

Technologies of text production: a workshop with hand printing presses (Centre for the study of the book Bodleian Library, Oxford)

IATL Pedagogic Intervention report

On Monday, 29 February 2016, a group of UG students enrolled in 'Defining France' (FR120) and 'Violence, Religion, and Revolt in Renaissance France' (FR331) embarked on a day trip to Oxford's Libraries, organised by INGRID DE SMET and CATHERINE HAMPTON, with assistance from EMMA CAMPBELL, BRYAN BRAZEAU, and CLAIRE SIVITER (PhD candidate, SMLC, French). IATL ('Pedagogic Interventions') and the SMLC provided financial support.

In the morning, the FR120 'Defining France' students visited the Taylor Institution Library. In the Voltaire Room, they had the opportunity to handle Seventeenth- and 18th-century texts, including the *Encyclopédie* of Diderot and d'Alembert. The FR331 'Violence, Religion and revolt' students visited the Queen's College Library to inspect early print books, especially pamphlets related to the French Wars of Religion and a very precious and lavishly bound copy of a Greek Bible printed in Paris, presented to Queen Elizabeth I. Special thanks are due to Ms Amanda Savile, Librarian at Queen's College Oxford, for her hospitality.

In the afternoon, a workshop hosted by the Bodleian's 'Bibliographic Press' allowed students to practise typesetting and use an early hand-printing press. The day concluded with a seminar on manuscripts and early printed books in the Weston Library's special collections. Students saw original editions (and in the case of Christine de Pizan, a richly decorated manuscript) of works discussed in class, such as Montaigne's *Essais*, Louise Labé's *Euvres*, Verstegan's *Theatre des Cruautez* and the 1501 Aldine Virgil. A fuller narrative of the day's events, along with student reactions and pictures is available here: <https://storify.com/brazoovius/warwick-french-visits-oxford/> (with thanks to Bryan for coordinating the social media reporting).



Setting type - photo: Clare Siviter