

St John's College Library



Annual Report 2012-13

## **St John's College Library Annual Report 2012-13**

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

Compiled and edited by the Librarian's Assistant, Ryan Cronin, with many thanks to the Librarian, 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, unless otherwise stated.



## **St John's College Library Annual Report 2012-13**

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## The Librarian's Annual Report



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

### Summary

This year has seen some recent structural changes put to good use, and others pressed enthusiastically towards completion. The refurbishment of the Working Library over the summer of 2012, described in the last Report, has offered our readers a still more comfortable and convenient service during the past year. The new self-issue system has reversed the decline in borrowing observed across the past five years, while additional seating on two Floors, the larger Seminar Room, and the partitioning of space elsewhere on the Mezzanine Floor have all given those using the Library more flexibility to pursue their preferred methods of study. They can take advantage of a fine new coffee machine too: following a request from the JCR this facility was brought in during Easter Term 2013 with essential support from the College's Catering and Conference Manager.

Across the College, building work on the new Archive Centre in the School of Pythagoras progresses on schedule, and walking the site at the time of writing one can readily see both the elegance and the functionality of the Architect Oliver Caroe's plans; they are fully in sympathy with a very special ancient building. When the next Report is written, if all continues to go well, we shall be moving the College's incomparable archival collections into their new home. It is worth remembering that our collections of portraits and other paintings and drawings will also be administered from the School of Pythagoras; another longstanding need is thus addressed.

Rather more frustrating challenges lie ahead too. I am obliged to highlight some significant and as yet unresolved environmental issues in the Old Library as well as the wider questions posed by changing resource provision across the University. Both points are developed in the paragraphs that follow.

### Away Day

In the last three or four years we have grown accustomed to holding our annual Library Away Day in other Colleges, an informative and I believe productive habit. In 2012 we visited Hughes Hall, and in the course of a busy day discussed the Strategic Plan, the best ways to exploit the summer refurbishment, and challenges posed by the departure of long-serving members of staff. We are not a large department, and we talk to one another daily. But the chance for all staff to sit around a table, undistracted by readers and daily routines, is still welcome. Excellent

ideas are put forward and our thinking, especially our strategic thinking, is refreshed. Sometimes assumptions are confirmed, but at other times they can be productively confounded.

## Staffing

Last year I reported the retirement of our bookbinder George Bolton, who for many years spent a day a week in the Library and considerably more time at home repairing and rebinding our older volumes and preparing newer books for life on a library shelf. I must now report with great sorrow that George died in 2013. George Bolton was of 'the Old School' in the best sense, a connection with a vanishing Cambridge world of craftsmen dedicated to the welfare of books and the beauty of the library collections. We miss him a great deal.



YiWen Hon, Graduate Trainee for 2012-13, began work in the Library on 1 August and brought energy and imagination to the many tasks and challenges put her way. Graduate Trainees are appointed against stiff competition, and represent the very brightest and best of those who seek a career in the library and information profession. During their year with us they always give good service. In return, we offer a varied working day while also encouraging them to participate in a programme of visits, courses and talks organised jointly by all the Cambridge Libraries employing Graduate Trainees.

Following the birth of her daughter Abigail in September 2012, the Projects Assistant Sam Lewsey has been on maternity leave. Her seat has been 'kept warm' this year by a former Graduate Trainee, Rachel Walker. We thank Rachel most warmly for her splendid work in this role and look forward to welcoming Sam back in October.



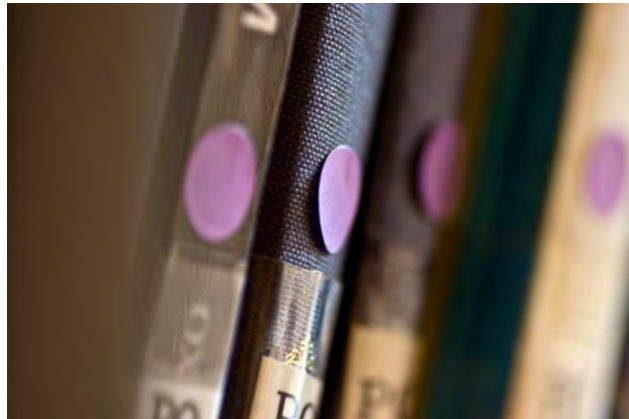
As mentioned last year, the Council has approved the appointment of a specialist Manuscripts Cataloguer on a three-year contract. Mandy Marvin, formerly employed by the Bedfordshire and Luton Archives Service, was appointed to this post and began work on 1 July 2013. Mandy will provide reports of her progress in subsequent Annual Reports. Among her other tasks she will be cataloguing papers of the architect Cedric Price (BA 1955) and a large collection of drawings and paintings by the artist Ewart Johns (BA 1947).

Since the last report we have seen the completion of two highly important Library projects. In twelve years, Allen Purvis catalogued many of the volumes in the Upper Library, and most of our book

collections in both the Lower Library and in the Library's closed Basement. Having created around 50,000 catalogue records of the highest quality Allen has done more than anyone else in the past century, perhaps in the Library's history, to make the contents of our Old Library better known to a wider public. Indeed, with most of his records now added to Web catalogues such as Newton and COPAC, that public can be said to extend around the globe. Allen's work was for much of this time made possible by a remarkably generous series of donations from Professor Joseph Zund, and as successive Reports amply demonstrate our debt to Joe is very great indeed.

In June 2013 Rebecca Watts completed her work on the Samuel Butler Project, a two-year initiative generously supported by the College and the Heritage Lottery Fund. Rebecca's work, when cataloguing the diverse Butler Collection and when organising well-attended Open Days, was invariably characterised by attention to detail and just the right measure of inspired innovation. Happily, Rebecca returns to the Library staff in September 2013, to share the post of Projects Assistant with Sam Lewsey.

In last year's Report, I reported the retirement of our Library Assistant Peter Hutton, after fifteen years in post. His successor, Adam Crothers, began work in October 2012 and has since taken in hand the oversight of the Issue Desk, the administration of the Audio-Visual collections, the processing of periodicals and a good deal else besides. He also works at the Desk on every evening during Full Term. To those readers coming to the Library before and after dinner in the Buttery, Adam, like Peter before him, is the face of the Library. We are delighted to have him with us.



For a second year we have benefitted from the skills of a talented and committed Old Library volunteer, Chris Krupa. Svetlana Taylor has in recent months given a great deal of assistance to our Archivist Tracy Wilkinson. Different projects have been helped by a number of temporary volunteers, all of whom we thank for their efforts and diligence. They make a huge difference to what we can achieve. One of these volunteers, Elisabeth Neubert, who worked with us for two months, is like Chris contributing to our Report this year. During the early summer of 2013 the Library also welcomed a very helpful Year 10 school student for a week of work experience.



## Cataloguing and Collection Development

During the year the University Library has continued to explore, tentatively, a replacement for the Voyager housekeeping software used in many Cambridge libraries since the early 2000s. No immediate selection of a replacement seems likely at the time of writing, and while Voyager is undeniably showing its age it is still being developed and will probably continue to hold sway for two or three years yet. Having long since taken the decision to buy into the Voyager system, St John's will probably find attractive the financial arguments for following the UL's chosen course. The hardware, software and running costs of maintaining a stand-alone library system for a collection of our size and detail, and the cost of

consequent collaborative mechanisms that permit such a system to work with the UL's choice of catalogue and other housekeeping modules, will prove considerable, and perhaps prohibitive.

The range of journals available to resident members through the Cambridge Journals Coordination Scheme continues to grow, with well over 40,000 titles now accessible in whole or in part, and with the necessary measures in place to ensure that permanent copies are preserved in electronic or paper form against publisher bankruptcy, power failure and other hazards. College participation in this Scheme essentially transfers funds once spent by St John's on paper journals to the JCS, the consequence being that fewer and fewer runs of journals are held on our shelves. Directors of Studies have been fully involved in the gradual process of cancellation and disposal, and the College Council has long accepted the strategy lying behind this process.

A similar evolution is noticeable with electronic books, though the conservatism of readers in the current generation and publishers' reluctance to lose profits have resulted in much slower progress towards an electronic future. Cambridge has been tardy when developing an attractive Virtual Learning Environment, copyright issues abound, and in most faculties and departments only limited efforts are being made to deliver book resources as 'ebooks' to readers. We await a clear lead, from the University or from its Library. All this is not to suggest that the status quo will remain unchallenged. Some surveys identify very different attitudes and working patterns among the current generation of secondary school pupils and indeed among their teachers too. The situation is monitored and reviewed each year. For now the College commits a significant annual sum to the



collaborative purchase of ebooks across the University, while spending eight times as much on the 'traditional' book. The Academic Services Librarian has succeeded me as a member of the University Library's eBooks Committee, so we keep a close eye on developments elsewhere.

Technology has made the publication of 'traditional' books ever easier, and members of the College have embraced the opportunities thus opened up. Many Johnians continue to give or bequeath copies of their own works alongside other books and papers to the Library. We are grateful to them all. Some donations fill longstanding gaps in our special collections. Among these I might draw particular attention this year to the first edition of John Speed's *Theatre of the Empire of Great Britaine* (1614), donated by Hugh Stewart (BA 1950), and extend my thanks to the family of Douglas Adams (BA 1974) for depositing a collection of his personal papers on loan. The Noël Marshall bequest has allowed us to purchase several choice antiquarian items, including a collection of autograph letters from Cecil Beaton to Anita Loos, and a wonderful memorandum book kept between 1704 and 1706 by the Johnian Cornish antiquary, diarist and chronicler of Parliament Narcissus Luttrell. Further details will be found in the Old Library report.



### Reader Services

The College Library locks its front door on just one night of the year – we are not open during the May Ball. At all other times our readers can come and go as they please. Widespread press attention during the year for the 'research habits' of a homeless man emphasised just how welcoming we are! That coverage also confirmed the need for a close working relationship between staff and junior members. As the years pass I become ever more convinced that this is the crucial ingredient in a successful college library. I am always most grateful to the JCR President and Facilities Officer, and the SBR Library and Records Committee Representative, for all that they do to transmit ideas and concerns in both directions, and I am

grateful too to the readers who talk to me, to the Academic Services Librarian or to staff at the issue desk, suggesting books for purchase, pointing out problems with radiators and toilets, commenting on the performance of the copier-printers and indeed bringing the occasional episode of anti-social behaviour to our attention. Timely notice of this kind allows issues to be addressed promptly, before they become particularly problematic.

Thanks to the work of the Projects Assistant (Maternity Cover), Rachel Walker, the Library now enjoys a regular presence on Twitter, with tweets alerting readers to new developments in the Library, and occasionally across other Cambridge libraries.

Every four or five years the Library surveys its readers on a range of topical issues. The 2013 survey, organised by the Academic Services Librarian, was the most thorough and the most successful during my time as Librarian. Janet Chow's



electronic approach attracted a response rate of over 40%, and her searching, well considered questions have teased out a number of issues, particularly some relating to the fabric of the Working Library. These will receive close attention over the next couple of years. The survey's findings are discussed in more detail elsewhere in this Report.

### Special Collections

The report prepared by the Sub-Librarian, Kathryn McKee, is rich in detail and requires little elaboration here. I would only emphasise that Kathryn's development of our understanding of the special collections, her cataloguing, photography, record keeping and planning of exhibitions, are built around the provision of an excellent service to hundreds of readers working on specialist projects, whose needs are frequently just as specialised. All this is time-consuming. Kathryn nevertheless still finds time to chair the CILIP Library and Information History Group Committee, an important special interest group on our principal professional body.



It is particularly pleasing to record that the Archivist and the Sub-Librarian have worked together to secure significant grants from specialist funding bodies. The National Manuscripts Conservation Trust have given £1500 towards the repair of John Barbour's *The Brus* (MS G.23) and the College Foundation Charter, while Tracy has secured £300 from the East of England Regional Archives Council for the transfer of some film and sound in the collection into digital formats. We are most grateful to these partners for their generous support.

Amid the successes related to the Old Library, I must also highlight a matter of some concern. During an initially very cold and then suddenly muggy spring and summer the relative humidity readings in the Lower Library have fluctuated wildly, and outbreaks of mould have been noticed in several places. Prompt work by our staff and by the Cambridge Conservation Consortium has prevented a disaster, but mould when it occurs repeatedly degrades a collection over time, besides being costly and time-consuming to remove. The problem is not new, but occurrences this year have been on a new scale. In the last two decades we have tackled fluctuations in RH with low-cost measures, principally by deploying fans and dehumidifiers. These have failed us. It may now I fear be necessary to pursue more significant, and expensive, solutions.



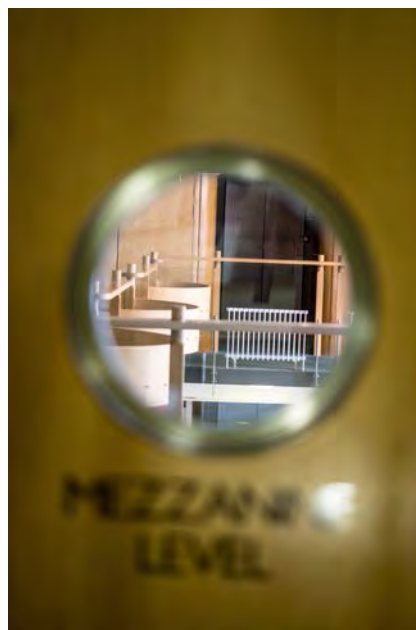
## Archives

As the Archivist, Tracy Wilkinson's report confirms, this has been a year of boxing and bagging, of weeding and listing as the collection is prepared for its move to the air-conditioned stacks of the School of Pythagoras. While a great deal has been accomplished, much remains to be done in 2014, our intention being to open the new Archive Centre in October. Tracy has enhanced the Collection's presence on the College Website through an imaginative redesign of the Archives home page and by devising and promoting a series of periodic selections from the shelves, grouped by topic and attractively photographed.

Continuing the 'wet' theme from the Special Collections section above, Tracy and I recognise that many archives hitherto stored in the New Court cellars have suffered from long exposure to damp conditions and will accordingly require at least a period of acclimatisation, and in some cases a measure of remedial treatment, before transfer to the School of Pythagoras. This conclusion has been reported to the Library and Records Committee, and will be factored into plans for the move.

## Biographical Office

As the report from the Biographical Librarian Fiona Colbert and the Biographical Assistant Paul Everest makes clear, biographical enquiries are numerous, range across the College's five centuries, and touch on many different aspects of a Johnian's life and career. Whatever is asked of them, staff in the Office supply a courteous and wherever possible an informative response. They serve constituencies within and outside the College, providing the Master's Assistant with timely information on recently deceased members of the College, answering letters from those interested in what their many times great grandfathers did while undergraduates in centuries past, and assisting biographers to get their facts correct, among numerous other daily tasks. Perhaps the most important job of all is one that never ends: Fiona and Paul spend much of the working day assembling and checking biographical information on the more than 40,000 men and women who have at one time or another been members of the College. There are always new details to be discovered, and important new associations to be made.



Other members of the Library staff help with aspects of biographical work. As noted in last year's Report these duties include the processing of press cuttings,

research in response to routine enquiries and the entry of data relating to our College's newest and youngest members, those who have matriculated since 2000. While time is limited, and while their principal duties lie elsewhere, the efforts of these members of staff are invaluable in allowing Fiona and Paul to concentrate on more pressing questions and issues.



### Exhibitions

From time to time the Library is happy to display the work of Johnian artists. In 2012 we welcomed an exhibition of paintings by Vivienne Westbrook (Visiting Scholar 2011) who took up painting under the inspiration of another Johnian, Brian Holt. We also enjoyed a very nice selection of Johnian views created by Dr Sam Motherwell (adm. 1987). During the Lent Term the Sub-Librarian curated an evocative display of our College bridges in art and photography, commemorating in this way the tercentenary of the College's first stone bridge across the Cam.

Following its use during Easter Term to display entries in the hotly-contested student art competition, the Exhibition Area was once again much visited during the summer months when it hosted a fine display on 'Women and St John's', curated by our Graduate Trainee YiWen Hon. Some of the many favourable comments on YiWen's exhibition will be found among extracts from our Visitors' Book later in this Report.

The Upper Library display cases have as usual proved their versatility, being used to show a variety of items drawn from the wider collections for visits by school groups, Cambridge residents, special-interest parties, and participants in University open events, as well as in displays for Butler Project days, tours by alumni and current graduate students, and for visits by embassy staff among many others.

The Graduate Trainee and Librarian's Assistant continue to work up attractive displays of books from the Booker, Costa and other Prize shortlists, while also highlighting new accessions and recent works by Johnians, as well as other interesting items from the collections.

### Security and Safety

All risk assessments in the Library are updated annually in line with College policy, usually in September. These assessments are made principally by area of the Library – with separate surveys of risks in, for example, the Basement, the Working Library and the different parts of the Old Library. We have this year paid particular attention to evaluating risks when schoolchildren and



other minors visit the Library, working with our partner schools as necessary. Fire-evacuation exercises were conducted in the Library during the Michaelmas Term 2012 and the Lent Term 2013.

