

INSTITUTE OF CLASSICAL STUDIES LIBRARY
JOINT LIBRARY OF THE HELLENIC AND ROMAN SOCIETIES
ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE SESSION 2011/2012

Last year's report ended with an account of the Institute of Historical Research Library's temporary re-location from the north block of Senate House, for the duration of its refurbishment, to premises adjacent to our Library on the third floor of the south block. Preliminary indications had encouraged the belief that collaborative operations might work to the mutual advantage of both parties. It is therefore pleasing to confirm that this has been borne out in actuality, with dual photocopying facilities and Library Desk management in particular benefiting from this arrangement, notwithstanding the inherently unsatisfactory configuration of the Desk as reported previously, and as highlighted by the Library Review (see below).

Independently, too, there were minor improvements in configuration, such as the addition of extra display shelves for current periodicals, and the creation of extra room for the language and literature sections of the Library through the simple expedient of transferring more tract boxes to the tops of the shelves. That said, it is hardly surprising that, with the influx of c.3500 volumes per annum, equivalent to c.70 metres, space available for incoming material continues to shrink fairly rapidly, with the result that some sections – notably archaeology – have become very tight: consideration has already begun on how best to address this. Throughout the year, albeit spasmodically, heating engineers worked on the heating panels in the main reading area, and it is hoped that the completion of this work will result in more benign temperatures in future winters than was the case this year, when on certain days it required a hardy constitution to study there for more than just a few minutes. Completion of the work has also allowed the restoration of the Ehrenberg collection of antiquities, temporarily removed for their own safety, to their rightful location in the display cabinets.

A miscellany of other enhancements to library services, not so much physical as technical in nature, are also worthy of report. In accordance with a reader's suggestion, an e-mail link to enable automatic access to the monthly lists of books newly accessioned by the Library was set up on our website (<http://library.icls.sas.ac.uk/library/NewBooks.htm>). Following last year's elimination of Upper and Lower Reading Room locations on the Library's catalogue, a further refinement was introduced to obviate a popular misconception concerning the status "Available", signifying that a particular book was on the shelf and had not been borrowed: because this was potentially misleading for confined books which could not be borrowed, a global change was effected for the status of items in this category to read "Reference Only". A large number of the Roman Society's collection of slides, which had been housed, catalogued and made available for loan to Society members by the Library for several years, were digitised and incorporated as a new electronic resource named IMAGO on the Roman Society's website (<http://www.romansociety.org/imago/home.html>); a similar enterprise was being contemplated for the Hellenic Society's part of the collection. Finally, the Library's Millennium database of members was installed on the Societies' Secretaries' computers in order to facilitate the transfer of information between the Offices and the Library on changes and updates to membership records, particularly around the times for annual renewal.

In compliance with the recommendation by the Societies' Auditors that the items in the Rare Books Room should receive a professional valuation, the services of the proprietor of the Classics Bookshop were enlisted. Two visits were made, in February and March, to assess all of the contents, including maps and manuscripts as well as books. Estimation of the total worth was

c.£470,000, which could be expected to increase by c.10% over the next five years; about 25 items were singled out as being of exceptional value. The exercise highlighted the need for the whole of the Library's collection to be up-rated for insurance purposes: at the time of writing, the Societies' Treasurers were pursuing this with the Director of Senate House Libraries.

Staffing / Personnel

Hannah Dingwall, a graduate in Classics from St. Hugh's College Oxford, was appointed to the Winnington-Ingram Trainee post for the 2011/12 session, following the departure of the previous year's Trainee Alice Milner. Among Hannah's achievements were the production of a new and refreshed display of posters publicising the Library's electronic resources in the Computer Room, replacing the rather tired-looking notices which had existed previously; the creation of a spreadsheet to assist with comparative monitoring of the Joint Library's postage charges in the light of chiefly unfavourable discrepancies between the Library's own estimate and actual charges; and, in tandem with the revival of the Library's weblog, the establishment of a twitter account (<https://twitter.com/#!/joliheroics>) with a view to gaining wider readership of the blog, and giving extra publicity to Library- and Classics-related items and events of interest.

The Library was, as always, indebted to its Casual Assistants - namely, Adam Lecznar, Mary Ruskin, Anita Frizzarin, and Geri van Essen - for morning shelving duties and helping to maintain Saturday and late evening opening. Dr Hartmut Beyer, a graduate in History and Latin from the University of Göttingen, and Library Trainee at the Berlin State Library, spent a week in September 2011 as an intern looking at our Library's operations and activities as part of a wider three-week programme in London; and, following recent tradition, a week's work experience, under the guidance of Sue Willetts, was given to each of two school pupils - Oliver Newson from the Latymer School in Edmonton (in October 2011), and Georgia Lowe from the Henrietta Barnett School in Finchley (in July 2012).

Mention should be made of the departure, at the end of 2011, of the Institute's Director, Professor Mike Edwards. Although, sadly, the formal managerial link between the Librarian and Director was (and remains) suspended as a result of the otherwise now defunct convergence policy, Mike had been hugely supportive of the Library throughout the whole of the difficult situation engendered by the process of attempting to execute that policy. Moreover, he had been an active member of the Library Committee for twenty years, and it is entirely fitting that an appreciation of his contribution should be recorded here. He has been succeeded in the post by Professor John North, as Acting Institute Director.

