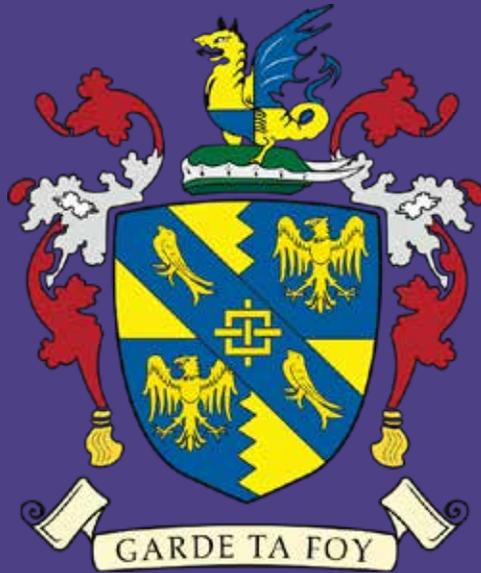


MAGDALENE COLLEGE MAGAZINE



No 63

2018–19

M A G D A L E N E C O L L E G E

The Fellowship, October 2019

THE GOVERNING BODY

- 2013 MASTER: The Rt Revd & Rt Hon the Lord Williams of Oystermouth, PC, DD, Hon DCL (Oxford), FBA
- 1987 PRESIDENT: M E J Hughes, MA, PhD, *Pepys Librarian, Director of Studies and University Affiliated Lecturer in English*
- 1981 M A Carpenter, ScD, *Professor of Mineralogy and Mineral Physics*
- 1984 J R Patterson, MA, PhD, *Praelector, Director of Studies in Classics and USL in Ancient History*
- 1989 T Spencer, MA, PhD, *Director of Studies in Geography and Professor of Coastal Dynamics*
- 1990 B J Burchell, MA and PhD (Warwick), *Joint Director of Studies in Human, Social and Political Science and Reader in Sociology*
- 1990 S Martin, MA, PhD, *Senior Tutor, Admissions Tutor (Undergraduates), Director of Studies in Mathematics and University Affiliated Lecturer in Mathematics*
- 1992 K Patel, MA, MSc and PhD (Essex), *Director of Studies in Economics & Land Economy and UL in Property Finance*
- 1993 T N Harper, MA, PhD, *College Lecturer in History and Professor of Southeast Asian History (1990: Research Fellow)*
- 1994 N G Jones, MA, LL.M, PhD, *Director of Studies in Law and Reader in English Legal History*
- 1995 H Babinsky, MA and PhD (Cranfield), *Joint Director of Studies in Engineering and Professor of Aerodynamics*
- 1996 P Dupree, MA, PhD, *Tutor for Graduate Students, Joint Director of Studies in Natural Sciences and Professor of Biochemistry*
- 1998 S K F Stoddart, MA, PhD, *Director of Studies in Archaeology & Anthropology (HSPS) and Reader in Prehistory (1986: Research Fellow)*
- 2000 T A Coombs, MA, PhD, *Joint Director of Studies and USL in Engineering*
- 2001 H Azérad, MA, PhD, *Joint Director of Studies in MML and University Senior Language Teaching Officer in French*
- 2003 A L Hadida, MA, PhD, *Director of Studies and USL in Management Studies*
- 2004 C S Watkins, MA, MPhil, PhD, *Tutor, College Lecturer and Reader in History (1998: Research Fellow)*
- 2004 A L Du Bois-Pedain, MJur (Oxford), Dr Jur (Humboldt, Berlin), *Dean, Director of Studies for the LL.M & MCL and Reader in Law*
- 2005 S C Mentchen, MA, *Tutor, Joint Director of Studies in MML and University Senior Language Teaching Officer in German*
- 2007 S J Morris, BA (Newcastle), *Senior Bursar and Steward*
- 2007 R M Burnstein, MB, BS (Sydney), PhD, *Assistant Tutor for Graduate Students, Director of Studies in Clinical Medicine*
- 2008 G P Pearce, BVSc (Bristol), MA, PhD (Leeds), *Director of Studies in Veterinary Medicine and USL in Farm Animal Health and Production*
- 2009 C Brassett, MA, MChir, *Deputy Senior Tutor, Joint Director of Studies in Medical Sciences and University Clinical Anatomist*
- 2010 M J Waithe, PhD (London), *College Librarian, College Lecturer and USL in English*
- 2010 C D Lloyd, MA (Kent), *Development Director*
- 2010 R L Roebuck, BA, MEng, PhD, *Joint Director of Studies in Engineering and University Senior Design Engineer (Teaching)*

- 2010 A K Bennison, BA, MA (Harvard) and PhD (London), *Director of Studies in Asian and Middle Eastern Studies and Professor in the History and Culture of the Maghrib*
- 2011 L C Skinner, BSc (Queen's University, Canada), MPhil, PhD, *Joint Director of Studies in Natural Sciences and Reader in Earth Sciences*
- 2012 E K M So, MA, PhD, *Director of Studies and Reader in Architectural Engineering*
- 2014 W Khaled, MSc (London), PhD, *Director of Studies in Natural Sciences(Biological) and UL in Pharmacology*
- 2014 A Ercole, MA, MB, BChir, PhD, *Joint Director of Studies in Medical Sciences*
- 2015 T Euser, MSc, PhD (Twente), *Joint Director of Studies in Natural Sciences (Biological) and UL in Applied Physics*
- 2015 J M Munns, MA, MPhil, PhD, FSA, *Tutor, Admissions Tutor (Undergraduates) and Acting Admissions Tutor (Graduates), Director of Studies and University Affiliated Lecturer in History of Art*
- 2016 S A Bacallado, BSc (MIT), PhD (Stanford), *Admissions Tutor (Access), College Lecturer in Pure Mathematics and Mathematical Statistics and UL in the Statistical Laboratory*
- 2017 S Dubow, DPhil, *Smuts Professor of Commonwealth History*
- 2017 S J Eglon, BSc (Nottingham), DPhil (Sussex), *College Lecturer in Applied Mathematics and Reader in Computational Science*
- 2017 N Carroll, MA, MB, BChir, *Joint Director of Studies in Medical Sciences and Consultant Radiologist in the Department of Gastroenterology*
- 2018 J Orr, MEng, *College Lecturer in Concrete Structures*
- 2018 S Atkins, MA, *Chaplain*
- 2018 P Lane, MA, PhD, *Professor of African Archaeology*
- 2018 M F Ahmed, PhD, *Director of Studies in Economics*
- 2019 A Meghji, MA, MPhil, PhD, *Joint Director of Studies in Human, Social and Political Science and UL in Social Inequalities*
- 2019 M C Skott, PhD, *Tutor and Director of Studies in History and Politics*

* Dr Finbarr Livesey, Official Fellow, died in September 2019. There will be an obituary in the next *College Magazine*.

EMERITUS FELLOWS

- 1960 P J Grubb, ScD, *Emeritus Professor of Investigative Plant Ecology*
- 1962 R Hyam, LittD, *Emeritus Reader in British Imperial History; Archivist Emeritus*
- 1964 P E Reynolds, ScD
- 1964 J E Field, OBE, PhD, FRS, *Emeritus Professor of Applied Physics*
- 1968 His Honour C F Kolbert, MA, PhD
- 1968 N Boyle, LittD, FBA, *Emeritus Schröder Professor of German*
- 1971 R J S Spence, MA, PhD, *Emeritus Professor of Architectural Engineering*
- 1978 R Lockett, MA, PhD, *formerly Pepys Librarian*
- 1979 E Duffy, KSG, DD, FBA, FSA, *Emeritus Professor of the History of Christianity*
- 1984 N Rushton, MD, *Emeritus Professor of Orthopaedics*
- 1984 H A Chase, ScD, FREng, *Emeritus Professor of Biochemical Engineering*

LIFE FELLOWS

- 1990 W R Cornish, CMG, QC, LLD, FBA, *Emeritus Herchel Smith Professor of Intellectual Property Law*
- 1996 T H Clutton-Brock, ScD, FRS, *Emeritus Prince Philip Professor of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology*
- 2000 M Hughes, MB, BChir, PhD
- 2001 A R Thompson, MBE, MA, MPhil

- 2001 S Halper, BA (Stanford), PhD
 2004 E H Cooper, LittD, FBA, *Emeritus Professor of Medieval and Renaissance English*
 2008 T A J Cockerill, BA, MPhil (Leeds), PhD (Manchester)
 2014 E Rothschild, CMG, MA, *Honorary Professor of History*

* Dr Jeffery Lewins, Life Fellow, died in August 2019. There will be an obituary in the next *College Magazine*.

RESEARCH FELLOWS

- 2010 P M Steele, BA, MPhil, PhD, *Lumley Senior Research Fellow in Classics and Acting Director of Studies in Classics*
 2011 C N Spottiswoode, BSc, PhD, *Senior Research Fellow in Biological Sciences*
 2012 J R Raven, LittD, FBA, FSA, *Senior Research Fellow in History (1990: Fellow) and University Affiliated Lecturer in History*
 2015 S Caddy, PhD, *Senior Research Fellow in Molecular Biology*
 2016 F C Exeler, PhD, *Mellon Research Fellow in History*
 2017 A Neumann, MA, PhD (London), *Senior Research Fellow in German*
 2017 A P Cootts, MSc, PhD, *Senior Research Fellow in Sociology, Social Policy and Public Health*
 2017 O F R Haardt, BA (Bremen), MPhil, PhD, *Lumley Research Fellow in History*
 2017 P A Haas, MA, MMath, PhD, *Nevile Fellow in Mathematics*
 2018 J Jarrett, MA, MPhil, PhD, *Lumley Research Fellow in English*
 2018 A Gregory, MA, MEng, PhD, *Nevile Research Fellow in Engineering*
 2019 F O'Toole, BA (University College, Dublin) *Parnell Visiting Fellow*
 2019 S Caputo, BA (Cardiff), MSc (Edinburgh), *Lumley Research Fellow in History*
 2019 L M Kreusser, MSc (Kaiserslautern), *Nevile Fellow in Mathematics*

BYE-FELLOWS

- 2018 L Masuda-Nakagawa, PhD (Tokyo), *Teaching Bye-Fellow in Neurobiology*
 2018 F Scheury, MA (Clermont-Ferrand), *Teaching Bye-Fellow in Portuguese*
 2019 D Gaffney, MA (Otago), *Donaldson Bye-Fellow in Anthropology*
 2019 J Bodey, BA, *Stothert Bye-Fellow in Natural Sciences*

FELLOW-COMMONERS

- 1990 R L Skelton, MA
 1997 A I J Valluy-Fitzsimons, Diplômée de l'ISIT (Paris)
 2002 J J Hellyer Jones, MA, FRCO, *Honorary Assistant Organist*
 2010 B Fried, MBA (Pennsylvania)
 2011 N Raymond, BSc (Econ)
 2011 M R W Rands, BSc, DPhil
 2012 P J Marsh, MPhil, *Alumni Secretary*
 2014 R V Chartener, AB (Princeton), MPhil, MBA (Harvard), *Chairman of the Magdalene Foundation*
 2014 C H Foord, *Assistant Bursar*
 2015 A Ritchie, QC, MA, *College Advocate*
 2015 C V S Brasted-Pike, MSc, PhD, *Joint Director of Studies in Natural Sciences*
 2016 G H Walker, MA, *Director of College Music & Precentor*
 2017 H Critchlow, PhD, *Outreach Fellow*
 2019 S Ravenscroft, PhD, *Outreach Fellow*
 2019 J Woodall, MA (Oxon), *Royal Literary Fund Teaching Bye-Fellow*

*Michael Keall, Senior Fellow-Commoner, died in July 2019. There will be an obituary in the next *College Magazine*.

HONORARY FELLOWS

1984	HRH the Duke of Gloucester, KG, GCVO, MA
1984	Professor Sir John Boardman, MA, FBA, Hon RA
1987	The Rt Revd Simon Barrington-Ward, KCMG, MA
1992	Professor Sir David Hopwood, MA, PhD, and DSc (Glasgow), FRS
1996	A B Gascoigne, CBE, MA, FRSL
1997	Professor H H Vendlar, AB, PhD (Harvard), Hon LittD
1998	H R L Lumley, MA
1999	J C F-Simpson, CBE, MA, FRGS
2001	Sir Colin Corness, MA
2001	Professor Sir Richard Jolly, KCMG, MA, and PhD (Yale)
2002	Professor Sir John Gurdon, PhD, Hon ScD, Hon DSc (Oxford), FRS
2005	D J H Murphy, MA, <i>Bursar Emeritus</i>
2005	Professor Sir David C Clary, ScD, FRS
2005	Sir John Tooley, MA
2005	Lord Malloch-Brown, MA, KCMG
2005	R W H Cripps
2008	The Rt Hon Lord (Igor) Judge, Kt, PC, MA, Hon LLD
2009	His Excellency Judge Sir Christopher Greenwood, GBE, CMG, QC, MA, LLB
2009	The Rt Hon Sir Andrew Morritt, PC, CVO, MA
2009	R H Vignoles, BA, BMus, ARCM
2009	The Hon Wong Yan-lung, SC, MA, JP
2012	Khoo Hong Kuok, BA (Singapore), <i>Pepys Benefactor Fellow</i>
2012	D D Robinson, CBE, MA and MA (Yale), FSA
2015	Professor S M Springman, CBE, PhD, FREng
2015	C I von Christierson, B Com (Rhodes), MA
2015	HRH, Sultan Nazrin Shah, BA (Oxford), PhD (Harvard)
2015	L L Cardozo-Kindersley, MBE
2015	Dame Carol A Duffy, DBE, BA (Liverpool)
2018	A Tennent, BA, MIB
2018	T Cripps, BA, MBA

HONORARY MEMBERS

1999	Anthony Bloom	2003	Dr Helen Lee
1999	Dr Beverly Sackler	2003	Jack Vettriano
1999	Michael Stone	2007	Dato Isa Bin Ibrahim
1999	Sir Anthony O'Reilly	2009	Colin Day
1999	Lady O'Reilly	2010	Margaret Higgs
2000	Thomas Monaghan	2011	Lady Braybrooke
2000	Christopher Smart	2015	Allen Zimble
2003	Claire Tomalin, Hon LittD	2019	David Fyfe



Spring in the Fellows' Garden (photo: Matt Moon)



The Icon of St Mary Magdalene by Cheryll Kingsley Potter. Mary holds in one hand her jar of ointment and in the other an egg, sign of the Resurrection. (Photo: Matt Moon)

MAGDALENE COLLEGE MAGAZINE

NEW SERIES No 63: 2018–19

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This issue is edited by Professor Raven, assisted by Mrs Fitzsimons,
Jo Hornsby, and Philippa Coe.

FROM THE MASTER

It's always a specially cheerful matter to be able to report collegiate success on a wide front, and once again we are able to do just that. An unprecedented second placing on the river, after a tense, dramatic and rather wet week was followed by a May Ball generally agreed to have been a particularly warm and relaxed occasion (remarkably undisrupted – despite earlier anxieties – by the presence of a substantial building site in the Fellows' Garden) and a magnificent showing from our Finalists. Magdalene continues to fire on all cylinders, confirming our conviction that energy and enjoyment in any one area of our common life tends to breed energy and enjoyment in all the others. On top of this, the Choir released a very successful CD of Christmas music last year, and extended their global profile with trips to the US last summer and Italy in the spring of this year. Choral standards have continued to be impressively high, and the recently invented 'tradition' of an open-air service in the Master's Garden with baptisms and confirmations, towards the end of the Easter Term, gave the opportunity for a beautiful rendering of Byrd's Four-Part Mass in radiant sunshine to a congregation of around eighty. And while we are in the neighbourhood of the Chapel, it's a delight to report the appointment by HM the Queen of our former Dean of Chapel. Dr David Hoyle, as Dean of Westminster, a position of unique distinction in Church and nation.

But we can also report a different kind of success in the progress of the Future Foundations Campaign. This has exceeded all our expectations: within just over two years of the Campaign's launch, we have raised more than £22 million pounds. A memorable dinner in the Drapers' Hall earlier this year celebrated the wonderful progress so far made. This means that the cost of the new Library building is practically taken care of, and a substantial number of new bursaries will be fully funded. I reported last year on the success in raising funding for the new Chair in African Archaeology (Professor Paul Lane is now happily among us as the first holder of this appointment); work also continues to fund more Mandela Scholarships for African graduates, and Standard Bank of Africa has been very generous in its sponsorship of several awards. The building work on the Library is well-advanced (on target and on budget), and the opening is scheduled for September 2020. The next step will be the consequential work needed on the Pepys Building. The Pepys Library will of course remain intact at the heart of the building, but we shall now be able to adapt the use of some of the other rooms for academic and other visitors, and also to carry out much-needed maintenance on some of the historic fabric. This second phase of the Library project will also be looking for funding as we go forward. But to date, the energy and generosity of our alumni and alumnae has been really extraordinary; the enthusiasm for the Magdalene of the next generation has been equal to the enthusiasm for the Magdalene that alumni remember – which speaks of a

commitment to a living community, not just a nostalgic haze! And our debt to the Campaign Board – not least its Chair Andrew Fischer – is very great indeed; they have given selflessly of time and energy to serve the Campaign, and we are profoundly grateful.

But of course all discussion of Magdalene's future must be set in the context of the University's future, and this is currently quite a complex picture. As noted last year, pressure is on to make Oxford and Cambridge more visibly responsive to the charge that the admissions process favours certain social groups and effectively excludes others. I fully recognise that there is no cause for complacency here. Our own admissions last year showed an unprecedentedly good representation from groups regarded as disadvantaged; the ceaseless hard work of Dr Munns and the Admissions team continues to move us steadily closer to where we should like to be. Our involvement with the Seren network – focused on outreach to schools in Wales and organised in partnership with the Welsh Government – has also borne a great deal of fruit with a huge increase in applications and offers. A couple of months ago, the network celebrated its first two years with a conference in Cambridge, and there was much appreciation for Magdalene's role in encouraging and supporting its work. The Welsh connection was also incidentally highlighted when the College hosted last September an extremely lively and productive seminar for the Learned Society of Wales, on sustainable development.

The larger issues for College and University continue, though, to be pressing. The new Office for Students (a designation which rather underlines the model of the student as consumer) is still dissatisfied with the University's progress in meeting certain targets, and life will not get any easier on that front if we are to maintain the ideal of admissions based on academic attainment. As noted last year, the University is considering some sort of 'bridge' course, to bring all students admitted up to a level starting-point, on the assumption that exceptionally able students, whose ability has become clear in the admissions process, may not have had their academic potential fully developed at secondary school. Details remain complicated to work out, but discussions continue actively.

Some of the media attention to Cambridge in the last year has produced strong reactions from alumni. Reports about the withdrawal of invitations to certain speakers on ideological grounds, about the University's project on the legacy of slavery, on the ongoing discussions about removing colonial or culture-specific bias from various courses and various other things have fed a narrative about Cambridge (and other institutions of higher education) being taken captive by an agenda of ruthless political correctness, a narrative beloved by certain bits of the press. As so often in these cases, the press narrative is hard to recognise in the reality on the ground. We have had some very animated debates here about the limits of free speech; and whatever tangles some Cambridge institutions have got themselves into, it is simply false to say that there is some sort of ideological tyranny being imposed.

