

Workshop Speakers

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DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY



SPECIAL COLLECTIONS, SFU LIBRARY



STUDIED FOR ACTION? THE LIBRARY OF WILLIAM DOWSING, 1596-1668

17-18 SEPTEMBER 2026

Sponsored by the
Department of History and
Special Collections, SFU Library.

Co-organizers:
John Craig, Dunstan Roberts
and Alexandra Wieland.

Studied for Action? The Library of William Dowsing, 1596-1668

A two-day workshop sponsored by the Department of History and Special Collections, SFU Library. Co-organizers: John Craig, Dunstan Roberts and Alexandra Wieland.

Funding provided by a grant from the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, SFU and the Ian Dyck Endowment Fund, Department of History, SFU.

Harbour Centre Campus,
Simon Fraser University, Vancouver,

All sessions take place in HC 1600

Lunch for the speakers on both days
will be served in HC 1510

Thursday 17 September

9 - 9.30 Welcome and coffee

Session 1: William Dowsing and his library in historical context

9.30 - 10.15 **Ken Fincham**
*Dowsing in context: Puritanism, Laudianism and England's
Second Reformation c. 1600- c. 1649*

10.15 - 11.00 **Trevor Cooper**
*The enforcement of statutory iconoclasm 1643-4:
William Dowsing in action*

11.00 - 11.30 Coffee break

11.30 - 12.15 **Dunstan Roberts**
*‘I R this B’: An Introduction to the Library of
William Dowsing*

12.15 - 1.30 Lunch

Session 2: William Dowsing's books and annotations

1.30 - 2.15 **Heather Wolfe**
William Dowsing's books at the Folger Library

2.15 - 3.00 **Nicholas Popper**
*William Dowsing's copy of Raleigh's History of the
World (1614)*

3.00 - 3.15 Coffee break

3.15 - 4.00 **John Craig**
Deciphering William Dowsing's annotations

Conference Dinner

Bel Cafe, Hawksworth Restaurant,
Vancouver, 801 West Georgia Street 6.00 for 6.30 pm

Friday 18 September

Session 3: William Dowsing's reading and annotations in context

9.00- 9.45 **Thomas Roebuck**
*Forms of Action in the Margins of Early Modern Books:
The Case of An East Anglian Copy of North's Plutarch.*

9.45-10.30 **Mark Rankin**
Richard Topcliffe, John Foxe and William Dowsing

10.30 - 11.00 Coffee break

11.00 - 11.45 **Earle Havens**
*Serial Early Modern English Annotators: John Dee,
Gabriel Harvey, Lord William Howard and Narcissus Luttrell*

Lunch 12 - 1 pm

Session 4: Teaching with William Dowsing's texts

1.00 - 1.30 **John Craig**
Teaching with William Dowsing

1.30 - 2.00 **Rebecca Scheltens**
How William Dowsing read his copy of Rogers on Judges

2.00 - 2.30 **David Chan**
*How William Dowsing read his copy of Willet's Hexapla in
Genesin*

2.30 - 3.00 Coffee

Session 5: Reassembling Dowsing's Library: future plans

3.00 - 3.45 **Joey Takeda**
Digital Dowsing: some technical and textual considerations

3.45 - 4.30 **David Pearson**
Reassembling Dowsing's library: where do we go from here?

4.30 - 5.00 Concluding discussion

