

# Bodleian Library Friends' NEWSLETTER

Winter 2013/14 – Winter 2014/15

## RICHARD OVENDEN BECOMES BODLEY'S LIBRARIAN

Richard Ovenden is Bodley's Librarian, the senior executive of the Bodleian Libraries, and the 25th person to hold the title. He has previously held positions at the House of Lords Library, the National Library of Scotland, and at the University of Edinburgh, where he was Director of Collections, responsible for integrating the Library, the University Museums, and Art Gallery.

In 2003 he became Keeper of Special Collections and Western Manuscripts, then Associate Director, and latterly (from 2011) Deputy Librarian, at the Bodleian Libraries, University of Oxford. He is also Director of the Bodleian's Centre for the Study of the Book and holds a Professorial Fellowship at Balliol College, Oxford.

He is professionally active in the sphere of libraries, archives, and information science, being a member of the Board of the Legal Deposit Libraries, the Expert Panel of the National Heritage Memorial Fund, and the Chairman of the Digital Preservation Coalition (DPC) between 2009 and 2013. He is a Trustee of Chawton House Library, the Kraszna Kraus Foundation, and sits on the Advisory Panel for Libraries and Archives of the Church of England. Richard is author of *John Thomson (1837–1921): Photographer (1997)*, and writes on the history of libraries, the history of the book, and the history of photography. He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries.

*Professor Richard McCabe, FBA  
Chairman of the Friends of the Bodleian*



*Richard Ovenden, holding Elizabeth I's copy of Plato's complete works in Greek (photo: Nick Cistone)*

## WESTON LIBRARY OPENS TO READERS

In September 2014 the Bodleian's new Weston Library welcomed its first book – a beautifully bound copy of Plato's complete works in Greek, which was given to Elizabeth I by the Chancellor of the University of Oxford in 1564. To celebrate the occasion, a bagpiper heralded the book's arrival and Lord Patten of Barnes, the Chancellor of the University of Oxford, visited the Library and placed the book on the shelf.

The much-anticipated Weston Library has been opening in phases to readers and

researchers of special collections since last September. An official opening is planned for March 2015. The newly renovated building will accommodate new and existing facilities, including improved conservation laboratories and support for digital scholarship. Special Collections materials began moving into the restored building from early September 2014 and will continue for some time.

*Richard Ovenden  
Bodley's Librarian*

## 'THE CHASTYSING OF GODDE'S CHILDREN'

With significant help from the Friends of the Bodleian, the Library has been successful in acquiring an important Middle English manuscript at auction. Written in northern England in the mid-15th century, it contains 'The Chastysing of Godde's Children' and other mystical treatises.

The text, composed around 1390, circulated widely amongst a cosmopolitan readership in the late Middle Ages in England, and is an important witness to the growing vernacular appetite for advanced spiritual guidance. It provides us with unprecedented evidence for the circulation and appropriation of continental, near-contemporary mystical writings in England, as well as affording us insights into the ongoing popularity of earlier medieval native devotional material. It also offers one of the earliest vernacular guides to discerning true contemplative visions from false,

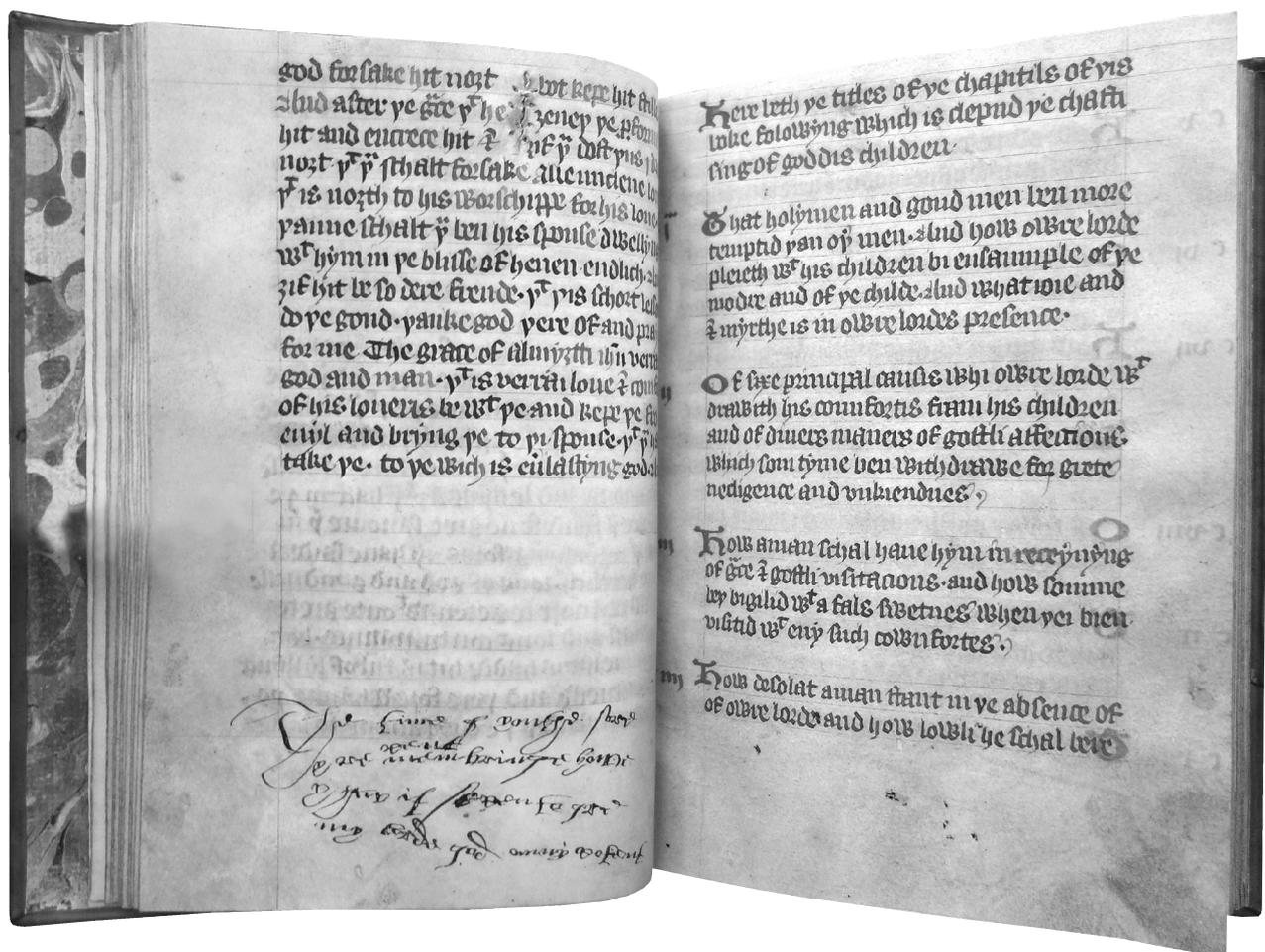
using translated Latin materials developed to support the canonisation of Birgitta of Sweden.

