

Bodleian Library Friends' NEWSLETTER

Summer 2009 and Winter 2009/10

CHANGING CHAIRS

At the AGM on 25 June Professor Jon Stallworthy announced that he was stepping down as Chairman of the Council of the Friends of the Bodleian and would be succeeded by Professor Richard McCabe.

Professor Stallworthy's eight-year chairmanship saw a steady increase in the membership of the Friends and a great expansion in its activities. Visits were organised to libraries and museums in the Netherlands, and to the libraries at Hughenden Manor, Lambeth Palace, Compton Verney, and St John's College. The AGMs were addressed by a series of distinguished speakers from David Vaisey in 2002 to Lord Hurd in the present year, and there were literary evenings with the novelists William Boyd, Ian McEwan and David Lodge, and with the biographers Michael Holroyd, Jenny Uglow, Victoria Glendinning, Hermione Lee, and Claire Tomalin. There was also a presentation by Sir Jonathan Miller and a packed programme of lunchtime lectures on subjects ranging from antiquarian cookery books (provocatively titled 'Eating in the Library') to the mathematical imagination of Lewis Carroll. But most important of all, the Friends assisted the Library with the acquisition of a number of items of outstanding interest, including the medieval Arabic manuscript known as 'The Book of Curiosities of the Sciences', the Sheldon tapestry map of Gloucestershire, the final working autograph of Mendelssohn's *Hebrides* overture, the Abinger papers (with the manuscript of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*), Philip Larkin's letters to Monica Jones, and most recently, the manuscript of the first opera in the English language, Cavalli's *Erismena*. Acknowledging the Friends' generosity at a luncheon prior to the AGM, Dr Sarah Thomas,



NICK CISTONE

Professor Jon Stallworthy (left) and Professor Richard McCabe.

Bodley's Librarian, warmly thanked Professor Stallworthy for his stewardship of the Council and welcomed his decision to stay on as an ordinary member of Council. She marked his retirement with the presentation of an antiquarian print of the Radcliffe Camera.

Professor Richard McCabe, the incoming Chairman, is a Fellow of the British Academy and Sub-Warden of Merton College, the college of which Sir Thomas Bodley, the Library's founder, was a Fellow. His interests centre in Renaissance Studies and he is currently working on literary patronage. He has published extensively in the fields of Early Modern English, particularly on Edmund Spenser and the drama of Shakespeare and his contemporaries. He hopes to widen the membership of the Friends, foster closer links with our many branches abroad, and

create further opportunities to meet, talk and appreciate the riches of the Library. Speaking at a recent college event in honour of Sir Thomas Bodley, he remarked that 'although Bodley spent much of his life as a diplomat, it is clear from his autobiography that he regarded his work in Oxford as his greatest service to the nation. His ambition was to turn the Library, and through it Oxford University, into an international centre of learning. Realising that the task was too great for any one person, he hoped that his actions would "stirre up other mens benevolence". The unflinching benevolence shown by the Friends represents one of the most significant responses to Bodley's vision and is particularly important in the current financial climate when library funding is under threat'.

VISIT OF THE PRIME MINISTER

The Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, delivered the Romanesque lecture at the Sheldonian Theatre on 27 February on 'Science and our Economic Future'. Afterwards at the Convocation House, on his way to a reception in the Divinity School, he was shown several treasures from the Bodleian's collections: Queen Margaret's Gospel Book;

one of the official reissues of Magna Carta (1217); the draft manuscript of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*; and papers of a previous Labour Prime Minister, James Callaghan. Gordon Brown acknowledged with pleasure his links as a local MP with Dunfermline, the city particularly associated with St Margaret, and enthusiastically recognized the significance of

notes about Jim Callaghan's speech at Ruskin College in 1976 which had launched 'The Great Debate' on education.

Dr Bruce Barker-Benfield,
Senior Assistant Librarian, Department of
Special Collections & Western Manuscripts

LAUNCH OF THE BODLEIAN BOOK STORAGE FACILITY

On 17 September 2009, Vice-Chancellor John Hood and other University administrators broke ground at the site in South Marston, Swindon, selected to serve as the home of the Bodleian Book Storage Facility (BSF), which is expected to open in September 2010. The building will have a capacity of over 8 million volumes. It will be used to provide temporary storage for many materials now housed in the New Bodleian Library during the next five years as it undergoes renovation; to consolidate distributed collections, such as those now in Nuneham Courtenay into a single, efficient operation; and to provide space for growth over the next 20 years. The BSF will hold infrequently used materials.

The Libraries have developed a strategy to improve reader access to information by placing high-demand books on open shelves, by increasing electronic access, and by introducing innovations in delivery such as scanning requested items. The Special Collections Reading Room will be moved to the Radcliffe Science Library in Michaelmas Term 2009, remaining there until the New Bodleian reopens as the Weston Library in 2014/2015. As a consequence of these



Front entrance of the new Book Storage Facility.

developments, the Library will be able to meet a greater proportion of user requests electronically or from other University libraries in Oxford.

The launch of the BSF is the first in a series of ambitious capital projects that will transform the Oxford University Library Services. In addition to the New Bodleian renovation, which will

result in a modern special collections library and welcoming public space, the University is designing a new Humanities Library on the Radcliffe Observatory Quarter that will serve most of the humanities faculties in a single integrated building.

Dr Sarah Thomas, Bodley's Librarian

BODLEY'S LIBRARIAN RECEIVES ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Dr Sarah Thomas, Bodley's Librarian and Director of Oxford University Library Services, has been awarded the GSLIS Alumni Achievement Award by her alma mater, Simmons College, Boston, USA. This award is presented to an outstanding alumna or alumnus who has demonstrated notable professional achievements and contributions to the library and information profession while showing firm commitment to the community.

The award ceremony is the highlight of the

annual alumni special one-day event at Simmons College. Dr Thomas gave the keynote address and spoke about her career as a librarian and the future for the Bodleian Library.

Before joining the Bodleian Library in February 2007, Dr Thomas served as the University Librarian at Cornell University from 1996 until 2007. In a career spanning 35 years, Dr Thomas worked in major American research libraries including Harvard's Widener Library, Johns Hopkins, the National

Agricultural Library, the Library of Congress, and the Research Libraries Group.

Dr Thomas earned a PhD in German literature from The Johns Hopkins University in 1983, writing her dissertation on the topic of author-publisher relations. She received her Bachelor's degree from Smith College in 1970 and a Master of Science in library science from Simmons College in 1973.

Oana Romocea, Communications Officer

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

WILLIAM GODWIN'S FIRST NOVEL

With the offer of generous support from the Friends, the Library was able to secure the second known copy of Godwin's first novel, *Damon and Delia* (1784), at Sotheby's sale of 14 July 2009. Until 1978 this was known only from reviews, and then a copy turned up in a Scottish castle which was acquired by the British Library.

Set in contemporary England, the novel tells a tale of thwarted love which comes right at the end and is typical of the Gothic romances commissioned by Thomas Hookham for his and others' circulating libraries. Godwin received

five guineas for a book he wrote in ten days. Of his three early novels, which were essentially hack-work done to make some money, William St Clair thinks *Damon* especially interesting because, 'one of the minor characters, Mr Godfrey, is unmistakably Godwin himself... an honest self-portrait which catches many of the essential characteristics, fantasies and aspirations of the real Godwin at the age of twenty-seven' (*The Godwins and the Shelleys*, 1989).

