A copy of this Annual Report is sent to the Domestic Bursar’s Office, to form part of the College’s Register of Public Benefits.

Image on the front cover: detail of the spiral stairs in the Working Library’s turret staircase.
St John’s College Library
Annual Report 2008-9

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The Librarian’s Annual Report, 1 August 2009 to 31 July 2010

Our Departmental Aim: To provide a modern, efficient and welcoming Library service for all members of the College, and for all others with valid reasons to make use of the College’s library collections and facilities, so enabling the College to fulfil its statutory and strategic aims.

Summary

In a busy year, marked by a considerable turnover in staff, the Library has moved closer to meeting several important strategic goals. Installation of a self-issue system for the Working Library is now scheduled for the summer of 2012. The cataloguing of books in the Old Library nears completion. We have agreed to let registered students from other Colleges use and borrow certain Library collections, and we have moved closer to joining the University’s Journals Coordination Scheme. We have developed existing links with schools and with the city of Cambridge through some innovative projects and initiatives, and have established new partnerships. The development of a new Archives Centre in the School of Pythagoras from 2012 holds out the prospect of a home for the College’s reserve collection of pictures and portraits. The Biographical Office has continued to develop the next volume of the Register of Twentieth-Century Johnians, and has married old technology to new, generating an Admissions Register from the biographical database to continue an ancient tradition hitherto sustained by paper and pen. In most of these processes we are neither at a beginning, nor at an end. There is of course more to be done over the next couple of years. But the theme of unfinished business should not obscure a record of remarkable progress as we all attend to the obligations on a College library, expressed in our Departmental Aim.

Strategic Plan

The Library Away Day, held in 2009 at Hinchingbrooke House, covered many matters of immediate concern, while reflecting on some important future changes. Attention focused particularly on the Library’s Strategic Plan, in line with the agreed schedule of updates and revision.

Staffing

The past twelve months have seen some changes in the staffing establishment. After eleven years of exceptional service in the Old Library, the Special Collections Librarian, Jonathan Harrison, left the College to take up a post in the London Library. The Sub-Librarian, Kathryn McKee, took over the substantive post of Special Collections Librarian and has rapidly mastered the multitude of responsibilities that arise from a
duty to care for the Library’s older collections. The post of Technical Services Librarian, which Kathryn relinquished, has been replaced by a new appointment: in May 2010 we were delighted to welcome Sam Bailey as the first Library Projects Assistant. Sam formerly worked at King’s, Sidney Sussex and Homerton, and so brings a familiarity with many College library processes to her new post.

The Librarian’s Assistant, Naomi Herbert, successfully applied for the post of Deputy Librarian at Christ’s College. Naomi made some very important contributions to the development of the Library in her four years at St John’s, notably through her work on schools outreach initiatives, and we were sorry to see her go. The post thus vacated has been filled by a graduate of St Catharine’s College, Ryan Cronin, who joined us in April.

Laure Cinquin, Graduate Trainee for 2009-10, began work in the Library on 1 August and contributed in many ways to projects and daily routines across the department. We wish Laure well as she pursues her professional library qualifications while taking up part-time work in other Cambridge libraries. At the time of writing we benefit from the contributions made by two volunteers, Ian Osler and Chris Krupa, who both spend one day a week helping with tasks in the Old Library. During the year the Library also welcomed three school students on work experience under the Connexions and other schemes. All three worked very well and seemed to enjoy their time with us.

The work of the Rare Books Cataloguer, Allen Purvis, continues to be funded through a generous donation from Professor Joseph Zund. Allen works three days a week, cataloguing the rare books at Peterhouse on the other days. The Hoyle Project, ably taken forward by Katie Birkwood, is funded in part by grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the American Institute of Physics.

Cataloguing and Collection Development

The Library’s Collection Development Policy has this year been thoroughly reviewed to take account of several recent administrative changes and the growth of electronic resource provision. The Library continues to play a central role in the development of the Cambridge College Libraries Forum’s eBooks@Cambridge initiative: as a member of the project committee I have worked to secure transitional funding from the Isaac Newton Trust which will transform a time-limited project into a permanent provision of e-books overseen by the University Library.

College Libraries have always relied on the generosity of donors to maintain substantial, current collections. While St John’s today allocates a generous budget for the purchase of books, journals, and AV materials, donations remain vital to our collection development, and several hundred items are received each year from dozens of Johnians. We are also supported by many financial gifts and bequests. It has not been our custom to list donations in this Annual Report, given the details carried every year in The Eagle, but I should observe here that full details of each donation are reported every term to the Library and Records Committee, and that each donor is of course thanked personally. It is invidious to single out particular gifts, but I might nevertheless...
draw attention to three recent examples of exceptional generosity: Mr Brian Fenwick-Smith (BA 1959) has this year presented us with a copy of the Greek histories of Herodotus, Xenophon and Thucydides in the Aldine Press editions of 1503, a composite volume once owned by the great Johnian humanist Sir John Cheke. This follows Brian’s earlier gifts of a first edition of Thomas More’s *Utopia* (1516) and a copy of John Dee’s influential *Art of Navigation* (1578). Dr Terence Denman (PhD 1985) has for several years presented books and DVDs on a wonderfully varied range of subjects, including film noir, country music, and slang. The Library is able to purchase several important rare books each year thanks to a fund established through a bequest from the late Noël Marshall (BA 1957). With help from so many sources, so much is possible!

Through the Cambridge College Libraries Forum, the Colleges are contemplating a model for participation in the University’s Journal Coordination Scheme. This model has been developed by a subgroup of the CCLF, which I chair, and subject to the agreement of the Library and Records Committee and the Council St John’s will join the Scheme from 2010-11. In an environment increasingly shaped by the electronic provision of information, the JCS, eBooks@Cambridge and other initiatives mark out ways in which College collections might be managed collaboratively, preserving institutional autonomy while pursuing the best deals for our readers.

Collaboration can take several forms. In line with the College’s Strategic Plan, we have agreed to offer access and borrowing privileges to undergraduates across the University studying particular papers in Portuguese language and literature. The arrangements, which have the approval of our own junior members, will run as a trial for one year, but it is hoped that other Colleges will in time be moved to offer similar access to complementary collections, thus furthering our aim to share resources across libraries within the University.

Standing Order C.5.2 (Library Weeding Procedure) was again applied to certain areas of the Collection in 2010. Several hundred volumes, including some discontinued part-runs of periodicals and superseded editions of scientific textbooks, were identified for disposal.

After many years of striving, it is particularly pleasing to note that, thanks to the efforts of the Rare Books Cataloguer and successive Special Collections Librarians, records for the College’s book collections in the Old Library have been contributed to RLUK, and can now be found in the heavily-consulted COPAC on-line database.

No separate stocktaking exercise was undertaken over the summer of 2010. Instead, barcodes were checked and replaced in many parts of the Library Basement, an exercise which itself helped to identify missing and misplaced volumes.

The collections of DVDs and CDs in the Audio-Visual Room remain very popular with readers. That popularity reflects the currency and variety of the holdings maintained by the Library Assistant, Peter Hutton.
Reader Services

The Academic Services Librarian, Janet Chow, has worked with the Maintenance Department to introduce attractive new low energy lighting throughout the Working Library. Many of the old lights had either failed or fallen victim to the wear and tear inevitable in a busy library, and the improvement in the appearance of desks and all floors has been remarkable.

Including the figures recorded by the Sub-Librarian and the Biographical Office in their reports, 2496 letters and emails were sent out by the Librarian and members of the Library staff in 2009-10, responding to enquiries, acknowledging donations or developing biographical records.

In the last Annual Report I noted that, subject to the availability of funding within the College's medium term plan for buildings, a refurbishment of the Working Library in accordance with plans drawn up by the architects Freeland Rees Roberts and the introduction of an RFID security/self-issue system would both be completed over the next five years. I observed further that the cost would be modest, and that both these schemes would help us meet the expectations of our readers, which have of course changed significantly over the years. Subject to further scrutiny of budgets, it is now hoped that this work may take place over the summer of 2012, and planning proceeds on that basis. As noted above, the Academic Services Librarian is overseeing the retagging of many books stored in the open-access Basement, a necessary preliminary to the introduction of any self-issue system.

The second College Telethon was run from the College's Computer Room in September 2009. With help from the Computer Office, workstations were relocated elsewhere in the building, and the work of our regular September readers was in no way compromised. Telethons have proved extremely successful since their introduction in 2008, and the College Council have agreed to follow the same model in 2010.

The Library no longer charges for the lockers available in the Basement for use by all our readers. In response to a request from the JCR, we have undertaken to replace the current paper overdue notices with notification by email from the start of the Michaelmas Term 2010.