Eleven manuscripts containing full versions or close derivatives are already known: many have close textual and codicological links to English Charterhouses or to the Birgittine House at Syon. The emergence of this new manuscript is of real significance to scholars of medieval vernacular literature and thought. Of particular interest is its collocation in this copy with other devotional texts which were known to have appealed to a shared audience of nuns and devout laity; the book therefore becomes an important witness to this complex reading community. Of the existing versions, five are already in Oxford. Taken together with the Bodleian's world-class manuscript holdings of other Middle English religious texts, this makes Oxford

the natural centre for further study on the text.

Oxford also has the world's largest concentration of scholars working on materials of this kind. Current members of the English Faculty are leaders in the field of 'vernacular theology', with particular expertise in studies of heterodoxy, contemplative writing, and didactic and devotional texts; several also work closely on Carthusian and Birgittine books and on London metropolitan book production. The Library is particularly grateful to Vincent Gillespie, J. R. R. Tolkien Professor of English Literature and Language and Fellow of Lady Margaret Hall, for his powerful inspiration and advice in the acquisition of the manuscript.

*Dr Martin Kauffmann  
Head of Early and Rare Collections and  
Tolkien Curator of Medieval Manuscripts*



The newly acquired manuscript of *The Chastising of God's Children*, open at the beginning of its chapter list. (MS. Don. e. 247, fols. 14v–15r)

## THE PAPERS OF CHARLES STUART DE ROTHESAY

Charles Stuart de Rothesay was educated at Eton, Oxford, and the University of Glasgow. He entered the diplomatic service in 1801. After appointments in Vienna and St Petersburg, he undertook a liaison and intelligence-gathering mission in Spain from 1808 to 1810. In 1810 Stuart was appointed minister at Lisbon, where he joined the Regency Council set up to govern Portugal after the Portuguese royal family had fled to Brazil. During the period when Portugal was the base of allied operations aimed at aiding the Spanish insurgents and driving the French from Iberia, Stuart was, with Lord Wellington, with whom he worked closely, one of the most powerful figures in the peninsula. His later diplomatic career saw him serve during the 'hundred days' as

ambassador at the courts of both the King of the Netherlands and Louis XVIII of France. From 1815 to 1824 and again from 1828 he was ambassador in Paris. He died in 1845 at his home, Highcliffe Castle, Christchurch, Hampshire.

The archive, recently acquired with the help of the Friends of the Bodleian, comprises approximately 680 letters, including informal letters to Stuart from high-ranking military officers in the field, often giving very immediate accounts of operations against the French. More formal military communications show Stuart's involvement in the administration and supply of the British and Portuguese armies. Reports to the minister from embassies and consulates around the Mediterranean demonstrate the complex

task of sourcing provisions from as far afield as Syria and Constantinople. Other letters include political and military intelligence reports. The distribution of funds to those in need was also dealt with by Stuart. Consular letters refer to matters of trade, the English community in Lisbon, and individuals who had fallen foul of the Portuguese authorities. The acquired collection is important in documenting Anglo-Portuguese relations in the crucial theatre of Britain's war with Napoleon.

*Mike Webb*  
Curator of Early Modern Archives  
and Manuscripts

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## AN ACCOUNT OF THE PREMIÈRE OF GLUCK'S *LE CINESI*

Early in 2014 a grant from the Friends of the Bodleian enabled the Library to purchase a contemporary manuscript account of the events surrounding the première of the opera *Le Cinesi* (*The Chinese Ladies*) by Christoph Willibald Ritter von Gluck (1714–87). An important and influential figure in musical history, Gluck is now best-known for various popular vocal and instrumental excerpts from his opera *Orpheus ed Euridice*, among others.

*Le Cinesi* is a one-act 'componimento drammatico' to a libretto by Metastasio, first set by Antonio Caldara in 1735. Gluck's setting was commissioned in 1754 for the glittering festivities surrounding a four-day visit of the Austrian royal family to

Schloss Schlosshof an der March near Vienna, the residence of the imperial field marshal Joseph Friedrich, Prince of Saxe-Hildburghausen. The royal party included the Emperor Francis and Empress Maria Theresa, and no expense was spared in the efforts to impress them.

The significance of *Le Cinesi* goes beyond the work itself. The narrative is about operatic styles, so it is effectively an opera about opera. The Chinese ladies of the title are of noble birth and alleviate the boredom of their existence by play-acting and debating the merits of the various different operatic styles currently in vogue.

Two published descriptions of the event exist, but this previously unknown manu-

script predates them both and has the advantage of being an eyewitness account. It also reports the reaction of the royal party themselves and, together, the three accounts enable a more accurate and rounded picture to emerge of this extraordinary occasion.

The manuscript was also the subject of a Lunchtime Lecture delivered to the Friends by Professor Michael Burden, Professor in Opera Studies and Dean of New College, during Michaelmas 2014.

