

INSTITUTE OF CLASSICAL STUDIES LIBRARY
JOINT LIBRARY OF THE HELLENIC AND ROMAN SOCIETIES
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE SESSION 2015/2016

Unquestionably the most significant development of the session was the signature, on 28th April 2016, of the new 25-year Agreement between the University of London and the Hellenic and Roman Library (HARL) concerning the management and finance of the Library, with a view to securing and stabilising its long-term future. Diligent readers of annual reports will know that this had been in the offing for some considerable time, so correspondingly greater thanks are due to the efforts and goodwill of all parties who were involved in the protracted and complex negotiations. As a result of this agreement, the University of London will henceforward be responsible for providing and paying for space, while HARL (i.e. the Societies) will be responsible for the costs associated with the Library staff: a fund-raising campaign will be launched to assist with this. Other costs will be shared. Also under the terms of the agreement the current Library Committee will be superseded by two new Committees – a Combined Library Management Committee and a Collections Development Committee – both of which will become operational in the new academic year (2016/17).

Earlier in the session, on 27th January, an internal review of the ICS and its Library was conducted by a panel considering all aspects of its activity within the context of the School of Advanced Study's strategic framework, and ultimately reporting to the School Board via the Dean and SAS Executive. A self-evaluation document prepared by the ICS Director was submitted in advance to the panel to assist with their review. On virtually all fronts their ensuing report was favourable, with a number of useful recommendations. The focus of those relating in particular to the Library was on its digital future, as a result of which a small group was set up by the ICS to investigate various digital initiatives in which the Library could play its part. Examples include using the Library's skills in archive management in order to consider the best ways to curate and advertise the contents of archives held by the ICS, including the Ventriss Archive, the Mycenaean Seminar Archive, and the Greek Theatre Archive; and looking at possible ways in which to fund and take forward further digitisation projects, particularly for unique material held by the Library, such as the Diaries of Robert Wood.

Equally positive were the results of a Library Survey which was conducted during the first two weeks of May 2016, again in response to a directive by the School of Advanced Study. The survey itself included a number of questions relating to all aspects of the Library's operations and services, with the opportunity given to participants to add further comments on specific items if they so wished. 166 responses were received altogether – in percentage terms not huge, but comparable to the number made to similar surveys by other SAS libraries – with an overall satisfaction rate of 3.62 on a scale of 1 to 4. Of the 166 responses, 81 included additional comments, many of which complimented the Library on the range of its collection and resources, and the fact that the vast majority of material was on open access; most also felt that the proportion of confined and lending material was about right. Tributes were also paid to the efficiency and helpfulness of the library staff. Less favourable was the reaction to issues which were largely outside the Library's control, such as the unsatisfactory nature of the heating or the lack of a Common Room, or at least an area for communal discussion and refreshments. At the same time a number of helpful and constructive suggestions were received – for example with regard to layout and signage: without entering into specific detail here, suffice to say that some of these were able to be implemented almost immediately, while others will be addressed during the forthcoming session.

Towards the end of the year, accessibility in all of the SAS libraries became a heightened issue in the light of the government's withdrawal of funding for some of the special needs of disabled students (including carers). The School embarked upon the process of carrying out a library audit to check that the requirements of accessibility needed to compensate for that withdrawal were being met. Action areas included library spaces (i.e. the ease of physical mobility in all areas), technology, communication, staffing and resources: specialist accessibility software was due to be installed on all four of the Combined Library's pcs in the Computer Room, and on one of its specially designated OPACs: the costs of this installation were to be met centrally. A group was set up to discuss and implement as many of these recommendations as were feasible; and a "shopping list" of requirements was drawn up and submitted, with the hope of fulfilment early in the new session.

Two ongoing matters alluded to in last year's report were the subject of mixed fortunes.