IT Provision

The Sub-Librarian continues to serve on working parties concerned with the development of automated systems and cataloguing standards in libraries across the University. The University Library continues to experiment with new ways of accessing catalogue and other related resource information. More and more readers run their own laptops using the wireless facilities in the Library, though PCs available on desks throughout the building remain heavily used. We monitor changing patterns of use, and take note of experiences elsewhere.
Special Collections

The report prepared by the Sub-Librarian covers the exceptional range of activities and services provided in the Old Library. The increasing use of our Special Collections as a resource for outreach activities of every kind merits particular attention. Events run in association with Alumni gatherings, Open Cambridge and the University's special weeks, have proved popular. Hundreds of people have been able to see the College's treasures for the first time. New partner schools in and near Cambridge work with our educational resource programmes tailored for every stage of the National Curriculum. None of this would be possible without a great deal of creative input from all members of the Library staff, but in the year under review the efforts of Katie Birkwood and Naomi Herbert merit particular commendation. Leading by example, Katie inspired a majority of College Libraries to participate in ‘Open Cambridge’, while Naomi’s work with partner schools generated many appreciative letters from teachers and parents, and some wonderful messages from the children.

The Rare Books Cataloguer, Allen Purvis, has made splendid progress in recording details of all the books in the Lower Library, and will conclude this phase in his work during the autumn of 2010. Allen will then turn his attention to the early nineteenth-century books held in the closed-access Basement of the Working Library.

In a particularly significant development, the College’s Governing Body in Easter Term 2010 approved the development of the School of Pythagoras as an Archives Centre for the College. Apart from the obvious implications for the College’s archives, the new Centre will provide a home for the reserve collections of portraits and paintings, currently held in the Lower Library. It may also offer an ideal storage environment for certain fragile Library collections, such as the Samuel Butler glass negatives.

Biographical Office

The Biographical Office team, Fiona Colbert and Paul Everest, have continued to work on entries destined for the second volume in the Register of Twentieth-Century Johnians, while maintaining up to date records on the database. Drawing on assistance from other staff in the Library, they respond – generously and helpfully – to a very large number of enquiries every year. Among other commitments, they have planned for the introduction of CamSIS, brought in an electronic Admissions Register, and have assisted materially with work on the forthcoming history of the College and on the history of the Lady Margaret Boat Club. Given the departmental structure of the College, where biographical information is gathered for various purposes by several groups and individuals, the Biographical Office is constantly challenged to maintain a definitive set of biographical data, and to advertise the existence of this to colleagues working in other parts of St John’s. The College would surely benefit from a more unified approach to the assembly, storage and dissemination of such information, drawing on the experience and expertise available in the Library.
I cannot pass on from this section without acknowledging Paul Everest’s wonderful photographs, which do so much to enhance the appearance of this Annual Report.

Exhibitions

‘The Way to the Stars’, an exhibition on Astronomy in St John’s, attracted many admiring visitors during the Michaelmas Term 2009. Curated by Katie Birkwood, this exhibition commemorated the dismantling in 1859 of the College’s observatory on the Shrewsbury Tower, and featured among other artefacts and papers some items now on loan to the Whipple Museum, as well as a fixture in the Library’s exhibition area, the 1763 John Shelton long-case chronometer. The Lent Term exhibition, on J. E. B. Mayor and the Edwardian College, was the last in an exceptional series of displays curated by Jonathan Harrison. This exhibition marked the centenary of Mayor’s death, and provided an engaging insight into the life of an eminent if somewhat eccentric Johnian Classicist. The College Art Competition was again keenly contested by some highly talented junior members, while a display on the Grand Tour organised by our Graduate Trainee – which exhibited items from the College’s coin collections currently on loan to the Fitzwilliam Museum – was of exceptional quality.

Security, Safety and Conservation

Thanks to the efforts of the Superintendent of Buildings, a new air-handling unit now controls temperature and relative humidity within the Manuscripts Cabinet in accordance with BS 5454. After a hiatus of some years, during which conditions in the cabinet fluctuated unacceptably, we are delighted to maintain our incomparable medieval and early modern manuscript collections in accordance with professional guidelines.

Fire-evacuation exercises were conducted in the Library during the Michaelmas and Lent Terms 2010.

Cleaning and Building Maintenance

The Maintenance Department continue to look after the outer fabric of the Library, and to deal with problems arising inside the building. Happily, there have been fewer such problems during the past year, testimony to effective maintenance and the timely anticipation of snags. Good housekeeping begins at home, and the Library’s cleaners Ania Łukasik and John Holt combat the tide of litter and discarded consumables with great patience and persistence. Even at busy times they ensure a comfortable working environment. The Librarian and Academic Services Librarian continue to inspect the fabric of the Library every December.

Mark Nicholls
Librarian
Staff Reports

The Library Staff
From left to right: John Holt, Peter Hutton, Katie Birkwood, Erin Lee, Sam Bailey, Allen Purvis, Fiona Colbert, Ryan Cronin, Mark Nicholls, Kathryn McKee, Paul Everest [absent: Janet Chow, Ania Łukasik]

Sam Bailey – Projects Assistant

I joined St John’s at the beginning of May this year in a new post designed to help with some of the longer-term projects that the Library is currently involved in. My time is shared between projects in the Working Library and work for the Biographical Office, where I am involved in maintaining up-to-date records for 21st-Century Johnians.

In the Working Library my responsibilities include looking after some of the statistics covering library usage; cataloguing and classifying books in the John Crook collection, as well as new acquisitions (especially Portuguese); processing out-of-date stock earmarked for withdrawal from circulation; and a major role in the barcoding project which is taking place in preparation for the introduction of RFID security tagging and 24-hour borrowing. I am also involved with the day-to-day running of the library and work on
plenty of other bits and pieces that get passed my way. There’s plenty of variety, and new projects are always on the horizon, so each day is a juggling act balancing the time spent on each of the various projects and hoping that I haven’t forgotten anything!

Katie Birkwood – Hoyle Project Associate

The last year has seen several highs including, but not limited to, the arrival of a fan heater under my desk to ease the discomfort of the chilly winter months, being voted the most supportive (I think they meant bossy) member of the Cambridge 23 Things social media training course, welcoming well over 1,000 people to the Old Library for public events during the year, and discovering my inner Valerie Singleton when teaching people to make Blue-Peter-style cardboard-and-glue astrolabes (illustrated on page 49).

Lows have included the continued presence of omelette Arnold Bennett on the Buttery menu, the perennial mystery of the disappearing RBR pencils, and realising that my Hoyle boxes will soon run out.

In the next few months I plan to move onward, ever onward, towards the dizzying heights of Chartership (a professional qualification of the Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals) and, on 19 March 2011, the Grand Finale of the Hoyle Project.

Janet Chow – Academic Services Librarian

With the Sub-Librarian’s move to the Old Library, I have taken more responsibility for the day to day operation of the Working Library, and for inducting and training new staff. Among the new projects introduced this year, perhaps the most significant is the College plan to implement a new card system that enables students to use their University cards to access the Library. The longer term significance of the University card is that next year, students will also be able to use it to borrow Library materials. In addition I am working with a number of colleagues – the Projects Assistant, the Library Assistant, the Librarian’s Assistant, and the Graduate Trainee – to add barcodes to approximately 25,000 volumes in the Basement. We began this sizable project in June 2010 in order to prepare for the self-issuing book system in 2012 and – thanks to a terrific team effort – have made impressive progress to date.

This past year has seen improvements to Library infrastructure, including the installation of energy-saving sunken ceiling lights, and new desk lamps on all floors. Future plans over the next twelve months include refurbishment of the disabled toilet on the Ground Floor, and new carpets on the Second Floor.
I now occupy the Sub-Librarian’s former desk by the window. The vista affords some interesting distractions including squirrels scurrying along tree branches, and the apparition of people’s heads and the tops of poles moving slowly past on the distant River Cam. This must be one of the most engaging views in Cambridge and provides occasional relief from long doses of concentrated library work!

Fiona Colbert – Biographical Librarian

People are complicated. An analysis of the complexities of my own personality would reveal that I am shy, but I am interested in people. Which I suppose in a way makes me perfectly suited for my job, spending most of my time quietly getting on with my work, dealing with the College’s records of Johnians. And Johnians can certainly be a complicated bunch! Some of them are very keen that every detail of what they have achieved is recorded in full; others assume nobody would be interested in what they have done with their life. When one from the latter group passes away, and it is my sad task to record that fact, I might discover they have led such an interesting life that it makes me wonder what I am doing with mine! But what I’m doing with mine is helping to ensure that other people’s lives aren’t forgotten – whether they are famous names, or they die leaving few people who remember them. They will always be members of this College, and form part of the rich tapestry of Johnian history, with all its complications!

Ryan Cronin – Librarian’s Assistant

Having graduated from St Catharine’s College with some experience in shelving books and running the issue desk in my College and Faculty Libraries, I really had no idea how much work goes into running a Library as large and active as St John’s. Starting my position here just before the start of Easter Term 2010 was something of a baptism of fire as within my first week I had to deal with lots of stressed-out students revising for their exams!

