St John’s College Library
Annual Report 2014-15

The Library, St John’s College, Cambridge CB2 1TP

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

www.joh.cam.ac.uk/library

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 Secretary, Angela McKenzie with many thanks to the Librarian, Dr Mark Nicholls, for proof-reading and advice, and the Biographical Assistant, Paul Everest, for photography and cover design.

St John’s College is a registered charity, number 1137428.

All photographs throughout the report were taken by the Biographical Assistant, Paul Everest and other members of Library staff.
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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.

Beating a Path to our Door

The College Library continues to buck trends in the sector by recording increased activity in most measurable areas. Some very impressive reader numbers in the Lent and Easter Terms, including the busiest week ever recorded through our entry/exit statistics, and the continued affection shown by readers for our self-checkout system, demonstrate that, for many junior members, the service offered within these walls remains relevant, helpful, and attractive.

At the western end of the College – out towards the growth area that is north-west Cambridge – the Archivist Tracy Deakin has responded to an increasingly busy diary, working in the Archive Centre during its first year. January 2015 saw the final transfer of material from older stores to the new Centre, while some essential conservation work on material formerly held in the New Court cellars and damaged by damp was undertaken by Harwell Drying and Restoration Services over the spring of 2015.

Regular users of the new Centre, and others simply looking round the building, were gratified but not particularly surprised to learn that the Project has been awarded first prize (jointly) for the Best Conservation, Alteration or Extension to an Existing Building under the annual Cambridge Council architectural awards scheme. The development has also been Commended under the RTPI East of England Regional Planning Achievement Award scheme for 2015. These distinctions are but a just reflection on the merits of work carried out by the architect, Oliver Caroe, and the College’s Maintenance Department.
Away Day

In 2014 Library staff again visited Hughes Hall for our annual ‘Away Day’ conversations. The pleasant facilities there facilitated a productive and interesting day. Ten years on from the Library’s first Away Day, the model still throws up stimulating new ideas as well as offering us all some collaborative thinking time outside the office.

Staffing

Richard Sellens, Graduate Trainee for 2014-15, gave us a year of excellent service. We shall all miss his enthusiastic, intuitive, welcoming approach to the job; the warm testimony of many readers testifies to his success in this role. Drawing on his own musical expertise, the excellent exhibition Richard designed on John Robert Lunn, a nineteenth-century College prodigy, whose compositions were highly rated in their day, attracted many visitors. The display also attracted press interest, focusing on a hitherto little-known letter in the Old Library from the composer Felix Mendelssohn. Richard’s successor in this fixed-term trainee appointment is Felicity French, who introduces herself and writes about her first impressions of the Library in the staff section that follows.

Otherwise, we have been fortunate in retaining experienced and committed staff this year. Kathryn McKee, our Sub-Librarian and Special Collections Librarian, has indeed withstood all that St John’s College Library can throw at her for twenty-five years, and her colleagues and friends on staff and in the Fellowship offer their warmest congratulations – to which I must add my particular gratitude for all that she does to keep a busy operation running smoothly. There is one change, or rather addition, to report. Thanks to the generosity of Dr Karl van Horn (BA 1959) we look forward to welcoming an Information Services Graduate Trainee in October 2015. Of this appointment, more next year.

Chris Krupa continues to volunteer regular hours in the Old Library, and his work there is of great assistance to the Special Collections Librarian. As in recent years, our Archivist Tracy Deakin has successfully enlisted the support of a number of temporary volunteers.
Cataloguing and Collection Development

Last year I observed that, though the College is unfailingly generous in this area, funds for purchasing books and other resources are not unlimited, and there are many other pressures on the departmental budget. With invaluable help from the Projects Assistant, Rebecca Watts, and working with the inspirational Will Evans in the Development Office, we introduced a Sponsor a Shelf scheme inviting alumni – principally those who had supported the Library project in the 1990s – to maintain a shelf in a subject of their choice, or alternatively sponsor a particular book, on an ongoing basis.

Johnians, as ever, have rallied to a good cause. As a result of their generosity, an extra £15,000 is available in 2015-16 to purchase standard textbooks and reference works on current reading lists. An appendix to this Report lists the donors who have given in response to the appeal. I must also thank Dr John Slight, a member of the Library and Records Committee, for his suggestions and encouragement which provided the essential initial impetus to this project.

Every five years, I review the Library’s Collection Development Policy. This exercise came round again in 2015. In carrying through an obligation written into the Library’s Strategic Plan, I am grateful for input received from the Sub-Librarian, the Academic Services Librarian, the Archivist and several other members of departmental staff. The nature of resources provided to readers is always changing, particularly with the proliferation of electronic texts and sources, and with the pace of this change increasing rather than slowing down an adjustment of a key policy in 2015 has proved particularly timely.

As any College Librarian will confirm, the importance of donations to our College Library needs no emphasis. Donations underpin the strength and variety of the Library collection, and the lists reported once a term to the Library and Records Committee in 2014-15 demonstrate both strength and variety in the generosity of Johnians and other supporters. We stand in their debt.
Reader Services

Regular visitors to the Library will have noticed some recent changes in the Entrance Hall. These have been prompted by several factors: the call for additional seating, especially for those wishing to consult the ground floor collections briskly or to wait for appointments in Library and College, the diminishing need for extensive reference and journal collections given the widespread use of electronic alternatives, and the Council’s wish to display an impressive work *Lasst tausend blumen blühen*, by the distinguished German artist Anselm Kiefer, lent to the College by a charitable foundation. The resulting use of space, masterminded by the Academic Services Librarian, Janet Chow, mixes attractive shelf displays with comfortable seating and useful study areas, while retaining flexibility for the future.

The Projects Assistants, Sam Lewsey and Rebecca Watts, and the Graduate Trainee contribute to the Library’s Twitter account and Facebook Page, with assistance from departmental colleagues. Their tweets highlight developments in the Library while drawing attention to changes of service and new departures of every sort in other Cambridge collections. In the Twitter world, as everywhere else, the Cambridge library scene is becoming ever more interconnected.

While the College is rightly cautious in adding to the recurrent costs associated with running the Library, the generosity of donors to the College allows every department to bid for resources from an ‘Annual Fund’, established to support compelling one-off projects. This year, the Fund has enabled us to purchase a microfilm reader/scanner/printer. Decades of microfilming around the world has resulted in vast collections of film resources, and for the foreseeable future most of the collections thus filmed will be most conveniently accessed from these surrogates. Our facility to scan and print from film is now one of the best in a Cambridge library. We are grateful to our College donors for the generosity that makes such purchases possible.
Special Collections

The report prepared by the Sub-Librarian, details departmental aspirations and achievements, as well as the challenges posed by our remarkable special collections and their equally remarkable historic setting. As in past years, Kathryn notes her debt to the Manuscripts Cataloguer Mandy Marvin, who frequently holds the fort while Kathryn works elsewhere in the Old Library, and to the Library Assistant Adam Crothers and our Volunteer Chris Krupa, who work in the Old Library on one day each week.

As promised in last year’s Report, the long-planned book on the Treasures of St John’s College Library was published in the autumn of 2014, and its appearance was marked by a congenial gathering of Fellows, staff, junior members and other friends in the Old Library on a November evening. The book is on sale via the publisher Third Millennium, from the Library Issue Desk, and also at the Great Gate of the College. Attractively priced, it makes an ideal Johnian Christmas present.

A year’s data has now been assembled towards an informed response to the various environmental challenges posed by the historic Old Library. 2014-15, however, has been drier than average, and it may take a longer survey to spot patterns that shed light on the causes of mould and other problems in wetter conditions. It may be that the need to store a growing collection in the historic Lower Library crowds the space available and contributes to these challenges.

In this regard, space for sorting and boxing newly acquired collections of personal papers, identified and installed as part of the recent Old Divinity School refurbishment, is proving invaluable in the management of our holdings. A number of books formerly held in the Basement Storerooms of the Working Library are now displayed in the Old Divinity School, transferred there in order to decorate the Lightfoot Room.

Archives

The Archivist reports on a busy, productive first year for the Archive Centre in the School of Pythagoras. As with any refurbishment a snagging list has given Tracy and the College Maintenance staff several moments of ‘entertainment’, and occasional consternation. Yet
the prevailing response to the new facility has been admiration on the part of members of our College, and envy on the part of members of other Colleges! Stimulated by Tracy’s efforts to promote and catalogue the papers in her care, by word of mouth and by making full use of the Website, the availability of this new facility has prompted ever greater interest in our remarkable institutional archive. The building was opened formally by HRH The Duke of Cambridge, himself a member of the College, at a ceremony on 15 October 2015.

**Biographical Office**

Biographical information on Johnians and staff is collected for different purposes by at least four current College departments. While all such exercises have been undertaken for compelling reasons, the result is some duplication and a measure of confusion. Thanks to commendable cooperation between the Biographical Office and the Development Office, and with help from the IT Department, the Communications Office, the HR Department and the Master’s and President's Office, plans have this year been developed for a ‘Gateway’ on the College Website, giving access to biographical information. To this end, the work of the Biographical Librarian, Fiona Colbert, has to my mind been especially commendable, and I must also note the contribution in this and other aspects of Biographical Office work made by the Biographical Assistant, Paul Everest. The plans arrived at by Fiona and colleagues were approved by the College Council in 2015. This Gateway will act as a clear, concise guide to all sources of College biographical information, with links allowing those with the necessary access privileges to consult some useful lists and databases online.

Of relevance to the Biographical Office, but also to every College department, was the latest revision of the Standing Order on data protection which I undertook as the responsible College officer in the spring of 2015.

**Exhibitions**

The Library Exhibition Area has hosted some particularly interesting displays in the year past. Thanks to the work of the Special Collections Librarian and the Manuscripts Cataloguer, we have chronicled the lives and legacies of two remarkable Johnians whose papers we hold, the visionary architect Cedric Price, and the eminent astrophysicist Sir Fred Hoyle. We have again hosted a successful Student Art and Photography Competition, with many of the entries featuring in The Eagle 2015, and as noted above we have also provided a fine location for the excellent exhibition on the
scholar-composer John Lunn curated by Richard Sellens. As in years past, it is important to spread the word about these interesting displays, which are open to the public between 9am and 5pm, Mondays to Fridays. The assistance of the Communications Office and publicity on the Website have helped greatly to that end.

As has become the norm in recent years, the Upper Library has welcomed hundreds of visitors on the Saturday of the Cambridge Open Weekend, and during the University Science Week and its arts and humanities equivalent the Festival of Ideas.

An attractive and regularly updated shelf layout in the Entrance Hall, developed by Janet Chow, by the Library Assistant Adam Crothers, and by other members of staff, allows new accessions and recently-published works by Johnians to be displayed in eye-catching ways, lit by the fine new lighting installed during the 2012 refurbishment. The Mezzanine Gallery features a growing selection of recent fiction and other works shortlisted for literary prizes. As I have noted above, making the most of the wonderful space in our Entrance Hall poses a challenge, and our staff are rising to that challenge through some inspired posters, focused displays of stock, and the redeployment of important collections.

Security and Safety

All risk assessments in the Library are updated annually in compliance with College policy. Fire-evacuation exercises were conducted in the Library during the Michaelmas Term 2014 and the Lent Term 2015. It is customary to update the Library Disaster Response Plan and the parallel plan for the School of Pythagoras every year, and in September 2015 we held a Departmental training morning in the School of Pythagoras during which staff were shown the building, briefed on the details of a state-of-the-art alarm and fire-suppression system, and together worked their way through paper exercises designed to help them respond to some imaginative emergency scenarios.

