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.

Compiled and edited by the Librarian’s Assistant, Ryan Cronin, with many thanks to the Librarian, Mark Nicholls and the Biographical Librarian, Fiona Colbert.

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Photography Credit:

All images of the Library throughout the Report, as well as the cover designs, are thanks to the Biographical Assistant, Paul Everest.

Images of books from the Special Collections are by the Sub-Librarian and Special Collections Librarian, Kathryn McKee.

Samuel Butler Project images are by the Butler Project Associate, Rebecca Watts.

Images of educational visits to the Library are courtesy of Ernulf Academy.
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The Librarian’s Annual Report

Our Departmental Aim is 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 and archival collections and facilities, so enabling the College to fulfil its statutory and strategic aims.

Summary

A particular focus of our work in the Library this year has fallen on the refurbishment scheduled over the summer of 2012. Regular readers of these Reports will know that our plans have long included the introduction of a twenty-four hour self-issue facility, which will permit readers to borrow items from the Library at any time of the day or night. Not so many readers will appreciate that, in order to introduce this system, thousands of items have required barcodes while a new security tag has been put into every borrowable book, map, DVD and CD in the Library. The refurbishment also includes the introduction of thirty additional desks for readers – many with spectacular views – the improvement of disabled access arrangements at the main entrance, the relocation of journals to the entrance hall, improved sound-proofing of the Mezzanine Garden Wing, and an enlarged Seminar Room. Paul Everest’s photographs later in the Report offer a taste of these enhancements, but an account of their reception by readers must necessarily wait until next year.

In the meantime, staff have been delighted to cope with another year of high ‘footfall’. From the evidence available in St John’s it would be wrong to write off academic libraries just yet! At the same time, the uses to which the Library building is put seem to be changing. We see less borrowing than we did five years ago – the increase in electronic book and journal provision and the extension of University Library borrowing privileges to our core constituency of first and second-year undergraduates may well be responsible. We see less photocopying, but more downloading and printing. We see an increased use of the Working Library as a place where readers can work together, and work in comfort, taking advantage of excellent IT facilities, good lighting and warmth – unless a radiator fails us or someone leaves a window open overnight. Such comforts matter. College libraries operate as ‘homes from home’, seeking to welcome rather than drive away readers. We are also the most liberal College in Cambridge when it comes to permitting food and drink in the Working Library: any non-alcoholic drink is allowed. Homes are not always scrupulously tidy places, of course, but our cleaners do a first-rate job. In conversation with colleagues around Cambridge I am convinced that our enlightened attitude in these matters does no lasting damage: the impact on Library and stock is no greater in St John’s than it is elsewhere.
We also see a steadily rising profile for the Old Library, College Archives and Biographical Office within the department, as the excellent collections and the first-rate service offered by these operations attract ever greater attention. As a Library we are now much more familiar to the general public. Open days, initiatives for schools, and programmes such as the Hugh Dennis episode of the BBC series *Who Do You Think You Are?*, which was filmed substantially in the Upper Library and in the College Boathouse, are but a few illustrations of an ever more obvious trend.

**Strategic Plan**

Following a very successful visit to Newnham College in the previous year, the 2011 Library staff Away Day was held at Girton College. In the course of discussion staff considered matters relating to the incorporation of the Archivist and College Archives into the Department, and were briefed on the plans for the Library refurbishment in 2012 and for the subsequent development of the School of Pythagoras into an Archives Centre for the College. As is now customary, the Strategic Plan was also updated. Each year the Away Day marks the first step towards publication of our Annual Report: sections are assigned to authors and deadlines are set. Over time, the Annual Reports have built up into a valuable recent history of the College Library. In its present incarnation the Report owes a great deal to the Librarian’s Assistant, Ryan Cronin, who edits and assembles the text, and to the Biographical Assistant, Paul Everest, whose cover design and fine photographs enhance still further a very attractive publication. It is remarkable what can be done on a modest budget.

**Staffing**

This year saw the retirement of two long-serving members of staff, and of a skilled craftsman who has enriched and preserved the College collections through his work. Malcolm Underwood, our Archivist, completed thirty-eight years with the College, and some seventy Fellows and members of staff gathered in the Combination Room in July to bid him farewell. Malcolm has transformed the Archives, overseeing major changes to the ways in which they are stored, listed and catalogued. Before his departure he was able to contribute significantly to our plans for the new Archives Centre. Generous support from the College Council allowed Malcolm and his successor, Tracy Wilkinson, to work in tandem for several weeks over the summer. In specialist ‘singleton’ roles such an overlap is essential to preserve accumulated knowledge. Tracy comes to us from King’s College, where she was the Assistant Archivist. She will of course be centrally involved in several important initiatives, including the development of effective electronic records management procedures across the College and the design and launch of the new Archives Centre.

After fifteen years at St John’s, Peter Hutton was the Library’s second longest-serving member of staff when he stepped down from his post of Library Assistant in July to give full attention to his splendid garden. Peter will be greatly missed by readers and staff alike. His
background in school-teaching helped him cope better than most with the younger generation of College members, while his attention to detail and particular sense of humour won him the affection of many among the Fellowship. In recent years Peter has been a fixture on the main Issue Desk during the busy evenings of Full Term. He has also had day-to-day charge of our Periodicals and AV collections. I might add that his contributions to this Annual Report and particularly his reflections on the sustaining qualities of strong tea during the working day have always been enjoyed by a wide readership. At the time of writing Peter’s successor has still to be recruited.

For many years the bookbinder George Bolton has worked for the College, skilfully repairing and rebinding many of our older volumes and preparing newer books for the rigours of a life on our Working Library shelves. George and his son Philip typically worked in St John’s on one day each week. In the autumn of 2011 George retired, having celebrated his eighty-fifth birthday, but Philip continues the family business, focusing in 2012 on a review of bindings in the Old Library. The Boltons, father and son, have done great things for us over the years and we all miss the senior half of a splendid team.

Ania Alford, our part-time cleaner who additionally worked for several years on the Fellows’ Butler’s staff at high table, stepped down from her post in August 2012. Working with her colleague John Holt, Ania succeeded in keeping a busy Library spick and span – no easy task during a Cambridge term. Wishing her well in her new career in beauty therapy, we shall miss her cheerfulness and good company.

Rachel Walker, Graduate Trainee for 2011-12, began work in the Library on 1 August and contributed most effectively to many projects and daily routines across the department. She has also been able to participate in a programme of visits, courses and talks organised jointly by the Cambridge Libraries employing Graduate Trainees. Rachel’s contract ended on 31 July, but we are delighted to welcome her back for a further year as our Projects Assistant, providing maternity cover for Sam Lewsey.

During the Easter Term 2012 the College Council approved the appointment of a Manuscripts Cataloguer for three years from the summer of 2013. This development is made possible by the great kindness of our benefactors, and in particular by the support of Professor Joseph Zund. Following my earlier remarks on the increasing significance of special collections material within the Library, the timeliness of this new post is self-evident.

Through the year we have benefitted from the work and company of a particularly competent and conscientious volunteer, Chris Krupa. Chris spends one day a week helping with tasks in the Old Library, cataloguing, sorting, listing and re-boxing collections of personal papers. During the year the Library also welcomed three hard-working and extremely able Year 10 school students for a fortnight of work experience.
The exemplary work of the Rare Books Cataloguer, Allen Purvis, continues to be funded through generous donations from Professor Joseph Zund. As reported last year, Heritage Lottery funding makes possible our two-year Samuel Butler Project. Detailed reports for both projects will be found later in the Annual Report.

Cataloguing and Collection Development

The Library’s introduction of a self-issue system as part of the summer 2012 refurbishment required a great deal of preliminary work, including the completion of Basement barcoding in 2011, the relocation of stock displaced by changes to our shelving arrangements, and the ‘retagging’ of 100,000 borrowable items in the collection. A Working Group consisting of the Librarian, Sub-Librarian, Academic Services Librarian and Library Assistant met throughout the year to think through these logistical issues. Particular mention should be made of the Academic Services Librarian, Janet Chow, who has kept a careful eye on work in progress, contributing directly to the completion of tasks whenever necessary, and of the Library Assistant, Peter Hutton, who put in many hours moving thousands of books during the spring and early summer.

As a result of its significant contributions to the University’s Journals Coordination Scheme, the College now enjoys a permanent seat on the JCS’s College Library Consultative Committee, which I continue to chair. Given the increasing support offered by the Colleges, a second College representative will join me on the main Steering Committee next year.

Many Johnians continue to give or bequeath books and other items to the Library. We are grateful to them all. As ever it is invidious to single out particular gifts, but the handsome first editions of John Milton’s *Areopagitica* (1644), *Poems* (1645) and *Paradise Lost* (1668) received from Brian Fenwick-Smith (BA 1959) have already attracted a great deal of attention from scholars. Eleanor Bron has very kindly presented a collection of papers of the architect Cedric Price (BA 1955), while William Lorimer has given to the College a fascinating collection of letters from Sir John Squire (BA 1906) to Cecily Severne. I would also like to thank Professor Robert Aliber (BA 1954) for his extremely generous support of electronic and traditional book provision. The Noël Marshall (BA 1957) bequest has allowed us to purchase some attractive rare books, including a 1493 edition of the *De maximis thrologiae* by Alanus de Insulis, carrying an unusual rubricator’s mark and nicely illustrating the way that very early printed books were put together. Further details will be found in the Old Library report.

Libraries which do not make judicious disposals from their stock very soon run out of space. Standing Order C.5.2 (Library ‘Weeding’ Procedure) was once again applied to some parts of the Collection this year. The College has disposed of a small number of incomplete runs of journals. We have also made the difficult decision to discontinue several paper subscriptions to other periodicals, some of them taken here in St John’s for many years. The rationale for this step is simple. Academic journals in all subjects are increasingly read

![Paradise Lost]

*Paradise lost. A poem in ten books. The Author John Milton.*
so the power of university-wide ‘collective bargaining’ over packaged deals is extremely important in securing the best possible price.