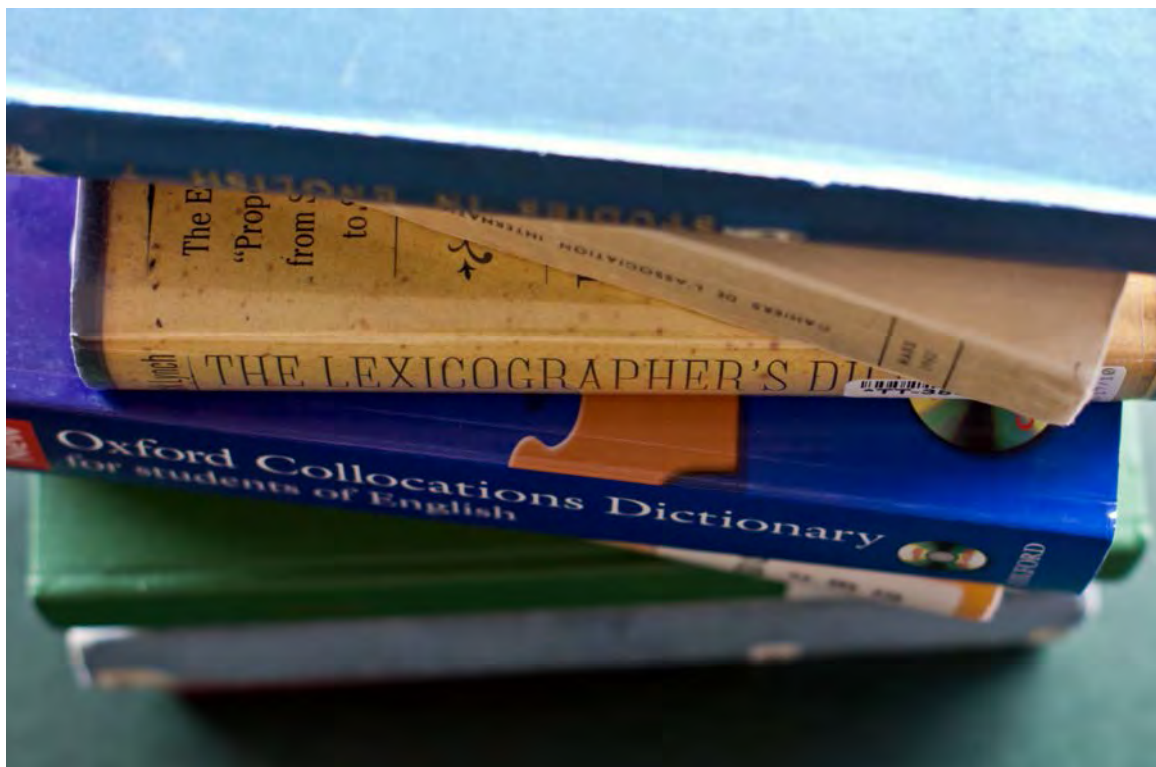
### **Cleaning and Building Maintenance**

The members of our Library cleaning team, Penny Davies and John Holt, have stemmed the tide of litter and confusion always apparent in a busy library that operates unstaffed for most of the working week. Their professionalism, perseverance and attention to detail are apparent to every reader, and we all owe them a great deal as they sustain a pleasant environment in which to study. The introduction of a coffee machine on the Ground Floor has not made their work any more straightforward, but the majority of readers use this and other facilities very responsibly out of consideration for others.

Increasingly, our tasks in the Library go forward in step with operations in other parts of the College. Excellent inter-departmental relations make things so much easier for us all. I cannot end this Report without expressing my appreciation for help and advice received from many colleagues, notably those in the Master and President's Office, the Development Office, the Catering and Conference Office, the Porters, the Lady Superintendent's Department, the IT Department and the Maintenance Department.

A final word of thanks must go to the Librarian's Assistant Ryan Cronin, for his editorial work on the Report, and to Paul Everest for his excellent photography and cover design. The smart appearance of this document owes everything to them.

Mark Nicholls



## Staff Reports



### The Library Staff Away Day, Trinity Hall 2013

From left to right: Mark Nicholls, Fiona Colbert, Adam Crothers, Sam Lewsey, Rachel Walker, Chris Krupa, Charlotte Hoare, Kathryn McKee, Mandy Marvin, Tracy Wilkinson, Ryan Cronin, Paul Everest (Absent: Janet Chow, Penny Davies, John Holt, Elisabeth Neubert, Rebecca Watts)



### Janet Chow – Academic Services Librarian

Almost unbelievably, it is a year since the completion of the refurbishment of the Working Library. The changes have been widely hailed as hugely successful by both students and Fellows who appreciate the greater range of work spaces available and the new physical configurations to Library shelving and seating. Students in particular welcomed the extra desk spaces available during exam time. Introduced also about a year ago, the self-issue machine has proven popular with students, enabling them to borrow all round the clock. There is now proof – according to the statistics – that some students really do borrow at 2am! In addition to the refurbishment, new blinds have been fitted to windows on all Floors and walls have been treated with a fresh coat of paint. Overall, there is no doubt that the décor and physical appearance of the Working Library have been significantly enhanced.

With the building work and its associated inconveniences out of the way, by November 2012, I submerged myself in designing a questionnaire – known as the Working Library User Survey (WLUS) – to provide a detailed picture of Library

User opinions. After many refinements and much advice from colleagues, the final draft of the WLUS was ready by January, 2013. I was determined that the Survey should be administered online, and immediately sought the services of John Kingsnorth, then College Web and Media Officer, who gave me a crash course. The questionnaire was sent out electronically to all students (undergraduates and postgraduates) and Fellows in the Lent Term. Remarkably, a 41% response rate was achieved! It is encouraging to note that perhaps the main conclusion from the data is that most library users are very satisfied with the Library collection and facilities, as well as the services provided by Library staff. Some key findings will be reported in more detail under the section 'The Working Library' in this report.

A further major achievement – in December 2012 – was completion of cataloguing of the Maxwell Collection of about 2000 items, all of which are now available for borrowing. Deserved thanks and congratulations for completing this large project must go to the team of dedicated colleagues in the Working Library. The Library now has an impressive section on Brazilian history which in timely fashion will support holders of the scholarship in Brazilian history and humanities, launched in June 2013. I was fortunate to be invited to attend the launch of this scholarship and to represent the Library at a dinner in the Master's Lodge, when I took the opportunity to publicise the Collection and the Library to the Brazilian Ambassador and his guests.



**Fiona Colbert – Biographical Librarian**

I am writing this at the end of a busy and interesting day which unfortunately involved me not completing much of the work on which I embarked this morning! This is not an unusual state of affairs: the nature of my role is that as well as having a range of regular tasks to manage, I receive various requests for information on a daily basis.

Today I spent time with someone who was visiting Cambridge as a tourist and who decided to come to St John's to see if we had any information about his father, who studied here in the 1950s and had recently passed away. Then a Johnian came in wanting to update his biographical record. An hour and a half later we parted, agreeing that we'd had a fun time ensuring that we had dotted all the 'i's and crossed all the 't's, metaphorically speaking, and that all umlauts were literally present and correct. Mine would not be a job for anyone without an appreciation for attention to detail! After a brief visit from another Johnian, who came to thank me for some help I provided for a book he is working on, I am left with some follow-up work in connection with today's visitors. Once I have done that, I may have an opportunity to get back to the document that I opened this morning but which has lain dormant for several hours since!



### **Ryan Cronin – Librarian's Assistant**

2012-13 has been a busy year: I have run more school visits than any previous year, as well as welcoming literally thousands of members of the public to the Library for the University Festivals. When not dealing with hyperactive children and their exhausted teachers, I have been steadily working away on various Library tasks.

The digital scanning of the College magazine *The Eagle*, which began last year, has moved forward with all the 'Our Chronicle' pages detailing Johnian sports and societies back to 1859 now made available as PDFs for Library and College staff to use when doing biographical research. The education and outreach pages on the Library website have had a slight tweak in preparation for a fuller re-edit in 2014 to bring them more in line with the new National Curriculum. I curated the College Art Competition once again, and had photographs and paintings piled up behind my desk for weeks afterward!

During the past year, I also became a fully-qualified First Aider for the Library, a skill set that should prove especially useful for my role in outreach work. While I am trained to bandage wounds, give CPR and even use a defibrillator, in practice my First Aiding has thankfully been limited to handing out plasters and ice packs.

As well as my daily work in the Library, I have been coming home to yet more library related work in the evenings as I continue my distance-learning MSc in Information and Library Management with the University of Northumbria. I am pleased to report that it is going well, and I am due to graduate in 2014. I wish to extend thanks to the College for their generosity in contributing towards the course fees. The next year looks set to bring some very exciting developments to my role in St John's College, and I am very much looking forward to the future.



### **Adam Crothers – Library Assistant**

My arrival at St John's Library a few weeks into Michaelmas Term 2012 was as close to a baptism of fire as is permissible in a building containing large quantities of paper: all libraries have their idiosyncrasies of policy and technology, and although I had worked in Cambridge libraries previously there was a huge amount with which to come to terms, and quickly. I think I did all right, largely owing to the immense kindness and patience of my new (now, of course, old) colleagues, but also because of how much I learned through the wide-ranging nature of my position.

The advantage of the Library Assistant job as I see it is the variety of work that is possible, and indeed expected. While the most obvious day-to-day aspect of my work is the labelling, tagging and shelving of a great many books, I am also involved in cataloguing, journals processing, overseeing the audio-visual collection, website

work, and occasional supervision of the Rare Books Reading Room; and I quite like that I am often called on to change light bulbs, carry boxes and perform similar tasks that are as close to paid manual labour as I'm likely to come, having a poet's physique if nothing else.

The year's achievements outside of the quotidian tasks have included a redesigned DVD classification system for the AV Room, a significant tidying-up of the Chapel Basement's journals shelves, the migration of the M. R. James special collections catalogue to the new College website, the updating of the Library's journal acquisition and binding procedures to electronic and online versions respectively, a long-overdue labelling of the building's more confusing light switches, and involvement in the summer stock check using the new and rather threateningly-named Digital Library Assistant. Some of the above, coupled with whatever my hair is doing in the staff photograph, might make me seem like a new broom, especially in the knowledge that my predecessor held the job for fifteen years. I don't know that this was my intention, but I have very much enjoyed having the opportunity to make adjustments as I thought appropriate. And I have further appreciated a couple of opportunities that have arisen as tangents to this job, namely writing a regular feature about the College's literary 'vestiges' for the poetry magazine *PN Review*, and contributing to the Library's forthcoming Treasures book.



**Penny Davies – Library Cleaner**

The Library is a beautiful place to work and I have tried to keep the areas I am responsible for as clean as I can. I have carried out book and shelf cleaning on the Mezzanine and Ground Floors and have also cleaned the Hoyle, Johnian and Maxwell Collections in the basement. During the summer I have been applying liquid wax polish to the carved bookcase ends in the Old Library.



**Paul Everest – Biographical Assistant**

Another October, another academic year and another Annual Report. As a new cohort of Johnians start to nest, it's somehow difficult to envisage that in five to ten years' time we'll be documenting their lives and careers as graduates, furiously researching and adding information to the Biographical Database, bemoaning the lack of time to get everything done: and there is always something to be done!

When you consider that our membership grows exponentially, each year adding some 300 Johnians to our remit, and that even once they pass away our work isn't done, we clearly have a mammoth task on our hands. Such a task that I always find it difficult to summarise succinctly my contribution to the previous year's efforts, because by sheer weight of numbers, there's been a lot!



Things that stand out in my mind from this year are Honorary Fellows and learned societies. The former because of the fiendishly complex titling conventions of Life Peers, Privy Counsellors and Lord Justices, which prompted a wholesale overhaul of our entire list – I know my Rt Hons from my Hon Sirs now! The latter stands out because one of my responsibilities is monitoring various societies (Royal Society, British Academy, etc.) for awards and elections to Fellowships, something that is then conveyed to the Master so he can write in congratulation. It is always nice to see their reciprocal notes, which show a combination of affection for the College and humble surprise that their achievements are still registering on our radar.



**Charlotte Hoare – Library Graduate Trainee  
2013-14**

My first two months as Graduate Trainee at St John's have gone ridiculously quickly – they have also been brilliant. Now that the students have finally arrived it's been lovely to see how well the Library works as a space for diverse collections, for study and studious interaction, and as an information hub at the heart of the College. I feel very lucky to be here.

Now I am fairly up to speed with the circulation system and cataloguing to the brand-new RDA standard it has been particularly rewarding to get involved in various tasks to improve user experience of the Library. I have spent quite a bit of time editing and updating subject guides and reformatting them for the website, learning an extraordinary amount about our new multi-functional printing and copying devices and checking reading lists for necessary new acquisitions. It's been great as well to broaden my knowledge of the services Cambridge libraries offer as a whole by attending training sessions on electronic resources and volunteering to man the stall for the [libraries@cambridge](mailto:libraries@cambridge) Freshers' Fair.

Another interesting aspect of my work has been incrementally adding to the wealth of information compiled by the Biographical Office on the Library's Johnian database. I have just started to take on some enquiries about Old Johnians and I am looking forward to getting stuck in as I very much enjoy the detective aspect of such tasks.

I have also been involved in outreach both on a day-to-day basis by helping to keep the Library Twitter in full flow and putting together collection displays for the foyer, and by helping with public events such as Open Cambridge – a wonderful opportunity to engage with a diverse audience and share some more unusual items from the special collections.



### **John Holt – Library Cleaner**

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

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

- Completed the book cleaning on the second floor Chapel Wing.
- Carried out survey of desk lamp faults.
- Helped the Library Assistant, Adam Crothers, to master the wonders of the Library's various lights and assisted him with a bulb replacement programme.
- Checked external fire doors monthly and cleared away pigeon muck.
- Treated areas of carpet moth infestation.
- Cleared rubbish from the Library Office prior to fitting of new carpet and Machine Room following move of equipment.
- Lubricated front rotating door catches.
- Repaired sliding doors to the Library Office.
- Improved the recycling facilities in the Library.

During the summer break I carried out many other tasks such as hovering chairs and tightening bolts, cleaning insides of lamp shades and the tops of bookshelves, including light fittings.



### **Chris Krupa – Library Volunteer**

After some forty years doing all kinds of things in the world of book and magazine publishing, I was very pleased to be offered the opportunity to volunteer in the Old Library. As I am an inveterate collector of books and a trained craft book binder this is a kind of entry to book heaven! To be released to read and handle such treasures as the Old Library possesses is wonderful. I have even been able to add to them from my late father's

collection.

Over the time I have been here, I have done such diverse things as research photographs and illustrations of the College bridges, help to catalogue the papers of Sir Fred Hoyle and John Crook, begin the process of sorting papers belonging to Sir Jack Goody, learn some of the basics of the Library's cataloguing system and hunt for books on particular subjects. I have particularly enjoyed searching for information to complete or clarify the sometimes obscure references in Library files. Looking through the artwork of Samuel Butler and attempting to figure out which ones had

been used in one of his publications was fun, as was the discovery of some of Cecil Beaton's costume and portrait doodles on the back of his diary notes.

Although at the Library for only one day a week, I have always felt a happy part of the team.



**Mandy Marvin – Manuscripts Cataloguer**

Arriving at the gates of St John's from nearly nine years as an archivist in county record offices I have felt a bit like Dorothy in *The Wizard of Oz*: 'Toto, I've a feeling we're not in Local Government anymore.'

I've had a lovely first few months settling in to life and work here, and appreciate so much the College's friendly welcome. My only disappointment is that the Fellows did not avail themselves of the joys of running through the courts' sprinklers during the dry spell!

So far I have spent some time nosing around the deliciously varied collections that await cataloguing and used a few of the manuscripts to practise the in-house descriptive style for those, which is more bibliographic than my usual archivist's approach. I've started initial appraisal and listing of one of the bulkier and engagingly jumbled personal archives that fall to my care, and catalogued a fistful of Cecil Beaton's letters and a box of the economist Claude Guillebaud's papers.

I also assist Kathryn a bit in looking after researchers in the Old Library and caring for our splendid collections. Over the long vacation we must have emptied enough water from the Old Library's dehumidifiers to fill an elephant's bath!

The departmental Away Day provided an especially good opportunity to gain a sense of the entire Library's work and plans for the year ahead and beyond. I am looking forward to all that this first year holds and to learning new things every day.



**Kathryn McKee – Sub-Librarian and Special Collections Librarian**

I have to confess that this hasn't felt like a particularly productive year. A great deal of my time and energy has been directed at dealing with environmental issues, and other work has had to wait as a result. I have a cataloguing backlog, some long-term tasks have not progressed as far as I'd hoped, and while exhibitions have run to schedule, more has been done at the last minute than is good for my stress levels.

Where time is limited, readers and enquirers are my first priority, and service levels have been maintained no matter what else has been put on hold. Finding the answers

to a wide range of bibliographical questions, identifying items of interest in response to the most varied requests, and assisting researchers in the reading room is always rewarding. The positive feedback I've received from the many people who have encountered our collections this year has been a particularly welcome boost to morale.

I'm constantly learning more about the collections from those using them, and it's a thrill when readers discover new information about our books and manuscripts in the course of their research. (I do find it slightly unnerving being asked to pose for photographs when readers wish to record their 'eureka' moments for posterity though!) Group visits and open days can be high points too. The pause, followed by 'Wow!' when a visitor sees the Upper Library for the first time always lifts the spirits, and while it's not been the easiest year, I have heard a lot of wows.



**Elisabeth Neubert – Archives Volunteer**

I am an apprentice in the Humboldt University Library in Berlin, training to be a specialist in media and information services. In the summer of 2013 I had the chance to complete an eight week internship at St John's College, working closely with the College Archivist, Tracy Wilkinson.

My major project here was to sort through approximately 1500 maps and plans in the Archives strong room and to put them into appropriately sized archive folders in preparation for the Archives' relocation to the School of Pythagoras in 2014. It was my responsibility to devise a recording system so that the maps could be located in their new folders. I also developed a series of tables and worksheets for myself and the volunteer working with me to use whilst re-housing the maps and plans into the new folders. I was also given the opportunity to contribute to the Library and Archive webpage.