*Martin Holmes*  
Alfred Brendel Curator of Music Collections

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## LUCY HUTCHINSON'S COPY OF GUARINI'S *IL PASTOR FIDO*

Giovanni Battista Guarini's *Il Pastor Fido*, 1589, was highly influential for English literature, both in the original and in Richard Fanshawe's translation as *The Faithfull Shepherd*, 1647. Time was, on the other hand, that Lucy Hutchinson (1620–81) was known only for her posthumous *Memoirs of the Life of Colonel Hutchinson* (1806), whose importance rested on her husband's position as leader of the parliamentary forces in the English Civil War. That has now changed, with scholarly editions first of her translation of Lucretius'

great philosophical-theological poem *De Rerum Natura* (ed. Hugh de Quehen, 1996) and then of her ambitious biblical paraphrase *Order and Disorder; or, The World Made and Undone*, printed anonymously in 1679 and long unidentified (ed. David Norbrook, 2001). Hutchinson is now recognized as a significant poet, albeit a poet in translation.

How splendid, then, that the Bodleian has acquired her copy of *Il Pastor Fido*. It dates from 1639, the year after Lucy Apsley and John Hutchinson were married and in which she bore her eldest children, twin

boys. John Hutchinson gave her this little volume inscribed with their names in Italian form, as Lucia and Giovanni. They may have read it aloud together (neither would have needed a translation) as they read other literary and theological texts. It is a symbol both of the mutual devotion which first made Lucy Hutchinson famous, and of her 'new' identity as a poet.

*Isobel Grundy, FRSC*  
Literary Research Director, The Orlando  
Project (University of Alberta, Canada)

## ANCIENT TEXTS PUBLISHED ONLINE

The Bodleian Libraries and the Biblioteca Apostolica Vaticana (BAV) have digitized and made available online some of the world's most unique and important Bibles and biblical texts from their collections, as the start of a major digitization initiative undertaken by the two institutions. The digitized texts can be accessed on a dedicated website which was launched in December 2013 (<http://bav.bodleian.ox.ac.uk>). This is the first launch of digitized content in a major four-year collaborative project.

Portions of the Bodleian and Vatican Libraries' collections of Hebrew manuscripts, Greek manuscripts, and early printed books have been selected for digitization by a team of scholars and curators from around the world. The selection process has been informed by a balance of scholarly and practical concerns, and conservation staff at the Bodleian and the Vatican Libraries have worked with curators to assess not only the significance of the content, but also the physical condition of the items. While the Vatican and the Bodleian have each been creating digital images from their collections for a number of years, this project has provided an opportunity for both libraries to increase the scale and pace with which they can digitize their most significant collections, whilst taking great care not to expose fragile books to any damage.

The website features zoomable images which enable detailed scholarly analysis and study. The website also includes essays and a number of video presentations made by scholars and supporters of the digitiza-

tion project, including the Archbishop of Canterbury and Archbishop Jean-Louis Bruguès, OP. The website blog also features articles on the conservation and digitization techniques and methods used during the project. The website is available in both English and Italian.

Originally announced in April 2012, the four-year collaboration aims to open up the two libraries' collections of ancient texts and to make a selection of remarkable treasures available online to researchers and the general public worldwide. Through the generous support of The Polonsky Foundation, this project will make 1.5 million digitized pages freely accessible over the next three years.

Richard Ovenden, Bodley's Librarian, said: 'It is very exciting to see the first fruits of this landmark collaboration between the Bodleian and the Vatican Libraries. We hope that through digitizing and making openly accessible some of the most significant books in our collections we will increase their potential for research and broader understanding of these ancient texts.'

Monsignor Cesare Pasini, the Prefect of the Vatican Library, said: 'I am very pleased with the website that is launched together by the two institutions: I envision how useful it will be to scholars and many other interested people. Moreover, I see the common fruit of our labour as a very positive sign of collaboration and sharing, that is a trademark of the world of culture.'

Dr. Leonard Polonsky CBE said: 'In today's fast-paced, digital-driven world of

scholarship, easy access to primary resources is paramount. I hope that the collection of digital texts that is jointly released by the Bodleian and the Vatican Libraries will make a contribution to the advancement of modern scholarship.'

Suzanne de la Rosa

Head of Communications, Bodleian Libraries



Vitae illustrium virorum, et al.  
(Venice: Nicolaus Jenson, 2 Jan. 1478).

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## IAN McEWAN AWARDED BODLEY MEDAL

On 27 March 2014 the annual Bodley Lecture was given by prize-winning writer, Ian McEwan, in conversation with Bodley's Librarian, after which McEwan was presented with the Bodley Medal. Previous recipients of the award have included Richard Attenborough, Tim Berners-Lee, Alan Bennett, and Hilary Mantel. The author of novels, short stories, screenplays, and a libretto for Michael Berkeley, McEwan is perhaps best-known for his novels *The Cement Garden* (1978), *The Child in Time* (1987), *Enduring Love* (1997), *Amsterdam* (1998), and *On Chesil Beach* (2007). *Atonement* (2001) was subsequently made into an Oscar-winning film starring Keira Knightley and James McAvoy.

His most recent novel is *The Children Act*, published in September 2014, shortly after the Harry Ransom Center announced that they had purchased his archive for \$2 million. One of the writers who evidently changed McEwan's life was Franz Kafka, whom he discovered while an undergraduate at Sussex. The Library was pleased to show him some of Kafka's autographs from the Bodleian collection of his papers.

Judith Priestman

Curator of Literary Manuscripts

## JOANNA TROLLOPE LEAVES HER LITERARY ARCHIVE TO THE BODLEIAN

In February 2014 the best-selling novelist Joanna Trollope donated her archive to the Bodleian, including manuscripts of her novels, research notes, journals, correspondence, and recordings of radio and television broadcasts. In her long and distinguished career she has chaired the Orange Prize for Fiction and worked with the Society of Authors, the National Literacy Trust, and the talking books section of the RNIB. She was awarded the OBE for services to literature in 1996. As

well as her novels of contemporary British life she is also the author of historical fiction published under the name of Caroline Harvey, while her updating of Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility* was published to considerable acclaim in 2013. Her archive joins the publishing papers and early editions of her Victorian ancestor, Anthony Trollope, which are held by the Bodleian. Of her life-long association with Oxford she says: 'Not only was I an Oxford scholar [St Hugh's

College], but so was my father. Moreover, my own daughters were at Oxford colleges and my young grandchildren are educated in the city.' At a time of financial austerity Trollope's gift is particularly generous and follows that of another celebrated Oxford alumnus, Alan Bennett, who has also given his archive to the Library.