This copy of the book, bound in typical quarter calf with marbled boards (the marbling over waste paper, some of which is from the

1789 'horrid' novel *The Spectre*, by H. J. Pye) was brought into the Library some months ago to be authenticated. The owners also wanted a valuation, so we sent them next door to Blackwell's Rare Books Department. We knew then that if it were to be sold, we would like to try to buy it, especially in the context of having Godwin's papers in the Abinger collection, and asked Blackwell's to keep an eye on it for us, which they very kindly did. The shelf mark is *Vet. A5 f. 4148*.

Clive Hurst, Head of Rare Books

MARIA EDGEWORTH'S *VIVIAN*

The Friends have acquired for the Bodleian an edition of Maria Edgeworth's novel *Vivian* containing many autograph revisions by the author in ink and pencil markings by the recipient of the volume, Mary Sneyd.

Vivian was first published in 1812 as part of a series of six volumes entitled *Tales of Fashionable Life*. By this date Edgeworth was influential and highly regarded. Her admirers included George Eliot, Sir Walter Scott and Jane Austen, who in 1814 told Anna Lefroy that 'I have made up my mind to like no Novels really, but Miss Edgeworth's, Yours, & my own'.

Despite her high literary standing, Edgeworth was sensitive to criticism and, in her efforts to seek the approval, or rather avert the censure, of contemporary commentators, sought the advice of a circle of editors drawn from a

complicated extended family. Mary Sneyd, sister of Maria's two stepmothers, was among the most important of these advisors, as is recognised in Edgeworth's own manuscript dedication in the book: 'M. M Sneyd / from the author / as testimony of gratitude / for her unwearied / care & kindness in correcting these Tales'. Edgeworth's frequent post-publication revisions in ink may reflect Sneyd's own suggestions, or be offered by Maria for her comment. Sneyd herself has marked up parts of the book in pencil, possibly to draw attention to further editorial work required, possibly (and intriguingly) as indicators for emphases when reading aloud.

The book, whose various annotations were either incorporated or ignored in subsequent editions, offers further insights

into how Edgeworth's circle of familial editors worked, and will help the very many scholars with an interest in the author to trace the complex evolution of this text. The volume joins an important collection of Edgeworth material already in the Bodleian, adding to the Library's great strengths in this particular field of literary history.

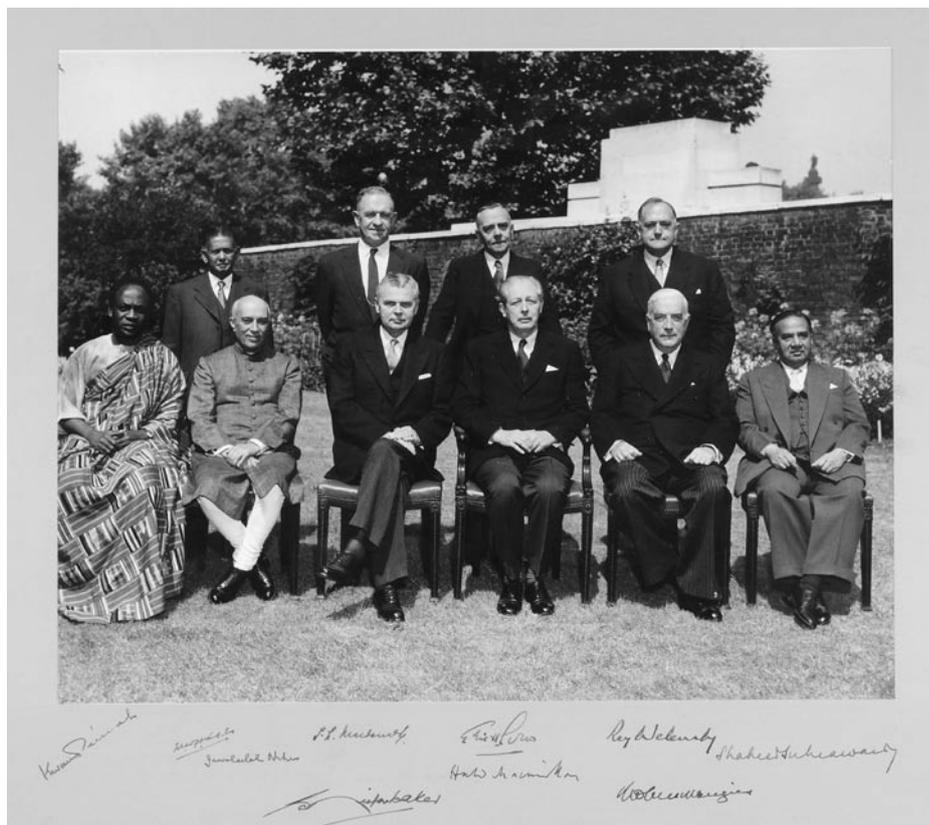
*Dr Christopher Fletcher,
Head of Western Manuscripts*

ADDITIONAL WELENSKY ITEMS

Thanks to the generosity of the South African Friends of the Bodleian, the Library has acquired a number of portraits, photographs and certificates from Sir Roy Welensky, Prime Minister of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland 1956-63, which were recently offered for sale. In response to a recent appeal to the South African Friends, a total of R11030 was raised through individual donations which, in addition to sums from the South African Friends funds and the Beit Fund, ensured the Library was able to secure these important items.

The most notable item in the new accession is a photograph from the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference held in London in 1957. The photograph shows the Prime Ministers and one Foreign Minister of the ten countries which then made up the Commonwealth in the garden of Downing Street, and is signed by them. Only ten copies were signed for the ten participants. The photograph captures decolonisation in progress, with Nehru, Shaheed Suhrawardy of Pakistan and Kwame Nkrumah of newly-independent Ghana as well as Welensky and E. H. Louw, Foreign Affairs Minister of South Africa.

The collection includes a certificate of life membership of the Rhodesian Railway Workers' Union and a photograph of Welensky at the Union's annual conference which reflect his origins as a locomotive fireman and driver. A leather-bound album contains the official photographs of the funeral in January 1957 of Lord Llewellyn, first Governor General of the Federation, and captures a particular era in colonialism. An illuminated manuscript certificate presented to Welensky and signed by the members of the Federal Cabinet in December 1963 marks the end of the Federation.



Photograph from the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference held in London in 1957, with Sir Roy Welensky, back row, far right.

The main collection of Welensky Papers was donated to the Bodleian by Sir Roy, who died in 1991, and was catalogued in detail in the mid-1990s. A collection-level description can be seen at www.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/dept/scwmss/wmss/online/blcas/welensky.html.

A description of the newly-acquired items will be added to the Welensky catalogue, continuing the shelfmarks from the main

collection, and the Conservation Department is advising on their boxing and storage.