Additionally, I had many chances to get to know the workings of a Cambridge College Library. I participated in workshops and attended seminars in Cambridge which helped me to broaden my experience and knowledge in the field of Library and Archival Sciences. I even got the opportunity to visit at least a dozen College libraries and archives, as well as two conservation studios. I really enjoyed my stay at St John's; everyone was very welcoming. I felt very comfortable with the staff of the Library and enjoyed my close work with Tracy and the volunteers in the Archive.



**Rachel Walker – Projects Assistant  
(Maternity Cover)**

Aside from all the day-to-day tasks, I have spent a great deal of 2013 preparing for the first stock check carried out using our new Digital Library Assistant (DLA) – one of the benefits of implementing RFID last summer. Two of my tasks have been producing a guide on how to use the DLA and providing some basic training for my colleagues, along with physically helping out with the stock check itself and carrying out troubleshooting. At the start of year I assisted with the completion of the Maxwell cataloguing project, helping me to gain further valuable experience in cataloguing. This helped in encouraging me to clear the donations trolley which was beginning to overflow across the Office! The introduction of a Library Twitter account, which now has over 230 followers, has been another really interesting project I have worked on this year along with the Graduate Trainee.

Aside from my Working Library duties, I have been assisting Tracy in the Archives by recording the contents of Personnel and Estates folders in a database, and re-boxing them ready for their move to the School of Pythagoras next year. In addition to this I have been involved in a long-term project to create a new retention schedule for the College, working through numerous responses from various departments. My biographical work has included working through questionnaires returned by Johnians, and taking on various random tasks as instructed by Fiona. I spent Michaelmas Term creating records on the database for new members, always an interesting task and great for helping me to recognise names and faces that appear in the Library.

Coming back to St John's as Projects Assistant was a welcome step for me after being Graduate Trainee in 2011-12. As I leave this position I find myself at the end of the taught part of my MSc studies, and I have recently started a new job at the University Library with ebooks@cambridge. I have really enjoyed my time working at St John's, and I am happy to know that I'm not going far away.



**Tracy Wilkinson – Archivist**

It's hard to believe more than a year has gone by since I first turned the dial on the muniment room safe (although some days I feel like I've been doing it forever)!

The past eighteen months have gone by in a whirlwind of scanning, re-boxing, measuring, listing, more re-boxing and generally trying to advertise the wonderful world of the College's Archives. By this time next year the new Archive Centre in the School of Pythagoras will be open and perhaps then I'll have time to breathe.

## Staff Training



This year, Library staff have undertaken a range of training and professional development activities, taking advantage of free and low-cost local training where available and appropriate, and attending courses run by relevant professional bodies to acquire specialist skills and knowledge. Two full-time members of staff have been working on postgraduate level professional qualifications by distance learning during the course of this year.

Developments in the use of the College's website, new security and self-issue systems, and new photocopying and printing facilities in the Library have all required training to ensure that the technology in use across the department is being used effectively and that users of the Library are provided with the necessary guidance to take advantage of facilities.

The tried and tested formula of a staff Away Day again proved invaluable in setting priorities for the year ahead, updating the Library's Strategic Plan, and informing all staff of the projects and activities across a department that covers both physical and online student services, research facilities for scholars from around the world, management of highly diverse special collections, archives, biographical records, special projects, and educational outreach.

Staff member	Training	Provider	Cost
<b>Librarian</b>	Website announcements	SJC	free
<b>Sub-Librarian and Special Collections Librarian</b>	Provenance workshop	HLF	£30.00
	Incunables workshops (2)	UL	free
	Drupal training	SJC	free
	CERL workshop	CERL/BL	free
	Website announcements	SJC	free
	Special collections lecture	Emma	free
<b>Academic Services Librarian</b>	Website announcements	SJC	free
	RFID in Libraries	CILIP	£354.00
	Book history for librarians	LiT	free
	Mentoring workshop	CILIP	£30.00
	E-books conference	UCL	£115.00
	Oxford and Cambridge conference	CCLF	£5.00
<b>Archivist</b>	CAG digital training day	CAG	free
	Palaeography weekend	ICE	£240.00
	First Aid refresher	SJC	-
	BS 5454:2012	CAG	free
	Presentation and interpretation of seals	AHRC	free
	Exciting writing for interpretation workshop	KMHLC	£66.00

	Gerald Aylmer seminar	RHS, IHR, NA	free
<b>Librarian's Assistant</b>	Distance learning Masters course	U North.	£1652.00
	First Aid training	SJC	-
	Website announcements	SJC	free
<b>Projects Assistant</b>	Distance learning Masters course	UWA	Self-funded
<b>Graduate Trainee</b>	MARC21	L@C	free
	E-books	L@C	free
	ArtStor	L@C	free
	Book history for librarians	LiT	free
	Excel and Access	UCS	free
	Web of Knowledge & SCOPUS	UCS	free
	Powerpoint	UCS	free
	Web authoring (level 3)	UCS	free
	Serials cataloguing	L@C	free
	Introduction to medieval manuscripts	LiT	free
	Use of images in research	LiT	free
	Ox/Cam conference	CCLF	£5.00
	Graduate open day	CLSIG	£25.00
<b>Cleaner (JH)</b>	First Aid refresher	SJC	-
<b>ALL staff</b>	Departmental Away Day	SJCL	£346.00
	RFID	3M	-
	Photocopier/printers	Konica	-
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>£2868.00</b>

**Key to organisations providing training:**

3M	3M (Suppliers of RFID security and self-issue systems)
AHRC	Arts and Humanities Research Council
CAG	Cambridge Archivists Group
CCLF	Cambridge College Libraries Forum
CERL/BL	Centre for European Research Libraries/British Library
CILIP	Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals
CLSIG	Commercial, Legal and Scientific Group of CILIP
Emma	Emmanuel College, Cambridge
HLF	Historic Libraries Forum
ICE	Institute of Continuing Education, University of Cambridge
KMHLC	Kate Measures Heritage Learning Consultants
Konica	Konica (Suppliers of photocopier/printers installed 2013)
L@C	Libraries@Cambridge
LiT	Librarians-in-Training
RHS, IHR, NA	Royal Historical Society, Institute of Historical Research, National Archives
SJC	St John's College
UCL	University College London
UCS	Cambridge University Computing Service
UL	Cambridge University Library
U North.	University of Northumbria
UWA	University of Wales, Aberystwyth

Any list of formal training courses and events attended fails adequately to reflect the full range of learning in which Library staff are engaged, as in-house informal coaching and sharing of skills, private reading and online research all contribute to increasing staff experience and efficiency in their jobs. Annual reviews provide a regular formal opportunity to assess any new training needs and areas where the individual wishes to develop skills or knowledge.

Staff have also contributed to training and development activities more broadly. St John's has offered shadowing experience to a number of staff from other libraries under the Cambridge Penumbra scheme. The Librarian, Special Collections Librarian, Academic Services Librarian, Archivist, Biographical Librarian and Butler Project Associate have all been shadowed, usually on a half-day basis. We have again hosted a year 10 work experience pupil for a week.

Sharing best practice with colleagues in other institutions is a valuable element of professional development. In March 2013, St John's hosted over forty Cambridge and Oxford Archivists at a half-day event on the theme of outreach and accessibility. The Archivist, Librarian's Assistant, and Butler Project Associate each gave presentations, showcasing different aspects of the department's outreach activities. The Archivist has also spoken at the UK Archives Discovery Forum on the use of digital media to capture the imagination and enthusiasm of new audiences, and gave a presentation to the Archives and Records Association on her experiences of creating and developing an iPhone app.

Kathryn McKee  
Sub-Librarian and Special Collections Librarian





## User Education



A Library induction session was held for all of our first-year undergraduates in the Palmerston Room on the Saturday afternoon before the start of Michaelmas Term 2012.

As in previous years, the induction introduces students to all the basic and essential information they need to become effective Library users. Students are made aware of Library rules, the Library website, the Library catalogue, how to gain access to e-books and journals, and how to renew Library items online.

There was an excellent attendance and the room was packed out. Students were enthusiastic to know more about the Library in general, and especially their borrowing privileges. Some keener students even stayed behind after the session to ask more questions.

Library tours were arranged for all new undergraduates over a three-day period, from the following Monday to Wednesday. These were arranged by subject group, with Library staff each taking three or four groups of students at staggered times.

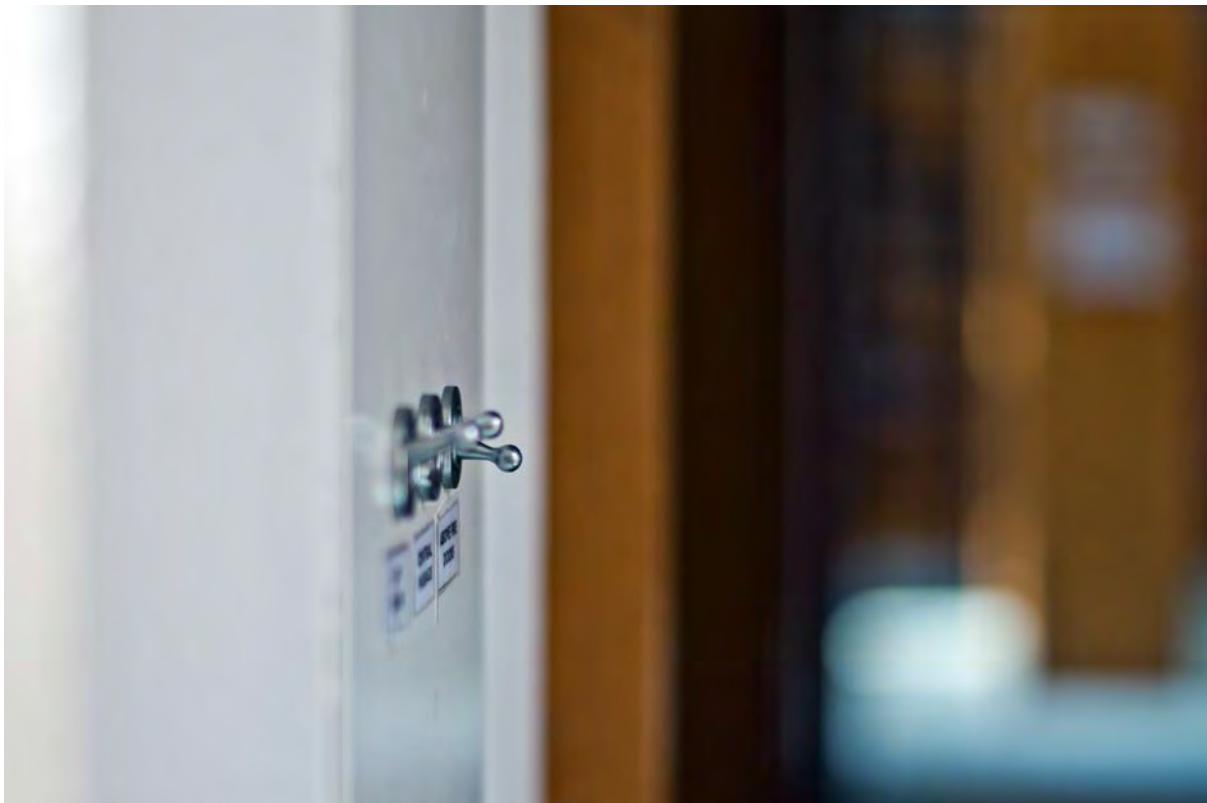
The thirty-minute tour covered both the Working Library and the Old Library. Students have the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the layout of the Library, the facilities and resources available and, in particular, the location of materials related to their own subjects. Library staff also demonstrated how to borrow and renew items using the newly installed self-borrowing machine and explained fire procedure and the security system. A set of library leaflets, maps and useful subject guides were also handed out before the tour.

Library tours for postgraduate Freshers were organised over two days in the week after the start of Term. The tour was followed by an optional information session in the Library Seminar Room at which students were introduced to the skills of searching online resources, such as Library catalogue and databases, and accessing electronic resources.

Although a significant number of postgraduate students signed up for the tour, only two actually turned up. This has prompted us to review whether it is worth continuing to organise future tours for postgraduates.

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

Janet Chow  
Academic Services Librarian



## The Working Library



Unquestionably, the most dramatic change to the Working Library during 2012-13 was the major refurbishment to the Mezzanine and Third Floor Garden wings. Shelving was removed to create additional desk space for users. Students particularly appreciated the additional space, since it came in time for their revision during the Easter Term. Feedback from students and Fellows on the refurbishment has been very positive. A further major change during 2012 was the installation of the self-borrowing machine, a result of which has been an increase in the borrowing rate in 2012-13. According to Library statistics, a total of 19,313 items were borrowed in 2012-13 – an astonishing 42% (5738) increase compared to the previous year. Of the 19,313 borrowed items, 10,463 were issued using the self-borrowing machine. As a consequence of the increased borrowing, more items are being returned. Consequently, a larger book return box has had to replace the old one!

Following completion of the major refurbishment, work continued on improving the décor and physical appearance of the Library. New blinds on all Floors and in the Library Office were fitted last Christmas. Walls have been treated with a fresh coat of paint, making the Library a welcoming environment in which to study.

After two years of sustained cataloguing by colleagues, approximately 2000 items of the Maxwell Collection were made available for borrowing. The completion of this project not

only strengthens the Library's Brazilian history collection, it also supports future holders of the new scholarship in Brazilian history and humanities, launched in June 2013.

In Lent Term 2013, a Working Library User Survey was conducted to gather users' views on Library resources, services and facilities. The Survey was administered online for the first time. A total of 1040 email invitations were sent out to undergraduates, postgraduates and Fellows. An impressive 41% (426) response rate was achieved.

Among a small selection of key findings are the following:

- i) Despite the availability of a wide selection of electronic books, print books are still the most commonly used learning resource. Interestingly, this result is identical to that of 2008, inferring lack of a trend.
- ii) With the high usage of print books, the self-borrowing machine is proving popular. More than two-thirds of undergraduate respondents (69%) are either 'very satisfied' or 'satisfied' with the self-borrowing machine.
- iii) It is also noted from the survey that Library users are highly satisfied with the provision of wireless and individual desk space.
- iv) Respondents are very positive about most aspects of the work environment of the Library, including overall cleanliness, cleanliness of toilets and carpets, the condition of desks and comfort of chairs.
- v) It is encouraging to note that respondents are highly satisfied with the quality of services offered by the Working Library staff (between 84% and 88% of respondents were highly satisfied with all services provided).
- vi) Two aspects in particular attracted some dissatisfaction: first, low levels of lighting in many parts of the Library – a problem exaggerated on dark, cloudy winter days and nights; the second was the lack of adequate heating in winter, which some felt was not conducive to productive work, especially when sitting still for long periods.



The Librarian, the Academic Services Librarian, the Maintenance Department and the Lady Superintendent will jointly address these issues in the coming year.

Overall, an overwhelming majority of respondents felt the Working Library was a very positive environment, conducive to their learning.



Student demand for a coffee machine has been evident for some years. With support from the Catering Department, a coffee machine was installed – in timely fashion – in the alcove area on the Ground Floor at the beginning of Easter Term 2013, ready to meet the apparent rise in coffee consumption during the exam period!

In addition to a coffee machine, two new multi-functional devices (photocopying, printing and scanning) were installed on the Ground Floor and Third Floor respectively in summer 2013, to replace the old copiers and printers. The new devices offer faster and better quality printing, photocopying and scanning. They also simplify copying and printing procedures. Students can now buy e-credits online to cover both copying and printing.

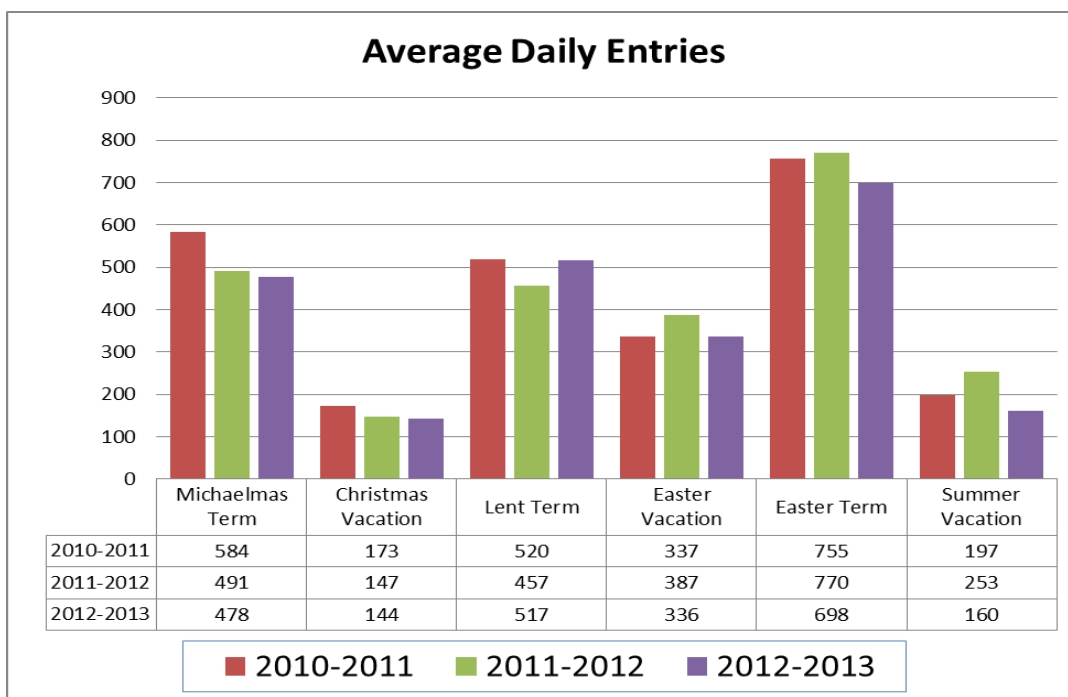
Last but not least, another major achievement was the completion during summer 2013 of a full stock check using the new digital stock-take equipment. This is the first time that a full stock check has been undertaken and completed in the same year. Thanks to a team of dedicated colleagues in the Working Library, about 100,000 books were checked in two weeks. Without the digital technology, manual stock checking in the past has proven slow and laborious. The significance of undertaking a full stock check enables us to identify all missing items across the entire Library, and to start the process of replacement where appropriate.

