

*A Choice Collection of Books being the Library of the late famous Unborn Doctor, are to be put to Sale this Day, and to continue untill all be Sold, at M. I. —s Auction in the NorthWest Corner of Middle Moorfields. Catalogues may be had at most of the eminent Booksellers in the four Quarters of Moorfields Gratis. the Books may be Seen before or at the time of Sale.*

# The Spanish Book in London during the 16th to 19th Centuries

A one-day conference

13 May 2016

in the British Library,  
Conference Centre,  
Eliot Room



# The Spanish Book in London during the 16th to 19th Centuries

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Since the 16th century Anglo-Spanish relations have been very intense: from marriage alliances, via commercial and cultural exchanges, such as those which took Luis Vives to Oxford, to the action of war, which kept Spain off the 18th-century so-called “Grand tour”, the formative journey undertaken by the leading offspring of the English nobility around Europe.

Knowledge of Spain in England varied over the centuries, but in general there was great interest in the Spanish Golden Age, and in the earliest incunables printed by Spanish presses, of which the British Library now possesses one of the best collections in the world. In this context, although it may appear paradoxical, the first biography of Cervantes, by the Valencian scholar Gregorio Mayans, was produced in 1738 at the press of the Tonson brothers in London. There followed a series of Cervantine publications in the English 18th century.

In 1824 the famous Valencian publisher and bookseller Vicente Salvá set up his establishment in London’s mythic Regent Street, becoming one of the principal bookdealers of his time, who attracted the great English collectors such as Richard Heber. His bookshop exported all over Europe and America, and his editions were much sought-after internationally. His bookshop hosted one of the salons (*tertulias*) most frequented by the Spanish liberals. The catalogues of Spanish and Portuguese books which he published in London in 1825 and 1826 quickly became famous among bibliophiles the world over. His unpublished letters, over three thousand in number, are essential for understanding the history of Spanish and English publishing: an edition is currently in process and will be presented at this conference.

For this reason, in the light of current research into the presence of Spanish books in London, and in order to strengthen Anglo-Spanish relations, we have thought it of especial interest to organise a conference at the British Library, with original contributions to research on the role of Spanish books in London in the early modern period. Booksellers’ catalogues, private collections, auctions, editions, letters, private reading, will be some of the points of reference which will serve to analyse the English “image” of the Spanish.

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Attendance is **free**, but please register with [barry.taylor@bl.uk](mailto:barry.taylor@bl.uk)

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# Programme

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**10.30 – 11.00** **Opening**

D. Fernando Villalonga. Consejero para Asuntos Culturales y Científicos. Embajada de España en Londres.  
Dr. Kristian Jensen. Head of Collections and Curation, the British Library.

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**11.00 – 12.30** **Papers**

Barry Taylor. British Library. Curator, Hispanic Collections.  
**The Spanish books of Dr William Bates, nonconformist minister, 1625–1699, in Dr Williams’s Library, London.**  
Geoff West. British Library. Former Head, Hispanic Collections.  
**The acquisition of Spanish chapbooks by the British Museum library in the nineteenth century: owners, dealers and donors.**

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**12.30 – 14.00** **Lunch (own arrangements)**

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**14.00 – 15.30** **Papers**

Don W. Cruickshank. Trinity College Dublin.  
**The other Chorley: Classical Spanish theatre in nineteenth-century London.**  
Gabriel Sánchez Espinosa. Queen’s University Belfast.  
**Coleccionismo cervantino en la Inglaterra de la segunda mitad del siglo XVIII.**

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**15.30 – 16.00** **Coffee break**

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**16.00 – 17.30** **Papers**

Germán Ramírez Aledón. Universidad de Valencia.  
**Vicente Salvá en Londres (1824-1832): libros, negocios y política. Notas de un epistolario inédito.**  
Nicolás Bas Martín. Universidad de Valencia.  
**Libros españoles en las librerías londinenses del siglo XVIII.**

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**17.30 – 18.00** **Concluding remarks**

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**17.30 – 18.00** **Wine reception**

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This conference is being held with the support of the I+D+i Project “Sumptibus: edición, producción y distribución del libro en las Edades Media y Moderna FFI2014-55524-P” of the Spanish Secretaría de Estado de Investigación, Desarrollo e Innovación.



Departament de Història de la Ciència i Documentació

# Coordinators

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## How to get here

The British Library  
96 Euston Road  
London NW1 2DB  
[www.bl.uk/whatson](http://www.bl.uk/whatson)

☎ ➡ King's Cross St Pancras and Euston  
Bus routes 10, 30, 59, 73, 91, 205, 390 and 476 pass the building, along Euston Road.



Front cover image: Sutton Nicholls, The Compleat Auctioneer. Etching c. 1700. © The Trustees of the British Museum.