A Shared Responsibility

The Library staff join me in thanking particularly all the colleagues in other College departments who have facilitated Library projects and shown an interest in our work this year. Thanks are also due to a most supportive Library and Records Committee, its membership drawn from Fellows, staff and junior members.

In putting forward this Report, my particular thanks go to the Librarian’s Secretary Angela McKenzie, for again tackling the assembly and design work so successfully, and to the Biographical Assistant Paul Everest for his photography and fine cover design.

Mark Nicholls
Staff Reports

Robert Beale – Part-Time Library Cleaner

I have continued with the daily cleaning of my designated areas of the St Johns College Library. In addition I have maintained the School of Pythagoras and the Old Library on a weekly basis. During the summer months I have completed a number of out of term tasks such as: outside cleaning, hoovering upholstery, checking/replacing light bulbs and deep cleaning of washrooms. I am also involved with the library’s waste paper recycling procedure.

Janet Chow – Academic Services Librarian

This past year, I have expanded my role by volunteering to work a day a week supervising readers in the School of Pythagoras (College Archive Centre). It has been an enjoyable experience, especially to have the privilege of working in the oldest College building and the oldest secular building in Cambridge. It is also fascinating to engage with the materials being consulted by readers, and what they are researching.

Apart from supervising readers in Pythagoras, I have also enjoyed assisting the Archivist to catalogue archive materials, including those relating to College Clubs and Societies, Committees and Tutorial papers. It is enriching to get a glimpse of College activities in the old days. It also affords me the opportunity to learn new skills, such as cataloguing archival materials and how to use the cataloguing system, which are very different from cataloguing modern books. At the time of writing this piece for the Annual Report, I have signed up for an Archival training course in October. I look forward to learning more about the arrangement and organisation of archival materials.

This last year my attention has also focused on expanding the Johnian Collection. A selection of books written by Johnians was acquired to bolster the current collection. Some ‘Harper-Wood’ books, which I think will generate a wider interest, were also acquired for the Library. These publications include fiction, poetry and drama written by former holders of Harper-Wood studentships at John’s. I am grateful to the Biographical Assistant who compiled the lists of names.

My other focus has been to begin the lengthy and challenging process of preparing the Working Library for accreditation. I came across this particular accreditation scheme
through searching on the Internet a few months ago. Various criteria have to be met and achieved in order to gain accreditation. The British Library in Boston Spa, for example, is one of the accredited libraries. Accordingly, I arranged a visit to the British Library in order to gain a better understanding of how the Library gained its accreditation, and what it takes to make a successful application. There is a lot of work involved, but it will be a great achievement if the Working Library can get accredited. Not only will St John's Working Library be the first accredited College library in Cambridge, but more importantly, it will signify that our Library service meets the highest standards possible.

The improvement of the fabric and appearance of the Working Library has continued over the past year. The display area in the far corner of the Reference area has now been completed, with comfortable seating added. New lighting has been installed on Third Floor followed by the successful installation of new lighting on both First and Second Floors in 2014. Carpets throughout the Library have been professionally cleaned. New carpet has been fitted on First Floor. Maintaining the smart appearance of the Working Library is a continuous job. Simon Thorburn, from the Maintenance Department, and I have conducted a survey and drawn up a list of work needing to be done in the Working Library going forward. I will make sure that in the years to come we gradually tick the list of items as ‘done’.

Fiona Colbert – Biographical Librarian

During the course of the year I have received gifts of cakes, biscuits, chocolates (including some Hershey’s Kisses from The White House), tea, flowers, photos of people’s cats, and links to images of red panda nail art! I’ve also been invited to call on people should I ever visit Japan, Germany, or Australia, invited to an event in India at Christmas, and been offered a personal tour of The White House (by the person who gave me the aforementioned confectionery). Presumably this means I have made some people happy, and I am delighted this is the case.

I still can’t help feeling anxious about certain tasks I have not yet managed to complete: some outstanding enquiries, lots of data entry, a mountain of filing, to name a few. Last year I reported someone believed I could work miracles; I think the backlog of work I have to do confirms this is not the case! However, it does prove there is a high demand for the information we hold, and a strong need to record the data in the first place, so at least I can’t have any doubts as to the value of my work.

I shall continue to do my best and hopefully positive feedback (and maybe even some more presents!) will again be forthcoming. It is rather handy that I get paid, and receive some additional goodies from time to time, for doing something I enjoy!
Adam Crothers – Library Assistant

On it goes. Grasping at introductory remarks for my first staff report, in 2013, I unimaginatively traded on its being my first; in 2014 I got away with saying I couldn’t get away with saying it was my second. This is my third, and I’m plainly at a loss.

I’m writing this shortly after the publication of my sixteenth and final ‘Vestiges’ feature for PN Review, the poetry magazine whose editorial address was St John’s for the three years of editor Michael Schmidt’s Writer in Residence position. The aim was to forge an explicit link between the magazine and the College by highlighting items of poetic or broader literary significance held at St John’s, taken largely but not exclusively from the Library’s Special Collections. Annotations, manuscripts, signatures, graffiti, benches: there was a lot to talk about, and it was a pleasure. Some people, to my surprise, have even been reading the thing.

Summer was consumed by two large projects: the reclassification of the AV Room’s classical music collection, and the Working Library stock check. The latter was the second of our biennial checks deploying the Digital Library Assistant. (A good way to feel intimidated by a piece of machinery is to give it your job title prefaced by an efficient and unfleshy word such as ‘Digital’, ‘Cyber’ or ‘Mecha’.) By accident of being the only current staff member to have used the device and the relevant software back in 2013, I found myself training colleagues and unofficially heading the four-week scanning project (Janet Chow bravely taking on the subsequent stage of updating catalogue records and hunting for supposedly missing items). I’m pleased to say that we kept to time, with no disasters outside of the occasional, minor, reassuring quirk of technology.

Tracy Deakin – Archivist

I have been based in the School of Pythagoras for just over a year now. It is a beautiful building, especially on sunny summer days (if only we had more of them!) My job has evolved over the last year, from box-packer and endless list-maker to tour guide and exhibition curator!

Over the last 12 months I have given over 35 tours of the building! Everyone from Blue Badge Guides to visiting fellows and primary school students have asked to see inside this wonderful building.

On a more personal note, I was invited to join the National Archives Higher Education Archivists Network working-group as the representative for Cambridge and Oxford Archivists. (Supposedly I’m a mover and shaker in the higher education archive world!) We had our first meeting in May and will be launching our 2015-2016 programme in Manchester in October.
I attended a useful and informative conference in Amsterdam, sponsored by the University of Amsterdam and the University of Toronto. It was an annual conference on the History of Archives and Records and the speakers covered topics as wide ranging as Sixteenth-century Italian records management practices to the records of war crimes trials in Rwanda.

Early in September I taught a weekend session on Lady Margaret Beaufort at Madingley Hall for the Institute of Continuing Education. The workshop included a visit to the Archive Centre to see some of Lady Margaret’s papers. The session will be repeated again in early January.

Paul Everest – Biographical Assistant

Every year, my fingers hover over the keyboard while I struggle to think of something worthwhile to document here, not because of a lack of material from which to draw, but because over the course of the year there is simply so much to choose from – I’m extraordinarily lucky to have a job that provides interest in even its most mundane moments. So this year, I’m going to mention a few things of note that are entirely unrelated to my day job instead!

As a keen, if utterly amateur photographer, I’m often trying to find new aspects of the College to capture, or simply a new way to capture the familiar ones. Various examples appear throughout this report, as usual, but this year I have been delighted to have my work featured on the cover of two prominent College publications, The Eagle and The Marguerite, as well as appearing in the Library Treasures book. I have just recently taken a photo of the Magna Carta that is to be presented to the Duke of Cambridge when he officially opens the School of Pythagoras and, what’s more, have been asked to document the event when he does.

I managed, somehow, to end up winner of the Archives’ inaugural poetry competition and, perhaps most bizarrely, have just unearthed the fact that one of the most recognisable and publicised autumnal features of the College, the Virginia Creeper, is actually not that at all, but a similar plant known as Boston Ivy!

Felicity French – Graduate Library Trainee

I have now been at St John’s for almost two months, and what strikes me most about that time is just how quickly it has gone so far. I’ve been to training sessions, on tours of the College, invigilated at Open Cambridge, and I’ve met about 50 new people (almost all of whom I’ve called the wrong name at some point – sorry!) Everyone has been extremely friendly and kind and it has certainly been a rewarding and enriching experience thus far.
The Working Library is where the majority of my role is focused, circulating books, checking reading lists, and learning to catalogue books to RDA standard, which I have unexpectedly found to be something that I really enjoy. I have also relished learning the ropes for the Library’s social media pages, and attempting to whip the Twitter and brand new Facebook page into shape. We have seen a spike in interest in the Library online recently, particularly in relation to our special collections with the acquisition of the Perrin papers and with Open Cambridge on 12 September 2015.

I have likewise been getting to grips with some of the work of the Biographical Office, performing daily checks for recently deceased Johnians and updating our records on students who play sport or are members of societies, both at St John’s and in the wider Cambridge University community. It is exciting to see that Johnians are involved in all aspects of university life, and I hadn’t realised just how much diverse activity there is at Cambridge: the Tiddlywinks club in particular was a revelation. I am also enjoying working at the School of Pythagoras, helping readers with items and also getting to catalogue items older than most of the periods I studied for my history degree!

Coming from a background of working in two much larger university libraries, so far St John’s has seemed very quiet to me, although I’m assured that this will change with the start of term as the undergraduates return and new students arrive. I am certainly looking forward to the challenge that this will bring, but I have been grateful for the quieter period in which to gain a functional knowledge of the Library’s collections and reflect on my own aims in this role. Unusually for a trainee, I am already enrolled on a LIS Master’s course by distance learning, and I hope that the readings and work that I am doing for this qualification will reflect back into my work at St John’s and enrich my experience here further.

St John’s is a really fantastic environment in which to work and as my Grandma said as I took her on a tour of College the other week, it’s quite nice to feel like I belong here!

John Holt – Part-Time Library Cleaner

I have been cleaning the Library for almost eight years and still find the work challenging and it fits in well with my other role as a landlord. I strive to keep the top three floors clean, all floors safe for users and also manage the recycling.

I am a qualified First-Aider for the Library and attended a refresher course this year, as well as attending an in-house fire training session.

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

- Carried out book cleaning to 95 shelves on the second floor in the Garden and Penrose wings.
- Checked external fire doors monthly and cleared away pigeon muck on door step.
- Collected up kick steps for inspection and later put them back in the Library.
• Improved the facilities in the Library by replacing all the paper recycling bins.

• Left out boxes of toilet supplies at weekends in exam term now that we no longer work on Saturdays.

• Checked and located 20 new chairs.

• Descaled the kettle and coffee maker.

• Treated one area of suspected carpet moth infestation.

• Repaired the speaker wires on the Hi Fi in the AV Room.

The most rewarding part of my year was the end of exam term when two students left me a card and chocolates to thank me for keeping the Library in good order and another two gents came to the issue desk after graduation to thank me, saying they remembered me from their first year.

During the summer break I carried out many other tasks such as hoovering chairs and removing those broken, cleaning inside of lamp shades and the tops of bookshelves, including recessed light fittings to remove dead flies and dust.

Sam Lewsey – Part-Time Projects Assistant

As we approach the start of another autumn term, it’s time to reflect on the year just passed. Rebecca Watts and I continue in our share of the Projects Assistant role, and, with the aid of our organisational whiteboard (now situated next to our desk), I think we’re doing quite well.