*Judith Priestman  
Curator of Literary Manuscripts*

## CHINA CENTRE OPENED BY PRINCE WILLIAM

On 8 September 2014 the Duke of Cambridge formally opened the Dickson Poon University of Oxford China Centre Building in the grounds of St Hugh's College. In his speech the Duke said: 'The China Centre is an enormous achievement. It stands on the foundations of many centuries of learning in the University of Oxford about China, and it marks a significant leap forward. The strength and creativity of the partnership between the University and St Hugh's provides a solid foundation for the creation of what has the potential to become the foremost place of study about China in the world.'

The new China Centre building offers the space to bring academics with an interest in China together from all parts of the University. Based in the heart of the China Centre is the new Bodleian K. B. Chen China Centre Library. The Library is named to commemorate the late father of Hong Kong businessman Henry Chan, who supported the building with a generous gift. The library will provide a permanent home for 45 thousand volumes of the Bodleian



*Prince William opening Dickson Poon China Centre, 8 September 2014.*

Libraries' Chinese Studies collections. The new library offers almost double the reader space compared to the former Chinese Studies Library. It includes not only traditional reading desks, but also dedicated areas for studying oversized material as well as more informal areas for reading journals and the daily press. For undergraduate stu-

dents the library offers a group study room. Dedicated carrels are available for visiting researchers and PhD students.

*Joshua Seufert  
HD Chung Chinese Studies Librarian*

## ISHINPO: DONATION OF JAPANESE MEDICINE LITERATURE

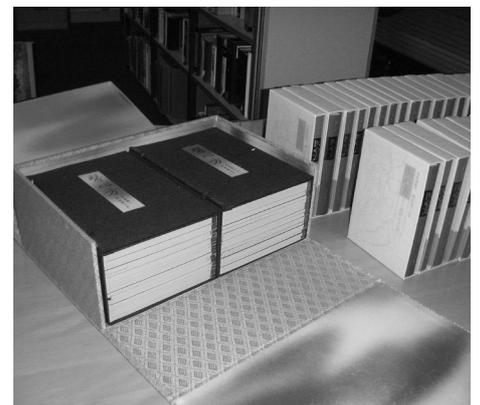
The Bodleian Libraries were delighted to receive a collection of precious books on Japanese medicine from the Tsumura Company, a leading pharmaceutical firm in Japan. A presentation ceremony took place at the Bodleian Japanese Library on 19 February 2013. Attendees included Mr N. Tanaka, Senior Managing Director and some of his colleagues from Tsumura; Professor Denis Noble of the Department of Physiology; eminent scholars in the field from Japan; Ms S. Maki, the translator of the modern version of *Ishinpo*; Dr Sarah Thomas, then Bodley's Librarian; and Izumi Tytler, the Bodleian Japanese Librarian.

The books presented include two sets of

*Ishinpo*, a compendium of the oldest surviving Japanese medical texts written by Yasuyori Tamba in 984 (the 1993 version and a facsimile of the Ansei (1860) version), and other titles on Japanese medical history.

*Ishinpo* is a national treasure in Japan, and provides invaluable source material for Professor Noble's collaborative research project on systems biology and herbal remedies. We are extremely grateful to the Tsumura Company for their generous support, and to Professor Noble, who was instrumental in arranging this splendid donation.

*Izumi Tytler  
Bodleian Japanese Librarian*



*Ishinpo donated: a facsimile produced in traditional Japanese book style, and the modern version.*

## ANTI-APARTHEID MOVEMENT COLLECTION AVAILABLE ONLINE

A new website drawing on the Anti-Apartheid Movement (AAM) archive at the Bodleian Libraries (<http://www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/dept/scwmss/wmss/online/blcas/aam.html>) was launched at a reception at South Africa House, London, in March 2014. 'Forward to freedom: the history of the British Anti-Apartheid Movement, 1959-1994' (<http://www.aamarchives.org>) features video, documents, posters, photographs, badges, and other items from the archive, making them freely available to all.

The website summarises the history of the Movement and describes the campaigns it organised, such as the consumer and sports boycotts, arms embargo and support for political prisoners, and the groups involved, ranging from students and trade unions to local authorities and professional groups.

The website also features new material in the form of transcripts and audio-clips of interviews conducted with 30 activists and supporters, including the politicians Barbara Castle and David Steel, both of whom served as President of AAM in the 1960s; the trade union leader Ron Todd; and the musi-



AAM poster asking shoppers to boycott South African goods. Some of the items incorporate images of school students shot at Soweto in June 1976. (MSS AAM 2512/1/112).

cian Jerry Dammers. The website is part of a wider education project established by the AAM Archives Committee which includes exhibition boards available for loan and an education pack for schools. It was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund and Barry Amiel & Norman Melburn Trust, and organised in

partnership with the AAM's successor organisation, Action for Southern Africa.

Lucy McCann  
Senior Archivist

## EVENTS

### SCIENCE IN THE LIBRARY: CONSERVATION WORKSHOP FOR THE FRIENDS, 3 APRIL 2014

On a shelf deep in the stacks, even if never accessed, I am not lonely. A whole family of dusts clings to me, some corrosive, others organic, bringing their insect friends with them. If a reader does request me, some dust may fall away, but I am bathed in light, without which I cannot be read; and with the light comes fading, not to mention the stress of being handled. A book's life is long, but wearing.