So far, my job at St John’s College Library has been challenging and rewarding in equal measure. I have had plenty of opportunities to experience a great variety of Library work, whether cataloguing new donations, putting on exhibitions and visits for local schools, dealing with biographical enquiries or curating the College Art Competition. There really has never been a dull moment! I especially enjoy working on outreach events for the public and for school groups, and I hope to build upon the Library’s already strong reputation in this area. I have learned so much in this job after only a few months, and I look forward to what the future may bring.
Paul Everest – Register Project Assistant

This last year has been the usual mix of frustration and fun in the Biographical Office, with more deadlines and projects than you can shake a Register of Twentieth-Century Johnians at. The defining feature of my year has to have been lists, in abundance. Lists of honours, lists of awards, lists of elections, lists to check and lists to compile; the (ahem) list goes on.

It has reached the point where upon seeing a list of names of any significant length, I automatically assume there will be a Johnian in there somewhere - thank you to those Johnians with uncommon names, you're much easier to spot.

My lengthening incumbency in the role brings a greater visibility within the College and with it an array of tasks peripheral to that of the Register Project itself. While many of these do have relevance to the Register, they do so in a non-linear, less easy to quantify way (I'm not slacking, honestly); so while it’s always nice to add another string to the bow, it’s just as likely that I’ll end up tripping over it.

John Holt – Part time Library Cleaner

I have been cleaning in the library for three years now and have enjoyed my time at St Johns College. The top three floors are still my domain, I work to keep this area clean and safe for users and also manage the recycling of plastic and aluminium drinks containers. I am the qualified first aider for the library, with training updates each year.

During my third year in the library I have been able to make some further improvements to the working environment:

1. Increase the number of waste bins on each floor.
2. Introduced anti-bacteria hand wash to help reduce the spread of infection.
3. Keeping an eye out for the dreaded carpet moth, so that infected areas can be treated.

Over the summer holiday I catch up with other tasks such as cleaning out lamp shades and replacing defective bulbs, removing and cleaning toilet vents and vacuuming on top of bookshelves.
Peter Hutton – Library Assistant

Either I’m getting older or the books are looking meaner – they’ll all be wearing hoodies next. When they’re not waiting in rough piles to have their fix of glue n’ label, they’re hanging around upstairs in places it’s not safe to go without a seriously large trolley. Shelving’s too good for ‘em.

When I’m not doing unspeakable things to books I’m usually wrestling with journals and their suppliers or, if it’s a particularly magical day, changing one of the six-hundred-plus lightbulbs around the building (and, yes, I have counted them). Evenings in term time are generally the most interesting part of the day as the students, who’ve been hard at it for hours, relax by falling downstairs or getting themselves locked in toilets.

Erin Lee – Graduate Trainee

As the new trainee, I am being encouraged to dabble in several aspects of library life. Thus far I have updated and beautified every leaflet that the library contains and have enjoyed trawling the photograph archive for images to decorate the new library guides. I thoroughly enjoy cataloguing new books and have pilfered some discarded book covers to decorate the new arrivals board. The intricacy and, on occasion, illogicality of the cataloguing system keeps me on my toes and I like to get my teeth into the more difficult-to-place books. I have started to help the Biographical Office with enquiries and I am finding this very rewarding, especially when I can discover unknown relatives of the enquirer. I have particularly relished the opportunity to research the three Johnian prime ministers in preparation for the exhibition in November - sitting in the basement flicking through nineteenth-century copies of *Punch* was a particular highlight! Recently the Librarian’s Assistant and I have worked on the Man Booker Prize exhibition, which has brightened up the entrance area and will encourage students (and staff!) to take a break from work. I hope that I continue to have a hands-on role in future exhibitions.

I also help to man the issue desk, deal with queries of the readers and approach the bountiful bulky brown envelopes of fresher library forms with high spirits! I have also been troubleshooting the new Cambridge online search engine, Aquabrowser, and in contact with the Systems Development Librarian at the UL concerning its shortfalls. In conjunction with this, I will be attending the briefing for staff later this month as well as attending training sessions in Voyager Cataloguing. I am looking forward to a busy year in the library and with the other trainees as we follow our packed timetable.
Ania Łukasik – Part-time Library Cleaner

I am responsible for cleaning the Ground Floor (including the Library Office), Mezzanine Floor (including the Biographical Office and the Seminar Room), and the Old Library. As well as the obvious tasks involved, once a year I wax and polish the bookcases in the Old Library, which requires great care as they are so old (dating back to the seventeenth century). I like spending time in that historic part of the Library. I particularly enjoy looking at the rare books in the display cases and reading the information about them.

In the Working Library, I would appreciate it if students tried to help us save electricity by switching off the lights when they leave the Library, and used the recycling bins. However, I understand they are preoccupied with their work and just do not always think about their surroundings.

This year I successfully completed the Level One course of my English lessons with the College. I also continue to work in the Combination Room so obtain a general knowledge of what is happening around the College.

Kathryn McKee – Sub-Librarian

Writing this on 1 October 2010, I am in unusually reflective mood. Twenty years ago today I started working for St John’s College Library. Three job titles and maybe half a dozen different jobs later, I’m still here, learning new skills and tackling fresh projects. This year has perhaps seen the greatest change, as in February I moved from new to old Library to replace Jon Harrison as Special Collections Librarian.

The transition from electronic resources, systems reports, and student information literacy sessions to looking after everything from medieval manuscripts to historic photograph collections, and tackling the most extraordinary diversity of enquiries has been quite a challenge, but a very welcome one. Last October I was demonstrating e-journals to 170 freshers; by the Spring I found myself reading a 17th century poem about the Great Fire of London to a class of thirty six-year-olds. On the whole the six-year-olds were more responsive, but then maybe I should have let the students draw pictures whilst I talked.

I am finding it tremendously rewarding to share the rich and varied resources of the Old Library with visitors, whether they be school classes, pre-arranged visiting groups, our own students, Old Johnians, or the general public attending open events. The digital age has brought repeated gloomy predictions of the end of the book and of the need for
libraries, but in the Old Library I witness continued enthusiasm for both. During our Science Festival open day I spotted an eight-year-old, who had participated in a class visit earlier in the year, carving a very determined path through the crowds (and there were crowds) with parents and siblings in tow, exclaiming with urgency: “Come and see the books!” As long as we can keep inspiring them at that age, I should still have a job as a librarian in twenty years’ time.

**Allen Purvis – Rare Books Cataloguer**

Following on from last year, which was mainly taken up with cataloguing the James Wood bequest, I have worked through the smaller collections of William Wordsworth, W. F. Smith and Sir Soulden Lawrence. This virtually completes the Lower Library Cataloguing project, with the notable exception of the Brice-Smith Cabinet.

The year started with Wordsworth, a collection of around 200 items, mainly editions of his works, but including a few books formerly owned by the great man, containing his autograph. While cataloguing the books that were actually part of the existing collection, I discovered that there were other works in the basement and even on the open shelves, which would be better given the protection and status accorded to those mentioned above. Nobody seems to have asked for the volumes previously on open access, so I was probably robbing Peter to pay Paul!

My full-time contract expired at the end of October, which gave me time to deal with the W. F. Smith (apparently known to many as ‘Dirty Smith’) bequest of works associated with Rabelais - quite interesting, but for most of them being in French. More French books (Law French this time) were encountered on the shelves of the Soulden Lawrence bequest, which proved less interesting but seemed more time-consuming, as by then I was only working three days a week, under my new terms of employment.

In July I started work on the Brice-Smith collection of private press material, mostly published in the 1920s and 1930s, and I expect to finish before October is out.
Staff Training

Library staff continue to take advantage of a range of free and low cost local training opportunities provided within the University or the College, or by the Cambridge College Libraries Forum. Specialist training is obtained from key professional bodies in the field such as CILIP, the Society of Archivists, and the Museums Association. The former Librarian’s Assistant continued to pursue her professional library qualifications by distance learning from the University of Aberystwyth.

Some training was organised for the entire departmental team. The departmental Away Day allowed all staff the opportunity to discuss strategy across both department and College, update colleagues on plans and projects, set objectives, and contribute to policy deliberations. At a per capita cost of less than £40 this remains a very cost-effective event. As in 2008 it was complemented by a half-day in-house training morning, at which four staff delivered presentations or led practical exercises for colleagues, enhancing their knowledge of library services/collections and sharing expertise. The format worked well, and feedback was again extremely positive. Besides providing a diverse and highly relevant training event at no cost other than staff time, it also gave those delivering sessions the opportunity to practice - in a supportive environment - those presentation skills which are increasingly a key part of library and information work.

Besides the in-house workshop, library staff have been involved in delivering various other forms of training. Once again the Library provided a two-week work experience programme for three year 11 pupils, all staff devising and supervising tasks for the pupils concerned. Details of exhibitions and tours of the special collections provided in association with conferences and teaching sessions, outreach sessions delivered to school groups, and activities provided on open days, are given elsewhere in the Annual Report.

In accordance with the principles of Investors in People, all training and development events are evaluated against personal, departmental, and wider College objectives. The table below details the courses undertaken, with providers, and costs.