Some of the projects on our list, such as the cataloguing of donations and the Biographical work I complete for Fiona, remain the same year-in-year-out, whereas some of the one-off projects spring from events in the wider College community. Most usually these include incorporating relatively sizable bequests or donations from Fellows and/or Johnians into the larger Library collection. This can involve visiting various rooms around College to take stock of collections, sorting through books and papers, organising their removal to the Library, deciding how best to integrate them into library collections, and finally the cataloguing of the material.

One of the highlights of the year for me has been getting stuck into a sizeable chunk of Music cataloguing (another bequest): I’m a musician by training, if not by trade, and it’s been great to use some of the knowledge I accrued in five years studying Music at university and applying it to one of my current projects. I’m looking forward to carrying this one through to its conclusion in the year ahead.
Mandy Marvin – Manuscripts Cataloguer

‘Do you have The Odyssey?’ ‘Is this the biggest book?’ ‘Is that the biggest?’ ‘Why would someone make a book that small?’

Anyone thinking that the Old Library is nothing more than a handsome still life, its books and papers lying in perpetual slumber, can be cured of this misapprehension by a few drops of this year’s pleasures: the happy undergraduate who had used Special Collections material presenting us with a copy of her dissertation, along with the news that she’d gained a First; College Research Associate Theodor Dunkelgrün’s enthralling lecture on the Antwerp Polyglot Bible (St John’s copy is shelfmark Tt.6.11-18), in which he painted a vivid portrait of the astonishing intellectual and technical endeavour its eight hefty volumes represents; the youth worker who came to the Cedric Price exhibition and went away with fresh inspiration for what might be possible as they plan a flexible community building; listening to notes from the fifteenth-century antiphoner sailing along the ceiling when Joseph Wicks was persuaded to sing a few lines by the College Choir’s Probationers. Which brings us back to those eager questions at the start.

Lovely enough that Joseph and Ed Picton-Turbervill thought that a visit to the Old Library would make a good ‘reward’ for the Choir’s very youngest gentlemen, but their enthusiasm was magic! They could scarcely ask questions, make observations and tell me interesting things fast enough. They were an utter delight to host.

One more highlight of a different sort I mention most gratefully: the overwhelming kindness, patience and support of my Library workmates and the wider College community following a cycling mishap. Shiny gold stars to them for their refreshing sorbet of goodwill after that indigestible meal of Cambridge tarmac!

Kathryn McKee – Sub-Librarian and Special Collections Librarian

I can’t, hand-on-heart, say that I have had a completely happy year when part of it was horrid for Mandy and a rather anxious time for her friends. Accidents involving colleagues apart, though, this year has mostly felt like ‘Normal service’ has been resumed”. The manuscripts are back home, environmental conditions currently stable, lots of readers, enquiries galore, visitors, classes, exhibitions, requests for reproductions: the usual round of activities progressing smoothly.

We’ve bought some rather good things this year, thanks to the Noël Marshall fund: items of particular Johnian interest, and material that will be of immediate use in our educational outreach and exhibitions. I’ve prepared and led a couple of
completely new educational sessions for undergrads and for schoolchildren, which is a challenge I enjoy. I’ve learned a lot myself too, which is always satisfying. Two excellent conferences on medieval manuscripts, courtesy of AMARC, were informative and relevant and great networking opportunities bringing librarians and scholars together.

I also ventured into the world of online learning, signing up for two MOOCs (massive open online courses) run by Stanford University. Two of the tutors were Cambridge colleagues: St John’s Fellow, Dr Orietta da Rold, and Dr Suzanne Paul from the University Library. The combination of structured learning and assessed assignments within an online, self-paced environment worked really well for me. Although aimed at a very wide audience, the course provided a fascinating and worthwhile refresher in fundamentals such as codicology, palaeography, conservation, and digitization, together with an opportunity to study manuscripts held in other institutions that I wouldn’t otherwise have seen. It was both useful and fun.

My colleagues have recently reminded me (any excuse for cake) that I reached 25 years service on 1 October 2015. I’ve worn a number of different hats over the years, but it still seems unlikely that I can have been at St John’s so long. I’ve often said that when I’m no longer learning and doing new things, it’ll be time to move on; on current evidence I may be here for some time to come.

Angela McKenzie – Secretary to the Head of Information Services and Systems and Telephone Liaison Officer

In spite of the calm environment in the Library there is a lot going on in the background. The movement of books and other materials in and out of the Library, across our desks and around the wider College is pretty constant, which I don’t think I had appreciated before moving to this department.

I receive an almost daily trickle of books donated by Johnians and other generous academics which as mentioned in the Librarian’s Report are very gratefully received. Many are written or edited by Johnians and these are recorded in The Eagle. One of my tasks is to record book donations for the College records and for reporting termly to the Library and Records Committee. Once recorded all these books are catalogued, life guarded if required and shelved by my colleagues.

As Dr Nicholls’s secretary I endeavour to manage his diary so that he has time for his various roles in College – when clearly, there are not enough hours in the day! He has regular meetings with the heads of each of the departments which come under his additional role of Head of Information Services and Systems, i.e. the Archive, the Biographical Office, the Communications Office, the IT Department, the Working Library, the Old Library and because I have joined the team – College Telephones! He also regularly attends various Librarians’ policy making meetings in the wider University, he is a College Tutor and Council
Secretary. All roles generate their own time challenges and I hope that my organisational skills are helping in some little way.

I count myself lucky to have one of the best views in College from my window facing the Master’s Lodge garden and as I tap away at my computer an assortment of wildlife flits in and out of view in different areas. A robin perches on the nearest shrub almost daily, a squirrel or two drop out of the big chestnut tree, chase each other around and disappear back up into the foliage, a heron glides in over the Lodge roof and poses on the river wall whilst various other birds flit through the garden. Of course – when Pearl the visiting grey cat takes a stroll past – the garden empties!

Rebecca Watts – Part-Time Projects Assistant

When people ask me what my job involves, I usually say ‘anything that doesn’t fit into someone else’s job description’. Planned cataloguing projects are one component, but to a large extent my share of the job involves responding at short notice to events and developments which have a bearing on the Library or require the kinds of expertise and assistance that the Library can provide.

Dealing with the personal papers and book collections of late Fellows of the College is a good example; recently I have liaised with the Perham family and other College departments to sort and arrange the transfer of papers and books from Professor Perham’s room into the Library and the distribution of pictures and furniture to alternative locations around the College.

Collaboration has been an ongoing theme this year. I’ve worked closely with colleagues in the Development Office to establish and administer the Library’s new ‘Sponsor a Shelf’ scheme (see the Librarian’s report for details). I was also invited to sit on a cross-departmental committee appointed to advise on the renovation of the Front Lodge, and was able to draw on my knowledge of the Library and Archival collections (while rekindling my teenage ambition to be an interior designer) to advise on the structural and aesthetic changes required to transform the Lodge into a functional and welcoming space for staff and visitors.

I also assist Tracy on a regular basis to take forward designated projects in the Archive. Following the successful move into the School of Pythagoras last summer, I was tasked with gathering information on the national Archive Accreditation scheme and carrying out an initial scoping assessment to determine the basis on which St John’s Archive Centre might submit an application. Putting together the application itself will be a substantial project for 2016, giving me a chance to utilise my administrative and writing skills while developing my knowledge of professional archive practice.
Staff Training

The vast majority of training and development undertaken by library staff this year has been free, taking advantage both of locally available training and that provided by professional bodies and societies. The range of development activities undertaken is broad. Statutory training in fire safety, first aid, and handling chemicals has been provided through the College. Staff have developed practical and IT skills through courses arranged largely through various bodies within the University. Knowledge of special collections materials, the legal framework in which we operate, and developments within the information profession and higher education has been expanded through conferences, talks and courses run by professional organisations.

Online training has also been used where appropriate. Where relevant courses exist this can enable staff to study at times convenient to them and the department. The departmental awayday continues to provide a valuable opportunity for the entire team to meet and discuss objectives for the coming year and wider policies and procedures.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Staff member</th>
<th>Training</th>
<th>Provider</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sub-Librarian/ Special Collections Librarian</td>
<td>Medieval illuminated manuscripts</td>
<td>AMARC</td>
<td>£25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Environmental monitoring</td>
<td>FM</td>
<td>free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Integrated pest management</td>
<td>FM</td>
<td>free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>‘Digging deeper 1: making manuscripts’</td>
<td>Stanford MOOC</td>
<td>free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>‘Digging deeper 2: the form and function of manuscripts’</td>
<td>Stanford MOOC</td>
<td>free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Canterbury manuscripts</td>
<td>AMARC</td>
<td>£25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The medieval library of Peterhouse/ talk by Rod Thomson</td>
<td>CamBibSoc</td>
<td>free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A tale of two libraries in the 17th century/ talk by Giles Mandlebrote</td>
<td>Emma</td>
<td>free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Incunabula masterclass: rubrication and C15 English printing</td>
<td>UL</td>
<td>free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>C17 book ownership/ talk by David Pearson</td>
<td>CamBibSoc</td>
<td>free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic Services Librarian</td>
<td>Ebooks</td>
<td>UL</td>
<td>free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Archivist</td>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>TNA</td>
<td>free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Higher Education Roundtable</td>
<td>TNA</td>
<td>free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Orphan works : copyright</td>
<td>CAG</td>
<td>free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Archive Service Accreditation</td>
<td>ARA</td>
<td>free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CANTAB and JANUS the future</td>
<td>CAG</td>
<td>free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gerald Aylmer annual seminar</td>
<td>RHS, IHR, NA &amp; BL</td>
<td>free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>First aid refresher</td>
<td>SJC</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CAG/ARA Eastern region meeting</td>
<td>CAG/ARA</td>
<td>free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ICHORA 7 conference</td>
<td>ICHORA</td>
<td>£183</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Projects Assistant (SL)</td>
<td>Access: fast track intro</td>
<td>UIS</td>
<td>free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Access: further use</td>
<td>UIS</td>
<td>free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Excel: analysing and summarising data</td>
<td>UIS</td>
<td>free</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Scientific programming</td>
<td>UIS</td>
<td>free</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In-house training, while not formally recorded, is an essential tool in cascading skills learned on courses throughout the wider staff. The Academic Services Librarian routinely trains new staff in cataloguing and classification, and in use of the library management system. The Library Assistant trained several colleagues to operate the RFID stocktaking system. The Special Collections Librarian relayed details from the integrated pest management course to the new Graduate Trainee. The Archivist updated Old Library staff on relevant aspects of copyright legislation. Sam Lewsey, the Projects Assistant is our resident expert on Access and Excel questions and the Biographical Assistant on image manipulation and photography. Developing a pool of expertise within the department assists the whole team in operating more effectively. Library users also benefit directly from the knowledge that staff have acquired through training, whether it relates to e-books or incunabula, copyright or Latin.
Staff from the department have also contributed to wider training and education initiatives. In June 2015, the Sub-Librarian delivered a training session for the Cambridge-wide Librarians-in-Training initiative on using special collections material in exhibitions. The course was fully booked and will be re-run next spring. The Archivist led a weekend study school on Lady Margaret Beaufort for the Institute of Continuing Education in September 2015.

Kathryn McKee
Sub-Librarian

Illustration of a highly magnified flea from Robert Hooke’s Micrographia, 1665. Perhaps mercifully, the Integrated Pest Management course didn’t cover fleas of this size!
User Information

Every year a library induction session is held for all first year undergraduates on the Saturday afternoon before the start of the Michaelmas Term. The IT Department, Tutorial Office and the Library share an hour’s induction. The 20 minute library induction includes a demonstration on how to search the Library catalogue, and how to access online resources. However, last year the Tutorial Office decided to revise the format to avoid student information overload during the Freshers’ orientation event.