These days my keepers do not necessarily treat me (treatment, I suppose, might be another affliction), but they monitor my condition as never before. Slides placed around me gather the falling dust, whose each grain is counted by a computer (or a PhD student if the computer is busy). I may be whisked off to a visiting Italian mobile laboratory for colour spectrometry to determine how faded I am; or, if I am accused of being a palimpsest, a Dutch team may scan me with infrared light to read my other self without scratching my surface. Scientists from University College London may use a 3D scanner to offer my potential reader information which she would never acquire with her naked eye – and then print in 3D a bookholder exactly moulded to my surface

if I am to be on display (in low-light conditions, of course).

Sixty Friends, gathered for a 'SCIENCE in the Library' workshop, gleaned all this from David Howell, Head of Conservation Research at the Bodleian, a jovial lecturer. Some of us were rather surprised by the content of his presentation and a subsequent demonstration from his colleagues. Having seen the word 'Conservation' we came expecting to observe the repair of broken bindings or cracking parchments, not to see the best-looking among us have her head scanned in 3D and ready for printing in 15 seconds, and be told we can do the same with free downloadable software. We should have read the flysheet more carefully. Library-speak for what we had in mind is probably restoration, or repair; conservation today is also about prevention, not cure. Prevention attempts to exclude all that dust – as is the case in the new Bodleian Book Storage Facility in Swindon, and for rarer objects it will mean digital scanning and recording so complete that direct access to them will be otiose.

We ended the afternoon in analogue gazing from the roof of Earth Sciences south



Mona Hess of University College London, holding an example of 3D printing.

to the old world of learning, almost too digitised to speak.

Colin Wake  
Member, Friends of the Bodleian

# FRIENDS' VISIT TO THE BODLEIAN BOOK STORAGE FACILITY IN SWINDON, JULY 2014

A group of Friends of the Bodleian enjoyed an informative and impressive tour of the new Bodleian Book Storage Facility (BSF) in Swindon. The new warehouse is located 28 miles from Oxford and the journey is completed in less than one hour.

On arrival at the Swindon warehouse the visitors were greeted by Boyd Rodger, Storage and Logistics Projects Manager at the BSF. Boyd gave a presentation explaining the rationale behind the creation of the new facility and how it operates to provide an effective and efficient book delivery service for readers at the Bodleian.

The book storage facility opened in 2010 and now houses books from several sites, each of which had reached its storage capacity. The advantage of the new facility is that it brings all of the books together in one place and negates the logistical problems associated with several sites. This reduces operational costs and enables a faster service of book delivery for readers.

It will take some time for this warehouse to reach capacity, and when it does, there is ample land on which to extend the facility.

As a librarian I expected the giant warehouse to hold books something akin to the way we classify and arrange them in our libraries. Here, however, this is not the case. Books are stored in archival boxes according to their size. Each box holds around ten titles, depending on their thickness, and has a barcode on its side. The box is then stored in an exact location: by shelf, bay, and aisle. A barcode label on the book links the storage record with SOLO, the library catalogue. It is this system of warehousing, holding every book in its exact place, that enables swift and accurate identification and retrieval.

Following Boyd's presentation the Friends donned high visibility vests in order to tour the actual warehouse. The building, split into four chambers, has its climate controlled and the air filtered to reduce dust accumulation. Divided into two sections, one area accommodates legal deposit materials whilst other acquisitions are held in the second. The shelving spans a total of 153 miles. Each of the narrow aisles, towering 30 feet in height, accommodates a forklift truck which is used to collect the books from their storage boxes.

The Friends were able to get a sense of the height as they were taken to the top floor of the map tower in the centre of the warehouse. Thousands of large drawers fill each corridor and are used to store the Bodleian's map collection. The top floor of the tower is level with the top of the shelves and gives an

impressive view of the warehouse, as viewed by the forklift operators.

Back inside the administrative area the Friends could see how books collected by the forklift drivers are checked before being packed in tote boxes to be sent to various reading rooms of the Bodleian. Deliveries are made twice a day. A scan facility is also available to provide digital extracts to readers. Of course, books have to come back in. These are sorted in the administrative area so that they can be returned to their

correct location in the warehouse by the forklift drivers. They will sit in their exact place until a reader wishes to see them again.

Having left Swindon the Friends visited the Rose Revived pub where they enjoyed a two course lunch (and traditional ales!) before returning to Oxford.

*Mark Naylor, MA MCLIP  
Member, Friends of the Bodleian*

Dear Reader,

I'm one of the forklift drivers at the Bodleian Book Storage Facility (BSF) in Swindon and would like to tell you about my work. It is just after 10.30, and I am about to take my morning tea break. The last thing I will do before that is to deal with your book request, which was sent this morning.

I should just add that I am sitting between two racks, about 30 feet in the air; your request is the final one of the batch I have worked through this morning, and I am sitting opposite the box which includes your book.

All the shelving here is by size, and every book is recognised by its barcode. You may never know this, but your book sits in a box with a novel by Enid Blyton, two cookery books, and a set of books in a script that is completely foreign to me, possibly Chinese, and which does not include a single word that I recognise.

But none of that matters! I have a barcode for you, and I have a barcode for your book. I put the two together, do a few other things, and you will receive the book in a reading room this afternoon. As if by magic.

Now, more about the Facility. Think of 8 million books, with additions running at 300 thousand a year, with that figure increasing at the rate of ten percent each year. Think of all the readers at all the Bodleian Libraries, and all the books they want. Think of the requests received by 10.30 being delivered from here to Oxford later the same day. Amazing.

That is now. We have thought about the future too. The Facility is on the site of a wartime airfield on the edge of Swindon. We have 17 acres of it, all earmarked for books.

The Facility took only a year to build from start to finish. It is protected like Fort Knox. It is full of sprinkler heads in case of fire. My truck, and the others like it, are the only moving parts. My steering is assisted by a guide-by-wire system and guide rails as a back-up collision prevention measure.

Recently we had three parties of visitors from the Friends of the Bodleian. They love it. We also have visitors from Cambridge and other places, with everyone very impressed by what they see. Our management has trawled the world for the best ideas, and I think they are happy with the result.

I must send your book on its way. You got a bit more from your request than you might have expected. Next time, you too might tour the facility. Enjoy!

