College Tour; Brasenose College

On the day of our arrival we met tour guide Anetta Harvie who gave us a tour of the city of Oxford. The historic centre consists mainly of magnificent buildings belonging to the world-famous Oxford University.

She highlighted the difference between the university itself and the individual colleges: The university consists of 38 colleges, the oldest being University College, established in 1249. Each college has its own dining hall, sports team and even its own chapel.

Although the students attend small tutoring groups at their individual colleges for most of their studies, they all sit central examinations given by the University of Oxford.



Oxford: Bridge of Sighs, a skyway over New College Lane.



The Bodleian Library, Oxford
(www.franceskayphoto.co.uk)

The academic year consists of trimesters of around 10 weeks, instead of the more common division into semesters.

During this time the students live in their individual colleges. This gives them the opportunity to gain the unique "Oxford experience".

Ending our tour in front of the Bodleian Library, our guide informed us about the government's plans to cut the university's funding. Therefore English universities are forced to raise their tuition fees to up to £9000 per year.

This means that the majority of students will be forced to take out huge loans before even beginning a career.

The grave consequences for young people in the UK choosing their path in further education definitely gave us a lot to think about, and will provide material for many discussions about the future of academic education in Europe.

Text: Julia Reich & Laura McAleese
& Christian Bruckner



Our group in Divinity School, one of the first major university buildings in Oxford, attached to the Bodleian Library.

Wednesday, 23. February 2011 British Museum, London



“... For the rain it raineth every day”
(William Shakespeare)



We spent the second day of our journey in London, where we visited the British Museum. In room no. 41, there was a special exhibition on the findings near Woodbridge, Suffolk, dubbed the “Sutton Hoo Ship Burial”. We could see the military helmet found there, as well as other reconstructed findings, for example ancient bowls.



The entrance hall to the
British Museum



The
Sutton
Hoo
Helmet

Most interesting about this exhibition is the enormous work that the archaeologists achieved putting together all the little pieces and sherds they found.

Furthermore, the Sutton Hoo Ship Burial is a very important finding since it helps drawing a vivid picture of early English society.

Text: Vanessa Braunmiller & Michaela Frey
& Anna Müller

Wednesday, 23. February 2011 British Museum, London



The King's Library
(Library of King George III)

After the British Museum we went to the British Library, where we attended the "Treasure Tour" and looked at the exhibition "Evolving English".

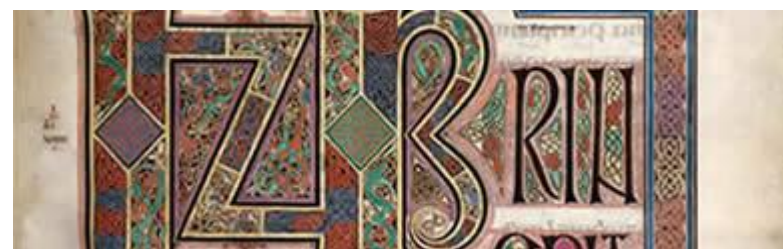


Tour guide: Aviva Dautch

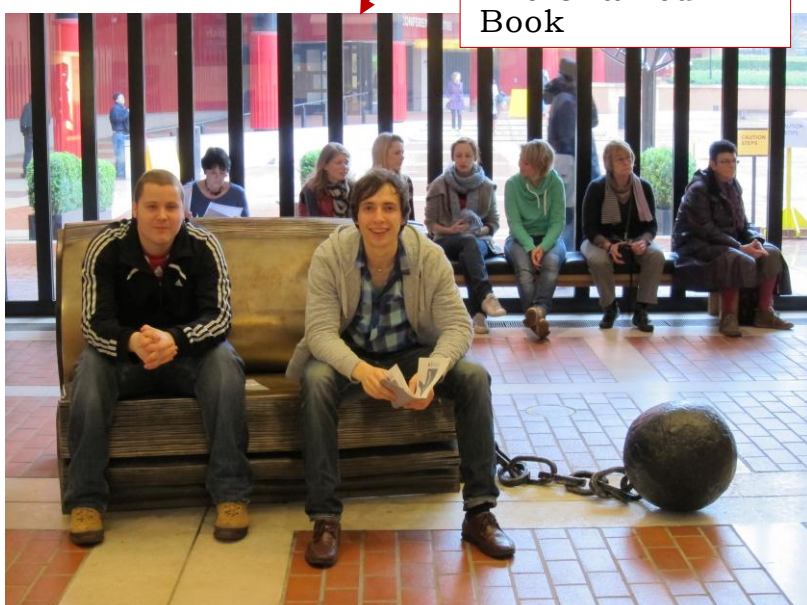
The tour was a special guided tour for Old and Middle English. First we learned about the history of the British Library, but also on the architecture of the building.