The uncomfortable truth is that we are all waking up rather slowly to what it is actually like to be in Cambridge if you are a certain sort of person; if your race, social background or gender identity is not what has historically been taken for granted here. To acknowledge that there is work to be done in listening to perspectives that sound strange or even unreasonable to you is not to tear up history and heritage but to use the traditions of academic attentiveness to the full, looking hard, listening, discerning, taking time with the unfamiliar, searching for ways of reshaping what you think and hope for. The College seeks, very explicitly and consistently, to be a community that works for all its members; so we rightly pay attention when it is not working at its best for all. Some readers may have seen on the BBC's website a brief interview with two young women of African family, discussing their experience of Cambridge; they speak with calm wit and insight, spelling out – without rancour or self-pity – just why they found the atmosphere of Cambridge difficult and unwelcoming, despite the goodwill of many around them. Responding intelligently to this intelligent questioning is properly part of what a good University or College should be doing. It's a huge and complex area; if it's sometimes hard going and if mistakes are made, the best advice is not to panic. This remains a community dedicated to real and generative debate, whatever the media says. And it must be said that much of our media, like much of our current abysmal political discourse, doesn't exactly provide a model of intelligent collaborative discussion...

No, I shan't take that as a cue for an excursus on Brexit and its endlessly ramifying implications; except to say that we are most of us feeling unhappily like the miserable child in the back seat, moaning 'Are we there yet?' every few miles – with the added problem that the driver doesn't appear to know where 'there' is. By the time you read this, things may be, if not clearer, at least a little nearer to some kind of decision. But, as I have said before, the massively confused condition of our public life reinforces the determination of this academic community to equip our students with some of the tools of honesty and discernment, intellectual edge and ethical passion that may help keep alive in the doubtless turbulent decades ahead some space for genuine thinking. All of you will know that what you picked up here was not simply a degree but – at best – a habit of reflection and conversation. Later life in various professions will very likely erode the breathing space needed for this to flourish; but I suspect we all know what it feels like and why it matters. We are determined to go on nourishing these habits; and all I have reported is, in one way or another, about how we try to do this – with your continuing support and sympathetic interest. We here in the College are abidingly appreciative.

R D W

THE COLLEGE RECORD

I FELLOWSHIP ELECTIONS

Official Fellows



MUHAMMAD FARID AHMED has been elected to an Official Fellowship from December 2018. First coming to Cambridge in 2007 for his MPhil in economics, Farid's life has repeatedly brought him back to Cambridge. He grew up in Lahore, Pakistan, the eldest of four siblings. Attending one of the few remaining missionary schools in Pakistan, Farid arrived in the UK immediately after his graduation. Initially starting a career in accounting, he soon realized that his real passion was economics, and

he returned to Cambridge to study for a doctorate. He met his wife, Adeela, towards the end of his PhD; his dual love for Cambridge and his then wife to be, brought him back to Cambridge again after a year at a university in Pakistan. Farid enjoys teaching and interacting with budding economists. He also has a keen interest in photography and you may find him taking a stroll along the Cam with his camera in hand.



ALI MEGHJI has been elected to an Official Fellowship from September 2019. Ali began his journey at Magdalene in 2011, when he studied as an undergraduate. Since then he has moved around the city, completing an MPhil at Homerton College, a PhD at Robinson, a research fellowship at Sidney Sussex College, and even taking a short break to the other Cambridge as a visiting fellow at Harvard. He is delighted to be returning home to Magdalene as a Fellow in HSPS, and, while

his knees are no longer capable of keeping up with the demands of College football, he is looking forward to contributing further to access and life at the College. Fittingly for an academic, Ali is a keen coffee enthusiast and he enjoys spending his weekends in his local café with his partner Emily, whom he met at Magdalene in 2011. Ali's work focuses on social inequalities, and given his commitment to emancipatory sociology, he is also interested in bringing academic knowledge into the public domain.

Parnell Fellow



FINTAN O'TOOLE is a writer, critic and endlessly opinionated columnist with *The Irish Times*, *The Guardian*, *The New York Review of Books* and many other publications. He started out as a theatre critic in Ireland and then in the US and has published books, mostly on playwrights whose names begin with Sh (Shakespeare, Sheridan and Shaw). But he has been going on about culture, politics, social justice and various political follies since 1980 and

has published many books on all these subjects. Brexit has distracted him greatly from his primary current project, the official biography of Seamus Heaney and he is seeking refuge in Cambridge to get back to it. He is married to Clare Connell and has two sons and one grandson.

Research Fellows



SARA CAPUTO has been elected to a Lumley Research Fellowship. Sara is completing her PhD in History, on the foreign sailors who served in the eighteenth-century British Navy. After studying History at Cardiff University, she moved to Edinburgh for her MSc, and finally to Cambridge in 2015. Her main research area is transnational social and cultural history, and how individuals negotiate interactions with state boundaries.

She is also interested in the application of programming and 'hard-quantitative' techniques to historical analysis. At Magdalene, she begins a project on the medical culture of sailors across national fleets. Her main passion is studying as many languages as possible, and seeing how they change her worldview and confuse her mind. Other spare-time activities include international development volunteering for the British Antarctic Survey, drawing, karate, boxing, rowing and football.



LISA MARIA KREUSSER has been elected to a Nevile Research Fellowship. After studying Mathematics at the University of Kaiserslautern, and research at the National University of Singapore and Imperial College London, she came to Cambridge for her PhD. Her research focuses on mathematical models in biology, industry, and data science, combining the extension of mathematical knowledge with the understanding

of real-world practical problems. She was awarded the Smith-Knight & Rayleigh-Knight Prizes, and selected as a TakeAim Prize Winner in 2018 by the Smith Institute with research funded by major scholarships and awards, including the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, the Cambridge Commonwealth, European and International Trust and the German Academic Scholarship Foundation. In her free time, she enjoys sports, cooking and travelling.

Bye-Fellows



DYLAN GAFFNEY has been elected to a Donaldson Bye-Fellowship. He holds a BA (2012) in Classical Studies and Anthropology, and a BA Honours (2013) and MA (2016) in Anthropology from the University of Otago, where he was later Research Coordinator at Southern Pacific Archaeological Research (2016–17). As part of his PhD he directs a field project in an archaeologically uncharted island group off the western coast of New Guinea. This work seeks to unlock the dynamics of how Stone Age seafarers dispersed from Southeast Asia to the Pacific, as our species moved out of Africa and into new and challenging environments such as equatorial rainforests and small islands for the first time. Dylan is no stranger to island societies and grew up in Dunedin, New Zealand. Dunedin, at a distance of 19,000 km, is the world's furthest city from Cambridge, although the two share many things in common, such as unpredictable weather, inner-city livestock, and a vibrant student culture.



JONNY BODEY has been elected to a Stothert Bye-Fellowship. Jonny originally came to Magdalene to study Natural Sciences as an undergraduate, in 2013. Unsuccessfully attempting to enter the world of real work after graduation, the peak of his employment history remains pulling pints at Magdalene May Ball. Instead, he continued his studies, starting as a PhD student in experimental quantum physics. Sadly, this line of work requires him to spend most of his time working in a dark, air-conditioned room with no windows, which has greatly enhanced his love of the outdoors. This, combined with a near-total immunity to bad weather, thanks to his rural North Yorkshire upbringing, means that he can probably be found outdoors, preferably on a hill, and almost definitely on two wheels.

Fellow-Commoner



SIMON RAVENSCROFT has been elected as a Fellow-Commoner and an Outreach Fellow in the Arts. He is also a Research Associate in theology and philosophy at the Von Hügel Institute and Outreach Coordinator for the School of Arts and Humanities at Cambridge. Simon grew up in Wiltshire where he attended a large comprehensive school, played a lot of cricket, and was lead guitarist in a bad covers band called 'Ken, Get Off

My Leg'. After degrees in Wales and Nottingham and a PhD in the philosophy of religion at Peterhouse, he undertook postdoctoral work in Cambridge and a Murphy Research Fellowship with the University of St Thomas, Minnesota. Simon's research combines theology, philosophy, literature, political and social theory and economics. His latest research explores what laughter and the comic has to do with power, knowledge, and religious faith. His co-edited volume on ethics, biotechnology and intellectual property law is published by CUP in October. He spends much of his time agonising over the fortunes of Spurs and his carefully-curated fountain pen collection. He is very recently married to Ruth.

Visiting Fellows

During 2018–19, we were pleased to have with us:

Professor Shixuan Xu, Chinese Yip Fellow, who is Senior Research and Principal Expert on Innovation at the Institute of Ethnology and Anthropology, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. She researches dead and dying languages.

Dr Pia De Simone, who is a Research Fellow in Ancient Philosophy at the Catholic University of Milan. Her main research interests are Plato and the Platonic tradition.

Professor Eva-Maria Thüne who is Professor of German Linguistics at the University of Bologna. She is the author of many published works (see the review of her book *Gerette: Berichte von Kindertransport und Auswanderung nach Großbritannien* on p 95). Her main research areas are text linguistics, conversation analysis and German as a foreign language.

Professor Harriet Ritvo, American Yip Fellow, who is the Arthur J. Conner Professor of History at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Her research interests include modern British and empire history, environmental history and animal studies.

II THE MASTER AND FELLOWS

The Master, among many activities, published *Christ the Heart of Creation* (Bloomsbury Continuum, 2018). In July 2018 he preached at the Grocers' Company Election Service, took part in a Royal Academy conversation with Anthony Gormley on 'Art with Christianity', and attended the Pusey House Theological Conference in Oxford; in September he gave a lecture 'Encountering the Other' at St-Martins-in-the-Field; in October he was awarded membership of the Academy of Athens, attended the Canonisation of Archbishop Oscar Romero in Rome, gave the Grand Challenges Lecture on 'Ethics, Law, and the Future of Democracy' at Keele University, and received an Honorary Degree from the University of Winchester; in November, he gave the Faraday Lecture in Cambridge on 'Human Identity in a Scientific World', was keynote speaker at the Lester Randall Preaching Fellowship in Toronto, was in conversation with John Gray at the Cambridge Literary Festival on what it is to be human and the role of atheism and religion, and attended a Religion and Literature Conference at the University of Notre Dame; in December, he attended the book launch of Yazid Said and Lejla Demiri (eds), *The Future of Interfaith Dialogue: Muslim-Christian Encounters through A Common Word* at Lambeth Palace, and performed, along with Sally Bradshaw and Michael Haslam, some festive readings and songs in the Master's Lodge. In February 2019 he received an Honorary Degree and delivered the Paddock Lectures at the General Seminary, New York; in March he gave the 48th annual RT Orr Lecture on 'Theology and Human Rights: Conflict and Convergence', received an Honorary Degree from Huron University College, Ontario, followed by a lecture 'What Shall I Cry? How do we preach today?', and spoke at the Annual Interfaith dinner on 'Human dignity and religious faith' at St Fagan's National Museum of History, Cardiff; in May, he gave the Professor Peter Gilbert Memorial Lecture on 'Mysticism, Mental Health and Spirituality' at the Roman Catholic Church St Aloysius, London; in June he spoke on 'Faith, Reason, Theosis' at the Patterson Triennial Conference at Fordham University, New York.

Professor Duffy has been awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Divinity from Heythrop College, University of London.

Professor Cornish has been awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Law by the University of Sofia.

Professor Dupree has been named a 2018 Highly Cited Researcher, with his research group featuring in the top 1% most cited works worldwide in the 'cross field' category. He has been awarded the BA Stone award for Excellence in Plant Polysaccharides Biochemistry.

Dr Stoddart has edited *Delicate Urbanism in Context: Pre-Roman German Urbanism* (Macdonald Institute, 2017).

Mr Thompson has been appointed Chairman of the Varrier Jones Foundation, a property and investment charity providing financial support to the Papworth Trust.

Dr Azérad has been nominated for a University of Cambridge 2019 Student-Led Teaching Award. In June he organised in the Humphrey Cripps Auditorium a study day devoted to the publication of *Le discours antillais* by the poet and thinker Edouard Glissant.

Dr Pearce has been conferred with the title of Honorary Associate Professor in the School of Veterinary Science at the University of Queensland, and appointed Adjunct Professor in the School of Environmental and Rural Science at the University of New England in Australia.

Dr Brassett has been awarded a 2019 University of Cambridge Pilkington Prize for Teaching Excellence.

Dr Skinner has been promoted to a Readership in Earth Sciences.

Dr So has been promoted to a Readership in Architectural Engineering.

Professor Dubow gave his inaugural lecture, 'Frontiers of Knowledge in South Africa: Global Science, National Horizons'; in the Humphrey Cripps Auditorium on 28 November (see p 67). He contributed to a television programme, presented by Fergal Keane, called 'Reporting History: Mandela and a New South Africa'.

Dr Eglén has been nominated for a University of Cambridge 2019 Student-Led Teaching Award. He has been appointed as a Turing Fellow by the Alan Turing Institute for two years from October 2018.

Dr Steele has published *Writing and Society in Ancient Cyprus* (CUP, 2018).

Professor Raven has been elected a Fellow of the British Academy. In March he organised a Lindemann Science Day in the Humphrey Cripps Auditorium (see p 43).

Dr Hone has been appointed to a NUAct Fellowship at Newcastle University.

Dr Caddy has become a lead volunteer for the charity StreetVet, a nationwide network of veterinary professionals offering free services to the pets of homeless people.

Dr Hoyer has been included in the '15 under 30' category by The Institute of Material, Minerals and Mining (IOM3), and as one of Forbes' 2019's 30 under 30 rising talent in Science and Healthcare in Europe. He has been elected to a Research Fellowship in Downing College from October 2019.

Dr Neumann's Schnitzler Project marked the launch of its digital edition of Arthur Schnitzler's works and archive in April 2019 with the first ever performance of a play in the University Library – the first ever public performance of Schnitzler's one-act burlesque comedy, *The Great Wurstel*.

Mr Gregory has been approved for the degree of PhD. The title of his dissertation was 'A Theory for Wheezing in Lungs'.

Mr Woodhall's two essays about Britain and the EU have been translated into German by the journalist and writer Wiebke Huster (with editorial assistance by Dr Haardt) and was published under the title 'Arkadianismus' in *Lettre International*. He has been elected as a Fellow-Commoner from October 2019.

Mr Keall, Senior Fellow-Commoner, died on 7 July. His funeral was held in the College Chapel on 25 July in the presence of a large congregation and with

wonderful music. A Memorial Evensong was held at Westminster Abbey on 28 September. A full obituary will be published next year.

Mr Walker released on the Naxos label a CD of chamber music by Stephen Dodgson and his ensemble Karolos.

Mrs Marsh, trustee of the Hawks' Charitable Trust and former Chairman of CUWBC, brought together all six winning 2018 Boat Race crews to recreate the famous 1993 Clean Sweep photograph.

Dr Skott has been elected as an Official Fellow from October 2019.

Dr Critchlow has published *The Science of Fate* (Hodder & Stoughton, 2019) which features discussions with the Master on beliefs and free will. She has been invited to become a Term Member for four years with European Dana Alliance for the Brain (an alliance of European neuroscientist whose mission is to advance public education about the importance and benefits of brain research in easily understood layman's language). She has been listed as one of two Cambridge University's Rising Stars by *Nature*.

Honorary Fellows

Sir John Gurdon received a Doctorate Honoris Causa in Translational Medicine from the University of Pisa Scuola Superiore Sant' Anna, Italy, in May 2019. He then gave a Lectio Magistralis entitled 'Past, present, and future of nuclear reprogramming'.

Lord (Igor) Judge has been elected as Convenor of the Crossbench Peers for the House of Lords from October 2019.

Mr Robinson has published an essay 'Beyond Appearances: Eileen Hogan's Paintings' in E R Fairman, *Eileen Hogan: Personal Geographies* (Yale U P, 2019).

Lida Cardozo Kindersley has published *Cutting Through Nature: Kindersley Inscriptions from Wild Settings to Intimate Gardens* (Cardozo Kindersley Workshop, 2019). She carved the gravestone for the recently discovered grave of William Blake in Bunhill Fields cemetery, London, and the memorial stone for Stephen Hawking in Caius Court, Gonville and Caius College.



III ACADEMIC REPORTS

1 UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS RESULTS, 2019.

335 students took Tripos and preliminary examinations.

The numbers in each class were as follows:

Class 1, 83; Class 2.1, 194; Class 2.2, 27; Class 3, 4; undivided Class 2, 14; Pass, 13. The number of Firsts awarded by subject were: Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, 1; Archaeology, 1; Architecture, 1; Chemical Engineering, 3; Classics, 2; Computer Science, 4; Economics, 1; Engineering, 11; English, 3; Geography, 2; HSPS, 2; History, 5; Linguistics, 2; Law, 4; Mathematics, 10; Medicine, 4; Management Studies, 1; Modern and Medieval Languages, 9; Natural Sciences, 14; Theology and Religion, 2.

Starred Firsts were awarded to:

I Coats (Archaeology); H L Teoh (Chemical Engineering); S Atkinson (History).

Advanced students (not classed in Tripos) who obtained Distinctions: Y Zhou (Master of Engineering Part IIB); J C Woodruff (Master of Engineering Part III); Z Xie (Master of Mathematics Part III); E Ruane (Final Veterinary MB); B B Sun (Final MB).

University Prizes were awarded as follows:

H L Teoh (Chemical Engineering Tripos, Part IIA): *ExonMobil Chemical Engineering Prize*; L Elton (Theological and Religious Studies Tripos, Part IIB): *Teape Prize*.

Senior Tutor's Report

This year, the raw number of Firsts across all years rose to 83 (24%) from 76 (23%) last year. This represents the fourth highest total in the last ten years (and the fifth highest percentage in that period). By year, the percentage of Firsts was: Fresher 22%, second year 20%, third/fourth year combined 29%. There were 198 2.1s, which is 58%, the highest percentage in the last ten years. We also recorded 27 2.2s (7.7% – the lowest in 10 years) and 4 Thirds (1.4% – the second lowest in ten years). Major subjects with relatively large numbers of Firsts and 2.1s were: Engineering (31/41), History (8/8, with 5 Firsts in Part II), Law (23/26), Mathematics (13/16 with 10 Firsts), MML (15/15 with 9 Firsts), Nat Sci with 14 Firsts. Note that 94% of 3rd/4th years gained a 1 / 2.1 grade, which is a singular measure of success.

S M

The following elections were made by the Governing Body:

Bundy Scholarships: C N B Abrahams, S Atkinson, A Barthel, R Bevan, A J Bickersteth, Y H Chae, L Elton, L E F Fletcher, J E Girling, O Hayes, E A L Hodgson, T J Jelly, Q Jiang, A V Joshi, S Y Koh, B A B McCartney, G Nandakumar, M-R Newis, L F Parry, S Patel, S Robson, H Trunley, J C Woodruff, Z Wu, Z Xie, Y Zhou.

Scholarships: W J Adamczyk, H M Aldridge, J M Byrne, Y M D Cheah, Y Y Cheng, H Y H Cheung, B P Ciacli, A D W Cross, J Curson, I R Dolphin, H L Fong, T L Fong, C L Foreman, E F W Harratt, R J Highnam, C Hocking, F C Jiang, L Kerridge, N Leach, M C Lupoli, H McNamara, J T L Mo, H H B O'Neill, S Ravichandran, A Shtyrov, K Suchodolski, Y Sun, M Takahashi, M Tapia Costa, G Venizelos, J Wang, X Wang, Z Wang, E M Weatherup, T Xie, I Zamet.

