

Digital Preservation at Oxford and Cambridge

A collaborative research project to evaluate and provide sustainable recommendations for our digital preservation programmes

The things we find...

Posted on **13 February, 2017** by **Sarah**

Sarah shares some finds from Edith's Digitized image survey of the Bodleian Libraries' many digitization projects and initiatives over the years.

We've been digitizing our collections for a long time. And that means we have a lot of things, in a lot of places. Part of the Policy & Planning Fellow's task is to find them, count them, and make sure we're looking after them. That includes making decisions to combat the obsolescence of the hardware they are stored on, the software they rely on (this includes the website that has been designed to display them), and the files themselves so they do not become victim to bit rot.

At Oxford, Edith has been hard at work searching, counting, emailing, navigating countless servers and tape managers, and writing up the image survey report. But while she has been hard at work, she has been sharing some of her best finds with the team and I thought it was time we share them with you.

Below are some interesting finds from Edith's image survey work. Some of them a real gems:

What? a large and apparently hungry dragon from Oracula, folio 021v (Shelfmark: Barocci 170) *Found?* On the ODL (Oxford Digital Library) site [here](#).



What? Toby the Sapient Pig. *Found?* On the Bodleian Treasures [website](#). Currently on display in the Treasures gallery at the Weston library and open to the public. The digital version is available 24/7.

TOB Y



THE

SAPIENT PIG,

THE

Greatest Curiosity of the present Day.

THIS MOST EXTRAORDINARY CREATURE

Will Spell and Read, Cast Accounts,

PLAY AT CARDS;

Tell any Person what o'Clock it is to a Minute

BY THEIR OWN WATCH:

ALSO

TELL THE AGE OF ANY ONE IN COMPANY;

And what is more Astonishing he will

Discover a Person's Thoughts,

A Thing never heard of before

To be exhibited by an Animal of the SWINE RACE.

**The Performances of this truly SURPRISING CREATURE
must be seen to be believed.**

He is now Exhibiting EVERY DAY, at the

Royal Promenade Rooms, Spring Gardens,

Where he may be seen precisely at the Hours of 1, 2, 3, & 4.

ADMITTANCE ONE SHILLING.

Lyon, Printer,

John Street, Edgeware-road.

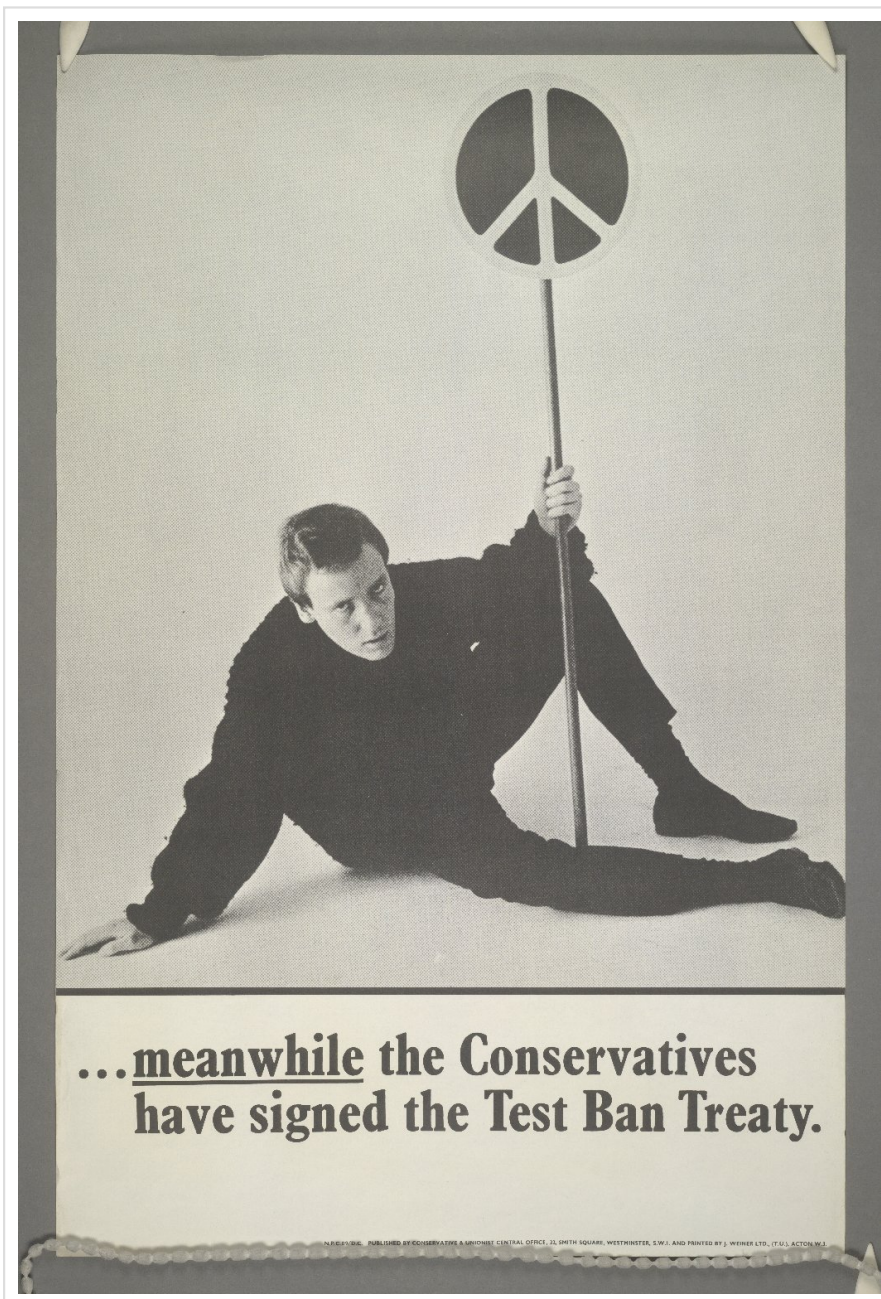
What? A very popular and beautiful early manuscript: an illustrated guide to Oxford University and its colleges, prepared for Queen Elizabeth I in 1566. This page is of the Bodleian Libraries' Divinity School. *Found?* On the ODL (Oxford Digital Library) site [here](#).