After careful consideration, it was agreed that each presenter representing a College section or department – including Catering, College Nursing, Chaplaincy, the Porters, IT and Housekeeping Departments, Tutorial Office and the Library – would give a five minute presentation to deliver the key messages to Freshers, rather than the longer 20 minute session each enjoyed in previous years. Students were offered the opportunity to write questions, which were collected at the end of the presentation, and then answered by relevant departments.

Feedback from students about the new style of presentation was positive. Most students thought the form of presentation albeit brief, was still informative, and they departed apparently with a good idea of the role of, and opportunities offered by, each department.

The change of format of the induction meant that demonstrations on how to search the Library catalogue and how to access online resources had to be re-thought. After discussion with colleagues in the Library, we decided to incorporate the demonstration into the thirty-minute library tour arranged for all new undergraduates over a three-day induction period at the beginning of the academic year. Thus, in 2014 for the first time, Working Library tours lasted fifteen minutes, followed by a fifteen minute demonstration. Library staff each took three or four groups of students at staggered times, showing students the key facilities in the Working Library and materials related to their own subjects. It was a good opportunity for students to become familiar with the layout of the Library, and to ask questions.

Overall, the induction session for the undergraduates was successful, judging by the numbers attending and interest shown. Thanks are due to Library staff for their collaboration in making the tours informative.

Janet Chow
Academic Services Librarian
The Working Library reaches its 21st birthday

The College Working Library was opened to students on 10 January 1994, and reaches its 21st birthday this year. In constantly evolving, it has been the College hub for information, learning and research. Over the years, changes have occurred in staff job roles, in spatial function to parts of the Library, a greater application of technology, and considerable growth in the size of its various collections.

Since 1994, some job titles and their associated roles have expanded or changed. For example, the ‘Assistant Librarian (Acquisitions)’, who mainly dealt with acquisitions and Issue Desk general duties, became – in 1995 – the ‘Academic Services Librarian’. Over the years the role of the Academic Services Librarian has been expanded to include additional responsibility for the fabric and security of the building, cataloguing, training and Library budget.

The ‘Technical Services Librarian’ once mainly dealt with systems and was involved in system cataloguing, classifying and training. This job title and role was replaced, however, by the new post ‘Library Projects Assistant’ in 2010.

The Projects Assistant is involved in cataloguing and classifying large collections, the Eagle project and managing other ad-hoc projects.

Official opening of the Working Library on 27 September 1994. Professor Robert Hinde cutting the ribbon
The Library housekeeping system – Dynix – was first used in 1994 both as online public access catalogue and for circulation. This system was used until 2002, at which point it was approaching its ‘end-of-life’ status in terms of functionality and support. It was then replaced by the University-wide Voyager system for managing the Library collections and services.

Improvements to the building and facilities, and better use of space to meet the needs of Library users, are of paramount importance. Spatially, certain parts of the Library have also changed in function since 1994. The linear room on the Mezzanine Floor where the Biographical Office is currently located was first used as a Computer room. It was transformed into the Biographical Office in 2007. The quiet reading bay on the Mezzanine Floor then became the current Computer area.

Both Garden Basement and Chapel Basement were initially closed for access. However, in 2000, both Basements were opened, thus making the collections more accessible.

The Library underwent major refurbishment in 2012, focusing on changes to the Mezzanine and Third Floors to maximize workspace. These improvements have resulted in an increased seating capacity from 120 to 150, and gave users a wider choice of seating arrangement – from individual work desk, to long table for group study, to low sofa seating.

A self-check machine was also installed in the same year to enable twenty-four hour borrowing, and the first full stock check using RFID technology enabled library staff to scan the entire collection more efficiently without the need to take every single book from the
shelf. In this way, changing technology has enabled the Library to offer more services, and enabled the staff to assume more diversified functions and roles, while at the same time, catering to more users.

www.joh.cam.ac.uk/library

The Library website was launched in 1995. It was a relatively simple website with information on the architect of the Library, history of the library project, a staff list and a few links to other useful sites. Over the years, the content of the library web site has grown considerably, until today, when it offers a wealth of information to members of the College and the public. Apart from the Library website, social media is increasingly used as a tool to communicate with Library users. In 2012 Twitter was first used and has proven to be a useful tool to connect with users, judging by the number of ‘followers’. Most recently, a Facebook page has also been set up.

The size of the Library collection has seen a substantial growth from about 40,000 volumes on open access in 1994 to currently over 100,000 volumes. The continuous growth of the library collection – to meet the academic needs of our students – is enabled by a significant sum of money allocated each year by the College to purchase materials on the Tripos reading lists. In 2010, additional funding was sought to enhance the provision in smaller subjects, such as Portuguese literature.

Also in 2010, for the first time, students from other Colleges who were taking Portuguese PG2 and/or PG4 papers in the Modern and Medieval Languages Tripos, were given permission to read and borrow the Library’s Portuguese literature.

Each year, recommendations from Directors of Studies, Fellows and junior members help to bolster the Library collections. Generous donations from Johnians and most recently the ‘Adopt a Book’ scheme, all help to ensure the collections are up-to-date. In all these ways over the past 21 years, the Working Library has continued to serve its users by constantly evolving.

Janet Chow
Academic Services Librarian
Library Usage

Throughout the academic year statistics are kept that help us get a relatively accurate idea of how the Library is being used by the College community, beyond the basic borrowing of books. Library users and visitors are counted by means of an electronic counter positioned next to the Library entrance, and a reading is taken at 9am every Monday-Friday. These numbers are used to map the yearly trend of footfall in the Library, and compare it directly with previous years to establish whether we are continuing to encourage people into the Library.

In addition to this, we take a more detailed snapshot of Library usage once every term. These details are collected during the fifth week of every full term, and include: 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, as well as online statistics collated on the use of the self-issue machine and our general circulation data. These statistics are used in year-on-year comparisons, but they also illustrate well how the use of the Library changes throughout the academic year and between the individual terms.

For the 2014-2015 academic year the statistics have painted a healthy picture of the growing popularity of the College Library. Footfall has continued to rise, this year reaching record highs in Lent and Easter terms, and for the first time ever topping 7000 users crossing our threshold in one week during the exam season.

As the graph illustrates, footfall in the Library follows a very predictable pattern every year, and this year has been no exception. It is very heartening to see that more and more of our
users are finding the Library an inviting environment for private and group study, as well as using it for the wide range of resources we are able to offer.

The enquiries made of staff at the issue desk form part of our one-week, termly snapshot of Library usage. Three years ago we introduced a self-issuing facility in the Library, allowing our users not only to be able to borrow books twenty-four hours a day, but also to be able to do so without visiting the issue desk. Naturally this had a large impact on the number of staff interactions recorded. Three years on, we are still experiencing a fall in enquiries during the sample weeks, but an increase in the numbers of items being borrowed via the self-issue machine. This indicates that users from across the College community are taking more advantage of the issuing facilities available, and also that our user inductions carried out at the beginning of each academic year are becoming ever more effective as we refine them to fit our users’ needs.

The overall picture of Library usage painted by this year’s statistics is one of a very healthy, thriving centre for study in the College. Borrowing is up, as is footfall, and the staff are kept busy by our users, answering their enquiries and helping them find the resources they need.

Sam Lewsey
Projects Assistant
Annual Circulation

Library borrowing levels, based on frequency counts of items borrowed, reached 21,481 in the academic year 2014-15, an increase compared to the previous year (21,363) (see Figure 1 below). It is noteworthy that of the 21,481 items borrowed, over one half (11,547) were items issued through the self-issue machine. This highest ever level of borrowing is possibly due to at least two factors: first, the high volume of recommendations received from junior members and Fellows; and second, the flexibility of borrowing offered through the self-issue machine. It is surely no coincidence that borrowing levels started to rise and have continued to do so each year, after the self-issue system was introduced in 2012.

For 2014-15, History remained the most heavily borrowed subject, despite a small decline in borrowing compared with the previous year – from 2057 (2013-14) to 1943 (2014-15). In second place was Economics (1651) followed by English (1533) (see Figure 2), both of which increased over the previous year.

Subjects experiencing a significant increase in borrowing in 2014-15 were Mathematics, Geography and Linguistics. Other subjects maintaining a steady increase were, compared with the previous year, Human, Social and Political Science (HSPS), Philosophy, Classics, Medicine, Music, Engineering and Veterinary Medicine.
There was, however, a slight drop in the borrowing of books in Physical Sciences, Biological Sciences, Theology, Art and Architecture, History and Philosophy Science (HPS), and Law. There are two possible reasons for this: firstly, students chose to borrow items from their Faculty Libraries/University Library; and/or secondly, they may have been inclined to use books more for reference purposes only.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject Area</th>
<th>2013-14</th>
<th>2014-15</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Archaeology</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Criminology</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian &amp; ME Studies</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vet Medicine</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HPS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linguistics</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geography</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Engineering</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthropology</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicine</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art &amp; Architecture</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biological sciences</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Theology</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maths</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MML (inc ASNaC)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classics</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical sciences</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philosophy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other HSPS</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economics</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figure 2. Circulation of books by subject area in 2014-14/2014-15

Janet Chow
Academic Services Librarian
Seminar Room

As this was a successful policy in 2014, the 2015 examination period saw the Seminar Room officially treated as an extension of available revision space: the approach was again accepted as fair, and the room was even kept in far better condition than last year, suggesting some admirable thoughtfulness on the part of junior members.

The Seminar Room was reserved for over two thousand hours between October 2014 and September 2015. Even bearing in mind the block booking during exam term, the room evidently continues to function as a valuable resource for teaching, staff meetings and study sessions.

Audio-Visual Room

The AV Room avoided summer flooding in 2015, which is progress of a sort and meant that the project of reclassifying the main classical music collection ran smoothly. Where previously every Bach recording, say, was identified by the same classmark, there is now significantly less duplication and a stronger sense of sequencing across the collection, and it is hoped that this will make items far easier to locate than previously.

The DVD collection remains popular, meanwhile, and expands as ever, some storage display towers beginning to overflow onto nearby shelves. This year’s most-borrowed films were Spike Jonze’s *Her* – donated by the always generous and savvy Terence Denman (PhD 1985) – and Martin McDonagh’s *In Bruges*: this can only be indicative of an upward swing in College members’ tastes, suggesting that the Library Assistant’s efforts towards instructive themed displays on the Ground Floor have not been wholly in vain.

Adam Crothers
Library Assistant
Comments and Queries Board

As part of an initiative to help improve communication between the Library staff and users, the Library has put up a ‘Comments and Queries’ Board in the lobby since April 2015. The scheme has proven popular and well-used and has raised several issues of which the staff were unaware, primarily with regard to heating outside staffed hours. Below is a table of the comments made:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>No. of comments</th>
<th>No. of original comments</th>
<th>No. of staff replies</th>
<th>No. of student replies</th>
<th>No. of drawings</th>
<th>Library services</th>
<th>Other users</th>
<th>Food and drink</th>
<th>Humour</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24/04/2015 - 26/05/2015</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26/05/2015 - 27/05/2015</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27/05/2015 - 09/06/2015</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09/06/2015 - 09/07/2015</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What has been most interesting is the interaction between the users. Sometimes, a user will answer a question before a member of staff has had a chance to, or add to an existing comment with one of their own. Additionally, some comments have been used to vent frustrations, particularly towards those whose behaviour has been distracting and anti-social. This peaked during the exam term and brought to the staff’s attention that many students were unaware that they could report such behaviour to the porters outside staffed hours. Subsequently, more information has been displayed about this.