College Graduate Scholarship: B B Sun.

The following re-elections to Scholarships were made by the Governing Body:

3rd Year: J T Duffy, P H Htet, H Huang, J Li, N A Ryan, H L Teoh.

2nd Year: A Banerjee, F B Cazalet, I Coats, A Courtauld, B C Davidson, L Dhingra, C Iddon, T Joashi, B M W Jones, Z Y Koh, T Ong Kah Yong, L Qi, K Y T Tang, J Yuan.

Exhibitions: E Antoniou, J Elms, L W Hunt, I Stewart, D G Quigley, S M Z Zaidi, C L Zhou.

College Prizes for excellence in University Examinations were awarded as follows:

Archaeology: I Coats (*John Hutchins Prize*)

Architecture: H M Aldridge (*Lutyens Prize*)

Asian and Middle Eastern Studies: A J Bickersteth (*Pilkington Prize*)

Chemical Engineering (via Natural Sciences): H L Teoh (*Pilkington Prize*),

J E Girling, N A Ryan

Classics: L Kerridge (*Davison Prize*), K Suchodolski (*Davison Prize*)

Computer Science: J C Woodruff (*Andrew Clarke Prize*), C Iddon

Y Sun, M Takahashi

Economics: J Yuan (*Brian Deakin Prize*) Engineering Q Jiang (*Lewins Prize*)

J Li (*Lewins Prize*), S Ravichandran (*Lewins Prize*), G Venizelos (*Lewins*

Prize), Y Zhou (*Christopherson Prize*), R J Highnam, C Hocking,

Z Y Koh, L Qi, M Tapia Costa, X Wang

English: H McNamara (*Stucley Prize*), I Zamet (*Stucley Prize*), M-R Newis

(*C S Lewis Prize*)

Geography: C N B Abrahams (*Clarabut Prize*), M C Lupoli

History: S Atkinson (*Richard Carne Prize*), Y H Chae (*Dunster Prize*)

E A L Hodgson (*Dunster Prize*) T J Jelly (*Dunster Prize*), B A B McCartney

(*Dunster Prize*)

HSPS: R Bevan (*James Torre Prize*), J Curson
 Linguistics: L E F Fletcher (*Pilkington Prize*), O Hayes (*Pilkington Prize*)
 Law: T Ong KahYong (*Orlando Bridgman Prize*), KYT Tang (*Thomas Audley Prize*),
 B P Ciacli, J T L Mo
 Mathematics: J M Byrne (*Dennis Babbage Prize*), P H Htet (*Edward Waring Prize*),
 H Huang (*Edward Waring Prize*), Z Wu (*Edward Waring Prize*),
 Z Xie (*Davison Prize*), YY Cheng, HY H Cheung, H L Fong, T L Fong, T Xie
 Medical Sciences : A Banerjee (*Iris Rushton Prize*), L Dhingra (*Iris Rushton Prize*),
 B M W Jones (*Iris Rushton Prize*)
 Management Studies: AV Joshi (*Pilkington Prize*)
 Modern and Medieval Languages: T Joashi (*Peskett Prize*), S Robson (*Peskett
 Prize*), F B Cazalet, A D W Cross, C L Foreman, F C Jiang, N Leach,
 H H B O'Neill, E M Weatherup
 Natural Sciences (Physical): W J Adamczyk (*Newton Prize*), A Barthel
 (*Pilkington Prize*), J T Duffy (*Pilkington Prize*), L F Parry (*Burdett Prize*)
 Z Wang (*Maurice Goldhauber*)
 Natural Sciences (Biological): S SY Koh (*Keilin Prize*) G Nandakumar (*Keilin Prize*),
 S Patel (*Keilin Prize*), H Trunley (*Keilin Prize*), Y M D Cheah, E F W Harratt,
 A Shtyrov, J Wang
 Theology, Religion and Philosophy of Religion: B C Davidson (*Michael Ramsey
 Prize*)
 Theology: L Elton (*Michael Ramsey Prize*)

Other Prizes were awarded as follows:

Davison English Essay Prize: G Cardoso

Dorothy Kolbert Prize: D G Quigley

Foo-Sun Lau Prize: W R Gullock, C Hocking, Z R Loi, M Tapia Costa

Garrett Prize: S Clarke

George Mallory Prize: L G D Lavizani, S Ravichandran

Gill Prize: J C Woodruff

Hart Prize: Z Xie

Jim Ede Prize: M C Lupoli

Macfarlane-Grieve Prize: E C Le Roy-Lewis

Master's Reading Prize: C J G Dodge

Mynors Bright Prize: R Bevan, E A L Hodgson

Newman-Turner Prize: M N Bridson Hubbard, W Ryle-Hodges

Newton Essay Prize: M-R Newis

Nicholas St John Whitworth Prize: C E Flesher

Sarah Springman Prize: E Ruane

Winter-Warmington Prize: A Humphreys

2 GRADUATES

The following elections were made by the Governing Body during the year:

Goulandris Award: Eirini Kikarea

Mandela Magdalene Award: Michael Crosland

Clutton-Brock Scholarship for Zimbabwe: Edward Murambwa

Standard Bank Derek Cooper Awards: Lee Gordon, Daniel Bresgi, Oliver Lambson

Marshall Foundation Awards: Kobi Felton, Dofia Carozza

The following research degrees (PhD) were conferred in 2018–19:

C Aranda-Jan (Engineering); K Ball (Politics and International Studies); V Beranek (Biological Science); W Bosworth (Music); C Boughey (Materials Science) (NT); D Brown (Architecture); B Hylton Brunt (Physics); K Button (History); M Cawley-Buckley (Music); A Corbella (Pure Mathematics); I Georgakopoulos-Soares (Biological Sciences); A Giannakou (Spanish and Portuguese); A Gregory (Engineering); Z Guo (Chemistry); T Hird (Public Health and Primary Care); E Howell (Law); P Ip (Theology & Religious Studies); F López Hernández (Biochemistry); D Martschenko (Education); A Navarro (Engineering); N Rice (Chemical Engineering); C Russell (Chemical Engineering); N Serri (History); M Wen (Zoology); R Wijeyekoon (Clinical Neurosciences); J Wurman-Rodrich (Biochemistry).



Second Court in July (photo: Matt Moon)

IV STUDENT ACTIVITIES: SOCIETIES, CLUBS AND SPORTS

1 JCR AND MCR REPORTS

Junior Common Room.

President: M Lupoli; Vice-President: M Alderton; Treasurer: A Lyer; Green and Charities: J Rose; Access: L Belt; Welfare: S Longworth and A Petter; IT: W Gullock; Communications: I Wilson Scott; Domestic and Academic: J Keisner; Services, Bar and Buttery: J Barnes; Freshers' Rep: W Webster; Ents: S Lee; LGBT+: C Foreman & R Highnam; Women's Political: L Carey; International Students: G Tam; BME: E Banghu; Disabled Students: G Courtauld.

In January, we hosted the fourth annual Magdalene-Magdalen Sports Day. Over 150 students travelled from Oxford to compete in 12 sports, including rugby, football, tennis, basketball and darts. Magdalene, Cambridge, was particularly successful in the lacrosse, hockey and darts matches. The day was a great success and we all look forward to travelling to Oxford next year.

Our Freshers' Rep, Will, organised a refreshers' week at the beginning of term, involving students from all years in activities ranging from a movie night to a pub quiz in the bar. Sabrina, our Ents Officer, organised two very popular bops with the themes 'Back to School' and 'ABC'. She and Will ran a very convivial Wedding Formal for the first years to celebrate their College Marriages, with a photographer to provide long lasting memories of the day. Sabrina's hard work ensured that there was a lot of fun to be had among the student body during Lent.

Following their impressive efforts last year, our welfare reps Sarah and Alex worked hard to organise donut and coffee events, drop in sessions and week five packs. All provide a crucial support network for many students. It is greatly appreciated by members of the JCR.

LGBT+ Officer, Charli, and Women's Officer, Lauren organised a LGBT+/Magdaladies Formal Hall to celebrate both LGBT+ and International Women's Month. On International Women's Day, Lauren organised a celebration in the bar featuring a diverse range of themed cocktails. Access Officer, Laura, has already overseen many access events, Domestic and Academic Officer, Jake, helped to ensure a smooth running of the ballot. Services, Bar and Buttery Officer, Joe, organised a highly successful Halfway Hall for the second years.

Middle Combination Room.

President: J Deasy; Vice-President: E Karayiannides; Secretary: A Kefala-Stavridi; Treasurer: F England.

In a very successful year, the MCR owes much to the hard work of Roxine Staats, Ashley Hannay, Mike Lewis, Petros Chatizimpaloglou and others of the 2018-19 committee. Following a successful Freshers' fortnight, the Magdalene graduate community became an active social hub. Many Friday BA Dinners sold out within hours, with termly banquets a particular highlight. Entertainment ranged from

the brilliant DJ'ing from Tobias Heuer and themes from Alice in Wonderland at Easter to internationally-based festivities at the summer banquet. At MCR Parlour Talks, PhD candidates presented some extraordinary work. The renaissance of the MCR cricket team was led by Devin Taylor and featured an outstanding batting average of 77 from Nicholas Laing. In the May Bumps, graduates rowed in all eight Magdalene boats, while several members of the MCR played for the College football team, finishing in a commendable fifth place. Other MCR members helped the College tennis team reach the quarter-finals of Cuppers, sadly losing to the eventual finalists. At the end of Lent Term, a new committee was elected, to include Joseph Lillington, Alex Simone-Grieve, Fred Fardin, Todd Tunley, Thando Mlambo and Susannah Cass. There followed a Eurovision-themed event, an MCR sports day, and the largest bop the MCR has ever seen. As the academic year drew to a close, the MCR was sad to say goodbye to many members.

2 SOCIETIES, CLUBS AND SPORTS

The Editor received the following society and club reports for 2018–19:

Law Society. (President: H Brignal; Secretary: K Bielena). Magdalene College Law Society had another active year. Tiffany Tang and Kate Bielena represented Magdalene against Jesus College in the annual exhibition moot, sponsored once again this year by 4 New Square, Lincoln's Inn, and judged by members of chambers, securing a victory against Jesus. This year's R W M Dias Cup competition was won by Emman Bhangu, with Jonathan Mo as runner-up, mooting in the final before Professor François Du Bois of the University of Leicester. The annual moot against Downing College was a special occasion this year, it being fifty years since the competition between the two colleges was established, when Mr R W M Dias and Mr J A Hopkins were Directors of Studies in Law at Magdalene and Downing respectively. In honour of the occasion the bench consisted of Lady Black (Girton), a Justice of the Supreme Court, presiding, Sir Andrew Morritt (Magdalene) and Lord Justice McCombe (Downing). Downing won on this occasion, but it was a high-quality moot on all sides, before judges of a distinction which can rarely be encountered in student moots. The moot was again very kindly sponsored by Queen Elizabeth Building chambers, through the good offices of two non-resident members, Mr Oliver Wise (1977), and Ms Catherine Cowton QC (1991). In the wider mooting world, Jonathan Mo was part of the Cambridge team in the annual Varsity Roman Law Moot (as Tiffany Tang was last year). Other events during the year included an evening at which a number of Non-Resident Members kindly shared their wisdom about legal careers, and the annual Magdalene Lawyers' Dinner, at which the guests of honour were members of the College, Ms Diya Sen Gupta QC (1996) and her husband Mr Rory Mullan (1995), and at which the Society said goodbye to Dr Howell, as she moved from Cambridge to a post at the London School of Economics.

Medical Society. (President: D Lawson). This year, ten Freshers joined the Magdalene Medical Society (all Magdalene Medicine and Veterinary Medicine students are automatically members). Following our welcome social, our Speakers' Officer Arka Banerjee organised a talk from Dr Nick Ellis, the founder of the charity MEDLIFE (Medicine, Education, and Development for Low-Income Families Everywhere). Arka is another of its founders and President of the Cambridge chapter. MEDLIFE works with motivated communities, primarily in South America and Africa, to improve access to healthcare, hygiene, education, housing and more. Our Welfare and Events Officers, Lakshiv Dhingra and Clare Worsley organised our perennial 'Week 5 Pizza' evening where the different year groups catch up with each other mid-term. At our annual Electives Evening in Lent, sixth-year medics presented their summer elective placements, how best to go about arranging them, and the broad range of opportunities available. Local GP, Dr Fiona Cornish, was guest speaker at our annual dinner in College, and at our Part II Information Evening, the third-years offered advice about choices of courses including pathology, PDN, pharmacology, psychology, zoology, sociology and biological anthropology. Our customary social celebrating completion of the Second MB/VetMB exams at the end of Lent was followed in May Week by a post-Tripes celebration for students, DoS's and supervisors at the Benson Court beach.

Magdalene Boat Club (Captain of Boats: S Vosper; Honorary Secretary: F Willcocks; Men's Captain: H Begley; Women's Captain: L Vu; Junior Treasurer: J Richardson). In a truly memorable 2018–19 season, the Boat Club continued to thrive with great results and valued support from our alumni. In Michaelmas Term we entered three novice eights in the Fairbairn Cup where all improved their previous year's position. The men's senior coxed four defended its title at the Fairbairn Cup with the fastest time for the fours event, while an alumni eight also won its category.

The chilly Lent Term racing culminated in five exciting days of Bumps with brave performances from all four of our boats. We were disappointed by missing near bumps, elated by avoiding a near bump and exhausted by some daring row-overs. All teams grew in strength and character and in May were joined by returning university trialists and the few 'fair weather' rowers.



Grassy Corner on the River Cam (photo: Will Reis)

Magdalene continued its representation in the Universities Boat Races with Catriona Bourne Swinton Hunter coxing the Cambridge University Women's reserve crew (Blondie) to victory on the Tideway. The Boat Races remain a great opportunity to reconnect with MBC alumni and we are extremely grateful to the Mallory Club and individual supporters for their ongoing contributions – and, notably, support for the annual training camp, hosted for the second time in Bled, Slovenia. A highlight of the season, our group comprised 34 eager athletes and coaches.



Lake Bled, Slovenia (photo: Will Reis)

Moreover, the Boat Club is thrilled to have secured a new sponsor in RxCelebrate, a drug discovery company based in Cambridge. We proudly sported its colours alongside ours in the May Bumps. A further generous and personal donation by MBC alumnus and Executive Chairman of RxCelebrate, David Grainger, added a

new women's racing eight to our fleet, and in the boat's first set of Bumps the W1 crew bumped up one place amid tough competition near the top of Division 2. W2 also bumped up two places on the last two days. The Club entered a staggering six men's crews in the May Bumps, including a Fellows' Boat – and more than any other college. All crews performed strongly, with a collective rise of five places, but it was M1 who really excelled. On the first day they achieved the highest over-bump in history by catching Clare to place 2nd on the river. After a bump by Caius and a row over, M1 reclaimed 2nd position by bumping Lady Margaret on the final day to achieve MBC's highest ever finishing position: a truly sensational achievement. The atmosphere and energy in the Club is at an all-time high and we hope to keep riding the wave well into 2020. It is all about the vibe!

Lacrosse Club (Captain: B Reiff-Musgrove). This has been an extremely successful year for the Magdalene Sitting Dragons Lacrosse Team. We started off the year training our new recruits with matches every weekend, finishing the Michaelmas league in 3rd place. Lent Term began with an overwhelming 10–0 victory against Magdalen College, Oxford, at the Magdalene-Magdalen sports day in what was to be the start of a historic season. We went on to win lacrosse cuppers, becoming the best college lacrosse team in the university and topping the Lent Term league. We hope to continue this success next year.



Mixed Netball (Captains: F Willcocks and R McHale). Magdalene had a fantastic year of netball. Both the Ladies and Mixed Teams have been full of enthusiastic players. With much overlap between the teams, a real community- feel developed over the weekly matches. The Ladies Team excelled with more wins than in many earlier years. The Mixed Team is colloquially known as the Liquid

Netballers, champions more of enthusiasm and good humour than sporting achievement. Even so, they won enough matches to secure a comfortable middle spot in our division, while living up to our notorious reputation of 'spicing up the rules' (our own slightly questionable goal scoring tactics)! Every game was a laugh and a triumph, irrespective of the final score. We even befriended other teams and joined them on netball swaps over the term. Despite hurricane April winds, our Cuppers tournament proved an amazing end to the season for all the players involved. Rachel and I loved being Netball captains this year, but we couldn't have run the matches so smoothly without the energy and enthusiasm of the players who have dropped in for matches throughout the year.



Magdalene Quiz Team. Despite not reaching the televised rounds of University Challenge, Magdalene performed admirably in this year's Intercollegiate Quiz. This buzzer quiz tournament, open to all colleges, uses almost identical rules to University Challenge, with teams of four answering starter and bonus questions. This year, 36 teams took part, including several current or former University teams. The Magdalene team comprised: Nick Clanchy (2015, Philosophy), Adam Davies (2017, History), Daniel Lawson (2016, Medicine), Eimear Ryan-Charleton (2015, Classics) and reserve Jake Keisner (2018, History). In the group stage, Magdalene defeated teams from Emmanuel, Downing and Peterhouse; in round two, another Peterhouse team; in round three, Darwin; in the quarter-finals, Trinity; and in the semi-finals, Downing, to reach the grand final against Corpus Christi, a repeat of last year's final fixture! Sadly, the result also mirrored last year, with Corpus winning 275-170 at the gong. Perhaps next year we can go one further!

Magdalene Swimming Club. We have had a good year, once again entering both a men's and women's team in the annual Cuppers' event in the Easter Term. This was preceded by a training session at Parkside Pools which would not have been made possible without the support of the College. Both teams thoroughly enjoyed the practice session with some inspired to go swimming more regularly. At Cuppers' itself, we had some excellent swims across the board. Wang Zhilin showed great resilience in the Freestyle relay, swimming a stroke he had never swam before! Tim Kwok swam exceptionally, placed third in the 50m Butterfly and qualifying for the 100m Individual Medley Final. Overall, the team finished thirteenth. We are looking forward to building on this result next year. Magdalene also fielded a water polo team, combined with Gonville & Caius and Murray Edwards. The team took part in 3 tournaments – in Michaelmas, Lent and Easter. They were fun experiences where team members were able to bond and learn more about water polo.

The following obtained Full Blues (*) or Half-Blues during 2018/19:

H Alexander	Association Football*
A Baxter	Sailing*
N Bridson Hubbard	Cross Country Running*, Athletics*
L Corry	Hockey*
A Coyne-Grell	Powerlifting*
A Kane	Eton Fives
E Kruger	Clay Pigeon Shooting
J Long-Martinez	Lawn Tennis*
I Macdonald	Real Tennis, Rackets
F McNab	Hockey*
A Moen	Cricket*, Rackets
V Molloy	Lacrosse*
J Payne	Swimming
A Prescott	Yacht Racing
C Rios Arceo	Women's Basketball Club*
E Ruane	Athletics*
W Ryle-Hodges	Cross Country Running*
S Schusman	Rugby*
S Tamblyn	Women's Lacrosse*
K X S Tan	Powerlifting*
P Thomas	Sailing*
H Trunley	Powerlifting
K C Wan	Powerlifting

The Editor is grateful to Matt Moon and Mrs Marsh for verifying this list.

