

# Bodleian Library Friends' NEWSLETTER

Winter 2010/11

## FUNDRAISING AT THE BODLEIAN

The celebration of Duke Humfrey's Night on 2 October 2010 proved to be one of the most successful events of the year and initiated a new departure in fundraising at the Bodleian Libraries. The event, which was jointly hosted by the Friends of the Bodleian and Bodley's Librarian with generous support from the University Development Office and Bernard Quaritch, marked the 620th anniversary of the birth of Humfrey, Duke of Gloucester, whose gift of some 300 manuscripts in the mid-15th century led to the construction of the famous reading room that now bears his name. In that splendid setting prospective donors were invited to view and sponsor a wide selection of manuscripts, books, photographs, musical scores and rare artefacts from the 14th to 20th centuries at costs ranging from £25 to £20,000. Dedicated curators and conservators were on hand to share their expertise with our guests and discuss the cultural significance of the materials on display. Of the 53 items included in the accompanying catalogue, 30 were sponsored in full and a further 23 in part. An exquisite performance of Gerald Finzi's partsongs in the Divinity School prompted the sponsorship of the composer's notebooks almost immediately. The total raised to date

amounts to £72,000, a sum that is likely to increase to over £80,000 once Gift Aid is included. The catalogue remains on the Friends' website and further donations are welcome ([www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/bodley/friends/dukehumfreysnight](http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/bodley/friends/dukehumfreysnight)).

Over the next few months the donors will be invited to visit the items they have sponsored *in situ* and inspect the new bookplates that will record their generosity in perpetuity. The second Duke Humfrey's Night celebration is planned for Michaelmas 2011 and will again be supported by a web-based appeal. We are at the outset of a rolling programme of visits, catalogues and events which aims to widen public appreciation of the Library's national and international holdings, and inspire renewed support at a time of severe financial cuts.

Please see the Duke Humfrey's Night photo gallery on page 11.

*Professor Richard McCabe*

*Chairman of the Council of the Friends*

### DUKE HUMFREY'S NIGHT *Friends of the Bodleian*

*2nd October 2010, 4.30pm – 7.30pm  
Bodleian Library, Oxford*



*Front cover of the Duke Humfrey's Night catalogue.*

## TOWARDS BODLEIAN 2015 – TRANSFORMING OUR LIBRARIES

On 7 October 2010 the Vice-Chancellor and Bodley's Librarian officially opened the new £26-million Book Storage Facility (BSF) in Swindon which is capable of holding 8.4 million volumes on 153 miles of shelving.

The completion of the BSF is the first major milestone in the five-year transformational project which includes major improvements of the services offered to readers and several key building and renovation projects. Through this, the Libraries aim to provide increased direct access to books on the shelves of Oxford's libraries, online access to the largest number of digital titles in the UK, and state-of-the-art storage for paper collections.

The BSF will store lower-usage items from the Libraries' collections that had overwhelmed the existing bookstacks and required additional temporary storage in various locations in and

outside Oxford. These collections will now be brought together at the BSF, and include books, maps, manuscripts, microfilms, periodicals and newspapers primarily from the 18th century onwards. Over the next year nearly six million books will be moved into the BSF in what will be the biggest book move in the Bodleian's history.

Dr Sarah Thomas, Bodley's Librarian, said, 'The BSF provides a long-awaited solution to our space problem. Now we can look to the future with confidence that we are preserving one of the world's most complete records of the written word in state-of-the-art secure archival conditions. The BSF also allows us to reorganize our collections. We can redevelop important buildings within central Oxford from book fortresses into welcoming library spaces for readers and exhibition halls where we can share our treasures with a broader audience'.

The 'book fortress' is, of course, the New Bodleian Library which for the past 70 years served as our major book store as well as reading rooms and staff accommodation. Planning permission was secured in May 2010 to renovate and redevelop the New Bodleian Library into a world-class Special Collections research library and exhibition space, to be known as the Weston Library, scheduled for opening in 2015. Progress to date has been excellent. In preparation for the redevelopment, the Reading Rooms of the New Bodleian have now closed. The Libraries' Special Collections, comprising pre-18th-century materials, literary archives and some of the world's most precious manuscripts, were moved to a new secure location in Oxford and a temporary Special Collections Reading Room has been established in the Radcliffe Science Library. Maps and Music have been housed in Duke

Humfrey's Library and staff have moved to these locations to continue to support readers with accessing these collections. Additionally, some 180 members of staff are moving – or have moved – from the New Bodleian into our Osney Mead Library Building.

The materials moving to the BSF were previously stored in the 11-storey book stack, within the New Bodleian Library as well as the Underground Bookstore which lies between the Radcliffe Camera and the Old Bodleian and to which it is connected by a tunnel. Work has already begun on redeveloping the Underground Bookstore into a new open-space stack library and reading space for students, to be known as the Gladstone Link, scheduled for opening in 2011.

As a working research library, the Bodleian is endeavouring, despite the number of complex

initiatives underway, to provide uninterrupted service for its readers during the redevelopment. The scale of planned improvements is unparalleled among research libraries.

If you would like to follow the progress of 'Towards 2015' please visit [www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/about/projects](http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/about/projects).

*Sarah Henderson*  
Head of Communications

*Vice-Chancellor Andrew Hamilton and Dr Sarah Thomas, Bodley's Librarian, at the official opening of the Book Storage Facility in Swindon on 7 October 2010. Photo by John Lawrence.*



## RECENT ACQUISITIONS

### SIR PHILIP SIDNEY PEDIGREE ROLL

The Bodleian Library has acquired a manuscript pedigree for the poet and courtier Sir Philip Sidney, compiled by Robert Cooke Esquire, Clarenceux King of Arms in about 1580.

The roll is a striking object, depicting the lineage of one of the most influential literary figures of the Elizabethan age. It was probably commissioned by Sir Henry Sidney, the poet's father, as part of his efforts to produce a family genealogy.

The pedigree is on a long vellum roll of five joined sheets and displays 88 hand-coloured coats of arms joined by highly illuminated branch and foliage decoration. There is an additional large and finely executed coat of arms of Sir Philip Sidney on the final sheet (currently detached), with Cooke's signature. A section relating to the earliest ancestors was at some point in the past lost, so in 1841 the antiquary Alexander Nesbitt, the owner of the roll at that time, employed the herald Thomas William King to recreate the missing section from sources in the College of Arms.

Dr Nigel Ramsay, who has recently examined the roll, suggests that it was probably painted, and written, at least in part, by the notable herald Robert Glover.