*Nigel Harvie  
Member, Friends of the Bodleian*

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 26 JUNE 2014

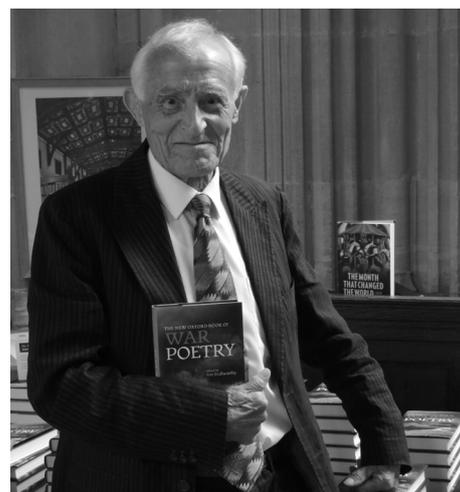
The 69th Annual General Meeting of the Friends was held in the Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford, at 3pm.

Dr Kate Blackmon, Senior Proctor, was in the Chair and extended a warm welcome to everyone in the house and on the panel. A unanimous re-election of all members of the Council of Management, retiring by rotation, was followed by a detailed report from Professor Richard McCabe, Chairman of the Friends. Professor McCabe spoke about the Society's support for rare acquisitions, in particular the late autograph draft manuscript of Gerard Manley Hopkins' *Binsey Poplars*, acquired at auction in April 2013. The importance of financial contributions from several funding bodies, including the Friends, was gratefully acknowledged by Bodley's Librarian, Richard Ovenden.

Dr Blackmon then invited Emeritus Professor Jon Stallworthy, FBA, Senior Research Fellow of Wolfson College, to address the meeting. In the centenary year of the Great War the title of his lecture was: 'Where are the War Poets 1914-2014?' We were encouraged to consider a range of questions, perhaps the most central being why British and American poems of the Second World War are so often ignored in favour of the 'frequently inferior' poems of the First? Was it because, in 1939, 'stepping forward' had lost its appeal and men had learned, the hard way, to 'step back'?

Or because 'chivalry died with the cavalry'? Or because the Church of England had refused to memorialise Second World War poets in Westminster Abbey? Perhaps the most disturbing explanation may lie with the prescriptive content of Key Stage Four and Key Stage Five examination syllabi, whereby Owen and Sassoon are lionised, while American Vietnam veterans go unnoticed and unremarked. Our young people are reading nothing from South Korea or Vietnam, let alone from the battlefields of Iraq or Afghanistan. Where are the poets? The contemporary reading public are attuned to prose, news, and televisual images for documentation of war. The front line, first-hand witness is the BBC war correspondent. But the contributions of the modern and post-modern soldier-poets continue to be written and to be published. They have the power to move us to pity and fear; we should read, recognise, and remember them as keenly as the contributions of those who have written about earlier wars. Their achievement was, and still is, to move us deeply, and to shape society's attitude to subsequent conflicts. The poets of the 21st century have confirmed that 'The Old Lie' really was a lie.

The meeting was closed with warm and appreciative thanks to Professor Stallworthy for his fascinating, insightful, and provocative ideas. The new edition of Professor



Jon Stallworthy, holding a copy of his book, *The New Oxford Book of War Poetry*.

Stallworthy's *The New Oxford Book Of War Poetry*, published to mark the centenary of the First World War, and available to Friends after the meeting, includes many new poems of the two World Wars, the Vietnam War, and further conflicts in the late 20th and early 21st centuries.

'In Celebration' of tea, we adjourned to the Divinity School, where caterer Jayne Clark's repast earned the title 'Tea of the Year'.

Helen Tozer  
Member, Friends of the Bodleian

## PEOPLE

### JON STALLWORTHY

Jon Stallworthy, who died at home on 19 November 2014 aged 79, was first and last a poet, but was equally distinguished as a publisher, biographer, literary scholar, editor, and inspiring university teacher. After National Service in West Africa he read English at Oxford where he won the Newdigate prize for his poem, 'The Earthly Paradise', in 1958 and narrowly missed a rugby Blue. He joined Oxford University Press in 1959, rising to be Deputy Head of its Academic Division in 1975, before resigning in 1977. Despite the demands of a highly successful publishing career, which included the creation of OUP's poetry list, by 1977 he had published six volumes of his own poetry, two groundbreaking books on W. B. Yeats's habits of composition (1963 and 1969) both informed, like all his critical writing, by his own poetic practice, and an award-winning biography of Wilfred Owen (1974).

At this point, invited to take up a professorship at Cornell University, he changed

careers and moved to the USA until 1986, before returning to Oxford as Reader, and from 1992, Professor in English Literature, and as a Governing Body Fellow of Wolfson College. He continued to publish widely as a poet, translator, and scholar. His landmark edition of Wilfred Owen's poems was published in 1983 and his pioneering biography of Louis MacNeice followed in 1995. After his retirement he continued to be remarkably active as an author and a Fellow of Wolfson College, where he was Acting President for one term in 2000 and again from January 2007 to September 2008. His last book of poems, *War Poet*, was published in 2014.

Among his many achievements, Jon Stallworthy was a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature and of the British Academy, winner of many literary prizes, the senior trustee of the Wilfred Owen Literary estate, and in 2010, recipient of the Wilfred Owen poetry award.

Jon Stallworthy was elected to the Council of the Friends of the Bodleian in 1995, having been instrumental in the Library's acquisition of Louis MacNeice's literary archive. He served as the Council's Chair from 2001 until 2009, a period during which the Friends, in addition to an active programme of lectures and events, supported purchases of, among others, Mendelssohn's *Hebrides* overture, the Abinger Papers (including the manuscript of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*), Philip Larkin's letters to Monica Jones, and the score of Cavalli's *Erismena*, the first opera in the English language. After standing down as Chair he continued his invaluable contributions to Council as an ordinary member. His lecture, 'Where are the War Poets? 1914-2014?', given at the Friends' AGM in the Sheldonian on 26 June 2014, was Jon Stallworthy's last public appearance.