V LIBRARIES

COLLEGE LIBRARY. As the College Library moves into the last year in its current location in the Pepys Building, we are pleased to report that our biennial library survey demonstrated increases both in the number of our students using the Library on a daily basis and in the numbers who consider the collection 'good' or 'very good'. This is supported by another year of increased borrowing. Improving the collection across all subjects has been a core priority over the last two years, so this feedback is particularly satisfying for Library staff. We are always very grateful to our users for being so generous with their time and thoughts in filling in the survey; it has again proved a great source of encouragement, ideas and constructive criticism. We have also had a great response to our newly introduced feedback walls, which have given us the chance to respond quickly to issues and suggestions raised on a daily basis.



(Photo: Tom Sykes)

Preparations for the move to the new library in 2020 have continued throughout this year. In anticipation of potential noise disruption (Left Cloister is a stone's throw from the building site) we converted Ramsay Hall into a study room. The Ramsay Hall study room was very popular, providing not just additional desks with plenty of power points, but also a different type of

study space in the form of sofas, armchairs and beanbags.

In April, the Deputy Librarian (College) co-organised a workshop at the Oxford and Cambridge College Library Conference on the topic of building and refurbishing libraries, which was a good opportunity to share some of the experiences we have had so far, and to gather ideas as we continue planning for the new library.

Our project to improve the classification scheme has also continued this year, with the European History section being reclassified over the summer months. Preparations for a large scale reclassification of over 5,000 books spread across several sections planned for the summer of 2019 has also been ongoing all year. The College Library's collection has been enriched by a number of donations from alumni and friends of the College.

Tom Sykes

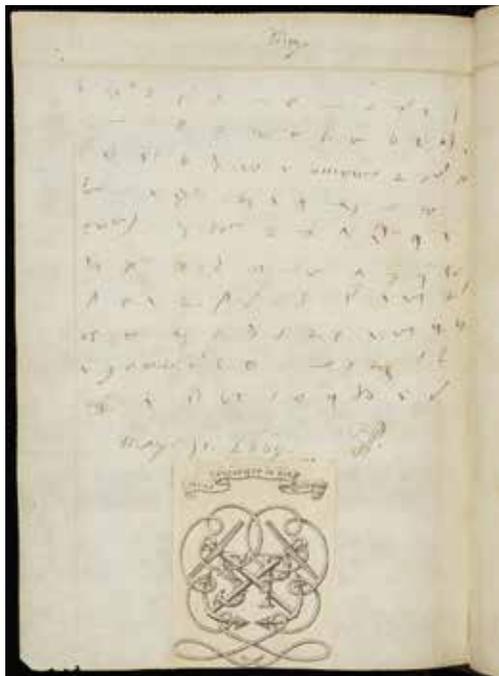
PEPYS LIBRARY AND HISTORIC COLLECTIONS. The year has been busy for the Historic Libraries and Archives – day-to-day work combining with preparations for making the most of the opportunities afforded by the new library.

Personnel: The College has appointed a new Archivist, Dr Tilda Watson, who joined us in October from Girton College where she was Assistant Archivist. With a PhD in Anglo-Saxon studies, Tilda has expertise in digital archives and catalogues as well as in conservation and archive management. Dr Hyam, Fellow Archivist from 2000, retired in October and was awarded the title *Archivist Emeritus* in recognition of his outstanding work in preserving, recording and researching the historic documents of the College over many years. He continues to advise us, and has been closely involved with recent exhibitions. We are also very happy to congratulate Ellie Swire, our Libraries Assistant, who successfully completed her postgraduate diploma in Library and Information Studies at UCL. The summer intern in 2018 was Charlotte Westdijk, who was completing her MA in Librarianship at the University of Sheffield. She worked on our Ferrar project, which seeks to make available to the wider community the current scholarship surrounding our remarkable collection of documents from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The College has established two positions for student invigilators to assist in the Pepys Library at busy times.

Readers and Visitors: In the Pepys Library there were 89 readers' visits in which a wide range of materials were examined, from medieval manuscripts to scientific books, music and devotional tracts. Visitors in public opening hours numbered 4914; the Pepys opened for the University Festival of Ideas, attracting no fewer than 617 visitors mostly across two busy weekends. The Pepys Librarian gave 35 tours and talks, welcoming an additional 660 visitors, and there were three school days when the Deputy Librarian spoke to school groups about the Great Fire of London. There were 21 special openings for the College (NRM nights, 'Friends' events, student evenings etc), with 290 visitors. In the Old Library, we have welcomed 32 visits by readers, and in the Archives, 57. In addition, 81 enquiries about the Archive Collections were received and answered. The total number of visits represents an 8% increase on last year. Sales of books, tours and fees amounted to just over £18,000.

Exhibitions: We started the year with an exhibition called 'Materials of the Pepys Library'. This examined the materials of book production found in the collection including parchment, ink, glue, paper, string, leather and wood. The exhibition was in conjunction with a conference on paper in the Faculty of English. For the Festival of Ideas (which took the theme *Extremes*), the Pepys Library hosted an exhibition entitled: 'Extreme Collecting', displaying the largest and smallest books, the oldest and newest and so on.

The 'Pepys and Women' exhibition was mounted for the Friends of the Pepys Library and 'The end of the diary' exhibition to commemorate the final entry in Pepys's diary.



PL 2040: The diary of Samuel Pepys, the entry for 31 May 1669

This is the final page of Pepys's diary, which he kept from 1660–1669. This year is the 350th anniversary of the final diary entry. Pepys gave up his diary because he thought his eyesight was deteriorating, though his fears of blindness turned out to be unfounded. He resolved to keep some notes of his activities with the help of his colleagues, though this never materialised.

The final passage reads:

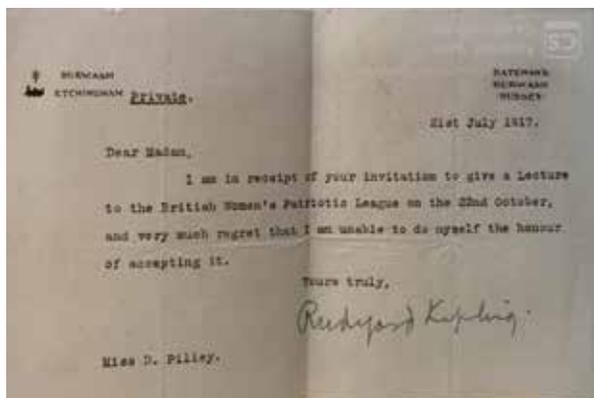
And thus ends all that I doubt I shall ever be able to do with my own eyes in the keeping of my journall, I being not able to do it any longer, having done now so long as to undo my eyes almost every time that I take a pen in my hand; and, therefore, whatever comes of it, I must forbear: and, therefore resolve from this time forward to have it kept by my people in long-hand, and must therefore be contented to set down no more than is fit for them and all the world to know; or, if there be any thing, which cannot be much, now my amours to Deb are past, and my eyes hindering me in almost all other pleasures, I must endeavour to keep a margin in my book open, to add here and there, a note in short-hand with my own hand. And so I betake myself to that course, which [is] almost as much as to see myself go into my grave - for which, and all the discomforts that will accompany my being blind, the good God prepare me!

The Archivist mounted a display 'Mandela in Magdalene' in December 2018, to mark what would have been Nelson Mandela's 100th birthday. This was held in the Cripps Building alongside a special event in the auditorium.

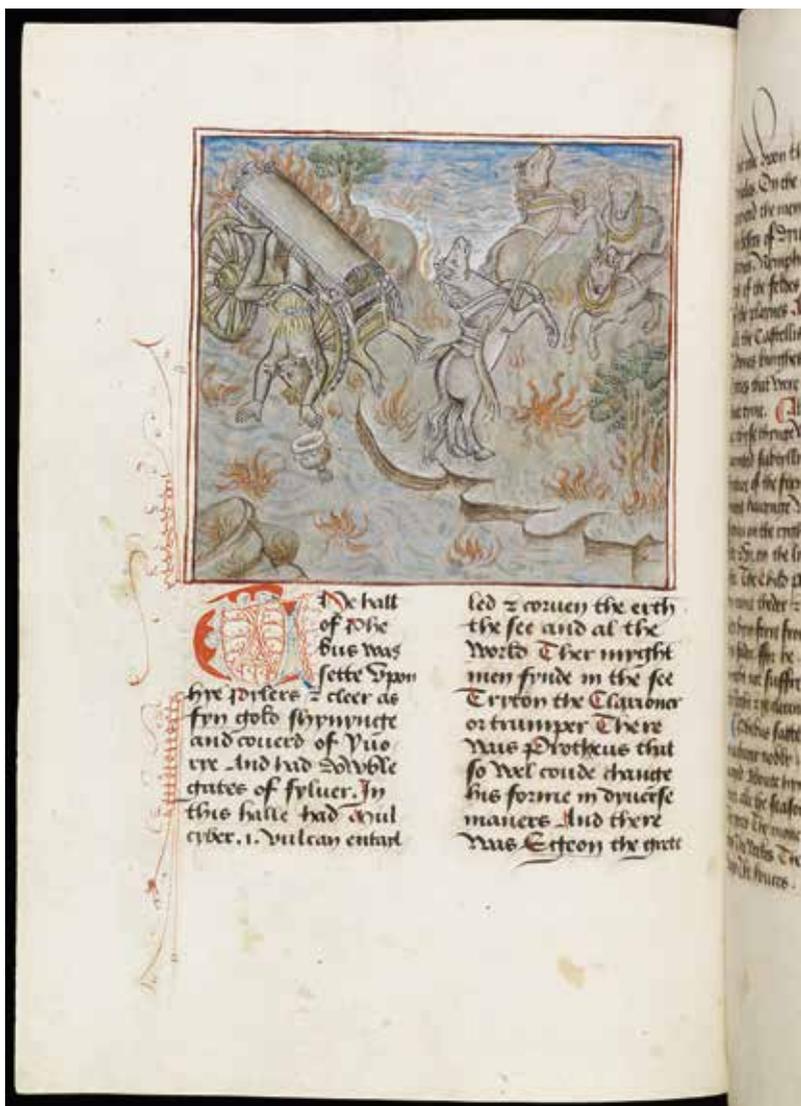


Nelson Mandela with the President, Professor Cornish, after his admission in the College Chapel on 2 May 2001

An initiative which began in February 2019 to open the Old Library with a different small display on the first Thursday of each month has been a great success. Displays on 'Student Life', 'Bookbindings', 'Manuscripts', 'Rudyard Kipling' and 'Fragments and Manuscript Waste' attracted 274 visitors.



This letter from Kipling to Miss D Pilley (Mrs I A Richards) was found in one of the books in the I A Richards Collection. (Professor I A Richards; 1911, Honorary Fellow)



F.4.34: Ovid's *Metamorphoses* parts I-IX by the Caxton Master [c 1483] f 39r, illustration of 'Phaethon's Fall'

The *Metamorphoses* manuscript was produced in around 1483, using Caxton's translation of the text into English which was completed three years earlier, from a French version which added moral interpretations of the stories (known as the *Ovide Moralisé*). It serves as a useful reminder that Caxton, although famous for his printing exploits, was also a writer, translator and diplomat. The manuscript is written in a style of handwriting called 'bâtarde bourguignonne' or 'lettre bâtarde' commonly used in Flemish manuscript making.

Conservation: In our first full year as members of the Cambridge Conservation Consortium, we have been able to conserve several important volumes, including the Maitland Quarto. There has been a major project to clean the books in the Old Library with the assistance of a team of heritage volunteers from the Arts Society, who have examined each volume, prepared a condition report and dusted both the books and the shelves. Items from the Archives Collections have been rehoused into new, conservation-grade packaging and boxes in order to halt the deterioration of records, ensure their preservation for the future, and prepare the collections for the physical move to the new Archive Centre. This project will run up to 2020. Audio-visual materials have been digitised.

Cataloguing: In October, the most recent volume of the Catalogue of the Pepys Library was launched (reviewed below, p 90). A highlight of the year was the completion of the on-line shelf-list of the Old Library holdings, which is the work of the Deputy Librarian. This allows scholars and readers to find out what we have; and it also helps us maintain a searchable record of inscriptions, donors and marginal annotations. The College contributed to the 'Material Evidence in Incunabula' project, hosted by the Consortium of European Research Libraries. The Archivist has worked on converting the existing archive handlist, which is currently only available as a Word document, into an electronic catalogue that can be made available on-line. This project involves some retrospective cataloguing, as well as editing the existing catalogue to create metadata which can be uploaded into a new cataloguing platform. The creation of an on-line catalogue is being undertaken as part of the implementation of a new archive management system and cataloguing software hosted by Cambridge University Library.

Loans and acquisitions: The Old Library lent items to the 'Tenacity' exhibition at the Jamestown Museum, Virginia. There have been several donations to the Archives, including recently a student diary dating to the Second World War.

Friends of the Pepys and Special Collections: There were six events for the Friends, including the Annual Lecture, 'Pepys and Women', given by Dr Kate Loveman. In April, the Friends were guests of the Mary Rose Trust in Portsmouth, where lunch was had overlooking Victory and a private tour of the Mary Rose exhibition was arranged. Dr Hughes and Dr C S Knighton gave talks. The final event of the year's programme was a presentation on 'Baroque Dance', with expert Mary Collins, who explained the difference between a jig and a minuet, illuminated the role of dance in the court of Charles II and entertained us with the story of Pepys's wife and the dancing master. Donations to the Back-a-Book scheme covered the cost of restoration of all the books identified for 2018-19.

MEJH

VI CHAPEL AND CHOIR

Sacristans: A Bickersteth and A Lawes.

We welcomed as the new Chaplain the Revd Sarah Atkins who returns to Magdalene having read Theology here 2002–05. She was installed at the first Evensong of the academic year when the Master preached. Also in Michaelmas, Professor Duffy preached about the walls of Jericho, and Dr Michael Thompson, Vice-Principal of Ridley Hall, on Christ the cornerstone. We marked the centenary of the Armistice on 11 November by an exceptional and memorable 11 am ceremony in First Court with the Last Post, as well as the Act of Remembrance at Evensong. The Advent Carol service gave us luminous music and little room to breathe as we squeezed 140 into Chapel. A student-led programme of 24 hours of prayer in Chapel was held in Advent, as well as the Staff and Family Carols. A brass quartet cheered us through the teeming rain on the procession to St Clement's for our Christmas service.

In January, a new icon of Mary Magdalene was placed in Chapel, the generous gift of the Master in honour of our patron and to mark the fortieth anniversary of the Master's ordination as priest (see frontispiece on p 6). It joins on the East wall our existing icon of the Mother of God of the Passion. In a Chapel which welcomes people of all denominations and of none, these figures point to Christ, the one 'in whom all things hold together'. The icon writer, Cheryll Kinsley Potter, attended the Evensong when the icon was blessed by the Master and where he began our series on the Beatitudes with 'Blessed are the poor in spirit'. Other preachers included Visiting Fellow Dr Pia De Simone from Milan, Msgr Mark Langham (1979), Dr Elaine Storkey and Revd Jon Canessa, the Bishop of Ely's advisor for homelessness. The Choir of St Paul's School sang Evensong near the Feast of the Conversion of St Paul.

In the Easter Term, Evensong sermons considered what builds faith, with Professor Boyle ('doubt'), Mrs Amanda Mukwashi, director of Christian Aid ('love and service'), the Master ('Scripture'), Revd Michael Robinson (2005) ('prayer'), the Dean of Queens' ('sacraments'), and Revd Helen Orr (1990) ('friendship'). Happily, Helen's father and mother Bishop Simon and Dr Jean Barrington-Ward accompanied her back to the Chapel which has so long enjoyed their friendship. The Monks of Douai sang Vespers and gave us a taste of the Benedictine worship on which the College was founded. The popularity of regular sung Compline shows appreciation for this tradition of communal prayer endures. The season of Easter was kept in some style since Easter Day fell immediately before the start of Term. We held a late-night Good Friday meditation and on Easter Eve gathered for a new fire in the Master's garden and vigil and Communion in a packed Chapel. Fr Alex Ross from St Clement's preached and its Choir sang. This was the first service for the new paschal candle-holder ingeniously designed and 3D-printed by Mr Riche and which is placed magnetically for Easter on the Stephen Branch memorial stand.

On Easter Day, the Chaplain preached at festal Evensong. Matins was sung in the Master's Garden on Ascension Day. On Pentecost, a magnificent and moving celebration was held in the Master's Garden when two students, a Visiting Fellow, and a college porter and his partner were baptised and confirmed. The final choral Evensong of the academic year proved to be a memorable occasion, including Hilton Stewart's Psalm 23, Smith Responses, Dyson in D canticles, and an almost overwhelmingly moving anthem, Benjamin Britten's 'Rejoice in the Lamb'.

The Sunday morning Holy Communion and termly Corporate Communion services remained popular this year, and Bible study and discussion groups generated much interest. The Chapel has continued to play a central part in the College's welfare support for students and staff. Revision break strawberries in the sunny Fellows' Garden, pilgrimage to Ely in a streaming wet May week, the chance to watch 'Narnia' in C S Lewis's room, and many other events, social and spiritual, give opportunity to open up to a wider vision of who we are, something Magdalene does very well. Chapel collections went to the Cambridge Churches Homelessness Project, Kwasa College for children in Johannesburg, Christian Aid, the Royal British Legion, and the Student Hardship Fund.

Sarah writes:

It is an immense joy to serve as Chaplain at Magdalene. The work of Nick Widdows and my other predecessors means I have inherited a Chaplaincy and Chapel community in very good heart. I am thankful for the support of the Master and Lady Williams, the Fellows, students, and staff, and especially the wardens, Precentor and Choir. It was the Chapel that first made me feel at home here. That sense remains: it is very good to be back.

S A

CHOIR REPORT. *Organ Scholars:* M van der Tol and I Macdonald.

We welcomed two new Choral Award holders and several volunteers from the wider University. Our Choir now nearly fills the entirety of the stalls, making full use of the newly completed front desks with candles beautifully made for us by Mr Riche. The Michaelmas Term began with the installation of the Revd Sarah Atkins, our new Chaplain. A former choir member, Sarah quickly established herself as a fine cantor – she can be relied upon to support our work and to notice any (very) occasional wrong notes. Shortly after the beginning of term, we visited Norwich Cathedral for Evensong, a welcome chance for new choir members to get to know each other. Carol services dominated the end of term, culminating in a concert at All Saints', Margaret St, to a full church of appreciative alumni and friends.

A memorable re-union of the Choir Association featured an extremely enthusiastic Evensong and dinner. Friendships forged in the Choir are lifelong, and the affection for the College maintained across generations. It was a huge joy to have so many of our past choir members and their families with us.

