

Joint Library of the Hellenic and Roman Societies Annual Report 2007/2008

Accommodation issues, existing and future, remained to the fore throughout the session. The Library continued to inhabit its temporary premises on the second floor of the North Block of Senate House, with all the attendant pressures on space for books and readers. As shown in the statistics for the turnstile count given below, there was a slight upturn in usage on last year. An added complication this year was the necessity to give access through our entrance to Senate House Library readers wishing to consult their periodicals relocated to the third floor of the North Block during the second phase of the South Block's refurbishment. Not only was this problematic for security in view of the unfeasibility of synchronising opening hours between the two libraries, but it also entailed ICS / Joint Library staff having to cope with extra enquiries and demands from SHL readers, particularly during the early stages of the operation.

Further delays were also anticipated in the Library's move back to the South Block. At one stage it had been hoped that it would take place over the Christmas 2008 / New Year 2009 break, thereby causing minimal disruption (as with the move during the same period three years earlier); but by the end of the session this began to appear increasingly unlikely. Equally uncertain was the precise configuration of the accommodation being offered on its return. After meetings with the Estates Project Manager, the Director of ULRSL, and planning representatives, the ICS Director and Librarian had apparently negotiated a restitution of the original premises on the third floor and in the basement which, incorporating tweaks recommended by the Librarian, would have provided adequate space for the collection, including some 10,000 volumes acquired since the move. However, a last-minute plan to re-allocate the basement for material from other ULRSL libraries in a closed access environment, and replace its loss with additional, but probably insufficient, space on the third floor meant that once again, right at the session's close, plans were in a state of flux. While this remained the case, prospects for the conclusion of an agreement between the Societies and the University were no nearer. Particularly crucial would be the nature of the proposed reception area, and the need to protect the library staff from being deployed for duties and services to parts of the ULRSL other than the ICS / Joint Library, a problem anticipated and highlighted right at the outset of the convergence policy.

Finance

Wider developments were also a contributory factor. Reviews by Sir Ivor Crewe of HEFCE special funding for the School of Advanced Study, and of HEFCE funding for research libraries, although both favourable to Institute libraries as a whole, had not actually produced concrete solutions to the considerable financial deficit due to hard-hitting space-charges engendered by Full Economic Costing. As a result, the libraries' budget was facing a 5% cut each year for the next five years in an attempt to make good the shortfall. Furthermore, the imposition of a seemingly arbitrary ratio, whereby open access space incurred a charge of eight times as much as closed access space, meant that libraries were under increasing pressure to save costs by opting for the latter, even though, as was pointed out by a couple of Institute Directors, this ran precisely counter to the strong preference for open access research collections expressed in the Crewe reports. Many will remember the acute inconvenience caused to both staff and readers during the Library's latter days in Gordon Square, when a third of its collection was of necessity relegated to closed access due to lack of space. Finally, it should be noted that, while the Crewe reports had been favourable, at least in principle, to SAS libraries, the same had not been true of Senate House Library, from whom it was recommended that HEFCE remove a major part of its funding. Following this, SHL commissioned its own review by external consultants, who were due to issue a final report by the end of 2008. As a bridging arrangement, the Colleges agreed to a 4.5% increase in their subscriptions to SHL for 2008/2009, but not necessarily beyond that. The eventual outcome of this review was likely to have a significant impact upon the future role of constituent SAS libraries within the ULRSL.

Against this background of the continually shifting status of relations between SAS, ULRLS, the ICS and Societies, repercussions for the latter were evidently going to be financially uncertain, not to say difficult. Meetings were initiated between the ICS Director, the incoming Societies' Presidents, and the Honorary Librarian to discuss ways of supporting the Library, financially and politically, in the year(s) ahead. In such a context it is instructive to record an exercise carried out in mid-session by library staff which demonstrates the value of the Societies' contribution to the Library's collection. In order to provide the Societies' Auditors with the information needed for a capitalisation of their assets, following the Standard of Recommended Practice, the value of books and periodicals received by the Joint Library from 2001 to 2007 (inclusive) was calculated according to a prescribed methodology, resulting in a total of almost £500,000 – way beyond actual expenditure on purchases. Books sent for review in, and periodicals received in exchange for, the Societies' journals account for most of the surplus, but, complementary to this, the number of gifts and bequests received annually (as exemplified below) is a wonderful bonus.

Acquisitions / Donations

This year was remarkable, in fact, for just such a wealth of bequests and donations received, keeping the library staff happily busy with sorting material into items to be added to stock (either as new or as replacements) and items to be sold to readers, thereby raising funds for further book purchases. Among the bequests were the following:

(i) From Ralph and Barbara Hoddinott, a significant collection of books relating to the Balkans and the Black Sea area, receipt of which was arranged with the assistance of their nephew Mark Sutcliffe, the Trainee. These still remain to be accessioned.

(ii) From Margaret Cunningham, one-time lecturer at UCL, her collection of books relating mostly to Greek literature, with the focus on tragedy and metre.