Therefore, the initial trial period for the ‘Comments and Queries’ board has, in my opinion, been a success and its continued use will help further improve relations and communication between the staff and users.

Richard Sellens
Library Graduate Trainee, 2014-15
## The Old Library

### Statistics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Readers consulting special collections material</td>
<td>374</td>
<td>329</td>
<td>326</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Visitors taking a tour of the Old Library *</td>
<td>1296</td>
<td>1162</td>
<td>1251</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Letters filed</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E-mail responses to enquiries</td>
<td>1384</td>
<td>1245</td>
<td>1216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reproductions of special collections material processed outside College</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reproductions of special collections material processed in house**</td>
<td>415 (10 of which were docs of 100-500+ pages)</td>
<td>426</td>
<td>313 (+747 copies for one reader)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permissions granted to reproduce special collections material in published works</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use of special collections material in connection with biographical work</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Does not include visitors at public open days or children attending educational visits

** Includes reproductions of material to answer biographical enquiries
The breakdown of the environmental control system in the manuscripts cabinet meant that fewer readers than usual visited during the summer of 2014 as the medieval manuscript collection was unavailable for consultation in the Library from 23 July to 11 November (usually a busy time of year for manuscript readers). Once the new Archive Centre opened in October some manuscript readers and a manuscripts class were accommodated in the School of Pythagoras, and we are grateful to the Archivist for facilitating this. A regular reader working on the George Watson papers has contributed to increased reader figures for the year as a whole.

Since summer 2014 systematic recording of all usage of the medieval manuscripts, plus those post-medieval manuscripts stored in the manuscripts cabinet, has been undertaken. Removal of manuscripts for readers, classes, exhibitions, and photography has been logged. Accurate data on the use of manuscripts will help to inform decisions on conservation issues, exhibition loans, use of material in teaching, and possible priorities for any future digitisation projects. From the return of the manuscripts on 11 November 2014 until 31 July 2015, 103 unique items from the manuscripts cabinet were consulted by readers a total of 181 times. In addition, 14 manuscripts were put on display within the Library a total of 20 times and 14 manuscripts were photographed on 19 occasions. One manuscript was photographed at the University Library. Seven further manuscripts were used in the Upper Library for teaching and three during a media interview with a Fellow. In total during the nine months in which data were collected 115 unique items were used on 231 separate occasions. These figures will become increasingly informative as further years’ data accumulate.

**Purchases**

In accordance with the collection development policy, items purchased in 2014-15 relate directly to members of the College, or complement the strengths of our existing collections.

Isola, Agostino. *Pieces selected from the Italian poets* (Cambridge, 1778). Bought from Samuel Gedge, November 2014 for £950. (Purchased from the Noël Marshall Fund)


Annual Report 2014-2015


Donations

We are grateful to all our donors for their generosity, and welcome materials which enhance our collections. The range of material donated this year reflects the diversity of the Special Collections, including early printed books, modern first editions, personal papers, artefacts, recorded and photographic media.

Professor Hinde
Taylor, J. *Thesaurarium mathematicae : or the treasury of the mathematicks* (1707)
A collection of medals

Daniel Anderson and Branden Chan (both matric. 2010)
Photograph albums of their visit to Rhodes summer 2014, supported by a College travel grant, recreating the photographic record of Thomas Worden French in 1944-6.

Dr Linehan
Recording of an interview between Jonathan Steinberg and Harry Hinsley.

Brian Fenwick Smith (BA 1959)
Seven first editions of works by H.E. Bates
Jonson, Ben. *The Alchemist* (Ralph Richardson’s copy)
Thomas, Dylan. *18 poems* (Fortune Richardson edition)

Professor Goody
Further personal papers.
Visits, university classes, and wider educational outreach

The Old Library’s direct educational contribution to the public benefit of the College takes several forms. Booked visits, including a tour and talk on the history of the Library and a themed display of items from the special collections, are arranged for a variety of visiting groups. Formal classes for students of the university using material from the special collections, usually led by an academic (sometimes with the Special Collections Librarian), may be held in the Upper Library, the Rare Books Reading Room, or the Library Seminar Room. Taught sessions for school groups including a tour, special exhibition, and worksheet or activity are led either by the College’s Press, Publicity and Communities Officer or by the Special Collections Librarian. More school visits providing a shorter tour, sometimes with materials on display, are arranged by the School Access Officer.

Group visits:

Suffolk Heraldry Society (Aug. 2014)
Summer Academy from Groningen (Aug. 2014)
Delegates to Sir John Cockcroft conference (Sep. 2014)
Beaufort Society, talks and display of treasures in Upper Library (Oct. 2014)
Display of treasures for Prof. Tombs’ guests (Oct. 2014)
Delegates at biblical epic workshop to see Southampton Psalter (Nov. 2014)
Display of treasures for Christian Wignall and guests (Feb. 2015)
Manuscript C.7 on show for delegates at a Langland conference held in College (Feb. 2015)
Cambridge Humanities Review Group (Mar. 2015)
The choirs of St Christopher’s and St Catherine’s Schools, Richmond, VA (Mar. 2015)
SJC Choir probationers visit (Mar. 2015)
Students in the history of the book from Waseda University, Japan (Mar. 2015)
Art students studying medieval manuscripts with Christopher Moule (Apr. 2015)
Beaufort Society, talks and display of treasures in Upper Library (Apr. 2015)
An international group of English teachers (July 2015)
A member of the Beaufort Society with American guests (July 2015)
Chinese visitors with Ian Sydenham (July 2015)
University teaching:

English undergraduate class in Upper Library (Oct. 2014)
MML postgraduate manuscripts class (Jan. 2015)
Students from the Lady Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology (Jan. and Feb. 2015)
MPhil class in eighteenth century and romantic studies with Dr Abbott (Mar. 2015)
MML undergraduate manuscripts classes (Mar. 2015)
Material from the Old Library is also used regularly by the Librarian in teaching history undergraduates.

School classes and access visits:

A total of 29 school groups visited in 2014-15. Taught sessions included classes on the abolition of the slave trade, the development of English language, travel and exploration, Victorian writers and their world, and several runnings of the multidisciplinary ‘Curator for an hour’ session.

Right: Material from the Samuel Butler Collection used in the ‘Curator for an hour’ sessions.

Events

Open Cambridge brought well over 1000 visitors (staff lost count shortly after lunch) attending a one-day exhibition of the Library’s Tudor treasures celebrating the visit of Queen Elizabeth I to Cambridge in 1564.

The Festival of Ideas saw 430 visitors come to an exhibition The Anonymous Author, thirteen participants in a workshop led by Dr Da Rold Imagining identities in medieval books and fourteen attendees at two Curator for an hour interactive sessions run during half term week.

For the Science Festival an exhibition Journey to the stars : astronomy at St John’s College was open for the Saturday, attracting 473 visitors. Numbers might have been higher had the Festival coordinators not omitted the event from the Science Festival’s printed brochure. The Hoyle exhibition was also advertised on the Science Festival website during its usual opening hours for the duration of the Festival.

The Upper Library was open with a display of treasures for graduands and their families following Congregation. Approximately 200 people visited.

The Upper Library was used for receptions prior to the Michaelmas Entertainment in 2014, the Cripps Feast in 2015, and the Port Latin Feast in 2015.
Preservation

A new environmental monitoring system has been in place since August 2014, gathering data which will inform possible solutions to identified problems in the Old Library. Both library staff and our environmental consultant Tobit Curteis have had direct access to these data. The feasibility of setting heating to conservation levels, controlling radiators in the Lower Library with humidistats rather than thermostats is being explored. Samples have been taken from the walls, and a metre-square test area has been stripped of plaster to be resurfaced with a suitable insulating material to measure the effect of this on moisture and temperature. The area will be monitored before any decision is made on further work.

Light levels (UV and LUX) continue to be measured regularly throughout the building. Over recent months a slight increase has been noticed in readings for the Upper Library. Readings remain within acceptable safe levels, but this apparent trend will be monitored closely, as it may suggest that UV filters are beginning to show signs of deterioration and a replacement schedule may need to be planned. The filters on the north side of the Upper Library were installed in 1995, with a projected lifespan of ten to fifteen years, so they have already lasted far longer than anticipated.

The Cambridge Conservation Consortium have continued to work upon printed books from our prioritised conservation list. This year’s batch included an incunable from William Crashaw’s library formerly owned by Durham Cathedral Priory which had suffered serious paper decay from historic water damage, but included some interesting annotations, and retained its original stitching supports, making it a challenge to repair whilst preserving its integrity.

2015’s cool, dry conditions did not provide a suitable environment for bread beetle larvae to hatch. No further infestation has been found this summer. We will continue to check the volumes at greatest risk whenever warm, humid conditions prevail.
Exhibitions in the Library Exhibition Area

**Michaelmas Term**

An exhibition by Nick Gear, local artist, inspired by the College’s Wordsworth Collection.

*Cedric Price: Outside the box*, curated by Manuscripts Cataloguer, Mandy Marvin.

**Lent Term**

*A celebration of Fred Hoyle’s centenary*, curated by the Special Collections Librarian, drawing on earlier work of the Hoyle Project Associate.

**Easter Term**

*Student Art and Photography Competition*

This annual competition is open to all resident junior members and we received over one hundred entries across the six categories:

1. Black and White prints
2. Colour Transparencies or prints
3. Photographs of the College or College life (in colour or black and white)

4. Paintings or drawings in any medium including computerised images
5. Sculpture in any medium, ceramics, textiles or jewellery
6. Digital films connected with the College

![A selection of the entries](image)
An anonymised display of all the entries was judged by a panel of four Fellows – Dr Mark Nicholls (Librarian), Mr Mark Wells (Domestic Bursar) plus Professor Deborah Howard and Dr Frank Salmon (both Fellows in Architecture and History of Art). They commented very favourably on the standard of entries and naturally the winning junior members were very pleased with their cash prizes and the publicity their entries received in The Eagle and on the College Website.

**Summer**

Loans

The Fitzwilliam Museum borrowed two volumes of *Punch* magazine for their exhibition *Silent Partners: Artist and Mannequin from function to fetish*, 14 October 2014 - 25 January 2015.

Planning is underway for major loans (both local and international) in 2016-17 of several medieval manuscripts, a printed book, and a portrait.

Staffing

There has been no change to staffing during 2014-15. A cycling accident on the way to work left us without our Manuscripts Cataloguer for the second half of the Easter Term, while she recovered from a broken jaw. She returned to work at the start of the Vacation, with brief absences for continuing dental treatment throughout the summer. Colleagues in the Working Library supported the Special Collections Librarian where necessary to ensure that Old Library operations were not adversely affected.

We are delighted to report that from 1 October 2015 the Old Library will welcome an additional staff member. Eleanor Swire has been recruited to a new nine-month Graduate Trainee position, funded by a benefactor, and will divide her time equally between the Old Library and the Archives.

Media

Cambridge University Communications Office filmed in the Upper Library in October 2014.

Manuscript W.16 (John Couch Adams, *Perturbations of Uranus*) was filmed in the Upper Library in November 2014 for a BBC4 documentary ‘Climate change by numbers’.

A fashion shoot for *Varsity* took place in the Upper Library in June 2015. (We’re still finding sequins!)

Lime Pictures filmed interviews for a documentary about the Cambridge University Solar Car team in June 2015.

Cambridge University Communications Office filmed interviews for a promotional film supporting the University’s fundraising campaign, also in June 2015.

A press interview with Moshe Lavee on his work on the Genizah fragments was conducted in the Upper Library in July 2015. Medieval Hebrew manuscripts from the College’s collections and extracts from Charles Taylor’s papers were made available and discussed.