Janet Chow  
Academic Services Librarian

## Entries to the Library

Statistics for the number of users entering the Library are kept using a people counter positioned next to the entrance of the Working Library. A reading is taken at 9am every Monday to Friday throughout the year (excluding unstaffed periods). The graph below shows the average daily entries to the Library over the course of the last three years, grouped to distinguish between term and vacation time usage. From the graph we can see that 2012-13 followed similar trends to the two preceding years. Library usage increased throughout the academic year, with the busiest term being Easter Term when students are busy revising for their exams. Many of our students take advantage of the generous provision of study space in the Library during the most stressful times of the year, perhaps finding the quiet atmosphere more conducive to study than their own rooms in College. Easy access to study materials and computing facilities make the Library an ideal haven when preparing for their deadlines and exams.

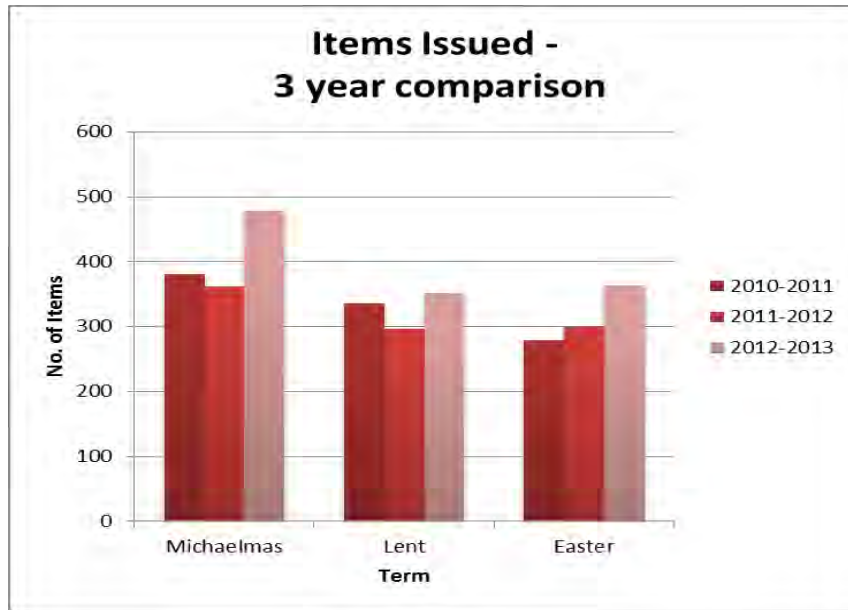
In terms of a year-on-year comparison these statistics seem to indicate that Library usage has in fact fallen in the last year. It is important to remember, however, that both 2010-11 and 2011-12 were rather unusual years for the Library: the former was the College's Quincentenary year, and the latter half of the 2012 academic year saw extensive refurbishment work taking place within the Library building. Both years saw large amounts of activity in the Library that wouldn't normally have taken place, skewing the statistics in favour of those years and giving the impression that 2012-13 has been a 'bad' year. Looking further back at figures for 2010 and earlier, the footfall for 2012-13 has been much more in line with the last 'normal' year that we had. Over the next couple of years we will hopefully have a much clearer picture of standard Library usage, and the effects of the recent refurbishment work.



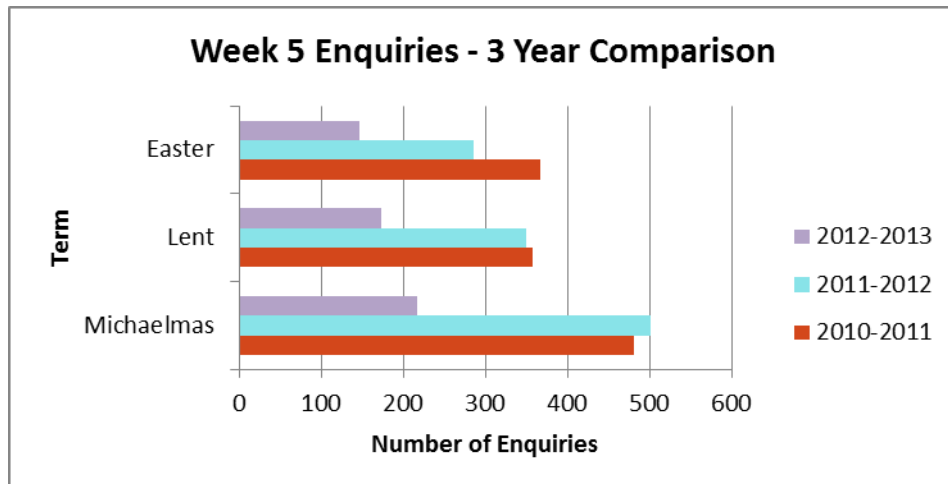
Sam Lewsey  
Projects Assistant

## Working Library Use

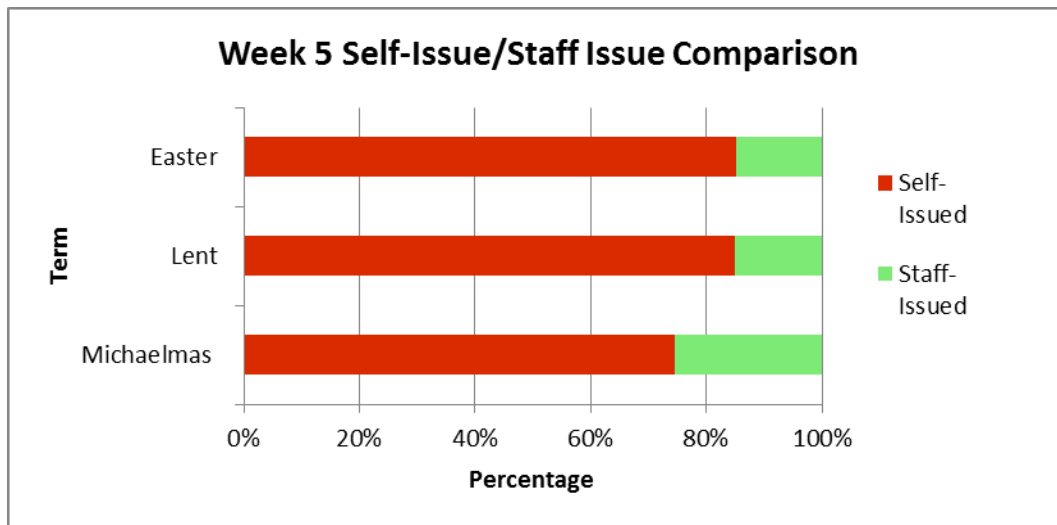
During the fifth week of every Full Term we collect statistics on the Working Library usage. These include the number of entries to the Library, enquiries made at the Issue Desk and a tally of the number of books cleared from the desks around the Library, as well as online statistics collated on the use of the self-issue machine.



The graphs shown here illustrate comparisons of the enquiries received at the Issue Desk and the borrowing statistics taken from the data gathered over the past three years. The chart above (Items Issued) clearly shows that, since the introduction of the self-issue machine at the beginning of the year, borrowing has risen significantly over all three terms. The drop that can be seen in borrowing between Michaelmas and Easter terms (which is an annual trend) reflects the changing usage patterns of the Library throughout the academic year, as focus changes from provision of study materials to provision of study space.



The graph illustrating Week Five Enquiries shows a significant drop in enquiries fielded at the Issue Desk for the past year. The reason for this is illustrated by the chart below; the comparison between items issued at the self-issue machine and items issued to staff and students by Library staff at the desk. In previous years the enquiries recorded throughout the week at the Issue Desk have included all instances of students and staff coming to the desk in order to borrow books, AV material or maps, as well as enquiries made about computing facilities, borrowing rights, location of materials and collections etc. Since there was no provision for self-issue prior to Michaelmas 2012, all borrowing was directed through the Issue Desk. However, since the installation of the self-borrowing machine, a large proportion of borrowing now takes place through this facility. This leaves Library staff better able to attend to enquiries concerning the collections, computing facilities and Library services, while troubleshooting any circulation issues.



During Week Five in both Lent and Easter Terms the self-issue machine accounted for 85% of all borrowing. This shows the positive impact of this addition to the Library and the readiness with which it has been accepted by our users. Whereas borrowing had previously been limited to staffed hours both in and out of term, for the past year it has been available twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week. The significant number of books now borrowed overnight and at the weekends attests to the huge improvement this has made in the service the Library can offer to members of the College.

Sam Lewsey  
Projects Assistant



## Annual Circulation

Library borrowing levels, based on frequency counts of items borrowed, reached 19,313 in the academic year 2012-13, a very significant increase of 42% compared to the previous year (see Figure 1 below). This high borrowing level substantially reverses the downward trend in borrowing levels since 2005. It coincides with the installation of the self-issue machine during summer 2012, which is the likely trigger for the sudden rise. Of the 19,313 items borrowed, more than one half (10,463) were items issued through the self-issue machine, and of these, 16% were issued on Saturdays and 15% on Sundays. Prior to the installation of the self-borrowing machine, it was not possible to borrow outside staffed hours in the evenings and at weekends from Saturday lunchtime to Monday morning.

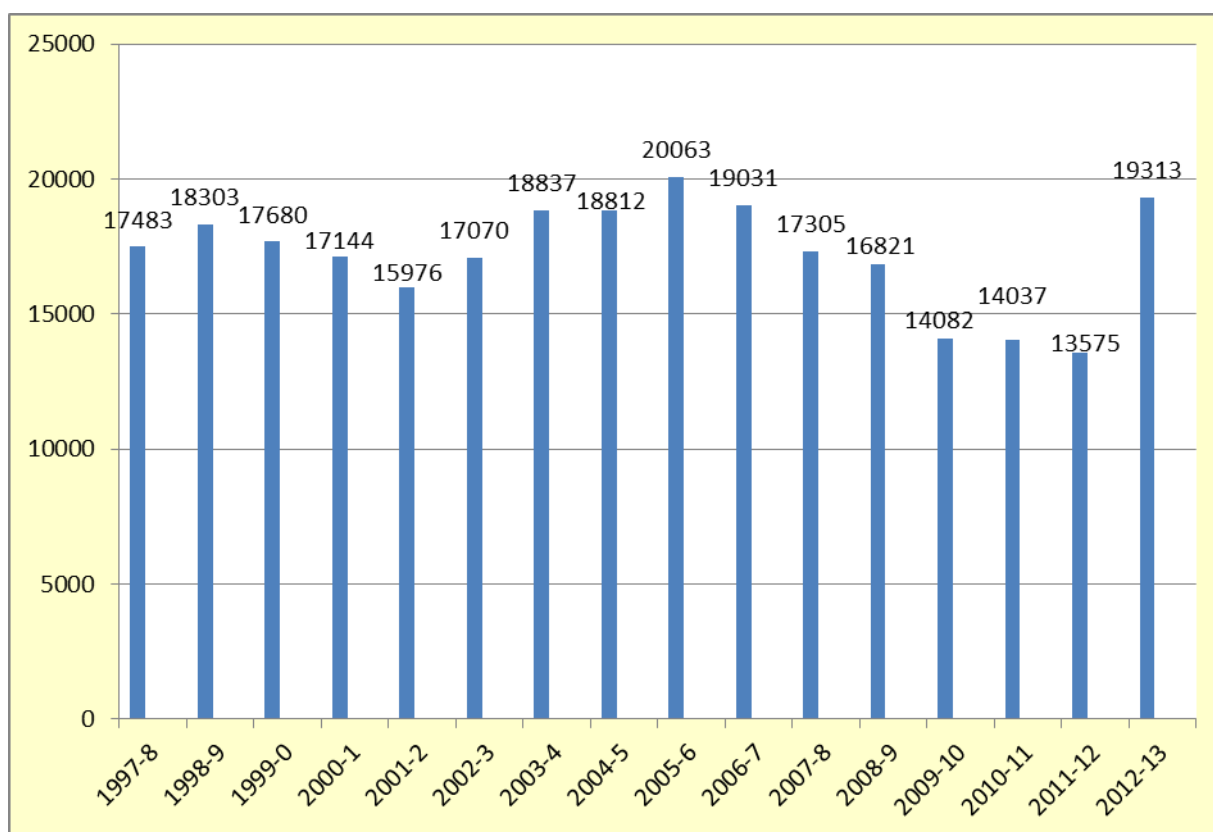


Figure 1. Library Borrowing – Annual Circulation

As shown in the Termly borrowing figures for the past three years (see Table 1 below), Michaelmas Term remains the busiest term, followed by Lent Term and then Easter Term. Borrowing figures for all three Terms have seen a significant rise. Against this trend, the only figure for 2012-13 to show a fall in borrowing compared with the previous year was that for the summer vacation. Figures here show a drop by some 32% in 2012-13 compared to the previous year.

	2012-13	2011-12	2010-11
Michaelmas Term	6268	4476	4659
Christmas vacation	879	615	749
Lent Term	5862	3868	3934
Easter vacation	1004	639	667
Easter Term	4730	3133	2878
Summer vacation	570	844	1150
<b>Total</b>	<b>19313</b>	<b>13575</b>	<b>14037</b>

Table 1. Borrowing figures for the last three academic years by term

For 2012-13, English became the most heavily borrowed subject, overtaking History, which dropped to second place, followed by Economics in third (see Figure 2 below). The three subjects experiencing the largest borrowing increases were, in order, English, History and Economics – with English nearly doubling, from 1104 in 2011-12 to 2104 (2012-13); History up by 47%, and Economics by 57% compared to the previous year 2011-12. Other subjects experiencing an increase in borrowing in 2012-13, compared with the previous year, were Politics, Psychology and Sociology (PPS), Art and Architecture, Theology, Maths, Philosophy, Classics and Biological Sciences. There was, however, a slight drop in borrowing figures for Anthropology, Modern and Medieval Languages (MML) and Veterinary Medicine.

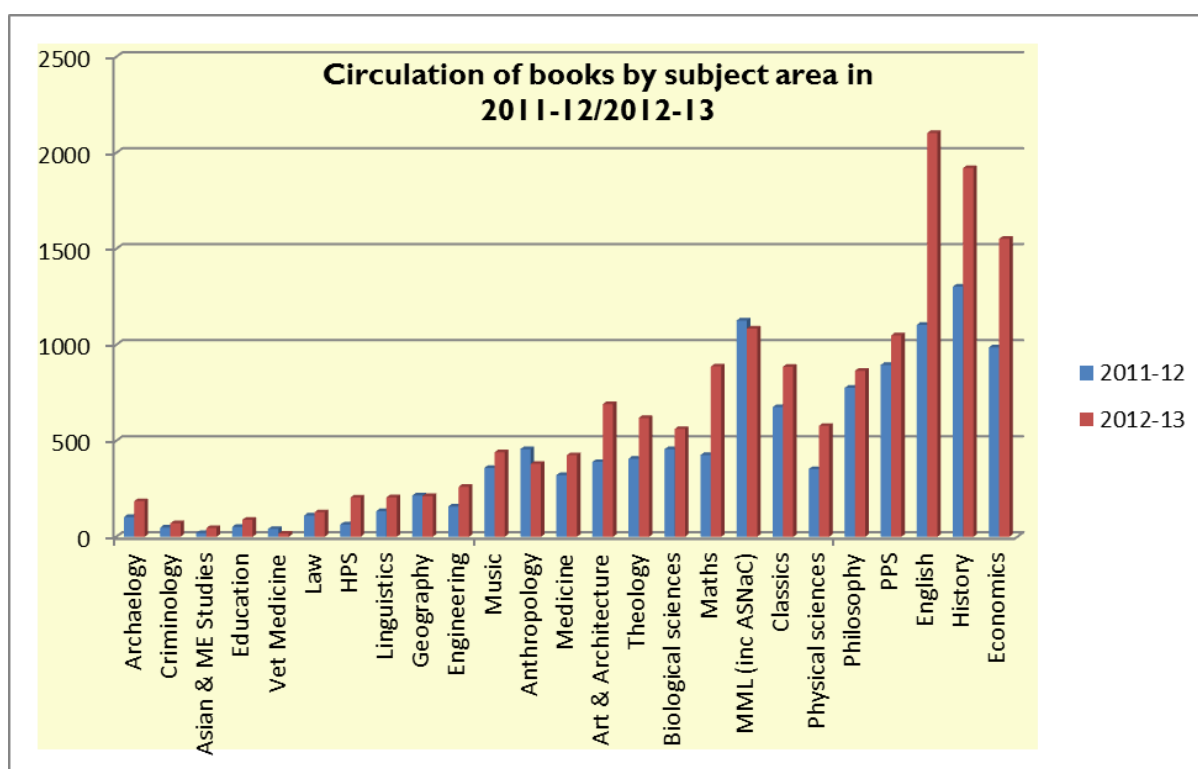


Figure 2. Circulation of books by subject area in 2011-12/2012-13

Janet Chow  
Academic Services Librarian

## Seminar and Audio-Visual Rooms

The popularity of the Seminar Room as a venue for supervisions, staff meetings and student-led study sessions did not wane this year: between October 2012 and September 2013 it was booked for over 1400 hours. The data projector and SmartBoard continue to behave themselves, somewhat begrudgingly, and have been utilised for many of those bookings. While the first-come first-served basis for reserving the room seems more straightforward and otherwise desirable than any other option, some concerns were expressed in Easter Term regarding the bulk bookings put in by a small number of students for revision meetings. During the 2014 exam term the room will be largely non-bookable, and made available instead as a simple extension of the Library's study space: the hope is that the undergraduates will find this, on the whole, fairer during that stressful period.



