

Hellenic and Roman Library
Institute of Classical Studies Library
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE SESSION 2017/2018

The start of this session was marked by the commencement of the planned refurbishment of the library entrance area. For the duration of the works the library configuration was changed to allow readers to enter via the Numismatics Room, as the main library doors could not be accessed. The entrance and issue desk activities moved back into the lobby on 25 September. The works saw the creation of separate reception areas for the Library and for the UCL hub with which we share the third floor. The space in the centre of the lobby, which had previously contained the issue desk, was converted to a seating area for readers, with a new area for the lockers and an additional display wall. The new configuration meant we were not able to provide as many lockers as we had previously, which initially caused some problems with locker supply at busy times. We have since been able to supply an extra 14 lockers, as well as replacing the locks on many of the existing lockers where the keys had been taken and not returned. This has alleviated much of the pressure on the locker supply.

Over a few days in the autumn some filming took place inside the library. This was for scenes and images used in the HARL promotional film, part of the HARL fundraising campaign. A number of interviews were also filmed, most of them in the rare books suite. After the release of the initial short film, four more interviews were also produced to promote the library. All of the films can be viewed on the HARL campaign website (www.hellenicandromanlibrary.org).

In October the library put on a display of books, curated by Paul Jackson, on the theme of 'Monsters', to tie in with the ICS event held on 17 October 2017. The books were on display for two weeks, and the exhibition notes are available to download from our website at <https://library.ics.sas.ac.uk/>. Senate House Library once again kindly lent us three display cases to use for the exhibition.

In November 2017 the library purchased some sturdy clear plastic bags featuring the library logos. These are available for readers who require them to carry items in to the library. The logos themselves have been updated with the assistance of the School of Advanced Study: the ICS Library logo now matches the style of the main ICS logo; the Hellenic and Roman Library logo has been adjusted to harmonise with that of the ICS and reflect the change in name, while also retaining the familiar dolphin symbol long associated with the library.

As has been previously reported, the library was left a generous bequest by Dr P. John Casey. In honour of this the Numismatics Room in the library has been renamed the John Casey Numismatics Room, and a naming event was held on March 12. An audience of invited guests, including a number of John's friends and former colleagues, attended the event, which also supported the library fundraising campaign. The new plaque was unveiled after performance of the play "Queen Elizabeth and the Twelve Caesars", written and directed by Andrew Burnett.

One change was made to the library configuration during this session. In April 2018 classmark 205 (Archaeological Technique) has been moved from the open shelves to the Librarian's office, to alleviate some of the pressure in the rolling stacks at the end of the Archaeology Room. Anyone wishing to consult the shelves in 205 can speak to library staff to arrange access.

During the session the computers for the library OPACs were replaced, as part of a standard rolling schedule of replacements. It took a little bit of time for the new OPAC machines to settle down and retain the correct settings, leaving catalogue access via the OPACs a little temperamental for a few weeks. But the correct settings were eventually applied, and they seem to be running smoothly once again.

The funded part of the COACS (Cataloguing Open Access Classics Serials) project has now been completed. The library now holds a large number of records for open access serials at both serial title and article title level. We are working with staff from Senate House Library to identify the best way to import these into the catalogue, and to resolve any duplicates of records that are already in the catalogue.

Readers who visited the library during the period from late March to June may have noticed tightened security at Senate House, and perhaps been asked to show ID at the main door. On a few occasions we were also told that we had to close early, at very short notice, as the building was being shut down. This was a response by the University to some student sit-ins in Senate House, and outside our control. We are hopeful that this level of security will not recur, and apologise to anyone who was inconvenienced by it.

As usual, the library survey was run in May. We received only 33 responses this year, much lower than in previous years. The survey was advertised on the library website, via Twitter, and by posters and leaflets in the library in the same way as in previous years. However, this year we omitted to send a notification out via the Classicists mailing list, as had been done previously. This omission has left us with a much smaller set of results, which may skew comparisons with previous years. It has also provided the useful information that the mailing list does seem to be the most effective way to engage with many of our readers. The overall satisfaction score was 3.78, not significantly different to last year's score of 3.79. The scores and comments on individual points were along similar lines to last year, with the lowest score and a number of comments relating to the heating in the library. We continue to liaise with Senate House staff regarding the heating levels and insulation in the library, and will do our best to improve the situation this winter. A fuller summary of the survey results is available to download from the library website.

A new library website was launched on 30 July 2018. This was developed with the help and support of the School of Advanced Studies, especially Laura Say. The new website has been designed to be optimised for use across mobile and tablet devices as well as desktop and laptop computers. The administrative functions allow library staff to change more aspects of the website design than we were able to on the previous version of our website, and the platform should be more secure.

The library has acquired a data projector and screen, which can now be used as required for training sessions run in the computer room.

Library Staff

The session saw a number of changes in library staff. The Winton-Ingram Trainee for the session was Molly Richards, who joined us in August 2017. Molly is a Classics graduate from Clare College, Cambridge. In January 2018 Molly left the library to move to Oxford and take a job at the Oxford English Dictionary. Louise Wallace, trainee from 2015-2016, and Steven Cosnett, one of our casual library assistants, both stepped in part-time to cover the role, and we are grateful to them both for taking on this work at short notice.