Donations of large collections, while in principle most welcome to the Library, require a good deal of staff time in cataloguing, classifying, labelling, tagging and boxing material. In line with our Collection Development Policy, it is vital that such efforts are focused on books and other items that will be of use to current and future generations of undergraduate, and also on materials with a strong Johnian connection. It is also wise to build on existing strengths in the collection. Books which do not meet one or more of these criteria are unlikely to be read in our Library, and as the College has long appreciated it is hard to justify the staff time required to process such items. In cases where large collections pass the basic ‘tests’, the Projects Assistant frequently has to prepare them for use by our readers. This year, Sam Lewsey has brought the majority of the Maxwell Collection of Spanish, Portuguese and Latin American history into circulation, and has also re-boxed the Master’s papers prior to their removal from the Master’s Lodge.

**Reader Services**

Over the past twelve months Junior Members have played a full and much appreciated part in the work of the Library and Records Committee. Working Library issues that come back to haunt us each year – too much noise, ‘desk hogging’ in the Easter Term, and incursions by unauthorised students from other Colleges envious of our facilities – have again been addressed through joint action by the Librarian and the JCR. Much of what I write now I have written many times before. A great deal turns on the mutual cooperation and the ‘self-policing’ skills of our Junior Members. The vast majority show sensitivity and tact when working together in an often-unstaffed library environment, and of course my staff always do their best to mediate and gently correct when antisocial behaviour leads to tension. It is my hope that some of
the changes introduced in the refurbishment will facilitate noise control, while convincing our readers that consideration for others is always the best way forward. Yet again I am most grateful to the JCR President and Facilities Officer, and the SBR Library and Records Committee Representative, for all that they do to help.

The fourth College Telethon was run from the Library’s Computer Room in September 2011. Although the refurbishment project has obliged the Telethon to relocate in 2012, we look forward to welcoming the callers and their ‘support team’ back in the future.

Special Collections

The report prepared by the Sub-Librarian, Kathryn McKee, details a full year of activities and services provided in the Old Library. Kathryn has also found time to chair the CILIP Library and Information History Group Committee through a particularly challenging period. Members of the Group have been fortunate in Kathryn’s diligent service at this time.

When this Annual Report reaches the Library and Records Committee, Allen Purvis will have retired from the post of Rare Books Cataloguer. Although this anticipates next year’s Report, it is nevertheless timely to record our debt to Allen for cataloguing to a very high standard nearly 50,000 items held in the Upper and Lower Libraries, and in the Library Basement, about one-third of our total Library stock. This year – and here I glance back to the comments on large donations in an earlier section – his work in sorting and listing the library of a recently deceased Honorary Fellow, Raphael Loewe (BA 1942), has led to the incorporation of several hundred Hebrew texts into the Old Library and Reference Collections and the distribution of the remaining books to the University Library and other collections in accordance with Professor Loewe’s wishes.

At its May meeting the Library and Records Committee agreed that no change should be made to the scale of fees levied for reproducing photographs of College books, manuscripts and other items. These fees have not been raised since 2006, and are indeed waived in the case of any ‘academic’ publication. In this as in so many other ways we are delighted to encourage the publication of scholarly research into our collections.

Archives

In his last year in office, Malcolm Underwood undertook many projects vital to the future of the College’s institutional archive. As has been noted, he worked closely with the College Maintenance Department and with the Architect Oliver Caroe and his team to develop plans for our new Archives Centre in the School of Pythagoras, plans which Malcolm’s successor Tracy Wilkinson has been taking forward. Malcolm also worked with Marie-France Moss of the IT Department to move the College’s stand-alone archives database onto a Microsoft Access platform, a development crucial to the security of the resource and also to the eventual creation of a public catalogue. His advocacy of the College-wide retention
schedule, agreed and refined since 2007 at an annual meeting of all departments, underpins our plans to develop records management protocols across St John’s during the next few years, another initiative in which Tracy is now closely involved.

The new Archivist’s plans for the website will doubtless feature in future Annual Reports. They will help publicise the importance of the collection to historical research. In his last report to the Library and Records Committee Malcolm highlighted one among many resources in the archives that has yet to receive its due. Records of the College’s Kentish Town estate, charting the development of a swathe of suburban London during the nineteenth century, have the potential to enrich our understanding of Victorian and Edwardian social, cultural and commercial history. Given support from our benefactors, there is enormous scope to encourage College-sponsored research projects based in the new Archives Centre.

**Biographical Office**

It is heartening to record that more and more biographical questions and issues are referred by other College departments to the Biographical Office. The excellence of the service provided by the Office team, Fiona Colbert and Paul Everest, and the reliability of content in the Biographical Database ensure that such questions are answered in an accurate and timely fashion. The work undertaken by Fiona and Paul is diverse and only a few examples can be given here: besides answering the many biographical enquiries received from members of the public, Johnian careers are tracked through a range of published sources, honours lists are scanned for members of the College, and details of Johnians celebrating ninetieth and one hundredth birthdays are passed to the Master’s Lodge. The workload has meant that Paul devotes more time to these tasks, and proportionately less to the development of the twentieth-century register. This reality is reflected in the recent change of his job title to Biographical Assistant. The College remains committed to the publication of another volume in the register series, but such a volume becomes more comprehensive with passing time, as careers run their course and families grow. There is no particular merit in hasty publication.

Several other members of the Library staff contribute some time in their weekly schedules to biographical work, processing press cuttings, answering routine enquiries and entering data relating to recently matriculated members of the College. Their efforts are crucial in maintaining the currency of the ‘record’. Given the importance of information held securely on the Biographical Database, it is right that I should also mention here the work so generously undertaken free of charge by Robert Colbert in developing this heavily-used Access resource.

**Exhibitions**

As reported last year, our Library Exhibition Area hosted a photographic history of the College during the Michaelmas Term 2011. In Lent Term 2012 the Sub-Librarian, Kathryn
McKee, curated an impressive, reflective and sometimes sobering display on ‘All Conquering Death’, focusing on medieval and early-modern commemoration of mortality, and marking in particular the 800th anniversary of one of the Old Library’s most precious treasures, a mortuary roll compiled in memory of Amphelisa, Prioress of Lillechurch. Following the most popular student art competition for many years, with nearly 200 entries on show during the Easter Term, the Exhibition Area hosted a splendid and informative display on Johnian scientists and mathematicians, curated by our Graduate Trainee, Rachel Walker.

The Upper Library display cases have again been used to display a wide range of materials during the year, in connection with numerous outreach events. Further details will be found in the Education and Butler Project sections of the Report. Over the years, the Library has built up a collection of ‘stored exhibitions’: captions for many popular topics are held on file, permitting us to mount displays responding to the interests of visitors at very short notice.

Although they have been muted by the turmoil of building work this summer past, temporary displays of literary prize shortlists, new accessions and other interesting materials greatly enhance the Entrance Hall and other areas of the Working Library. These are usually designed and set up by the Librarian’s Assistant and the Graduate Trainee.

A series of beautiful and informative banner-stands, commissioned from the Dublin company Vermillion Design, have enhanced our exhibition spaces and offered useful, flexible signage for events during the year.

**Security and Safety**

All risk assessments in the Library are updated annually in line with College policy. Fire-evacuation exercises were conducted in the Library during the Michaelmas Term 2011 and the Lent Term 2012.

**Cleaning and Building Maintenance**

I have mentioned above that our Library rules governing food and drink are relatively relaxed. I have also mentioned the high number of readers using the Working Library. Nevertheless, the building remains spick and span. Credit here is due to the Library’s cleaners, Ania Alford and John Holt, whose hard work and steady nerves cope with everything thrown at them in the course of a working day.
I am also most grateful to John and Ania for their efforts at quieter times during vacations, when they tackle some of the periodic but insidious challenges for a library cleaner, dusting shelves and book-stock, logging faults and breakages for the attention of the Academic Services Librarian and the Maintenance Department, getting the hoover and the duster into less frequented corners, and addressing the more specialised cleaning needs of the Old Library. In support of these efforts the Librarian and Academic Services Librarian inspect the fabric of the Library every December.

I cannot end without noting that the College is most fortunate in having a very fine Computer Help-Desk facility and an exceptional Maintenance Department. Both respond to problems great and small with remarkable swiftness and constant good cheer.

Mark Nicholls
Staff Reports

The Library Staff

From left to right: Paul Everest, Ryan Cronin, Mark Nicholls, Janet Chow, Tracy Wilkinson, Allen Purvis, Rachel Walker, Fiona Colbert, Sam Lewsey, YiWen Hon, Rebecca Watts (Absent: Kathryn McKee, John Holt)

Janet Chow – Academic Services Librarian

Some four years ago, I recall my first impressions as a newcomer to the Working Library. I remember being hugely impressed by the splendour of the architecture, especially the ways in which the new had been blended in with the old, the academic ambience and the rich resources available to users. But above all, the Library seemed to function smoothly both for users and staff.

Library rules, procedures and regulations seemed so well honed and institutionalised – doubtless reflecting the thoughtful efforts of staff over many years. All of this presented a challenge: how to move forward with change when so much seemed already well established and functional. Gradually as I got to know and understand the Library and its working, I realised that it was a dynamic and changing entity that was continuously evolving, yet doing so always while keeping true to its origins and mission as a college academic library. It became clear to me that there was, and is always, scope for improvement in, and updating of, services and facilities.
Improvements that users have benefited from – some small, others large – include the redesign of library leaflets; the fitting of a Plasma screen behind the Issue Desk; and electronic overdue notices to replace paper. Other significant changes include the introduction of University cards for Library access and borrowing, and last but by no means least, toilets on all floors have been modernised!

This last year I have been heavily involved in the refurbishment of the Working Library, and the introduction of a self-issue system. The former has created more workspace for Library users; while the latter means that users can enjoy 24 hour borrowing. Both projects were finished this summer (2012). I am looking forward to my next challenging project. It is this continuous development and evolution of the Library that brings richness and novelty to my working life. It is change but no change – as always.

Fiona Colbert – Biographical Librarian

A Johnian said to me a little while ago that he admired my tenacity. No, this wasn’t his polite way of saying ‘stop asking me for biographical information: I can’t remember which year I joined that company!’ He was genuinely impressed that I had checked some details so carefully. But that is my job, and whilst it wouldn’t suit everyone to have to go through information with a fine-tooth comb, check discrepancies, and work out the correct details from different sources, it is the kind of attention to detail that is required of my job, and fortunately I enjoy doing it! This year has involved a lot of that kind of work, amongst other things.