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<th>Staff member</th>
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<td>Foreign language cataloguing</td>
<td>L@C</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Libraries@Cambridge conference</td>
<td>L@C</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Making libraries accessible to disabled people</td>
<td>CPPPD</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Marketing workshop</td>
<td>Elsevier</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biographical Librarian</td>
<td>CamSIS search course (half day taught course)</td>
<td>CamSIS</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CamSIS initial training (one-to-one on site training)</td>
<td>CamSIS</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CamSIS the basics (online course)</td>
<td>CamSIS</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Librarian’s Assistant</td>
<td>Masters by distance learning</td>
<td>University of Aberystwyth</td>
<td>2310.00</td>
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<td></td>
<td>RBSCG annual conference</td>
<td>RBSCG</td>
<td>46.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Understanding &amp; caring for bookbindings</td>
<td>BL PAC</td>
<td>109.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Copyright</td>
<td></td>
<td>35.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Copyright for Archivists</td>
<td>SOA</td>
<td>50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate Trainee</td>
<td>Photoshop</td>
<td>UCS</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>HTML courses</td>
<td>UCS</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Foreign language cataloguing</td>
<td>L@C</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rare books cataloguing</td>
<td>L@C</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Libraries@Cambridge conference</td>
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<td>Free</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rare Books Cataloguer</td>
<td>RBSCG annual conference</td>
<td>RBSCG</td>
<td>57.50</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FRBR &amp; RDA talk</td>
<td>UL</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hoyle Project Associate</td>
<td>Online Exhibitions</td>
<td>E-Learning Gp</td>
<td>80.00</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Object handling &amp; packing</td>
<td>MA</td>
<td>220.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Libraries@Cambridge conference</td>
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<td>Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Engaging with 14-19s</td>
<td>MLA</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>KS3 outreach course</td>
<td>SMus</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part-time Cleaner (JH)</td>
<td>First Aider refresher course</td>
<td>SJC</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Part-time Cleaner (AL)</td>
<td>Excel course</td>
<td>UCS</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All staff</td>
<td>Departmental Away Day</td>
<td>SJCL</td>
<td>450.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>In-house training workshop</td>
<td>SJCL</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Disaster recovery workshop</td>
<td>SJCL</td>
<td>Free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>3565.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Abbreviations:**
- AMARC: Association for Manuscripts and Archives in Research Collections
- BL PAC: British Library Preservation Advisory Centre
- CCPD: Cambridge University Centre for Personal and Professional Development
- FRBR: Functional Requirements for Bibliographic Records
- RBSCG: Rare Books & Special Collections Group, Chartered Institute of Library & Information Professionals
Annual Report 2009-10

L@C  Libraries@Cambridge
MA   Museums Association
MLA  Museums, Libraries & Archives Council
RDA  Resource Description and Access
SMus Science Museum
SOA  Society of Archivists
SJC  St John’s College
SJCL St John’s College Library
UCS  Cambridge University Computing Service
UL   Cambridge University Library

Kathryn McKee
Sub-Librarian
User Education

A repeat of last year’s one hour induction for first year undergraduates, comprising a half hour tour and half hour demonstration of online services, proved impossible to schedule as only three weekdays were available before the start of lectures, and students already had a busy timetable with departmental and tutorial appointments. A different model was therefore adopted, with a half hour session for the whole of the first year undergraduate intake in the Palmerston Room on their first Saturday, followed by the traditional pattern of half hour library tours in their small subject groups over the Monday-Wednesday.

The advantage of this approach was that virtually all undergraduates attended the initial group induction. Examples could not be tailored as neatly to individual subjects, but it did ensure that all received essential information on how to obtain and use their various passwords, and all saw demonstrations of how to search the catalogue effectively, and how to find and use both e-books and e-journals.

Attendance at the subsequent library tours was possibly a little lower than in previous years, but all subjects were represented. At their tour, students were issued with information tailored to their subjects and a range of attractive new library guides.

For the first time in 2009-10, with the assistance of the Tutor for Graduate Affairs, Sue Colwell, and the SBR Committee, inductions were organised for new graduates. This is an extremely welcome development. Four sessions were provided, giving a brief physical tour of the Library and its facilities, followed by a demonstration of catalogues, e-resources, and finding aids that would be of particular interest to those engaged in postgraduate research. Forty-five minutes was allocated to each session, with a further fifteen minutes available for individual subject-specific questions and advice. Eighteen students attended the sessions, which were offered on a voluntary sign-up basis. Two enterprising graduates also noticed the undergraduate induction session on the timetable and attended the Saturday session in the Palmerston Room.
Organising inductions on this scale would not be possible without support from the Tutorial Office (particularly Wendy Redgewell), the Fisher Building staff, the Tutor for Graduate Affairs and the SBR Committee, and we are grateful to them all for their work in ensuring that library inductions ran smoothly. All library staff participated in giving library tours, and the Special Collections and Academic Services Librarians nobly delivered the demonstrations for the graduate sessions at short notice when the Sub-Librarian was off sick.

It is not easy to measure the effectiveness of inductions. Although the procedure for renewing books online was demonstrated to students, a system problem meant that this feature was not working during the Michaelmas Term, so we could not tell if students had taken in what they had been shown. Borrowing was significantly down on previous years, but this follows a trend in declining circulation, and may in part be attributed to an online renewals ‘bug’ too. Use of the Newton catalogue was high, which is encouraging, and use of the building has also been high, which suggests that students are coming in to access library materials.

Kathryn McKee
Sub-Librarian
Working Library Use

Detailed statistics on Library usage are collected during week five of every Full Term. Figures on entries into the Library are collected twice a day at 9am and 7pm to give information on footfall both inside and outside staffed hours, numbers of enquiries made at the Issue Desk are recorded on an hourly basis, and a tally of books cleared from work-spaces within the Library (including an indication of the subject areas these books belong to) is kept daily. These statistics, combined with the daily circulation figures, allow us a more detailed snapshot of how the Library is being used at comparable points during each term.

As can be seen from the table above, figures for Michaelmas 2009 show little fluctuation from previous years; however, Lent and Easter terms would appear to have been busier than other years. This is reflected in the entry data, showing that numbers physically using the library are growing, but not necessarily in the numbers of books issued and returned (i.e. this has not grown in line with footfall). This would suggest that the Library is playing an increasingly important role as a place for our students to come and work and access e-resources. Enquiries at the desk remain comparable to earlier years, but with noticeably more enquiries during Michaelmas term than later in the year - hopefully signifying our students' growing familiarity with the collections and a shift in emphasis in use from borrowing to study-space.

Sam Bailey
Projects Assistant
Annual Circulation

Library usage remains high in the last academic year (2009-10) despite borrowing levels (based on frequency counts of items borrowed) dropping below those of the previous year (2008-9). The availability and usage of electronic books and journals continued to increase, a factor which might explain the lower level of borrowing.

As shown in the termly borrowing figures for the past three years (see Table below), Michaelmas term remains the busiest term. Of all the borrowing groups, Undergraduate students (83%) stand out as the group most frequently borrowing from the Library collections. This is understandable for two reasons: first, the Library aims to stock all core textbooks for undergraduate students; and second, until October 2010 first and second year undergraduate students had no borrowing rights at the University Library, relying either on their Faculty or College Library for borrowing.

Other groups of borrowers included PhD Postgraduate students (6%), One-Year Postgraduate students (6%) and Fellows (5%).

### Borrowing figures for the last three academic years by Term

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2007-8</th>
<th>2008-9</th>
<th>2009-10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Michaelmas Term</td>
<td>5753</td>
<td>5509</td>
<td>4580</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christmas vacation</td>
<td>729</td>
<td>714</td>
<td>550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lent Term</td>
<td>5368</td>
<td>4945</td>
<td>4205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easter vacation</td>
<td>681</td>
<td>771</td>
<td>787</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easter Term</td>
<td>3583</td>
<td>3440</td>
<td>2766</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Summer vacation</td>
<td>1191</td>
<td>1442</td>
<td>1194</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>17305</strong></td>
<td><strong>16836</strong></td>
<td><strong>14082</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Comparing 2009-10 with 2008-9, Economics and History remain the two most heavily borrowed subjects, followed by PPSIS and English. There was, however, a sharp decline in borrowing in the latter two subjects – PPSIS was down by 523 compared with last year and English down by 418. Increases in borrowing were recorded for Maths, Medicine, and Engineering in 2009-10 compared with the previous year. Small numbers of students reading Education and Veterinary Medicine explain the low borrowing figures for these subjects. The majority of the Library’s Law materials are for reference only, hence the borrowing figure for Law is also low.
Stocktaking

Following our three-year cycle of stocktaking the whole of the Working Library’s collections, the aim in the summer of 2009 was to check the Mezzanine and Second Floor. These sections cover the whole of the natural sciences, mathematics and computing, archaeology and anthropology, history, economics, geography, political and social sciences, international relations, medicine, veterinary medicine and engineering.

