

Hellenic and Roman Library
Institute of Classical Studies Library
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE SESSION 2021/2022

This session marked the return to pre-pandemic opening hours and services. From the start of September, we resumed Saturday opening, plus late evening opening on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays during term time. We initially kept the booking system in place but removed this from the start of March. We have continued to observe slightly higher postal loan and scan requests than prior to the pandemic. It is possible that requests for these services will remain higher, as awareness of them has increased.

Many regular library training and engagement activities once again took place virtually during this session, such as the London Intercollegiate MA induction, and the training session run by Sue Willetts for some of the MA modules. Some activities did take place in person this year, as the library hosted a session on 3D imaging and photogrammetry in November, using items from the Ehrenburg bequest. The library also worked with the ICS digital classics team to use this bequest for imaging training during an ICS summer school. The ICS hosted a UCL digital humanities intern this spring, Yuxin Gan, who worked in the library continuing the project of creating 3D models of items from the Ehrenberg bequest and making them available online. This included two coins from the collection, which proved technically complicated to image. Everything imaged so far can be seen here: <https://sketchfab.com/harlehrenberg>.

From September the library began to offer on-site reference access for Classical Association members, in return for funding from the Classical Association. Initial take-up of this offer was low, possibly due to the continuing pandemic, but following renewed promotion by the Classical Association to their members we have seen an increase in interest.

This session we welcomed the new Institute of Classical Studies Director, Professor Katherine Harloe, who took up post in October.

There are additional pieces of art on display in the library. Two Piranesi engravings, *Veduta del Tempio di Bacco* and *Veduta interno dell'Antico Tempio di Bacco*, donated to the library by Professor Richard Green, are now hanging in the larger literature room between the windows. And the triptych *The Destruction of Palmyra* by Deanna Petherbridge is currently hanging in the archaeology room. This work has been donated to the Warburg Institute but will be on display in our library until their current refurbishment project is complete. To mark this loan, we have an exhibition in the lobby outside the library on images of Palmyra. This was created in collaboration with Dr Jen Baird of Birkbeck and Senate House Library, and is expected to be in place until the end of the Autumn term in 2022.

We ran our library survey again this year after a gap due to the pandemic. The total number of results received were lower than the last time we ran it, although it was advertised across all the same platforms. The satisfaction scores for the various metrics were broadly similar to previous years, with high scores reported including an overall satisfaction score of 3.77 out of 4. Full results of the survey are available on the library website.

Towards the summer a series of train and tube strikes made travel around London more complicated, but we were able to keep the library open on all the strike days thanks to the willingness of staff to find alternative routes to the building. The record-breaking heatwave near the end of this session meant uncomfortably warm temperatures in the library, especially in the south facing rooms. As a result, we took the decision to close for the two days that temperatures were predicted to be over 40 degrees, due to both high temperatures in the library and the impact of the heat on travel. The library has arranged with the University to fit heat blocking blinds throughout to hopefully prevent this necessity during future heatwaves.

Senate House Library is continuing with their transformation project. This is designed to modernise and transform that library, and some of the work done will have an impact on us. They are currently focussing on four main areas: collections, digital, space, and storage. The details of these, and exactly how they might impact on this library, are not yet known.

Our digitisation programme, generously funded by grants from the A.G. Leventis Foundation and the Classical Association, continued. We are grateful to the A.G. Leventis Foundation for granting us an additional two years' funding, and the timing of this has allowed us to seamlessly continue the work with our digitisation officer Aaron Fordwoh. The scanning done during this session is as follows:

- 3.56 TB of data
- 238 Volumes
- 3,178 Chapters
- 161, 513 pages

Library Staff

Our Winnington-Ingram trainee from the previous session, Shannon Rudden, left to begin work at Regents University, continuing to help out as a casual assistant until starting a new job in Oxford later in the session. Chloë Carson-Ashurst took up the post as Winnington-Ingram trainee for 2021-22, coming to us from a job at an auction house in London. She read Modern and Medieval Languages (German and Russian) at Selwyn College, University of Cambridge, before gaining an MA in Byzantine Art History at The Courtauld Institute of Art, London.

With the resumption of full opening hours we have once again benefitted from the services of our Casual Assistants who helped us out with morning shelving, late evening and Saturday opening: Will Coles, Barbara Roberts, Shannon Rudden, Mary Ruskin, and Louise Wallace. We have also been employing Joey Ficocelli and Nicole Iu on a separate project to help us sort through some of the boxes of donated books. To all of these we extend our customary thanks.