Unusually, the Choir's annual tour took place during the Easter vacation, and so, much of the Lent Term was spent in preparation. The annual Lent and Passiontide Service included a selection of contemplative and penitential music, complemented by the Passion Gospels sung to plainsong. The Choir's tour to the Italian mountains north of Lake Garda owed much to the dedication of Luca Donini, a volunteer from Sidney Sussex College. A rather eccentric request from a promoter (for 'public-domain English choral music') dictated our repertoire choices, and so Gibbons, Byrd, Wesley and others featured heavily in our programmes. The lovely acoustics of the churches gave wings to the voices. The Choir sounded magnificent, culminating in a gala re-opening of an eighteenth-century concert hall in Rovereto, where we were awarded a plaque for our contributions to the cultural life of the town. Easter Term is onerous for our students, with exams and 'extra' events, including the Cripps Feast, Matins for Ascension day and the Pentecost Eucharist and Benefactors' service. The Choir was, despite being so busy, in fine voice and very cheerful with it. Clearly, singing is good for the soul. Shortly before Christmas the Choir released its first CD in a number of years: *Wolcum Yole!* features Britten's Ceremony of Carols interspersed with other festive music and poems chosen and read by the Master. Copies are available from the Development Office.

Our work in Chapel and beyond brings joy to the lives of our singers and audiences, and is a very visible sign of the College's place in the world.



*The Choir in the Church of Santa Maria Assunta, Arco, Trentino, Italy
(photo: Luca Donini)*

VII GARDENS

Si hortum in bibliotheca habes, nihil deerit.

If, as Cicero states, one only needs a library and a garden, then soon the students of Magdalene will surely want for nothing: our new Library Building is well under progress in the Fellows' Garden. Despite the loss of our orchard area (the site of the new library), the new build has given us the opportunity to develop some new areas of the gardens, especially in the Master's Garden. A new bed has been planted with a mixture of herbaceous plants and grasses including agastache, sedum, salvia, echium, echinops, miscanthus and calmagrostis. We have used a colour theme of pink and blue which will mature in the coming years to give a fine backdrop for garden parties, May Balls and other functions. We intend to plant a new orchard area this autumn in Buckingham Court.

On the southern side of the garden, adjacent to Second Court, we have begun to plant a Japanese themed border. A backbone of various Japanese maples includes *Acer palmatum*s 'Bloodgood', 'Bi-Hoo', 'Orange Dreams' and 'Seiryu'. These have been selected for their wonderful leaf shape but most of all for their fabulous autumn foliage and coloured stems. Among the under-planting is *Ophiopogon japonica*, *Primula japonica*, *Athyrium nipponicum pictum* (Japanese painted fern) and the handsome *Cyrtomium falcatum* (Japanese holly fern). Two new Japanese cherries have also been planted to add to our increasing collection of these fine trees. *Prunus Horinji* was brought to Western gardens by Collingwood Ingram at the start of the twentieth century, when interest in Japanese flowering cherry trees was fashionable. He considered this to be among the most beautiful of the cherries, and is associated with a temple of the same name in Kyoto. Although possibly a very old variety, it does not seem to have been widely grown in Japan. It is notable for its large semi-double white flowers, which have a faint tint of pink, and should mature into a fine tree. Further along the border is *Prunus* 'Beni-Yutaka'. with its appealing large double pink flowers which darken in the centre during the flowering period and has gorgeous red and scarlet autumn colour. *Beni-yutaka* is one of a great number of flowering cherries developed by cherry enthusiast Masatoshi Asari in Hokkaido, the northernmost main island of Japan – known collectively as *Matsumae* cherries. It was released in the 1960s.

The team has also continued the development of the planting in the front garden of the Master's Lodge. Inside the perimeter wall we have planted *Chimonanthus praecox*, Greek for winter flower, and found in several regions of China. It is wonderfully scented in late winter. Also planted here and endemic to China, is *Heptacodium miconioides*. *Chimonanthus* was discovered in 1907 growing on mountain cliffs at 'Hsing-Shan Hsien' in the west of Hubei province, central China. Considered rare even at that time, only nine populations are known to remain in the wild, all of them in Anhui and Zhejiang provinces and threatened by habitat

loss. Interspersed between these fine shrubs are three more Japanese maples, which should flourish under the shade of the Large Arbutus and Sycamore. My favourite is *Acer shirasawanum* 'Aureum', also known as the Golden Moon Acer. This species differs from the more common *palmatum* species in its leaf shape. The small orbicular leaves have between 9 and 13 short-ovate lobes, which separate a third of the way to the leaf base. The Japanese name 'Ezo meigetsu kaede' means 'the maple with small, round leaves'. Autumn colouration ranges in the yellow and gold tones mixed, unusually, with crimson. The species is native to central and southern Honshu, on moist well-drained valley slopes at elevations ranging from 700-1800m. We shall see how it copes with the slightly different climate of Cambridge!

College was particularly colourful in late spring this year. First Court smelt and looked wonderful, planted with primrose wallflowers with the magnificent dark velvet tulip 'Paul Scherer' pushing through in late April.



First Court in April (photo: Matt Moon)

The wisterias and roses also bloomed spectacularly. Of particular beauty was the *Rosa* 'Dreaming Spires' by the river on Benson N block. Planted by Sir Derek Oulton, it was smothered in yellow-apricot with simple, cup-shaped flowers produced in neat clusters of highly perfumed flowers – perfect for that cottage garden effect. But deserving the greatest mention are the college cherries. In particular, the *Prunus avium* 'Plena' planted by Professor Grubb in Benson Court was fabulous. In my six years in College I have never seen it so smothered in flower – every branch and twig was wreathed from end to end with thick

pendulous masses of the purest white blossom, buzzing with bees. Its beauty – together with the cherries along River Court – wowed large numbers of visitors from the Far East.



Prunus avium 'Plena' in Benson Court (photos: Matt Moon)



This summer we have planted a hot and vibrant colour scheme in First Court. Marigold 'Zenith Extra Red' is edged by begonia *semperflorens* 'Red Devil', with secondary accents provided by *Ricinus communis*, 'Pink Carmencita' and the Mexican torch *Tithonia rotundifolia*. Outside Benson Hall we have planted a tropical themed bed with Zinnias, Echium and several succulent Aeoniums, and the hanging baskets contain the wonderful Dragon Wing trailing begonia.

Mark Scott



Outside Benson Hall (photos: Matt Moon)



VIII COLLEGE STAFF

After 18 years' service, Bob ('no problem!') Smith retired as College Marshal. He had more than one farewell gathering, a testimony to how great a part of College life he had become. He loved his job and was always a cheerful presence. We wish Bob and Gill a very happy retirement in their new house. There were two further retirements in the Porters' Lodge: David Fordham and Carl McLoughlin, who between them had 28 years' service. We were delighted to appoint new Porters: Sean Pattern, Edward (Ed) Davis and Zaprianka (Pepa) Forsyth. We were pleased to welcome back Pepa, formerly of the Housekeeping Department. Finally, and importantly, Ryan Carter, was appointed as Head Porter in April, and is enjoying this challenging role.

Paul Scott, College Electrician, retired at the end of July after 27 years of quietly and efficiently looking after the College's light-bulbs and electric wiring, a vital task, relieved by his hobby of exploring the countryside, scouring charity shops for guide-books and local histories.

Reproduction rates remained high in 2018–19, with several staff going on, returning from or returning to maternity leave. Hannah Millward joined the College in September 2018 as HR Manager and is assisted by Jemma O'Grady, herself back from maternity leave.

Within the Alumni & Development Office, we were sad to say goodbye to Kevin Bentley, Deputy Development Director for 7 years, and Roxane Vose, Database Officer for 5 years. Following a restructuring, the team was joined by Ellis Stratton, as PA to the Development Director and Praelectoral Secretary; Sarah Rodwell (2015), as the 2018–19 Development Office Intern; and most recently, Rebecca Pitcaithly, as Deputy Development Director. Rebecca brings with her a wealth of experience in fundraising and alumni relations.

Leading the Academic Office administration, Helen Williams was appointed as Registrar, and was joined by Remke van der Velden as Administrator and PA to the Senior Tutor. Helen is supported by Vicky Levet as Deputy Registrar and Sarah Rees (stalwart of the Admissions Office for over 30 years) as Graduate Officer. Louise Foster, Secretary to the President, left in December 2018 and has been replaced by Philippa Coe. In October 2018 Dr Tilda Watson joined the Library staff as a professional archivist.

After 6 years in the Garden team, Andrea Hoskins moved to a post closer to her home. Andrew Clarke was appointed as a Gardener from October 2018. Will Scotter left the Maintenance department, as did Coleen Keohane, after 6 years' service. In April, Rachel Webb joined as Maintenance Office Manager, and Ian van Gardingen joined the Computer Office as IT Systems Developer, working with a number of departments to provide new and improved services on-line. Within the Housekeeping department we welcomed Michelle Fordham, Lauren Ivatt, Sheila McGrevey and said goodbye to Kristina Djurdjevac and Peter Butcher.

H F

IX EVENTS AND COMMEMORATIONS

CENTENARY YEAR OF DR NELSON MANDELA. On Friday 7 December 2018 in honour of the 100th birthday of our Honorary Fellow, Nelson Mandela, a special event was held in the Cripps Building. The programme began with an exhibition arranged by the Archivist, with advice from Dr Hyam; this was followed by a panel discussion chaired by the Master on the legacy of Mandela in education, looking forwards as well as back. Members of the distinguished panel included Her Excellency the High Commissioner of South Africa, Nomatamba Tambo, John Simpson (Honorary Fellow and Foreign Affairs Editor, BBC), Professor Christopher Cramer; and Professor Dubow. We heard a vigorous and illuminating discussion about South Africa since apartheid, with personal memories of Mandela from Ms Tambo (whose father, Oliver Tambo was a life-long comrade and friend of Mandela and who headed the African National Congress in exile). Mr Simpson spoke amusingly and self-deprecatingly about interviewing Mandela. We also heard short presentations on their work from scholars currently studying at Magdalene, including Menzi Nxumalo, Lindsay Williams, and Tefo Mosienyane.



NKOSI'S HAVEN. On Friday 3 May, Magdalene College hosted a number of events to help raise funds for Nkosi's Haven, an HIV/Aids home for children and families in Johannesburg, South Africa and named after Nkosi Johnson, the young Aids activist who died in 2001. Nkosi's Haven offers residential, holistic care and support, and aims to empower residents to become responsible and contributing members of society. The Fundraisers included a garden party in the Master's garden, a raffle and a BA formal dinner that evening. The garden party was attended by the Master, the Chaplain, Fellows, and a number of students currently studying at the College. The Fundraisers were organised by Alison Green, MPhil Arts Education at Magdalene, with assistance from the College MCR. Alison oversees a year-round programme for Nkosi's Haven when she is in South Africa, ensuring that the residents have access to quality Arts events in and around Johannesburg.

For more information, visit: [www.http://nkosishaven.org/](http://nkosishaven.org/).

PARNELL LECTURE. This year's Parnell Lecture was given by Professor Claire Connolly in the Sir Humphrey Cripps Auditorium on Monday 25 February 2019. Her title was 'Too Rough for Verse? Sea Crossings in Irish Culture'. (See p 75)

LINDEMANN SCIENCE DAY. In March 2019, 180 pupils from local primary schools came to a Lindemann Science Day organised by Professor Raven as Chair of the Lindemann Trust. The Trust awards prestigious fellowships for early-career scientists to work in the United States, but for the first time invited Year 6 children to hear about latest scientific research. Dr Gregory, Mr Riche and Zach Bond (Director of Studies for Chemical Engineering) gave inspiring presentations to a rapt and enthusiastically interactive audience in the Cripps Auditorium. As one parent wrote afterwards, 'as parents of kids in a struggling state school, this kind of event meant a lot more to us, and to many people, than the somewhat mediated efforts Oxbridge can excel in. And since Rowan Williams himself has called out Cambridge for being one of the most unequal parts of the country, I think it is excellent you're looking to Magdalene's own doorstep with such efforts'. More are planned for next year.



Dr Gregory is showing Year 6 children how air pockets behave as a sound wave travels past them.

MAY BALL, 19 June 2019. Organising a May Ball is never a simple task, but the committee can usually take strength from the knowledge that it is planning much the same event that others enjoyed in decades past. Not so in 2019! With the construction of the new College Library in full swing, and a large portion of the Fellows' Garden lost to the building site, many members of College wondered whether there would be a Ball at all. Speculation was put to rest by two engineers Max Nussbaumer (2012), and Mr Riche (2011), who stepped forward as President and Vice-President respectively, offering their experience from previous Ball committees to ensure that Easter Term would end with our customary celebration.

Highlights of the Ball included our headline act: R&B and Pop artist Mabel, a spectacular cabaret show in Formal Hall, and the ever-popular all-night champagne bar under the Pepys cloisters. Guests at the Master's Reception were treated to a sit-down dinner before the Ball, accompanied by live music from the bandstand. We were pleased to welcome back many distinguished alumni, not least Honorary Fellow John Simpson who brought a number of guests to celebrate his birthday. Once again, the Ball Committee would like to thank the College Staff for their help and assistance, as well as Mr Morris who valiantly served a second term as Senior Treasurer.



Dancing in Hall (photo: Miral Mirr)

X ALUMNI AND DEVELOPMENT

1 REUNIONS

A Reunion Dinner was held on Friday 14 September 2018 for Members matriculating in the years 1995–97, attended by 97 alumni, 11 Fellows, and staff. The speaker was Mr Kit Tuke (1995). A Reunion Dinner was held on Friday 21 September 2018 for 1998–2000 Members. It was attended by 69 alumni, 12 Fellows, and staff. The speaker was Mr Alexander Schultz (2000). A Reunion Dinner took place on Friday 12 April 2019 for Members matriculating in the years 2001–03. It was attended by 59 alumni, 10 Fellows, and staff. The speaker was Ms Charlotte Morley (2001). On Saturday 4 May 2019, a Reunion Lunch for Members matriculating in the years up to 1959 welcomed 117 alumni and guests, 9 Fellows, and staff. The speaker was Mr Alec Samuels (1949).

2 AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

C J Baker (1991): QC

A E De Mestre (1993): QC

Dr L D G Grossman CBE, FSA (2008): Chair of Gresham College Council, its Board of Trustees

N Hartley (1997): OBE for his efforts, leadership, and commitment for young people in 2015

N Hinds (1973): OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours 2019 for services to the Arts.

R F Kuang (2018): 2018 Crawford Award, presented by the International Association for the Fantastic in the Arts for a first book of fantasy, for *The Poppy War*

N S Lewis (1967): 2018 inaugural Hubert Butler Essay Prize for an essay on the subject of 'What Happened to "Europe without Frontiers"?'

A L H Prescott (2015): sailed on the Cambridge team that won the Yachting Varsity Match, April 2019

D S Gupta (1996): QC

Mr A J T Steele (1967): Justice of the Peace, 2010–2018

Prof R E Thomas (1961): University of Calgary Family Medicine Preceptor of the Year award. Recognition as an excellent teacher and role model, 2017–2018

Prof Dr Slack (1999): ETH Latsis Prize 2017 and ETH Goldene Eule (outstanding teaching, D-BIOL) 2016

Dr T E Winton (1997): NCBDS Faculty Award 2018

3 SELECTED PUBLICATIONS (to 30 June 2019)

*Dr P G R Brendon (1960): *Churchill's Bestiary: His life through animals* (2018)

*D K C Cooper (1972. formerly Fellow): *Recollections of Pioneers in Xenotransplantation Research* (2018)

- N F Drake (1980): *Out of Range* (2018)
- *Dr P de Simone (Visiting Fellow, 2018–19): *Mito e verità: uno studi sul "De Iside et Osiride" di Plutarco* (2017)
- *Dr J Elsom (1954): *State of Paralysis: A Cultural History of Brexit* (2019)
- *P Ford (1971): *The Laws of Scotland: Stair Memorial Encyclopaedia/Charities 2nd Reissue* (2018)
- *J Goddard (1974): *Agatha Christie's Golden Age: An Analysis of Poirot's Golden Age puzzles* (2018)
- *Dr G Harper (1963): *Democracy or Survival* (2nd edn, 2012); *Must Future People Suffer?* (2017); *Democracy and the Biosphere Crisis* (2019); *Gidleigh: A Dartmoor Village Past and Present*, with T Grumley-Grennan (2nd edn, 2019)
- *Prof D Jowitt (1959): *Nigerian English* (2019)
- P C Keen (2002) (co-author) *Impaired Driving and Other Criminal Code Driving Offences: A Practitioner's Handbook* (2018) with K Jokinen
- *V E Knight (1960): *Murder by Degrees* (2019)
- R F Kuang (2018): *The Poppy War* (2018)
- *Prof K Ray (1973): *Neolithic Britain: The Transformation of Social Worlds* (2018)
- *A Rusbridger (1973): *Breaking News: The Remaking of Journalism and why it Matters Now* (2018)
- *Prof H F G Schade (1974): *Views from the Tea* (2018)
- *Prof D Simpson (1970): *States of Terror: History, Theory, Literature* (2019)
- *E M Thüne (Visiting Fellow 2018–19): *Gerettet: berichte von Kindertransport und Auswanderung nach Grosbritannien* (2019) (reviewed p 95)
- *S Xu (Yip Visiting Fellow 2018–19): *The Bisu Language* (trans C Brassett) (2001); (ed): *Issues of Language Endangerment* (2011)

**We are grateful to these authors for presenting copies of their works to the College Library.*

4 MEMBERS' DEATHS (REPORTED TO MID-JULY 2019)

K A Cassels (1937); R W Dawes (1938); G E Felton (1940); R M Rigby (1940); J Ford (1941); A D Caesar (1942); D Lindsay (1943); R V Blandy (1943); J G James (1943); J A Barrett (1944); S King (1946); P G Cazalet (1947); M H P Bott (1948); P B Bibby (1949); E C Craven (1950); C Lister (1950); C R Simpson (1950); R M Begg (1951); M J Turner (1951); John R James (1952); J Stallebrass (1952); M G Cory-Smith (1953); J L Turner (1953); J A Cann (1956); E I Childs (1956); J F Kelly (1956); W H Everett (1958); R E Dimsdale (1959); M L Yorke (1959); R E Davies (1961); C J Durrant (1961); M C Burman (1963); M H Crosby (1963); C J Hutton-Squire (1963); E J Hill (1967); P J Munday (1967); T A Cowie (1969); J J Zietara (1969); A J Adcock (1972); G E Ramsden (1972); A R Popiolek (1974); N McCartney (1975); J P Richards (1980); M Stone (1999). N A Pett (2008); D McDonald (2010).



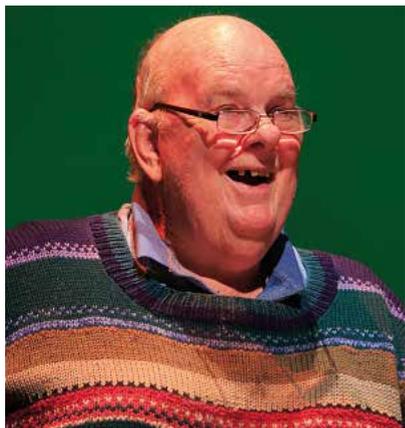
Professor David Fitzpatrick (25 May 1948 – 20 February 2019) was Parnell Fellow, 2012–13. An Irish-Australian, he graduated from the University of Melbourne and came to Cambridge to complete a doctoral thesis on the revolutionary period in County Clare from 1913 to 1921. This became his first full-length book, *Politics and Irish Society* (1977), a pioneering and rigorous application of statistical material to an often emotionally-charged narrative. From 1979 he taught at Trinity College, Dublin, where, at the astonishingly young age of 34 he was elected to a personal Chair, and where for the next 37 years he made an outstanding and,

at times, controversial contribution to Irish historiography, but one based on fastidious research and an urgent desire to widen comparative and theoretical perspectives in Irish studies. Described by Roy Foster (Parnell Fellow, 2017–18) as ‘the most original and influential Irish historian of his generation’, David Fitzpatrick’s history of the Irish diaspora began with the publication in 1984 of his *Irish Emigration 1801–1921*. This work culminated in what is probably his best-known book, *Oceans of Consolation* (1995), a ground-breaking study of Irish people’s experiences of emigration to Australia and based on exhaustive examinations of letters sent home to relatives and friends in Ireland.