A total of 65 books were found to be missing. This represents less than half of one percent of the total stock checked. Titles missing spread across subjects, with no pattern of any organised theft. Past experience suggests that some titles will re-emerge over coming months, having been misplaced elsewhere in the Library. The largest number of books missing was in economics, with 17 titles missing. History has 9 titles missing, medicine 7, sociology 6, politics and mathematics 4 apiece, engineering 3, international relations, veterinary medicine, HPS and psychology all had 2 titles missing, and just one volume was missing from anthropology, computing, chemistry, physics, earth sciences, biology, and anatomy.

The Mezzanine stocktake was completed successfully over the course of the summer. This section covers natural sciences, mathematics and computing, anatomy and physiology.

It did not prove possible to complete the stocktake of the Second Floor over the course of the summer vacation. This is a large collection, and one in which the shelves are becoming increasingly packed, making it harder for staff to shelve books, and for students to find them. A major reorganisation was undertaken over the summer to move lesser used material to the Basement. This was a considerable and essential task, which took several weeks to complete. It would have been pointless to try to stockcheck whilst stock was being moved around the building. By the time that all stock had been relocated, insufficient time remained to stocktake all areas of the Second Floor. This work was completed during the Christmas vacation.

Given the increasing demands on staff time during the summer vacation, with the priority to ensure that books required for the new academic year are all ordered,
catalogued and processed ready for the start of term, it may be more realistic to aim to carry out stocktaking both in the summer and Christmas vacations. More staff are available to assist in stocktaking during the Christmas break than during the summer, when all staff take the bulk of their annual leave. In 2010, no stockcheck as such is planned: preparations for the introduction of RFID mean that staff time will be devoted to barcoding all unbarcoded stock rather than stocktaking. However, this process will enable us to identify missing books, primarily in the various Basement collections, plus the Cambridge and Johnian collections.

Kathryn McKee
Sub-Librarian
Environmental Monitoring and Control

Working Library

Once more, conditions in the Working Library have remained comfortable for our readers. Temperature levels are generally warm, due to the ‘greenhouse effect’ created by the large windows throughout the building. Readers are encouraged to control their immediate environment themselves by opening windows or adjusting radiators as necessary, though they are reminded to close windows when they leave to prevent temperatures dropping overnight leading to uncomfortable working conditions the next morning. Relative humidity does fluctuate, but usually falls between 30% and 75%, somewhat higher than the recommended levels for the storage of books or archive materials (between 45% and 60%). This is not a great cause for concern, however, since the stock in the Working Library does not include rare or fragile items and is designated for current use rather than long-term preservation.

Conditions in the basements, including the closed-access basement which contains some pre-1850 material, are good. The readings show a stable temperature range of 18°C to 23°C, which is within recommended limits. Relative humidity has largely remained within limits, only occasionally rising to 70%.

Old Library

Manuscripts Store

Whilst temperature has remained reasonable in the Manuscripts Store, relative humidity has been wildly fluctuating for a large part of the 2009-10 year, reaching levels of 85% or higher at times. Work has been carried out on the air conditioning unit which has lessened the problem.

Lower and Upper Libraries

Conditions in the Lower and Upper Libraries are changeable. Temperature levels are generally stable, if slightly lower than desirable in winter and higher than ideal in summer. Relative humidity ranges between 30% and 75%. There have been minor outbreaks of bread beetle, which have been dealt with and are being continually monitored. The challenge of
bringing humidity levels down to a suitable level is compounded by the fact that the Old Library is an historic building located beside a river, as well as by the fact that we seek to achieve conditions that suit mixed media such as textiles, paintings, photographs and films as well as books.

Light (Lux) and UV levels in the Old Library are within acceptable levels and continue to be controlled through the use of UV filters and blinds on the windows. Any items on display in the Exhibition Area are kept under controlled lighting and the display cases in the Upper Library are kept covered at all times when not in use.

Ryan Cronin
Librarian’s Assistant
Green Initiatives

Recycling

During the year we continued to collect a significant amount of recyclable material from the library. On average we collected the following each month:

- 8 bags of A4 paper.
- 7 bags of plastic bottles.
- 1 bag of aluminium cans.

As last year, significantly less than half of collected plastic and cans were deposited in recycling bins, the bulk was removed from desks or general bins by the cleaners. Students were still bringing in small amounts of kitchen waste to our recycling facility, showing a requirement for similar bins around the College.

Lighting in Working Library

The installation of new desk lamps and overhead lamps in bays has improved the working environment as well as saving energy.

John Holt
Library Cleaner
Seminar and Audio-Visual Rooms

Seminar Room
This continues to be heavily used for revision, supervision and teaching as well as for meetings, examinations and interviews. The room is often fully booked from first thing in the morning (Student Time) until late evening. Total bookings amounted to around 1000 hours for the last academic year. The data projector continues to prove a valuable addition to the room.

Audio-Visual Room
The DVD collection is used extensively as a general and teaching resource for all members of College. We now have over eight hundred discs in a range of languages and disciplines with a steady number of Directors of Studies and teaching Fellows recommending further purchases.

During the past year we have enlarged our classical CD collection, trying to fill in some of the more obvious gaps. Our Elvis collection is looked after by an Old Johnian who regularly sends us parcels of funky music with slightly disturbing artwork.

We have also bought more language material this year with the emphasis on self-teach packages.

Peter Hutton
Library Assistant
The Biographical Office

General overview

During another busy year, staff involved in biographical work have continued to update the records of our alumni, undertake further research, and answer enquiries regarding Johnians from throughout the history of the College, right through to current students.

As well as the two full-time members of staff in the Biographical Office – the Biographical Librarian and the Register Project Assistant – the Librarian’s Assistant, the Graduate Trainee, and the Projects Assistant spend part of their time each week doing biographical work. This contribution to the smooth-running of the biographical aspect of the Library’s remit is highly valued.

Detailed reports on particular projects appear below, but the following table offers an insight into the volume of biographical information received, and some of the work undertaken. Last year’s figures are included for comparison.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>2009-10</th>
<th>2008-9</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biographical material received</td>
<td>2697</td>
<td>2916</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biographical Archive consulted</td>
<td>801</td>
<td>758</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Items filed in Biographical Archive</td>
<td>417</td>
<td>360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emails and letters sent</td>
<td>2262</td>
<td>1494</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tutorial files consulted</td>
<td>141</td>
<td>168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proactive research</td>
<td>806</td>
<td>663</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Record updates

The paper and electronic records continue to grow year on year, with large amounts of data being entered on the Biographical Database and many key sources being attached to the electronic record and/or filed in the Biographical Archive.

Despite efforts to make it clear through staff and alumni newsletters, as mentioned in last year’s report, there is still confusion amongst some staff, Fellows, and Johnians, regarding which office should be approached in order to supply or request information on members of the College. However, we continue to work hard to ensure that accurate and up to date information on all those admitted to membership of the College is held on the Biographical Database for Johnians who came up to the College from 1900 onwards, liaising with all relevant departments within the College, and in the University, sharing data as far as possible.

The Register Project Assistant has spent time growing familiar with the Raiser’s Edge database, employed by the College’s Development Office for fundraising and alumni relations purposes, and we now have a series of queries in place which are run periodically to ensure that we are staying up to date with information supplied directly to them. We hope, in time, to develop a more streamlined approach to the flow of data between the databases.

The Biographical Librarian has also attended training courses on CamSIS (Cambridge Student Information System), the official University-wide web-based student records database, access to which is limited to certain staff involved in student administration. When our Tutorial Department at St John’s moved over to this system from the CASC (Colleges’ Administrative Software Consortium) database the old method of transferring admissions and tutorial data for current or recent students into the Biographical Database no longer worked. This transfer process used to be handled by the Biographical Librarian twice a year, so she has been liaising with representatives from CamSIS to facilitate a means of getting this working again, preferably on at least a termly basis.

As with other changes of database, this process has been far from straightforward. A project which we had hoped would be completed by the start of the last academic year is still not up and running. It has taken the Biographical Librarian away from her day to day work and led to an increasing backlog of data entry and biographical enquiries. This situation is set to continue for a little longer, but with the assistance of the consultant who wrote the original script for the transfer of data from CASC to the Biographical Database it is expected that during the course of the Michaelmas Term 2010 data will start to be transferred for those Freshers coming up to the College, as well as a
retrospective transfer of any other tutorial data which has not yet made it on to the Biographical Database.

Whilst waiting for this system to be up and running the work of the Biographical Librarian to develop the Admissions Register has largely had to be put on hold, but in the meantime the Library’s new Projects Assistant is spending a portion of her time doing biographical work, chiefly on twenty-first-century records. She is already doing an excellent job organising information on current and incoming students, and where records have had to be manually created she has been inputting data from application documents, registration forms and birth certificates. She is also inputting information from websites, publications, and from students themselves, in many cases helping make inroads into a backlog which has been growing since the Biographical Office joined the Library in 2007 (when we lost the assistance of some staff that used to do this data entry in the former Johnian Office).