John Barnard  
Member, Council of Management

## FAREWELL AND CONGRATULATIONS TO HELEN LANGLEY

On 31 July 2014 Helen Langley retired from the Bodleian Libraries after over 37 years' service. During her long and distinguished career as the Curator of Modern Political Papers, Helen has been responsible for developing the substantial collections in this area – with the result that the Bodleian holds one of the world's most significant collections of its type.

Helen's collecting has focused not only on the great political figures of the modern age – Ted Heath, Roy Jenkins, and Barbara Castle, to name but a few – but also on the diplomats, journalists, and commentators that provide an essential context to the more obvious narrative. Helen has also been involved with the UN oral history project,

another highly valuable cultural and intellectual resource for scholars.

There are few acknowledgment pages in the major studies of British political figures that do not thank Helen; many researchers, both in the reading rooms and further afield, owe her an enormous debt for the catalogues she has helped to deliver. The public too have benefitted from her expertise through her talks, presentations, and an exhibition and catalogue celebrating the life and times of Benjamin Disraeli. More recently, Helen has used her formidable network of contacts and, indeed, friends, to present a series of public seminars bringing together academics, curators, and collections to help further an understanding of

the complexities of British political life.

In addition to her professional research interests, Helen has developed a personal interest and expertise in the fascinating relationship between the worlds of politics and horticulture, more specifically the landscape garden. This is a subject on which she has lectured and written, and which her retirement will allow her to pursue with even more vigour. We wish Helen all the very best for a long and active retirement and look forward to welcoming her back frequently.

*Dr Christopher Fletcher  
Keeper of Special Collections*

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## ANTHONY HOBSON

Anthony Hobson, who died in July 2014 aged 92, was one of the world's greatest experts on Renaissance bindings. His last review, on the Rothschild bindings at Waddesdon, was published in the *Times Literary Supplement* a week before his death.

After a distinguished war record serving in the Scots Guards, Anthony Hobson joined Sotheby's book department in 1947. He swiftly became its Head, becoming an Associate Director of the firm in 1971. His disagreement with Peter Wilson's international expansion of Sotheby's led him to resign in 1978. By then he had already

established himself as a scholar. He had given the Sandars Lectures in Bibliography at Cambridge (1974–5) and his *Apollo and Pegasus* had been published in 1975. From then on he devoted his remarkable energies to scholarship and book collecting.

Elected a Fellow of the British Academy in 1992, his pre-eminence as a historian of Renaissance binding is internationally recognised. Among his many publications perhaps *Humanists and Bookbinders* (1989) stands out, and, in 2011, active to the end, he published *Some Memories of Congresses and Colloquia of the Association Internationale de Bibliophilie*.

Anthony Hobson joined the Council of the Friends of the Bodleian in 1993 and remained a member until his death. His wise advice, which combined unrivalled erudition with an intimate knowledge of the book trade, made an invaluable contribution to the Council's deliberations over many years.

*John Barnard  
Member, Council of Management*

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## NEW ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR DIGITAL LIBRARIES

The Bodleian Libraries are pleased to announce that Lucie Burgess has been appointed as Associate Director for Digital Libraries.

Lucie, who joined the Libraries in November 2014, is responsible for the leadership of the Bodleian Digital Library Systems and Services team and strategic development of the Bodleian's online services and digital initiatives. As Associate Director she leads in the provision of high quality digital information services in the development of a world-leading library, developing content and tools that support digital scholarship, and establishing partnerships with others.

Lucie brings to the Libraries extensive experience of developing strategic digital programmes at the British Library, where she led major projects to develop the British Library's digital library infrastructure and improve access to digitized and born-digital content. Prior to joining the British Library, Lucie worked in a variety of publishing, business development, and strategy roles at

United Business Media, a FTSE-250 publishing and information company. She also worked for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change secretariat, supporting negotiations for the 1997 Kyoto Protocol on climate change, utilizing her research experience in the physics of atmospheres and oceans gained through her Master's degree in Physics from Hertford College, Oxford.

On joining the Libraries, Lucie Burgess said: 'I am delighted to be joining the Bodleian Libraries, one of the most innovative libraries in the world underpinned by its unique collections and rich tradition. Digital continues to transform the ways in which researchers make new discoveries, students learn, and the public can engage. I am proud to be helping the Bodleian take full advantage of this transformation for all its users.'

*Richard Ovenden  
Bodleian Librarian*



*Lucie Burgess*

## THE GREAT WAR: PERSONAL STORIES FROM DOWNING STREET TO THE TRENCHES, 18 JUNE TO 2 NOVEMBER 2014

The Bodleian Summer 2014 Exhibition, *The Great War: Personal Stories from Downing Street to the Trenches*, looked at the years of Asquith's wartime premiership, 1914–16, and considered the war from various contemporary perspectives, from the Cabinet to the front line. The sources used were mainly papers of Oxford alumni, established statesmen and opinion formers, or young men who were to become public figures in later life. These worlds were interconnected: the Prime Minister's son Raymond Asquith was a Grenadier Guard alongside Harold Macmillan, a future Prime Minister, and like H. H. Asquith, a Balliol alumnus. Photographs of Harold Macmillan before the battle of Loos were taken by Edward 'Bim' Tennant, Grenadier Guard, poet and nephew of Margot Asquith. Margot's own passionate and forthright diaries also appeared in the exhibition giving her highly personal view from the centre. A picture of a government struggling from crisis to crisis emerged from Asquith's official and private papers, including the Dardanelles campaign, the shell shortage, conscription, and the Easter Rising. Asquith's

own feelings were expressed in letters to his confidantes Venetia Stanley, and afterwards her sister Sylvia Henley. A highly coloured commentary was provided by the journal of the cabinet minister Lewis Harcourt, an exciting new source for the doings of Asquith's wartime cabinet – for which there were no official records.