A small number of the biographical enquiries I deal with are for TV or radio, and having furnished researchers and producers with all the information they require, I am not usually called upon to appear in the broadcasts. However, on two occasions this year I have been invited to be filmed discussing material relating to Johnians. On both occasions academic experts on the subjects were available, and a more suitable choice, so the public have been spared seeing me on screen. It was very nice to be asked, but my strengths lie firmly away from the camera; even lurking out of shot behind a bookcase, whilst keeping a watchful eye over the material being filmed, is a bit too close to the action for my liking and I yearn to be dealing with the next enquiry, or tackling some data entry.

Appreciative comments from enquirers are always a boost. When someone says the information we have in the Biographical Archive and the help I have provided has answered questions they have been searching for answers to for years, it is very gratifying. I do not have time to bask in the glory of success for long though, as there are more genealogists waiting for information than I can shake a stick at - or even a branch from a family tree!
Ryan Cronin – Librarian’s Assistant

They say time flies when you’re having fun, and this past year has certainly gone by quickly. I can’t believe it’s my third contribution to the Annual Report already.

This year, I have continued working on education and outreach, building up new school contacts and consolidating existing relationships as well as updating the educational resources available on the website and hosting the most successful Open Cambridge in the Library yet. I have also begun work on digitising sections of The Eagle for use in biographical enquiries etc. Despite the builders in the Library for refurbishments, school visits and day-to-day Library work have continued as normal with very little interruption. It was actually quite fun having the Library so busy, though I am glad the sound of drilling has finally stopped!

As well as all of this, I have started a distance-learning MSc in Information and Library Management with the University of Northumbria. I’m working on that in my free time, and I find it is great to be able to see the theory of librarianship put into practice in my daily work. I am very grateful to St John’s College for the contribution towards my course that they have provided. All in all, it has been a busy year, and I am looking forward to another good year ahead.

Paul Everest – Biographical Assistant

Sharp eyed, long-term followers of this fine journal may have noticed a slight tweak to my job title, which hopefully reflects my contribution in a more logical way.

Besides this, little has changed: Johnians do stuff, we document it and before you know it, it’s the Annual Report time again, and I’m scratching my head for a way to add a new slant on things.

A couple of stand-outs for me this year are, firstly: the warm glow of satisfaction of a Johnian noticing the news article on the College website regarding the Birthday Honours recipients (of which he was one) and being sufficiently pleased not only to email in, but also to name-check our efforts in correspondence with the Master! Secondly, and slightly less smugly (only slightly), is my adoption of the hunt for ‘missing’ Johnians. This is a particular favourite of mine, digging through the depths of Google and amassing bookmarks of tenuous leads in attempts to make connections. I’ve enjoyed a lot of early success with this project and have managed to track down a number of people. Even more pleasingly, they seem genuinely touched that we’re making these efforts and reaching out to them, and always remember the College fondly.
**John Holt – Library Cleaner**

I have been cleaning the Library for almost five years and I really enjoy my time here at St John’s. I strive to keep the top three floors clean, all floors safe for users and also manage the recycling of plastic and aluminium drinks containers. I am also the qualified First-Aider for the Library and attend training updates each year.

During the year I have carried out the following tasks to improve the working environment of the Library:

- Cleaned the two wings in the Basement following the book tagging exercise.
- Liaised with maintenance operatives during the refurbishment of toilets to ensure all signs and supplies were removed and replaced upon completion.
- Completed the book cleaning on the third floor and half of the second floor Chapel Wing.
- Cleaned the Council Reading Room in the Basement prior to filming.

During the summer break I caught up with other tasks such as cleaning inside of lamp shades and the top of bookshelves. Due to my co-cleaner Ania leaving, and the refurbishment works in the Library, I was unable to carry out all my planned jobs but I have managed to make the Library clean, tidy and welcoming for this year’s new students.

**YiWen Hon – Library Graduate Trainee**

My role is mainly based in the Working Library, where on a day-to-day basis I deal with enquiries, catalogue and help out with circulation procedures. I've also spent some time creating various signs and labels to assist Library users in finding their way around the place, and trawling through faculty reading lists to make sure we can provide our undergraduate students with the set texts for their courses. It has also been very satisfying to be able to see the processes involved in acquiring books for the Library, from ordering, receiving, cataloguing, and labelling, through to finally seeing the new item take its place on the shelves. There are also daily tasks that I complete for the Biographical Office, such as checking a range of national publications for notices published on Johnians or their relatives.

In the Old Library, Kathryn and Allen have talked to me about some of our special collections treasures, and the work that goes in to preserving and cataloguing rare books and materials. I've enjoyed assisting at Open Cambridge and school visits, as I find outreach work both challenging and rewarding. We have so many wonderful items in our collections, and I think it’s great that we do our best to share them with members of the public.

When I first arrived at St John’s, building works were well under way and there was a sense of mild chaos in the air. Now that the dust has settled and term has begun, work has certainly picked up and I’ve been kept busy giving induction tours and helping new members of the College unravel the mysteries of the various IT systems and catalogues. Besides this, I've also had the opportunity to attend several library-related courses organised by the UL, and have spent several fun-filled hours re-organising and re-labelling the DVDs in the AV Room.
It’s amazing how quickly my first two months at St John’s College Library have gone by. Every day brings with it new challenges and things to learn, and I feel that this position has been a great learning experience so far – I’m really looking forward to the rest of my trainee year!

Sam Lewsey – Projects Assistant

After a hectic year both in and out of the Library I have just finished writing a large quantity of handover documents so that the coming year’s Projects Assistant (my maternity cover), Rachel Walker, has a sound basis from which to start her year in my shoes. It has had the effect of bringing into focus all the various projects that have been on the go for the last twelve months, and the work that needs to be done going forward.

My work for Fiona in the Biographical Office continues to cover a great deal of what the current cohort of graduates and undergraduates get up to; from processing their Registration Forms at the beginning of the year, through recording their sporting and academic achievements during their time here, to noting the details of their degree conferrals at the end of their St John’s careers.

Three projects are currently underway, dealing with one set of personal papers donated to the Library, one collection of books on Medieval History, and a very large collection of Portuguese books that we hope to have catalogued, classified and available to readers by the 2013 New Year.

All this continues apace alongside my more regular tasks of processing the Journals, weeding books for decommissioning, keeping up-to-date statistics on Library usage, cataloguing, and of course, dealing with reader enquiries. What with all this and the recent Library refurbishment I’m looking forward to the ‘peace and quiet’ of dealing with a newborn in a few weeks’ time!

Kathryn McKee – Sub-Librarian and Special Collections Librarian

I don’t know what it says about my character that I so thoroughly enjoyed putting together an exhibition on Death! Medieval representations of saintly martyrdom are delightfully surreal. My favourite illustration is of St Clement with an anchor around his neck and an expression of mild dismay being posted into a calm ankle-deep sea (see the Old Library report for picture).

Exhibitions have figured large this year, as material from the Cecil Beaton Collection has gone on show at two national museums. In the spring, the Victoria and Albert Museum borrowed his diary describing the coronation for a celebration of royal photography to mark the Diamond Jubilee, while Beaton’s wartime diaries and associated correspondence have just gone on display at the Imperial War Museum.

Beaton is famous for his glamorous society photographs; his war photography for the Ministry of Information, recording the Blitz, hospitals, munitions factories, and touring
extensively in the Middle and Far East is far less well known, and will be showcased at the
IWM until the end of 2012. Lending materials is time-consuming. Detailed condition reports
are prepared for every item; all must be valued, documented, carefully packed, and then
accompanied to their temporary new home, ensuring that the security and environmental
conditions agreed are in place. I seem to have spent extraordinary amounts of time double-
checking government indemnity paperwork and sitting in London traffic jams in secure
lorries, listening to Radio 2’s phone-in pop quiz or the driver’s life-story (the latter is usually
more entertaining). Despite the work involved, it is good to be able to show our collections
to a wider audience.

Allen Purvis – Rare Books Cataloguer

In addition to finishing my work on cataloguing the early
nineteenth-century books in the Basement, I have spent a large
amount of time dealing with the recent acquisition of the
library of Raphael Loewe, former Honorary Fellow of the
College and renowned Hebraist. His books, over 3,500 in
number, had been transported to secure temporary
accommodation in the St John’s Innovation Centre.

There I have spent many a happy hour since last December listing the titles, with the
assistance of colleagues Rachel, Sam and Ryan in turn, wrapped in layers to keep warm, who
probably felt they’d been press-ganged into a boring job typing in countless entries of
‘Hebrew book’ onto a laptop in a cold-store! For me it has entailed kneeling on the floor
unpacking cardboard boxes, calling the titles out, and putting them back again. After a few
months the boxes were moved to another unused office space where Rachel
uncomplainingly helped me to unpack them again and carefully stack the books in rough
subject order, so they could be inspected by prospective recipients of those not wanted by
the College.

After ten years and ten months tenure as the Library’s Rare Books Cataloguer, in which
time I reckon that over 30,000 books have passed through my hands, and yes, I can
remember most of them (with the exception of the sermons), it is time to hang up my
cataloguing boots and head off to the golf course, where I know that I will remember almost
every shot, hopefully a whole lot less than thirty thousand!

Rachel Walker – Projects Assistant (Maternity Cover)

It feels like no time at all since I arrived at St John’s College just
over a year ago, but so much has happened. My year as
Graduate Trainee (2011-12) introduced me to so many areas of
library work, and will be invaluable to me in my future career.

The highlight has to have been curating an exhibition of notable
physicists the College has produced over the years; it was
intriguing to discover how many well-known names cropped
up. I spent a great deal of time looking through the personal
papers of John Couch Adams, John Herschel and Maurice Wilkes, to name only a few. Aside
from my exhibition I continued to assist Fiona by responding to enquiries and keeping the
Biographical Database and archives up to date. A great deal of time was spent with Malcolm
in the College Archives researching past Overseas Visiting Scholars to expand our records. I assisted Allen with another project over the year, spending many hours at the St John’s Innovation Centre organising the Loewe donations, consisting mostly of Hebrew books. Back in the Library I helped with general day-to-day tasks, whilst also attending numerous visits and training sessions with the other graduate trainee librarians around Cambridge.

