

2020 INTERNATIONAL EXLIBRIS CONGRESS

The Bookplate Society is hosting the 38th FISAE congress in Cambridge, 90km north-east of London, from Wednesday, 12 August 2020 (arrival from 10am) to the following Sunday after breakfast. We are basing this event in a large college, as we did for the 19th congress at Keble College, Oxford, in 1982. We hope to repeat the extra friendliness and enjoyment in having everyone staying together. Nowadays, student rooms are of good standard, **but register quickly to ensure you reserve a room with a shower**. For added comfort in guest houses or hotels, book these well in advance, as Cambridge has a shortage of hotel space.

This university city is renowned as one of England's main tourist attractions. It is home to beautiful and majestic architecture, several museums and art galleries, quaint passages and bridges, lively pubs, and fine parks, meadows and riverside. This is not a large city, so it's easy to wander through its historic streets and appreciate the atmosphere. Things to do include tours of the colleges and libraries. Cambridge's iconic Gothic landmark, King's College, has a breathtaking chapel with the world's largest fan ceiling and incredible stained glass windows. Trinity College's Wren Library should not be missed. Or go punting!

Frequent trains from London's King's Cross station take about an hour to arrive at Cambridge rail station, from which a local bus travels one mile into the centre. Trains also run from London's Liverpool Street Station, taking 20 minutes longer but can be more convenient. It takes three hours by bus from London Victoria Coach Station but costs less than trains. Travel fares are much cheaper if booked online in advance for fixed times.

We hope that the UK leaving the EU will have less impact than feared - you are always welcome. If you need a visa, get it early. This should be an enjoyable congress, but busy. Numbers are limited, so to avoid disappointment please book your 2020 place now.

Our congress programme proposes to offer you:

- illustrated talks, some related to the exhibitions
- an exhibition of contemporary international exlibris (based on a competition)
- an exhibition of bookplates of famous British people (all participants will receive the accompanying book)
- a bookshop, and an auction of high quality ex-libris
- exchange room(s) with opportunity for meeting other participants at all hours
- tours of Cambridge colleges, libraries, museums
- visits to historic places/houses outside Cambridge (eg Burghley House, Audley End)
- visits in small groups to the Kindersley-Cardozo letter-cutting workshop
- delegates' meeting, with the theme "2020 vision"
- formal evening dinner in St John's College hall
- perhaps an artists' workshop and other activities (please make suggestions).

A congress secretariat will be open for as long as possible throughout the day and early evening. Staff will help with extra services— hiring bicycles, punting on the river, hotel accommodation, disabled and special needs, arriving early or late, etc etc.

We anticipate that this will be a hugely popular venue. So we have booked Churchill College, a modern college with more space and better bedrooms than other colleges (more double bedrooms and many standard bedrooms have an ensuite bath or shower). A new bedroom block, with lifts, has just been completed. There is an excellent lecture theatre, bar and a large dining hall (see image overleaf) suitable for meeting participants and making exchanges. We looked at colleges in the heart of Cambridge, but all are smaller. Many have graduate students in residence during the summer, so their bedrooms are unavailable to visitors, and their meeting & dining rooms are in frequent use.

Churchill College lies 15 minutes walk from the centre, but we believe this disadvantage is outweighed by many benefits, including some parking. Participants

will have full opportunity to enjoy their time in historic Cambridge during college tours, when eating out on two or three evenings and when the Saturday dinner is held in the old dining hall of St John's College (see image overleaf) seating a maximum of 300 people.

Booking a Cambridge college is not like a hotel. It is a serious financial commitment. We must reserve all necessary bedrooms or these could be given away to other events, which would be a huge disadvantage, so

IT IS VITAL THAT YOU REGISTER NOW DO NOT DELAY

A higher participation fee will be payable if you register late (when there may not be places left, although we'll keep a waiting list). The website has extensive details and some terms & conditions. Use the registration form online and then send payment of the £25 deposit, which may be refundable in case of illness. College prices will be at commercial rates, but our aim is to get you the best value for money. If you wish to arrive one night early, staying in college for the night of Tuesday, 11 August 2020, this is possible (see registration form).

Congress promoters:

Anthony Pincott & David Wightman on behalf of the committee of The Bookplate Society.

Email: 2020@bookplatesociety.org

Web: www.bookplatesociety.org/2020home.htm



Above: Sketch by Gordon Collett – "River Cam 2020"



Above: St John's College Bridge and Old Library, King's College Chapel, bicycles and posters on many streets
 Below: Typical bedroom in Churchill College



Dining Hall, Churchill College for use as Exchange Room



Saturday dinner in the Old Dining Hall, St John's College



Above: Henry VIII on Trinity College gate, The Haunted Bookshop, The Eagle pub, and coffee on Kings Parade

Organisers cannot run this congress at a loss, so they must budget for a small surplus, but any eventual surplus will be paid 50% to Cancer Research UK and 50% to make possible The Bookplate Society's project of an ex-libris database online. Unlike past congresses, the accounts will be published after this congress.



The Bookplate Society

UK Registered Charity No: 295678

**38TH INTERNATIONAL
 FISAE EXLIBRIS CONGRESS
 12-16 AUGUST 2020**

**REGISTER NOW AT
[www.bookplatesociety.org/
 2020home.htm](http://www.bookplatesociety.org/2020home.htm)**