It is hoped that with the Projects Assistant’s valuable help it will increasingly become easier to keep on top of information for our students while they are here. It is not unusual for the Biographical Librarian to only discover things Johnians did as students after they have died, and it is a particular wish of the office to capture as much information as possible at the earliest stage. Bearing in mind the amount of time spent trying to get to the bottom of discrepancies between different sources of data, the best possible way of ensuring information is accurate is to enter it as close to the time it happened as possible, before people’s memories of dates and positions fade!

**Newspaper cuttings**

The Librarian’s Assistant continues the task of going through the press cuttings we receive from the International Press Cutting Bureau (IPCB) and other sources. A breakdown of the subject matter of press cuttings received, with figures from last year as a comparison, is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>2009-10</th>
<th>2008-9</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Johnians</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General College</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St John’s Innovation Centre</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choir</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>264</strong></td>
<td><strong>255</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The service we subscribe to, along with Google alerts, daily University News Digests, and the checking of student publications such as *Varsity*, *The Cambridge Student*, and
The Tab, help to ensure we capture as much media coverage on Johnians as possible, from which biographical information can be gleaned for their record, and the articles attached to the database and/or filed in the Biographical Archive as appropriate.

Biographical Enquiries

The pattern of enquiries, in terms of which century they related to, is shown below, along with the previous three years’ figures for comparison.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Century</th>
<th>2009-10</th>
<th>2008-9</th>
<th>2007-8</th>
<th>2006-7</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sixteenth</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seventeenth</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eighteenth</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nineteenth</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twentieth</td>
<td>246</td>
<td>238</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twenty First</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than one century/Other</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>372</td>
<td>388</td>
<td>297</td>
<td>155</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The number of biographical enquiries dealt with this year is slightly down on last year, which can be attributed to the fact the Biographical Librarian has a backlog of enquiries due to other work outlined in this report. Some enquiries have been logged, and holding replies or preliminary responses sent, but they are not considered as complete yet, and the figures above are for finished work. The number of requests received in the last year is in fact higher than in previous years.

The figures given above relate to the number of enquiries rather than the number of Johnians information has been provided on. When it comes to requests for information such as all alumni who work in a particular field, or were born in a certain country, it may involve hundreds of members of the College but only counts as one enquiry in the table above.

Something which should also be emphasised is an enquiry may take a matter of minutes to quickly confirm a fact, such as the dates a certain person served as Master of the College, but may take far longer. An example of a more time-consuming request would be one which involves gathering up to date information on living Johnians working in a particular field, necessitating a comparison of the
Biographical Database and the fundraising/alumni relations database, Raiser’s Edge, and perhaps searches on Who’s Who and the internet.

Enquiries which involve simply sending information from the Biographical Archive can be much quicker to deal with than ones which involve some sort of research. This is not always the case, however, as it is common for enquirers to have further questions, particularly regarding what the College was like at the time the person they are researching was here. Sometimes the questions posed are such that the expertise of the Archivist is required, and as always the Biographical Librarian is most grateful to him for his assistance.

In addition to the many requests for general biographical information on individuals, below is a selection of areas on which data has been provided over the last year:

- First and Second World War deaths
- Career paths of former Title A Fellows
- Johnians to be featured in a biography of Capability Brown
- Johnians to be featured in a book about Northumberland cricketers
- Eighteenth-century Presidents of the College
- Connections with Wimborne Grammar School for the Old Winburnians Association
- Heads of House at Cambridge and Oxford
- Johnians currently working in the education sector/Johnian headmasters (two separate enquiries)
- Chinese, Indian and Hungarian Johnians from certain periods in history (three separate enquiries), and alumni throughout history who have a connection with Africa.

**Register of Twentieth-Century Johnians**

As the Project progresses it continues to take on a much more organic shape, helped in no small part by the ever widening focus of the Register Project Assistant. The series of checks which form the spine of the work are still approached in chronological order, but in a much less rigid way, making it slightly more difficult to quantify the actual volume of work completed.

It is worth pointing out that a considerable amount of the work done on other projects feeds into the Register Project itself in a way which will prove invaluable in the years to come; for example, Who’s Who has been searched thoroughly for Johnians and we are quite confident that we are aware of a very high percentage of those featured. This will be further improved by checking for new Johnian additions on its annual publication every December and we are in the process of updating the records of all those involved. We would like to expand this
aspect, time permitting, to include searches of Debrett’s People of Today and Crockford’s Clerical Dictionary.

Another significant portion of the Register Project Assistant’s time is spent searching lists of honours and elections to learned societies. Every year we check the New Year’s Honours and Queen’s Birthday Honours which, given the amount of names involved, is a time consuming and arduous task. We also check for newly elected QCs, Fellows of the Royal Society, the British Academy, the Royal Society of Edinburgh and the Royal Academy of Engineering; not forgetting the prestigious prizes these (and other) institutions award.

This year, Johnians have amassed: 4 CBEs, 4 OBEs 2 MBEs, 1 CB, 1 QC, 2 Fellowships to the Royal Society, 2 Royal Society Medals, 1 Fellowship of the British Academy and a Royal Astronomical Society Gold Medal. As with the Who’s Who project, it is our hope to further expand this to encompass other societies and awards.

Fiona Colbert and Paul Everest
Biographical Librarian and Register Project Assistant
The Old Library

Statistics

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2009-10</th>
<th>2008-9</th>
<th>2007-8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Readers consulting special collections material</td>
<td>291</td>
<td>345</td>
<td>386</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visitors taking a tour of the Old Library</td>
<td>931*</td>
<td>563</td>
<td>480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letters filed</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>88</td>
<td>90</td>
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<td>E-mail responses to enquiries</td>
<td>1420</td>
<td>1300</td>
<td>1212</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reproductions of special collections material processed at Cambridge University Library</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reproductions of special collections material processed in house</td>
<td>251**</td>
<td>198</td>
<td>143</td>
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<tr>
<td>Permissions granted to reproduce special collections material in published works</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of special collections material in connection with biographical work</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>-</td>
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</tbody>
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*This figure does not include organised groups of visitors (listed under visits and exhibitions below), school pupils on educational visits, or attendees at open events.

** This figure includes 43 copies of material produced in answer to biographical enquiries. It does not include reproductions of library materials from which to select illustrations for the College history book, which would add approximately 70-80 more to this total.

Preservation

In-house conservation work
Over the past year George Bolton has repaired the following items in accordance with our conservation priorities.
Gg.5.28
Sm.a.10
Cambridge Conservation Consortium
Over the past year, staff at the Cambridge Conservation Consortium have undertaken repairs to two manuscripts and one early printed book:
S.35 – repairs to loose and damaged pages and binding
A.5.4 – repairs to creased, torn and fragile pages
MS E.14 – repairs to badly damaged initial pages, interleaving and rebinding

Work is currently under way on the second of Samuel Butler’s photograph albums.

Re-boxing
George Bolton has made new boxes for an oriental manuscript, Browne 1438, and for all of Samuel Butler’s 19th century photograph albums, together with several photograph albums in the College’s collections. He is currently working on boxes for a number of the Samuel Butler artefacts. These are fragile objects which have for decades been stored imperfectly in brown paper packages, and for which more appropriate storage is a priority.

Cleaning
Philip Bolton has continued to clean the books and shelves in the Lower and Upper Libraries. John Holt and Ania Łukasik have kept our storage areas and Reading Room looking clean and tidy throughout the year, and ensured that glass-topped display cases are free from finger-marks for special events, educational visits, and open days.

Bread beetle in the Upper Library
Just one larva has been found this year, which may be a reflection of the weather conditions this summer, rather than any indication that the problem is being finally resolved. The situation continues to be carefully monitored by the Special Collections Librarian and Philip Bolton.

li.1.15 – Seneca, Opera philosophica, epistolae etc. (Treviso, 1478)
Alan Farrant (Head of Conservation at CUL) has continued the slow work of repairing the acid-damaged pages and binding of this volume.
Visits and exhibitions

The Old Library’s special collections attract numerous visiting groups, for whom displays of relevant special collections material are prepared. The following selection gives some idea of the range of organisations that have benefited from the rich resources of the collections over the past twelve months.

- Johnian with a group of twenty soldiers (August 2009)
- CILIP Rare Books & Special Collections Group Conference delegates (September 2009)
- University alumni tour (September 2009)
- Designer bookbinders (October 2009)
- Graduands tour with Professor Boyde (November 2009)
- Undergraduates and postgraduates studying French, led by Dr Cobby of the Faculty of Modern and Medieval Languages (November 2009, February and March 2010)
- University of the Third Age (November 2009)
- Manuscripts class (November 2009)
- French students studying trade and economics, with their teachers (February 2010)
- Architecture students led by Professor Howard (February 2010)
- Pupils from the Whitgift School (February 2010)
- Members of Cambridge Decorative and Fine Arts Society (March 2010)
- School pupils from the Netherlands (March 2010)
- Admiral James Stavridis, NATO’s Supreme Allied Commander Europe (May 2010)
- Norfolk Art Fund (June 2010)
- Boys Brigade officers with Chapel Clerk (June 2010)
- Visiting choirs (June and July 2010)
- Delegates at Privacy Laws and Business International Conference (July 2010)
- History of the Book students from the University of London (July 2010)
- Graduate trainees from the London Library (July 2010)
• Librarians from the House of Lords looking at conservation issues in historic buildings (July 2010)
• Summer school architecture students (July 2010)
• Medical librarians (July 2010)

(Note: open events and educational visits are recorded elsewhere in the Annual Report)

Exhibitions in the Library exhibition area

The Library exhibition area is open both to Members of College and to the general public during staffed hours and gives the opportunity to show material from the Special Collections to a wider audience.