Another feature of the exhibition was the inclusion of material borrowed from the Deutsches Literaturarchiv in Marbach and the Bibliothèque nationale et universitaire in Strasbourg. The key link between the three institutions is the German expressionist poet Ernst Stadler, a native of Alsace (German until 1918) and a Rhodes Scholar in Oxford. He was killed by a British shell at Zandvoorde in October 1914. The diary of another Ernest, Brigadier Ernest Makins, provides a British view of the awful battle that day.

The Somme became the focus of many of the key figures of the exhibition, and a case dedicated to the battle featured Raymond Asquith, who was killed there. Harold Macmillan was severely wounded in the same attack. George Butterworth's last let-

ter before he was killed poignantly tells his father that he is in billets but expects to be moved up to the line soon.

The exhibition ended with the fall of Asquith in December 1916, a letter to him from Lloyd George demanding that 'vigour and vision' are needed to prevent 'futile carnage'. Two days later Lloyd George was Prime Minister.

*Mike Webb*  
Curator of Early Modern Archives  
and Manuscripts

Mike Webb's book, *From Downing Street to the Trenches: First-Hand Accounts from the Great War, 1914–1916* (2014), written to accompany the exhibition, was shortlisted for a Paddy Power Political Book Award 2015 in the category World War One Book of the Year. It is available for purchase from the Bodleian Libraries Shop.

The Friends were grateful to Mike Webb for sharing his knowledge and personal insights during the gallery talk he gave to a group of us on 20 October 2014.



Trenches held by the Royal Dragoons from 28 May to 4 June. (MS. Photogr. d. 19, fols. 322–3)

## GREAT MEDICAL DISCOVERIES: 800 YEARS OF OXFORD INNOVATION, 22 NOVEMBER 2013 TO 18 MAY 2014

On the morning of 13 May 1935, T. E. Lawrence ('Lawrence of Arabia') set out from his cottage, Clouds Hill, on his Brough Superior motorcycle to post a parcel of books to his friend 'Jock' Chambers. It was to be his last journey. On the way home he swerved to avoid two boys on bicycles and was thrown over the handlebars, fracturing his skull. He was treated at Bovington Camp Military Hospital by the neurosurgeon, Hugh Cairns, but died six days later without regaining consciousness. He was just 46 years old.

Two years later Hugh Cairns (1896-1952) was appointed the first Nuffield Professor of Surgery at Oxford in 1937. He was profoundly affected by Lawrence's death and began a campaign to reduce the number of motorcyclists killed by head injuries. He conducted research over a number of years to develop the most effective type of crash

helmet and to prove its efficacy in reducing death and serious trauma. As a direct result of his research, the British army made crash helmets compulsory in November 1941. It was not until 1973, long after Cairns's own death, that they were made compulsory for civilian motorcyclists.

Items from the archives of Hugh Cairns and T. E. Lawrence, both held at the Bodleian, were used to highlight this story, one of many which were revealed in the Bodleian's winter exhibition. This was the library's first exhibition devoted solely to medicine since 1947. The visitor numbers were some of the highest ever for a winter exhibition and attest to the fact that it was long overdue.

*Catherine Parker  
Archivist*



*T.E. Lawrence astride his Brough Superior, talking to the designer of the motorbike, George Brough, who was recovering from two broken legs sustained in a motorbike accident, 1930. (MS. Photogr. c. 126, fol. 34)*

## HELP US GROW: BECOME THE FRIENDS' AMBASSADOR OR VOLUNTEER

The opening of the Weston Library is approaching fast and is greatly anticipated across the University and beyond. We would like to seize the moment and share the story of the Friends of the Bodleian, encouraging new members to join our great community of support for the development of the world renowned collections at the Bodleian Libraries.

We believe that in order to maintain its place at the heart of the Bodleian it is very important for the Friends to continue to grow. We are looking for existing Friends to support us in this endeavour by becoming involved as an Ambassador or a Volunteer. Ambassadors will be vital in helping to make this campaign a success, and will offer their time and skills to help communicate our message in different ways, whether through new groups and communities, at events, or by making use of their professional networks. We would also be delighted to hear from anyone who would be willing to share the extra work that will (hopefully) come our way with the increased number of Friends. The role of a Volunteer will involve assisting with events, mailings, publicity, and some aspects of office work. If you have enjoyed your experience as a Friend, please do consider helping us to spread the word to potential new members or sharing our workload. With your help we hope to expand the support for the Bodleian

Libraries and through it those whom the Friends were established to aid in their endeavours, the international community of scholars. We would value your help as we aim to offer an even more attractive programme of events to our members and the general public.

When promoting the Friends even informally, please feel free to mention that as a special offer, all those who sign up before the end of April 2015 will be invited to a behind-the-scenes tour of the Weston Library later in the year – a wonderful opportunity to see the new reading rooms and facilities, such as the state-of-the-art Centre for Digital Scholarship and the Conservation Laboratory. The same offer will, of course, be available to existing members.

If you would like to learn more or be more involved in our campaign, please contact the Friends' Administrator on 01865 277234 or [fob@bodleian.ox.ac.uk](mailto:fob@bodleian.ox.ac.uk).

Thank you for helping us grow!

*Margaret Czepiel  
Secretary of the Friends of the Bodleian*

### **A new benefit for the Friends of the Bodleian!**

In conjunction with the campaign to develop the community of Friends we are pleased to let you know of an additional benefit for new and existing members, a 15% discount on purchases in the Oxford



University Press shop in High Street, Oxford – available immediately. Whenever you would like to take advantage of the new benefit, please present your valid membership card at the till in the OUP shop. Enjoy!

## NEW MEMBERS

*We have much pleasure in welcoming the following new Friends (this list continues that published in the Winter 2012/13 and Summer 2013 Newsletter):*

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### SOUTH AFRICAN FRIENDS

P. R. Bosman, University of South Africa

*The Bodleian Libraries are most grateful to the following Friends of the Bodleian for their generous donations towards Lecture Theatre and Reading Room chairs in the Weston Library:*

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*While great care was taken to list all donors accurately and accordingly to their wishes, please accept our apologies if we did not succeed in our endeavours.*