His research at Magdalene (where he was accompanied by his wife, Jane Leonard, herself a historian, and his daughters Julia and Hannah), resulted in *Descendancy* (2014) a dazzling recovery of the lives of working- and lower middle-class Irish Protestants in the last two centuries. He also authored three celebrated biographies, of War of Independence hero Harry Boland (2003), of the Irish-speaking Church of Ireland Bishop of Connor, Frederick MacNeice (father of the poet, Louis) (2012) and, most recently, of Ernest Blythe (2018) who had been, Fitzpatrick sensationally discovered, a member at one time of the Orange Order.

A man of very wide interests, David Fitzpatrick was a multi-instrumentalist musician, and, while at Oxford, learned how to programme a mainframe computer.

J R R



Les Murray (17 Oct 1938 – 29 Apr 2019) Honorary Member of Magdalene, internationally acclaimed and multi-award winning poet, wrote of the land in a very precise way, noticing the textures, the smells and the mechanics of the soil. It was his own land which often inspired him – ‘our paddock, waterlogged’ as he writes in this extract from a poem of 1999. Poetry was for him not a divine inspiration but a force of the natural world which rises up in a poet just as the dank water rises up in the field, with the poet on the brink both metaphorically and

literally. And being able to write ‘our’ paddock was deeply significant for Murray: once established as a poet, he was able to buy back forty acres of the family’s dairy farm in Bunyah, New South Wales, the land on which he had been brought up and from which his father had been evicted. Place and the identity it bequeaths were crucial to his poetry; and perhaps this is why his writings struck such a chord with Australians, at a time when the process of reclaiming ownership of land was so crucial, whether by a former colony asserting itself, or by an indigenous population, or by an individual man or woman recalling their birthright after war.

Leslie Allan Murray was born in Nabic on the north coast of NSW. In the years after he was born, his mother, Miriam, suffered a series of miscarriages, and on one occasion severely haemorrhaged: his father, Cecil, telephoned the doctor but found himself unable to use the bodily words to explain the problem – it was women’s business. Cecil reported that his wife was ‘having a turn’. The ambulance was not despatched: and she died. No wonder Les cared about using the right words. He was also increasingly becoming himself the victim of words and worse: he was always large, which made him bullied at school, where the girls pretended to flirt with him, only to mock him and run away laughing, and the boys called him names and excluded him from their teams; and he was beaten and abused by a grieving and, one assumes, guilt-ridden father.

Having won a scholarship to Sydney University, Murray soon abandoned his studies, suffering bouts of depression which would recur throughout his life. But he met Budapest-born Valerie Morelli, and in 1962 they married. They were together until his death. Moving to Canberra, he took a job translating, and now the right words were his bread and butter. He published his first book of poetry, *The Ilex Tree*, with Geoffrey Lehmann, in 1965. His first solo collection, *The Weatherboard Cathedral*, was published in 1969. In the early 1970s, Murray gave up his other work to write poetry full-time. He edited the poetry journal *Poetry Australia* from 1973 until 1979.

Recognised as a, if not the, leading Australian poet, Les Murray began to publish profusely and his work attracted major prizes. In 1995, Murray was the first non-European winner of the German Petrarch Prize. Subhuman Redneck Poems was published in 1996 and in the same year he was awarded the TS Eliot Prize, followed in 1998 by the Queen's Gold Medal for Poetry.

In the extract below, Les Murray called international travel 'trivially important'. He did a great deal of it. And Magdalene was often the beneficiary. It was in 2005 that he came to our very first Magdalene Triennial Festival to read from his latest volume, *Poems the Size of Photographs*. I had read his stunningly fine verse epic, *Freddy Neptune*, and sent him an invitation out of the blue, with the promise of embarrassingly small expenses. By great good fortune, he was already booked to speak in Germany and then to visit family in Scotland. He agreed to drop into Cambridge 'on his way past'. The visit was the highlight of the festival; and it was the first of many such stays in what became 'his' college. He contributed to *Contourlines* (Salt, 2009), the volume of poetry published for the Festival of Landscape: his piece, 'The Cow-Ladder Stanzas', was about place, about names and about words: 'Thinking up names / for a lofty farm: High Wallet,/ Cow Terraces, Fogsheep,/ Rainside, Helmet Brush,/ Tip Camber, Dingo Leap...'. He was made an Honorary Member in 2011 and was admitted at a special ceremony in the Master's Lodge. Going to pick him up for the occasion I found him reading a book and wearing a rather dull, old, blue sweater. 'Don't worry', he grinned, reading my expression, 'I am going to change into something rather special'. And special it was – a magnificent, vibrant, multi-coloured jumper, knitted by Valerie, he said, for the occasion. It was the rest of us who looked dull and felt old. And with Les Murray's death, the world of poetry is now indeed a duller place.

*Poetry is apt to rise in you
just when you are on the brink
of doing something important,*

*trivially important, like flying
across the world tomorrow –
while here our paddock, waterlogged*

*from features and supplements of rain,
smells to be making dark beer
from rock oils afloat around its grass.*

[Les Murray from 'The Long Wet Season']

MEJH



Andrew J Adcock (10 Sept 1953 – 26 Jan 2019) arrived at Magdalene from Cumbria and Kendal Grammar School in 1972 to read Law, changing to History of Art in his final year. In a moving testimony, his lifelong Magdalene friend, David Roodyn, recalls a popular member of College, a devotee of the arts and the founder of an alumni book club launched 30 years after graduation. He took up articles with Lovell, White and King and then moved to the broking firm Hoare Govett. Among other activities, he served as Chair of

the Samuel Courtauld Trust. 'He formed a fine collection of British modern art, lived in an elegant house in Holland Park and acquired a chalet in Meribel: he was both successful financier and conscientious family man, a combination many do not achieve'.



Professor Martin H P Bott, FRS (2 July 1926 – 20 Oct 2018) won a scholarship to Magdalene in 1948 where he also took a PhD in 1954 on 'The deep structure of Northumberland and Co Durham – a geophysical study of the granites in relation to crustal structure'. He never lost interest in this study, returning recently to writing on ore mineralisation by hydrothermal fluid flow in the Weardale granite – a topic of great interest to mobile communications technology and geothermal power generation industries. In 1954 he

moved to Dunham University as the Turner & Newall Research Fellow, with appointment to Lecturer in Geophysics in 1956, Reader in 1963 and Professor in 1966, his research focusing on the gravity and magnetic anomalies of Great Britain and abroad, including Rockall, the Faroes, Cyprus, Greenland, the Lesser Antilles and Easter Island. His influential text-book, *Interior of the Earth*, was published in 1970, and, rare among Earth Scientists, he was elected Fellow of the Royal Society in 1976. He was awarded the Geological Society of London's prestigious Wollaston Medal in 1992. A committed hiker, he bagged all the Scottish Munros (then 284 mountains over 3000 feet), the English and Welsh Nuttalls (446 over 2000 feet) and the Lake District Wainwrights (214). A colleague at Durham recalls 'a kind and gentle man, a gentleman, generous of spirit, with time for everyone.'



Sir Peter G Cazalet (26 Feb 1929 – 3 May 2019) read Geography at Magdalene from 1947. Descended from a distinguished naval family with Huguenot roots, he engaged in the shipping business and was a broker on the Baltic Exchange before joining BP in 1959, rising to be Deputy Chairman in 1986. Remembered by one colleague as ‘a large, genial presence with firm leadership when needed’, he was also a non-executive Director of De La Rue and P&O as well as chairman of several other major companies.

Later, much trusted in Whitehall, he chaired the Armed Forces Pay Review Board, and served as a trustee of the Wellcome Trust and as Master of the Tallow Chandlers’ Company, among much other public service. He was knighted in 1989.



George Felton (3 Feb 1921 – 14 June 2019) was born in Paris, educated at Bedford school, and won a state scholarship to Magdalene in 1940 to read mathematics and physics. Joining the Cavendish Laboratory as a research student in physics, he worked with Maurice Wilkes on EDSAC, the world’s first practical electronic computer. In 1951 he moved to Elliott Brothers in London and then in 1957 to Ferranti in Manchester where he developed the programming scheme for the Pegasus computer. He became the doyen of British computer software designers,

developing a programming language ‘autocode’ and the Orion monitor program, an early operating system, later incorporated into multi-programming to enable several programs to run simultaneously. Famously, he used Pegasus to calculate pi to 10,017 decimal places, the result published in a footnote that continued over 40 pages. By 1968, Felton oversaw software development for ICL, leading to the 1974 ICL 2900 series of computers. He retired in 1985 to pursue a lifelong passion for photography.



John Ford, DFC (18 Sept 1922 – 9 Aug 2018) was sent on an Engineering course at Magdalene in 1941 after he had applied to join the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. He became an experienced bomber pilot and in 1944 for a particularly perilous raid (in which he was seriously injured) was awarded the DFC, but notably only accepted it at the end of his tour and in the name of all members of his air crew. From a business family, he pursued a successful post-war career in developing a garage and car sales firm.



George Ramsden (12 June 1953 – 7 Apr 2019) Yorkshire bookseller and publisher, arrived at Magdalene in 1972 from a West Riding family of brewers and politicians. In an interview in *The Bookseller* he recalled that ‘when I went to Magdalene... I lived for a whole year above the Pepys Library; it never occurred to me to go in. But I was a full-time trombonist in those days’. He was the son of James Ramsden MP and former Secretary of State for War. George Ramsden generously catalogued dozens of private libraries and advised many on their ideas

for publishing. Beginning bookselling in 1977, for years he was engaged in reconstructing and selling the library of the American novelist Edith Wharton, but once described his bookselling ‘as a long procrastination; teetering on the brink of actually writing’. Like many committed antiquarian booksellers, he proved more adept, at his celebrated shop in York, at accumulating stock than persuading customers to buy: ‘Things tend to go better if I walk away from the customer’. In 2000 he mused that he might have to learn about the internet.



Professor Jeremy P Richards (1960 – 7 June 2019) matriculated at Magdalene in 1980 before an MSc at Toronto in 1986 and a PhD at the Australian National University in 1990. Following post-doctoral work at the University of Saskatchewan, he lectured at the Universities of Leicester and Alberta. In 2017 he joined the Mineral Exploration Research Centre and Harquail School of Earth Sciences at Laurentian University as Tier I Canada Research Chair in Metallogeny. A prolific author, he specialised

in the regional tectonics and metallogeny of hydrothermal ore deposits, particularly porphyry and epithermal deposits, including post-subduction deposits in the Eastern Tethyan Orogenic Belt. The recipient of impressive of both Federal and industrial research funding, he was a passionate advocate for sustainable development in the minerals industry. *Mining, Society, and a Sustainable World* was published in 2009. Numerous international honours followed, most recently, the Duncan R. Derry Medal in 2019. An avid guitarist, hiker, scuba diver and cat lover, he was primarily a highly creative and outspoken researcher who became one of the world’s most eminent economic geologists.



Sir Michael J Turner (31 May 1931 – 7 Oct 2018) arrived at Magdalene from Winchester College and a country-sports loving family in 1951. Both his father and grandfather were KCs but perhaps because of this the young Turner claimed boredom with the law. The turning point was his defence of his officers' mess cook-sergeant against a charge of sexual assault on the grounds that the accused had mistaken the complainant for a lamppost. Fortunately, such argument is less likely to

be successful today, but in 1954 a brilliant legal career had begun. He was called to the Bar that year, took Silk in 1973 and served as a High Court Judge, Queen's Bench Division, between 1985 and 2002. Turner was best known for presiding over the British Respiratory Disease Litigation brought by miners against British Coal in 1998, resulting in the largest compensation scheme in British legal history. One of his later rulings created the new offence of corporate manslaughter. In retirement he returned enthusiastically to horses, foxhunting and shooting.



The Very Reverend Michael L Yorke (25 Mar 1939 – 19 Apr 2019) attended Midhurst Grammar School and Brighton College before admission to Magdalene in 1959. Switching from Law to Theology, he then trained at Cuddesdon, Oxford, and by 1974 he was Rector of Ashdon-with-Hadstock, then Canon Residentiary and Vice-Provost of Chelmsford Cathedral before moving to be Provost of Portsmouth Cathedral and, for five

years from 1999, Dean of Lichfield. A great music lover and described by one admiring contemporary as having 'the air of a humble aristocrat,' he also served as National Chair of the Samaritans and Vice-Chair of Help the Aged. He retired to Norfolk but tirelessly assisted in local parishes and at Norwich Cathedral.

Development Director's Report

Two years and two months ago we launched the College's Future Foundations Campaign with £10 million in the kitty and the aim of raising £25 million. We had not attempted such an ambitious undertaking before and the overall funds raised thus far have surpassed expectations. The combined efforts of the wider Magdalene community including Members, the Master and the Fellowship as well as students have been exceptionally fruitful.

We have raised a total of £22 million for the Future Foundations Campaign including more than £5 million for student support, teaching and the preservation of our historic buildings as well as a seed fund for the restoration of the Pepys Library building and just over £17 million for the new Library Building. The building is progressing at an impressive pace and Members are invited to follow the progress on the College website <https://www.magd.cam.ac.uk/new-building> which is regularly updated with photographs. This truly fantastic result allows us to make plans for the opening of the new building in September 2020 and we already look forward to the party! We are fortunate indeed to enjoy such wide support and are humbled by the amazingly generous response of the wider Magdalene community without whom this simply would not be possible.

The College's alumni relations programme is highly regarded across collegiate Cambridge and the Alumni & Development Office organised more than 40 events during the past year. The programme featured events in Hong Kong, Singapore, New York, Washington DC, Toronto and London. Closer to home, we welcomed Members to four Reunions including the annual luncheon for the older generation and their guests which was oversubscribed as always; to the annual Buckingham Society Luncheon and three Master's Campaign Dinners which aim to keep Members informed about the details of the FUTURE Foundations Campaign.

The Non-Resident Members' nights continue to be much appreciated by our Members and are regularly fully booked. They are hosted by a number of Fellows, but Sir John Gurdon, Professor Carpenter and the Alumni Secretary, Mrs Marsh, are usually part of the home team. Mr Keall, one of the instigators of the NRM Nights initiative, attended every one of these evenings until his last on 27 April this year. The perennially popular Family Day was cancelled this year owing to the building works in the Fellows' Garden but we look forward to many more in the years to come. Many of our donors joined us in September for a fascinating lecture in Benson Hall entitled, 'Are Aliens Out There' by Professor Chris Lintott (1999), before enjoying afternoon tea at the annual Benefactors' Garden Party hosted by the Master and Lady Williams.

Among the highlights this year was a splendid dinner in Hall celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Magdalene Law Society at which Lord (Igor) Judge (1959) delivered a moving speech remembering Mr R W M (Mickey) Dias. The 6th annual Choir Carol Concert at All Saints' Margaret Street in London was enjoyed by more than 250 Members and guests. We organised a Charity Silent Auction evening with the help of the Campaign Board and it was a steep learning curve! We are immensely grateful to numerous Members, too many to list here, who graciously and generously donated their time and items for the auction. Among the fantastic prizes on offer was a personal tour of the Pepys Library followed by afternoon tea; Sunday lunch with the Master and Lady Williams; a private showing of 'Four Weddings and a Funeral' in the presence of the director

Mr Mike Newell (1960); a weekend in the College's Southwold House for ten; two tickets for the Cricket World Cup final at Lords; lunch at the Garrick Club with Mr John Simpson (1963); a wine tasting with a Master of Wine; afternoon tea at the Shard and many more prizes generously donated by Members and Friends. The evening was held at the Drapers' Hall with the kind assistance of Mr Tim Orchard (1981) and raised in excess of £75,000 on the night, thanks to all those present bidding enthusiastically. It truly was a night to remember!

As always, the Master, Senior Tutor and Development Director travelled to Asia to meet Members and see old friends again. We are enormously grateful to Mr Henry Pang (1986) and Mr James Woodrow (1985) for all their help and their generous assistance in hosting events for the Magdalene community in the Asia Pacific region. Mr Pang organised the annual dinner at the Hong Kong Banker's Club last September and also hosted drinks at Sevva in Hong Kong in April this year. Mr Woodrow hosted the annual Singapore Dinner again at his home and Ms Barbara Yu (1995) hosted another 'Open Day' for potential Magdalene applicants in Singapore, involving a presentation from the Senior Tutor and a talk by the Master.

The Master and the Development Director attended a Magdalene Dinner at the Cosmos Club in Washington DC, and we are most grateful to Mr Frank Crantz (1969) for once again hosting this event. The 27th annual New York dinner took place in the Union Club in New York two days later and attracted around 45 Members and guests. The Directors of the Magdalene College Foundation (MCF) in the USA have been wonderfully helpful in supporting the Campaign and we received \$600,000 in charitable donations from Members in America via the MCF this year. We thank the Directors, Mr Robert Chartener (1982), Fellow-Commoner and Chairman, Mr Geoffrey Craddock (1977), Dr Jason Hafler (2006), and Mr Graham Walker (1982) for their continued service to Magdalene. Mr William Wilson (1982) stepped down from the Board in October after five years of sterling service and we are tremendously grateful to him for all he has done for his college. The Hon David Brigstocke (1971) joined the Board last October to take Mr Wilson's place. We welcome him warmly and look forward to his contribution in the years to come.

It has been another jam-packed year offering plenty of opportunities to stay in touch with Magdalene and enabling us to meet many of our Members and Friends. We truly appreciate the warmth, loyalty, enthusiasm and unfailing generosity of the Magdalene community we find all over the world; thank you.

C D L

A complete list of those who have supported the College with a donation during the past financial year (1 July 2018 – 30 June 2019) will be published in the next Annual Campaign Report and circulated with the autumn edition of Magdalene Matters.



The New Library Building in July 2019 (photos: Matt Moon)



A NOTE ON THE TAPESTRY ROOM

30 THOMPSON'S LANE

This rather grand College house has many fine architectural mouldings and decorative features. On the first floor, Room 13 is impressive, with its richly decorated fireplace-surround, niches and friezes. Opposite, Room 14, which also looks out onto Thompson's Lane, is even more remarkable. It is a bed-sitting room, not particularly large, having been intended as a bedroom, but of spectacular, though often mysterious, interest to its occupants, on account of the beautifully painted panels all round it, frescoes of tapestry designs, protected by huge sheets of perspex. Distorted reflections are complemented by mirrored alcoves beneath carved wooden canopies. How does the College come to have such an extraordinary room available to students?