The Audio-Visual Room continues to grow in catalogue size and in visibility, with regular acquisitions largely in response to students' and Fellows' recommendations, and according to the whim of the Library Assistant. Meanwhile, alumnus Dr Terence Denman (PhD 1985) continues to be most generous in his frequent donations. While music recordings are often listened to on the equipment provided, in terms of

borrowing statistics the DVD collection has the edge: in the last year the Room's most popular items were *Pretty Woman*, *The History Boys* and *Black Swan*, closely followed by a course in Colloquial Mongolian, of which one can make what one will. A more user-friendly in-house classification system has been devised for this collection through consultation with both the previous and the current Graduate Trainees. The CD collection may well receive a similar overhaul next summer.

Adam Crothers  
Library Assistant

## The Old Library



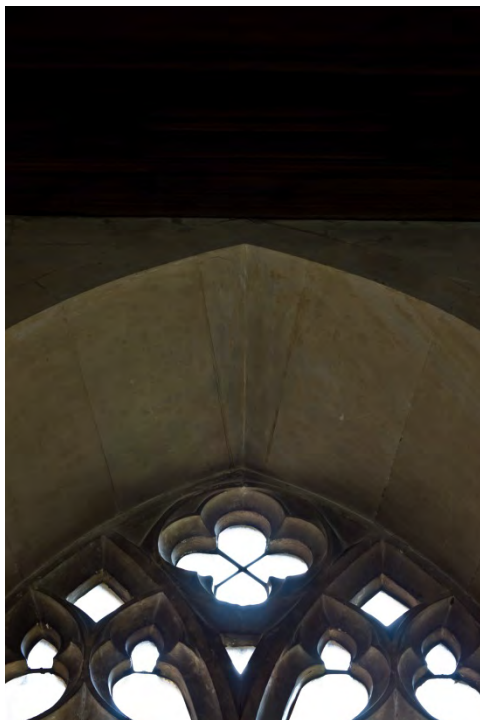
### Statistics

Action	2012-13	2011-12	2010-11
Readers consulting special collections material	326	363	314
Visitors taking a tour of the Old Library*	1251	1506	937
Letters filed	35	37	41
E-mail responses to enquiries	1216	1254	1265
Reproductions of special collections material processed at Cambridge University Library/Trinity College**	8	12	13
Reproductions of special collections material processed in house***	313 (+747 copies for one reader)	352	236
Permissions granted to reproduce special collections material in published works	90	101	86
Use of special collections material in connection with biographical work	35	46	57

\* Does not include visitors at public open days, booked groups, or educational visits.

\*\* We now have access to a scanner at Trinity College to make digital copies from microfilms.

\*\*\* Includes reproductions of material to answer biographical enquiries.



An analysis of our readership in 2012-13 shows that 30% of our readers were students. While the bulk of these, as might be expected, were undertaking doctoral research, 4.5% were studying at Masters level and a further 4.5% were undergraduates. It is encouraging that undergraduates are taking advantage of access to original sources in their studies. The majority of other readers used our collections as part of their research for books, articles, or conference papers, though research for exhibitions, television programmes, private interest, and family history were also cited as reasons to use our collections. During the essential preparatory work for the move of the Archives into the School of Pythagoras, twenty-eight readers consulting Archival material have been supervised in the Rare Books Reading Room.

While some measures of use have fallen slightly from the very high levels of 2011-12 (a year in which we were still feeling the effect of the Quincentenary), it is worth noting that the provision of digital copies has an impact on the numbers of visits and enquiries. The figure for reproductions in the table above covers only material newly photographed or scanned; it does not include all the copies provided to readers from existing digital images, of which we have a steadily increasing store. The ease with which material can be photographed now also means that a single email, accompanied by a digital image, may answer a complex enquiry which might previously have required an exchange of several messages. Many readers now take their own digital photographs too, under supervision, for private research purposes.

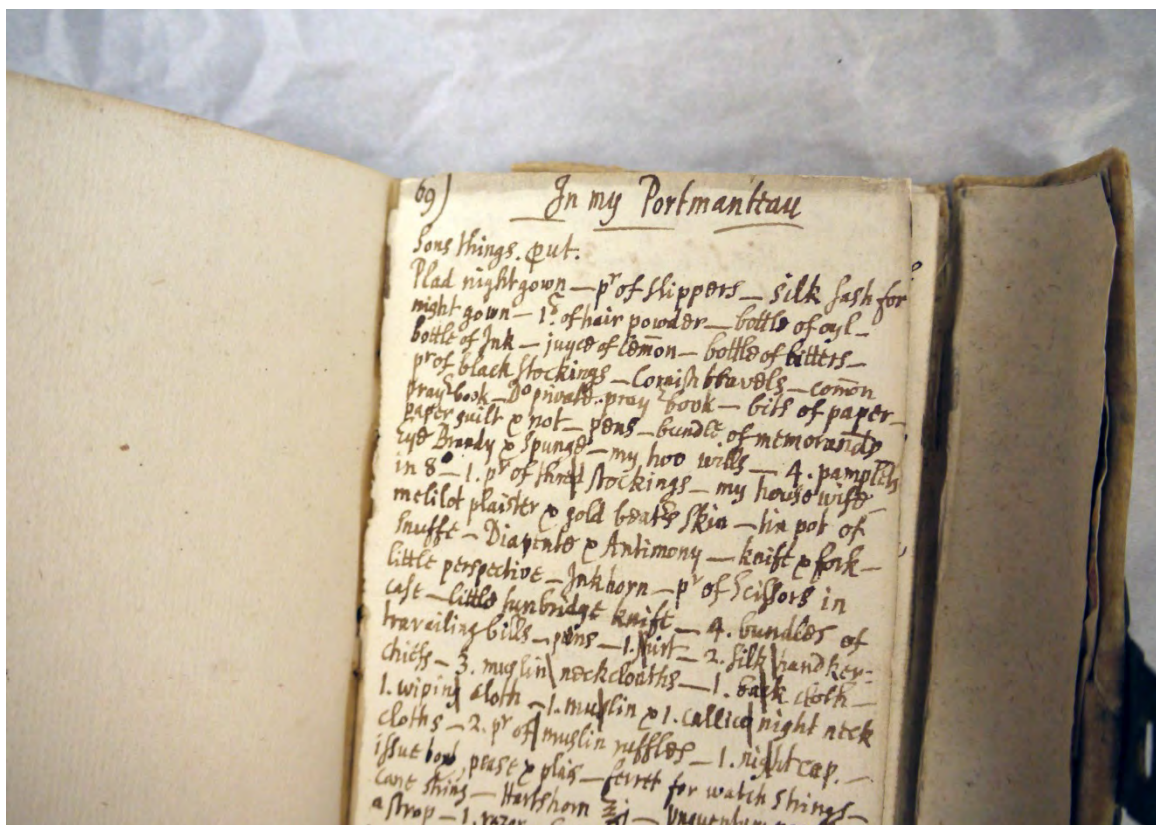
## Purchases

The collection development policy of the Old Library is to seek items of particular Johnian significance, and works which complement existing strengths in the collections. Acquisitions this year have included letters and works by Johnians and material relating to the Abolition of the Slave Trade.

- *C. Nepos Vitae excellentium imperatorum*. London, 1734. Bought from Samuel Gedge, November 2012 for £350.
- Five autograph letters from Fearon Fallows (BA 1813) to J. W. Whittaker (BA 1814). Bought from Jonathan Aldridge Books, March 2013 for £625.
- Autograph letter from J. W. Colenso (BA 1836), Bishop of Natal. Bought from Clive Farahar Rare Books, April 2013 for £175.
- J. Symons (Matric. 1782) *Synopsis plantarum*. London, 1798. Bought from Samuel Gedge, April 2013 for £250.
- *Ramsay Objections*, 1788. Bought from Bernard Quaritch, June 2013 for £450.

- Macaulay Antislavery reporter, 1823. Bought from Bernard Quaritch, June 2013 for £350.

In addition to the above purchases made through our regular antiquarian book budget, we have benefited from the income from the Noël Marshall fund, which has enabled us to add the following items of special significance to our collections:



Page from the bound autograph memorandum book of Narcissus Luttrell (Fellow Commoner 1673-4), 1704-6.

- Doctoral certificate in medicine awarded to Moses Griffith (Matric. 1742) by the University of Leiden, 1744. Bought from Samuel Gedge, April 2013 for £1250 + VAT.
- Autograph letters from Cecil Beaton (Matric. 1922) to Anita Loos, together with a photograph of Beaton. Bought from Clouds Hill Books, New York, May 2013 for \$2500.
- RUMP containing contributions by John Cleveland (BA 1631-2) (London, 1662). Bought from Tavistock Books, California, June 2013 for \$1300.
- Rules and orders, for the conduct and government of ... the Society established in Gateshead, for the preventing ... of felonies (Newcastle, 1790). Bought from Samuel Gedge, June 2013, for £540.

- G. Loysius, *Pervigilium Mercurii* (Spirae, 1600). Bought from Samuel Gedge, June 2013 for £850.
- Bound autograph memorandum book of Narcissus Luttrell (Fellow Commoner 1673-4), 1704-6. Bought from Bernard Quaritch, June 2013 for £7500.

## Donations

Hugh M. Stewart (BA 1950)

- Thomas Hughes, *Tom Brown at Oxford*, 1<sup>st</sup> ed. 1861. (James Wordie's copy)
- John Speed, *Theatre of the Empire of Great Britain*, 1614.
- Gilbert White, *Natural history of Selborne*, 1<sup>st</sup> ed. 1789.
- Robert Herrick, *Poems*, Kelmscott Press, 1895.

Mrs Susan Fisk

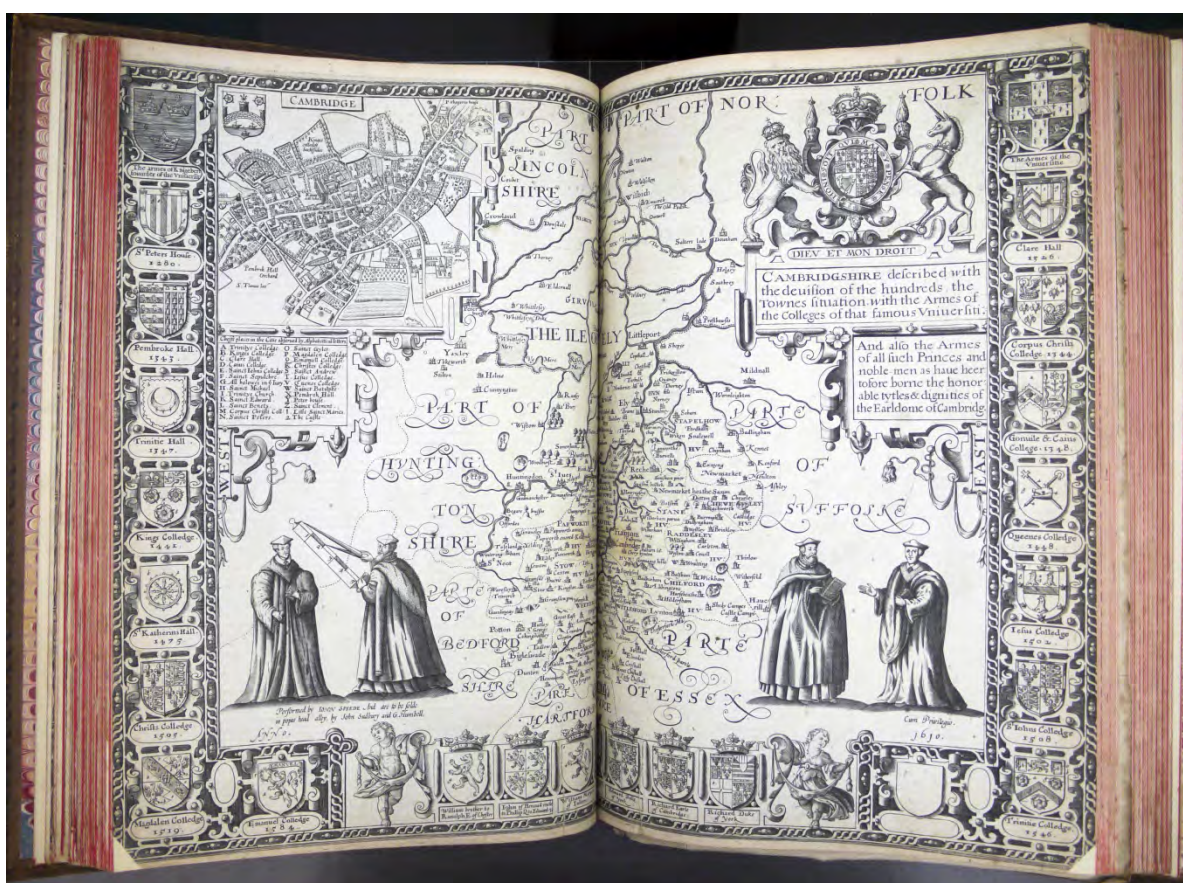
- Ambrose Philips, *The life of John Williams...*, 1700.

Frederick Sheard (PhD 1961)

- Notes taken at lectures given by Fred Hoyle, 1959.

Thomas B. C. Winch (BA 1953)

- A small collection of papers relating to his father Eric W. Winch (BA 1923) and himself.



Map of Cambridgeshire, from John Speed's *Theatre of the Empire of Great Britain*, 1614  
Donated by Hugh M. Stewart (BA 1950)

## Collections of papers which have been deposited

Douglas Adams papers.

Caltech Archives have deposited photocopies of the Fowler and Greenstein papers in their collections pertaining to Fred Hoyle.

## Visits (not including school groups)

- Psoriasis Association with Mr Jobling (August 2012)
- ACE Cultural Tours 'Art and Architecture of Cambridge' (August 2012)
- Groningen summer school (August 2012)
- English Faculty MSS class (October 2012)
- German exchange pupils with Johnian (October 2012)
- Norwegian visitors to see manuscripts with Prof. Beadle (October 2012)
- 'Dilettante' group (October 2012)
- MML postgraduate MSS classes (November 2012)
- Second year undergraduate English class – 18<sup>th</sup> century dictionaries (February 2013)
- Cambridge Archivists Group (March 2013)
- MML undergraduate MSS classes x 3 (March 2013)
- Homerton Senior Members (May 2013)
- University students from Switzerland with Prof. Christian Hesse (June 2013)
- Attendees at Dirac conference (June 2013)
- Brazilian visitors (June 2013)
- Bishop's Stortford College (June 2013)
- Attendees at Samuel Butler Conference (July 2013)

## Events

- Open Cambridge (September 2012) *Treasures* exhibition. (Over 1000 visitors)
- Festival of Ideas (October-November 2012) *Dreams of Freedom* exhibition plus two interactive workshops on *Imaginary Lands*. (509 visitors plus 53 workshop participants)
- Butler Day (January 2013) *Samuel Butler in Italy* exhibition plus three talks. (330 visitors plus 214 attendees at the talks)
- Science Festival (March 2013) *Johnian scientists* exhibition. (451 visitors)
- Butler Day (May 2013) *Highlights of the Butler Collection* exhibition, plus two talks. (650 visitors plus 70 attendees at each talk)

The Upper Library was open with a display of treasures for graduands and their families following General Admission.





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

The BBC filmed in the Upper Library for *The career of Thomas Cromwell and his legacy*.

ITV Anglia news filmed an interview with A. A. Adelakun (Niyi) in the Upper Library.

NHK TV filmed the bust of Paul Dirac for a Japanese TV documentary on particle physics.

The Upper Library was photographed for the new edition of Pevsner's *Buildings of England*, and used as the venue for a Hawks' Club official photograph.

## Conservation and preservation



The Cambridge Conservation Consortium have continued to work on priority items for conservation from the Upper Library, together with key items from the Samuel Butler Collection. One of Cecil Beaton's diaries was also repaired. A successful funding bid to the National Manuscripts Conservation Trust has enabled two of our manuscripts to undergo comprehensive conservation: the College's Foundation Charter from the Archives, and manuscript G.23, John Barbour's *Brus*. The latter is a fragile 15<sup>th</sup> century manuscript written on paper, which has suffered from inappropriate modern re-binding making it difficult to use or display. Given the imminent 700<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Battle of Bannockburn, described vividly in the text, it is particularly timely that it should be repaired and conserved.