The Bodleian Library has a particular strength in books and manuscripts by and relating to Sidney. This is partly thanks to one of the Library's most important recent benefactors, Dr Bent Juel-Jensen (1922–2006), Medical Officer to the University of Oxford and bibliophile. In 2006 Dr Juel-Jensen, a long-standing member of the Council of the Friends, bequeathed to the Bodleian one of the most important Sidney libraries in private hands. An exhibition held at the Bodleian in 1986, the 400th anniversary of Sidney's death, included some 122 items in all, the great majority from within the Bodleian.

The roll was acquired by the Bodleian from the dealer Samuel Gedge with the generous help of the Friends of the Bodleian, the V & A Purchase Grant Fund, the Friends of the National Libraries and the Aurelius Trust.

At the recent Duke Humfrey's Night event a benefactor sponsored the conservation of the roll in memory of his son.

*Dr Christopher Fletcher*  
Head of Western Manuscripts



*Sir Philip Sidney pedigree roll, MS. Eng. b. 2152 (R).*

### BENT JUEL-JENSEN, MUNIFICENT FRIEND OF THE BODLEIAN LIBRARY

For almost 50 years Bent Juel-Jensen, Medical Officer to the University, Fellow of St Cross, and book-collector extraordinary, was an active member of the Council of the Friends of the Bodleian Library. During that time he enthusiastically supported the Friends' activities in acquiring books and manuscripts for the Library and he himself made a series of gifts of outstanding importance, concluding with large bequests of the best of his collection and the provision that should the Library want any other parts it could have them for

half their valuation. The latter has now been acquired with the generous support from the V&A Purchase Grant Fund, the Friends of the Bodleian, the B. H. Breslauer Foundation, and the Friends of the National Libraries. The Bodleian has gained, in particular, peerless collections of poets Sir Philip Sidney and Michael Drayton, scientists Hugh Plat and Stephen Hales, *Microcosmographie* and *Good Thoughts* by the divines John Earle and Thomas Fuller, Ethiopic manuscripts, the children's tales and literary works by fellow Danes Hans

Christian Andersen and Johannes V. Jensen, and the contemporary publications of his friend the explorer Bruce Chatwin. On display in the Proscholium between 10 January and 6 February will be a selection of some of the high spots to celebrate the magnificent generosity of this exemplary Friend to the Library he loved.

*Clive Hurst*  
Head of Rare Books

# THE ARCHIVE OF CHENEY & SONS, PRINTERS OF BANBURY, OXON

Cheney & Sons were printing in the market town of Banbury, some 30 miles from Oxford, from 1767 to 2001 (though by then they had ceased being an independent family firm for a few years). They were essentially jobbing printers, though they did publish some books under their own imprint, and the archive is a remarkable witness to their ability to adapt to the changing technology of the industry and the changing society both within and beyond Banbury.

The real distinction of the archive is its representation of the activities of Banbury printers at a time when the town was the hub of a network of chapmen distributing popular literature around the country; its comprehensive coverage of the commercial work of Cheney & Sons while it was being run by Esther, widow of the founder's son, from 1821, to the Second

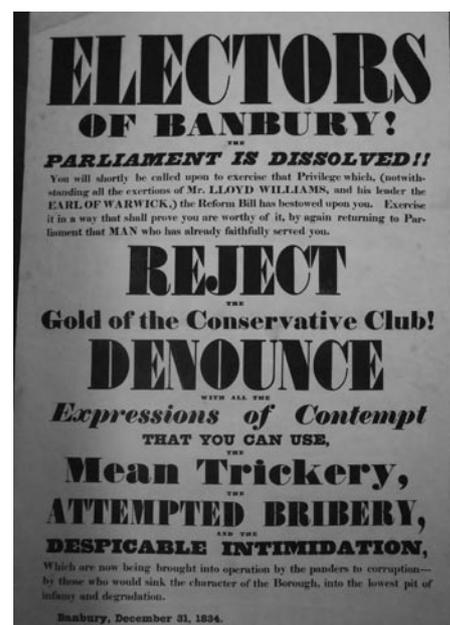
World War; and the remarkable assemblage of rare 18th-century broadsides.

The archive contains chapbooks printed by Cheney and fellow Banbury printer Rusher; a vast range of jobbing work including advertisements, posters, forms, all reflecting day-to-day life in and around Banbury from the 1760s to the 1920s; and 45 broadside ballads, murders and executions, and moralities, of exceptional rarity and interest, over half of them being apparently unrecorded.

The archive also includes material produced by nine other Banbury printers and 17 others from the local area which sets the Cheney's in context.

Clive Hurst  
Head of Rare Books

*Poster from the Cheney & Sons archive, 1834.*



## EXHIBITIONS

### *SHELLEY'S GHOST: RESHAPING THE IMAGE OF A LITERARY FAMILY* EXHIBITION ROOM, BODLEIAN LIBRARY 3 DECEMBER 2010 – 27 MARCH 2011

The Bodleian Libraries' winter exhibition is organised in partnership with the New York Public Library and is dedicated to one of the most renowned literary families in Britain: Percy Bysshe Shelley (1792-1822), his wife Mary Shelley (1797-1851), and Mary's parents, William Godwin (1756-1836) and Mary Wollstonecraft (1759-1797).

The story of the exhibition spans three generations: from Godwin's and Wollstonecraft's months as lovers and their brief marriage between 1796 and 1797; through the eight years Shelley and Mary spent together from their elopement in 1814 to Shelley's sudden death in 1822, shortly before his 30th birthday; to the lives of the Shelleys' only surviving child, Sir Percy Florence Shelley, and his wife Jane, Lady Shelley. The story is often tragic, but also one of remarkable creative achievement. It is told with manuscripts, rare books and personal relics from the family archive now in the Bodleian, together with selected treasures from another great collection – the Carl H. Pforzheimer Collection of Shelley and His Circle in the New York Public Library.

Richard Ovenden, Associate Director and Keeper of Special Collections at the Bodleian said, 'This is a unique opportunity to bring together treasures from the great Shelley collections in the Bodleian and the New York Public Libraries. We are excited that the exhibition will travel to New York after closing in Oxford and enable even more people to learn about this extraordinary literary family'.

Highlights of the exhibition include the original handwritten draft of *Frankenstein* in Mary Shelley's own words with additions and corrections written in by her husband; Shelley's working notebooks, containing first drafts of some of his finest poems, and revealing the richness and variety of his intellectual life; and the fair-copy notebook of Shelley's early poems known as 'The Esdaile Notebook', one of the greatest treasures of the Pforzheimer Collection.



*Portrait of Mary Shelley by Reginald Easton. Sometime between 1851 and 1893, watercolour and bodycolour on ivory laid on card, oval, 11 x 8.8 cm.*

While the manuscripts, journals, and letters in the exhibition reveal the family's literary genius, the exhibition also looks behind their public reputation to their private lives through a series of personal items: Shelley's golden baby-rattle; the guitar which he gave to his friend Jane Williams with the poem 'With a Guitar. To Jane'; Mary Shelley's travelling dressing-case containing some of her most personal possessions, shown for the first time in public; and a portrait thought to be of Mary Shelley in her later years, displayed here for the first time.