*Lucy McCann, Archivist,
Bodleian Library of Commonwealth & African
Studies at Rhodes House*

THE WINIFRED GILL ARCHIVE

Late last summer, the Bodleian Library was presented with the archive of an extraordinary woman. Winifred Gill (1891-1971), artist, craftswoman, reformer, archaeologist and muse to Duncan Grant, Roger Fry and L. S. Lowry, has now begun to emerge out of obscurity to take her rightful place in the history of early 20th-century British cultural and social endeavour. Gill's fascinating and diverse archive, containing artwork, correspondence, diaries and even archaeological samples, was recently reassembled by her niece, Dr Margaret Bennett, at the house they shared for many years in London's East End. Dr Bennett, a long-retired general practitioner, was assisted by her distant American cousin Chrystine Bennett. As the archive took shape and its research value became apparent, particularly to scholars of the Bloomsbury movement and the Omega workshop (where Gill, a Quaker, worked as a secretary as well as a model and artist), the Bennetts sought advice on where it might be well-cared for and used. They approached the Bodleian which, seeing its richness, happily accepted it as a gift.

The archive has already attracted attention from various quarters. The Courtauld Gallery in London borrowed a selection of items, including drawings, photographs and correspondence for its exhibition on the Omega workshop, while BBC Radio 4 devoted a documentary to the collection, 'There's More



Winifred Gill (right) and her niece, Dr Margaret Bennett, who presented the collection to the Bodleian.

Here than I Thought', presented by the author Kate Mosse. There has also been a strong demand for access from scholars at home and abroad. However, this demand can only be met (and the archive's contents more fully described and promoted) once the papers have been conserved and catalogued. The Bodleian is currently seeking financial support towards

this goal and would be interested in hearing from any friends willing and able to help.

A website about the project can be found at www.giving.ox.ac.uk/libraries/winifred_gill/winifred_gill.html.

*Dr Christopher Fletcher,
Head of Western Manuscripts*

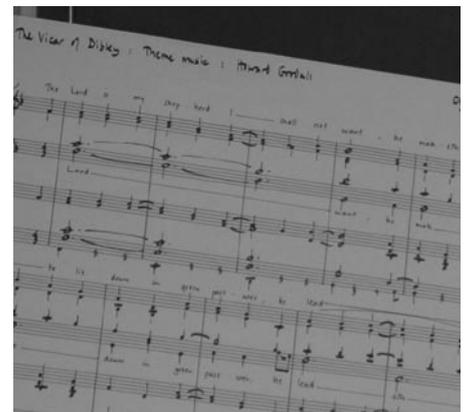
HOWARD GOODALL'S *THE VICAR OF DIBLEY* MANUSCRIPT

Anyone who was present last November at the opening of the Bodleian exhibition *Hallelujah!: the British Choral Tradition* will recall the memorable speech given by Howard Goodall, in which he made known his debt to the Library's music collections for inspiring him in his undergraduate studies at Christ Church. As well as being a composer, Mr Goodall is an energetic campaigner for classical music and music education through his high-profile television and radio broadcasts and other activities. For the exhibition, Mr Goodall lent the autograph score of the theme music he wrote in 1995 for the BBC TV comedy programme *The Vicar of Dibley*, a setting of verses from Psalm 23 for choir and organ. While the exhibition was running, it was

announced that Mr Goodall had kindly made a gift of his score to the Library and, now that the exhibition has closed, the manuscript has come to rest as a slightly unexpected addition to the other treasures which go to make up the Bodleian's famous music collections. During his speech, Mr Goodall observed that, had the BBC commission come a year later, he would have had no manuscript to give since he, in common with many other contemporary composers, now notates his compositions using computer software.

Howard Goodall's speech is available as a BODcast at www.ouls.ox.ac.uk/bodley/about/exhibitions/bodcasts.

Martin Holmes, Music Librarian



*First page of The Vicar of Dibley manuscript.
MS. Mus. a. 7.*

EXHIBITIONS

AN ARTFUL CRAFT AND BOUND FOR SUCCESS

In 1979 the Bodleian Library received one of its greatest benefactions – the Broxbourne Library. This great collection had been formed by Albert Ehrman, and was given to us by his son, the distinguished historian John Ehrman in 1979, through the Friends of the National Libraries. The Bodleian has never held a major exhibition featuring the Broxbourne Library, and so was proud to celebrate the riches of that benefaction with a show that featured the collection of fine bindings, *An Artful Craft: Fine and Historic Bookbindings from the Broxbourne Library and Other Collections*. The exhibition was curated by Richard Ovenden and Bill

Zachs, with significant support from Andrew Honey and Maddy Slaven from Conservation, and from the staff of the Rare Books Department. To complement this exhibition of historic bookbindings, the Library was proud to host an International Competition of Contemporary Bookbinding in collaboration with Designer Bookbinders. This show, *Bound for Success*, featured over a hundred of the best bindings from over 250 entrants to the competition, as well as the winner, Alain Taral, of the Sir Paul Getty Bodleian Bookbinding Prize, generously sponsored by Mark Getty. To mark the conclusion of this informal festival

of bookbinding, the Library was pleased to welcome members of the Friends of the Bodleian to a bookbinding workshop, held under the auspices of the Department of Conservation and Collections Care. Owing to the workshop's instant popularity, another bookbinding workshop is to take place on 2 December 2009.

Richard Ovenden, Associate Director and Keeper of Special Collections

CROSSING BORDERS: HEBREW MANUSCRIPTS AS A MEETING-PLACE OF CULTURES

Exhibition Room, Bodleian Library
8 December 2009 – 3 May 2010

The Bodleian Library winter exhibition will tell the story of how Jews, Christians and Muslims have together contributed to the development of the book. It illustrates the cultural exchange, the social interaction, and the religious toleration between Jews and non-Jews in the Muslim and the Christian worlds during the late Middle Ages. The exhibition draws on the Bodleian Hebrew holdings, one of the largest and most important collections of Hebrew manuscripts in the world.

Oana Romocea, Communications Officer

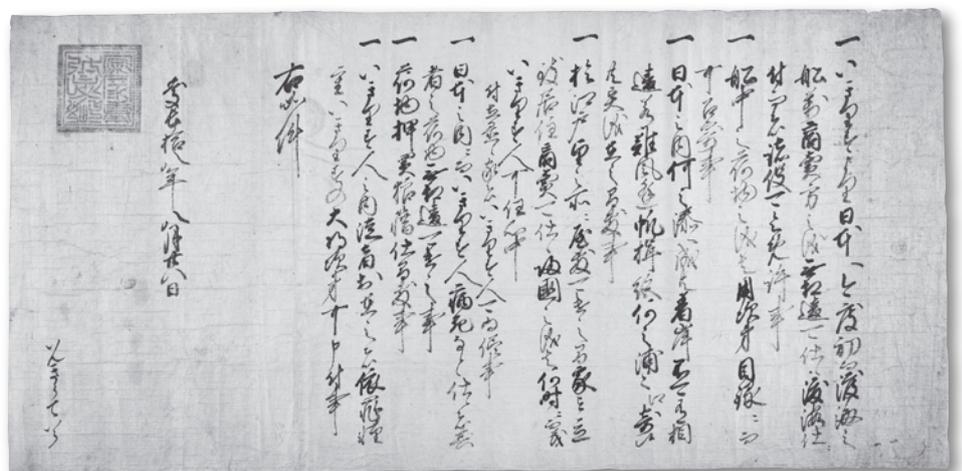
Samuel Ibn Tibbon's Hebrew translation of Maimonides' Guide of the Perplexed, Spain, ca. 1300. MS. Laud.Or. 234, fol. 7b.