Environmental conditions in the Lower Library have proved a serious cause for concern this year. A wet summer and autumn saw an outbreak of mould at the river end of the Lower Library, which was treated by the Conservation Consortium in November 2012. Fans and dehumidifiers were deployed in the affected areas during staffed hours. Unfortunately, the sustained hot spell in July 2013 brought a recurrence of the problem on a much wider scale. The Conservation Consortium again came in to treat the worst affected collections, and Philip Bolton has commenced a systematic cleaning programme in the Lower Library. Further dehumidifiers have been brought in, but diurnal fluctuations in relative humidity continue at a worrying level and collections remain at risk. Mould is not a new issue in the Lower Library, and it is clear that *ad hoc* measures are failing to address the underlying problems within the building. A more effective long-term solution is required to provide a suitable environment for the storage of our unique Designated collections.

The combination of heat and humidity in July and August 2013 also provided ideal hatching conditions for bread beetle larvae. All previously infected volumes were repeatedly checked for further infestation throughout the summer. Sixteen volumes were found to have been re-infested. Given that conditions were so favourable for the beetle in 2013, this perhaps indicates that the problem, though still present, is at least gradually diminishing. Affected volumes have been sent to Harwell Document Restoration Services for freeze drying treatment.

## Exhibitions in the Library Exhibition Area

### Michaelmas 2012

- *Johnians in the physical sciences* curated by Rachel Walker
- Art exhibition by Sam Motherwell 2-9 November 2012
- Art exhibition by Viv Westbrook January 2013

### Lent 2013

- *College bridges in art and photography*

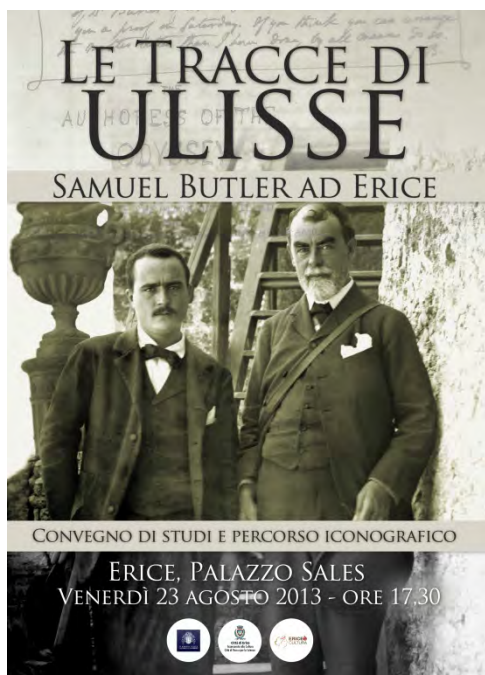
### Easter 2013

- St John's College art and photography competition, curated by the Librarian's Assistant

### Summer 2013

- *Women at St John's* curated by the 2012-13 Graduate Trainee, YiWen Hon





Poster from the 'Samuel Butler ad Erice' conference 2013, by Luigi Giannitrapani

## Loans

Copies of material from the Library and Archives relating to Henry Martyn were displayed in an exhibition in the Antechapel during Michaelmas Term 2012.

Copies of two photographs by Samuel Butler were exhibited at the Fundación Juan March in Madrid in their exhibition *Treasure Island: British Art from Holbein to Hockney*, from 5 October 2012 to 20 January 2013.

Copies of material from the Samuel Butler Collection were also displayed at a conference *Samuel Butler ad Erice*, held in Sicily in August 2013.

A total of twenty-three items from the Cecil Beaton Collection, including wartime diaries and related correspondence, were displayed at the Imperial War Museum from 6 September 2012 to 2 January 2013 in their exhibition *Cecil Beaton: Theatre of War*.

The *Liber Memorialis* (MS K.18) and several early printed books associated with Crashaw were loaned to Peterhouse in April 2013 for an exhibition to accompany a conference on Richard Crashaw, poet and son of William Crashaw.

## Projects

With assistance from the Conservation Consortium, the Library and Archives are participating in a parchment project based at York University which is developing a non-invasive technique to analyse parchment. Early results enable identification of the animal used to make the parchment. The project's long-term goal, once a large enough database from manuscripts that can be dated and located from other evidence is assembled, is to refine the technique to date undated manuscripts and identify the geographic region in which they were made. We are delighted that data from our manuscripts can contribute to the development of new research methods.

## Staffing

Allen Purvis, Rare Books Cataloguer for the Upper Library, Lower Library, and Basement re-cataloguing projects, retired from St John's at the end of October 2012, and his expertise will be much missed. The Old Library also bid farewell to Rebecca Watts at the end of June 2013. The Butler Project attracted a wide new audience for our collections through exhibitions, talks, educational visits, and online. While Rebecca is now tackling new challenges in the Working Library, the legacy of that project will be lasting: not just in the comprehensive catalogue making the Butler Collection accessible to scholars worldwide, but in the work to preserve the materials for future generations, and the skills and knowledge that staff have developed in public engagement and outreach. Having lost two such knowledgeable members of staff, the Old Library is delighted to welcome Mandy Marvin to the new post of Manuscripts Cataloguer on a three-year contract. Mandy will be tackling the

cataloguing of personal papers and modern manuscript collections. Library Assistant Adam Crothers spends one afternoon each week in the Rare Books Reading Room, assisting with special collections work and the supervision of readers.

The Old Library has also benefited from the help of volunteers. Our regular volunteer, Chris Krupa, continues to work one day a week, mostly on personal papers. Maria Hamaker volunteered one afternoon a week until the end of June, assisting with the Samuel Butler Project.

A final word of appreciation must be added. The Old Library has for many years benefitted from the great generosity of Professor Joseph Zund. His kindness has in recent years extended to sponsorship of a volume containing information on fifty very special Treasures from the Collections. Publication of this volume is scheduled for 2014 and there will be much more to say on the matter in the next Report.

Kathryn McKee  
Special Collections Librarian



Photograph by Patti Rundall

## The Biographical Office



### General overview

As the central repository of biographical information on Johnians from throughout the history of the College, the Biographical Office's work over the last twelve months has been typically busy and varied. The table below offers an insight into the volume of biographical information received, and some of the work undertaken.

Action	2012-13	2011-12	2010-11
Biographical material received	3936	2831	2870
Biographical Archive consulted	723	782	822
Items filed in Biographical Archive	414	661	420
Emails and letters sent	2588	2658	2300
Tutorial files consulted	145	72	89
Proactive research	2609	3455	3650

### Record Updates

Since the Office has responsibility for the biographical records of 43,000 Johnians, around half of whom have records on the Biographical Database, there is always a substantial amount of data entry to be done.

Information on new students, Fellows, and other members of the College was mainly entered by Rachel Walker, covering as Projects Assistant during Sam Lewsey's maternity leave, and her assistance with this task is much appreciated. She has also undertaken many other projects for the Biographical Office over the last year. The Graduate Trainee 2012-13, YiWen Hon, and the Librarian's Assistant also took on some data entry.

Owing to the number of emails and letters received, and our attempts to be proactive in seeking out information on our alumni, it would be impossible for the Biographical Assistant and the Biographical Librarian to process all the data without the assistance of those other members of the Library team whose jobs allow a certain percentage of their time for biographical work. There is, however, still a backlog of work when it comes to the updating of records, and it is unrealistic to think there will ever be a stage where the Office is completely up to date on the recording of information on all members of the College, past and present.



As there is a lot of information received from different sources, some of which is contradictory, straightforward data entry tasks are few and far between, and the reality is that updating records can be time-consuming and requires a high level of attention to detail.

On a monthly basis, the Biographical Assistant continues to monitor updates provided by both the College and the University Development Offices: the former by way of manual checking and manipulation of data, often necessitating further investigation and research, and the latter in much the same way, though the updates are delivered rather than sought.

This level of quality control ensures that the exercise is no mere duplication of effort. For example, one career entry added to the fundraising and alumni relations database Raiser's Edge (sourced or un-sourced) can, with further research, lead to an entire career's worth of information. In a similar fashion, data provided by Cambridge University Development Office also needs some level of quality control, not because it necessarily leads to more information, but because by some quirk of reporting it often provides information some years out of date.

Prompted by a request to check the list of Honorary Fellows for *Cambridge University Reporter*, and a query from someone else over the titling conventions for our Honorary Fellows who are also Life Peers, we gave the entire list a thorough overhaul. This provided us with the opportunity to look at the list as a whole piece

of work, rather than the incremental build up it had become from adding and amending individual records each year. As a result, the list is now more accurate than ever, and will serve as a solid basis for future additions and changes.



The Biographical Librarian is responsible for administering notifications of the death of members of the College and, as 140 deaths were reported to the College in the last year or discovered through proactive research, this continues to be a key task in the Office's remit. All death notifications are researched, with biographical information checked and updated, and information on next of kin verified, in order that the Master may write a letter of condolence. With the news of someone's death often comes a lot of new information about their life that was previously unknown to the College, so this also leads to the updating of records, and necessitates some more data checking if the information in obituaries conflicts with what we already have on file.



## Honours and Learned Societies

We continue to monitor various learned societies and the Queen's Honours lists on a rolling basis, always looking for new societies to bring into the annual programme. While the following isn't reflective of every list or society checked, Johnians have proved to be a constant feature amongst the country's most prestigious honours this year.

- 1 Knighthood (Knight Bachelor)
- 1 LVO (Lieutenant of the Royal Victorian Order)
- 1 CBE (Commander of the Order of the British Empire)
- 3 OBEs (Officer of the Order of the British Empire)
- 1 MBE (Member of the Order of the British Empire)
- 1 Life Peerage
- 2 Fellows of the Royal Society
- 4 Fellows of the British Academy
- 1 Gold Medal in Astronomy, from the Royal Astronomical Society
- 1 Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences

Increased autonomy over the publication of such announcements to the website has meant a much quicker turnaround, with some announcements appearing as a news item the same day, or very shortly thereafter.

In addition to the checking of new awards, progress has been made towards publishing historic lists of award winners on the College website, with a full list of Copley Medallists (the Royal Society's most prestigious award) joining a reformatted version of the Royal Medal recipients on a dedicated page. The aim is to continue expanding this section with other awards from the Royal Society, and to add a dedicated piece on Nobel Laureates, and other lists besides. In a similar fashion, progress is being made behind the scenes on more fully featured lists of famous Johnians and historic lists of College Officers: these will, we hope, be well established by the time of the next Annual Report.

## Newspaper cuttings

The College was one of the earliest clients of the International Press Cutting Bureau (IPCB), receiving regular cuttings from the 1930s onwards. The Librarian's Assistant's duties in support of the Biographical Office include processing newspaper cuttings received via this service, and from other sources.

Occasionally staff, Fellows and alumni will send in articles they have spotted in the press, but the regular searching of Factiva, a database of news coverage from around the world, is an increasingly useful source of coverage regarding the College and its members. New biographical information from such articles, and other sources such as the student press, is added to individual records.

Enquirers sometimes report that they have never before come across certain old press cuttings that we have on file for the members of College they are researching.



This applies particularly to local newspapers, which may make reference to positions held that would not be noted in the national press, and can be of particular interest to biographers, or to those researching their family history. Continuing the tradition of gleanng biographical information on members of the College from published information is therefore a valuable endeavour.

A breakdown of the subject-matter of press coverage appears below.

<b>Subject</b>	<b>2012-13</b>	<b>2011-12</b>	<b>2010-11</b>
Johnians	222	339	57
General College	139	165	59
St John's Innovation Centre	55	61	72
Choir	36	51	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>452</b>	<b>616</b>	<b>198</b>

### **Biographical Enquiries**

The number given earlier in this report for emails and letters sent regarding biographical work (2588) 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 pattern of enquiries, in terms of which century they relate to, is shown below, along with the previous two years' figures for comparison.

<b>Century</b>	<b>2012-13</b>	<b>2011-12</b>	<b>2010-11</b>
Sixteenth	6	6	10
Seventeenth	7	8	10
Eighteenth	12	10	13
Nineteenth	66	58	62
Twentieth	257	262	247
Twenty-First	32	29	27
More than one century/Other	14	16	17
<b>Total</b>	<b>394</b>	<b>389</b>	<b>386</b>

The figures given above relate to the number of enquiries rather than the number of Johnians on whom information has been provided. Some requests for information involve groups of people, several members of the same family, and so on, but this is counted as only one enquiry. If the number of individuals on whom information was provided was added up, the figures would be substantially higher. The amount of time spent on this work can vary from a few minutes to several days, depending on the nature of the enquiry. An enquiry regarding a Johnian who attended the College in the 1500s may be easier to attend to than one focusing on the twentieth century, as more sources may need to be checked regarding the latter enquiry.

Many enquiries lead to us discovering new information about members of the College. This can particularly be the case with genealogical enquiries concerning ancestors of only one or two generations back, where the enquirer already has a lot

of information and is only hoping for some educational details. In many such cases, family and career information that the College did not previously hold may be supplied by the relative. The Biographical Collection is further developed as a result of such connections.

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.

- Cambridge University Athletes 1911-20
- Academics in the field of Economics
- Guests at the Erewhon dinners 1908-14
- Oldest living Johnians
- Career destinations of holders of certain scholarship recipients
- Irishmen who served in the Great War
- Cambridge University Rambling Club
- African and Caribbean alumni
- Connections with Carmel College
- Senior Bursars of the College

Whilst most of the enquiries are handled by the Biographical Librarian, other members of staff have provided valuable assistance in response to some requests.

The figures above only include specific requests for information and do not take into account certain tasks which are regularly performed as a matter of course. If a relative asks for biographical information on a recently deceased relative, this is dealt with as part of the general work the Biographical Librarian carries out in connection with the death of members of the College and is not treated as a separate enquiry. There are also tasks that involve querying the Biographical Database on an annual basis, for example supplying the Master with information to enable birthday wishes to be extended to Johnians who have reached the age of 90 or 100. A great deal of positive feedback has been received from alumni who have appreciated being remembered by the College in this way.

Fiona Colbert and Paul Everest  
Biographical Librarian and Biographical Assistant



## The College Archives

Where has 2013 gone? When I arrived at St John's I was told I had two years to prepare the collection for its relocation to the School of Pythagoras, which is now only eight months away! A lot has happened in the Archive this year. It has certainly been a year of change and growth, for me as well as the collection.

### Outreach

I have done my best this year to be the voice of the College Archives. In the last eighteen months three online exhibitions have been launched: *St John's Top 5*, *Special Collections Spotlight* and *Interesting Johnians*.



Front elevation of a dog carving from Shrewsbury Tower, Second Court

There are plans for another but this may have to wait until after the move to the School of Pythagoras.

Working with Alumni Relations and the Development Office, I hosted an exhibition and gave a short talk on Johnian generosity at Donors' Day in spring 2013. I am hoping to work more closely with the Development Office in the upcoming years.



Pig on College farm in Skeffling, Humber Bank (East Yorkshire)

In addition to Donors' Day, the Archives (with some help from the rest of the Library) have played host to a hugely popular Cambridge Archivists' Group meeting, an exhibition of Pig Club memorabilia at the Club's Annual Garden Party, two tours for the Friends of the Fitzwilliam Museum and one for the Brontë Society. I also worked with Cambridgeshire County Council to host an event to coincide with the digitization of the Manorial Documents Register.

Student inductions for this year have been scheduled with the Tutorial Department and I will be hosting a Research Skills Workshop on Archives for the University Library in November.

I have also travelled outside Cambridge to speak at two Archives Association events about the College's Archive and Library outreach and online projects.

## Records Management

The new College Records Retention Schedule is complete and is ready to be put into action. I will be re-visiting College departments to ensure everyone understands the new system and can begin using it; this should help with the eventual implementation of an Electronic Document and Records Management System. With the help of a new Records Management Database and the support of Projects Assistant Rachel Walker, 107 records management boxes have been listed and filled. This project will continue with further support from the Library until February 2014.

## School of Pythagoras



Work continues on the School of Pythagoras. The new lift installation is complete and 'Power on' testing and commissioning is programmed for the beginning of November. The lift shaft cladding (in lime washed oak boards) has also been completed.

The new plaster parabolic ceiling is finished and services are now being integrated into the central spine (fire detection, fresh air grilles and lighting).

The specialist joinery and ironmongery packages have been finalised and new frames and doors have been fabricated, with relevant ironmongery delivered to site. The new bronze screens dividing the muniments room, reading room and the fire escape stairwell have been installed. New lighting to the ground floor and the fire suppression installation are also complete.