(iii) From John Sharwood Smith, well-known Classics schoolteacher, a collection consisting mainly of Greek and Latin literature, together with other material on education.

(iv) From Bernard Carnell, also one-time Classics schoolteacher and Open University associate lecturer, a similarly literature-based number of items.

(v) From Philip Bartholomew, one-time employee in the Ashmolean Library, useful material on ancient history, mostly late Roman, and on Roman Britain. (This was actually the second part of a bequest, the first of which had been received several years earlier.)

Major donations included the following:

(i) From Stan Wolfson, a Roman Society member, an extraordinarily generous gift of various antiquarian editions of ancient authors, including Ammianus Marcellinus, Claudian, Eutropius, Frontinus, Gellius, *Historiae Augustae Scriptores*, Lactantius, Martial, Minucius Felix, Pliny the Younger, Prudentius, Publilius, Sulpicius Severus, and Statius.

(ii) From Michael Rhodes, the 7-volume *Collectanea Antiqua* of Charles Roach Smith (1806-1890), best known for his work on Roman London and his excavations of the Saxon Shore forts.

(iii) From Elizabeth James, Professor of Art History at the University of Sussex, a number of recent books resulting from her time as one of the judges for the Runciman prize.

As in previous years, *Classical Review* was kind enough to forward the books surplus to its review requirements which the library could then add to its collection or sell as duplicates. This continues to be a very welcome tradition.

Generous financial donations were once more also received: from Richard Stogner (a habitual benefactor); Sushma Jansari (again for books relating to India vis-à-vis the classical world); the Cotton Foundation (for the purchase of *MEDRI (Maura) Ed. Sentinum 295 a.C., Sassoferrato 2006, 2300 anni dopo la battaglia: una città romana tra storia e archeologia. Convegno internazionale, Sassoferrato 21-23 Settembre 2006. Rome : L'Erma di Bretschneider, 2008*); and from Peter Wiseman, David Sherlock, and Zvi Meitar.

For the library to be the recipient of such generosity as exemplified above is immensely gratifying and hugely appreciated; as is the collective contribution made by the following individual donors of books, periodicals, and pamphlets:- Dr J. Banaji, Mr D.W. Blandford, Rev. R.B.A. Byrne, Professor G. Calboli,

Professor A. Çalik Ross, Mrs J. Cargill Thompson, Professor J.D. Chaplin, Dr S. Corcoran, Professor M.H. Crawford, Professor G. De Benedittis, Professor P. Doukellis, Professor M. Elefante, Dr.ssa M. Fano, Professor T. Figueira, Dr M. Ford, Ms A. Frizzarin, Professor G. Galán Vioque, Dr A. Gardner, Dr D. Goodfellow, Mrs R. Gordon, Professor J.R. Green, Dr N. Hardwick, Mrs E. Hartley, Mr M.W.C. Hassall, Professor J.W. Hayes, Dr F. Hunter, Professor G. Huxley, Professor A. Iannucci, Mr P.L. Jackson, Mr N. and Mrs M. Jaffé, Dr A.W. Johnston, Professor D. Koutroubas, Dr O. Krzyszkowska, Ms C. Lawrence, Dr L. Lehnus, Professor A.A. Lemos, Professor S.N.C. Lieu, Mr I.G. Longhurst, Dr M. Lurje, Professor M. McDonald, Mrs M. Maehler, Dr C. Merchan-Hamann, Professor E. Migliario, Professor T. Minamikawa, Dr S. Moody, Professor T. Nakatsukasa, Dr G. Owens, Dr A. Papachrysostomou, Professor Z. Papastylou-Philiou, Professor M.C. Parra, Professor R. Pintaudi, Dr D.I. Polemis, Professor D.W. Rathbone, Dr A.A. Reyes Domínguez, Dr A. Richardson, Mrs P. Robertson, Professor A. Rodighiero, Dr R.M. Rossell I Rigau, Dr S. Rozenberg, Dr R.W.B. Salway, Dr A.E. Santangelo, Dr.ssa V. Segre, Professor N. Sekunda, Mr R.W. Shone, Dr T.J. Smith, Professor B.A. Sparkes, Mr R.J.B. Stein, Dr C. Stray, Professor G. Uggeri, Dr C. Van Driel-Murray, Professor F. Vistoli, Professor S. Vnukov, Ms S.J. Willetts, Dr R. Winsbury.