JAPAN-UK 150

Japan-UK 150, a series of events in the UK organised to celebrate 150 years of diplomatic relations between the two countries, began in autumn 2008 and runs until the end of 2009. To mark this event, the Bodleian mounted a small exhibition of manuscripts and printed books designed to illustrate the UK's encounters with Japan from the 16th century. In conjunction with the exhibition, a talk entitled 'Cultural Legacies, East and West: Japanese Treasures from the Bodleian Collections' was given by Izumi Tytler and Dr Antoni Üçerler on 30 October, as part of the themed seminar series organised by the Nissan Institute of Japanese Studies for Michaelmas Term 2009.

Izumi Tytler, Nissan Institute of Japanese Studies

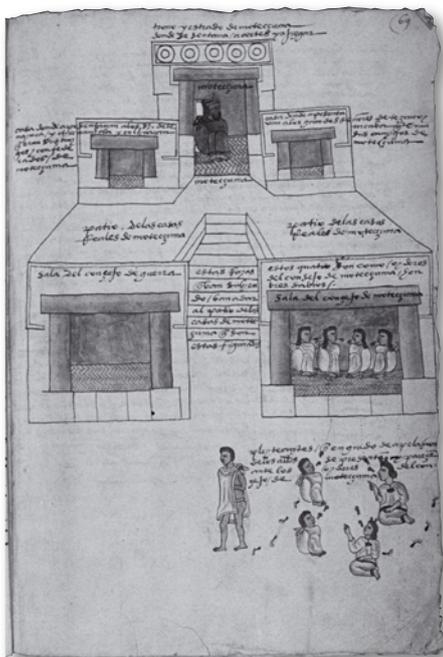


Shuinjo: first Anglo-Japanese treaty of 1613 issued by Shogun Ieyasu to the English East India Company. MS. Jap. b. 2.

BODLEIAN TREASURES AROUND THE WORLD IN 2009

Each year, the Bodleian may receive several dozen requests for loans to temporary exhibitions in the United Kingdom and worldwide. Such loans are welcome opportunities to make Oxford's books and manuscripts more widely seen: sometimes major treasures, but often more modest items crucial to an exhibition's story. The requests take up much staff time. All must be carefully considered, but the majority refused, for various reasons: maybe lack of adequate notice, of appropriate context or safe facilities. However, many requests prove viable and are submitted to the Curators of the University Libraries for final approval. To ensure proper care whilst items are away from Oxford, they are transported and installed by the Bodleian's own conservators; each loan requires two round-trips, for installation and dismounting. This means, for example, that every loan to the USA requires a Bodleian courier to fly the Atlantic four times. In a rolling schedule, curators and conservators are dealing simultaneously with loans at any stage from initial approach to final retrieval. During 2009 – including some exhibitions running on from 2008 and others into 2010 – Bodleian loans have been displayed in twenty exhibitions, in six countries from the Czech Republic to the USA. The items range in date from the 10th to the 20th centuries, and in origin from Sumatra to Tenochtitlan.

London scores the most displays, with loans to eight exhibitions which cover an astonishing range of cultures. The British Museum recreated lost civilizations, in *Babylon: Myth and Reality*, where the Bodleian's Hebrew *Chronicle of Jerahmeel* found confirmation in a cuneiform tablet of the 6th century BC, and in *Moctezuma: Aztec Ruler* (until 24 January



Moctezuma in London. MS. Arch. Selden. A. 1, fol. 69r.

2010), where Codex Mendoza illustrates the emperor in his stepped pyramid, rebuilt as a model for the display. The Royal Academy celebrated artistic longevity in *Byzantium 330-1453*, including the Bodleian's finest Byzantine manuscript, 'Codex Ebnerianus' from 12th-century Constantinople. At the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Nizam of Hyderabad rides in his yellow howdah in an 18th-century Mughal miniature lent to *Maharaja: the Splendour of India's Royal Courts* (until 17 January 2010). At the British Library, *Henry VIII: Man and Monarch* marked the 500th anniversary of the king's accession, amongst other loans, the Bodleian enabled the first public display of James Nedeham's accounts for the King's Works for 1539-40, covering preparations at Greenwich Palace for the anticipated arrival of Anne of Cleves. This manuscript was bought in 2008 with the support of the Friends of the Bodleian and other donors.

Three London exhibitions covered 20th-century themes. The Courtauld Gallery showed autographs of Vanessa Bell and E. M. Forster from the papers of Winifred Gill (given to the Bodleian by her niece, Dr Margaret Bennett, in 2008), in *Beyond Bloomsbury: Designs of the Omega Workshops 1913-19*. The Museum of London borrowed leaflets, postcards, badges, and Prime Ministers' letters from the Archive of the Anti-Apartheid Movement, now owned by the Bodleian Library of Commonwealth and African Studies at Rhodes House, for its display on *Forward to Freedom: the Anti-Apartheid Movement and the Liberation of Southern Africa*. At the Imperial War Museum, the exhibition *For Your Eyes Only: Ian Fleming and James Bond* lasted nearly a year, too long for continuous exposure of manuscripts, but the Bodleian's autograph fair copy of *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* (Adventures 1 and 2, published in 1964 and bound in two volumes) could be lent one Adventure at a time.

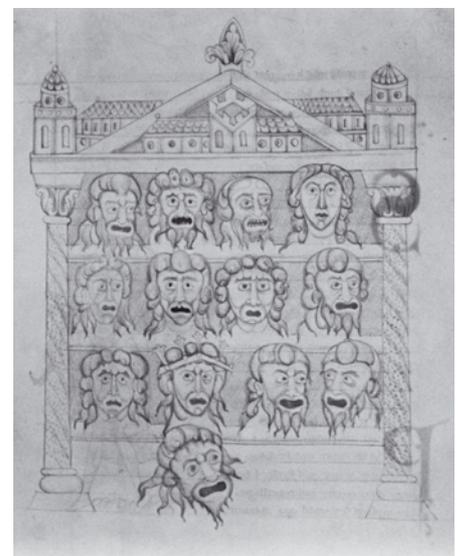
The National Library of Wales at Aberystwyth marked a tercentenary with *Edward Lhuyd (1660-1709)*, illustrating Lhuyd's contributions to scholarship in antiquities, science and literature, and especially in Celtic linguistics. The Bodleian loans brought out his status as an Oxford scholar and Keeper of the Ashmolean Museum. At the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge, the Darwin bicentenary inspired *Endless Forms: Charles Darwin, Natural Science and the Visual Arts*. The loans illustrated responses to Darwin's ideas, with publicity material from the John Johnson collection for London displays of tribal peoples in 1884 and 1887, and with the 1877 *Street Life in London*, where photographs were used as sociological evidence for the survival of the fittest. At Compton Verney in Warwickshire, loans for *The Artist's Studio* (until 13 December 2009) show miniatures of a 17th-century alchemist's workshop, and of a late 15th-century Pygmalion animating a



Camelot at Rennes. MS. Douce 383, fol. 12v.

wanly naked statue in *Le Roman de la Rose*.