30 Thompson's Lane with the annexe at No 31 on left (photo: Matt Moon)

Thompson's Lane in the eighteenth century was dominated by a brewhouse estate. The large brewery warehouse (c 1840) is the only surviving part: now 'the Glassworks gym, studio and spa'. John Purchas, the owner of the brewery, built No 29 for himself and then upgraded by building No 30 in the 1790s. These houses were sold in 1803 to Richard Foster, who undertook extensive remodelling in about 1820, which has led to confusion over their exact date. The annexe, No 31, was known as 'the clerk's house'. The much-smaller adjoining houses, flanking those of the owners or directors of the attached commercial business, were intended for employees or servants (compare Wentworth House and its related Chesterton Road cottages). The big houses, and much of the surrounding land, were purchased in 1859 by Mr Swann Hurrell, a successful iron-master, related

to Foster; he ran his iron-foundry from the former brewery buildings. Hurrell became Mayor of Cambridge three times, and lived in No 30 for many years, so it became known as 'The Mansion House'. After him, the big houses were often let out: in 1913 the tenancy of No 30 was taken by a Fellow of Jesus, Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch ('Q') on appointment as the second King Edward VII Professor of English Literature. Q's election was made on the strength of his having edited *The Oxford Book of English Verse*, although he was better known as a Cornish author and Liberal activist. His family home was at Fowey in Cornwall, so he needed a Cambridge base. By this time, No 30 was known as 'Malpas Lodge', and this name



can still just be seen in faint white Gothic script painted high up on the stones supporting the arch over the front doorway.

So much for the background. The story now takes its crucial turn. A Hertfordshire firm in the industrial applied arts, Ickleford Industries, under the Witter family, all accomplished painters, launched the Cambridge Tapestry Company in 1916. The Witters decided to buy Nos 30 and 31 (the annexe as residential accommodation), which had the advantage of many out-buildings at the back suitable for tapestry-upholstery workrooms and weaving looms. The iron foundry also continued to operate until it closed down in 1923. The garden which had been on the opposite side of Thompson's Lane was then sold off to a speculative builder, who erected a row of terraced houses, known as 'St Clements's Gardens'. These passed into the ownership of Trinity Hall, who demolished them in 2015 to make way for a building more suited to undergraduate accommodation, now styled 'Wyang Gardens'.

Much of the work of the Cambridge Tapestry Company concerned repair and restoration, but they also had major new commissions from Girton College, Anglesey Abbey, and the royal family. They made the Windsor Silver Jubilee Tapestry for Queen Mary in 1935, and the coronation chairs for George VI, used in the Westminster Abbey Coronation Service in 1937. Their showroom was on the ground floor of No 30, where a huge tapestry was displayed on the back wall. The drawing and design office was on the first floor, and a young artist, Clifford Barber, was trained there by the Witters in techniques for painting tapestry weaving. Given that this is now Room 14, 'The Tapestry Room', it is probable that Clifford Barber was the artist responsible for the cartoons, and that they date from the 1920s.

Despite the royal commissions of the 1930s, the Company business was already in decline after the economic slump from the late 1920s, and the big house was sold to Magdalene in April 1931. The College paid £12,000 for it (£ ¾ million at today's values), an earlier offer of £11,500 having been declined. In addition, there were expenses of £335. To meet the bill, the College sold £2,560 in shares, but the purchase would not have been possible without a loan of £4,500 from Stephen

Gaselee, a former Pepys Librarian, then the Librarian of the Foreign Office, and a non-resident Fellow. By leasing back to the Company, it was hoped to pay off the loan within seven years from the rental income, though there were in fact problems in securing the rent from a director, who had joined the Company as a school-leaver, and now remained as the tenant of No 31. The Company was thus enabled to continue trading at a difficult time, until it was finally wound up in or about 1942. After the War, in 1950, it was listed as a 'Building of Special Architectural or Historical Interest', and became a regulated College hostel with a female caretaker.

Although all the rooms in No 30 and No 31, magnificently furnished with the firm's tapestries, carpets, curtains, cushions, etc, (see the photographs below) were stripped out when the Company left, the frescoes obviously could not be moved.



Rooms in No 31 in 1922 when occupied by Colin Mackenzie, of Magdalene



The Tapestry Room



Top: Panels and alcoves around fireplace (east wall)

Left: Panel to left of window, 6'6"x1'6"

*Right: Central motif to panel covering the west wall
(photos: Matt Moon)*

The College had long had its eye on the Quayside/Thompson's Lane area as possible for additional accommodation, the earliest Quayside acquisition being made in the mid-seventeenth century. In the 1890s a 75-year lease was obtained from St John's College of a sizeable riverside building (the Thompson's Lane 'Neville House' hostel was finally surrendered in 1969, and in 1981 demolished by St John's for their Beaufort Place flats). In the early twentieth century there was an idea of having a footbridge across the river by the Pepys Building, connecting with a more-developed area of student hostels. However, A C Benson, first as President, and then as Master, argued that it would be a preferable strategy to acquire more property on the 'other side' of Magdalene Street for redevelopment, and but for the First World War he would actively have promoted this earlier than was the case. And so it was only in April 1923 that the Governing Body accepted this strategy, after which no more was heard of a footbridge. When Lutyens was appointed architect for the Benson Court area, he suggested a connecting underpass beneath the street as part of his plan.

Well, a walkway over the river or a tunnel under the street have neither of them materialised, but the College has been able to develop both Quayside and the 'other side' of the street, and not regard them as alternatives. And in 30 Thompson's Lane we still have one of Cambridge's most striking student rooms. *Varsity* survey of the best student rooms in Cambridge (18 November 2005) rated it as 10/10 for 'character' although 6/10 for both 'location' and 'functionality' reduced its overall evaluation to 7/10.

R H



Bottom right of main panel (west wall)



Panel to right of window, 6'6" x 3'0"

NICHOLSON'S PORTRAIT OF A C BENSON

AN UNUSUAL PIECE OF COLLEGE ART HISTORY



(Photo: Matt Moon)

Benson Hall now has, most appropriately, a newly-acquired and quite well-known portrait of A C Benson as Master (1915-25), occupying the central place of honour above the fireplace. It is by Sir William Nicholson, and has a curious history. It was eight years in gestation: starting in 1916, sittings had to be suspended for the five years of Benson's depressive illness, and was only resumed in 1923. Benson disliked the finished portrait, did not want to hold onto it himself, and in effect confined it to the Fitzwilliam Museum. Its return to Magdalene was successfully negotiated in 2018.

The story of its protracted genesis, and the friendship between artist and sitter, can be pieced together from the unpublished entries in the Benson Diary. To this we can add some account of its return and assess its importance.

In November 1916 Benson began sitting for a new portrait by Sir William Nicholson. On being told about this, Benson's extraordinary benefactress, Mme Eugenia de Nottbeck, an American heiress who lived in Switzerland, immediately gave £700 (about £42,500 in today's values) to pay for it. The Master and Fellows had already commissioned a portrait five years earlier, by R E Fuller

Maitland, and liked it so much it has hung in the Senior Combination Room ever since 1911. So, perhaps unwisely, Benson let it slip early on that Nicholson's portrait would probably be offered to the National Portrait Gallery. As a result, Nicholson took more time over it than he would otherwise have done, and could hold out no hope of an early termination to the sittings which Benson disliked. Until 7 July 1917, Benson went to London for regular sittings, sometimes once a week, until they came to an abrupt end with Benson's confinement to a nursing home for the mentally ill. The portrait was only resumed in August 1923.

The early sittings took place in Nicholson's property at 43 Eaton Square, London. Benson loved the lumber-ridden house, and studio full of draperies, furniture, pictures, and 'props'. There was a table covered with tubes of oil-paint and brushes in an old top-hat: 'the only use for a tall hat!', explained Nicholson, 'I can think of no other'. In his diary entry for Friday 17 November 1916, Benson described Nicholson as 'a light, graceful little creature, rather worn & haggard of face, but amusing & cheerful'. Nicholson showed him many examples of his work – 'I think his landscapes better than his portraits – & its rather a *shallow* vein. He didn't seem to me to get *inside* things'. Benson was sketched standing up in his gown. Then, going to sit down, he leant against and broke a picture on glass which Nicholson had been painting: 'He oughtn't to put it on a settee to dry!' Fortunately Nicholson was 'most good-natured' about it, and they had lunch, sandwiches and claret. After this, Nicholson began a portrait in oils. Benson found it an 'odd & pleasant' visit.

Subsequent sessions were decidedly of a social character. There was a lot of chat, and perhaps not much painting. Lunch always figured prominently (Benson was once taken to the Savile Club). Nicholson talked freely and in a lively fashion about his work (six portraits a year was the sensible limit) and his family, entertaining Benson with gossip about other artists (the hopeless, restless genius of Augustus John, who 'could never *finish* anything') and delightfully clever imitations of Max Beerbohm. He tried to explain his problem with the 'simplification of all redundancy', the necessity of 'concentrating on the *real* subject'. He was keen to show Benson as many pictures as he could, even taking him off on one occasion to an exhibition in Bond Street.

When sittings were eventually resumed on 15 August 1923 after a break of five years, Nicholson had moved to a 'very dingy, battered' hayloft in a former stables near St James Square. The artist, now in his mid-fifties, 'was very welcoming but older, greyer, less swift of limb'. He said he would 'continue' the portrait, but he had a mirror behind him in which Benson could see he was beginning a new one. 'He was very lively indeed, he gave me an odd lunch, haddock & plum bannock', in a little vault once a harness room, and then painted all afternoon, dressed in an open-neck shirt, trousers, and an 'odd long coat'. He saw Benson off 'very warmly' at 4.15 p.m.

There were several sittings in February, April and May 1924, all of them in Magdalene, Benson now providing the lunch, to which suitable undergraduates

were invited to charm him. On 28 February 'Nicholson came and began a *third* portrait. Progress seemed slow, so Nicholson for almost a week at the end of April held daily sittings (Saturday included, so he probably stayed in Cambridge). Benson liked him as 'very friendly and pleasant', whimsical, 'always amusing and rather impish', 'wholesome and reliable', but with the 'hollow & ruthless absorption of the artist in his work'. He was someone he came to respect more each time he saw him: 'he is a lively fellow.... a puritan', or perhaps more accurately a 'paganly clean' man, who shared Benson's hatred of all 'dirty talk'. But it was '*awful* to sit still for two hours, with tons of things waiting to be done, trying to pump up talk'; Benson was not allowed to read or write, and he found it painfully dreary; he was 'fearfully bored' and got drowsy. He commented grimly, 'I can't believe it is good for the expression'. On 29 April 1924 he mentions a 'sixth attempt' being made, apparently referring to the panelled background, which was now to be in mahogany. Next day Nicholson at last said he had 'caught the likeness', and for the first time showed it to Benson: 'A greedy, irritable rather bloated affair, but not unlike me, and beautifully painted'.

There was still much to do. On 20 May, Nicholson was still painting hard, but seemed 'quite satisfied'. Then, on 21 May 1924:

Nicholson came all the morning, but at ten to 1 p.m. he suddenly said 'It is finished'. The portrait was thus done on three days, after four separate previous attempts. I asked him what the difficulty was & he said he did not know. He showed it to me. It is a small picture (N said 'this is miniature painting'). I am sitting in silk gown in a red armchair. I am a stout bilious man, with a heavy jowl, & red-rimmed eyes, with the look as if I held a potato in my mouth - rather fine hands with pointed fingers (my own being spatulate). It is beautifully painted, but all the coarse & bored elements have come to the surface. That is what happens when one sits.

Clearly, his worst fears about it depicting his bored and irritated expression had materialised. He had perhaps been expecting to be disappointed: in February Mallory had shown him Nicholson's oil-sketch of himself, 'a most ludicrous affair, exaggerated & elongated, & a most sickly parody of our handsome George'. With Mme de Nottbeck's approval, Benson offered his picture to Sir Sydney Cockerell for the Fitzwilliam Museum. Seeing it again there in October 1924, he liked it less than ever: 'It looks bilious & startled'. He apparently gave instructions that it was not to go on public display. What Cockerell or anybody else thought of it the Diary does not record, with one exception: John Palmer Clark, who successfully photographed him in about 1910, 'pronounced against the Fitzwilliam Nicholson' (15 December 1924).

Nevertheless, Nicholson remained 'a real friend', and Benson visited him towards the end of February 1925, less than four months before he died.

R H

* * *

For nearly a century now, the Fitzwilliam Museum has stuck to the letter, if not entirely to the spirit of Benson's injunction, in that the picture has not appeared on permanent display. It did appear in public, however, as part of the museum's 1980 exhibition *William Nicholson: Painting, Drawing and Prints* (cat. No. 36) – how could it not have? – and for several years it was available to view for anyone invited into the museum's inner *sanctum*. When Duncan Robinson combined the job of Director and Marley Curator of the Fitzwilliam with that of Master of Benson's college, he chose Nicholson's Benson to share his office in the museum.

The Benson portrait has been published several times, not only in catalogues of the University's collections, but also in monographs on Nicholson, including *William Nicholson, Painter*, by the artist's grandson Andrew (London, 1996) and *William Nicholson: A Catalogue Raisonné of the Oil Paintings* by Patricia Reed (Yale, 2011; 414), as well as the official history of the University (C N L Brooke, *A History of Cambridge University: Vol. 4, 1870–1990*, Cambridge, 1993; 47). Benson as captured by Nicholson has even graced the pages of the *Daily Telegraph* (19 April 2014), alongside a rather judgmental review of the *Diaries* in which the journalist observed of Benson, *inter alia*, that 'almost his sole belief was that after death we shall be given another period of trial'. The eventual public display of this painterly perspective on our melancholy and endearingly-human sometime Master might have been the sort of thing that Benson had in mind.

But this is an important portrait of a complicated man by a leading artist of the age. Its current keepers at the Fitzwilliam have long wanted it to be brought back out of the shadows and needed little persuasion to allow the College to facilitate that via a long-term loan. We are extremely grateful to them. Those of us who also look back in gratitude for Benson's transformative service to Magdalene – service that did not come without considerable cost – must hope that he would not have minded too much if, after the passing of nearly a century, this honest, unindulgent, stubbornly endearing image returned to the hall that he created and which still bears his name.

J M M

GLOBAL SCIENCE, NATIONAL HORIZONS

A condensed version of Saul Dubow's Inaugural Lecture as Smuts Professor of Commonwealth History at the University of Cambridge, Sir Humphrey Cripps Theatre on 28 November 2018.

In his autobiography, *Long Walk to Freedom*, Nelson Mandela recalls how, as a schoolboy, he witnessed the Xhosa praise poet, Krune Mqhayi, divide the stars of the galaxy among the nations of the world. In the course of an exhilarating performance, Mqhayi conceded the Milky Way to rapacious European colonisers and the constellations to various African societies. At a critical moment, the poet lowered his voice, sank down on his knees, and claimed the gleaming Morning Star for the 'House of Xhosa'. Star-struck, Mandela experienced feelings of uncommon pride. This memory has been used by supporters of modern astronomy in South Africa to demonstrate the depth of popular and scientific interest in the southern skies.¹

Mqhayi's division of the heavens between whites and blacks also evokes a tension between Africanist and global universalist visions of South Africa. We see something of this in Mandela's early political formation and also in the politics of his successor, Thabo Mbeki, whose vision of the 'African Renaissance' combined a strongly developmentalist and technocratic approach to science with a commitment to the advance of indigenous knowledge. Mbeki's combative intervention in the HIV/AIDS controversy, in which he sided strongly with AIDS-denialists, was prompted in part by suspicion of racist 'western' science and the interests of 'big pharma'; yet, in other respects, the modernising Mbeki did great service to science.

In its formation of science and technology policy, the post-apartheid South African government, lead by Mandela and Mbeki, was evidently influenced by George Ellis, a distinguished cosmologist, who wrote an influential position paper on behalf of the Royal Society of South Africa in 1994, year of the country's first national democratic election. Ellis argued that twenty-first-century South Africa had to prepare itself to become part of 'the global community'. It should take advantage of its geographical position and 'find an appropriate niche where its resources can be maximised through cooperation'.²

Two years later, a Government White paper, *Preparing for the 21st Century*, argued confidently that South African science could do more than satisfy utilitarian objectives: the country should not be 'a second-class nation, chained

¹ Nelson Mandela, *Long Walk to Freedom* (London, 1994), 38-40.

² George Ellis, *Science Research Policy in South Africa. A Discussion Document for the Royal Society of South Africa, May 28, 1994* (Cape Town, 1994), 13-14.

forever to the treadmill of feeding and clothing ourselves'.³ The Treasury duly obliged and 'big science' in the form of astronomy, palaeontology, and Antarctic research, benefited. All three spheres of activity sought to explore frontiers of knowledge within a southern hemispheric frame of 'deep time' and space.

Astronomy has the distinction of being the first scientific discipline to gain institutional backing. In 1820, the Cape was selected by the British Admiralty to be the site of a new Royal Observatory. Royal Astronomers like Thomas Maclear and David Gill made enormous contributions to positional astronomy in the nineteenth century, as did renowned British scientist John Herschel, who arrived at the Cape with his family in 1834. Herschel constructed his own private telescope in the garden of his suburban estate and, in partnership with his wife, Margaret, spent long nights sweeping the skies in order to catalogue the star clusters, nebulae and double stars of the southern hemisphere. Together, Herschel and Maclear observed the appearance Halley's comet in 1835. The following year they entertained Charles Darwin when the *Beagle* docked in Simonstown. Darwin was a great admirer of Herschel and he recorded that the Cape was one of those colonies around the world in which 'little embryo Englands are hatching'.



Optical telescopes at South African Astronomical Observatory, Sutherland, Cape

Nearly two centuries later, astronomy is again positioning itself as a progressive, enlightened project. After years of political isolation, the end of apartheid made possible a triumphal re-entrance into the global community of knowledge. South Africa became the first and only country in the world to decommission its nuclear weapons arsenal; the swords of 'big science' could now be turned into ploughshares. And in 2005, the Southern African Large Telescope (SALT), an 11-metre locally built optical instrument based on the Hobby-Eberly telescope in Texas, was inaugurated by President Thabo Mbeki. He predicted that this 'giant eye in the Karoo [will] tell us as yet unknown and exciting things about ourselves'. As a 'multi-national' venture it would 'provide all humanity with the largest and most modern single optical-infrared telescope in the southern hemisphere, while enabling our country and continent to remain among the front ranks of those involved in astronomy'.

³ P A Whitelock, 'Optical Astronomy in Post-Apartheid South Africa: 1994 to 2004', in A Heck (ed) *Organizations and Strategies in Astronomy* Vol. 5 (Dordrecht, 2004), 40-1.

Then, in an interesting leap of the imagination, Mbeki proceeded to draw a direct connection between the cosmic potential of SALT and a new visitor centre at Maropeng – Setswana for ‘the place where we once lived’. Maropeng sits at the centre of a ‘vast paleontological storehouse’ west of Johannesburg which has been proclaimed a Unesco World Heritage site on account of its extraordinary collection of hominid fossils. For Mbeki, this repository was living proof that ‘our country is the Cradle of Humanity’: for South Africans, as human beings, it was therefore appropriate ‘to continue the search for the origins of the infinite beginnings of the universe ... in the very geographic space that gave birth to homo sapiens’.⁴



Interior of Southern Large Telescope with section of 11m lattice mirror

South Africa is also the site chosen for the Square Kilometre Array (SKA), the world’s biggest radio telescope project. Funded and directed by an international consortium, the 1.8bn Euro project comprises a network of thousands of dishes and antennae in South Africa and Australia with headquarters at Jodrell Bank outside Manchester. When completed, it promises to allow astronomers to catalogue radio sources with unprecedented speed and sensitivity. As well as providing a glimpse into the moment before stars and galaxies formed, searching for extra-terrestrial life, and testing Einstein’s General Theory of Relativity, the South African component of the SKA professes a strong developmentalist agenda: Africa, it is hoped, will be integrated into European and global science; a new generation of African scientists and technicians will receive advanced training; the infrastructure of very fast computing and big data will benefit the country; local communities will be able to take advantage of educational and employment opportunities.