Preparations for the transition to a new automated library management system continued apace, following a tendering process (in which nine companies had originally expressed an interest) and the final choice of Sierra, a new generation system to replace the current Millennium: the advantage was that Innovative was the proprietary company for each, thereby ensuring greater continuity, less complex migration procedures, and a more familiar user-interface for both staff and readers, with enhanced search and other operational facilities; it was also anticipated that the costs of maintaining the system would be reduced from their existing level. Installation was due on 16th August 2016, when the system would "go live" for the first time.

Not so successful in terms of actual implementation was the proposal to reconfigure the third floor reception area, including the Library desk currently being shared by the ICS and UCL. Despite the drawing up of a revised business plan signalling the key improvements - better experience for library users, better working conditions for library staff, and better security - the project was unfortunately postponed for the second time due to financial reasons. However, all interested parties - Estates, SAS and ICS - remain fully committed to the project.

Following the signature of the agreement between the Roman Research Trust and the University of London for the transfer of ownership of the David Smith Mosaic Archive to the ICS Library, the Archive itself was transferred to Room 344 (Computer Room), and joined not long afterwards by the Library's own books on painting and mosaics. This happy collocation of similar material also brought the added benefits of freeing up about 12 shelves in the Art & Archaeology section and of relieving, at least temporarily, the constant pressure on space there. Conversely, the red tract volumes which had been accommodated in Room 344 were transferred to where the Mosaic Archive used to be, by the reserve shelves, and closer to their natural "successors", the tract boxes. Another welcome housekeeping enhancement was the re-use of the mountings left by the exhibition of paintings by Peter Connolly (to accompany the Societies' Greek and Roman Armour Day in July 2015, reported previously) in order to display three Piranesi prints of antiquities in Rome, which - coincidentally but appropriately - were acquired by the Library from Peter Connolly's estate. These can now be seen down the inner side of the main reading room, next to the first few bays. Mention of last year's Greek and Roman Armour Day serves as a reminder that the Library always has the potential to assist with Classics-related events: one such occurrence this year was the setting aside of the Computer Room during a week in August 2015 for the use of attendees at the Epigraphy Summer School, to complement their accommodation within the British Museum. Not only did this facilitate their use of the Library's resources, but it also gave them the opportunity to enrich this with further corresponding discussion amongst themselves.

Collection development

A couple of years ago the Joint Library had been truly fortunate to receive a donation of £60,000 from John Spencer, a former member of the Roman Society, to be spent on books. This was not reported at the time while consideration was given as to how best to use this fund. It was eventually agreed that priority should be given to very expensive but worthwhile items which would not otherwise have been acquired, even by the Institute Library. Since then £4,921 has been spent on seven items, as follows (in order of acquisition):-

(i) Caere. 6, Caere e Pyrgi : il territorio, la viabilità e le fortificazioni : atti della giornata di studio : Roma, Consiglio nazionale delle ricerche, 1 marzo 2012 / a cura di Vincenzo Bellelli ; testi di Elena Acampa ... [et al.]. (2014)

(ii) L'indagine e la rima : scritti per Lorenzo Braccesi / a cura di Flavio Raviola ; con Maddalena Bassani, Andrea Debiasi, Elena Pastorio ; segretaria di redazione, Cristina Rocchi, impaginazione ed editing, Matteo Annibaletto. (2013)

(iii) Gli umbri in età preromana : atti del XXVII Convegno di studi etruschi ed italici : Perugia · Gubbio · Urbino, 27-31 ottobre 2009 / a cura di Orazio Paoletti. (2014)

(iv) Scritti africani / Antonino Di Vita ; a cura di M.A. Rizzo Di Vita e G. Di Vita Evrard. (2015)

(v) Interdisciplinary studies on ancient stone : ASMOSIA X : proceedings of the tenth international conference of ASMOSIA Association for the Study of Marbles and Other Stones in Antiquity, Rome, 21-26 May 2012 / P. Pensabene, E. Gasparini (eds.) (2015)