Then we were able to see the treasures of the library - some early manuscripts and prints such as the *Lindisfarne Gospels*, Shakespeare's First Folio, but also modern manuscripts as for example manuscripts from The Beatles. And they also exhibit the *Magna Carta* there. After this we did some games on the Old English vocabulary and on the development of today's English. The tour was very interesting and we learned a lot about the language of the Anglo - Saxons, but also about the library and literature itself.

Books are the medium to provide your passion, express your opinion and thoughts - in short: yourself. Books also help us to think beyond borders. Even in times when books were censored, people found a way to preserve the human right 'freedom of mind', even if it was just through a song or a riddle. Every written piece is therefore precious and could once become a connection between centuries and help us to understand historical and political issues. They preserve the knowledge of the human kind and save our culture, habits and social interaction.



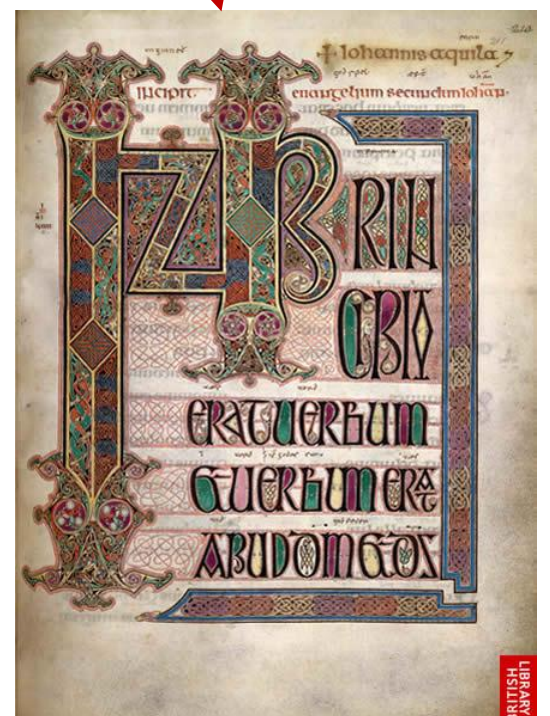
The Lindisfarne Gospels
(www.bl.uk/onlinegallery/hightours/lindgo sp/large17328.html)



The Chained Book

In the end we were able to watch the exhibition "Evolving English", where the development of the English language is presented on the basis of medieval manuscripts, slang dictionaries, advertisements and newspapers from all around the world - alongside everyday texts and dialect sound recordings. The exhibition was well-arranged and there was a lot to explore.

Text: Vanessa Braunmiller & Michaela Frey & Anna Müller



Thursday, 24. February 2011 Oxford University Press, Oxford



On Thursday, former LMU student Inge Milfull, invited us to the Oxford University Press (OUP). She is working as an etymologist on the third edition of the *Oxford English Dictionary* (OED) and explained to us how this complex project is organised.



James Murray in his scriptorium
(www.de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oxford_English_Dictionary)



James Murray's filing system: Pigeon holes filled with definitions and examples of use for different words submitted to James Murray when he was compiling the OED first edition (from 1876).
(www.cems.ox.ac.uk)

In a film we were shown what the daily work of the linguists in the different departments of the OED is like today. But we also learned a lot about the emergence and the history of the dictionary in the OUP museum. We were even allowed to touch and read some of the famous 'slips' of paper with the help of which the 'father' of the OED, James Murray, compiled the first edition of the dictionary. Some of them were sent in by famous people like J.R.R. Tolkien.