The Shelley family gave the first two parts of their family archive to the Bodleian in 1893-4 and 1946-61, whilst the final part – known as the Abinger papers – was bought by the Library in 2004 through a public appeal. The Friends of the Bodleian were among those who helped to secure this important acquisition.

An online exhibition (<http://shelleysghost.bodleian.ox.ac.uk>) with the same title features all the items on display in the physical exhibition, most of them presented in digital format for the first time. The website is designed to cater for both the casual visitor with an interest in Shelley and his circle and those who want greater depth of information. Several items are accompanied by audio podcasts read by Oxford University student actors. The exhibition website has been made possible by a generous donation from Dr Leonard Polonsky to increase digital access to the Libraries' collections.

## BODLEIAN LIBRARY SUMMER 2010 EXHIBITION: 'MY WIT WAS ALWAYS WORKING', JOHN AUBREY AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF EXPERIMENTAL SCIENCE

In Aubrey's biographical work, *Brief Lives*, he says that as a child his 'witt was alwaies working', and describes his eclectic interests: music, painting and drawing, mathematics, watching locksmiths and watchmakers at work, and discovering his 'strong impulse' to 'Antiquitie'. The 2010 summer exhibition was dedicated to the collections and intellectual interests of someone who exemplifies the kind of polymathy Aubrey's contemporaries called that of the 'virtuoso'. Aubrey's collections range from palaeography and topography, through educational theory and archaeology, to the history of costume, magic, cheesemaking, and mathematics. He had also a large library of books and ephemera, including a copy of Newton's *Principia* given to him by the Earl of Pembroke, and a collection of objects such as mineral specimens, Roman antiquities, mathematical instruments, and paintings. These included a portrait by William Dobson, miniatures by Nicholas Hilliard and Samuel Cowper, and the only surviving portrait of Aubrey, the ink and pencil drawing by William Fairthorne, which was on display in the exhibition. The intellectual collection which

is his 'Brief Life of Ben Jonson' is paralleled by his possession of one of Jonson's annotated books; his account of Roman remains in his *Monumenta Britannica* is paralleled by part of a Roman mosaic pavement which he donated to the Royal Society. One of the exciting things about this exhibition, therefore, was that many such items were united for the first time. During his lifetime they were in boxes left with acquaintances, being read and annotated by friends such as Anthony Wood and John Evelyn; or being spoiled by damp at home in Wiltshire. In his old age, Aubrey donated most of them to the Ashmolean Museum and to what is now Worcester College, Oxford; others were in the Royal Society.

This was 'an exhibition for the 350th anniversary of the Royal Society', and two large cases illustrated 'London science' and 'Oxford science'. Yet other locations were implicit in the arrangement of objects in this exhibition. There was a case illustrating Aubrey's collections on Stonehenge and Avebury, with an example of the plane table he used to make his survey. Another displayed one of Aubrey's mathematical manuscripts, prepared when he

was a pupil of the mathematician and divine Edward Davenant, during a spell of residence at his Wiltshire parsonage. Aubrey wrote a life of the mathematician William Oughtred, of Albury in Surrey. Alongside Oughtred's books and Aubrey's own proposal for a mathematical school was Oughtred's huge brass slide-rule, the 'Great Circle of Proportion'. The star item was surely the *camera obscura* specially made for the exhibition by Roger Smith and trained on the Bodleian quadrangle. Aubrey thought if schoolboys were allowed to see one it would 'set them agog'. In uniting some of these divided collections, this exhibition ultimately realised one of the intentions Aubrey had for his manuscripts: that, whether some of their contents were eventually published or not, they, a 'piece of antiquitie', would take their place in a learned repository and be seen alongside the collections of objects which they describe, interpret, and narrate.

Dr Kate Bennett  
Research Fellow (English)  
New College, Oxford

## THE JANE AUSTEN'S FICTION MANUSCRIPTS DIGITAL EDITION

Jane Austen's fiction manuscripts are no more than 1100 pages but they represent her beginnings and endings as a writer. Where the famous six novels were published in an intense burst between 1811 and 1818, just seven years, we have manuscripts in Austen's hand from a much longer period, roughly 1787 to 1817, 30 years. Until 1845, when she died, Austen's sister Cassandra was their guardian. By the terms of Cassandra's will, the collection was broken up, descending through the family into museums, libraries, and private collections around the world. 'Volume the First', Austen's earliest collection of short stories and plays, a mock book written out in her teenage hand, has been held in the Bodleian Library since its purchase by the Friends in 1933.

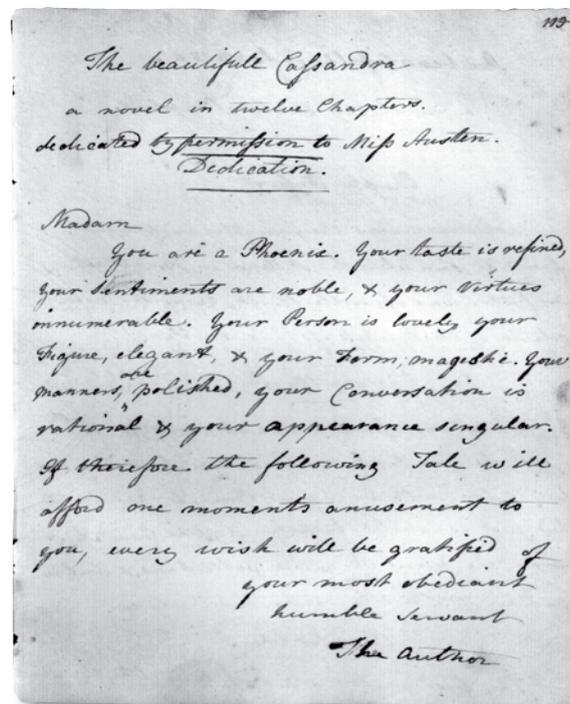
The manuscripts offer us a different Jane Austen: literally so since, with the exception of an alternative ending to the published novel *Persuasion*, they represent fictions other than the famous six novels; and the very fact that they are manuscript and not print reveals something further. Handwriting moulds the language to specific individual uses. We can see how Jane Austen worked: the size of her paper, the way she filled its pages, and the way she formed each individual letter.

With a grant from the Arts and Humanities Research Council, a team of scholars, conservators, and digital technicians worked

over the last four years to reassemble what Cassandra dispersed – in a virtual repository. In the Jane Austen's Fiction Manuscripts Digital Edition are gathered the highest quality images of every single page of manuscript fiction we could trace. Attached to the images are XML-encoded diplomatic transcriptions and Head Notes for each manuscript offering detailed accounts of their provenance and physical state at the point of our examination.

