

Hellenic and Roman Library
Institute of Classical Studies Library
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE SESSION 2016/2017

Library staff

This year has been marked by a significant change in the library staff, with the retirement of Colin Annis partway through the session. Colin joined the library in 1979, became Deputy Librarian in 1989, and Librarian in 1995. His departure was marked by a party on the 20 December, attended by over a hundred colleagues and friends. Colin was succeeded by Joanna Ashe, who took up the post towards the end of May 2017. Joanna read Classics at St. Hilda's College, Oxford, has an MSc in library and Information Studies from City University, and has been working at the Royal College of Physicians.

For the five months for which the library was without a Librarian, Paul Jackson and Sue Willetts very ably shared the extra responsibilities of the Librarian role between them. Thanks are due to Professor Greg Woolf and Valerie James for their invaluable support. All the library staff took on extra evening and Saturday duties to ensure that the library could remain open according as usual. Extra support was also provided by our library casual assistants.

The previous year's Winnington-Ingram Trainee, Louise Wallace, stayed on 3 days a week to cover while Flor Herrero Valdes was on maternity leave, as previously reported. We were fortunate that Louise was able to extend that cover further to help out during the months without a Librarian, and stay with us until the start of June. Louise remains nearby, as she is currently working part time for the Roman Society.

We welcomed Flor back from maternity leave in February 2017. Her son, Ulysses, was born in August 2016.

The Winnington-Ingram Trainee for this session was Naomi Rebis, a Classics graduate from Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge. During her year with us Naomi, in addition to the usual library duties, was also the voice of the library on Twitter, and updated the library blog. Naomi is going on to do her MA in Library and Information Studies at UCL, but will remain with us to help out with evening and Saturday opening. She will also be working with the Hellenic Society.

As ever, we benefited from the services of our Casual Assistants who helped us out with morning shelving, late evening and Saturday opening: Gaetano Ardito, Steven Cosnett, Xavier Duffy and Mary Ruskin. Xavier Duffy departed towards the end of the session, and will be replaced by Naomi Rebis for the next session. To all of these we extend our customary thanks.

Collection development

The library was fortunate to receive a number of bequests and large donations. These provide valuable additions to the collection, as well as, for books that are duplicates or out of scope, additions to the sale shelves, with the donor's blessing, to raise funds for the purchase of new publications. One very significant bequest was that of John Casey, consisting of 180 boxes of books, his entire collection, as well as 22 pictures and a percentage of his estate. Other sizable donations were received from Dr Andrew Poulter – 11 boxes, including c.40 books not held by the library; Dr Jennifer Cargill Thompson (née Warren) – c.20 books, plus offprints; Dr Dorothy King – 3 boxes; Dr. María Cruz Fernández Castro – 8 boxes. The library continued to benefit from the kindness of The Classical Association in regularly

passing on books not required for review in their journal, *Classical Review*. We are greatly obliged to all donors for their generosity.

We are also indebted to the following donors of books, pamphlets and periodicals:

Dr J. Alcock, Mr R.H.J. Ashton, Professor S. Audano, Professor C. Barron, Dr G. Bodard, Dr D. Bomgardner, Mr J.W. Bradley, Dr D. Calomino, Dr P.M. Carroll, Dr V. Cojocar, Professor S. Colvin, Dr H.E.M. Cool, Dr T. Coward, Professor M.H. Crawford, Dr M. Ford, Dr S. Fritzilas, Dr K. Gawlikowska, Professor N. Georgantoulou, Dr M. Georgousi, Mr N. Gourlay, Mr M. Hassall Esq., Dr F. Herrero Valdes, Dr M. Hilditch, Dr P. Holmes, Dr M. Iozzo, Mr P. Jackson, Ms R. Jeffreys, Dr A.W. Johnston, Mr A.P. Keaveney, Dr O. Krzyszkowska, the family of the late Phyllis and George Lavy, Mrs C. Lawrence, Professor I. Luc, Dr F. Luciani, Professor G. Manuwald, Dr S. May, Professor R. Motomura, Professor G. Németh, Professor V. Nutton, Mr B. O'Connell, Dr A. Pacewicz, Professor O. Palagia, Professor R.T. Ridley, Dr J. Rodríguez Díez, Dr F. Santangelo, Dr B. Sinha, Dr An. Seidel, Professor N.V. Sekunda, Dr G. Shepherd, Professor D. Slapek, Professor A. Small, Professor I.C. Storey, Dr A. Tyflopoulos, Professor G. Ugolini, Dr I. Valchev, Professor M.J. Versluys, Miss L. Wallace, Mrs S.J. Willetts, Dr P. Witts, Professor G.D. Woolf, Professor E. Zamarou.

American Philosophical Society; British Museum, Department of Coins and Medals; British Museum, Department of Greece and Rome; Jean-David Cahn AG; Charles Ede Ltd; Museo di Palazzo Pretorio, Prato; Museu de Arqueologia e Ethologia, Universidade de Sao Paulo; Museum of London, Library; Nicolaus Copernicus University Press; Onassis Foundation USA; *The Times Literary Supplement*; Universiteit Leiden; University College London, Department of Greek and Latin; Warburg Institute; Dr William's Library.

Due to the extra pressures on staff for the first half of 2017, as a result of the reduced library team during this time, we are facing a slight backlog of cataloguing and accessions. Consequently new and donated books did not appear on our shelves quite as quickly as they normally would, and the number of books sent to reviewers is lower than normal for the year.