The library has been impacted by staff sickness during this session. Some of our part time and casual staff have taken on extra hours at times to help cover when we have been short staffed, and we are grateful to them all for this extra work.

We were pleased to be able to offer one work experience placement this year in July. A week's experience was given under Sue Willetts' guidance to Aliya Asaria, student at Wallington High School for Girls.

Collection Development

Sizeable donations of books were received from several sources, among them the late Prof. Andrew D. Barker, Prof Stephen Colvin, Yannick Ghiron, from the late Prof. Paulette Ghiron Bistagne, the late John Roger Oates, the late Judith Charmian Stancomb. 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. Erica Angliker; Dr. Richard Ashton; Prof. Dr. Sergio Audano; the late Prof. Andrew D. Barker; Prof. Roderick Beaton; Dr. Thomas Brauch; Prof. Kai Brodersen; Chloë Carson-Ashurst; Prof. Miguel Cisneros Cunchillos; Marian Ciucă; Dr V. Cojocar; Will Coles; Prof Stephen Colvin; Prof. Michael Crawford; Dr. Virginia Day; Dr. Christopher De Lisle; Prof. Dr. Antonio Duplá; Prof. Michael Edwards; Michael J. Ferrar; Dra. Coré Ferrer-Alcantud; Dr. Rachel Finnegan; Dr. John G. Fitch; Gérard Gertoux; Yannick Ghiron, from the late Prof. Paulette Ghiron Bistagne; Dr. Adrian Goldsworthy; Prof. Katherine Harloe; Paul Jackson; Caroline Lawrence; Dr. Samuel Lieu; Dr. Scott McGill; the late Dr. Euan W. MacKie; Dr. George P. M. Maher; Prof. Gesine Manuwald; Prof. Emilio Marin; Richard Mathrick; Maria Nicholas (Marilou Press); the late John Roger Oates; Dr. Mario Petrucci; Nigel Roche; Alex Rowson; Dr. Benet Salway; Prof. Federico Santangelo; Dr. Jillian Saucier; Prof. Helmuth Schneider; Prof. Alastair and Carola Small; Prof. Emma Stafford; the late Judith Charmian Stancomb; Adam Thorne; Asst. Prof. Mattia Vitelli Casella; Dr. Gyözö Vörös; Dr. Graham Whittaker; Sue Willetts; Prof. Greg Woolf.

British Museum Greek and Roman Dept.; British School at Athens; Classical Review; Lamda Development (Marousi); Senate House Library; UCL Institute of Archaeology; Warburg Institute.

Statistics

Acquisition and usage figures below. Last year's figures (2020/21) in parentheses.

Expenditure on collection development:

Institute: Books: £13,688 (£15,254); Periodicals: £4,402 (£6,152); E-resources: £7,716 (£8,305).

HARL: Books: £15,629 (£14,383); Periodicals: £6,993 (£8,432); E-resources: £250 (£250).

Total estimated value of combined Institute and HARL acquisitions (including purchases, review copies, exchanges, gifts, and bequests): £107,780 (£90,681).

Books and pamphlets added: Institute 263 (214); HARL 1,879 (2,140); Total: 2,142 (2,354); Net gain, allowing for replacements: 2,101 (2,291).

Current periodicals: Institute 178 (178); HARL 527 (526); Total: 705 (704), of which 467 (467) were acquired by exchange, and 238 (237) by gift or purchase. There were 82 (82) Institute and 78 (78) HARL exchanges for books and dissertations; and 8 (8) more exchanges were made on behalf of other libraries.

Expenditure on binding (books and periodicals): Institute: £9,789 (£10,187); HARL: £13,034 (£10,000).
Books bound or rebound: Institute: 57 (50); HARL: 95 (95); Total: 152 (145). Periodicals bound or rebound: Institute: 91 (7); HARL: 114 (236); Total: 205 (243).

Usage: Borrowers: 1,885 (1,867); Books borrowed: 4,310 (4,456). Library swipe-cards issued (current only): Institute: 1,519 (1,471); Societies: 3,283 (3,260). Turnstile count: 21,828 (14,807) entries; Temporary visitors: 26 (3). Book parcels sent: to members: 254 (561); to reviewers: 61 (70). Scans made: 12,380 (16,767) for 187 (276) members and institutions.

Joanna Ashe, Librarian, September 2022