(vi) Narce tra la prima età del ferro e l'orientalizzante antico : l'abitato, i tufi e la petrina / Jacopo Tabolli. (2013)

(vii) Mediterranea : quaderni annuali dell'Istituto di Studi sulle Civiltà Italiane e del Mediterraneo Antico del Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche. Vol. 6 (2009) [*This last item was purchased in order to fill a gap in the run of this periodical title*]

Once again the Library was blessed to receive a number of bequests and large donations from which chosen books constituted valuable additions to the collection, while others, subject to the donor's approval, were put on the sale shelves to raise funds for the purchase of new publications. Chief among the bequests was that of the late Dennis Blandford, whose very large collection required a number of visits by the Deputy Librarian, Paul Jackson, for selection purposes, resulting in some 30 boxes of material, largely literary, but also with some historical and some antiquarian items: these await sorting and accessioning as appropriate. The Library continued to benefit from the kindness of The Classical Association with their regular passing on of the books not required for review in their journal, *Classical Review*. Other sizeable donations, in order of acquisition, were received from the late Harold Mattingly – c.40 books as selected by his son David; from Korinna Pilafidis-Williams – c.100 books on Minoan, Mycenaean and Near Eastern topics; and a similar number of books from Michael Barrington, chiefly on Greek literature and civilisation. We are greatly obliged to all of the above donors for their generosity.

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

Mr D.R. Anastasiou, Ms E. Angliker, Professor Dr S. Audano, Mrs P.J. Betts, Dr E. Beu-Dachin, Professor J.M. Blázquez Martínez, Mr H.G. Bonne, Dr P. Březina, Mr L. Brown, Dr A.M. Burnett, Mr S. Cearns, Dr M. Chappell, Professor A.J. Claridge, Professor S. Colvin, Professor S. Constantinidou, Professor A.E. Cooley, Dr M.G.L. Cooley, Dr S.J.J. Corcoran, Professor M.H. Crawford, Dr N. Devlin, Ms. A.C. Dionisotti, Professor J. Echeñique, Mr J. Ellis Jones, Dr M. Ford, Dr D.H. French, Professor M.G. Fulford, Professor J. Glucker, Mr D. Goodfellow, Mr E.A.C. Goodman, Professor J.R. Green, Professor A. Gregory, Dr L. Grumeza, Professor M. Gualtieri, Mr B. Hobley, Mr T. Holland, Ms S.A. Hornsby, Mr P.L. Jackson, Professor D.M. Jacobson, Dr A.W. Johnston, Professor H. King, Mr M.R. King, Professor M. Kokoszko, Professor A. Kolb, Dr J. Komorowska, Dr O. Krzyszkowska, Dr C.S. Latham, Mrs C. Lawrence, Mr T.C.C. Lennon, Professor S.N.C. Lieu, Mr I.G. Longhurst, Mrs M. Maehler, Professor G. Manuwald, Dr F. Matei-Popescu, Professor T. Minamikawa, Ms F. Muecke, Dr F. Muscolino, Ms A. Pearson, Dr M. Perale, Dr K. Pietruczuk, Mr A.B. Pye, Dr K. Raskauskas, Dr C. Riva, Professor A. Rodighiero, Mrs C.M. Roueché, Professor C.J. Rowe, Professor H. Rwantabagu, Professor P.G. Salway, Dr R.W.B. Salway, Professor N.V. Sekunda, Professor A.M. Small, Professor G. Suárez Blázquez, Professor H. Takahashi, Mr L. Tembleque Terés, Dr O. Tentea, Mr H.S. Toller, Dr A. Tyflopoulos, Mr A. Waddelove, Professor Dr A.M. Wasyl, Dr J.F. White, Ms S.J. Willetts, Professor G.D. Woolf, Dr A. Ziosi.