In France, The Musée du Petit Palais provided Paris's first major exhibition since 1947 on *William Blake (1757-1827), le Génie Visionnaire du Romantisme Anglais*. Loans included early drawings of Edward III's tomb in Westminster Abbey (ca. 1774) as well as Blake's printed masterpieces. At Rennes, Les Champs Libres provided a long-running display on *King Arthur: a Legend in the Making*, where a Bodleian miniature of Camelot replaced a similar one lent earlier by the Bibliothèque Nationale



Terence in New York. MS. Auct. F. 2. 13, fol. 3r.

de France. Loans to two exhibitions in Italy returned manuscripts temporarily to their regions of origin: to Reggio Emilia (Palazzo Magnani), for *Matilde and the Treasures of the Canossa Family, from Castles to Cities*; and to Florence (Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana) for *Coluccio Salutati e l'Invenzione dell'Umanesimo*. In the Czech Republic, an exhibition at the Imperial Stables of Prague Castle was organised by the Jewish Museum in Prague on *Path of Life: Rabbi Judah Loew ben Bezalel (ca. 1525-1609)*, to mark the 400th anniversary of the death of the great Jewish scholar known

as the Maharal of Prague. The Bodleian's Oppenheimer collection provided Hebrew manuscripts of the Maharal's own works, with autograph corrections, to illustrate the teaching of an almost legendary figure.

The United States saw an earlier showing of the Darwinian *Endless Forms* in New Haven, at the Yale Center for British Art. In New York, the Metropolitan Museum of Art presented *Pen and Parchment: Drawing in the Middle Ages*, to which the Bodleian lent 'St. Dunstan's Classbook', with the drawing of the saint kneeling before Christ, which medieval

Glastonbury revered as a relic by Dunstan's own hand; and the 12th-century Terence from St Albans, where the ancient picture-cycle is transmuted into Romanesque style.

In its own backyard, the Bodleian lent early printed books on mathematics to its next-door neighbour, the Museum of the History of Science, for *Compass & Rule: Architecture as Mathematical Practice in England, 1500-1750*. Finally, the Bodleian's largest loan of 2009 is to support the refurbished Ashmolean Museum: for the re-opening celebrations from November it is lending nine items, mostly oriental, to new

galleries which cover the Mediterranean in Antiquity, West meets East, Islam, Mughal India and China. The Bodleian's commitment here is long-term, through a programme of loans which will change, through page-turns and substitutions, around three times a year: a home away from home.

Dr Bruce Barker-Benfield, Senior Assistant Librarian, Department of Special Collections & Western Manuscripts

EVENTS

CRIME DAY AT THE BODLEIAN

Several hundred guests from the local community and across the country attended Crime Day at the Bodleian Library on 2 October, which featured four distinguished speakers in the Divinity School and a display of crime-related material in the Proscholium.

The first session featured P. D. James in conversation with Kate Summerscale, the author of *The Suspicions of Mr Whicher*. Before a packed audience, both authors discussed the subject of Ms Summerscale's book, the Road Hill House murder in 1869, one of the most famous murders of the 19th century.

Taking her cue from P. D. James' latest book, *Talking About Detective Fiction*, Val McDermid, author of the *Wire in the Blood*, currently screened on ITV, spoke about the development of crime fiction. She also spoke about her own experience of writing, from her first exposure to the detective novel as a child to lead up to publication of her first novel and beyond.

P. D. James returned to participate in the final session with Ruth Rendell before a full house. This was a conversation in the most literal sense, featuring a lively interchange on a range of issues including the process of writing for both authors. Each event was followed by a question-and-answer session and an author signing.

The colourful display in the Proscholium, which also drew large crowds, traces the idea of crime as a form of entertainment, from the public executions of the 19th century to the birth of the detective novel, the flowering of the genre in the 20th century and its development in more recent times.

The catalyst for the Crime Day was the publication of P. D. James' latest book by the Bodleian Library. In consultation with her, the day was planned as a celebration of the genre of detective fiction and as an opportunity to promote the Library. *Talking About Detective Fiction* is a personal history of the genre and looks at the circumstances behind the birth and growth of detective fiction, its abiding success, and its national characteristics; it also considers its future.



P. D. James in the Divinity School.

To promote the book, the Communications & Publishing Office oversaw the filming of a conversation about detective fiction between P.D. James and Colin Dexter, in which P. D. James explains how she came to write the book, why she decided to publish it with the Bodleian, and the reasons behind her donation of the royalties from the hardback edition to the Library. The video can be viewed online at www.campaign.ox.ac.uk/news/news/pd_james_1.html.

Crime Day was a collaborative event with planning and support from the Directorate, the Exhibitions team, Rare Books, the John Johnson Collection of Printed Ephemera, Western Manuscripts, the Historic Venues and Trading teams, and Communications & Publishing.

Samuel Fanous, Head of Communications & Publishing

SHAKESPEARE'S GLOBE ON TOUR PRODUCTION OF *THE COMEDY OF ERRORS*

Shakespeare's Globe On Tour followed the success of last year's production of *The Winter's Tale* (the company's debut in the Bodleian Library) by bringing *The Comedy of Errors* in late July and the beginning of August. The company had made known their pleasure in performing in the Old Schools Quadrangle and we in turn were delighted, in partnership with the Oxford Playhouse, to play host to them once more. The space provides a perfect and contemporaneous arena for such performances, particularly since it is presided over by the statue of the Earl of Pembroke, one of two brothers, to whom Shakespeare's First Folio was dedicated. Following the defiantly soggy days of mid-summer we held our collective breath as the date of the Globe

visit approached. Happily, the weather gods smiled on us and only one performance out of fourteen was rained off. The critics were generally fulsome in their praise (even more so than last year), impressed not least by the neat directional format of doubling of roles in the case of the two sets of twins (two actors playing two parts each). Such a device would have been quite unsurprising in the travelling companies of Shakespeare's day. In a line up of strong performances, catching the eye was that of Ronan Rafferty playing Antipholus (in duplicate of course!). The pre-show talks again proved very popular with those members of the audience who were interested in a short entrée to what they were later to see on stage. Most of the talks (given in

Convocation House) were kindly provided by members of the University of Oxford English Faculty with one offered by the University of Warwick. As part of the Bard's season at the Bodleian, an exhibition of Shakespeare-related materials from the Library's collections was on show in the Proscholium and included the Bodleian portrait of Sir Thomas Overbury, which provided evidence in the visual quest for Shakespeare's identity. The good news for all Globe groupies is that we have already fixed the dates for the 2010 production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (weeks beginning 26 July and 2 August).

Wilma Minty, Special Projects

MISTAKEN IDENTITIES

Recent publicity surrounding the 'Cobbe' portrait, said to be a painting of Shakespeare done from life, has prompted fresh interest in the Bodleian's portrait of Sir Thomas Overbury, a contemporary of Shakespeare. This image closely resembles 'Cobbe'. In August 2009 it was the centre-piece of a small display entitled *Mistaken Identities*, together with a selection of reproductions of other images which have been linked to the dramatist. The display accompanied the Globe On Tour's production at the Bodleian Library of *The Comedy of Errors*.

