



– DATE: 13th October 2008. PRESS RELEASE STARTS: –

Speaking with new Tongues?

- **Overview of current and new multilingual tools**
- **Workshop examining users' multilingual needs**
- **Speakers from commercial, educational and cultural heritage sectors**

London, 3rd October 2008 – The MILE Project continued its work on improving metadata search and retrieval with “Speaking in Tongues”, a seminar dedicated to examining multilingual thesauri for data retrieval. MILE’s intention is to try to bridge the gaps between commercial and cultural heritage users of digital images, and this seminar brought together a rostrum of international speakers from museums, educational and research establishments, as well as commercial technology providers and picture agencies.

A full schedule of international speakers from a broad spectrum of sectors ensured an absorbing and enlightening day. After a short, snappy and amusing introduction by Dr Annette Godefroid as to why multi-lingual facilities are necessary, Professor Lina Nagel of DIBAM, Chile, talked about the challenges and process of translating AAT into Spanish. Elaine Ménard, a PhD candidate from Montreal University, demonstrated the multilingual methods she created as a result of her research into controlled vocabularies, while Phil Carlisle of the European Heritage Network offered an overview of the HEREIN project’s 10 years of work on multilingual thesauri. HEREIN’s thesaurus is currently available in 13 European languages, including Bulgarian, Croatian, Slovenian and Lithuanian. The need for standardization in multilingual thesauri was then reinforced by Stella Dextre Clarke, who is involved in the current developmental work on ISO NP 25964, a project creating the new ISO 25964; this new international standard is based on BS 8723, and incorporates revisions to ISOs 2788 and 5964.

An afternoon workshop led by Dr Richard Butterworth and Stella Dextre Clarke gave delegates the chance to think about options for a multilingual search interface, and engage in active discussion groups. This was followed by a series of presentations from three companies offering different search & retrieval methods: Babylon - the world leader in automatic multilingual tools, offering dictionaries, thesauri and encyclopaedias in 75 languages; Imense, a new software provider offering automated image retrieval; and Kursiv, a keywording software drawing from ontologies specifically for image collections.

A full report and the results of the questionnaire will be produced by the MILE team and available at mileproject.eu shortly; the next seminar is on Metadata Classification, on 22nd January 2009 in London UK.



Pentecost, from a 16th century French manuscript © The Bridgeman Art Library



Speakers included:

- Harriet Bridgeman, *Chairman, The Bridgeman Art Library*
- Dr Richard Butterworth, *Senior Cataloguer / Metadata Researcher, Project SILVER*
- Philip Carlisle, *Data Standards Supervisor, English Heritage / European Heritage Network Thesaurus Team*
- Glen Carruthers, *Account Manager, Datasafe / BABYLON UK distribu*
- Stella Dextre Clarke, *Senior Metadata Consultant,*
- Dr Annette Godefroid, *General Manager, Bridgeman Berlin*
- Elaine Ménard, *École de bibliothéconomie et des sciences de l'information Université de Montréal*
- Professor Lina Nagel, *Professional Assistant Centro de Documentación de Bienes Patrimoniales*
- Karsten Risseuw, *Account Manager, KURSIV*
- Dr. Chris Town, *Co-Founder and President of Technology, IMENSE*

To register for future conferences and for more information, please contact the MILE administration team: lucy.geering@bridgemanart.co.uk / celestine.bramley@bridgemanart.co.uk

Image credit: *Pentecost, from a 16th century French manuscript* © The Bridgeman Art Library

– PRESS RELEASE ENDS –

Notes to editors:

THE MILE PROJECT assembles the knowledge and expertise of partners from the picture library industry across Europe to focus on metadata classification, metadata search & retrieval, and Intellectual Property Rights. Developed and originated by The Bridgeman Art Library, funded by the European Commission, MILE aims to enhance the use, accessibility and trade of digital content in order to stimulate and exploit cultural heritage throughout the European Union.

The Bridgeman Art Library is the world's richest and most comprehensive source of cultural and historical art images. The collection ranges from pre-historic images to works by leading contemporary artists covering all media and Eastern and Western art across 8000 global locations. Our subjects are as diverse as science, historical photography, politics, religion, medicine, sport and travel. The website is updated daily with new images and we are becoming particularly strong in American History in addition to a growing collection of works by Hispanic and African-American artists.

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