With the agreement of the College Council, Google Streetview filmed in several locations in College, including the Upper Library, in July 2015.

Kathryn McKee
Special Collections Librarian
The Biographical Office

General overview

The College's Biographical Archive, one of the best collections of its kind, is housed with other special collections in the Lower Library. Together with the Biographical Database, this covers every member of the College since comprehensive admissions records began in 1629/30, and many from the earlier period before they were routinely kept. In total, the Office is responsible for the records of over 43,000 members of the College.

Since 1900, over 22,000 Johnians have been admitted to membership of the College, and they each have records on the Biographical Database. The administration of these records largely falls to the Biographical Librarian and the Biographical Assistant, although we are extremely grateful for valuable contributions by the Projects Assistant, Sam Lewsey, who does vital work concerning new students, and the Library Graduate Trainee 2014-15, Richard Sellens, who has helped with a variety of aspects of the Office’s work, including data entry.

A report produced by the Biographical Librarian, detailing a strategy for the efficient recording and retrieval of key biographical information across databases in College, was approved by the Library and Records Committee and subsequently by the College Council. Further details of this project, to be rolled out from the start of the new academic year, will appear in next year’s Annual Report.

The work of the Office is a mixture of proactive and reactive – data entry alongside extended research. Taking into account the numbers of Johnians mentioned above, and the minutiae of such information, this is a vast undertaking. Checking and updating records constitutes a large portion of the Office’s work, and we continue to enhance our records, both paper and digital, with almost every task performed. As a result, the Office generates a significant amount of correspondence and paperwork. The table below provides an insight into the volume of information received, with the preceding two years’ worth of figures for comparison.
The full activities of the Office are too extensive to list in detail, however some of the key tasks are outlined below.

**Biographical Enquiries**

The number given earlier in this report for emails and letters sent regarding biographical work (2891) includes correspondence related to enquiries, and is indicative of the amount of work that goes into not only recording information about Johnians, but also answering questions relating to them.

The figures below relate to the number of enquiries answered, rather than the number of Johnians about whom information has been provided – some requests for information involve groups of people or several members of the same family, but each request is counted as one enquiry. Researchers often return with further queries on the same subject, so the amount of work involved in these instances is not reflected by these figures.

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

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<tr>
<td>Sixteenth</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seventeenth</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Eighteenth</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nineteenth</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Twentieth</td>
<td>272</td>
<td>260</td>
<td>257</td>
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<tr>
<td>Twenty-First</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>32</td>
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<tr>
<td>More than one century/Other</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>411</strong></td>
<td><strong>392</strong></td>
<td><strong>394</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

- Mountaineers
- Johnians educated at St Paul’s College, Hong Kong
• Johnians involved in children’s or engineering publishing
• Connections with Singapore
• Alumni of African descent
• Members of The Willows Cricket Club
• Former Harper-Wood students.

Many enquiries lead to us discovering new information about members of the College which we can add to our records.

Rebecca Watts, Projects Assistant, assisted with enquiries during the period when the Biographical Assistant was on paternity leave, which was greatly appreciated. We are always glad of the help of the Graduate Trainee in handling enquiries, but Richard Sellens warrants particular mention because, after his year as a Trainee was completed, he kindly volunteered to return to the College for a fortnight to assist the Biographical Office with a backlog of requests.

Honours and Learned Societies

Every year, we monitor announcements by the country’s foremost learned societies and organisations for news of elections to fellowships and prizes awarded, and also the biannual Queen’s Honours lists released in January and June, collectively trawling thousands of names on the lookout for Johnians. While the list below is by no means reflective of the extent of Johnian achievement, it highlights that Johnians continue to be represented among the most respected of professional bodies, and in receipt of some of the most important honours.

This information is consistently fed through to the Communications Office, for dissemination via the College website and social media, and to the Master, who personally writes in congratulation – often prompting a surprised and delighted response.

• 5 Commanders of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) (including 2 current Fellows)
• 4 Officers of the Order of the British Empire (OBE)
• 3 Members of the Order of the British Empire (MBE)
• 1 British Empire Medal (BEM)
• 1 Fellow of the Royal Society (FRS)
• 4 Fellowships of the British Academy (FBA) (including 1 Honorary Fellow)
• 1 Fellowship of the Academy of Medical Sciences (FMedSci)
• 3 Royal Society awards (including 1 current and 2 former Fellows)
• 2 Royal Society of Chemistry awards
• 2 QCs
Missing Johnians

Following on from efforts last year, we revisited the task of searching for ‘missing’ Johnians ahead of reunion events, and despite some interruption to the process due to staff leave, achieved very similar results to last year. Out of 236 missing Johnians in total, we managed to find or contact 107. Of those, 48 are now back in touch with the College, with a further 15 confirmed as deceased.

This continues to be a valuable project, both in terms of reconnecting Johnians with their College, and by bolstering the biographical records with valuable information. Work priorities permitting, we will endeavour to repeat this exercise annually, and perhaps by extending the time allocated to searching, hopefully improve on these figures further. As with last year, the success of this exercise is measurable in more than just figures – the response has been overwhelmingly positive, and is reflected in the comments we’ve received, such as:

- What a surprise and pleasure it is to hear from St John’s after all these years.
- Since receiving your messages I have applied for a CAMCard, and hope to use the University Library JSTOR facility etc. Many thanks for getting in touch.
- Thanks very much for getting in touch and I should very much like to renew contact with St John’s.
- So, I guess that I am indeed one of your ‘missing Johnians’, and perhaps it is time to return to the fold.
- Always keen to preserve my Johnian links.
- I had no idea that I had been categorised as a ‘missing Johnian’. Congratulations on tracking me down!

The feedback section towards the end of the Annual Report also includes some comments relating to missing Johnians.
June Events
- Found 27/151
- Deceased 13/151
- Contacted without response 26/151
- Untraceable 85/151

September Events
- Found 21/85
- Deceased 2/85
- Contacted without response 17/85
- Untraceable 45/85

2015 Totals
- Found 48/236
- Deceased 15/236
- Contacted without response 44/236
- Untraceable 129/236
Deceased Johnians

The Biographical Librarian continues to be the point of contact in the College for notification of the death of our alumni. The Graduate Trainee also searches The Times and the Telegraph for the announcement of the death of Johnians, as well as for notices in other papers which specifically mention that the deceased studied at Cambridge.

In the last year 153 members of the College have been marked as deceased, with biographical information from obituaries, eulogies, and other tributes added to their records. In addition to this, many records have been updated to indicate the death of a spouse, parent or child, often as a result of the Graduate Trainee’s newspaper checks, so this is a valuable task. We are also grateful to members of the College for taking the trouble to inform us of the death of a relative or friend.

Colin Greenhalgh (BA 1963), President of the Johnian Society Committee, has recently offered to write short obituaries for members of the College with a view to them being published in The Eagle from next year. This is a development which will please Johnians who have missed the tributes which used to appear in the publication. Further information regarding this project will appear in next year’s Annual Report.

Fiona Colbert and Paul Everest
Biographical Librarian and Biographical Assistant
The College Archive Centre

Statistics

Research Visits: 74 visitors consulted material from the Archive Collection from the opening of the new Archive Centre in the School of Pythagoras on 1 October 2014 to the end of August 2015.

Tours and Exhibitions: 16 tours have been organized for individuals and groups from inside the College and outside the St John’s community. 10 exhibitions have been advertised and displayed in the Reading Room cases from 1 October 2014 to the end of August 2015.

Number of letters filed: 2014-2015: 9

Number of e-mail responses to enquiries: 2014-2015: 172

Preservation

Repairs to Archive Collection items undertaken by The Conservation Consortium:

- D59/75: An early modern indenture written in iron-gall ink on parchment with three pendant seal impressions in red wax, one un-impressed red wax mass, and one parchment seal attachment without wax.
- D91/16: Account of William Bedell treasurer of Lady Margaret’s household.
- D110/289: Rental of estates at Higham etc., fair copy (bound blind tooling).
- MPS63: Map of several lands and tenements in Shropshire, the inheritance of Thomas Yate of Whitchurch grocer.
- SJPH – box for glass negatives.
Preservation priorities: A survey of the conservation needs of the items within the Archive Centre will begin in Michaelmas term 2015 with the advice and support of the Conservation Consortium. It is hoped that eventually we can achieve a classification system similar to the one employed in the Old Library.

Re-boxing of archival material: Volunteers listed and re-boxed the final 50 boxes of papers from New Court Cellars and the material was moved to the School of Pythagoras earlier this year. Items which require treatment for mould were transferred to Harwell’s from New Court Cellars in November last year. They returned to the School of Pythagoras in the spring.

Exhibitions and Visits

This year the Archive Centre has hosted displays of archival documents, plans, maps, photographs, ephemera and manuscripts for Fellows and Staff as well as for those attending the Beaufort Society Meeting (twice); The Cambridge Latin Therapy Group; The Cambridge Archivists’ Group; The Cambridge Blue Badge Guides;
The UCL Architecture School; English Heritage; Battle Conference of Anglo-Norman Studies; St Mary’s School; and the Duke of Cambridge. The Upper Muniment Room was also used for teaching by Professor Beadle and Dr da Rold when the Old Library’s manuscripts were stored here during the replacement of the environmental conditioning unit in the Library’s manuscript store.

Events

The School of Pythagoras has been used as a venue for filming on three occasions in the past year. In June this year, the College’s Communications Department filmed YouTube video of the College’s newly discovered 1300 Magna Carta. ITV Anglia Television also filmed an interview with the Archivist following the Communications Department’s announcement and launch of the Magna Carta video. The exterior of the building was also photographed for an article on Cambridge Design and Construction Awards.

We also ran a Student and Staff poetry contest at the end of the Lent Term. Entrants were encouraged to select one from a list of 10 items and write a poem. The archive items were on display for a month and this was followed by a display of the winning poems. It is hoped we can run a similar competition in 2016.

Donations

The Archive Centre has received a number of items from Johnians and members of the public for the College’s archival collection during 2014-2015:

- Dr P Linehan: May Ball and May Concert ephemera (1960-1963)
- Mr H Wilsden: Willows Club tie
- Mr N Tyler: letter relating to the Colquhoun Skulls (1925)
- Mr D Thomas: plan, letter, photographs and sketch of I4 New Court  (c. 1950)
- Ms C Searson: copy photograph of 1909 May Ball attendees in 2nd Court
- Ms L Taylor: Cricket club ephemera and sports association photograph  (c.1935)
- Mr T Oliver: Cambridge Union Society ephemera
- The Librarian: memorial service booklet for Dr Richard Perham
- The Steward’s Secretary: engraving dies for formal dinner invitations
- Mr D Parsley: cookery book once owned by College Chef George Parsley (19th century)
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- Mr R Timmins: ephemera related to College staff (1960s)
- The Domestic Bursar: woollen cricket caps
- Mr R Athol (Archivist Lincoln’s Inn, London): engraving of the Old Library by G Hayes
- Mr P Heaton-Armstrong: 1937 May Ball photograph and watercolour of a young woman

**Significant Developments**

The Archive Retro-conversion Cataloguing Project began in October 2014. So far three collections have been catalogued to ISAD-G (international archival cataloguing standards) and placed online as searchable files. It is hoped that we can continue with the project following a workshop on Archival Arrangement and Description which will be hosted in St John’s in October.

A new Archive cataloguing blog ‘Off the Shelf’ made its appearance in May and has made a most welcome addition to the Archive’s website. The Archive’s webpages, launched in December 2012, have already become a popular and invaluable resource for staff and readers alike.