The pleasure of authors' manuscripts is visceral. Very few of us are privileged to be able to hold them or turn their pages. Digital representation may be a poor substitute in that respect – but it is a substitute. If we cannot touch, we can see – see in astonishing detail at [www.janeausten.ac.uk](http://www.janeausten.ac.uk) – pages from the Morgan Library, New York; the Bodleian Library, Oxford; and from King's College, Cambridge.

Kathryn Sutherland  
Professor of Bibliography & Textual Criticism  
St Anne's College, Oxford



Jane Austen, 'Volume the First'. From the Jane Austen's Fiction Manuscripts Digital Edition, MS. Don. e.7, p. 115.

# 'MANIFOLD GREATNESS': OXFORD AND THE MAKING OF THE KING JAMES BIBLE

22 APRIL - 4 SEPTEMBER 2011,  
EXHIBITION ROOM, BODLEIAN LIBRARY

The Bodleian Library summer 2011 exhibition will be a celebration of the 400th anniversary of the publication of the King James Bible in 1611. Drawing on the Bodleian holdings, the rich resources of collegiate libraries from around the University of Oxford, and collections elsewhere, the exhibition will tell the story of the most frequently printed book in the English language, the King James Bible. Exploring the political,

religious and intellectual context of its time, it will look at the events and conditions that led to and shaped this translation enterprise. It will specifically showcase the contribution of the Oxford translation committees, of which notable members were John Rainolds (President of Corpus Christi College), Henry Savile (Warden of Merton College), and Miles Smith (Corpus Christi and Brasenose College). The project is organised in association with

the Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, DC, where some items from the Bodleian exhibition will be on display at the Folger's related exhibition in autumn 2011.

In anticipation of the exhibition a special Choral Evensong and a series of lectures on the subject is offered to the public. Please see the details below.



## 'Manifold Greatness'

A series of public lectures and Choral Evensong to mark the 400th anniversary of the publication of the King James Bible

*Tuesdays in Hilary Term, 2011 in the Auditorium, Corpus Christi College, 5.30 pm*  
*(Choral Evensong will take place in the College Chapel)*

**25 January**  
Professor Pauline Croft (*Royal Holloway, University of London*)  
The Making of the King James (Authorized) Version of the Bible, 1604-1611

**1 February**  
Professor Valentine Cunningham (*Corpus Christi College, Oxford*)  
Scissored and Pasted: readers and writers redoing and undoing King James

**8 February**  
Choral Evensong in Commemoration of President John Rainolds and the King James Bible  
Preacher: Revd Professor John Morrill (*Selwyn College, Cambridge*)

**15 February**  
Professor Helen Wilcox (*Bangor University*):  
'This book of starres': biblical constellations in the poetry of Herbert and Vaughan

**22 February**  
Professor Terence Wright (*Newcastle University*)  
The Authorised Version in Modern Literature: David and Job get makeovers

**Forthcoming Bodleian Libraries Exhibition**  
22 April - 4 September 2011

## 'Manifold Greatness'

Oxford and the Making of the King James Bible

Exhibition Room, Old Schools Quadrangle, Bodleian Library, Oxford

### MODERN LANGUAGE ASSOCIATION PRIZE FOR SUSAN E. WHYMAN

In November 2010 the Modern Language Association of America awarded its 27th annual Prizes for Independent Scholars. The largest and one of the oldest American learned societies in the humanities (established in 1883) promotes the advancement of literary and linguistic studies. The 30,000 members of the association come from the United States, Canada, Latin America, Europe, Asia, and Africa.

The MLA prize awards distinguished published research in the fields of modern languages and literatures, and recognizes achievements and contributions of independent scholars. This year 17 awards were presented at the Association's annual convention in Los Angeles. Susan E. Whyman, a great supporter of the Bodleian and a Life member of the Friends, received this award for *The Pen and the People: English Letter Writers 1660-1800*, published by Oxford University Press. The selection committee writes:

'[The book] combines impressive archival research, focusing on previously untapped writing by ordinary people - including labourers and servants - as they expressed themselves in personal letters, with an institutional and cultural history of expanding literacy and the rise of the Royal Mail. Tracing the widening opportunities for the recording and circulation of the everyday

lives of ordinary people, Whyman not only questions assumptions about the relatively slow diffusion of literacy before the onset of universal formal education in England but also emphasizes the diverse motivations and opportunities for the cultivation of what she calls an epistolary literacy, which was to have important consequences for the development of the novel'.

Susan E. Whyman is a historian, formerly of Princeton University, where she received her MA and PhD degrees in British history. Her BA is from Mount Holyoke College, and she earned an MLS in library and information science from Rutgers University. She is the author of *Sociability and Power: the Cultural Worlds of the Verneys* and *Walking the Streets of Eighteenth-Century London*, and is co-editor of *John Gay's Trivia*. Susan is a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society in London and has been a visiting scholar at Wadham College, University of Oxford, and the Huntington Library. She serves on the executive committee of the British Society for Eighteenth Century Studies. The Friends were privileged to hear Susan speak at their lunchtime lecture in May 2010 on the very book for which she won the prestigious MLA award.

*Edited by Margaret Czepiel from an MLA announcement of 1 December 2010*



*Dr Susan E. Whyman, winner of the MLA Prize.*

### LIBRARIES WIN OXFORD PRESERVATION TRUST AWARDS

The Bodleian Libraries have won a Small Projects Award from the Oxford Preservation Trust (OPT) for the newly-replaced grotesques on the north-west wall of the Old Library.

The nine badly-eroded stone grotesques and associated stonework needed repair and replacement. The Bodleian Libraries, in partnership with the University Estates Directorate and the OPT, launched a competition, 'Millenium Myths and Monsters', inviting children to submit their ideas for replacement of the grotesques, because the originals had crumbled away over many years with no historical record of what they had once looked like.

The winning designs were selected from hundreds of competition entries. Children's books provided inspiration, with designs for the new grotesques including Tweedledum and Tweedledee from Lewis Carroll's *Through the Looking Glass* and the lion Aslan from C.S. Lewis's *The Chronicles of Narnia*. Oxfordshire stone carvers Alec and Fiona Peever interpreted and transformed the winners' designs into the finished grotesques. The new grotesques were unveiled in a special ceremony by children's author Philip Pullman in September 2009.

The University Estates Directorate has also received a Letter of Commendation for the restoration of the railings, the historic gates and associated masonry around the Bodleian Library and Clarendon Quadrangle. The railings around the Bodleian central site surround some of the oldest buildings in the University. Conserving the railings involved their temporary removal to facilitate essential maintenance and repairs to both the metalwork and surrounding masonry. The gates and railings were transported to a controlled environment for treatment. The masonry was cleaned and repaired on site. When the masonry repairs were complete, the metalwork was replaced in its original position.