The Bodleian's portrait of Sir Thomas Overbury (gentleman commoner of The Queen's College, 1595), was bequeathed to the University in 1740. According to an added inscription, the picture came from the Overbury family's house at Barton-on-the-Heath, Warwickshire. Below the painted oval is an earlier inscription: *AETAT. SUAE 32 A.DN. 1613* – 'aged 32 in the year 1613' – the year of the subject's death.

An intimate friend of the young Scottish nobleman Sir Robert Carr, who in turn was a favourite of James VI and I, Overbury was a high-aspiring courtier. Some at court disliked him for his swashbuckling arrogance. A principled Protestant, he was passionately opposed to his friend Carr's plan to marry Frances Howard, who was still married to another man and seen as part of a Catholic faction. Already disliked by the Queen, Overbury soon fell from favour with the King. Without warning, on 21 April 1613 he was arrested and imprisoned in the Tower of London. He died there four months later after weeks of acute digestive problems. There were strong suspicions that he had been poisoned by servants of Frances Howard. Four persons were executed for the crime, and Carr and Howard (by then married) were imprisoned and disgraced.

It would be natural for Overbury's father Sir Nicholas, his numerous siblings, and his many friends and supporters to want visual

Sir Thomas Overbury (1581–1613). Artist unknown – possibly Marcus Gheeraerts the Younger (1562–1636); oil on panel, 57 cm × 42 cm (with additions, 77 cm × 64 cm).



mementoes of the promising young man who met such a horrible end. The Bodleian portrait, possibly derived from a life-time miniature by Isaac Oliver, could well suit such a purpose.

What appear to be a number of versions of this portrait have recently received much publicity. The splendid, newly-restored version in the possession of Mr Alec Cobbe, not previously seen by the general public, has been the centre-piece of an exhibition at the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust in Stratford entitled *Shakespeare Found. A Life Portrait*. It is described both as an early image of Shakespeare, and as a portrait done from life. Who would have commissioned and paid for such a portrait, and why the middle-aged player-poet, at the suggested date of 1610, should appear both so young and so courtier-

like, are questions that have not yet been answered conclusively.

Whether or not the claims currently made about the 'Cobbe' portrait are correct, they have had the happy result of drawing fresh attention to one of the Bodleian's hidden treasures. We can agree, at least, that the Library's Overbury portrait may well have been created within Shakespeare's lifetime. The painting has recently received some preliminary conservation treatment and scientific examination – confirming, for example, that the background was originally a vivid blue. It awaits full restoration (and possibly further discoveries) when funds can be found.

K. D.-J.

WORLD BOOK DAY AT THE BODLEIAN LIBRARY, 5 MARCH 2009

UNCOMMON READERS: ST MARGARET OF SCOTLAND TO QUEEN ELIZABETH I

The Bodleian's one-day display for World Book Day borrowed its title and inspiration from Alan Bennett's novella, *The Uncommon Reader* (2007), which imagines how Queen Elizabeth II might discover the pleasures of reading. Working papers for the novella itself were selected for display from the magnificent literary archive which Alan Bennett presented to the Bodleian in 2008, in recognition of his education at Oxford University. The exhibition then turned to the reading of four medieval and Tudor queens, in manuscripts which had belonged to them: the small 11th-century Gospel Book which was returned miraculously unharmed to St Margaret, Queen of Scotland, after its immersion in a stream; the Douce Apocalypse, made around 1270 for Eleanor of Castile and her husband, the future King Edward I; and, from the 16th century, a translation with embroidered binding made in 1544 by Princess Elizabeth for her stepmother Queen Katherine Parr, a Latin booklet with illustrations of Oxford colleges which was handed to Queen Elizabeth during her visit to Oxford in 1566, and a French hymn to the Queen composed and presented in 1586 by a

St Margaret's Gospel Book: first reading from St John. MS. Lat. liturg. f. 5, fols. 30v-31r.



Huguenot refugee, Georges de la Motthe. Three of these manuscripts are the subjects of recent Bodleian publications: *St Margaret's Gospel-Book*, *The Douce Apocalypse* and *Queen Elizabeth's Book of Oxford*.

Dr Bruce Barker-Benfield, Senior Assistant Librarian, Department of Special Collections & Western Manuscripts

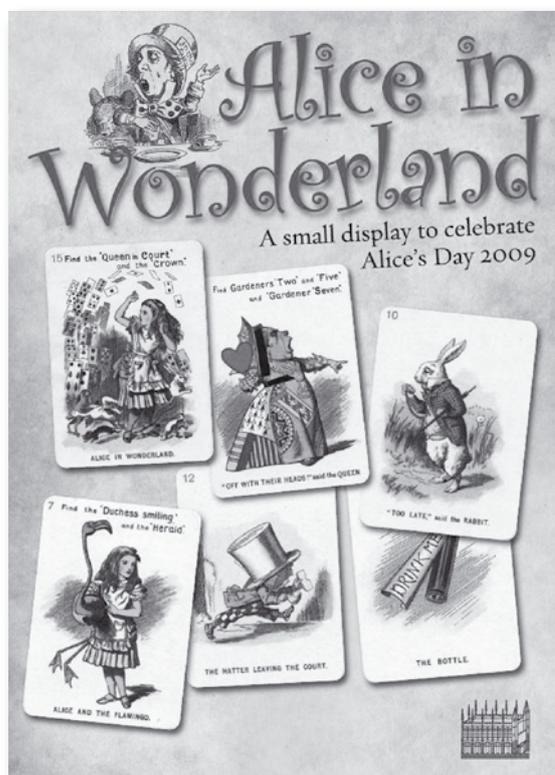
ALICE'S DAY AT THE BODLEIAN

On 2 June 2009, the Bodleian Library put on a display of treasures relating to Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland* as part of Oxford's Alice's Day celebrations.

Items on show included *Alice in Wonderland* illustrations by Salvador Dalí, a printing plate for 'The Mouse's Tale' from ca.1890, kindly lent by the Oxford University Press archive, and the first edition of *Alice in Wonderland*. This edition, printed by Oxford University Press in 1865 for Macmillan, was withdrawn by Carroll because the book's illustrator, John Tenniel, found the printing unsatisfactory. Other early editions of the work were also on display including the first American edition, made from the original sheets supplied with a new title-page.

Various family activities, entertainments and displays took place across Oxford as part of Alice's Day, including events in the Botanic Garden, Christ Church College, the Museum of the History of Science and the Museum of Natural History. At the Library there was a storytelling session by Adam Guillain, an Oxford writer and storyteller.

Oana Romocea, Communications Officer



Poster for the display celebrating Alice's Day.

OXFORD LITERARY FESTIVAL

For the second year in succession, the Bodleian Library has been a Partner of *The Sunday Times* Oxford Literary Festival and participated in a series of events. The poet James Fenton delivered a superb masterclass in the Library, to a packed and appreciative audience, and Professor Diego Zancani and Richard Ovenden delivered lectures. A symposium on the travel writer and novelist Bruce Chatwin, whose archive is held by the Bodleian, was a follow-up to a very successful Symposium on the writer held by the Centre for the Study of the Book in 2008. The Bodleian's Literary Festival participation was concluded by the hosting of the first Wedgwood Lecture by Dr John Sentamu, Archbishop of York, on 'Englishness'.