Tracy Deakin
College Archivist
Library Projects

George Watson’s Books

As readers of last year’s report will recall, in 2013 the Library received a significant bequest in the form of several hundred rare and early printed books from the personal collections of George Watson (1927-2013), late Fellow of the College. Following the initial work of sorting, listing and relocating the volumes into temporary storage in the Library basement last August and September, the following 12 months were spent cataloguing the collection. In cataloguing special collections, we record more information than is usually noted when cataloguing modern books; provenance information, such as bookplates of and inscriptions by former owners, can be crucial to researchers interested in tracing the dissemination, readership and reception of texts, so it is important to record all the identifying marks found in individual volumes on the catalogue record.

Sometimes research is required at the cataloguing stage to ascertain who a bookplate or signature belonged to; some volumes contain multiple features of this sort, documenting an intriguing chain of ownership. This second edition of the six-volume History of Tom Jones, a Foundling (London, 1749), for example, contains the bookplates and labels of J. Cresswell, Randolph S. Churchill and Sir Winston Churchill, as well as being finely bound in contemporary calf with gilt tooling and marbled endpapers – all details we have recorded in the catalogue.

While the completion of the cataloguing was a significant milestone towards making this wonderfully varied collection accessible to readers, the work did not end there. Before a catalogue record can be made visible to the public it has to have a ‘holding’ (or classmark) attached to it, which means that each volume must have been assigned a space on a shelf. In theory, at St John’s all pre-1800 volumes are shelved in the Old Library, with pre-1700 volumes shelved in the Upper Library. In practice, when a bequest of this size enters the collection it is extremely difficult to find spaces on shelves that enable items of a similar date, subject and size to be shelved together.
Consequently only half of the 36 volumes destined for the Upper Library were able to be shelved there, involving some difficult decisions (and a lot of measuring). Among these volumes are a first edition of Milton’s *Paradise Regain’d* (London, 1671), a beautifully bound volume of the 1611 editions of Edmund Spenser’s major works, and a collection of pamphlets (1646-9) concerning the writings of Charles I, in a contemporary binding decorated with the crowned ornamental initials of Charles II.

For the remaining pre-1800 volumes to be accommodated in the Lower Library, a significant rearrangement of the personal papers collection had to be carried out – a small project in itself – to make room for the new ‘15.55’ class, which is now home to 155 of George Watson’s volumes and a demonstration in microcosm of the eclectic mix of bibliographic material he amassed.

A further 98 volumes (mostly post-1850, but rare or unique) have been shelved in the closed-access basement store, and 181 volumes have been assimilated into the Working Library’s borrowable collections. A few hundred additional volumes remain to be dealt with; these are rare or early editions of which the Library already holds at least one copy, but which might still be added to the permanent collection pending a formal decision from the executor of the Watson estate.

Rebecca Watts
Projects Assistant

**Biographical / Perl programming**

The main project I carry out for the Biographical Office consists of the same work each year, where I am responsible for the creation and population of database records for the new intake of students (both undergraduate and postgraduate). The sources of information for these records come from both the University and the students themselves, and the creation of our database record usually happens in two phases. The first creates a ‘skeleton’ record that contains a minimal amount of information, but ensures that all students are on the system. The second entails a more comprehensive entry of the details they have provided for us on their registration forms.

The whole process takes some considerable time, so this year I have embarked on a mission to make some of the process more efficient by learning to programme in Perl. Perl is an excellent language for text manipulation in .csv files, and I hope eventually to be able to write short programmes that extract and format the data we receive in order to allow an automated upload into the Biographical Database. This should save some considerable time in the creation of records each year, and also has wider-reaching consequences for other information imports that can be automated for the Biographical team.
Cartwright Collection

The Cartwright collection is a bequest that came to the Library in 2013 following the death of Johnian Christopher Cartwright. Thirteen boxes of music arrived in the Library to enhance our Music collection, and they are now being catalogued and processed ready to be made available for use by members of the College.

The collection consists mainly of a complete set of the Neue Bach Ausgabe, as well as a Neue Liszt Ausgabe, and is accompanied by a considerable collection of sheet music. All of this will complement the existing Music section, the main focus of which is primarily text book and score related material.

Jack Goody Books

Prior to the death of College Fellow Sir Jack Goody in 2015, the Library was fortunate enough to be offered some of the books from his rooms in First Court. This involved visiting his rooms with the Library laptop to search through which books were already in the Library catalogue, and then selecting the volumes that the Library could house. Many of the books and articles selected were those authored by Professor Goody himself; they have now been removed to the Library, catalogued and processed, and are available for consultation and borrowing by the College community. We are extremely fortunate to receive so many donations and bequests to enhance an already very diverse collection, and it is particularly fitting to receive books with such strong connections to the College itself.

Sam Lewsey
Projects Assistant

Working Library Stock Check

From late June to late July, the Projects Assistants, the Library Assistant and last year’s Graduate Trainee carried out a four-week stock check of almost the entire Working Library using the 3M Digital Library Assistant. This was the second of the biennial checks to deploy the DLA, a handheld device that scans barcode information from RFID security tags. Digital technology is not without its flaws, and as in 2013 there were moments of frustration with regard to limitations and errors that would not have arisen from an old-fashioned pen-and-paper approach. But, even taking into account the subsequent stages of crosschecking and clarifying information, the digitised method is vastly more efficient than the other options, with over 17,000 items, some previously believed missing, being scanned and processed per week.

Adam Crothers
Library Assistant
Manuscripts Cataloguing Projects

Preparing an exhibition on the architect Cedric Price (BA 1955) dominated the start of the academic year. ‘Cedric Price: Outside the Box’, which ran from 5 November 2014 to 15 January 2015, drew on the more personal selection of papers and artefacts we hold in Special Collections to present a rounded portrait of the man and his work.

The exhibition was promoted through various academic and professional channels; a 'Learn More' leaflet was also created to encourage further exploration. A press release by the Communications team drew the interest of The Independent, which ran an article that attracted additional enquiries and visitors from farther afield.

We were delighted to welcome the depositor at the start of the exhibition, and other visitors over the months included contemporaries and friends of ‘CP’, and student, established and retired architects and architectural engineers, including some from overseas. It was particularly pleasing to see how Price continues to be an exciting and thought-provoking figure in architecture and design.

Both the Cedric Price and Douglas Adams archives have taken their first steps into the wide world, with collection-level descriptions added on Janus and series established. Researchers are able to contact us to arrange access to both collections.

Progress on Adams’s papers has resumed following a lengthy medical interruption. Finalising the higher-level structure of this complex and challenging collection is the immediate work in hand. In ursine news, we were glad to welcome back Adams’s teddy bear from an extended period in a conservation freezer to kill off a long-established infestation of clothes moths.
Never mind your towel: do you know where your bear is?

Further use has been made of the collection in the past year. In the spring I prepared, arranged and oversaw the use of several boxes’ worth of Adams’s material for another researcher engaged in a substantial authorised work. The Frood, for which a significant quantity of material was prepared for consultation in 2013-14, was published last autumn.

The papers of George Grimes Watson (1959), received last year, have been used extensively since November by a researcher with a keen interest in literary criticism, who usually spends part of each week in the Reading Room. Mr Watson's papers are rich in correspondence with a wide circle of correspondents, particularly those for the New Cambridge Bibliography of English Literature, which he edited. The collection is as yet uncatalogued but a satisfactory arrangement has been made by which discrete sets of material are being studied. I have created a spreadsheet structure to guide the researcher’s note-taking in such a way that will be useful to us both immediately and in preparing a full catalogue of the papers. I oversee use of the papers, and have provided instruction and materials for basic preservation and repackaging as he works through them.

As I've prepared my pieces for the Annual Report I keep thinking of the enduring interest and use of old things and the new conversations that arise from them.

Whether it's the interest and pleasure taken in Mr Watson's archive, or the Cornish landscapes, populated fields and busy markets and fairs rising up in the imagination while cataloguing Narcissus Luttrell's pocket memorandum book (MS O.72), or thinking of the future uses – sometimes very different from their original purpose – learning and inspiration that people will gain from the papers of those Johnians whose loss this past year has been a sadness to us, it seems particularly apt that lines from Shakespeare should come to mind, as we approach the 400th anniversary of his own death:

So long as men can breathe or eyes can see,
So long lives this, and this gives life to thee.

Mandy Marvin
Manuscripts Cataloguer
New Media

The Library Website

The Library

The College Library is divided into two sections. The Old Library dates from 1624 and houses historic manuscripts, rare books and personal papers. The modern Working Library houses borrowable books and current periodicals, as well as computer and work facilities to which members have 24 hour access.

Unpublished Prodigy

09/07/2015 – 25/09/2015

A man of many talents, John Robert Lunn (1831–1899) was a unanimously admired member of St John’s College for many years, from his studies as an undergraduate to his involvement in the Fellowship.

Despite having an academic background in mathematics and theology he is arguably best known for his prodigious musical writing, which was...

Fig. 1: The front page of the Library website (24 September 2015)

The Library website remains one of our most important tools for communicating both with members of the College and external users, all of whom make excellent use of our varied resources. The catalogues of both the Working Library and the Special Collections are invaluable to students and researchers alike and provide an essential starting point for any trip to the Libraries.

Equally, our outreach pages have proved especially popular in this year, with an explosion in views of several school resources pages proving that our appeal is not just to those in higher education and beyond. Overall, the website is well designed and easy to navigate, with the inclusion of staff contact information making it easy for users to get in touch with appropriate staff members for their queries. The Special Collections Spotlight and the Archive’s Off the Shelf blog continue to go from strength to strength with a range of fascinating insights into our important collections.

Fig. 2: A year on year comparison of Library website page views for 2013/2014 and 2014/2015
The trend towards fewer website views has continued from 2013-14, and while this may seem disappointing, the rise of other new media and the increasing sophistication of web users means that this is not a significant problem. Overall, the website was down 6.42% in page views, from 142,459 visitors in 2013-14 to 133,315 in 2014-15. This is a less significant decrease than the 19.86% drop of the previous year, an encouraging sign. Fig. 2 demonstrates the constantly fluctuating number of visitors and shows notable troughs during vacation periods, particularly over Christmas.

In Fig. 3, it may seem surprising that the number of visits to the Library Catalogue has dropped, but this is consistent with the wider centralisation of Library catalogues across Cambridge with the introduction of 'Library Search' and the fact that the Library Catalogue link on the website is a page linking users to Newton, not the catalogue itself.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Page views</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Library Homepage</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.joh.cam.ac.uk/library/?q=library">www.joh.cam.ac.uk/library/?q=library</a> and <a href="http://www.joh.cam.ac.uk/library/">www.joh.cam.ac.uk/library/</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 August 2014 – 31 August 2015</td>
<td>15,243</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 August 2013 – 31 August 2014</td>
<td>17,107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Change</td>
<td>-10.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Library Exhibitions: School Resources: Scramble for Africa</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.joh.cam.ac.uk/library/library_exhibitions/schoolresources/exploration/scramble_for_africa">www.joh.cam.ac.uk/library/library_exhibitions/schoolresources/exploration/scramble_for_africa</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 August 2014 – 31 August 2015</td>
<td>12,396</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 August 2013 – 31 August 2014</td>
<td>6,491</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Change</td>
<td>-90.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Library Exhibitions: School Resources: Exploration: Columbus</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.joh.cam.ac.uk/library/library_exhibitions/schoolresources/exploration/columbus">www.joh.cam.ac.uk/library/library_exhibitions/schoolresources/exploration/columbus</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 August 2014 – 31 August 2015</td>
<td>7,339</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 August 2013 – 31 August 2014</td>
<td>5,762</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Change</td>
<td>-27.37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Library Catalogue</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.joh.cam.ac.uk/library-catalogue">www.joh.cam.ac.uk/library-catalogue</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 August 2014 – 31 August 2015</td>
<td>5,590</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 August 2013 – 31 August 2014</td>
<td>6,282</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Change</td>
<td>-11.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Working Library</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.joh.cam.ac.uk/library/working-library">www.joh.cam.ac.uk/library/working-library</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 August 2014 – 31 August 2015</td>
<td>3,120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31 August 2013 – 31 August 2014</td>
<td>3,672</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Change</td>
<td>-15.03</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fig. 3: The five most visited pages of 2014-15, with comparisons to the previous year. The links to the Library homepage came second and fifth respectively in the original analytics, but as they both direct to the same page they have been added together here for clarity.
Social Media

Twitter

The Library’s Twitter account has gone from strength to strength in the last year, gaining over 266 new followers over the last year, an increase of 59.78% on the previous year’s 445. This has in part been achieved through increased activity on the platform by the Library over the past 12 months. Library staff attempt to tweet at least once a day with interesting and relevant news from the Library. This varies from announcements of closure periods, through to links to the Special Collections Spotlight and Off the Shelf blogs, down to slightly more light-hearted subjects, including some notable interactions with the our sometimes resident Cat, Miss Pearl.