In early September I was lucky enough to return to the Library as maternity cover for Sam. I am also beginning to study for a Masters in Library and Information Studies with Aberystwyth University by distance learning. I am looking forward to the next few years as I learn more about how libraries function and the changes they are undergoing. Taking over from Sam has been a relatively smooth transition, for me at least, thanks to the handover documents she left. Currently my time is split mostly between continuing Sam’s work classifying the Maxwell Collection of Portuguese books, which we hope to complete by the end of this year, and adding new students to the Biographical Database for Fiona. We have also embarked on a new project to create a Library Twitter account for the new term, which I hope will keep students informed of important news and interesting information about the Library.

Rebecca Watts – Butler Project Associate

Just over halfway through the Butler Project, I’m very happy to report that I know a lot more about Samuel Butler than I did this time last year. Back then I’d just finished my initial sorting of the boxed collection, and was developing a sense of the diversity of Butler’s interests. Having spent more than a year surrounded by his books, music, paintings, drawings, photographs and personal possessions, I can now admit to being genuinely inspired by his expansive mind and creativity.

My job is delightfully varied. I spend about half of my time cataloguing, and the other half developing online resources, planning and running events and school visits, and overseeing the conservation of selected items from the collection. I particularly enjoy the outreach component of my work, not least because the Butler collection has so much potential to appeal to people of all ages and abilities.

Evidently, Butler was an enigmatic character, and his passions for his subjects are manifest in all his works. It’s been great to see adults and children alike engaging with the collection at exhibitions and talks, and taking away a new-found interest in the wonderful (and slightly wacky) world of Samuel Butler. I’m looking forward to seeing more of the same over the coming months.
I arrived from King’s College on 25 June and immediately set to work interrogating Malcolm Underwood, the previous College Archivist. The six weeks we had together were going to fly by at lightning speed and I wanted to get as much information from him as possible. We spent that time going over lists, finding aids, correspondence and practising opening the ‘safe’ – I think that was the most difficult part to be honest.

Malcolm’s last day came, and with sadness we all saw him on his way to new adventures and challenges (not least of which was battling Scottish midges on Arran). Since Malcolm’s departure I’ve spent much of my time coming to grips with the collection, liaising with department heads in regards to records management, working with the architect on the School of Pythagoras and answering the many enquiries which come into the archive every week. Oh, and I ran the Chariots of Fire race with Janet, YiWen and Rebecca – four librarians, the Web and Media Officer and a Fellow made up the ‘Staff Team’!

I’ve got lots of ideas for pulling the archives forward into the twenty-first century and I am looking forward to the next few years.
Staff Training

Library staff have taken part in a range of training opportunities, addressing development needs identified through Personal Development Reviews. Many local courses are provided free or at very low cost through the Cambridge ‘Librarians-in-Training’ initiative, the University Computing Service, by the Libraries@Cambridge team, or the University Library, offering excellent value and highly relevant content. Those working in the Old Library have particularly benefited this year from a series of workshops and conferences organised by the University Library’s incunabula project. Specialist courses run by relevant professional organisations allow Library staff to develop and practice essential skills for the management of our collections.

It is perhaps worth mentioning the amount of informal teaching and learning that takes place between Library staff, which is not formally recorded as training. To give just a few examples, the Rare Books Cataloguer has given one-to-one sessions on the techniques and principles of rare books cataloguing to all those of his colleagues who catalogue; the Academic Services Librarian trains all new staff on the use of the various modules of the Voyager library management system, the Special Collections Librarian advises colleagues on the safe handling and display of rare books. When one member of staff attends a training course, the knowledge acquired is cascaded to all relevant members of the team.

The departmental Away Day gave all staff the opportunity to discuss the schedule for the coming year, to be updated on on-going and planned projects, and to review the Library’s strategic plan. The annual half-day in-house refresher on the procedures and policies to be followed in the event of disaster continues to be a worthwhile exercise for all in the department, and is particularly important in ensuring that new members of staff are familiar with the content of the disaster plan.

The Library again welcomed school pupils on work experience in September and July, with three pupils each spending a fortnight shadowing Library staff and helping with routine tasks and special projects. A new job shadowing scheme, Penumbra, has just been set up in Cambridge to enable library staff from across the University to spend a day or half-day working with a colleague from another library. The Graduate Trainee visited the Judge Business School Library to gain experience of a very different library operation, and St John’s Library will be participating in the scheme as a host library from Michaelmas 2012.

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<td>SJC</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<tr>
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<td>Position</td>
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<td>Academic Services Librarian</td>
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<td>(one day conference)</td>
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<td>Disaster procedures refresher</td>
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Key to organisations providing training:

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<th>Historic Libraries Forum</th>
<th>Penumbra</th>
<th>Work shadowing scheme</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Librarians in Training</td>
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<td>Queens’</td>
<td>Queens’ College</td>
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<tr>
<td>PAC</td>
<td>Preservation Advisory</td>
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<td>Cambridge University Library</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Centre, British Library</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

¹ This course was paid for from the 2011-12 budget, but will be attended in 2012-13, as the first running of the course was fully booked.

Kathryn McKee
Sub-Librarian and Special Collections Librarian
User Education

A Library induction session was held for all First year undergraduates in the Palmerston Room on the Saturday afternoon before the start of the Michaelmas Term 2011. As in previous years, the induction introduces students to all the basic but essential information they need to become effective Library users. Students are made aware of Library rules, the Library website, the Library catalogue, how to access e-books and journals, and renew Library items online. There was an excellent attendance and the Room was packed out. Students were keen to know more about the Library in general, and especially their borrowing privileges.

Library tours were arranged for all new undergraduates from the following Monday to Wednesday. These were arranged by subject groups, with Library staff each taking three or four groups of students at staggered times. The tours cover both the Working Library and the Old Library. Students had the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the layout of the Library, the facilities and resources available and in particular the location of materials related to their own subjects. Library staff also took the opportunity to explain fire procedure and the security system to new students. Sets of Library leaflets and useful subject guides were also handed out before the tour.

Library tours for postgraduate Freshers were organised over two days in the week after Term started. The tours were followed by an information session in the Library Seminar Room at which students were introduced to skills of searching online resources, such as Library catalogues and databases, and accessing electronic resources. Information on other training opportunities, such as Library orientation tours and research courses held by the University Library, was also provided during the sessions.

The induction sessions for both the undergraduates and postgraduates were successful judging by the numbers attending and interest shown. Thanks are due to colleagues from the Tutorial Office and Library staff who collaborated to make the tours informative.

Janet Chow
Academic Services Librarian
The Working Library

The Working Library has undergone impressive improvements in 2011-12. Some major projects have been implemented to provide an improved service and create a better working environment.

Following the completion of new carpeting on Second Floor Chapel and Garden wings in 2010, a new carpet was laid in the Library Office in summer 2011. Refurbishment of the disabled toilet was also carried out in 2011. Extra facilities such as the safety alarm, handrail, automatic and emergency lighting were installed. In the event of an emergency, especially outside staffed hours, if trapped in the toilet, the occupant can use the safety alarm to send a signal to notify the Porters in the Forecourt Porters’ Lodge. Further refurbishment continued in toilets on all other floors. It is to the credit of the Maintenance Department and our cleaners that the toilets now look brighter, cleaner and fresher.

A lack of Library work space has been a perennial problem at peak periods of usage, especially during exam time. Primarily to create more work space, a decision to refurbish the Working Library was taken some while ago, after consultation with the Architect, Alexander Hobohm of Freeland Rees Roberts. Work began in the summer of 2012, and involved changes to the Mezzanine and Third Floors to maximise user work space. On the Mezzanine Floor, Garden wing, central bookshelves were removed and replaced by a large working table to seat eight. Two additional window seats were created with views to the Master’s Garden. Also on the Mezzanine Floor, the existing gallery was extended at the south end – thereby accommodating a further large working table to increase seating capacity. Two sound-proof glass doors were added in the Garden wing to contain possible noise emanating from group discussions at the large tables.

On the Third Floor Garden wing, all the lower bookcases were removed from under the windows and replaced by work desks around the perimeter. Four slim shelves attached to the centre bookcases were relocated to the lobby area. The refurbishment has not only increased the number of work spaces; it has provided users with a wider choice of seating arrangements. For example, they may choose to work as a group around a large table, or they may prefer to work at additional individual desks by the windows. New ceiling lights and desk lamps have also been fitted in the refurbished areas. Consequently, the new tables and additional desks are brightly illuminated, and create a warm ambience, making the Library an even more welcoming environment in which to study.
Other refurbishments include modifications to the Library entrance. As impressive as the entrance was, it did not afford user-friendly access for disabled users. Accordingly, a disabled facility with an automatic door has been added to the side of the main lobby. A new security barrier has also been installed inside the front entrance to replace the old security barrier which was showing its age. My personal view is that both changes have enhanced the aesthetics of the main entrance.

Although the Library is open twenty-four hours, seven days a week, borrowing has only been possible during staffed hours. In response to students’ requests, a self-check machine has now been installed (summer 2012) to enable Library users to borrow at any time. It is hoped that a further benefit of the self-issue system will be the freed-up time that Library staff will be able to devote to other tasks, such as answering enquiries, processing new materials and cataloguing.

Now that the refurbishment has been completed, there have been many positive comments from Library users in regard to the new facilities. Typically, they are impressed by the sheer quality of the changes and how brilliantly and seamlessly they blend in with the existing décor. I am convinced that the refurbishment has not only improved facilities but enhanced the physical appearance and aesthetics of the Working Library.

Janet Chow
Academic Services Librarian
Entries to the Library

Statistics for the number of users entering the Library are kept using a people counter positioned next to the entrance of the Working Library. A reading is taken at 9am on every day the Library is staffed (Monday to Friday each week, plus Saturdays during Full Term).

The chart below shows the entries to the Library over the last three academic years. It can be seen that entries to the Library decreased in the first half of the year when compared to the last two years, but increased during the Easter Vacation and Full Term. The significantly higher number of entries in the Summer Vacation 2012 could be in part accounted for by the building work going on in the Library, which required the workers to continually move in and out of the building.

These figures appear to show that current students use the Library the most during the busiest and most stressful times of the year, enjoying the peaceful and comfortable environment we provide. The recent renovations on the Mezzanine and Third Floors provide additional quiet work space for students, and may encourage more of them to choose the Library for private study. An increase in the number of students using the Library during the Easter Vacation could be explained by the recent changes to the letting periods of College rooms for students. Overall more than 150,000 users visited the Library in the last year, marginally lower than during the Quincentenary year but significantly higher than 2009-10. It will be fascinating to see what the numbers will be for the coming twelve months.