January-April 2010 – ‘J. E. B. Mayor and the Edwardian College’ (exhibition marking the centenary of his death).

April 2010 – ‘From William Wordsworth to Words’ a display of poetry by local schoolchildren inspired by our Wordsworth collection.

May-June 2010 – College Art and Photography Competition, curated by the Librarian’s Assistant, Ryan Cronin.

July-October 2010 – ‘Gap years for gentlemen’ an exhibition on grand tours, curated by the Graduate Trainee, Laure Cinquin.

Events

The Old Library has been used for filming on four occasions during the year. The University Office of External Affairs and Communications filmed in the Old Library on 12 September 2009 in connection with the Open Cambridge Weekend, and again in October for footage for TV journalists, documentary makers, and University institutions in connection with the University’s 800th anniversary. Cambridge Admissions Office filmed MS C.9 in the Upper Library on 18 January 2010 for a podcast to advertise summer schools in Anglo-Saxon, Norse and Celtic, run in association with the Sutton Trust. Imagine Media Productions filmed C.11.40(3), a rare 17th century pamphlet on the settlement of Ulster, in the Upper Library on 17 June 2010 for a documentary on the Ulster plantations to be shown on Northern Irish television.
Donations

The Old Library continues to attract generous donations from alumni and other well-wishers. In 2010 we again benefited from the generosity of Mr Brian Fenwick-Smith (BA 1959), who presented the Library with a beautiful volume of Herodotus, Thucydides and Xenophon, printed by the Aldine Press in 1502-3, and formerly owned by Sir John Cheke. This is a superb example of early printing of Greek text, and is of specific Johnian interest in containing Cheke’s own annotations. In addition to this outstanding donation, we have also received the following generous gifts:

- Ian Goodhand (BA 1950): St John’s College May Ball 1951 menu; photographs of St John’s College Rugby Club 1948-9, 1949-50 and 1950-51; photographs of St John’s College Rugby team 1949-50 and 1950-51.


- Professor N. E. Collinge (BA 1947): Q. Horatius Flaccus ex recensione & cum notis atque emendationibus Richardi Bentleii (Cambridge, 1711); M. Tullii Ciceronis Opera omnia (Geneva, 1659); Franc. Sanctii Minerva (Amsterdam, 1733).


- Mrs Diane Casey: Athletics medal and framed photograph of her great uncle Joseph Fenner Spink (BA 1904).


Purchases

The following items were purchased for the special collections in 2009-10:


**Loans**

Mm.1.13 and T.5.33 were lent to the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, Cambridge in December 2009 and February 2010 respectively for their exhibition ‘Assembling bodies: art, science & imagination’.

A Brass Frame Sextant by Edward Nairne dating to c. 1770 (currently on loan to the Whipple Museum) was displayed by the Captain Cook Memorial Museum in Whitby in their exhibition ‘Northward Ho! A Voyage towards the North Pole 1773’ from 1 March to 31 October 2010.

**Other**

A full stocktake of the Upper Library was undertaken in February 2010 and no item was found to be missing. The Upper Library hosted the drinks reception for the Michaelmas Entertainment, was opened for the launch of the Beaufort Society in October 2009, and hosted a drinks reception in July 2010 before an alumni dinner.

The Old Library now benefits from the services of two regular volunteers. Ian Osler and Chris Krupa have been sorting, filing in conservation standard folders, and cataloguing collections of personal papers, which without their help would still await processing.
Cataloguing

Cataloguing of our special collections has continued to make good progress. Allen Purvis’s transfer from full time to a three day a week contract has meant that the rate of cataloguing in the Lower Library has slowed, but he has still completed the Smith, Soulden Lawrence and Wordsworth collections in the course of the year. Katie Birkwood continues to make determined progress through the 150 boxes of Hoyle material as the project enters its final year. More details on both projects can be found in Allen and Katie’s individual reports. Our 2009-10 Graduate Trainee, Laure Cinquin, continued the excellent work of her predecessor in the Cecil Beaton collection, cataloguing a set of letters, accounts, and other documents relating to Beaton’s production of The Gainsborough Girls.

A highly significant development this year and one which is most welcome has been the addition of the catalogues for all of the Upper Library’s collections and the majority of books in the Lower Library to the COPAC catalogue. This greatly improves the availability of bibliographical and provenance information about our collections to the wider academic community. The MARC21 bibliographical records are also now available to libraries through RLUK for download, enabling institutions who are recataloguing their own special collections to benefit from the work of cataloguers at St John’s. We would like to record our thanks to the Libraries@Cambridge team at the University Library for their work in facilitating the transfer of records to RLUK and COPAC. New and amended records for special collections items will be added to COPAC and RLUK on a monthly basis.

Kathryn McKee
Sub-Librarian and Special Collections Librarian
Lower Library Cataloguing Project

The Lower Library Cataloguing Project is well on the way to completion, with only the Brice-Smith Collection of twentieth-century private press books to be catalogued. Work on this collection has commenced with an anticipated completion date of the end of October.

During this year the collections of William Wordsworth (207 records), W. F. Smith (224 records) and Sir Soulden Lawrence (754 records) have been added to the database, together with 611 records for offprints and pamphlets bequeathed by Isaac Todhunter as the remaining uncatalogued part of class 2. This gives a total number of 10,650 bibliographic records within the Project to the end of this statistical year.

The Wordsworth collection contains copies of the poet’s two earliest works, An evening walk and Descriptive sketches, both published in 1793. Lyrical ballads is well represented with editions of 1798 (2nd issue), 1800, 1802 and 1805. Furthermore, the collection also boasts six items formerly owned by Wordsworth, bearing his autograph, viz. Pomponius Mela’s De situ orbis libri tres (Basel, 1536), Latin editions of Ovid (1717, vol. 3 only), Tacitus (1743), a Latin Bible printed at Amsterdam in 1669, Flagellum: or The life and death, birth and burial of O. Cromwell the late usurper (1672) and the 1753 edition of Martin Martin’s A voyage to St. Kilda. In order to enhance the range and value of the works already in the Wordsworth collection, several items from the basement and Working Library have been relocated by the Rare Books Cataloguer.

William Francis Smith (1842-1919), Fellow and College Tutor, was a renowned authority on Rabelais. His collection of Rabelais’ works and their authorities was given to the Library before his death in 1919. Of around 200 titles, 35 were printed in the sixteenth century, the earliest being the works of Poggio Bracciolini printed by Johann Knobloch at Strasbourg in 1513. The volume is in a contemporary blind-stamped calf binding, with the inscription ‘Maistre Denis lanvier’ stamped in gold on the fore-edge. Another work in an interesting binding is De occulta philosophia libri tres by Heinrich Cornelius Agrippa von Nettesheim, printed at Venice in 1551, bound in limp vellum from manuscript leaves of a medieval missal.

Sir Soulden Lawrence (1751-1814), Fellow of the College, was an eminent judge, and the collection of around 1000 volumes reflect his work, being for the most part editions of
legal texts and law reports. Of particular interest may be mentioned *The Grand abridgment of the law continued* by William Hughes, published in three volumes in 1660. These volumes contain the gold book-stamp and armorial bookplate of Robert Harley, Earl of Oxford.

Also housed with the Lawrence collection, but not actually part of it, are several oversize volumes, some of which are early atlases. There are two editions (1592 and 1603) of Abraham Ortelius’ *Theatrum orbis terrarum*, Mercator’s *Atlas* printed by Jodocus Hondius at Amsterdam in 1613 and *Nouus atlas Sinensis* by Martino Martini, printed by Joan Blaeu also at Amsterdam in 1655, which is the first printed atlas of China. There are also two celestial atlases, viz. *Harmonia macrocosmica* by Andreas Cellarius (1660) and John Flamsteed’s *Atlas coelestis* (1753).

Allen Purvis
Rare Books Cataloguer
Hoyle Project

The cataloguing of the Hoyle papers has now reached box 104. Some of the highlights of the cataloguing year were audiovisual recordings of Fred Hoyle, including lectures, dramatic and musical works, and the ceremony to unveil a statue of Hoyle at the Institute of Astronomy in 1992.