Richard Ovenden, Associate Director and Keeper of Special Collections

THE ISAIAH BERLIN CENTENARY

On Saturday 6 June 2009, Wolfson College, with Lady Berlin and members of her family, was At Home to some 300 of its friends to celebrate the centenary of the birth of its founding President, Isaiah Berlin. In spite of drenching rain, the College looked delightfully en fête when, at 3 p.m., with the Hall full, a series of video clips, specially mounted for the occasion, began to run and Berlin's inimitable voice was once again heard. His latest successor, Hermione Lee, welcomed everyone, and introduced first Murray Perahia, whose piano recital of Bach and Beethoven

echoed the one he had given in honour of Berlin at the Sheldonian in 1994; and then Dr James Billington, Librarian of Congress and the Rhodes Scholar whose 1953 doctoral thesis Berlin had supervised, and whose 'A Humanist's Conversation with the Twentieth Century' was both the 19th Wolfson College Berlin Lecture and the 9th British Academy Berlin Lecture, a marriage made for the occasion. Guests were then invited to take tea in the marquee, visit the bookstall where the just published *Enlightening: Letters 1946–60*, edited by Henry Hardy and Jennifer Holmes,

and *The Book of Isaiah: Personal Impressions of Isaiah Berlin*, edited by Henry Hardy, were on sale, and look at the exhibition, *Images of Isaiah*, created on panels by a Bodleian designer from original photographs and documents and complemented by other material specially brought for the day from the Library by the Berlin archivist, Michael Hughes. A drinks reception and dinner rounded off the event – and the one hundred years that had begun with a birth on the Baltic.

Serena Moore, Wolfson College

REPORTS

2009 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE FRIENDS OF THE BODLEIAN

The 2009 AGM was a special event for a number of reasons. Firstly, Professor Jon Stallworthy retired after eight years as Chairman of the Council of Management. Dr Sarah Thomas, Bodley's Librarian, expressed her gratitude for his charismatic leadership as Chair and his excellent service as a Member of the Council, a role in which, we are pleased to say, he has agreed to continue. In his place, Richard McCabe, Professor of English and Sub-Warden of Merton College, Oxford, took up the Chair. (Fuller biographies of both chairmen can be found on p. 1 of this *Newsletter*).

Secondly, our guest speaker was Lord Hurd, former Home Secretary and Foreign Secretary. His talk 'Pleasures of an amateur historian' related his experiences in attempting to combine his political and historical interests. Whilst he felt humble as an amateur by comparison with professional and academic historians, he was clearly passionate about history: he advocated making the past as vivid as possible.

Although the 'history seed' was sown at school, it was Lord Hurd's friend Philip Ziegler (interestingly, the speaker at last year's Friends' AGM) who proved to be the most formative influence by encouraging the use of primary sources. Lord Hurd regarded himself as peculiarly fortunate in gaining access to a variety of materials and finding 'jewels' that helped to explain or enliven past events. One such goldmine was the records of the 8th Earl of Elgin which formed the basis of his first book, *The Arrow War*. His biography of Robert Peel similarly benefited from access to the Prime Minister's correspondence with his

children, an archive brought to Lord Hurd's attention by Canon Jonathan Peel.

Some problems remained to be solved. One, which is of local interest, was the inscription on a door in Christ Church of the words 'No Peel'. Clearly this had political overtones and Lord Hurd challenged the audience to help him find out more.

Lord Hurd warned his audience of some of the hazards of writing books, particularly when doing so longhand. He recalled an incident when he was obliged to recover the only manuscript copy of a work in progress. Despite this 'Elba lesson', he still takes much pleasure in writing by hand, though now he also keeps the text in electronic format.

Lord Hurd expressed particular interest in the marketing of books and was enthusiastic about Literary Festivals, be they in big cities or idyllic villages. As a taste of things to come, he referred to his current study of eleven British Foreign Secretaries which is scheduled to be published in February 2010, and gave notice that his next major project would be a book on Disraeli. His comment that 'the Bodleian is a treasure house of Disraeli papers' was no doubt indicative of future visits to Oxford.

After thanking Lord Hurd for his address, Dr Sarah Thomas reported on Library matters. (The report's summary can be found in this *Newsletter* on p. 2). She was confident that the futuristic redevelopment of the New Library will reinforce the Library's traditional aims of acquiring new material. And it is here, she appreciatively acknowledged, that the Friends play an important role.

On display in the Proscholium was a selection of items that the Friends had helped to purchase, together with material relating to some of the year's lunchtime lectures. There were, among others, a 15th-century manuscript Book of Hours and a postcard from Philip Larkin to Monica Jones inscribed with a poem, the two items being linked by

an illumination from the manuscript on the card. Also celebrated was the work of the late Lionel Wood, an Honorary Life Member, who looked after the Bodleian's postal collection for twenty years. Amongst the related items on display were stamps designed by T. E. Lawrence, whose original proofs may be found in the Lawrence papers (also owned by the Bodleian). The afternoon's proceedings concluded with tea in the Divinity School.

We are pleased to announce that Lord Hurd's talk can now be accessed online. It is the first Friends of the Bodleian lecture to be made available through the BODcast Library at www.ouls.ox.ac.uk/bodley/about/exhibitions/bodcasts.

Margaret Czepiel, Secretary



The Rt Hon. Lord Hurd of Westwell.

ACTIVITIES OF THE CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF THE BOOK IN 2009

The Centre celebrated a great donor to the Bodleian Library, Richard Gough (1735–1809), with Gough Day, on 20 March 2009. The Seminar Room in the New Library was open throughout the day, with a display including drawings by William Blake, a volume of sketches by antiquarian researchers of the 18th century of Roman remains in Britain, and a facsimile of the 14th-century Gough Map.

In April, marking 900 years since the death of Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury, the Centre hosted Anselm Day, convened by Richard Sharpe of the History Faculty, Oxford, that brought together an illustrious group of scholars and an illustrious group of manuscript volumes (one from

Trinity College, Cambridge, two from Lambeth Palace, and two from the Bodleian Library).

On 19 June, we anticipated the publication of a digital facsimile edition of one of the Bodleian's treasures, the Vernon Manuscript. This is a late 14th-century manuscript containing the most important collection of Middle English poetry, including *Piers Plowman* (A-text) and an incomplete version of the *Ancrene Riwe*. The manuscript, a huge and weighty volume of over 400 leaves, was shown in the Seminar Room by Dr Bruce Barker-Benfield of the Bodleian's Western Manuscripts Department. The digital facsimile edition will be published on DVD by the Bodleian Library next year.

Papers from the first CSB symposium, 'The Psalms and the Psalter', (June 2007) have been published in the *Bodleian Library Record*, volume 21, number 1.

The Centre is pleased to announce the availability of a new digital collection, blockbooks and xylographic prints from the Bodleian's pre-1500 collections. These and other digital images of special collections can be found online at www.ouls.ox.ac.uk/eresources/special-collections-images.

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

PETER WARD JONES RETIRES AFTER 40 YEARS AS A MUSIC LIBRARIAN

As the Universities of Europe were immersed in a series of student riots and protests in 1968, a somewhat quieter revolution in the services to music scholarship was taking place in Oxford.