Dr William Chester Minor, an American surgeon convicted of murder, lived in Broadmoor Criminal Lunatic Asylum and was for around 20 years one of the major contributors to the OED; he and Murray became friends although they did not meet for many years.

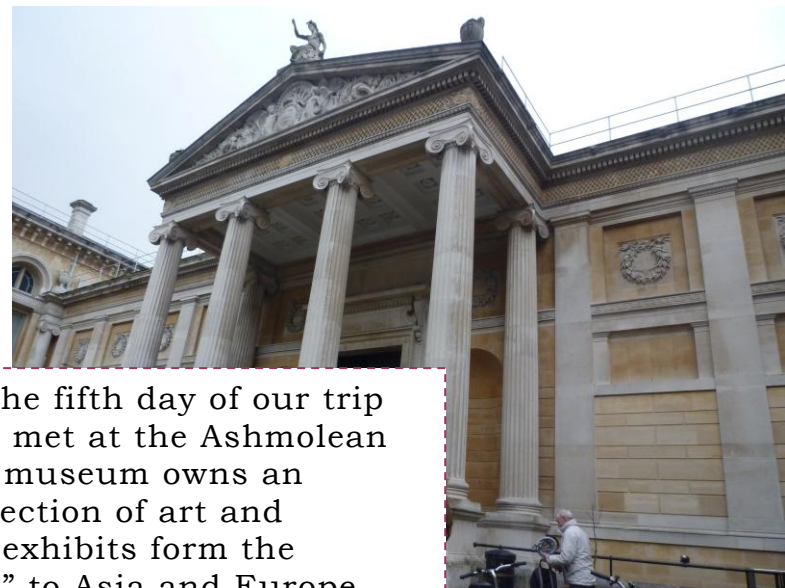
(www.bbc.co.uk/legacies/myths_legends/england/berkshire/article_4.shtml)

But even more interesting was a letter by J.K. Rowling, which was a request concerning the existence and meaning of the word "muggle". It was quite funny to see from the OED's response, that it originally had something to do with drugs...

Text: Johannes Balletshofer & Lina Rohde & Alexandra Johnne

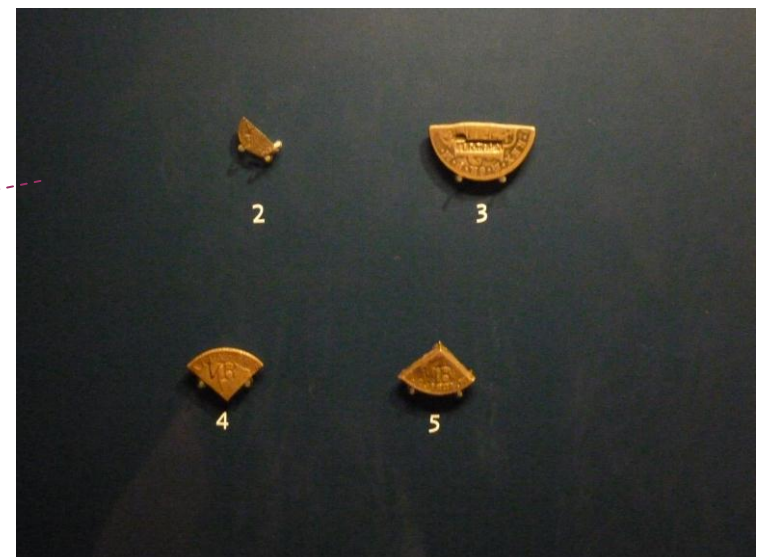


Saturday, 26. February 2011 Ashmolean Museum, Oxford



On Saturday, the fifth day of our trip to England, we met at the Ashmolean in Oxford. The museum owns an impressive collection of art and archaeological exhibits from the "Ancient World" to Asia and Europe. For us the most exciting exhibitions were the collection of various types of coins and of course, "England 400 – 1600" with King Alfred's famous "Jewel".