Societies' Library Review / HEFCE Review

Staffing levels, indeed, were central to the context of a Library Review commissioned by the Societies' Presidents just before Easter 2012, specifically with regard to the sixth part-time post currently occupied by Rosario Rovira Guardiola, which had been extended for short periods at a time until the end of June 2012. Conducted externally by Alison Sproston, formerly of the London Library, and Margaret Mountford, Hellenic Society Council member, the broad aim of the Review was to produce a working description of the Library, to which the Societies' Officers might refer, taking into account comparative evidence from best practice elsewhere which might improve the Library's efficiency and effectiveness, while preserving its essential character and

level of service. The outcome was a report in which a number of recommendations were made for refinements in certain daily operations to be considered; and which drew attention to the desirability of re-configuring the Library Desk and Workroom, if possible, when the Institute of Historical Research moved back to its original accommodation in the north block. The report concluded with the view that, whilst the implementation of these recommendations might streamline some procedures, it was unlikely to result in a reduction of the staff requirement. If the Library's opening hours, the number of incoming books, and levels of readership all remained constant, a reduction in library staff would make it difficult to avoid downgrading the level of service currently provided.

The immediate and gratifying result of this report was that the two Societies' Councils formally adopted the recommendation of the Joint Standing Committee to extend the sixth Library post from 1st July 2012 for a period of three years. Unfortunately, however, the extension was not subsequently approved *in toto* by the University, which was making short-term appointments only, pending the outcome of the imminent HEFCE Review. Negotiations with HR eventually secured a nine-month extension of the sixth post until the end of March 2013 in the first instance, by which time it was hoped that HEFCE's plans for future funding, whether favourable or not, would have been clarified. Meanwhile written submissions to the HEFCE Review had been made both by the Librarian, on behalf of the Library as a whole within the framework of the School of Advanced Study; and by the Honorary Librarian, in conjunction with the Societies' Officers, on behalf of the Joint Library in particular, emphasising the need for longer-term stability over funding arrangements.

Donations / Acquisitions

As ever, the Library benefited from a number of donations during the course of the session. A legacy of £5000 was left by Mrs Elaine Matthews to the Roman Society with the wish that it be used to support the Library: the best way to achieve this awaits discussion. *Classical Review* continued to present, on a regular basis, selections of books received for review, many of which were added to the Library's collection, others sold to boost the fund for purchases. Sizeable donations of books were received from Professor Bernd Manuwald, Mr Paul Hockley, Mr Anthony Sheppard, and Mr Andrew Graham: again, these were either accessioned or sold as appropriate. A tranche of items, chiefly offprints, from the late Professor John Barron, former Institute Director, were received via his widow Caroline; Mr Robert Driscoll kindly replaced some missing maps and plans of an important site, complementing these with a home-produced CD containing the same images; the notebooks of Donald Atkinson were added to the Library's archival material, through the services of Mr Geoffrey Dannell at Leeds University; some early volumes of the periodical *Archaeologia*, not previously held, were donated by Abbot Paulinus Greenwood. Finally, at the end of the session, the Library was fortunate enough to be granted a selection of important material from the bequest of the recently deceased Mr Peter Connolly, including an almost complete set of *Carte Archéologique de la Gaule*.

To all of the above, we express our deep gratitude, as to the following donors of individual books, pamphlets and periodicals:-

Dr J.P. Alcock, Ms M. Anderson, Dr E. Angelicoussis, Dr M. Anniballetto, Dr B. Awianowicz, Mrs P.J. Betts, Mr H. Blyth, Professor B. Botter, Dr R.M. Bradfield, Professor D.C. Braund, Professor D.J. Breeze, Professor S. Bruni, Dr A. Burnett, Ms S. Cane, Professor M. Cannatà Fera, Dr A.J. Claridge, Mr R. Clifton, Dr J. Coderch, Dr S. Corcoran, Professor

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Statistics (2011/2012)

Figures for acquisition and usage follow below. The figures for the previous year (2010/2011) have been given in parentheses: eagle-eyed readers will spot that four of these figures (asterisked) have been corrected from the report as published, as a result of the number for Institute books and pamphlets added having been inadvertently given as 212, instead of 312, and of the knock-on effects of this error for the three other figures.

Expenditure on collection development: Institute: Books: **£14,606** (£15,527); Periodicals: **£2,057** (£2,506) E-resources: **£4,271** (£4,054).

Joint Library: Books: **£19,070** (£19,635); Periodicals: **£6,230** (£5,575)

Total estimated value of combined Institute and Joint Library acquisitions (including purchases, review copies, exchanges, gifts and bequests): **£162,491** (*£113,100).

Books and pamphlets added: Institute **347** (*312); Joint Library **3,475** (2,366);

Total: **3,822** (*2,678); Net gain, allowing for replacements: **3,766** (*2,590).

Current periodicals: Institute **187** (178); Joint Library **515** (497); Total: **702** (675), of which **458** (429) were acquired by exchange, and **244** (246) by gift or purchase.

There were **36** (38) Institute and **48** (57) Joint Library exchanges for books and dissertations; and **11** (12) more exchanges were made on behalf of other libraries.

Expenditure on binding (books and periodicals):

Institute: **£8,196** (£8,200); Joint Library: **£8,247** (£7,991).

Books bound or rebound: Institute: **142** (60); Joint Library: **57** (108); Total: **199** (168).

Periodicals bound or rebound: Institute: **83** (120); Joint Library: **266** (236); Total: **349** (356).

Usage: Borrowers: **2,005** (1,754); Books borrowed: **12,763** (12,279).

Library swipe-cards issued (current only): Institute: **1,508** (1,656); Societies: **2,201** (n/a).

Turnstile count: **48,405** (45,358) entries; Temporary visitors: **264** (207).

Book parcels sent: to members: **276** (227); to reviewers: **97** (157).

Xerox copies made: **5,321** (3,690) for **104** (94) members and institutions.

As if to corroborate the increase in footfall indicated by the turnstile count, a recent additional statistic showed that the average number of readers using the Library at any given time, based on spot-checks throughout the year, had risen from 29 to 34.

Colin Annis
Librarian
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