

Humphrey Wanley (1672-1726) was English librarian, palaeographer and scholar of Old English, employed by manuscript collectors. He studied at Oxford University and worked as an assistant at the Bodleian Library until 1700, when he moved to London and eventually became the first keeper of the Harleian Library, now the Harleian Collection. Wanley, together with John Bagford and John Talman, was one of three 'founder members' of the reconstituted Society of Antiquaries, which first met at the Bear Tavern on the Strand on 5 December 1707. Wanley married twice. He died of dropsy in 1726.