Sarah Thomas, Bodley's Librarian, said: 'The Bodleian Libraries have an ongoing commitment to conserve and preserve their unique and historic buildings. We are pleased that our efforts have been recognized by the Oxford Preservation Trust'.

In 2009, the Oxford Preservation Trust presented the RSL with the Environmental Award for the new glazed link between the two halves of its building. The modern glass element between the Jackson and Worthington wings replaced a 1930s extension.



*One of the winning designs from the 'Millenium Myths and Monsters' competition.*

## NEW LIBRARY FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

A special Friends of the Bodleian event on 7 May 2010 celebrated the current New Bodleian and the glories of the future Weston Library. Firstly, Friends were privileged to be taken on behind-the-scenes tours, with the highlight undoubtedly being the opportunity to watch the meticulous work of a Bodleian conservator restoring a Gutenberg Bible. We then moved from the 1450s to the 20th century, to the sombre but impressive Gilbert Scott-designed Reading Room. We also visited the Bindery and Imaging Studio, and admired the unfamiliar view of the new Oxford mosque from the Indian Institute.

Then to the future. In the Sheldonian Theatre, WilkinsonEyre Architects and Richard Ovenden revealed plans for the new New Bodleian, with the help of explanatory talks, models and projected images. In a £78-million scheme there is to be a new glass frontage on Broad Street and the exciting development of interior space. In a fresh approach the public will be warmly welcomed to special exhibition rooms and a café, and there will be much-improved facilities for researchers.

Lastly we crossed to the Divinity School for the *de rigueur* Friends' delicious tea in the most



*Andrew Honey explaining the work of the Conservation department as part of a tour of the New Library.*

beautiful room in the world – the perfect end to a wonderful occasion.

*Caroline Zvegintzov  
Long-standing member of the Friends*

## VISIT TO LAMBETH PALACE LIBRARY

On 15 June 2010 about 60 Friends visited the Lambeth Palace Library, particularly to see the splendid exhibition *Treasures of Lambeth Palace Library* which was mounted to celebrate its quatercentenary. We were fortunate in having as our guide Giles Mandelbrote, formerly of the Bodleian and British Libraries, now the Lambeth Librarian (and a member of the Friends' Council).

The visit started in the Guard Room, where, surrounded by portraits of Archbishops, we heard an introductory lecture by Giles on the history of the Library. It was founded in 1610 by the will of Archbishop Bancroft and continued by Archbishop Abbott. Both of them were friends of Sir Thomas Bodley and it was particularly interesting for this audience to learn of similarities of intention between the two 'public' libraries, founded within eight years of each other. We next adjourned to the exhibition in the Great Hall of the Library, where Giles drew our attention to some of the major treasures on view. On display was not only the Lambeth Bible, but items with royal associations such as the warrant for the execution of Mary Queen of Scots, and marginalia of Henry VIII relating to the divorce question, and



*Giles Mandelbrote, Lambeth Librarian, giving an introductory talk to members visiting Lambeth Palace Library.*

many other works evoking the history both doctrinal and controversial of the Anglican church. There were too many in fact to digest in the time available, so that many of us took away for further study copies of the splendid volume of *Lambeth Palace Library: Treasures from*

*the Collection of the Archbishops of Canterbury* which accompanied the exhibition.

*Bill Clemmell  
Former Bodleian Head of Personnel  
and Volunteer Guide*

# AN OPEN-AIR PERFORMANCE OF *ERISMENA*

Pier Francesco Cavalli (1602–76) was undoubtedly the most important composer of opera in mid-17th-century Italy, and *Erismena* (1655) was one of his most successful works. Not long after, it found its way to Britain where, sometime in the 1670s, it was translated into English, presumably for a performance of which we have no documentary evidence. As the first surviving score of an opera in English, it is something of a national treasure, and it was, quite properly, denied an export licence when, in December 2007, it turned up in a Sotheby's sale. Thanks to a public appeal, generously supported by, among others, the Friends of the Bodleian, the manuscript was acquired by the Bodleian the following year. This was in a sense a happy home-coming since, during the course of the appeal, it was discovered that the manuscript had once been owned by William and Philip Hayes, father and son, who were successive Professors of Music here from 1742 to 1797.

Edited and produced by Michael Burden, *Erismena* was given its first modern performances by New Chamber Opera in the Warden's Garden at New College early in July 2010; that on Saturday the 10th was especially for the Friends of the Bodleian and it was preceded by Dr Burden's pre-performance talk in the presence of the manuscript. Overall it was a magical occasion since, not only was the music (directed from the harpsichord by Steven Devine) very well sung and played, but the weather too was perfect – one of those long glorious summer evenings which linger in the memory long after the event. The young cast of nine were uniformly excellent, and I, for one, was impressed not only by the music, but also by the anonymous 17th-century translation which, I thought, suited it to perfection.

*Dr Harry Johnstone*  
Emeritus Fellow in Music  
St Anne's College, Oxford



*Member of the Band of Instruments preparing for the performance of Erismena.*

## 2010 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 2010 Annual General Meeting held on 24 June was dominated by literature. The Chairman reported on important acquisitions of the earliest edition of William Godwin's first novel, *Damon and Delia*; Maria Edgeworth's annotated edition of *Vivian*; and the archive of the poet Edmund Blunden. The Friends were also pleased to have supported further acquisitions of the Bent Juel-Jensen collection and rare fascicules depicting traditional images from the Chinese publication *Feiyingge Conghua*.

The speakers this year were Philip Pullman and David Fickling. The dialogue between the author and his publisher revealed how the famous trilogy *His Dark Materials*, a modern version of Milton's *Paradise Lost*, came to life. Pullman also recalled the challenges he faced, particularly with the work's title, *The Golden Compass* under which it was published in the United States could not be further from the author's intentions. He also provided a fascinating insight into the actual process of writing, which for him involves not only careful consideration for the structure of the story, but also the rhythm of the prose and even the actual sound of individual words. The presentation was punctuated by excellent anecdotes (divulged mainly by the publisher) and illustrated by Pullman's own drawings.

On display in the Proscholium was material both acquired (through purchase as well as donation) and discussed at lunchtime lectures in the past year. We were also pleased to display a previous year's acquisition, James Nedeham's



'Particular Book', which in summer 2009 featured in the British Library's exhibition *Henry VIII: Man and Monarch*. As always, the proceedings were concluded with tea in the magnificent Divinity School.