Peter Ward Jones, a former Organ Scholar at Balliol (like Ted Heath) joined the staff of the Bodleian as Graduate Assistant in the Music Library, which at that time meant being placed in charge of the Music section. Peter brought to this role practical experience as a serious music scholar. Already having published important work on 18th-century music, Peter knew at first hand what it was like to be a researcher in great music libraries in Europe such as the British Museum Library (as it still was at that time), the Bibliothèque Nationale, and the Staatsbibliothek in Munich, and was therefore able to bring his own experiences to bear in providing excellent services to many generations of undergraduate and graduate students here in Oxford, and to the many thousands of international scholars and practising musicians, as he strode colossus-like over the Music Room in the Bodleian.

Peter also leaves behind him a music library that has been immeasurably enriched thanks to his patient collection building. The massive music collection of Walter Harding of Chicago, the magnificent Tenbury College Collection, the Tyson Collection, and the Albi Rosenthal Mozart Collection and many others were patiently and skilfully reeled in on his watch, and demonstrate how his knowledge, experience, and passion for music enabled him to convey to potential donors the sense that Bodley was the right place for their collections.

Peter was also very active in securing financial donations for modern acquisitions and for cataloguing, and through his very careful and patient work, managed to secure a major bequest from the late Gerard Marillier

which enabled the retroconversion of the pre-1800 music in the Bodleian.

The Bodleian's exhibition programme has also benefited greatly from Peter's skills as a curator, with major highlights including the 1985 music anniversaries exhibition *Thirteen Composers from Tallis to Berg*; *Mozart: A Bicentennial Loan Exhibition* in 1991; a big Mendelssohn show of course; and *Hallelujah!: the English Choral Tradition*, our recent very successful exhibition.

Peter has also furthered (and continues to further) music scholarship and the standing of the Bodleian as a centre for the study of music, by his many scholarly publications (not least his 80 or so contributions to the *New Grove*), and as one of the world's great authorities on Mendelssohn. As the doyen of Mendelssohn scholars, Peter served as one of the editors of the *Leipziger Ausgabe der Werke von Felix Mendelssohn Bartholdy*, examines doctoral theses all over the world, and continues to lecture internationally, making a guest appearance later this year in Japan. In the 1980s, thanks to a Barbara Pym Award, Peter retraced the places mentioned in Mendelssohn's honeymoon diary, enabling him to produce the standard scholarly edition of the diary in English and German.

Peter has also brought to his position the insight of a practising musician. For over 30 years he served as the Organist and Choir Director of St Giles' Church, and has been involved with St Cross College, where in recognition of his services he was made a Fellow of the College by Special Election. Peter has been the Conductor of the Oxford Harmonic Society and is a talented harpsichordist, giving many legendary recitals, and having made several recordings. Most recently he took the stage at the Wigmore Hall at the Memorial Concert for Albi Rosenthal, and told a marvellous anecdote about performing a Bach organ piece from



Peter Ward Jones at his retirement party, 30 March 2009.

an autograph manuscript (then in private hands) at St Giles' Church.

For Peter's overall services to the Library as well as his contribution to the activities of the Friends of the Bodleian and Secretaryship of the German Friends, he was awarded an Honorary Life Membership of the Friends of the Bodleian.

Working with Peter has not only been easy, but pleasurable: he has been a kind and thoughtful colleague, who always puts the needs of researchers first. We will sorely miss his talents and his personality, and look forward to many years of his continued friendship, and active participation in the musical life of Oxford.

*Richard Ovenden, Associate Director
and Keeper of Special Collections*

NEW MEMBERS

We have much pleasure in welcoming the following new Friends (this list continues that published in the Summer 2008 and Winter 2008/09 Newsletter):

FRIENDS OF THE BODLEIAN

J. Ahme, *Port Harcourt, Nigeria*
H. Bewley, *London*
A. Bowen, *London*
J. D. Catto, *Kilmacollm, Inverclyde*
A. R. Chapman, *Oxford*
I. H. B. Cathie, *Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire*
J. P. Chilcott-Monk, *Winchester, Hampshire*
Dr T. & J. Clayton, *Lower Heyford, Oxfordshire*
P. R. Colville, *Witney, Oxfordshire*
Professor N. Cronk, *Oxford*
J. & C. Currey, *Oxford*
D. Dales, *Marlborough, Wiltshire*
B. Dennis, *Oxford*
G. Ferreira de Araujo, *São Paulo, Brazil*
G. Ferzoco & Dr C. Muessig, *Bristol, Avon*
Dr C. Fletcher, *Oxford*
B. B. Gitlin, *North Branford, CT, USA*
R. G. Harding, *Oxford*
S. Harris-Wilson, *Oxford*
Dr K. Heitman & C. Heitman Berry, *Bethesda, MD, USA*
A. Howard, *Newport, Gwent*
J. & D. Jeffs, *Newbury, Berkshire*
Dr S. Jones, *Oxford*
C. K. Jung, *Oxford*
Professor Y. Kojima, *Tokyo, Japan*
L. Lever, *London*
H. M. McLean, *Oxford*
Professor J. P. Neary, *Oxford*
A. Newton, *London*
Dr P. S. C. Parkes, *Canterbury, Kent*
Dr J. & M. Pellew, *nr Burford, Oxfordshire*
Professor R. Perrins, *Wolfville, NS, Canada*
M. Ray, *Temple Cloud, Somerset*
P. T. Roberts, *Hampstead Norreys, Berkshire*
J. Scott, *Wymondham, Norfolk*
Professor T. Stern, *Oxford*
B. Stiff, *Oxford*
J. Andrew Taylor, *Ottawa, ON, Canada*
Dr J. Thacker, *Oxford*
B. M. Thompson, *Oxford*
Dr A. Thoresby Parker, *Bath, Avon*
The Reverend C. Wake, *nr Hook, Swindon*
Professor R. Wedgwood, *Oxford*
Professor J. Wilkes, *Oxford*
Lady Williams, *Oxford*
D. J. Wilson, *Rowledge, Surrey*
D. Wood, *Reading, Berkshire*
The Reverend A. E. Woolcock, *Ampney Crucis, Gloucestershire*
J. G. Wyatt, *Findon, West Sussex*
Dr H. L. Yewlett, *Cardiff, South Wales*

BODLEY'S AMERICAN FRIENDS

W. Marr, *Enfield, CT*
Dr R. A. Shiels, *Kingman, AZ*
D. A. Sorondo, *Mill Valley, CA*
W. Stenhouse, *Brooklyn, NY*

A FRIENDLY GIFT IDEA

Membership of the Friends of the Bodleian is now available as a gift for any occasion, so 'Thank you', 'Happy Christmas' and many other greetings can be offered with an attractive 'membership as a gift' package: a gift card with the image of the Bodleian's 'Tower of the Five Orders' and a membership in a category of your choice.

With this gift, there is more than one beneficiary. While the recipient enjoys exclusive events in Oxford surroundings, the Library will be able to further enrich its collections for future generations of scholars.

Membership is available in the following categories: Friend, £25; Student Friend, £15; Dual Friend, £40; Honourable Friend, £40; Life Friend, £500.

Our 'Membership as a Gift' application form is available from the Bodleian Shop (full price applies), Friends website at <http://www.ouls.ox.ac.uk/bodleian/friends> or from the Friends' Administrator (email: fob@bodley.ox.ac.uk; tel.: 01865 277234).

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