We started with exploring the development of money and coinage not only in Britain but in whole Europe and discovered that England was not among the first to have their own coins; this corresponds with our knowledge about the coins found at Sutton Hoo which were coined around 625 and thus, cannot be of English origin.



The highlight was the "Alfred Jewel". We left with the impression that the museum favoured the theory of the jewel being the end of a reading stick rather than pure jewellery. It seems possible but still, this is not a definite fact and can be interpreted differently - as some of us prefer to.



"AELFRED MEC HEHT GEWYRCAN"
Inscription on the Alfred Jewel
(www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alfred_Jewel)



The Ashmolean was a very interesting experience showing us a vivid exhibition of the world's past.

Text: Franziska Stadler & Annika
Neujahr & Alina Huber

Sunday, 27. February 2011 The Bodleian Library, Oxford

We visited the Bodleian Library with our Old English class on February 27th. The library, all around Oxford also known as "the Bod", is named after Thomas Bodley, who revived the library in 1602 by donating money, adding his collection of books and hiring librarians. It originates from the "School of Divinity", a medieval seminary, and the Duke Humfrey library, a private collection of ancient works, which got scattered all over the country. Since then the library has expanded continuously and is today Britain's second biggest. It is one of the five libraries in Britain, which acquires new published books by legal deposit - similar to the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek.



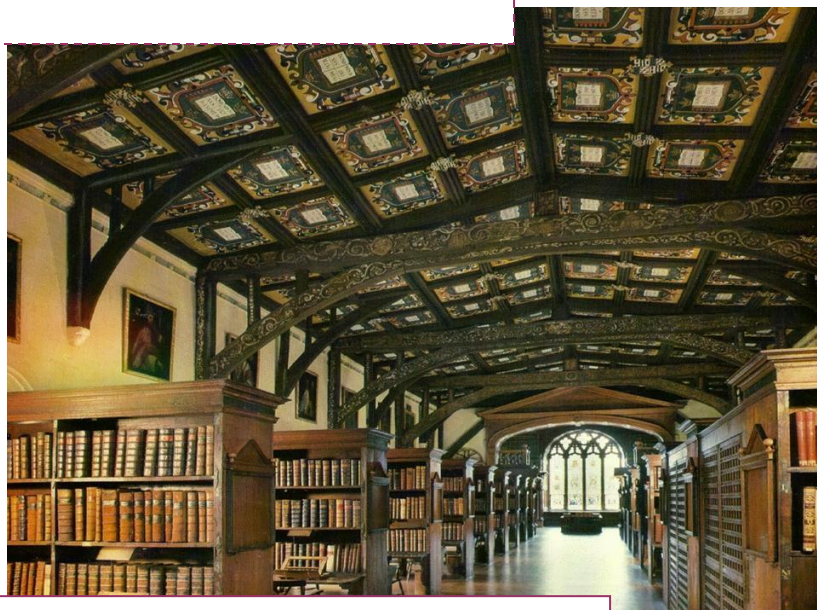
Divinity School, Oxford.



Apart from the library's history, a commonly shared fact by tour guides is that the Bodleian served as a setting for two of the "Harry Potter"-films: the Divinity School as the hospital wing and the Duke Humfrey's Library as Hogwarts' library.

Text: Simone Hasselmann & Andrea Heigl & Henrike Bäuerlein

With its nine million objects "the Bod" is the main research library of the University of Oxford and as it is a reference library, books may not be taken from the reading rooms. Before being granted access, new students have to swear the famous oath not to remove documents from the library or damage them in any way and therefore not to bring any kind of fire into the room. This declaration dates back to the early days of the Bodleian Library and is still a tradition today.



