

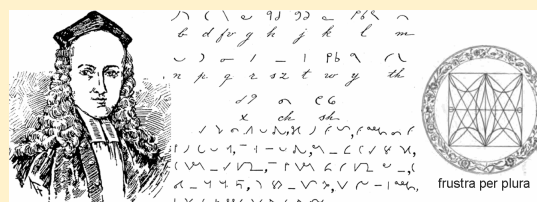
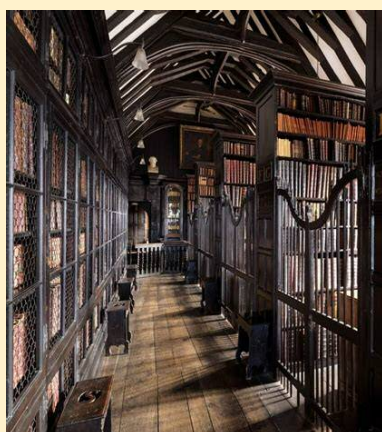
55. Intersteno Congress – Invitation for Participants:

Visit the first Public Library in the English-speaking world

Friday, 31st July 2026

Chetham's Library, Manchester

- Established in **1653**, it is the UK's oldest public library.
- Housed within a medieval building dating from **1421**.
- In its early days, the books were chained to oak presses to prevent theft, a common practice at the time.
- Among its famous visitors were Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, who discussed the revolutionary ideas here that would later shape global politics.
- Home to one of the finest **collections of shorthand books**, founded by John Byrom (*1692).



Meeting point: Liverpool station, at around 9 am (detailed information will follow). We will take the train to **Manchester** (train tickets & admission fee: approx. £30). The tour will take around 4 hours (including 50 minutes train journey, 10 minutes walking time). Alternatively, after visiting the library, you can stay a little longer and visit the museums of Manchester or two other library collections.

Registration: forschungsstaette@email.de