At the end of April 2018 our part-time Library Assistant, Flor Herrero Valdes, left us to return to Spain with her family. Flor was a member of the library team for nearly four years.

In July 2018 Maria Kekki joined the team as our new part-time library assistant. Maria has previously worked at Goldsmiths College, the British Library, and the Finnish Archaeological Institute and the Nordic Library in Athens. She originally studied History, Archaeology and Information Studies at the University of Helsinki and the School of Oriental and African Studies, and is a qualified librarian.

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, Naomi Rebis and Mary Ruskin. To all of these we extend our customary thanks.

During this session we also benefited from the support of two volunteers. Keith Davis assisted us with a cataloguing project in January 2018, and Graham Fifoot volunteered across a number of projects, working one day a week from September 2017 to July 2018. To both we extend our thanks for the generous gift of their time.

A week's work experience was given under Sue Willett's guidance in July to pre-university student Celeste Foo, from The Henrietta Barnett School in Hampstead Garden Suburb.

Collection development

A sizeable bequest of around 20 boxes was received from the collection of Professor J. Barron. The library was also very fortunate to receive the generous gift of two framed Piranesi prints from Professor J. R. Green. 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 R. Adam, Dr J. Alcock, Dr E. Angelicoussis, Dr E. Angliker, Professor R. Ardevan, Dr R.H.J. Ashton, Dr S. Audano, Dr E. Betts, Professor H. Bowden, Dr G. Bradley, Mr S. Bralee, Dr A. Brown, Dr A. Burnett, Dr D. Burton, Dr E. Chalkia, Dr V. Cojocar, Professor S. Colvin, Professor A. Cooley, Dr T.R.P. Coward, Professor M.H. Crawford, Dr J.R. Cross, Dr X. Duffy, Mr M. Dyson, Dr S. Ferrara, Dr M. Ford, Dr K. Gawlikowska, Dr A. Goldsworthy, Mr N.W. Gourlay, Professor J.R. Green, Ms M. Grochocki, Dr F. Haarer, Dr M. Hassall, Professor A. Hermary, Sir J. and Lady S. Heywood, Dr J. Hughes, Mr P. Jackson, Professor R. Janko, Dr A.W. Johnston, Professor A.C. King, Dr K. Kłodziński, Mrs C. Lawrence, Dr T.J. Leary, Mr G. Lemos, Dr A. Martinez Valle, Professor T. Minimikawa, Professor H. Mouritsen, Dr N. Mugnai, Dr D. Nappo, Professor V. Nutton, Mrs M.-D. Oliver, Dr G. Pedrucci, Dr A. Popescu, Mr R. Potter, Dr J. Powell, Miss N. Rebis, Dr M. Rogakos, Dr U. Roth, Professor C. Rouché, Mr C. Runeckles, Dr M. Ruskin, Dr R.W.B. Salway, Dr A.D.R. Sheppard, Mr C. Sparey Green, Professor G. Suárez Blázquez, Mr R. Tatam, Professor J. Tatum, Professor M. Trapp, Dr E.B. Tsigarida, Dr A. Tyfopoulos, Mr R. D'A. Ward, Dr A.M. Wasyl, Mrs S.J. Willetts, Professor G.D. Woolf, Dr K. Zachos.

British Museum, Department of Coins and Medals; British Museum, Department of Greek and Roman Antiquities; Charles Ede Ltd.; Dr Williams' Library; Embassy of Greece in London; Institute of Historical Research; Parrot Press, Canberra; Senate House Library; University College London; Warburg Institute.

Statistics

Acquisition and usage figures below. Last year's figures (2016/17) in parentheses.

Expenditure on collection development:

Institute: Books: £15,127 (£14,119); Periodicals: £3,765 (£4,387); E-resources: £6,112 (£6,032).

Joint Library: Books: £16,421 (£18,464); Periodicals: £7,457 (£7,127).

Total estimated value of combined Institute and Joint Library acquisitions (including purchases, review copies, exchanges, gifts and bequests): £89,669 (£100,216).

Books and pamphlets added: Institute 320 (276); Joint Library 1,653 (1,756); Total: 1,973 (2,032); Net gain, allowing for replacements: 1,929 (1,974).

Current periodicals: Institute 176 (176); Joint Library 522 (518); Total: 698 (694), of which 464 (462) were acquired by exchange, and 234 (232) by gift or purchase. There were 77 (74) Institute and 78 (71) 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: £9,310 (£8,867); Joint Library: £9,544 (£8,509). Books bound or rebound: Institute: 116 (155); Joint Library: 95 (72); Total: 211 (227). Periodicals bound or rebound: Institute: 98 (64); Joint Library: 207 (194); Total: 305 (258).

Usage: Borrowers: 2,053 (2,039); Books borrowed: 8,290 (9,205). Library swipe-cards issued (current only): Institute: 1,890 (1,887); Societies: 3,442 (3,461). Turnstile count: 44,986 (47,865) entries [note that it was not possible to collect entry data from 1 August 2017 – 25 September 2017 due to the lobby refurbishment, therefore figures for this year are incomplete]; Temporary visitors: 129 (133). Book parcels sent: to members: 208 (274); to reviewers: 86 (44). Scans made: 9,858 (8,534) for 145 (124) members and institutions.

Joanna Ashe, Librarian, September 2018