Rachel Walker
Projects Assistant
Working Library Use

During the fifth week of every Full Term we collect statistics on the Working Library usage. These include: the number of entries to the Library, enquiries made at the Issue Desk and a tally of the number of books cleared from the desks around the Library.

The charts below show that Michaelmas Term is consistently the busiest in regard to enquiries and items borrowed, and that the number of enquiries during this term is going up year on year as new students find their feet. The average number of enquiries in week 5 over the three terms was 379, compared to 377 in 2009-10 and 402 in 2010-11, confirming that staffing at the Issue Desk is an important element of our work here. The report on Entries to the Library (p.23) showed that footfall is increasing each year in Easter Term; clearly illustrating the Library is well used for study during the exam period, but quieter at other times. The proportion of members entering the Library during staffed hours appears to have lowered as this year has passed, in line with the volume of enquiries and borrowing. The recent addition of a self-issue machine could cause this trend to continue, as borrowing is now available to students 24 hours a day.

Rachel Walker
Projects Assistant
Annual Circulation

Library borrowing, based on frequency counts of items borrowed, dropped by 3.3% in the academic year (2011-12) compared to the previous year (2010-11). This is possibly due to an increase in numbers accessing e-books and e-journals.

As shown in the Termly borrowing figures for the past three years, Michaelmas Term remains the busiest term, followed by Lent Term. However, borrowing figures for Easter Term rose by 8.9% in 2011-12 compared to the previous year. As the College Library stocks most of the textbooks for undergraduates, it is they who are by far the largest user group, comprising 77% of total circulation. Other borrower groups include PhD students (9%), One-Year postgraduate students (6%) and Fellows (8%).

<table>
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<th>2011-12</th>
<th>2010-11</th>
<th>2009-10</th>
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<tr>
<td>Michaelmas Term</td>
<td>4476</td>
<td>4659</td>
<td>4580</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christmas vacation</td>
<td>615</td>
<td>749</td>
<td>550</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lent Term</td>
<td>3868</td>
<td>3934</td>
<td>4205</td>
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<tr>
<td>Easter vacation</td>
<td>639</td>
<td>667</td>
<td>787</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easter Term</td>
<td>3133</td>
<td>2878</td>
<td>2766</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summer vacation</td>
<td>844</td>
<td>1150</td>
<td>1194</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>13575</strong></td>
<td><strong>14037</strong></td>
<td><strong>14082</strong></td>
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</table>
For the year 2011-12, History remains the most heavily borrowed subject, followed by MML, English and Economics.

Since 2009-2010, some MML students from other Colleges are entitled to borrow from the Portuguese section of the College Library; hence the borrowing rate has increased, up by 319 and 244 for 2010-11 and 2011-12.

Other subjects experiencing an increase in borrowing in 2011-12 compared with the previous year were English, Maths, Theology, Anthropology, Medicine and Music. There was, however, a significant drop in borrowing in Physical sciences, Linguistics and HPS.

Janet Chow
Academic Services Librarian
Seminar and Audio-Visual Rooms

Seminar Room

The Seminar Room was one of the areas worked on during the recent refurbishments. The paint still smells fresh, and the room has been considerably improved; we hope that these changes will prove popular with members of the College. Over the past year, the room was booked for a total of 1302 hours; it was mostly used for supervisions, but also hosted 130 staff and student meetings, as well as being employed for a range of other uses, such as interviews and even a photo-shoot.

Audio-Visual Room

The Audio-Visual room is a very popular resource with both staff and students alike. We have a total of 1626 AV items, with DVDs by far the most commonly borrowed of the close to 500 CDs and DVDs issued over the past year. The Library has recently purchased a range of popular documentaries and blockbuster films to help increase the general appeal of the collection.

The DVD section is currently being reorganised and relabelled to make it easier to find specific titles as well as browse. The collection has an impressive variety of films from all over the world, and we are looking at ways to improve access to the collection.

YiWen Hon
Graduate Trainee Librarian
The Old Library

It has felt like a very busy year, and the statistics bear this out. Requests for material to be reproduced continue to grow, unsurprising where travel costs are high and there is a greater expectation that copies can be provided easily using modern digital technology. This is the first year that the number of permissions granted to reproduce images of material from our collections in published works has topped 100. Some of these extra requests stem from the digitisation of existing print publications in which our images already appear. It is becoming standard with academic works to request permission for both print and online editions of a text at the point of publication. We are also receiving more requests to reproduce images on educational websites, in podcasts of presentations given to academic gatherings, and in born-digital publications. Notwithstanding the increased provision of material in digital form to remote enquirers, more readers have come in person to consult the collections this year. Considerably more visitors have come to see the Old Library too; this figure represents only those who have signed in the visitors’ book: i.e. Johnians with their guests. Once participants in public events, group visits and educational sessions are taken into account, actual footfall is considerably higher.

Statistics

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<tr>
<td>Readers consulting Special Collections material</td>
<td>363</td>
<td>314</td>
<td>291</td>
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<tr>
<td>Visitors taking a tour of the Old Library *</td>
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<td>937</td>
<td>931</td>
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<tr>
<td>Letters filed</td>
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<td>E-mail responses to enquiries</td>
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<td>1265</td>
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<td>Reproductions of special collections material processed at Cambridge University Library</td>
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<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reproductions of special collections material processed in house**</td>
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<td>Permissions granted to reproduce special collections material in published works</td>
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<td>Use of special collections material in connection with biographical work</td>
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<td>57</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Does not include visitors at public open days, booked groups, or children attending educational visits
** Includes reproductions of material to answer biographical enquiries
Purchases

We continue to make judicious acquisitions which enhance our collections’ strengths, either in their subject matter, or because of Johnian connections. It is particularly pleasing to note that the Noël Marshall Fund has enabled us to add an incunable this year.

- Barnes, William. *A few words on the advantages of a more common adoption of the mathematics as a branch of education*… 1834. Blackwell Rare Books £350. June 2012. (Purchased from the Noël Marshall Fund)

Donations

The Library is most fortunate in its benefactors and is grateful to all those whose gifts have enhanced the collections in the past year. Many of the donations received relate directly to the College’s history, or to individual Johnians.

Dick Eberlie (BA 1956)
- College memorabilia relating to his own and his father’s time at St John’s College.
Brian Fenwick-Smith (BA 1959)

Kayleigh Fitzgerald
- Funeral card for W. H. R. Rivers.

Susan Fleury
- Two framed prints of the College.

Rachel Gay
- Matriculation photograph 1915.

Robert McKenzie
- Six unframed prints of the College.

David McMullen (Fellow)
- Copies of the correspondence of Sir John Davis from Lord Palmerston, Lord Aberdeen and others, and a calligraphy scroll by Tai Jingnong.

William Newman (BA 1961)
- Further letters from John Maynard Keynes and Lydia Keynes to Lyn Newman.

Richard Nolan (Fellow 1993-2012)
- Four watercolours of the College by his mother, Sheila Kathleen Nolan.

David O’Connor
- Photographic postcard of St John’s College, dated 1903.

Allen Phillips
- St John’s College Rugby team photograph 1929-30.

Hugh Stewart (BA 1950)
- William Morris’ Kelmscott Press editions of *The golden legend* (3 vols) and *Laudes beatae Mariae Virginis*.
- Manuscript notebook of Martin Stewart (BA 1876)
Collections of papers which have been deposited

William Lorimer
Letters of Sir John Squire (BA 1906) to Mrs Cecily M. Severne

Eleanor Bron
Papers of Cedric Price (BA 1955)

By bequest, papers of Sir Maurice Wilkes (Fellow 1950-2010)

Three significant collections have been added to the Library. The Librarian has catalogued the Wilkes papers, already in demand with readers. The Squire letters have been sorted and boxed, and are in the process of being catalogued, while sorting and boxing of the Price collection is under way. The last collection is particularly diverse, including many personal items from Cedric Price’s office, reflecting his character and interests as well as his architectural work.

Visits (not including school groups)

- Groningen summer school (August 2011)
- Winchester history group with the Archivist (September 2011)
- English Faculty MSS class (October 2011)
- Norwegian visitors to see manuscripts with Dr Beadle (October 2011)
- The Guild of Vergers - two groups (October 2011)
- British Association for Local History with the Archivist (October 2011)
- MML MPhil manuscripts class (November 2011)
- ASNC manuscripts classes (February 2012)
- MML undergraduates manuscripts classes (February and March 2012)
- History undergraduates original sources class (March 2012)
- Irish poet, Biddy Jenkinson, whilst visiting the ASNC department (March 2012)
- Regional Furniture Restorers Society (April 2012)
- Medieval Manuscripts in the Digital Age (April 2012)
- Music students from Austin, Texas (May 2012)
- English literature university students from Germany (May 2012)
- ASNC open day attendees - two groups (June 2012)
- Church of England clergy with the Chapel Clerk (June 2012)
- Attendees at Library and Information History Group library history talk (July 2012)
- National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies (July 2012)
- Jyotsna Bhatnagar, the Head of Corporate Responsibility for BP India (July 2012)
- Chinese students from the Ardmore Language School (July 2012)
Events

- Open Cambridge (September 2011). Over 800 attended an exhibition and booked tours.
- Festival of Ideas (October 2011). 382 attended the exhibition, whilst 30 were booked on two interactive workshops.
- Butler Day (March 2012). 429 visited the exhibition on the open day, plus an additional 65 visitors in specially arranged group visits, whilst three public talks attracted 120, 36 and 28 attendees respectively.

The Upper Library was used for receptions before the Michaelmas Entertainment and the Port Latin Feast.

Preservation

The Library’s bookbinder, George Bolton, retired in the autumn of 2011 at the age of 85. One of his last tasks for us was to make boxes for the recently purchased stereoviewer and accompanying photographs. Philip Bolton continues to work for the Library every Wednesday, cleaning and furbishing books in the Upper and Lower Libraries, boxing fragile material, and undertaking small scale repairs. During the first half of 2012, he initiated a systematic review of bindings, re-gluing loose leather where necessary to ensure that no fragments were lost before long-term conservation and repair could be arranged. He also assisted with a comprehensive check for bread beetles at the end of July when conditions are most favourable for hatching. We are glad to report that no larvae were found.

