

Mark Purcell is a Deputy Director of Cambridge University Library, and a Vice-President of the Society of Antiquaries of London. At Cambridge he is responsible for the heritage collections of one of the world's great research libraries, and for sixteen years prior to that he had charge of more than 150 historic libraries in the care of the National Trust. He is an acknowledged expert on historic libraries and, in particular, on country house libraries in Britain and Ireland, a subject on which he has published and lectured extensively.