Accademia Fulginia di Lettere Scienze e Arti; American Center of Oriental Research; American School of Classical Studies at Athens; Anglo-Hellenic League; Archäologische Gesellschaft Steiermark; Archäologisches Institut / Archäologische Sammlung der Universität Zürich; Ashmolean Museum; Association of Ancient Historians; Australian Archaeological Institute at Athens; Azora Books; J-D. Cahn Auktionen; Christie's; Classical Association; Comitato Volterra Archeologica; Comune di Crotona, Assessorato alla Cultura; Charles Ede Ltd; Egypt Exploration Society; Fondazione Lorenzo Valla; Friends of Classics; Göteborg University Library; Goulandri-Chorn Foundation; Hellenic Foundation; Historia Iagellonica; Institute of Germanic and Romance Studies Library; International Plutarch Society; Israel Museum: Samuel Bronfman Biblical and Archaeological Museum; Istituto Nazionale di Studi Etruschi ed Italici; Istituto Papirologico G. Vitelli; Joint Association of Classical Teachers; Organising Committee of the 12th International Congress on Greek and Latin Epigraphy; Römerstadt Augusta Raurica; Society for Libyan Studies; School of Oriental and African Studies Library; Society for Euboean Studies; Society for the Promotion of Byzantine Studies; Soprintendenza per I Beni Archeologici del Lazio; Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Buenos Aires: Centro de Estudios de Lenguas Clásicas; University of Exeter; University of Stellenbosch; University of Wrocław, Historical Institute; Virgil Society; Rupert Wace Ancient Art; Warburg Institute; Dr Williams Library; Philipp von Zabern Publishers.

Computing resources

As ever, much of the library's expenditure in this area was taken up by continuing subscriptions to the most important and well-used electronic resources (such as *Thesaurus Linguae Latinae*, *L'Année Philologique*, *Library of Latin Texts Online*, and *Bibliographie Papyrologique*). Another notable addition was *Brill's New Jacoby Online*, for which, following a recommendation from the Library Committee, a discount of 15% on the purchase price was successfully negotiated in return for a review in the *Journal of Hellenic Studies*. A number of CD-Roms were received as accompaniments to books, and these were installed on the hard drive of selected PCs in the library's Computer Room.

Staff and staffing

Following a brief period of uncertainty surrounding the position of Winnington-Ingram Trainee within the broader picture of events, we were especially pleased at the beginning of the session to honour the appointment of Mark Sutcliffe, a graduate in Ancient History from the University of Birmingham. As has become the norm, Mark was given the opportunity of visiting various libraries and attending joint events with fellow-Trainees from the other Institutes within the School of Advanced Study, in addition to his internal training programme and everyday work. Like his recent predecessors, he continued with the maintenance of an index to an accumulated file of press cuttings of classical interest on the library's website. One of his particular initiatives was to set up, in conjunction with Lois Woods (Library Assistant), a new weblog (<http://joliheroics.blogspot.com>) providing assorted items of news relating to the library and its interests. Hits were registered worldwide and some positive feedback ensued.

Mark was the replacement for Claire Davenport, who left to pursue a taught Masters distance-learning course with the Department of Information Studies at the University of Wales, Aberystwyth, as well as becoming acting Secretary of the Classical Association. Despite this, she still managed to find time to help out as a casual library assistant with evening and Saturday duties, along with Jean-Pierre Adamson, Anita Frizzarin, Jenny Monaghan, Mary Ruskin, and Ruth Wood, to all of whom we extend our thanks for their services.

The practice in recent years of offering a week's unpaid work experience to a school student with a background or active interest in Classics was again adopted this year. In mid-July, Anna Silverstone, from Wallington High School for Girls, was given a full picture of the library's remit, performed a number of day-to-day operations, and was shown selected specialist e-resources during the course of her week in the library.

Statistics (2007/2008)

Figures for acquisition and usage (with 2006/2007 figures in parentheses) are as follows:-

Expenditure on purchases (books and periodicals):

Institute: £18,998 (£18,271); Joint Library: £25,330 (£20,271). Total value of combined Institute and Joint Library acquisitions (including purchases, review copies, exchanges, gifts and bequests): £137,091 (£103,527).

Books and pamphlets added: Institute 357 (312); Joint Library 2,877 (2,696); Total: 3,234 (3,008);

Net gain, allowing for replacements: 3,105 (2,873).

Current periodicals: Institute 188 (184); Joint Library 475 (455); Total: 663 (639), of which 426 (418) were acquired by exchange, and 237 (221) by gift or purchase. There were 23 (29) Institute and 30 (32) Joint Library exchanges for books and dissertations; and 11 (11) more exchanges were made on behalf of other libraries.

Expenditure on binding (books and periodicals):

Institute: £7,963 (£7,818); Joint Library: £7,734 (£8,047). Books bound or rebound: Institute: 128 (150); Joint Library: 172 (163); Total: 300 (313).

Periodicals bound or rebound: Institute: 97 (76); Joint Library: 229 (235); Total: 326 (311).

Borrowers: 1,264 (1,213); Books borrowed: 12,460 (12,409). Library swipe-cards issued to date: Institute: 1,814 (1,550); Societies: 3,171 (2,933).

Turnstile count: 42,555 (39,005) entries; Temporary visitors: 264 (285). Book parcels sent: to members: 196 (236); to reviewers: 136 (194).

Xerox copies made: 7,216 (6,895) for 119 (138) members and institutions.

Mr. Colin Annis, Librarian (September 2008)