The Conservation Consortium has continued to work on ‘priority A1’ volumes from the Upper Library, and has conserved a number of items from the Samuel Butler Collection.

Much of the Samuel Butler material has been reboxed in acid free storage.

Exhibitions in the Library

Exhibition Area

Michaelmas 2011
Photographic history of the College

Lent 2012
All-Conquering Death: an exhibition to mark the 800th anniversary of the mortuary roll of Amphelissa, Prioress of Lillechurch (MS N.31)

Easter 2012
St John’s College annual art and photography competition

Summer 2012
Johonian physical scientists (curated by the Graduate Trainee, Rachel Walker)
Exhibitions in the Upper Library

An exhibition of items from the Archives was put on for the second Quincentenary Week in September 2011. A small display to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee was on show during the Easter Term. The Upper Library was open with a display of treasures for graduands and their families following General Admission.

Loans

Cecil Beaton’s diary for Coronation Day and a letter from the Queen Mother to Beaton were loaned to the Victoria and Albert Museum for their exhibition ‘Queen Elizabeth II by Cecil Beaton – a Diamond Jubilee Celebration’ from 8 February to 22 April. A copy of a letter from Sir Arthur Penn was also reproduced in the exhibition and surrogates of all three documents were included in a travelling version of the exhibition which is touring worldwide from February 2012 to early 2013.

Twenty-three items from the Cecil Beaton Collection, including diaries, letters, and other documents, were loaned to the Imperial War Museum for their exhibition ‘Cecil Beaton: Theatre of War’ running from 6 September 2012 to 1 January 2013.

The Librarian took the 1588 Welsh Bible to Wales for a lecture at Llandegai Church. *Y Beibl* also made its customary rather shorter journey to the College Chapel for St David’s Day.

Projects

ProQuest microfilmed 90 early printed books from the Upper Library for inclusion in Early English Books Online, making these texts available to scholars worldwide.

The Samuel Butler Project has made excellent progress (see separate report).

The Old Library has been used for filming for:
- BBC One *Who Do You Think You Are?* (Hugh Dennis) in January 2012;
- BBC Four documentary *Age of Light* in March 2012;
- Nippon TV *World Watch* filming the life of a Japanese student at Cambridge University in March 2012.

Kathryn McKee
Sub-Librarian and Special Collections Librarian
The Biographical Office

General overview

Information regarding Johnians continues to be fed through to this office in order that it may be entered on the Biographical Database and/or placed in the Biographical Archive. The total number of Johnians since the College opened in the sixteenth century is in excess of 43,000, and the wealth of information we hold on those people can be called upon to answer a range of enquiries. The following table offers an insight into the volume of biographical information received, and some of the work undertaken. Figures from the previous two years are included for comparison. Detailed reports on particular projects appear below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>2011-12</th>
<th>2010-11</th>
<th>2009-10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biographical material received</td>
<td>2831</td>
<td>2870</td>
<td>2697</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biographical Archive consulted</td>
<td>782</td>
<td>822</td>
<td>801</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Items filed in Biographical Archive</td>
<td>661</td>
<td>420</td>
<td>417</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emails and letters sent</td>
<td>2658</td>
<td>2300</td>
<td>2262</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tutorial files consulted</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>141</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proactive research</td>
<td>3455</td>
<td>3650</td>
<td>806</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Record Updates

The recording of data on new students, Fellows, and others affiliated to the College is the starting point for biographical records. Information regarding these individuals is passed to
the Office from various departments within the College, and in terms of students in particular the work commences with information kindly passed to the Biographical Office by the Tutorial Secretaries. The Projects Assistant, Sam Lewsey, set to work in the Michaelmas Term recording data from Registration Forms, application forms and birth certificates for the new intake. Even at this early stage discrepancies between information in different sources become apparent.

The Projects Assistant has also worked hard to get details of sporting achievements on the Biographical Database, drawing on sources such as The Eagle, and the websites of College and University sporting clubs. The Librarian’s Assistant, Ryan Cronin, has been doing similar work for non-sporting clubs and societies. This is the sort of information which is sometimes passed to us by alumni, but capturing the information when they are still students will mean the process of recording such data is more structured than it has been in the past, and therefore will be more comprehensive.

In terms of alumni, the Biographical Assistant updates the database each month from information supplied by Cambridge University Development Office, paying particular attention to changes of name and title, and new career details. Whilst this information is not always 100% reliable, it is a useful resource when coupled with further research, especially with regard to some of the younger Johnians. Key areas of information added to the Development Office’s Raiser’s Edge database are also monitored on a monthly basis, again providing a platform for deeper research.

The Biographical Assistant has built time into his schedule to mount an assault on a backlog of data entry involving forms sent out by the Development Office to alumni. Far from being a simple data entry job, the fact that some forms have been mailed blank, rather than with the information we already know being printed on them, provided Johnians with an opportunity to ‘reinvent the wheel’, and introduce numerous discrepancies against the data we already hold – different dates for education and employment, different positions and so on. For an office such as ours, this becomes a task involving double checking sources, further research and highlighting inconsistencies to be investigated. This emphasises the differences between departments within the College and the purposes for which they require data.

Who’s Who continues to be checked on a rolling basis, alphabetically approaching every Johnian featured (including Fellows and Honorary Fellows) in order to perform a complete check of the information therein. This can be a time consuming task inasmuch as most records require a lot of cross-referencing, with some information having been previously added from Who’s Who in an ad hoc way. The main benefit of this is that once a record has been updated, it is a very quick task to identify new additions in future volumes of Who’s Who, allowing us to add a source to information on the
database previously lacking one. An additional advantage is that when the Biographical Assistant comes to prepare the annual list of High Profile Johnians for the College Council in June, a good portion of the work has already been done, and thus facilitates a much smoother turnaround.

The Graduate Trainee 2011-12, Rachel Walker, has had an opportunity to turn her hand to various biographical tasks, including data entry. She has also undertaken particular projects, such as ensuring our records of Overseas Visitors are accurate, which was a lengthy process involving, amongst other things, checking Council Minutes in the College Archives.

**Honours and Societies**

We continue to monitor the learned societies and the biannual Honours lists, and Johnians have had another profitable year, adding much satisfaction to the sometimes laborious task of list checking. From the Honours lists, this year saw the addition of:

- 1 MVO (Member of the Royal Victorian Order)
- 1 LVO (Lieutenant of the Royal Victorian Order)
- 3 CBEs
- 2 OBEs

From the learned societies, Fellows of the College were much in evidence amongst the recipients:

- 1 Fellow of the Royal Society
- 1 Royal Society Sylvester Medal (current Fellow)
- 4 Fellows of the British Academy (2 former Fellows)
- 3 Royal Society of Chemistry Awards (1 current Fellow)
- 1 Fellowship of the Royal Academy of Engineering (current Fellow).
Missing Johnians

This year saw the re-adoption of the task of searching for missing Johnians, a job assigned to this office until 2007, when it was passed to the Development Office. We have continued to locate members of the College in the meantime, as part of our general research, so bringing this task fully back into our remit this year, with the Biographical Assistant taking chief responsibility for it, seemed a sensible way forward.

During the year 2006-07 we reported that 31 missing Johnians had been located. This year we have discovered the whereabouts of 63 of our alumni. The Biographical Assistant has enjoyed early success in locating a prominent Pakistani artist and an Italian Member of Parliament, amongst others. It is also worthy of note that Johnians are predominantly pleased to receive such contact from out of the blue. Here is one recent example:

“I have very fond memories of St John’s and shall be forever grateful first to my parents for making it possible to go there and second to the College itself for providing such a rich and rewarding three years.”

The figures for this year are relatively high because former Overseas Visiting Scholars have made up the majority of those Johnians who have been located. Some of the people we have discovered further information about have sadly passed away, but even discovering the date of death of a member of the College is a useful exercise.
Newspaper cuttings

In last year’s report it was noted that fewer newspaper cuttings were being received via the International Press Cutting Bureau’s (IPCB) service, which provide us with articles mentioning the College. This year, in addition to continuing to subscribe to this service, the Graduate Trainee has undertaken weekly checks of Factiva, a research tool which provides access to thousands of sources from around the world, including newspapers, journals and magazines. This, combined with consistent checking of student newspapers *Varsity*, *The Cambridge Student*, and *The Tab*, has resulted in a large increase in the number of articles found which mention the College and Johnians.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>2011-12</th>
<th>2010-11</th>
<th>2009-10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Johnians</td>
<td>339</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General College</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St John’s Innovation Centre</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Choir</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>616</strong></td>
<td><strong>198</strong></td>
<td><strong>264</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

It is clear that Factiva is an extremely useful resource, which has led to a significant amount of new information being entered on the Biographical Database, and an increase in the number of cuttings being filed for posterity in the Biographical Archive. It is interesting to note that whilst there is some duplication of articles sent through by the IPCB and those found via Factiva, there are still enough items which are unique to the service of the IPCB for it to be worthwhile continuing the subscription. This will be monitored, but for the coming year the Librarian’s Assistant, who was already undertaking the press cuttings work, will take on the Factiva searches too.

Biographical Enquiries

The number given earlier in this report for emails and letters sent regarding biographical work (2658) includes correspondence related to enquiries, and is indicative of the amount of work which goes in to not just recording information about Johnians, but also answering questions relating to them.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Century</th>
<th>2011-12</th>
<th>2010-11</th>
<th>2009-10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sixteenth</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seventeenth</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eighteenth</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nineteenth</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twentieth</td>
<td>262</td>
<td>247</td>
<td>246</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twenty-First</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More than one century/Other</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>389</strong></td>
<td><strong>386</strong></td>
<td><strong>372</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Some enquiries relate to several members of the same family, or other groups of people, so the figures above represent the number of requests received, rather than the number of Johnians researched (which is much higher).

The Biographical Database is regularly used in order to produce lists of Johnians for various purposes. A request from the Secretary of the Hockey Club, wishing to organise an old boys’ hockey match, required us to run a search on the Biographical Database and then email the relevant alumni. This demonstrates one of the ways in which biographical records are used to assist in organising events and other activities.