*Margaret Czepiel*  
Secretary of the Friends of the Bodleian

*Philip Pullman (left) and David Fickling speaking at the Friends AGM 2010.*

## A CELEBRATION AT STATIONERS' HALL

On 12 December 1610 an agreement was made between the University of Oxford and the Worshipful Company of Stationers, whereby a free copy of every book newly printed by a Company member was to be deposited in the Bodleian Library.

Through this agreement, the Company was able to defend its rights in the books entered in its registers. In turn, the Library, recently re-founded by Sir Thomas Bodley, was able greatly to expand its stock of books. Although Bodley was less enthusiastic about the agreement than his librarian Thomas James, fearing a great influx of 'idle books and riffe raffes', it enabled the University to acquire some of the most celebrated books in the language, including the most important copy of Shakespeare's First Folio. The agreement established the principle of legal deposit, which continues to enable the Bodleian and five other libraries in the UK and Ireland to claim free copies of books published within their borders.

On 12 April 2010 an event was jointly held by the Stationers' Company and the Friends to celebrate the signing of the historic agreement. Friends, Liverymen, Freemen and other guests gathered at the magnificent 17th-century Company Hall near St Paul's, where they were



Guests viewing displays at the Stationers' Hall event. Photo by Victoria Cookson.

able to view a selection of manuscripts and publications from the period, drawn from the collections of the Company and the Bodleian (along with the first book ever sent from the Company to the Bodleian, a fact recorded by Bodley himself in the volume). This was followed by a selection of music and verse of the period, with the Bodleian's recently retired Peter Ward Jones playing the harpsichord, the soprano Katy Cooper, and actor Sam Dastor

reading from Shakespeare's sonnets. Particular thanks are due to the performers who gave their sterling service for free, in the interests of two great charitable institutions.

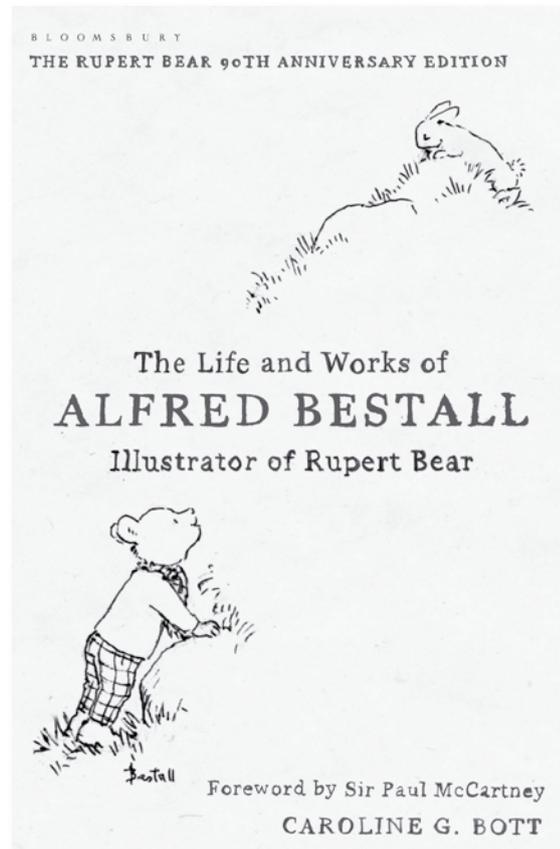
*Dr Christopher Fletcher  
Head of Western Manuscripts*

## RUPERT BEAR AT THE BODLEIAN

Last November marked 90 years since Rupert Bear first appeared on the pages of *The Daily Express*. His colourful adventures were first drawn by Mary Tourtel. In 1935 Alfred Bestall, formally an illustrator for *Punch* magazine, took on the role of Rupert's artist and storyteller and held it for nearly 40 years. Under his brush and pen Rupert became one of the best-loved animated characters in the world. The Bodleian was very pleased to invite its Friends to celebrate these anniversaries in gratitude to Caroline and Alan Bott for the generous provision they have made for Alfred Bestall's archive to be offered to the Library in lieu of Inheritance Tax.

The evening included a talk by Caroline Bott, who as his niece and goddaughter presented the artist from a more personal perspective. The display in the Proscholium revealed the vivid colours of Bestall's original artwork. The evening also launched the special anniversary edition of *The Life and Works of Alfred Bestall*, written by Caroline and published by Bloomsbury, who very kindly sponsored the event. Those who purchased copies on the night were pleased to have them signed by the author. The guests also enjoyed the reception which on this occasion could not pass without bear-shaped biscuits to complement the journey back to childhood.

*Margaret Czepiel  
Secretary of the Friends of the Bodleian*



*The Rupert Bear 90th anniversary edition of The Life and Works of Alfred Bestall launched at the event.*

## JULIAN ROBERTS

Julian Roberts was a leading librarian, a notable bibliographer, and book historian. He could also be modest to the point of self-deprecation, despite his remarkable achievements as an administrator and as a scholar.

Throughout his working life, in the face of the ever increasing administrative demands on his time, and despite the enormous changes brought about by electronic cataloguing, Roberts never lost touch with his primary reason for becoming a librarian, his passionate interest in early printed books. He was dedicated to the study of books and manuscripts, and never happier than when handling them, or helping in the acquisition of collections or items which would otherwise be dispersed or lost. His rare historical sense enabled him to discern what might be of interest to future scholars, a sense which informed his own bibliographical research. When he joined Andrew Watson in the early 1970s in editing John Dee's library catalogue, Dee's reputation as a magician and astrologer made him seem a marginal figure. Their edition, published in 1990, was critical in establishing Dee's central position in the intellectual life of Elizabethan England. Similarly, the patient work of years, undertaken in stolen hours working on the Port Books in the Public Record Office and the Plantin archives in Antwerp, enabled him to establish the outlines of the important trade in Continental books imported through London during the 16th and 17th centuries.

Richard Julian Roberts was born in 1930. He was educated at King Edward's School, Birmingham, where he received a grounding in Classics. In his first year at Magdalen College, Oxford, he switched from Classics to English. A keen interest in contemporary British poetry, and in collecting it, was to last throughout

his life, but his flair for languages proved invaluable in his subsequent career, which began in Lambeth Palace Library in the early 1950s. Not only was he involved there in the daily handling and cataloguing of books, but, characteristically, his work as a librarian led to scholarly publication. His discovery of the manuscript poems of an unknown follower of George Herbert, the clergyman Cardell Goodman, appeared in a limited edition, *Beauty in Rags, or, Divine Phancies Putt into Broken Verse*, in 1958.

In the same year Roberts was appointed Assistant Keeper at the British Museum, where he remained for the next 16 years, becoming deputy superintendent of the Round Reading Room and responsible for the selection and cataloguing of early English books and modern Greek materials.