Fred Hoyle continues to excite public and media interest. Two ‘blue plaques’ now commemorate his life: one at Bingley Grammar School, the other at Admiral’s Walk, Bournemouth, where Fred and Barbara Hoyle lived in their later years. Hoyle was featured on the Channel 4 series Genius of Britain, broadcast in May 2010; the programme showed items from the Hoyle Collection as well as the Upper Library. Hoyle’s science fiction remains popular, and his first novel, The black cloud (Heinemann, 1957), has been republished as a Penguin ‘Classic’.

Hoyle project outreach events continue to be popular with the public. The Library took part in the University’s second ‘Open Cambridge’ weekend in September 2009, for which the Hoyle Project Associate coordinated the involvement of eighteen college and departmental libraries in a distinct ‘Open Libraries’ strand. St John’s College Library was visited by more than 380 visitors coming for guided tours and an open-access exhibition. The Michaelmas Term 2009 exhibition “The Way to the Stars”: a History of College Astronomy was curated by the Hoyle Project Associate. It benefited from the publicity of the International Year of Astronomy 2009 and BBC Sky at Night magazine, and received a larger-than-usual number of visitors. The second Hoyle Day was a resounding success. On Saturday 17 October the Upper Library was opened to visitors and nearly 200 people came to see an exhibition of papers and artefacts from the Hoyle Collection. Dr Simon Mitton, Hoyle’s biographer, gave a talk under the title ‘Conflict in the Cosmos: Fred Hoyle’s life in science (1915-2001)’. The Hoyle Day was attended by several members of Hoyle’s family, who were impressed by the exhibition.
The Hoyle Project hosted its second Cambridge Science Festival event, ‘The Way to the Stars: 700 Years of Astronomy’ on Saturday 13 March 2010. The Upper Library opened to the public with an exhibition including medieval manuscripts about astrolabes, early printed books describing telescopes, some of the papers of John Couch Adams, and items from the Hoyle Collection. Over 500 visitors came to see the exhibition, a record number for a Library event. The Hoyle Project Associate also ran three hands-on sessions for children and families. Inspired by Geoffrey Chaucer’s *Treatise on the astrolabe* (MS E.2), visitors built their own working replica astrolabes and learnt the basics of how to use them.

Visitor comments throughout the year demonstrate the excellent impression made by the events:

**Open Cambridge 2009:**
‘St John’s stands out as having enthusiastic and helpful librarian guides’

**‘Way to the Stars’ exhibition, Michaelmas Term 2009:**
‘Very interesting, even for a non scientist!’; ‘Fascinating to a former telescope observatory director’

**Hoyle Day 2009:**
‘First class! Congratulations to all concerned. Informative, stimulating and well-worth all the hard work!’
‘Wonderful opportunity to see the exhibition material, super staff/library/archivist interaction with visitors. Super venues. Please do more.’

**Cambridge Science Festival 2010:**
‘Wonderful to see the exhibition on Hoyle’s work, and others. Thank you!’
‘V. interesting and clear instructions. An enthusiastic presenter. Thank you’.

Two online resources have been produced this year. *Fred Hoyle: An Online Exhibition* (http://www.joh.cam.ac.uk/library/special_collections/hoyle/exhibition) covers topics such as Hoyle’s youth, his major scientific work, his hobbies, and his life in Cambridge, and has received nearly 3,000 unique visitors since it was launched in January 2010. *The Way to the Stars: Build Your Own Astrolabe* (http://www.joh.cam.ac.uk/library/library_exhibitions/schoolresources/astrolabe/) explains how to build a working astrolabe with a free kit provided. It has received over 1,000 unique visitors, and the Hoyle Project Associate has received enquiries about it from astronomers in several countries.

Several groups have visited the Hoyle Collection in the last year. Sawston Village College STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) club for years 7 and 8 (ages 11-13) built astrolabes in school and then visited the Library to learn about the history
of astronomy. A class from the University of the Third Age in Cambridge visited the Old Library on 24 November 2009 as part of a course on twentieth-century physics. On 22 February 2010 a group of science-specialist Cambridge ‘Blue Badge’ tourist guides visited the Library to learn more about the Hoyle Project and to examine and handle some of the Hoyle papers. They described the visit as ‘a fascinating glimpse of what the great man was really like, which is so helpful when we are trying to build up a picture of him for our tours’.

Katie Birkwood
Hoyle Project Associate

Detail of Fred Hoyle's telescope, displayed in the Upper Library
Outreach and Access

In the year 2009-10, the Library’s programme of outreach and access has preserved and expanded upon the strengths of previous years and the hard work of previous Library staff; the Library’s existing relationships with local schools and museums have been maintained and new ones have been formed; new sessions for school visits have been designed; and the doors of the Old Library have been opened to the public yet again.

School visits

The Library has been visited by a number of school groups for sessions on a diverse range of topics, from why St John’s College grew so big to magic and explanatory texts and everything in between. In conjunction with the Cambridge and County Folk Museum, the Library’s session on the Fire of London was repeated with a class from Teversham School. This was the first visit run by the new Librarian’s Assistant, ably assisted by the Sub-Librarian. Other successfully repeated visits include a three-part session on the Tudors with groups from St Matthew’s Primary School and an investigation into English language change from 1700 to the present day with classes from St Neot’s Community College.

The Librarian’s Assistant and the Hoyle Project Associate also worked together to develop a new session on Ancient Egypt, archaeology and the use of sources, as part of a wider scheme with the National Education Trust. Five local schools took part in this session, sending some children to the Library who would then act as ‘reporters’ for the rest of their class when they returned to school. The visit was a great success and the Library received very positive feedback.

The former Graduate Trainee developed and ran Learning Links sessions on the theme of diary writing, designed to help ease the transition from primary to secondary school education for 10-11 year olds. The sessions included a creative writing workshop where the children wrote fictional diary entries.
The results were of a very high standard, and the visits were both enjoyable and educational for children, teachers and Library staff alike.

The Librarian’s Assistant designed a session on the rather peculiar theme of apples in print, from the Garden of Eden to the Apple Computer Company. This was run with Year 6 pupils from Milton Road Primary School. After the session, the Library received letters from the class explaining how much they enjoyed their visit to St John’s, and what they learned from their experience. ‘I really enjoyed learning about the history of all your books’ one pupil wrote.

Public engagement

The Old Library opened to the public several times again during this year. The Hoyle Project Associate ran public events for Open Cambridge and the Festival of Ideas, in partnership with other Cambridge Colleges, Departments and Institutions. The number of visitors for the September 2010 Open Cambridge event set a Library record despite the bad weather on the day, which attests to the popular appeal of St John’s College Library. The treasures of the Old Library were put out on display and guided tours were given, which were enjoyed by all. Such open events as these help to build relationships between the University and its Colleges and the wider Cambridge public. The Library’s continued participation in outreach events ensures many opportunities for members of the public to enjoy and experience the history and knowledge represented by the collections of the Old Library.

Next year

In the next twelve months, the Library will continue to strengthen existing connections and forge new ones, sustaining and building upon the solid foundation of good work and the principles of openness already in place. The Quincentenary Year 2011 will see events held for returning Johnians as well as the public, and no doubt other exciting projects will arise.

Ryan Cronin
Librarian’s Assistant
Visitors’ Book Comments

A Visitors’ Book is located in the Exhibition Area of the Working Library. The following are a selection of comments, relating to exhibitions and general Library services, received in the year under review.

‘The Way to the Stars’: a History of College Astronomy

- Well explained for the layman.
- An excellent exhibition, with much intelligent and perspicuous commentary.
- A very interesting glimpse of Fred Hoyle’s papers and work.
- Must come again, too much for one visit.
- Very interesting, even for a non-scientist.
- Inspiring!
- A treasure never to be overlooked by any visitor.
- Fantastic! An emotional journey.

Words and Wordsworth

- Lovely exhibition and well done to the budding Wordsworths!

‘Gap Years for Gentlemen’: a Panorama of the Grand Tour

- Awesome experience indeed!
- Wonderful stuff!
- Very good! Presented in a most interesting and informative way.
- Fascinating! It must have taken lots of work.
- A fantastic exhibition, thoroughly interesting and a wonderful collection of books and letters.

General Comments

- It was lovely to be back. My years at St John’s were the happiest of my life and it was a great privilege to study here.
- Very interesting, we are very grateful indeed.
- A wonderful place to work in our study of John Ray’s Catalogus planatarum circa Cantabrigiam nascentium (1660). Very many thanks.
- Wonderful visit, unique smell. What a treasure trove!
• Breathtaking! Thank you.
• Such a superb and wonderful collection under one roof.
• Beautiful buildings. We loved the miniature books! Thank you!
• Great smell! Completely outside of everyday experience.
• Very friendly and helpful collaborators. Thank you.
• It was awesome! I loved all the old books and shelves.
• Excellent tour! I was amazed.
• Love the books, the smell of old wood and the life-mask.
• Dumb-struck!
• As always, it is an education to visit.

Detail from Oriel Window stained glass (Lower Library)
The Library
St John’s College
Cambridge
CB2 1TP

Tel: 01223 338662
Fax: 01223 337035
library@joh.cam.ac.uk
www.joh.cam.ac.uk/library

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