American Center of Oriental Research; American Classical League; American Philological Association; Archäologische Gesellschaft Steiermark; Association of Ancient Historians; British Museum, Department of Coins and Medals; British Museum, Department of Greece and Rome; British School at Athens; Charles Ede Ltd; Christie's (London); Classical Association; Comune di Sant'Angelo in Vado; Egypt Exploration Society; Fondazione Lorenzo Valla; Friends of Classics; Hendon and District Archaeological Society; International Plutarch Society; Joint Association of Classical Teachers; Onassis Foundation (New York); Römerstadt Augusta Raurica; Society for the Promotion of Byzantine Studies; Texas Tech University Press; Universidade de Aveiro; Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Buenos Aires; Centro de Estudios de Lenguas Clásicas; University College London Library; Warburg Institute.

Library staff

The previous year's Winnington-Ingram Trainee, Ryan Cooper, departed in August 2015, and in his place we welcomed his replacement Louise Wallace, a Classics graduate from Durham University. In July 2016 our Library Assistant Flor Herrero Valdes left us temporarily to go on maternity leave, with a view to returning early in the New Year 2017, following the renewal of her contract and her post being made a permanent one. We were pleased to secure approval for Louise to act as cover for the interim period, subsequent to her own departure from the Trainee post, thereby ensuring continuity. Louise's successor for the forthcoming session was to be Naomi Rebis, a Classics graduate from Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge.

As ever, we benefited from the services of our Casual Assistants who helped us out this year with morning shelving, late evening and Saturday opening – Gaetano Ardito, Xavier Duffy, Ellie Mackin, Mary Ruskin, and Lluís Tembleque Terés, the last of whom departed in mid-session and was replaced by Steven Cosnett, the Library Committee's student representative. To all of these we extend our customary thanks.

Statistics (2015/2016)

Acquisition and usage figures below. Last year's figures (2014/15) in parentheses.

Expenditure on collection development:

Institute: Books: **£14,593** (£15,848); Periodicals: **£4,438** (£2,944) E-resources: **£5,728** (£7,300).

Joint Library*: Books: **£17,690** (£21,940); Periodicals: **£7,502** (£6,418)

Total estimated value of combined Institute and Joint Library acquisitions (including purchases, review copies, exchanges, gifts and bequests): **£114,709** (£112,502).

*(includes **£3,141** expenditure from the John Spencer Fund of £60,000)

Books and pamphlets added: Institute **345** (364); Joint Library **2,177** (2,155);

Total: **2,522** (2,519); Net gain, allowing for replacements: **2,453** (2,464).

Current periodicals: Institute **176** (160); Joint Library **515** (482); Total: **691** (642), of which **460** (429) were acquired by exchange, and **231** (213) by gift or purchase.

There were **71** (63) Institute and **73** (75) 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: **£8,693** (£8,521); Joint Library: **£9,245** (£9,134).

Books bound or rebound: Institute: **91** (58); Joint Library: **58** (82); Total: **149** (140). Periodicals bound or rebound: Institute: **122** (143); Joint Library: **245** (209); Total: **367** (352).

Usage: Borrowers: **2,102** (2,171); Books borrowed: **10,251** (11,363).

Library swipe-cards issued (current only): Institute: **1,893** (1,425); Societies: **3,574** (2,317).

Turnstile count: **53,174** (51,920) entries; Temporary visitors: **133** (148).

Book parcels sent: to members: **224** (224); to reviewers: **107** (151).

Xerox copies made: **395** (436) for **19** (9) members and institutions.

Scans made: **7,352** (6,977) for **154** (133) members and institutions.

This is my 21st and final report as Librarian. It has been a privilege to serve one of the world's foremost Classics libraries, and its readership, with the support of such outstanding colleagues, past and present. I would like in particular to thank Professor Michael Crawford who, as Honorary Librarian throughout my tenure, has helped to sustain the whole enterprise through some very challenging times. I leave with the optimism that the new Agreement brings with it, and wish my successor well.

(Colin Annis, Librarian, August 2016)