Duke Humfrey's Library (<www.westga.edu>)

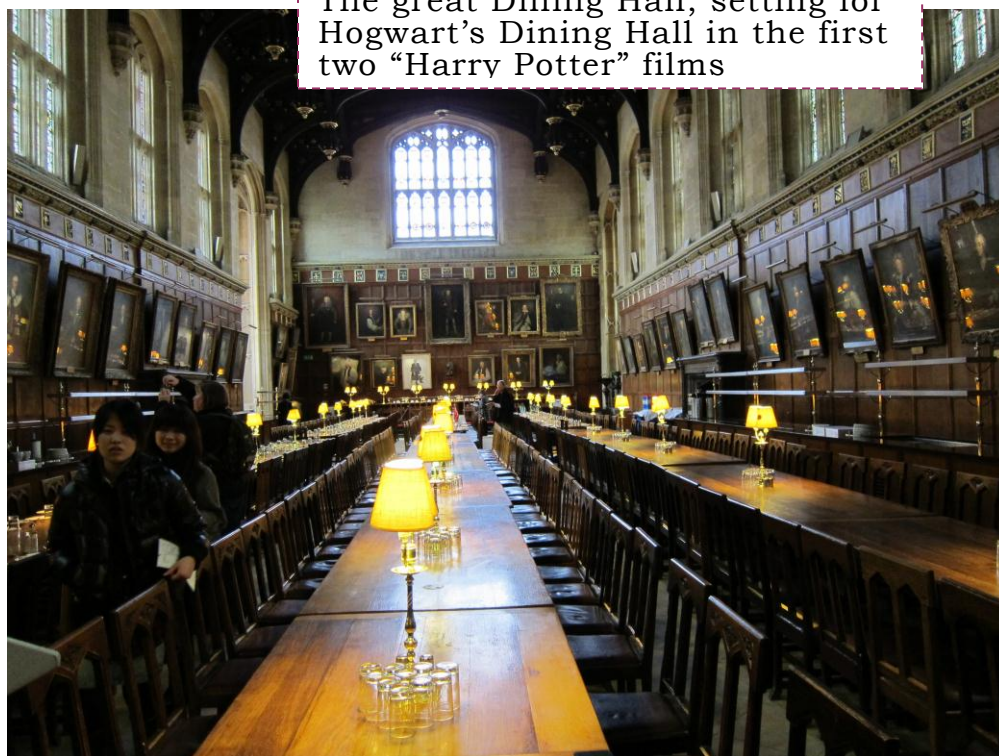


Monday, 28. February 2011

Christ Church, College and Cathedral



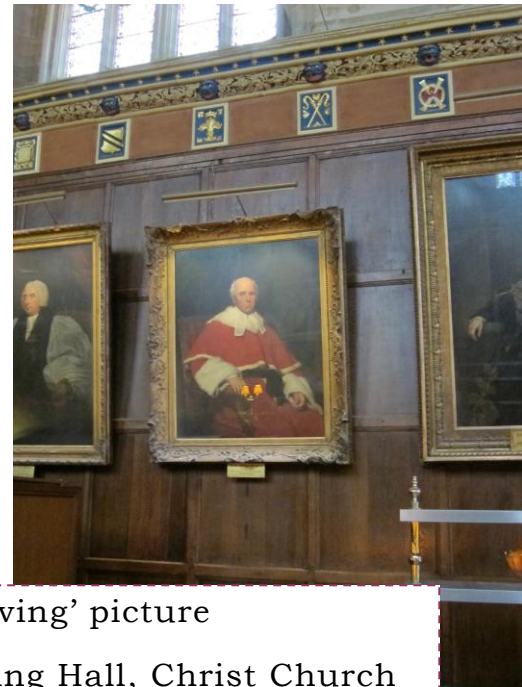
Christ Church Cathedral



The great Dining Hall, setting for
Hogwart's Dining Hall in the first
two "Harry Potter" films



Charles Dodgson, alias Lewis Carroll,
a mathematics tutor at Christ Church
and author of *Alice's Adventures in
Wonderland*. Many of the characters
in the book were inspired by Christ
Church people and objects: e.g. Alice
was the daughter of the dean, Henry
Lidell; the White Rabbit was based on
her father, the Dean.



A 'living' picture

Dining Hall, Christ Church



On the stairs leading to
the Dining Hall

Christ Church Meadows

