

VOLTAIRE FOUNDATION
ANNUAL REPORT 2010-2011

People

Sir Curtis Price, Warden of New College, was appointed Chairman of the Voltaire Foundation Fund Committee, and three new members joined the Committee: Professor Nathalie Ferrand (CNRS), Professor Pierre Frantz (Sorbonne), and Dr Paul LeClerc (New York Public Library). Dr Antonio Gurrado's two-year Marie Curie Fellowship came to an end, but we are delighted that he has taken up a research position at the University of Pavia for the academic year 2011-12; this position is partly funded by the Voltaire Foundation, and so he will continue to be associated with our projects. There have been changes in the editorial team working on the *Œuvres complètes de Voltaire*: Dr Julia Effertz left in September 2010, to take up an appointment at Queen Mary, University of London; Alison Oliver has been on maternity leave, while Alice Breathe has returned from maternity leave to work half-time; Gillian Pink is working part-time while she completes her DPhil. The Administrator Liz Hancock retired in June 2011.

Publications

The Académie Française awarded the Voltaire Foundation the 2010 Prix Hervé Deluen, worth €25,000, in recognition of the achievements of the *Œuvres complètes de Voltaire*. In another successful year for the Foundation, a total of 23 new titles were published (see Annexe). Six volumes of the *Complete works of Voltaire* were published during the academic year, so that the Foundation remains on course to complete this project by the announced target date of 2018. Twelve volumes were published in the *SVEC (Studies on Voltaire and the Eighteenth Century)* collection, which continues to publish the best modern research in both English and French, on all aspects of the Enlightenment. The series has consolidated its position as the foremost collection dedicated to research on the eighteenth century and continues to be the preferred place of publication for both young and established scholars. We also published new volumes in 2 of our correspondence collections, and in addition to these print publications, we published electronically, in *Electronic Enlightenment* (now housed at the Bodleian Library), the second tranche of letters in the *Correspondance de Bernardin de Saint-Pierre*.

Research programme (Besterman Centre for the Enlightenment)

Inaugurated in 2008, the Besterman Centre is an interdisciplinary research centre of the Humanities Division housed at the Voltaire Foundation. In November 2010 we collaborated with Johns Hopkins University to organise a graduate conference in Baltimore, on the theme of ‘Anonymity’. We also gave support to the annual conference of the Société des études voltairiennes, held at the Sorbonne in June 2011, this year on the theme ‘Voltaire et les arts visuels’. The 2010 Besterman Lecture, entitled ‘Le théâtre de Voltaire: dramaturgie et politique’, was given by Professor Pierre Frantz (Université de Paris IV – Sorbonne), and in October 2010, in conjunction with the Fondation Wiener Anspach and the Université libre de Bruxelles, we sponsored the Philippe Wiener Annual Lecture, given at Wolfson College by Bruno Bernard, on the subject ‘The British Isles in Voltaire’s *Essai sur les mœurs*’. Other lectures sponsored during the course of the year were given by Sylvain Menant, Svein-Eirik Fauskevaag, Martin Wahlburg (a lecture followed by a concert), and Rudy Le Menthéour (in association with the undergraduate Rousseau society). The Foundation continued to host the Enlightenment Workshop (with financial support also from the History Faculty).

The Foundation continued to serve as secretariat of the International Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies (ISECS), the principal interdisciplinary forum for eighteenth-century research.

Development

The *Complete works of Voltaire* has received two generous private donations, and has also received awards towards the publication of specific volumes from the British Academy and the Union académique internationale (UAI). In November 2010, the French Ambassador in London, M. Maurice Gourdault-Montagne, generously hosted a dinner at the Embassy, attended by the Chancellor, to encourage support for the *Œuvres complètes de Voltaire*.

Further information about the activities and publications of the Foundation can be found on our websites: www.voltaire.ox.ac.uk & www.voltaire.ox.ac.uk/bestermancentre