During his time at the Museum he made substantial contributions in the planning of the 20th-century volume of the *New Cambridge Bibliography of English Literature* (1972) to which Roberts completed virtually the whole of the Poetry section. In 1961 Roberts became, jointly with Sir Frank Francis, Secretary of the Bibliographical Society, a post which he was to hold for the next 20 years; his connection with the Society, including its Presidency in 1986–88, lasted for the rest of his life.

In 1974 Roberts returned to Oxford as the Bodleian's Keeper of Printed Books. Once there, he was elected Fellow of Wolfson College, where he was to serve as the College's second-in-command, its Vicegerent (1983–84), and to which he remained warmly attached.

The premature death of John Jolliffe, Bodley's Librarian, in 1985, meant that Roberts became Acting Librarian, and then Deputy Librarian, a post he held from 1986 until his retirement in 1997. During his time there acquisition of,

in particular, the Dunston Collection (1981), the Marlborough Vicars Library (1985), and especially the Opie Collection of children's literature, owed a great deal to Roberts's interest and support. He represented the Bodleian Library and the University nationally and internationally on an assortment of organizations. During these years he continued to publish, and to undertake new research, while maintaining his involvement with the Bibliographical Society. In 1983 he was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries, and from 1994 acted as consultant to the British Academy-backed edition of Foxe's *Book of Martyrs* (OUP, 2001, continuing online).

After his retirement he continued to give conference papers, write reviews, publish articles, and, despite his impaired mobility in later years, to participate in the London meetings of the Bibliographical Society. Notable among his later publications are his contributions to the *Cambridge History of the Book in Britain*, Volume 4 (2002), and the *Cambridge History of Libraries in Britain and Ireland*, Volumes 1 and 2 (2006), and the 14 biographies he contributed to the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*. Most recently he gave a lecture on the 17th-century polymath John Selden at an international conference held at Magdalen College in June 2010.

Julian Roberts will be remembered not just for his contribution to the development of two national libraries, the British and Bodleian Libraries, but for his erudition, his enthusiasm, and his intellectual generosity to others, whether students or fellow scholars.

*Professor John Barnard  
Member of the Council of the Friends  
Edited from © The Times 17 November 2010*

## ROBERT McNEIL

Long-standing Friend and staff member Robert McNeil died on 7 November 2010, aged 64. Robert joined the Bodleian in 1970, first as Hispanic cataloguer, but soon afterwards as overall Hispanic and Latin American specialist, a post which he held with distinction until ill health forced his retirement in 2005.

He was well known and commanded enormous respect in Latin American library circles generally, and served as President of SALALM, the international Seminar on the Acquisition of Latin American Library Materials, in 1994–95. In 1992 he had been the joint recipient, with his close friend Barbara Valk of Los Angeles, of SALALM's José Toribio Medina Award, given in recognition of outstanding contributions by SALALM members to the field, for their book *Latin*

*American Studies: a Basic Guide to Sources*. He also edited the published proceedings of the 40th SALALM conference under the title 'Societies Under Constraint'.

Within the Bodleian he arranged the exhibition *Europeans in Latin America, Humboldt to Hudson* with Malcolm Deas of the Latin American Centre at St Antony's in 1980–81, and edited for publication a previously unknown 17th-century Chilean work discovered in the Bodleian, *Cautiverio Feliz (A Happy Captivity)* by Francisco Núñez de Pineda y Bascuñán. He was also a stalwart of the Main Enquiry Desk, where his encyclopaedic knowledge was put at the disposal of all.

He bore with enormous stoicism and patience the degenerative illness which robbed him of most of his physical faculties over his last years, and was always pleased to see his

many visitors at the care home in Shipton-under-Wychwood which he loved and where he died.

At his retirement party the then Acting Librarian Ronald Milne quoted the words of a Spanish colleague on hearing of the event: 'an English gentleman, whose origins were unmistakable whenever we heard his Shakespearean tones, with a Hugh Grant-like hesitancy which was so endearing and matched his personality as a worthy representative of Oxford, nothing less!'

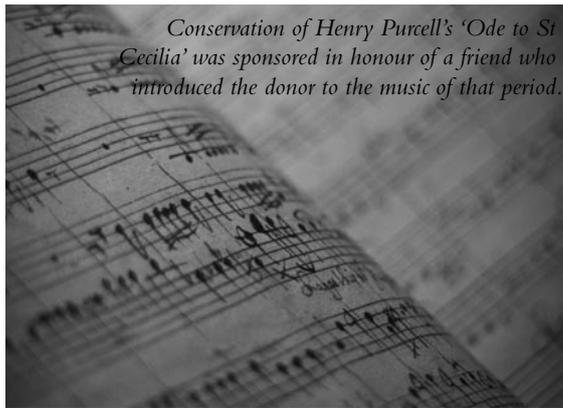
*Michael Heaney  
Executive Secretary, Bodleian Libraries*

## DUKE HUMFREY'S NIGHT 2010 PHOTO GALLERY

More pictures can be viewed at [www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/bodley/friends/dukehumfreysnight/event-gallery](http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/bodley/friends/dukehumfreysnight/event-gallery)



*Clive Hurst, Head of Rare Books, showing a donor a collection of miniature books (still) in need of conservation.*



*Conservation of Henry Purcell's 'Ode to St Cecilia' was sponsored in honour of a friend who introduced the donor to the music of that period.*



*Professor John Barnard, member of the Friends' Council, in discussion with curator Susan Thomas.*



*Left: Curator Lucy McCann showing guests the 16th-century Register of Williamscot Free School, Oxfordshire.*



*Middle: The beautiful performance in the Divinity School of Gerald Finzi's partsongs moved many guests to sponsor the composer's notebooks.*



*Right: One of the guests closely examining a Dutch edition of John Babington's Pyrotechnia.*

## CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF THE BOOK, UPDATE AND PROSPECT FOR 2011

In the past year, the Centre hosted day-long events and classes examining early books and manuscripts in detail. 'The Gathered Text', on 3 September 2010, took us into the very structure of the codex book, for a discussion of how groups of leaves were folded together to form books. This subject was approached from a variety of points of view of those who touched books during their creation: the binders whose job was to organize gatherings into a stable form; the authors who might wish to add second thoughts, or remove controversial parts of their texts; and, in Randall McLeod's keynote speech, from the point of view of a bookworm, leisurely eating its way through leaves stacked in the workshop, before these were finally made into a bound volume.

Seizing the opportunity of Professor McLeod's visit from Toronto, the Centre asked him to conduct a masterclass in the use of a machine of his own invention, the McLeod Collator. This arrangement of mirrors and bookstands, which is normally housed in Duke Humfrey's Library, enables a scholar to compare the printed texts of ostensible duplicate copies of an edition. As the history of printing has shown, errors and corrections in printing can come to light through the detection of differences in what are meant to be identical versions of the text.