Another enquiry which was time-consuming, but very interesting, was work for an episode of the BBC television programme *Who Do You Think You Are?* in which Hugh Dennis (1981) learnt about his grandfathers’ experiences during the First World War. His paternal grandfather, (Hubert) Ronald Dennis, was a member of E Company, 5th Officer Cadet Battalion, billeted at St John’s in 1918.

Although these men were not admitted to membership of the College, they lived in New Court and were a significant presence at the time. When they were not training they took part in various activities including sports; although there are few LMBC records for the time, the family have a photograph of Ronald in a rowing eight.

Several hours were spent searching through records in an attempt to find a specific mention of him, and supplying BBC researchers with material to assist them in drawing up a picture of what life was like in the College at that time generally, and in particular for the cadets. It was a fascinating period in the College’s history and although when the programme was aired in September the focus on St John’s, and Ronald’s time here, was very small in comparison with the amount of work which went into the research, it was satisfying to be involved in the process.
Other filming which took place in the Library which was connected with biographical work involved a Japanese TV crew focussing on two famous Japanese Johnians:

- **Kikuchi Dairoku (1873)**, the first Japanese student at the University. A mathematician and educator whose several books included a textbook on elementary geometry which was the most widely used textbook in Japan until the end of World War II. This was not the only enquiry regarding him received in the last year.

- **Suyematsu Kencho (1883)**, the second Japanese student at St John's, after Kikuchi. A politician, intellectual and author, who wrote the first English translation of the classic work of Japanese literature, *Genji Monogatari*, and several important works on Japan in English.

In addition to the many requests for biographical information on individuals, some examples of topics we have looked into over the last year in relation to Johnians include subject areas, such as medical students; and careers and interests, including physicists, writers, artists, educators, and alumni with a food or drink connection.

In this Olympic year, it is unsurprising that four separate enquiries have been received concerning Johnian Olympians. This is another example of where the office supplies information to other departments within the College and in the wider University, as the College’s Development Office, and the Cambridge Alumni Relations Office (CARO) were both interested in this subject.
Of the 320 Olympians who are Cambridge alumni, 31 are Johnians. Three of Cambridge’s 130 medal winners are Johnians, all of whom came up to the College in 1947: Charles Lloyd and Paul Massey, who won Silver for Rowing (Men’s Coxed Eights) at the previous London Olympics in 1948; and Chris Brasher, who won the Gold medal for Athletics (3,000m Steeplechase) at the Melbourne Olympics in 1956.

Whilst most of the enquiries are handled by the Biographical Librarian, the Graduate Trainee and the Librarian’s Assistant have once again played an important part in responding to requests.

Fiona Colbert and Paul Everest
Biographical Librarian and Biographical Assistant
The College Archives

The world of the Archivist has grown so that it is no longer limited to one’s own collection and the academics that use it. Today history is cool! From popular television shows, to films, books and the Internet – history is everywhere. The web and social media sites have opened up archives, libraries and museums to visitors from around the globe. Users can now see Roman pots, medieval manuscripts and Renaissance paintings simply by clicking on a link or an image.

With this in mind, I have spent the past three months laying the foundation for a ‘virtual’ launch of the College’s archive collection. This will include a greater focus on digital born material, digitization and display of key items and more outreach activities.

Outreach

As the voice and face of the College Archives it is up to me to promote the collection and its wonderful contents. This can mean doing anything from organising student inductions to curating exhibitions at alumni events or ‘tweeting’ interesting historical anecdotes. My first step is the re-design of the Archives’ webpage. The new page will be more dynamic and will showcase items from the collection. Next, I hope to launch two online exhibitions aimed at entertaining and enlightening audiences – these should go live by January 2013.

Working with Alumni Relations and Development, I have arranged to write a blog tracing the development of the School of Pythagoras project in addition to an online exhibition aimed at Johnians outside the College and University. My long-term goal is to write an iPhone walking tour application for the College to launch in summer 2013.
**Records Management**

As the College Archivist I play a role in preserving the College’s contemporary records. The College has had a Records Retention Schedule and Records Management programme for a number of years. Staff participation has meant that offices run more efficiently and records for transfer to the Archive are identified at an early stage. But, like everything else, business processes and workflows change with time and for that reason over the next few months I will visit all College departments and talk to staff about the records they create. I have been liaising with the IT Department concerning the selection and eventual implementation of an Electronic Document and Records Management System. This would drastically reduce the need for physical storage space of modern records in College.

**School of Pythagoras**

Work continues on the School of Pythagoras. The archaeological survey is almost complete and a number of Roman skeletons have been discovered and removed for further examination. The Librarian and I have met with the Architect and other team members to discuss fittings, furnishings, environmental controls and data support. The project is progressing on schedule and if all goes well the Archive will be re-located to the School of Pythagoras in 2014.

In preparation for the move I have attended two workshops on PD5454 – the Preservation Service’s latest recommendations on the storage of archival material. More accurate environmental monitoring has also begun in the New Court Cellars. This has highlighted problems inherent in this space – high humidity combined with high temperatures – which are detrimental to the long term storage of paper materials.

To facilitate the move I am investigating the possibility of barcoding the entire collection (at box level). This would vastly simplify the process of moving items out of New Court and into the School of Pythagoras and confirming their location once they have been re-shelved. I have also consulted with colleagues in other repositories who have recently moved their collections to get suggestions on ‘best practice’.
The next two years will bring much change to the Archives, but I’m up for the challenge and am keen to propel the Archives into the twenty-first century.

Tracy Wilkinson
College Archivist
Rare Books Cataloguing Projects

This has been the final year of the Basement Cataloguing Project, the aim of which was to catalogue all the printed items published in the period 1801-1830. The work has been virtually completed, producing 1,312 catalogue records, covering classes 1-20 in the Closed Access Basement, together with items from the Cambridge, Johnian and Boys Smith Collections in the adjoining Small Basement. There remain approximately a hundred items in the oversize part of the Chapel Court Basement which require cataloguing at this date.

In addition to my work on the project, I have been charged with overseeing the substantial gift of books from Raphael Loewe, former Honorary Fellow, who died on 27 May 2011. (Information about his life and professional career may be found in his obituary, written by Stefan Reif in the 2012 issue of The Eagle.)

The books, numbering around 3,500 volumes packed in 103 boxes, have been stored in the Jeffreys Building at St John’s Innovation Centre. With much appreciated help from Library colleagues Rachel Walker, Sam Lewsey and Ryan Cronin, I listed every item which could be identified (a large number were in Hebrew with no Romanised or translated title page) and prepared a database of titles, from which around 200 rare books were selected for the College Library. The most valuable items include one incunable, Moses ben Jacob of Coucy’s Sefer mizvot gadol, printed at Soncino by Gershom Soncino in 1488, which unfortunately lacks the colophon leaf. There are also three sumptuously produced facsimiles in very limited editions of Hebrew manuscripts (Barcelona Haggadah, Rothschild Haggadah and North French Miscellany).

After some negotiation with Catherine Ansorge, Head of the Middle Eastern Department in the Cambridge University Library, it was agreed that the Hebrew books, together with the others not required by the College, should find a permanent home in the UL. Happily this was in accord with the terms of Raphael Loewe’s will, and it is gratifying to know that his outstanding collection of Judaica and other works will be made available to Hebrew scholars in due course.
This work brings an end to the successive Rare Books Cataloguing Projects, which began in 2001 with the appointment of Stewart Tiley (to September 2004). I was appointed from January 2002 (to October 2009 full-time, and since then on a three-day week basis). Covering approximately 13 person-years, 44,790 catalogue records have been produced and added to Newton, all conforming to DCRMB standards and including details of provenance, binding, imperfections, variants and other copy-specific information. This figure does not include the amendments to records which have been necessitated by changes in bibliographic standards and validation procedures implemented by the University Library within the Voyager Library Management System, from 2002 onwards.

The Upper Library Project ran from 2001 to October 2006 (31,945 items); the Lower Library Project from November 2006 until October 2009 (11,363 items); the Basement Project ran from November 2009 to the present date on a part-time basis. The result of this work is that all of the College’s pre-1800 holdings are accessible from the Newton Catalogue and importantly, since 2010 on the RLUK (Research Libraries of the United Kingdom) database. It is good to know that the Library’s excellent resource of rare books data is available to the wider library community, as well as in Cambridge. Furthermore all of the College’s pre-1800 British publications and English titles have been recorded on the ESTC (English Short-Title Catalogue) database, adding significantly to the UK’s bibliographic heritage.

Allen Purvis
Rare Books Cataloguer
The Samuel Butler Project

While Samuel ‘Erewhon’ Butler (1835-1902, BA 1859) may be best-known for his novels, the Library’s extensive collection of material relating to him sheds light on the scale of his accomplishments as well as the range of his interests.

In fields as diverse as photography, art criticism and the history of evolutionary theory, Samuel Butler’s pioneering approach warrants scholarly attention, which has been increasingly forthcoming.

The foundation of an online ‘Butler Community’ – a hub for interested parties to share information about their current research – on the Library website has helped to consolidate interest in the collection and to forge research partnerships, which will bear fruit in the months to come.

Substantial progress in cataloguing the collection has already prompted new interest from researchers, writers, curators, and individuals whose relatives are documented among the photographs and papers. 101 boxes of material, including miscellaneous papers, pamphlets, photographs, printed music and artefacts, are now fully catalogued, with the catalogue accessible online through the Janus website (http://janus.lib.cam.ac.uk). This leaves the pictures (about 450 paintings and drawings) and books (about 600 shelved volumes) as the focus for the second year of the project.

In the course of sorting and cataloguing the collection, a number of valuable and fragile items were identified as priorities for conservation treatment. Professionals at the Cambridge Colleges’ Conservation Consortium have already completed some super work – not least the repair, rebinding and reboxing of the manuscript of Butler’s Odyssey translation and of the heavily annotated paperback
volumes of Jean-Baptiste Lamarck’s *Philosophie Zoologique* which Butler made use of in writing his own works on evolution. A number of drawings and prints owned by Butler have also been cleaned, repaired and mounted, and can now be displayed in exhibitions.