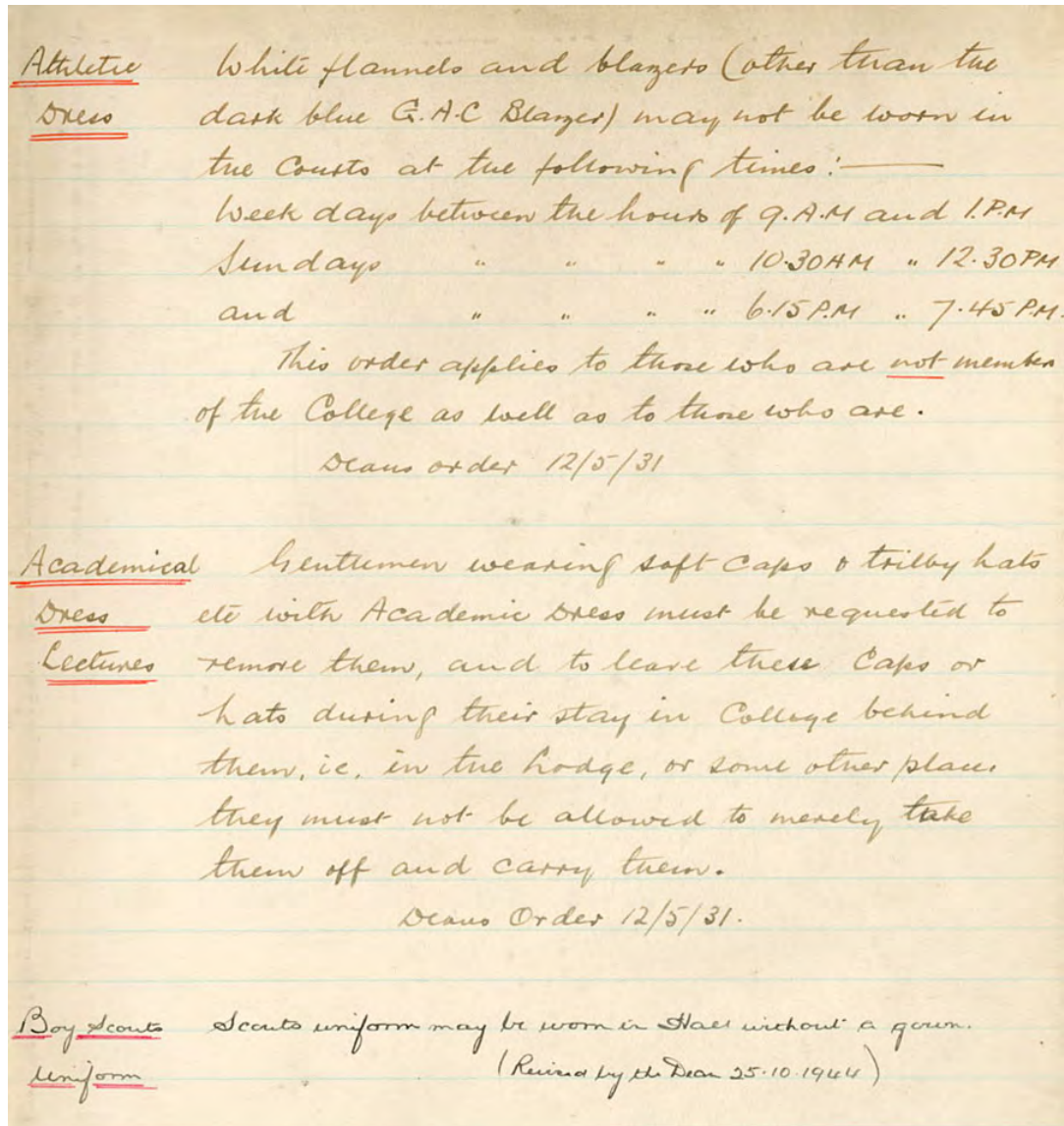
The new rolling storage racks have had their track laid on to the existing concrete floor after the application of a levelling screed. The existing wood block flooring that was removed earlier has been returned and laid, ready for sanding and sealing.

New ramps and steps have been formed, together with retaining walls, ready to receive final copings and resin bonded gravel surfaces. These ramps will provide disabled access to the main entrance porch of the building.



Preparation for the move also continues in the Archives. I have been lucky enough to have a number of volunteers this year who have done a tremendous amount of work. So far 216 new archive boxes have been filled; all 3000 maps and plans have been measured and approximately 2000 of them have been re-housed into 145 new conservation-grade folders and specialized tubes; 318 volumes have been located and listed.

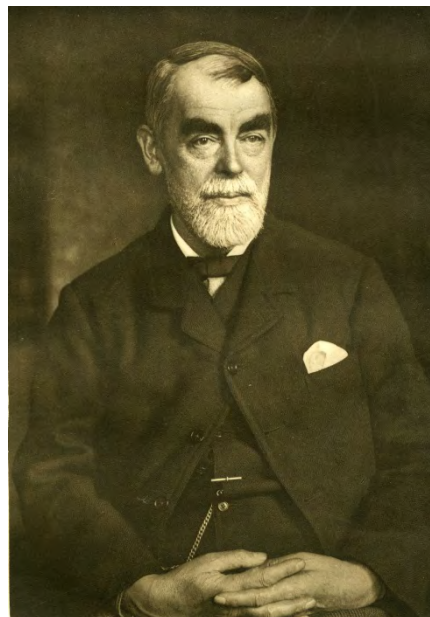
Tracy Wilkinson  
College Archivist



Page from Porters' Instructions Notebook

## The Samuel Butler Project: A Retrospective

Largely ignored during his lifetime, Samuel 'Erewhon' Butler (1835-1902, BA 1859) would surely have been delighted (and somewhat bemused) to know that, more than a century after his death, thousands of people would visit his old College to attend exhibitions and talks relating to his life and works.



From 1 July 2011 to 30 June 2013 the Library was host to the Samuel Butler Project – a Heritage Lottery Funded initiative to catalogue and open up an internationally significant collection of material relating to this eccentric and prolific Victorian. A substantial quantity of original material has resided at St John's since 1920, deposited by Butler's friend and biographer Henry Festing Jones, and subsequently the collection has grown to include newer editions of published works by and about Butler, as well as a wealth of correspondence and papers generated by Festing Jones and Butler's later literary executors. Without a functioning catalogue, however, the collection remained inaccessible to all but the most intrepid academics who could afford the time to trawl through the 100 or so boxes (and much else besides) in search of a gem of information relevant to their research.



The major aim of the Butler Project was to generate a comprehensive, searchable catalogue of the entire collection, to replace the short printed catalogue published by Henry Festing Jones way back in 1921. Following two years of full-time attention from the Butler Project Associate, this aim has been achieved and the catalogue is now freely accessible online via the Janus website (<http://janus.lib.cam.ac.uk>). These days a catalogue represents much more than a finding-aid for Library staff and visitors to the collection. Because its content is completely

open-access, internet search engines can retrieve information from anywhere inside the catalogue, thereby turning up items of interest to researchers who may not otherwise have known of the existence of the Samuel Butler Collection at St John's. As a direct consequence, since the commencement of the Butler Project more than forty individuals – almost half of whom are based outside the UK – have contacted the Library with enquiries relating to the Butler Collection. A further eleven researchers have visited the Library to consult material that came to light in the process of cataloguing the collection.

The Heritage Lottery Fund grant also enabled vital conservation work to be carried out on a number of significant items in the Butler Collection. Among those undergoing repair, repackaging or other preservation measures were Butler's first-edition copy of Darwin's *Origin of Species* and his heavily annotated volumes of Lamarck's *Philosophie Zoologique*; the autograph manuscripts of Butler's *Iliad* and *Odyssey* translations; two rare eighteenth-century prints owned by Butler; two photograph albums; and a passport issued to Butler for travel on the continent in 1895. In addition, the digital scanning of a large batch of Butler's original glass plate negatives was completed, ensuring the long-term preservation of his substantial photographic legacy.



Management of the collection was only half of the focus of the Butler Project, however. The potential for Samuel Butler – a polymath seemingly interested in everything – to inspire more than just an academic audience had long been recognised by the Library, and substantial effort was put into developing resources and organising events for the public. Following an initial exhibition of items from the Butler Collection during the Cambridge Festival of Ideas in October 2011, two dedicated 'Butler Days' were hosted, comprising free exhibitions and talks. The first, held during the 2012 Cambridge Science Festival, took Butler's work on evolution for its theme, and brought a total of 690 visitors into the Library. The second, in January 2013, looked at Butler's adventures in Italy, and attracted 544 participants. A 'finale' event in celebration of the Butler Project was held in May 2013 and featured an exhibition of highlights from the Butler Collection plus two brilliant talks by Dr Simon Heffer and Professor Roger Robinson, on Butler as a Victorian controversialist and Butler as a surprise champion of cross-country running respectively. With a total audience of just under 800 over the course of the day, the event created a tangible buzz around the collection and elicited new enthusiasms in many who would otherwise not have encountered Butler's works or thought. Attendance figures at each of these events far exceeded expectation, and it was a delight to see so many enjoying access to the collections.



Augmenting the impact of these public events, the website dedicated to the Butler Project ([www.joh.cam.ac.uk/samuel-butler-project](http://www.joh.cam.ac.uk/samuel-butler-project)) continues to provide access to a wide range of resources – including online exhibitions, talk recordings, and a month-by-month diary documenting the project – as well as information about the collection, listings of individuals currently working on Butler, and details of institutions with associated archival holdings. Another product of the project also accessible through the website is ‘Butler on the Map’, a showcase for more than 250 of Butler’s superb photographs, displayed on an interactive world map. As well as charting the extensive European travels of a Victorian man of letters, this online gallery reveals Butler’s considerable talent for photography and his empathy for the people and situations he encountered along the way.



The opportunity not only to uncover and document but to tap into the potential of such a rich collection does not come along often. Over the past two years the Samuel Butler Project has boosted the Library’s general capacity for outreach, by identifying aspects of the collections that can engage new audiences in a variety of ways, and by designing activities and resources that can be carried forward in our on-going education and outreach programme. We are grateful to the Heritage Lottery Fund and the College for funding this timely initiative, and look forward to assisting future generations of researchers in utilizing the Samuel Butler Collection.

Rebecca Watts  
Butler Project Associate, 2011-13

**Images in this report:** Samuel Butler, photographed by Alfred Cathie in 1898; part of the Butler collection, housed in the Old Library; Samuel Butler’s passport from 1895; visitors to the exhibition during the Butler Project finale event, 11 May 2013; ‘Blind man & children near Greenwich’, 6 May 1894 and ‘Novara Market Place’, 19 September 1892, by Samuel Butler.

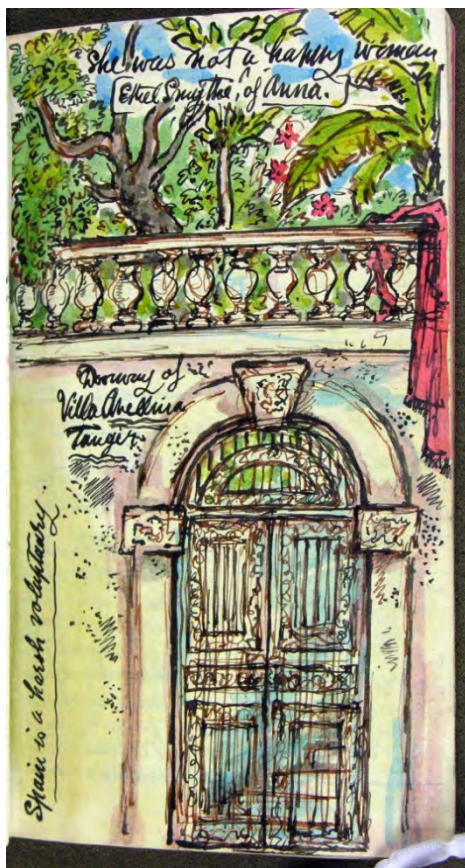


Supported by  
**The National Lottery**<sup>®</sup>  
through the Heritage Lottery Fund





## Manuscripts Cataloguing Projects



Page from the diary of Stephen Tennant, close friend of Cecil Beaton

With the clash of summer punting parties now giving way to the buzz of new and returning students, I am turning from initial reconnaissance missions to getting properly stuck in to my role as Manuscripts Cataloguer. I have already enjoyed 'meeting' Cecil Beaton (1922) and the economist Claude William Guillebaud (1909; Fellow, 1915-71) whilst cataloguing small accessions of their papers received this year and a whole host of other material awaits.

The list of manuscripts and personal papers currently requiring attention runs to four pages and naturally we anticipate additional deposits. The four largest collections at present fill about forty-five linear metres of shelving in their assorted stacks and boxes.

I have established a work-table and numbered up the racking in the Library's Divinity School store to create location codes and serve as a basis for temporary reference numbers for unlisted material. I have also started to flatten some rolled posters and photographs from one collection in preparation for eventual repackaging.

For each deposit, the work ahead will involve varying amounts of weeding, general preservation tasks (such as de-metalling, unfolding and cleaning of surfaces), organising, cataloguing and indexing, repackaging, and preparing other finding aids.

In addition to creating hard copy and online catalogues, I intend to prepare descriptions for inclusion on at least the Archives Hub and any other appropriate union catalogues and archive portals, as well as contributing accessions and catalogues data to the National Register of Archives. It will be interesting to see how much time begins to be occupied with responding to enquiries as the catalogues are disseminated and the papers opened up for consultation.

Meanwhile, in September a researcher with a book deadline was able to use one of the unlisted collections by kind courtesy of the depositor. I was able to identify enough material and roughly list it in such a way as to help him make the best use of his limited research time and spare both the papers and us the wholesale excavation of dishevelled box-contents.

As I change from work in county record offices I'm encountering new kinds of archives, such as those of scientists, authors, architects and artists, each with its own special

considerations and language. In November I will attend the Group for Literary Archives and Manuscripts cataloguing symposium at the British Library — excellent timing, as my first priority this year is a literary collection. I plan to have a box-list inventory of it prepared by the time I attend the symposium so that I can get all the more out of the day's discussions, and as I work I am jotting questions for posing to colleagues at the meeting. I have already been finding the new guidelines produced by the Group useful, particularly the descriptive terms.

I am also starting to learn descriptive standards and terms for cataloguing manuscripts, and am keen to learn a lot about special collections, which will gradually make me a more able assistant in the Rare Books Reading Room.

I am looking forward to establishing contacts with other archivists working on similar collections, as well as amassing a bank of Useful and Friendly Brains I can pick regarding specialist matters. It is a pleasure, and very reassuring, to know that the depositors of many of these wonderful collections are willing to be consulted when needed, as well.

Mandy Marvin  
Manuscripts Cataloguer



From this...



...to this!

## Education and Outreach



The Library has had a very busy year in terms of education and outreach, with more school visits than any previous year and record numbers at the public events run in conjunction with the University festivals. New partnerships across Cambridge have been instituted and old ones strengthened. Historic, rare and unusual items from the Special Collections have been put to good use as the foundation for educational and cultural activities for all ages.

### Educational Visits

This year, the magnificent setting of the seventeenth-century Old Library has hosted a total of thirty-one visits from schools, colleges and other educational institutions, with over five hundred individual pupils and teachers coming to visit. The majority were from the local Cambridgeshire area, but others came from as far afield as Bolton, Hull and even Germany.



Developing our collaborative approach of working with other Cambridge institutions, educational visits have been run jointly with the Museum of Cambridge (formerly the Cambridge and County Folk Museum), Kettle's Yard, and the Faculty of Divinity as well as with the Schools Liaison Officers of other Cambridge Colleges including Pembroke, Trinity and St Catharine's. The

Library has also worked very closely with St John's own Access Officer, Carly Walsh, to include taught sessions and exhibits in the Old Library as part of designated Access Schools' visits to the College. These sessions are designed to encourage application to Cambridge by pupils from less advantaged backgrounds.

The most popular subjects for the 2012-13 year reflect recent changes in the National Curriculum. English literature and language based visits have seen a great uptake as have sessions on the abolition of the Slave Trade for which the Library makes use of its extensive collection of papers, diaries and books relating to the Johnian abolitionists William Wilberforce (BA 1781) and Thomas Clarkson (BA 1783). The imaginative and creative session 'Curator for an Hour' designed by the Butler Project Associate was re-run with a very enthusiastic and engaged audience of AS-level students who got a glimpse of the behind-the-scenes work that goes into designing and curating a Library exhibition.

## Public Engagement



Once again the Old Library welcomed members of the public through its vast oak door to peer at bookcases and shelf-lists and enjoy the treasures from the Special Collections. Continuing our tradition of participation in the University festivals and open days, the Library ran free public exhibitions for the Cambridge Science Festival (Johnian physicists and mathematicians), Open Cambridge (Treasures of the Library) and the Festival of Ideas (Dreams of Freedom: the abolition of the Slave Trade). As well as these events, the Butler Project Associate ran not one, but two, Butler Days showcasing the varied life and works of Samuel Butler. Each public event was very well-attended, with this year's Open Cambridge receiving over a thousand visitors. The total number of public guests in the Library for the year amounts to more than 2500.

Each event and exhibition received very positive feedback, some of which is reproduced in this Annual Report on page 67. The Library's commitment to educational and outreach events and public engagement shows that St John's College is one of the most welcoming and outward-looking institutions in Cambridge. Through these events, our Special Collections continue to serve their original purpose of education, and people who might otherwise never have the chance to see inside a Cambridge College have the opportunity to use these fantastic resources.

## Looking Ahead

The Library to some extent became a victim of its own success in 2012-13, with educational events taking up large amounts of staff time and resources. For 2013-14 the plan is to scale back on visits that are not subject-specific while updating sessions for those subjects in which the Special Collections are strongest. Relationships with long-term partner schools and institutions will be developed and return visits encouraged. New sessions will be devised to better fit the requirements of the ever-changing National Curriculum guidelines.

In late 2013, the Librarian's Assistant will be transferring to a new College department, the Communications Office, to take the position of Press, Publicity and Communities Officer. This new role will still hold responsibility for education, outreach and public engagement with an educational remit that extends beyond the Library and covers community groups as well as schools. This is an exciting development that should lead to a more cohesive education and outreach strategy for the Library and the College as a whole.