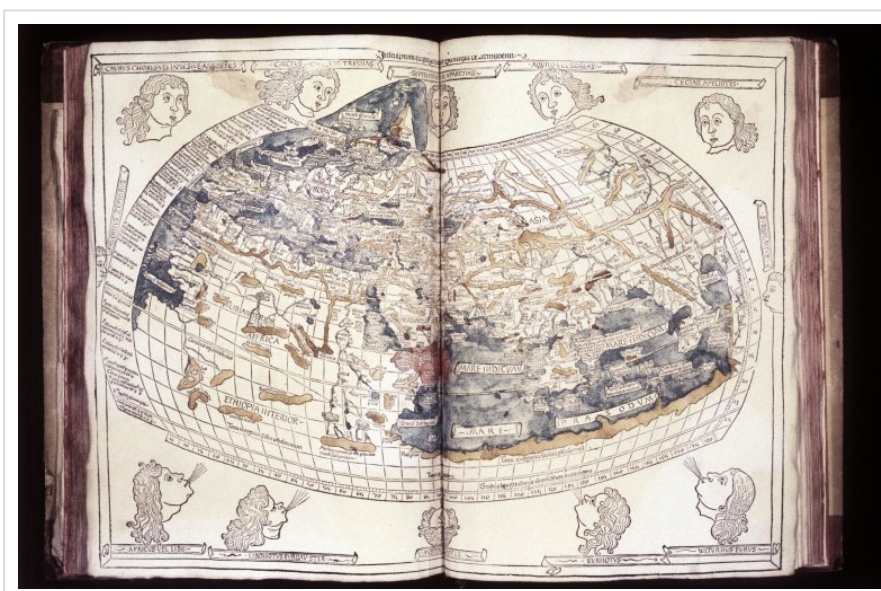
What? Corbyn in the early years (POSTER 1987-23). Found? Part of the CPA Poster Collection [here](#).



What? And this brilliant general election poster (POSTER 1963-04). Found? Part of the CPA Poster Collection [here](#).



What? *Cosmographia*, 1482, a map of the known World (Auct. P 1.4). Found? In Medieval and Renaissance Manuscripts [here](#).



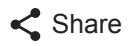
What? Gospels, folio 28v (Auct. D. 2.16). Found? Medieval and Renaissance Manuscripts [here](#).



There are just a few of the wonderful and weird finds in our rich and diverse collections. One thing is certain, digitized collections provide hours of discovery to anyone with a computer and Internet access. It is one of the most exciting things about digitization—access to almost anyone, anywhere.

Of course providing access means preserving the digital images. Knowing what we have and where we have it, is one step to ensuring that they will be preserved for future access and discovery of the beautiful, the weird, and the wonderful.

SHARE THIS:



This entry was posted in [digitisation](#), [digitization](#), [project update](#) by [Sarah](#). Bookmark the [permalink](#) [\[http://www.dpoc.ac.uk/2017/02/13/images/\]](http://www.dpoc.ac.uk/2017/02/13/images/) .

About Sarah

Digital Preservation Specialist - Outreach and Training:
Bodleian Libraries, Oxford University

[View all posts by Sarah](#) →

This site uses Akismet to reduce spam. [Learn how your comment data is processed.](#)