Over the last two months, we have been able to capitalise on our links with Open Cambridge with a series of tweets, including an image of the tenth century Irish Psalter published on the day of Open Cambridge. This is our most popular tweet to date, attracting 22,000 views and over 1,000 engagements, a huge achievement which creates valuable free publicity for the Library’s Special Collections. In fact, Open Cambridge coincided in a 28 day period (to 24 September 2015) with the acquisition of 50 new followers, meaning that almost one fifth of our new followers for the year have joined us as a result of increased activity for this event.
### Fig. 5: A selection of popular tweets from 2014-15. (Source: Twitter Analytics)
Facebook

The Library now boasts a Facebook page to allow us to further interact with users. This method of social media provision is particularly geared towards communicating with students, as the majority of students are more likely to use Facebook than Twitter. This allows us to create a more focused social media strategy, gearing the page more towards notices about closing times, vacations and events that are relevant to students and therefore making the Library even more ‘user friendly’. This links in well with the new ‘Comments and Queries’ board introduced by my predecessor, Richard Sellens, which has created an excellent method for conversation between staff and students.

The unified design of the Facebook and Twitter, made possible by the excellent photography of the Biographical Assistant, Paul Everest, gives a more official air to our social media offerings and it is hoped that this branding will remain for the next year to give consistency to our new media provision. All new Library guides have been branded with the new Facebook link and it is hoped that come the start of term we will gain more followers as students are encouraged to like the page for updates from the Library.

Felicity French
Library Graduate Trainee 2015-2016
Environmental Monitoring and Control

The Old Library

The environmental monitoring system in the Old Library employs three sensors in the Upper Library, three in the Lower Library, one in the manuscripts store and one in the Reading Room. External ambient temperature and relative humidity are also measured for comparative purposes. Throughout 2014-15, temperatures remained relatively stable, with normal seasonal and diurnal fluctuation. It was a year of few extremes of either low or high temperature. From November 2014 onwards relative humidity was – for the Lower Library in particular – unusually low, at times dropping to 30-40%.

We are delighted to report that since its redeployment in November 2014, the manuscripts cabinet has operated completely effectively, maintaining constant temperature and humidity throughout the year. On one occasion when the controls were affected by an unusually rapid power outage against which the uninterruptable power supply could not protect, the Maintenance Department’s automatic warning system alerted staff to the fault and the humidity controls were speedily restarted manually. With no sustained period of high summer temperatures in 2015, though, the cabinet perhaps has not yet been fully tested.

Kathryn McKee
Sub-Librarian

The Working Library

The humidity and temperature in the Working Library are continually recorded in five locations and the statistics monitored along with those of the Old Library. Richard Sellens (Library Graduate Trainee) arrived in August 2014 and was keen to assist with environmental monitoring which was a great assistance, and we soon observed that over time, the UV light readings were increasing slightly in the Upper Library at one particular location, where the readings had been zero consistently since late 2013. Kathryn McKee’s Old Library Report alludes to possible action as a result.

Recently the monitor used to record UV and Lux in the Old Library was returned to the manufacturer for a service, recalibration and battery change, thus ensuring accuracy of readings going forward.

Similarly the Tiny Tag devices which record temperature and humidity are periodically returned to their manufacturer for recalibration and battery changes.

Angela McKenzie
Librarian’s Secretary
The School of Pythagoras Archive Centre

The thick walls of the thirteenth century School of Pythagoras tend to keep temperature levels in the building generally stable. This in conjunction with the state of the art environmental control system which was installed in the building means that the temperatures and relative humidity are well within recommended guidelines.

The temperature in the storage areas of the building is between 16C-18C and the relative humidity falls between 45% and 55% generally. Both the temperature and humidity levels are monitored using Tiny Tags within the School of Pythagoras and centrally with built-in monitors controlled by the Maintenance Department.

As part of his work at the Archives Centre, Richard Sellens, Library Graduate Trainee 2014-15, was put in charge of Integrated Pest Management. This involved attending a course organised by the University, in which he learned about the proper maintenance of traps and the environment so as to discourage unwanted pests.

In putting this into practice, Richard found that all the pests captured, namely spiders, beetles and woodlice, didn’t pose any immediate threat to the Centre. With the traps being checked every three months, it is hoped that this will help us keep on top of any situations that may arise.

Tracy Deakin
Archivist
Green Initiatives

The recycling bins for mixed plastic and aluminium installed on each floor and in the entrance lobby in 2013 continue to work quite well. New blue plastic bins for waste paper have replaced all the old dog-eared cardboard ones and have smartened up the Library. As in previous years most of the items were placed in the correct bins but a significant proportion of part-full drinks containers were left on desks or placed in rubbish bins. This makes considerably more work for the cleaning staff.

Average quantities of material recycled per month

11 sacks of waste paper.
13 sacks of mixed plastic and aluminium.

In the course of cleaning the Archive Centre the Library cleaners recycled 50 sacks of mixed plastic, aluminium, paper and cardboard. The Archivist also recycled 15 sacks of unwanted paper as she continued to move out of I New Court. A new red plastic bin for all recycling has been placed in the upper strongroom, which should aid recycling and keep the Archive Centre tidy.

John Holt
Part-Time Library Cleaner
Feedback from visitors, enquirers by phone and email

The following are examples of the feedback received from visitors to the different areas of the Library and Archive Centre or from people who have contacted us by other routes, indicating a true appreciation for what is provided.

Comments on Archive Exhibitions / Tours / Online Material

- Sorry for being so late with this, but thank you so much for showing us the Magna Carta on Wednesday, along with the other treasures. It was wonderful to see such an old, and important, document in the flesh rather than through glass which is more usual for me. I always gravitate to old documents when I go to museums (and textiles) and it was a real privilege to see something so special.

- Thank you for circulating interesting items from time to time.

- Tracy, this looks brilliant. Can you tidy my socks please?

- Thank you so much. I have heard from your Library colleague (Kathryn McKee) already, with exactly what I needed! A very good service from both of you. I am most grateful.

- Thank you for a most interesting tour of the new Archive Centre in Pythagoras. I had not realised just how much material we had and how far back it went in time. I think you are doing a splendid job.

- Thank you. Very interesting, and so well presented.
Comments to the Biographical Office

- Fantastic! I can’t ever recall getting so much positive help and relevant archival material so quickly. Best wishes and thank you warmly again. You have had at least one very satisfied customer today.

- I am so very grateful to you for your kindness! Thank you so much for this valuable information. I am truly amazed at how quickly and precisely you were able to find this! My son is doing a school report on Dirac, and he will be so happy to hear about your findings. Thank you so very much again for everything!

- Words cannot adequately express how deeply moved and grateful we are to you for your kindness! The time and effort which you have so generously shared with us is simply breathtaking! We are truly giddy with excitement! Your resources are amazingly helpful.

- When I embarked on this journey I had no idea how fruitful it might be, and the information you have provided has excelled anything I might have imagined! I am amazed at the detailed records you have.

- St John’s must have a phenomenal record-keeping system!

- It was a pleasure to talk to you. You clearly love your work and are genuinely interested in the people you deal with.

- Your attention to detail is to be admired.

- Good detective work!

- I was both surprised and amazed in equal amounts when I received your letter as you have indeed tracked me down after all this time. So much for the power of the internet I suppose, but it was certainly no mean feat.

- I would be very happy to be back in touch with John's and am grateful that you have reached out to me.
Old Library and Exhibition Area

Cedric Price Exhibition

Great. As a contemporary of CP it’s stirred so many futuristic researches back in 60-70s. Thank you. Happy recollections indeed!  
Pure joy. What fun.

What an extraordinary fellow! Would have been good to know him.  
Enhances all I have learnt to date!

Unpublished Prodigy Exhibition

This exhibition was very interesting and well put together with easy to read displays – what an interesting man Lund was!  
Interesting and informative. Thank you.

Fred Hoyle Exhibition

Excellent, covers a lot in a small space. Fred Hoyle is an inspirational figure.  
Enlightening. I heard some of his BBC talk. I worked on radar at the Royal Radar Establishment so some of Fred’s associates were still there!

Fred Hoyle was a hero of mine when I was in my teens.  
Interesting life!

Once again a densely packed exhibition. Must come back with more time. Look forward to this. Thanks.

General Comments on the Old Library

Thank you so much for your kind assistance in our family tree research.  
Amazing and beautiful Library. Just like Hogwarts.

Absolutely fantastic.  
Very impressive.  
Stunning.  
A wonderful Library.  
What a great place!

Fascinating. A rare privilege.  
A real treasure.  
The whole Library is a special experience.
Donors to Sponsor a Shelf scheme

We are most grateful to the following donors for their generous support of this new scheme.

Dr Donald Davidson
Bill Ball FIMechE (Mechanical Engineering)
Patrick Field (Linguistics and Languages)
Dr Edwin Wraight
Albert Boyes, for Mary Boyes (Chemistry)
Revd John Williams
Kenneth Wilkes
Anthony Greenstreet (History)
Nicholas Wood (Blair War Crimes and the Chilcot Inquiry)
Dennis Poulter
Dr Paul Cockerham FSA (Art History)
Dr Michael Wright
Revd John Harrison
Sir Douglas Wass GCB (Pure Mathematics)
Professor Richard Tomlinson (Classical Archaeology and Classics)
Henry Goodman (Computer Science)
Dr Russell Fairhead
Garth Lindrup LLM FRSA (Private International Law)
P. H. Clarke (Chemical Engineering)
David M. Wright (Earth Sciences)
His Honor Judge Peter Thornton QC
John Butters
Alan Daniels, in memoriam Reginald W. Daniels (Economics and Social Sciences)
Dr John H. W. Shaw (Victorian Poetry)
Professor Keith Dyke (Biochemistry)
David Webber
John Mounsey
Julian Davies (History)
Dr Charles Briscoe (Weather)
Tazim Jaffer (Physics)
Dr Kenneth McFadyean
Dr Samuel Young
John Brereton
Dr Hugh Hoyland (Poetry)
Dr Denis Bartlett (Medicine and Literature)
Dr Norman Crompton
Ian and Fumiyo Boulton (Chemistry)
J. Mason Porter
Stephen Davies
Hugh M. F. Barnes-Yallowley (Political Economy)
John Chaumeton FRICS
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Allan Turner
Christopher Sinclair-Stevenson (History of Modern France)
Irene Vest, in memoriam Michael John Vest
Henry A. Duxbury FREng FIChemE