Ryan Cronin  
Librarian's Assistant



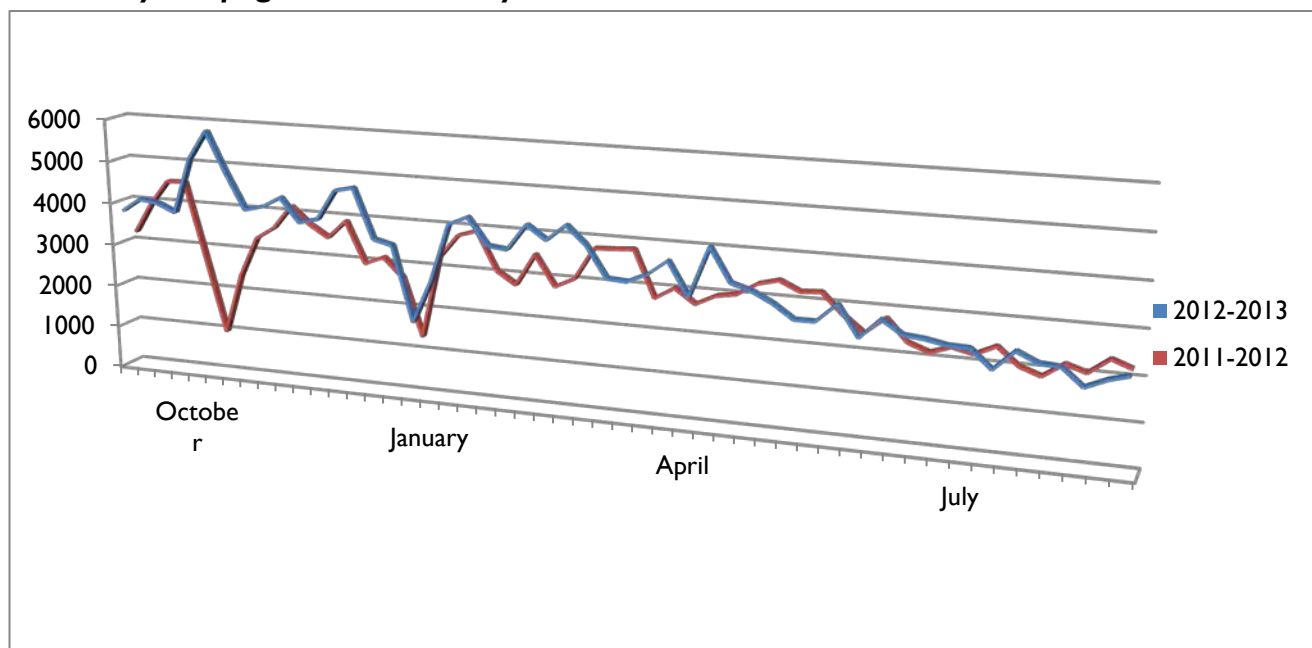
## New Media

The screenshot shows the St John's College Library website. At the top, there are navigation menus for 'DISCOVER ST JOHN'S' (with sub-links for Chapel & Choir, Library, and Hospitality), 'APPLYING', 'ACADEMIC LIFE', and 'JOHNIANS'. A search bar is located on the right. Below the navigation is a banner image of books. The main content area features a section for 'The Library' with a description of its two sections (Old and Working Library). To the right, there is a featured exhibition titled 'Women & St John's College' with a date range of 04/06/2013 - 11/10/2013. Below the exhibition title is a small image of a woman and a building. To the right of the exhibition are three dark blue buttons with white text: 'Working Library 24/7 student access', 'Special Collections Historic treasures', and 'Outreach School visits, Exhibitions...'. At the bottom of the exhibition section is a 'Read more...' link.

### The Library Website

The Library website continues to offer a wealth of information to current and prospective members of the College, as well as researchers, teachers and the general public. It provides a quick and easy point of contact for Library users to access multiple layers of information, whether the latest Library news, the rich online catalogue of medieval manuscripts or the latest issue of the Annual Report. Overall, the Library webpages have received a marked increase in visitors this academic year. Visitor traffic has increased by 14.76%, from 154,704 visits to 177,537. As the table below indicates, certain pages have seen a much greater increase still. School resources in the Education section have received an impressive amount of traffic, and it is very encouraging to see clicks through to the Library catalogue increasing by more than 50%. Another strong area of growth is the special collections homepage, which saw an increase in traffic of 60%.

### All Library webpages: views week by week



**Most visited Library webpages**

Page	Page views
<b>1. Library homepage</b> <a href="http://www.joh.cam.ac.uk/library/">www.joh.cam.ac.uk/library/</a>	
Sep 1, 2012 - Sep 1, 2013	<b>26,586</b>
Sep 1, 2011 - Sep 1, 2012	19,742
<b>% Change</b>	<b>↑ 35.67%</b>
<b>2. Education: School resources, Exploration</b> <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>	
Sep 1, 2012 - Sep 1, 2013	<b>16,092</b>
Sep 1, 2011 - Sep 1, 2012	8,307
<b>% Change</b>	<b>↑ 93.72%</b>
<b>3. Education: The Influence of the Renaissance</b> <a href="http://www.joh.cam.ac.uk/influence-renaissance">www.joh.cam.ac.uk/influence-renaissance</a>	
Sep 1, 2012 - Sep 1, 2013	<b>6,378</b>
Sep 1, 2011 - Sep 1, 2012	3,405
<b>% Change</b>	<b>↑ 87.31%</b>
<b>4. Library Catalogue</b> <a href="http://www.joh.cam.ac.uk/library-catalogue">www.joh.cam.ac.uk/library-catalogue</a>	
Sep 1, 2012 - Sep 1, 2013	<b>5,646</b>
Sep 1, 2011 - Sep 1, 2012	3,664
<b>% Change</b>	<b>↑ 54.09%</b>
<b>5. Working Library page</b> <a href="http://www.joh.cam.ac.uk/library/working-library">www.joh.cam.ac.uk/library/working-library</a>	
Sep 1, 2012 - Sep 1, 2013	<b>3,930</b>
Sep 1, 2011 - Sep 1, 2012	3,449
<b>% Change</b>	<b>↑ 13.95%</b>

## Social Media

### Twitter



Tweet cloud for @StJohns\_Library (via tweetstats.com.) Prominence is given to words most frequently used.

We have been tweeting from the Library Twitter account (@StJohns\_Library) since September 2012 and now boast 256 followers and a grand total of nearly 400 tweets. It has proven a useful tool for communication with Library users, University staff and public institutions and individuals. Regular micro-blogging offers users a snap-shot of the day-to-day dynamics of the Library (from new acquisitions to up-coming events), establishing a welcoming and informal online presence to promote the facilities and resources the Library offers. It is also an important medium for accessing and contributing to information within the University libraries community as a whole.

As exemplified by the table below, the Library tweets cover a broad range of topics: from links to subject-specific online resources to publicity for ongoing special collection projects, such as the Samuel Butler Project. By making use of initiatives such as bitly.com, a site that allows users to monitor the number of clicks a link within a tweet receives, it is possible to build up a picture of particularly popular content.



#### Twitter: popular links

Link	Number of clicks
Special Collections Spotlight <a href="http://www.joh.cam.ac.uk/special-collections-spotlight">www.joh.cam.ac.uk/special-collections-spotlight</a>	125
Heilbrunn Art History Timeline <a href="http://www.metmuseum.org/toah/">www.metmuseum.org/toah/</a>	108
Women and St John's exhibition: online version <a href="http://www.joh.cam.ac.uk/women-st-johns-college-0">www.joh.cam.ac.uk/women-st-johns-college-0</a>	72
Contact Library staff <a href="http://www.joh.cam.ac.uk/library-contact-us">www.joh.cam.ac.uk/library-contact-us</a>	64



Telegraph article: Fresher's advice <a href="http://www.telegraph.co.uk/education/universityeducation/student-life/10298536/Freshers-week-what-to-pack-for-university.html">www.telegraph.co.uk/education/universityeducation/student-life/10298536/Freshers-week-what-to-pack-for-university.html</a>	45
ebooks@cambridge website <a href="http://www.lib.cam.ac.uk/ebooks/">www.lib.cam.ac.uk/ebooks/</a>	39
Printing to DS printers from individual machines <a href="http://www.ucs.cam.ac.uk/desktop-services/ds-print/individual">www.ucs.cam.ac.uk/desktop-services/ds-print/individual</a>	39
Samuel Butler Room (SBR) fun facts about St John's <a href="http://www.sbr.soc.srcf.net/graduate-life-at-st-johns/fun-facts/">www.sbr.soc.srcf.net/graduate-life-at-st-johns/fun-facts/</a>	38
Art and photography competition: news item <a href="http://www.joh.cam.ac.uk/art-and-photography-competition-2012">www.joh.cam.ac.uk/art-and-photography-competition-2012</a>	31
'Butler on the Map': Samuel Butler project page <a href="http://www.joh.cam.ac.uk/butler-map">www.joh.cam.ac.uk/butler-map</a>	28

Note: Links listed above are in full, rather than bitly, form. With the exception of the 'Special Collections Spotlight', 'Contact Library staff' and 'Women and St John's exhibition' all clicks represent response to a single tweet.



### **Facebook and LinkedIn**

The Biographical Office has harnessed social media as fruitful means of keeping up-to-date with Johnian professional activity. The professional network, LinkedIn, is a self-administered site through which individuals can post career updates and history. As an active member of the St John's College group, the Biographical Librarian creates and maintains connections with the alumni community.

The Biographical Office also administers a Facebook profile. This online presence increases awareness about biographical activity the Office undertakes and offers another useful forum for communication with Johnians who get in touch to update their biographical records or to make enquiries.



Charlotte Hoare  
Library Graduate Trainee



## Environmental Monitoring and Control

### The Working Library

Temperature and relative humidity in the Working Library have remained fairly stable again this year, with the usual small seasonal fluctuations. Since the end of the 2011-12 refurbishment, conditions have levelled off somewhat. As always, a strategic compromise has to be considered in the Working Library between optimal conditions for storage of books and the comfort of our Library users. Readers are encouraged to effectively micro-manage their own immediate environment by adjusting heating, opening windows etc. This sometimes leads to users forgetting to close windows or turning off heating overnight which can cause some noticeable temporary spikes in temperature and humidity, but these are easily put right.



This year, we have reduced the number of TinyTag environmental monitoring devices in the Working Library, since some were superfluous to the requirement of gathering useful data. Thus, there is now only one tag on the First Floor rather than two, and the tag has been removed from the Skeleton cupboard in the medical section of the Second Floor. Since the skeleton is stored in a small glass cupboard, it effectively creates a micro-climate. The readings from the tag in the cupboard, therefore, were not necessarily accurate for monitoring the conditions outside the cupboard or for the rest of the Second Floor.

### The Old Library



Light and UV levels in the Old Library are regularly checked and controlled with the use of blinds and UV filters on the windows, and have remained within an acceptable range for 2012-13. Blinds are lifted for public exhibitions, but are lowered again afterwards and any items in display cases are kept covered when not in use.

The Old Library has had more than its share of environmental problems this year, however, due to humidity levels being very high. The warm and wet weather conditions of summer and autumn 2012 led to several incidences of mould growth in the Lower Library. The continued hot and humid weather for spring and summer 2013 also provided ideal conditions for the hatching of bread beetle larvae. Any affected items were sent for restoration and care, and fans and de-humidifiers were installed in the Lower

Library to attempt to offset the problems caused by humidity. This temporary measure has shown some benefit, but longer-term solutions need to be considered for the sake of preservation of rare and historic items in the Special Collections. The Sub-Librarian goes into more detail about this issue in the Old Library Report on page 33.

### Other Areas

2012-13 has also seen TinyTags being deployed to measure temperature and humidity in other areas of the College, namely the basement storage of the newly-refurbished Divinity School (which is used for storing archival and personal paper material), and the Master's Lodge.

The Divinity School basement, when it first opened, saw wildly fluctuating temperature and humidity levels with spikes as high as 75% RH. This was probably due to on-going refurbishment and maintenance works in the immediate area. Over time, I am happy to report that levels have settled down somewhat to around a 55-60% average, with temperature in the range of 13-20 degrees.

Ryan Cronin  
Librarian's Assistant



## Green Initiatives

During the year it transpired that the Maintenance Department were putting our sorted plastic and aluminium in the same bin for recycling. By combining this recycling we save time in sorting, space in the Library and the cost of bins not used.

Since July 2012 we have recycling bins for mixed plastic and aluminium on each floor and three bins on each floor for paper. All of these are quite well used and approximately 95% of items are placed in the correct bin. There are significant numbers of drinks containers left on desks or placed in rubbish bins. Wherever possible these are carefully collected by cleaning staff and recycled.

### Average quantities of material recycled per month

47 sacks of waste paper  
9 sacks of plastic bottles  
2 sacks of aluminium cans  
5 sacks of mixed plastic and aluminium, for the last two months

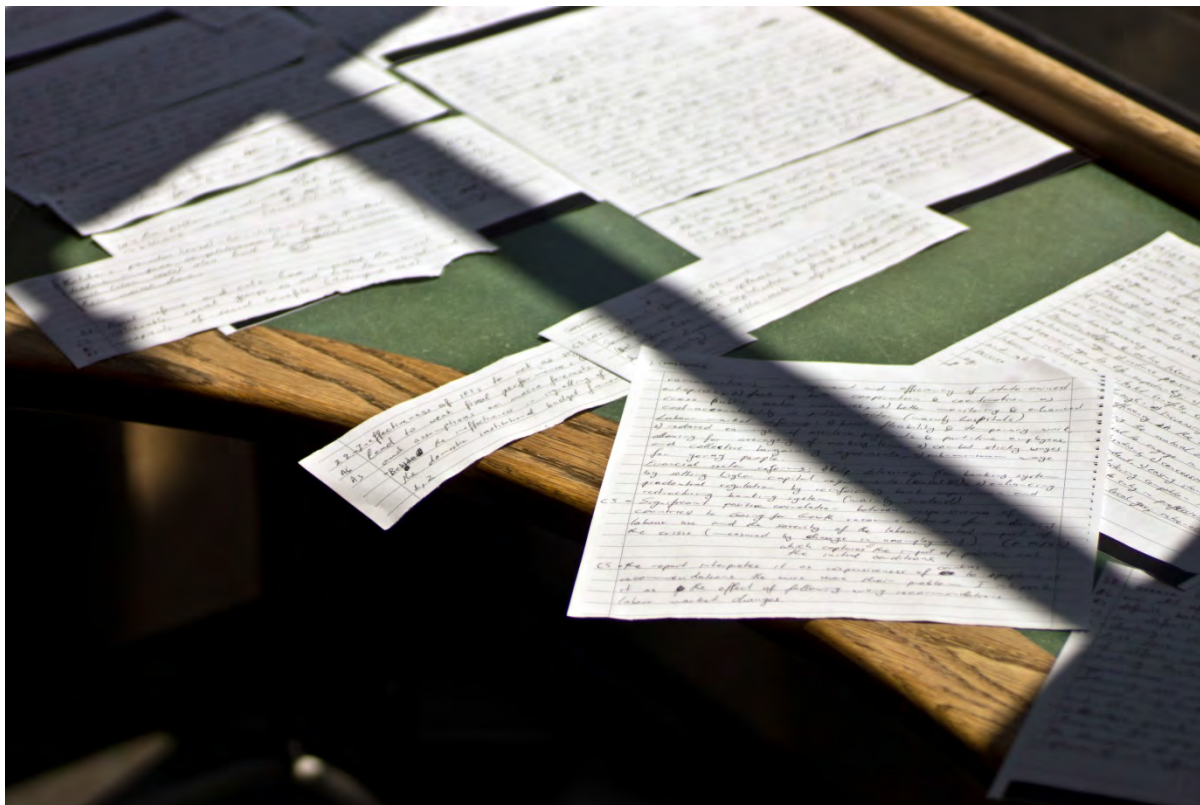
The quantity of paper recycled increased fourfold for the year, mostly due to the Archivist disposing of 200 sacks of unrequired material.

John Holt  
Library Cleaner



## Visitor Feedback

The Library gathers feedback from visitors by informal communication, online, feedback forms and a Visitors' Book. The following comments are a selection of the feedback we have received for the year 2012-13.



### Exhibitions:

- A lovely exhibition, thank you!
- Brilliant! I learned something new again!
- Stimulating exhibition – full of life.
- Excellent display, very enriching.
- Very interesting exhibits and a well-designed and lovely exhibition.
- Fascinating to see how women have played a role in College life from medieval to modern times.
- Wonderful to see how women have flourished in St John's. I wish I had known some of these historical gems when I first arrived!
- Delighted to see this very interesting exhibition.
- Lovely exhibition – great to see so much information about women within the College.

### Festivals and Open Cambridge:

- Chatty librarians and interesting books on display.
- I haven't seen anything like this before – very interesting!
- A very revealing exhibition of a library in nearly its original state.

- Fascinating and very informative and helpful staff.
- Wonderful to see the collection. The books on display had very helpful captions.
- It was wonderful to see the illuminated manuscripts.
- I feel very lucky to have the chance to see these old precious books.



### **Biographical Office:**

- Thanks to you, two real pals are reunited! We are both SO grateful.
- I am absolutely delighted with the information you have provided regarding my ancestors. What a wonderful job you do.
- I was delighted to find your kind note of congratulation. May I say that I was also impressed with the Johnian database; and with the fact that at least two current Fellows of St John's were also honoured. Bravo to the College!
- Please let me take this second opportunity to thank you for the care that you have taken with my biographical record, including going to the trouble to find the other co-authors for my manuscripts.

### **General Library Feedback:**

- Wonderful special tour of the Old Library with the marvellous Kathryn McKee.
- Lovely day to be in Cambridge and visit St John's Library!
- The Old Library was of great interest, I particularly enjoyed the telescope.

- What an honour to be able to see some original medieval manuscripts.
- The Old Library is beautiful and very moving.
- The most helpful and friendly librarians I have ever encountered!
- It was lovely to see where my dad went to College.
- Our thanks to Dr Nicholls for making us feel so welcome!

Ryan Cronin  
Librarian's Assistant