The programme of masterclasses featuring items from Bodleian collections continued with

two sets of classes alternating in Michaelmas Term. In the Medieval Manuscripts classes and the Literary Manuscripts classes, original items from the collections are shown and scholars describe their own encounters with these unique items. Highlights of the 2010 series were Chris Clarkson showing the evolution of medieval bookbindings; the reunion of two illuminated manuscripts made by nuns in a German convent 500 years ago, one now owned by Keble College and one by the Bodleian Library; letters of spiritual advice between sisters in England during the turbulent 17th century; and a loan agreement in Coptic, from 8th-century Egypt.

All are welcome to the masterclasses. A new series will be held in Michaelmas Term 2011. The Medieval Manuscripts classes are convened by Professor Richard Sharpe and Martin Kauffmann, the Literary Manuscripts classes by Professor Kathryn Sutherland and Chris Fletcher.

The Centre will host a number of visiting fellows in 2011, including the Douglas Byrne Marconi Fellow and the Humfrey Wanley Fellow. These researchers engage in work on special collections in the Bodleian Libraries and work closely with curators to improve our knowledge of important collections and little-known features of the early books, manuscripts, and archives holdings.

Public lectures and classes continue in 2011, with the first Marconi Lecture to be

delivered on 1 March 2011 by Professor Peter Scott (Henley Business School, University of Reading) on the subject of 'Radio Manufacturing Between the Wars', at 5.30 p.m. in the Saskatchewan Lecture Theatre, Exeter College.

The 17th Annual McKenzie Lecture on Bibliography will be delivered on 2 March 2011 by Professor Paul Eggert (University of New South Wales), and entitled 'Brought to Book: Book History and the Idea of Literature'. This lecture begins at 5 p.m. in Lecture Theatre 2, at the St Cross Building (English Faculty).

On 9 June the Centre will host a day-long event on bookbindings, gathering experts to discuss the structure and decoration of bindings of early printed books. On 15 September we host a seminar on the Selden Map, a Ming Dynasty map of Chinese trade made in the early 17th century.

These events and others are publicised on the web calendar, <http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/csb/calendar.htm>. See those pages for information about registration, or e-mail [bookcentre@bodleian.ox.ac.uk](mailto:bookcentre@bodleian.ox.ac.uk). For email reminders about Oxford events relating to the history of the book, send a message to: [bookcentre-newslist-subscribe@maillist.ox.ac.uk](mailto:bookcentre-newslist-subscribe@maillist.ox.ac.uk).

*Dr Alexandra Franklin  
Centre for the Study of the Book*

## NEW MEMBERS

We have much pleasure in welcoming the following new Friends (this list continues that published in the Summer 2010 Newsletter):

### FRIENDS OF THE BODLEIAN

G. Alvis, *St Blaise, France*  
N. Ashwin, *York, Yorkshire*  
J. & H. Bach, *London*  
S. Beattie, *Chesham, Buckinghamshire*  
F. Bennett, *Truro, Cornwall*  
P. Bennett-Jones, *Oxford*  
A. Bent & P. Southall, *Hereford, Herefordshire*  
T. D. Brunton, *Oxford*  
J. Colburn, *Cheltenham, Gloucestershire*  
L. Collingwood, *Farnborough, Hampshire*  
D. Crossley, *Oxford*  
V. Denham, *Abingdon, Oxfordshire*  
B. Dolan, *Stratford-upon-Avon, Warwickshire*  
P. Dowdall, *Oxford*  
Reverend J. Edwards, *Crowthorne, Berkshire*  
Dr G. Fellmeth & Dr J. Connor, *Oxford*  
Mrs P. Fletcher & Dr A. Fletcher, *Little Maplestead, Halstead, Essex*  
Professor J. Gardner & Dr C. Gardner von Teuffel, *Oxford*  
S. Gilchrist, *Oxford*  
G. & M. Harris, *Woollahra, Australia*  
S. Hastings, *Eynsham, Oxfordshire*  
C. Hollingworth, *Oxford*  
G. Holst, *Halle (Saale), Germany*  
E. A. & T. Hunt, *London*  
I. S. Jackson, *Harwell, Oxfordshire*  
I. G. Jenkins, *Staines, Middlesex*  
G. M. A. Jones, *Swindon, Wiltshire*  
Ms K. Kolodzey & Ms R. La Montagne, *Winnetka, IL, USA*  
P. Leaf, *Burford, Oxfordshire*  
N. Lipscomb, *Enniskillen, Northern Ireland*  
A. Morgan, *Tunbridge Wells, Kent*  
Dr S. Perry, *Oxford*  
N. D. Pluck, *Oxford*  
M. Redal, *Sussargues, France*  
R. W. Reid, *Oxford*  
G. Reynolds, *London*  
D. F. & H. M. Richmond-Coggan, *Leatherhead, Surrey*  
J. E. Rivington, *Oxford*  
E. Rose, *Abingdon, Oxfordshire*  
M. Saltmarsh, *Alton, Hampshire*  
E. Sandis, *Oxford*  
J. Schofield, *Walferdange, Luxembourg*  
C. Sherriff, *Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire*  
J. Shils, *Atlanta, GA, USA*  
C. L. Smith, *Bellevue, Switzerland*  
Professor K. Sutherland, *Oxford*  
S. Thraning, *Gratangen, Norway*  
J. M. Venn, *Keynsham, Bristol*  
Dr B. Wagner, *Munich, Germany*  
D. White, *Brixham, Devon*  
M. J. Zimmerman, *Belfast, Northern Ireland*  
A. Zoltareva, *Cambridge, Cambridgeshire*

### BODLEY'S AMERICAN FRIENDS

M. H. Morris, *Villanova, PA, USA*

## THE REMAINS OF SHERLOCK HOLMES

In the vault of the National Westminster Bank in Marylebone High Street, London, an iron deed-box lay undisturbed for 80 years. When, under the terms of its deposit, the box was opened, it was found to contain the manuscript records of 56 previously unknown cases of Sherlock Holmes, written by Dr John H. Watson. This is the fancy behind *The Remains of Sherlock Holmes*, the new book by Bodleian employee Paul W. Nash.

The author has remained true to the spirit of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and in each of seven stories a seemingly-insoluble riddle is posed, and answered by the great detective. Along the way, Holmes and Watson encounter actors and actresses, giants and dwarves, beasts and scholars, secret societies, and the most curious gentleman's club in London. At the last the reader is drawn inevitably towards the moment of Holmes's death. The book is an attractive hardback, priced at £12. It is available from reputable bookshops including the Bodleian Shop where the usual 10% discount applies to members. Please note: for each copy sold the author will donate £1 to the Friends of the Bodleian.

*Alison Felstead*  
*Head of Resource Description*

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