Following the implementation of the new 25 year Memorandum of Understanding between the University of London and the Societies, the new library governance structure is now active. November saw the initial meetings for the two new committees, the Library Management Committee and the Collection Development Committee. Both committees will meet twice a year. We also welcome Professor Michael Trapp, of Kings College, London, as the new Honorary Librarian, and Chair of the Collection Development Committee. Professor Michael Trapp takes over the role from Professor Michael Crawford, who served as Honorary Librarian for 22 years, helping to steer the library through some challenging times. We are all most grateful for everything he has done for us.

One landmark event this year was the launch of the HARL fundraising campaign. This took place on the 7 February at an event that featured lectures on and a display of some of the Bloomberg writing tablets in Senate House Chancellor's Hall, and was followed by a reception in the library with a display of rare books. The event was very well attended, with over 200 people present.

The library also put on a display of rare books, curated by the Deputy Librarian, Paul Jackson, during the Societies' Sculpture day on the 28 June. For this occasion we were kindly lent three glass display cases by Senate House Library, which allowed the books to be out on display all day.

In August 2016 the library management system migrated from Millennium to Sierra. This was largely a smooth transition, aided by the fact that both systems are developed by the same provider. Training

was available to library staff in the new system, and we were supported by Senate House Library. The new system has generally been found to be an improvement, allowing more streamlined working.

There have been some changes to the configuration of the library space during this session. In May, the two cases of antiquities bequeathed by Victor Ehrenberg moved from the journals area to a safer location against a nearby wall, which has allowed an extra bay of shelving to be installed. Two journal titles, *Athenaeum* and *Atene e Roma* have been moved from the main sequence to allow some necessary “breathing space” in ST.5. The dissertation boxes were moved from their previous home along the wall and window ledges in the civilisation room to above the shelving for classmarks 152-153.

Heating in the archaeology room was once again a problem this winter. Repeated visits from the heating engineers failed to solve the issue fully. Armed with the data that library staff had been collecting for the past year we were able to obtain an agreement from Senate House to keep the heating on all the time, not just when the library is open. We are hopeful that this should make next winter a less bracing experience for readers in the library.

In May 2017 the library acquired a foot pedal for the scanner. This makes it easier to use, as it is possible to hold down the pages with both hands, and use the pedal to operate the scanner.

A library survey was conducted in May 2017. We received 169 responses (up from 166 in 2016). Ratings and responses were largely complimentary towards the library and its staff. The library received an overall satisfaction score of 3.79 (on a scale of 1-4), up from 3.64 the previous year. 86 respondents included additional comments, many of them compliments on the library, its collection, and its staff, as well as comments on the heating levels in winter and some more specific suggestions and comments. These will be used to inform changes we make throughout the next session. A fuller summary of results was posted on the library website. Some changes were made during this session in response to the previous survey in May 2016. These include the addition of security loops to most desks in the library, as well as other changes detailed elsewhere in this report, including the heating adjustments and scanner foot pedal.

Remote access to journals via JSTOR was negotiated for Society members in March 2017. Members can now access content off-site by logging in to their library record.

In early 2017 the Institute of Classical Studies began the Cataloguing Open Access Classics Serials (COACS) project, in collaboration with the library. The project aims to index open access journals and serials in classics and ancient history, to allow library users access to open publications alongside the subscription-based ones. The metadata catalogue of the online journals, and the individual articles within them, will be made available for import by library catalogues, and the scripts will also be published as open source software.

The very end of this session was marked by the move of the library issue desk into the Numismatics Room. This is a temporary move, to allow the library to remain open while the long-planned reception reconfiguration takes place. The reconfiguration is expected to be complete in mid-September.

Statistics

Acquisition and usage figures below. Last year's figures (2015/16) in parentheses.

Expenditure on collection development:

Institute: Books: £14,119 (£14,593); Periodicals: £4,387 (£4,438); E-resources: £6,032 (£5,728).

Joint Library: Books: £18,464 (£17,690); Periodicals: £7,127 (£7,502).

Total estimated value of combined Institute and Joint Library acquisitions (including purchases, review copies, exchanges, gifts and bequests): £100,216 (£114,709).

Books and pamphlets added: Institute 276 (345); Joint Library 1,756 (2,177); Total: 2,032 (2,522); Net gain, allowing for replacements: 1,974 (2,453).

Current periodicals: Institute 176 (176); Joint Library 518 (515); Total: 694 (691), of which 462 (460) were acquired by exchange, and 232 (231) by gift or purchase. There were 74 (71) Institute and 71 (73) Joint Library exchanges for books and dissertations; and 8 (8) more exchanges were made on behalf of other libraries.

Expenditure on binding (books and periodicals): Institute: £8,867 (£8,693); Joint Library: £8,509 (£9,245). Books bound or rebound: Institute: 155 (91); Joint Library: 72 (58); Total: 227 (149). Periodicals bound or rebound: Institute: 64 (122); Joint Library: 194 (245); Total: 258 (367).

Usage: Borrowers: 2,039 (2,102); Books borrowed: 9,205 (10,251). Library swipe-cards issued (current only): Institute: 1,887 (1,893); Societies: 3,461 (3,574). Turnstile count: 47,865 (53,174) entries; Temporary visitors: 133 (133). Book parcels sent: to members: 227 (224); to reviewers: 44 (107). Scans made: 8,534 (7,352) for 124 (154) members and institutions.

(Joanna Ashe, Librarian, August 2017)