Two large-scale public exhibitions were held this year, with each attracting around 400 visitors. ‘Interested in Everything: Drawing Inspiration from the Collections of Samuel Butler’ took place during the Cambridge Festival of Ideas in October 2011, and introduced Butler and the range of this special collection to a general audience. Following this event, we hosted our first ‘Butler Day’ in March 2012 during the Cambridge Science Festival, with the exhibition ‘Evolution: The Race to Understanding’ setting Butler’s evolutionary works in their historical and social context, and talks on Butler, Darwin and the philosophy of evolution. A second Butler Day is planned for January 2013, and will focus on Butler’s adventures in Italy, with an exhibition of maps, photographs, artworks and books, and related talks.

In addition to open events for the general public, the Butler Project has enabled the Library to extend its educational outreach activities, offering new resources to visiting school groups. ‘Imaginary Lands’, a hands-on workshop inspired by Butler’s satirical fiction *Erewhon*, and ‘Curator for an Hour’, a museum-style activity for secondary school pupils, have so far proven popular. Including attendance at public exhibitions, more than 1150 children and adults have already taken part in outreach activities associated with the Butler Project.

The website has gained four new online exhibitions, tapping into the themes of the collection. Illustrated introductions to Butler’s interests in photography and music, and digitized versions of previous live exhibitions on Butler’s evolutionary writings and his artworks, have made images of and information about key items from the collection available to a worldwide audience. By a happy coincidence, the College’s entire collection of oil paintings, which includes 34 by Butler, was digitized by the Public Catalogue Foundation in 2011, and the images are now viewable on the BBC Your Paintings website. This online
gallery will be a useful aid when it comes to cataloguing the Butler pictures, many of which are difficult to access, being permanently hung in private rooms throughout the College.

In the coming months, one hundred of Samuel Butler’s best photographs will also be made available to see on the internet via HistoryPin (www.historypin.com), an interactive mapping resource showcasing historic photographic collections from all over the world. By increasing access to this photographic collection, for the general public as well as academic researchers, we aim to promote awareness of Butler’s status as one of the photographic pioneers of his day.

Progress and interesting developments in the project continue to be noted each month in the ‘Butler Project Diary’, a popular feature on the website. With such a diverse collection, and a variety of aims to fulfil before the project ends in July 2013, there is always something new to say! We hope the diary will also act as a useful resource for anyone considering working with or volunteering on special collections or other, related, heritage projects.

All our online resources, and a wealth of information about Samuel Butler, the collection, and forthcoming exhibitions and events, can be found on the St John’s College website at www.joh.cam.ac.uk/samuel-butler-project.

Rebecca Watts
Butler Project Associate
As well as the various Samuel Butler Project events this year, the Library has welcomed visits from schools, colleges, universities and the general public during 2011-12. New partnerships with educational institutions have been developed and our existing relationships have been consolidated. Materials from the Special Collections have been put on display and used in imaginative and informative sessions on a wide variety of subjects for audiences of all ages.

Educational Visits

The Library has received visits from almost thirty different schools and colleges in 2011-12. Many of these were local, though some came to us from London, or even as far afield as Germany and Holland, proving that the reputation of St John’s College Library is truly international.

The subjects covered this year range from our now-regular visits on the Slave Trade and Abolition to new sessions on world exploration, English literature and the history of medicine and anatomy. For the latter, the Old Library’s exquisite 1555 copy of Vesalius’ *De humani corporis fabrica* was exhibited along with some of the weird and wonderful specimens in the Materia Medica cabinet of Dr William Heberden (BA 1728), which includes such curiosities as goat’s blood and a dried lizard.

We continued in our tradition of collaborative working with other Cambridge institutions, with joint sessions being run with Wisbech Museum, the Cambridge and County Folk Museum, Kettle’s Yard and the Scott Polar Research Institute. Many of these visits were born from connections made at the bi-monthly Education Group meetings which feature many of the University and local museums and libraries involved in outreach programmes.

The Education and Outreach section of the Library website was re-edited and updated to make searching for visits easier for teachers, with examples of previously-run sessions and a downloadable Risk Assessment for the Library.
Public Engagement

The Old Library’s magnificent oak door creaked open for the general public several times during 2011-12. The Butler Project Associate ran events for the Festival of Ideas and the Science Festival, and the Library also held an exhibition of treasures from the Special Collections for Open Cambridge. This University-wide annual event always attracts a crowd, but this year it proved to be the most popular yet, with visitor numbers exceeding the Library’s previous record of 800.

The Library’s continued participation in educational and outreach events ensures opportunities for people of all ages and walks of life to experience the unique atmosphere of an historic College Library and also fosters a great amount of goodwill towards the Library, the College and the University as a whole. Many people who visit for the public events report having lived in Cambridge for years and having never been into one of the Colleges before.

Looking Ahead

The Library already has a fairly packed list of school visits booked up until March 2013, so it looks like the next year will be a busy one for education and outreach. The focus will be on building upon the various sessions and partnerships developed this year in order to continually improve the educational experiences the Library can provide.

Of particular note is an exciting venture with the new outreach officer at the Cambridge Folk Museum, which will see joint sessions developed for schoolchildren and adult learning groups using the resources of both the Folk Museum and the Old Library. As well as this, the Library will continue to welcome members of the public through its doors for Open Cambridge, the Festival of Ideas and the Science Festival.

Ryan Cronin
Librarian’s Assistant
Green Initiatives

We currently have recycling bins in the Library lobby for plastic and aluminium and three bins on each floor for paper. All of these are very well used and approximately 90% of items are placed in the correct bin. There are a significant proportion of drinks containers left by readers on desks or placed in rubbish bins. Wherever possible these are carefully collected by cleaning staff and recycled.

The quantity of recycled materials has returned to 2009-10 levels. The plan for 2012-13 is to provide additional recycling bins for aluminium and plastic on the upper four floors to encourage students to recycle and save the cleaners a little time.

Average quantities of material recycled per month for 2011-12:

12 bags of waste paper
7 bags of plastic bottles
2 bags of aluminium cans

John Holt
Library Cleaner
Environmental Monitoring and Control

Working Library

This year, temperature and humidity in the Working Library have remained fairly stable, despite some changes in conditions over the summer due to the refurbishment works. The Library is usually quite warm, due to the presence of lots of glass, but drops in temperature have been recorded due to Library users sometimes leaving windows open overnight. Readers are encouraged to close windows when they leave the Library, as well as to turn off lights and computers when not in use.

Relative humidity levels have fluctuated in the Library, with a spike of 81% recorded in the Third Floor Law Library in July. The minimum level recorded was 15%, also on the Third Floor, which shows that quite a range of different conditions occurred over the year. These peaks and troughs are probably linked to the building and refurbishment works in the Library. At other times over 2011-12, the humidity levels did even off, becoming much closer to the stable, acceptable range.

The Working Library does have to make a strategic compromise between the optimal conditions for book storage and comfortable working conditions for Library users. This is often a fine balance to maintain, but the Library is very successful in managing this feat.

The Old Library

Manuscripts Store

The environmental conditions in the Manuscripts Store have remained well within the recommended levels for storage of the many rare and fragile items contained therein. The temperature has been constantly cool, even in the heat of summer, and the Store continues to be an excellent place for preserving such priceless materials.

Lower and Upper Libraries

The Old Library, built in 1624, has thick walls which provide excellent insulation from the extremes of heat and cold, though winter temperatures are below what one could call comfortable working conditions. Of course, the Upper Library is not used as study space,
so this is less of an issue than it would be in the Working Library. The light levels in the Upper Library are kept low through the use of blinds and UV filters on the large arched windows. All items displayed in the Upper Library for exhibitions, visits and other events are kept under controlled lighting when on display and covered over when not in use.

Humidity levels can change with the seasons, exceptionally reaching about 70-75% in summer and 30-40% in winter, but generally remaining within recommended levels for housing early printed books. Philip Bolton conducted a thorough check for bread beetle over the summer, when conditions are favourable for hatching. This year, no larvae or other signs of life were found, to the great relief of Library staff.

Ryan Cronin
Librarian’s Assistant
A Visitors’ Book is located in the Exhibition Area of the Working Library. The following are a selection of comments and feedback relating to exhibitions, events and general Library service, received during 2011-12.

**Festival of Ideas 2011**  
(Interested in Everything: Drawing inspiration from the collections of Samuel Butler)

- Brilliant staff - friendly, engaging, knowledgeable.
- Interesting, very helpful people, nice atmosphere.
- As ever, St John's put on a splendid show.
- Choice of exhibits gave a very good insight into Samuel Butler's life and work.
- Superbly clear and interesting captions and well-chosen exhibits.
- Excellent material, well annotated, not too much to absorb, very representative of the subject.
• Liked the open and welcoming attitude of the College librarians. And the fascinating Butler collection.

Butler Day 2012  
(Evolution: the race to understanding)

• A wonderful journey through the mind of one of today's most fascinating 'recovered' philosophers.  
• An excellent, well-organised and informative event  
• John's Library exhibitions are always impressive. The captions were especially helpful.  
• Congratulations on a SUPERB exhibition. A wonderful idea for a new look at evolution - the competing views on its workings and explanation - brilliantly presented. Inspiring!  
• Brought students here on a GCSE trip. A lovely collection of books and info cards. Many students appear engaged. Also a treat to see the old Library!  
• Came upon the event by chance but thoroughly enjoyed the chance to see the unique works.

All-Conquering Death

• Very interesting exhibition on death.  
• Really enjoyed seeing the woodcuts and visual representations!  
• Beautifully put together exhibit and very thought-provoking.  
• Really fascinating exhibition. Thanks!  
• Brilliant exhibition, superbly displayed.

Johnians in the Physical Sciences

• A fascinating review of the development of science over the years.  
• Very interesting exhibition.  
• Very educational.  
• Excellent exhibition, I would be interested to see Biology as well.  
• A wonderful reminder of the years of study and commitment of these scientists.
General Visitor Comments

- Excellent access, thank you.
- Great visit, with good guides.
- You have more books than I could ever imagine!
- My tour guide was exceptional. Beautiful Library!
- Honoured to visit the Old Library.
- A great privilege!
- Totally fantastic collection of books, beautifully kept.
- A wonderful Library, thank you for your excellent help.
- One of the most helpful rare books libraries I have had the pleasure to consult.
- What a wonderful sense of history and tradition.
- Always very helpful.
- Thank you very much for making my research visit so fruitful and such a pleasant experience.
- Cool Library!

Ryan Cronin
Librarian’s Assistant