⁴Speech of the President of South Africa, Thabo Mbeki, at the official inauguration ceremony of the Southern Africa Large Telescope (SALT): Sutherland, Northern Cape’, 10 November 2005, available at <http://www.polity.org.za/article/mbeki-inauguration-ceremony-of-southern-africa-large-telescope-10112005-2005-11-10>; D Buckley, ‘Salt: “Gigantic African Eye”’, *Quest*, 2: 2 (2005), 6–9.

Whether in fact the developmental promises transpire into reality is moot. The Karoo, where the SKA is sited, is not a pristine area of semi-desert, as proponents as many accounts claim. It has been populated from the beginnings of human time and it has long been a site of contestation over land. Locals seem to have been led to believe that Square Kilometre Array meant an area of around 1sq km. In fact, the core site, extending over 130,000 square kilometres, threatens to impose heavy restrictions on human activity and agricultural use. Mobile phones and other devices emitting radio waves may interfere with the telescope's operation. A battle of resources based on bandwidth frequency thus threatens to pit the needs of global science against the interests of local communities.



Sutherland, Karoo, home of astronomy and repository of ancient therapsid fossils

Undoubtedly, the SKA has enormous potential to capture the scientific and public imagination. It complements Sterkfontein in the Cradle of Humanity which, since the 1930s, has yielded up important examples of fossil hominids like *Australopithecus*. Philip Tobias, a leading palaeoanthropologist and veteran anti-apartheid intellectual, was justifiably proud of the World Heritage Site. In a keynote address to a 2002 conference on the 'African Renais-Science', Tobias captured the spirit of the moment by claiming that *Australopithicenes* were the progenitor of all living humans; that 'Africa gave the world its first culture' and that Southern African hominids were thus 'not a southern African aberration, but a pan-African revelation'.⁵ Recent discoveries like the two million-year-old bipedal homin *Homo naledi*, have raised the prospect that the fossilised bones might have been purposefully buried in the complex cave systems. On this basis, Lee Berger makes the remarkable claim that *naledi* might have been capable of 'symbolic behaviour' and 'complex social organisation' – well before the evolution of anatomically modern humans.

⁵ Saul Dubow, 'White South Africa and the South Africanisation of Science', in Philip Bonner et al (eds), *A Search for Origins: Science, History and South Africa's Cradle of Humankind* (Johannesburg, 2008), 9.

Excitement about South Africa's importance in the story of human evolution goes back to the early twentieth century. In 1925, a young Wits medical professor and anatomist, Raymond Dart, announced his discovery of *Australopithecus* on the basis of a small delicate fossil skull which he had just extracted from breccia blasted out of a limestone quarry. Dart saw the juvenile Taung skull as the 'missing link' between apes and humans and thus as vindication of Darwin's prediction that Africa might prove to be the 'cradle of mankind'. For many years, Dart was derided for his colonial audacity. Until the 1950s, metropolitan science took the view that modern humans were much more likely to have emerged in China or in Europe. One of Dart's strongest critics was Sir Arthur Keith, a president of the Royal Anthropological Institute and a leading eugenicist, who was not well disposed to theories emanating from the margins. Keith is strongly implicated in the famous Piltdown fossil forgery which gave rise to the view that early man was an Englishman who once roamed the Sussex Downs. Philip Tobias, always a passionate defender of Dart, fingered Keith as a likely Piltdown conspirator.⁶

In 1925, Jan Smuts, the South African philosopher-statesman, law graduate of Christ's, and Chancellor of Cambridge University (1948–50), delivered his presidential address to the South African Association for the Advancement of Science. Smuts's talk represents a remarkable effort to shift scientific emphasis from the 'European continent' to the southern hemisphere. In order to achieve this hemispheric reorientation Smuts posited the Witwatersrand watershed of South Africa and the Rift Valley to the north as marking a 'great "scientific divide" among the continents'.⁷

Smuts also accorded significance to the recent findings of South African geologist, Alex Logie du Toit, who was providing remarkable evidence to support, and also to modify, the highly controversial theory of continental drift espoused by German meteorologist and polar expert, Alfred Wegener. Based on his detailed understanding of rock formation in the Karoo system, du Toit proposed the existence of two original supercontinents: Laurasia to the north and Gondwana to the south. The fracturing of Gondwanaland, he argued, gave birth to the modern land masses of Africa, South America, India and Australia. In *Our Wandering Continents* (1937) du Toit subtly altered Wegener's theories by arguing that 'Africa forms the Key'.⁸ According to Smuts's reading, Africa should now be viewed as the 'mother-continent' from which South America, Australasia and India had 'calved off'.⁹ By placing South Africa at the centre of what he called the 'great divide' Smuts was making a case for the country's singularity as well as its universal significance.

⁶ P V Tobias, 'An Appraisal of the Case Against Sir Arthur Keith', *Current Anthropology* (1992).

⁷ J C Smuts, 'South Africa in Science', *SAJS*, 22 (1925), 3-4.

⁸ Alex L Du Toit, *Our Wandering Continents. An Hypothesis of Continental Drifting* (London, 1937). See also S H Houghton, *Obituary Notices of Fellows of the Royal Society*, 6: 18 (Nov, 1949), 385-95.

⁹ Smuts, 'South Africa in Science', 4.

In respect of human palaeontology, Smuts was highly receptive to the significance of *Australopithecus*. He hastened to congratulate Dart on an 'epoch-making discovery', assuring him that it 'reflects lustre on all South Africa'.¹⁰ Without giving unequivocal support to Dart in his formal address, Smuts cited Darwin to suggest that Africa might turn out to be the 'cradle of mankind'. Considered together with other recent fossil finds there was accumulating evidence that South Africa might 'become the Mecca of Human Palaeontology'.¹¹



Doornkloof farm, Irene, nr Pretoria. Jan Smuts built his home from a prefabricated Boer War British officer's mess used by Lord Kitchener, and originally used in India. The Royal Family visited Doornkloof in 1947.

Notably, Smuts did not infer that common origins meant commonality. On the contrary, Africa might not turn out to be *the* cradle of mankind so much as 'one of the cradles' – a clear suggestion of his willingness to entertain multilineal theories of human evolutionary divergence. There was a profoundly racialised dimension to Smuts's analysis. This was also strongly present in Raymond Dart's work, which is shot through with fanciful racial typologies and theories of cultural diffusion which took for granted that all cultural and intellectual advance came from beyond Africa. For Smuts, 'Our Bushmen are nothing but living fossils whose "contemporaries" disappeared from Europe many thousands of years ago'. They were analogous to 'true "living fossils" like cycads, botanical survivors from the Jurassic era.

¹⁰ R A Dart with D Craig, *Adventures with the Missing Link* (London, 1959), 36-7.

¹¹ Smuts, 'South Africa in Science', 17-18, 16.

It was Smuts's expertise in botany that disposed him to accept the Wegener-Du Toit thesis. He dismissed as a 'European fallacy' the view that South African plant distribution was the consequence of southward migration of the temperate flora of Europe. Drawing instead on Charles Darwin's theory, in a letter to Hooker, that the development of higher plant forms may have taken place in an ancient 'isolated continent or large island, perhaps near the S. Pole', Smuts suggested that the Cape's unique floral kingdom as well as the country's tropical and sub-tropical flowering plants most likely derived from Gondwanaland.¹² In effect, Smuts was proposing for South Africa what Australian scientists were hypothesizing at much the same time: the existence of 'great south lands' in Permian times linking Australasia to Antarctica. In both cases, this interpretation helped to challenge deep-seated feelings of colonial isolation and inferiority based on southern hemispheric marginality.¹³ Botany was also Smuts's way into meteorology and climate, fields that, to his regret, had so far elicited 'only a mild scientific interest'. As well as seeing climate as playing a key role in human evolution, he was absorbed by the 'progressive desiccation of the land' as recently highlighted by the 1923 Drought Investigation Commission. Smuts argued that the dearth of scientific knowledge about the African climate could be remedied by establishing meteorological observatories in the Antarctic. He proposed a joint Australian-South African Antarctic station for the purposes of climatic research. This would have the additional merit of reinforcing Commonwealth solidarity.¹⁴

Smuts's desire to establish an Antarctic presence largely fell into abeyance. But it was taken up after his death by the apartheid government which used the 1957-8 Geophysical Year to cement its international scientific links. Fear of Soviet expansionism and encirclement was one motivation, another was to make a mark on the last white continent. A young Afrikaner meteorologist, Hannes la Grange, served in the Vivian Fuchs-led Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition of 1956-8. In 1960, la Grange led his own Antarctic Expedition. On their return home to Cape Town in 1962, la Grange and his team were honoured with newly-minted Antarctica medals; English-speaking South African newspapers carried jokey cartoons featuring black and white penguins on an otherwise pristine white landscape.

This exclusivist national imaginary presents a striking contrast to South Africa's involvement in the Antarctic today. A purpose-built polar research and supply polar vessel, *Agulhas II*, was commissioned in 2012 with different aims in mind. Whereas strategic considerations sustained South Africa's polar interests in the apartheid years, bio-diversity and climate change-related research are the new priorities; the teams of researchers selected to go to the Antarctic are now

¹² Smuts, 'South Africa in Science', 7-8; cf C Darwin, C R to J D Hooker, 12 Aug 1881. Cambridge University Library (MS DAR 95: 524-7) <https://cudl.lib.cam.ac.uk/view/MS-DAR-00095-00524/4>.

¹³ Tom Griffiths, *Slicing the Silence: Voyaging to Antarctica* (Sydney, 2007), 69-82

¹⁴ Smuts, 'South Africa in Science', 11.

also more representative of the country's demography. Even scholars from the humanities are invited.

The role of astronomy has also altered significantly. For much of the twentieth century, astronomy in South Africa mostly hosted viewing platforms for the benefit of overseas universities which required pollution-free portals into the southern skies. In the post-war era, the country's two leading observatories were British-run and controlled. European and American universities operated their own telescopes. Astronomy was scarcely taught in South African universities. From the 1960s, the apartheid government sought to 'nationalise' these operations. It consolidated most of these operations at Sutherland from 1973. The government also offered radio astronomy facilities outside of Johannesburg for the purpose of tracking NASA space missions and French satellites. Anti-apartheid pressure ended this collaboration and the Hartebeesthoek facility turned instead to radio astronomy. The expertise gained by adapting equipment left by NASA for civilian scientific use, helped to create the scientific capacity that later allowed South Africa to pitch for the Square Kilometre Array.

South Africa's recent major contributions to global science are products of the optimistic moment of the country's miracle of transition in the 1990s and its re-entry into global science. All depend on the country's geographic advantage and its special place in the international imagination. Here, there are striking parallels – and crucial differences – with Smuts's conception of scientific internationalism. Like Mandela, Smuts had broad international ambitions based on peaceful coexistence: he was instrumental in the creation of the Commonwealth and he was responsible for inserting the phrase 'human rights' into the preamble of the United Nations Charter. But Smuts's understanding of human rights did not include the majority of South Africans. His effort to 'South Africanise' science in the 1920s and 1930s was part of a conscious effort on the part of a newly-independent white nation to decolonise selectively by disavowing elements of Eurocentricity. To this end, Smuts cast whites as the custodians of African knowledge while reducing Africans to objects of scientific investigation.

Today, science is again being deployed in the service of nation-building; yet, who belongs to the nation and the terms upon which science will advance local needs and interests, remain open questions. In post-colonial contexts, science is frequently accused of deep complicity in imperialism. Its claims to universality are often contested. Perhaps this is what Mandela was getting at when, as a young man, he sat rapt watching Mqayhi apportion the southern stars between Europeans and Africans.

S D

TURBULENT WATER

THE IRISH SEA IN CULTURE

During the academic year 2018–19, Claire Connolly, Professor of Modern English at University College Cork, held the Parnell Fellowship at Magdalene College. She delivered the 2019 Parnell Lecture in Irish Studies in the Sir Humphrey Cripps Theatre on 25 February. The following is an abridged version of her lecture.

There is hardly any need for me to tell Cambridge graduates about the death and burial of Oliver Cromwell. Readers may not, though, be familiar with the accounts given in Irish folklore of his burial at sea. In the late 1930s, as part of a national project run by the Irish Folklore Commission, a school-girl named Annie Morgan of Coaghill, Williamstown, County Galway, heard from John Gaffey, a forty-one-year-old farmer, that ‘when Cromwell died the earth refused to take him. Three times and each time the corpse was found near the grave. At last the people decided to throw him into the Irish Sea between England and Ireland. They did so and the part of the sea that Cromwell was thrown into, is rough the hottest day in Summer’.¹ And in another story, recorded by Seán Ó Súilleabháin in his *Folktales of Ireland*: ‘Cromwell died in Ireland and was buried there, but the Irish soil rejected his body and the coffin was found on top of the grave each morning. Finally, it was thrown into the sea and sank down between Dublin and Holyhead, thereby causing that part of the Irish sea to be very turbulent ever since’.²



¹ ‘In the Penal Times’. The Schools’ Collection, vol 0013, 098, Duchas. Ie <https://www.duchas.ie/en/cbes/4591091/4589775/4615416>.

² Seán Ó Súilleabháin (ed), *Folktales of Ireland* (London, 1966), 283–4.

Following the Cromwellian plantations, Catholics were left in possession of only one fifth of Irish land and the face of the country was irrevocably changed. Journeys across the sea became a necessary aspect of Irish life, for elites seeking to consolidate their power, professionals, writers and artists in search of opportunities, or ordinary people in need of work. Writing about the sea's roughness registered these changed realities, but turbulent water also formed part of a resonant emotional vocabulary of difficult crossings and troubled passages.

These stories understand the waters between Ireland and Britain as fomented by violent conflicts. They are a reminder of how the Irish Sea shapes a connection with an expansionist Britain, from the early modern period onwards. But even as conditions at sea are given a political explanation, we see the makings of a more intimate history of rough weather. To consider sea crossings in Irish culture is to encounter both certainty – enduring environmental realities experienced over centuries – and unpredictability, as weather events set plans awry and made haphazard work of history. Across the centuries, a great mass of people (soldiers and adventurers, landlords and migrant workers, businessmen, students, members of parliament) and goods (letters, books, wine, weapons, live cattle) moved between the islands. Individual experiences, sometimes colourful, sometimes mundane, can be found in disparate sources – state documents, inventories of goods, memoirs, diaries and correspondence. Composed of stories that can be retrieved, at least in part, culture offers a special kind of archive of Irish sea crossings: richly textured, patterned, often voicing the views of elites but sometimes able to give us the trace of ordinary lives.

As unquiet as the Irish Sea

One way of writing about the Irish Sea was to deny its roughness, as if to refute the suggestion that Ireland was not ready for incorporation into empire, a 'strange country', resistant to improvement and exploitation. Such a defensive formulation began to emerge in the seventeenth century, even as Cromwell's body started to churn up the sea. The earliest natural history of Ireland, authored by Gerard Boate and partly based on observations made by his brother Arnold, has a chapter entitled 'The Irish Sea not so tempestuous as it is bruited to be'.³

A Dutch physician who went over to Ireland with Cromwell, Boate treats the roughness of the Irish Sea as axiomatic: 'Yea it is a common proverb in England, "As unquiet as the Irish sea"'. He insists, though, in his posthumous *Natural History* (1652) that the Irish Sea 'is very much defamed both by ancient and modern writers, in regard of its boysterousness and tempestuousness, as if it were more subject to storms and raging weather than any other, and consequently not to be passed without very great danger'.⁴

³ *A Natural History of Ireland in Three Parts, by Several Hands* (London, 1652), 28.

⁴ *Ibid.*, 28-9

Such defamations are immediately met with a rejoinder and Boate goes via some of the earliest sources (the Catholic commentator, Richard Stanyhurst and his annotations of Gerald of Wales) to show that 'The Irish sea is quiet enough, except when by high winds it is stirred, so as not only in the summer, but even in the midst of winter people do pass it to and fro'. 'True it is that some ships do perish upon this, but the same happeneth also upon other seas, who are all subject to the disaster of tempests and shipwracks.'⁵ The Irish Sea is scarcely rough at all, Boate suggests, and if it is rough, well, then it is no rougher than other seas. And not only is Holyhead a scarce sixty miles from 'the most westerly corner of the northerliest part of Wales', but, from the Irish side, it is quite possible that 'a man whose sight is but of an ordinary goodness, may at any time in clear weather with ease discern the high and mountainous coast of Wales from the top of the Dublin mountains'.

Swift in Holyhead

Looking across from the other side in September 1727, trying but failing to see the Wicklow mountains because of 'hazy', rainy weather, Jonathan Swift would not have agreed. Swift was in a hurry to get back to Ireland: riding high on the success of *Gulliver's Travels* (1726), he was keen to see Stella (Esther Johnson) who lay dangerously ill in Dublin. One measure of Swift's worry for her fate was that, when he missed the packet-boat at Chester, he chose to make the arduous journey through the mountains of north Wales and sail from Holyhead. There he encountered bad weather, costly inns and a long wait, finally reaching Dublin only in early October. Stella died four months later. The two poems that Swift wrote in Holyhead, along with the journal he composed there over his seven days there, express memorable and eloquent rage at being trapped 'in the worst spot in Wales under the very worst circumstances', as he put it in the 'Holyhead Journal'.⁶

The 'circumstances' were not uncommon. Numerous sandbanks along the east coast between Dublin and Wexford and on the Welsh coast around Anglesey caused the wreck of many ships. Prevailing south westerly winds mean that, to this day, ships are more often prevented from sailing from Welsh than eastern Irish ports. Persistent strong tidal currents are whipped up by these winds, so that unusually steep waves break in deep water: conditions that are currently worsening, as climate change brings more frequent storms.

Swift's 'Holyhead. Sept. 25. 1727' uses images of wind and tide to convey the frustrations of a confinement imposed upon an impatient passenger:

Lo here I sit at Holy Head
With muddy ale and mouldy bread

⁵ Ibid., 29.

⁶ Jonathan Swift, 'Holyhead Journal, 1727' in Herbert Davis (ed), *The Prose Works of Jonathan Swift* (vol 5, *Miscellaneous and Autobiographical Pieces*, Oxford, 1962), 207.

All Christian vittals stink of fish,
I'm where my enemies would wish.
Convict of lies is every Sign,
The inn has not a drop of wine
I'm fastened both by wind and tide,
I see the ship at anchor ride.
The Captain swears the sea's too rough,
He has not passengers enough.
And thus the Dean is forc'd to stay
Till others come to help the pay.⁷

In Holyhead, Swift also wrote a poem with the title 'Ireland', which begins: 'Remove me from this land of slaves, / Where all are fools, and all are knaves'. Ironically, given his loathing of the place, the Welsh port would become a last recourse from bondage in his imagination: on 21 October, 1735, he wrote to Alexander Pope 'as one going very fast out of *the* world', saying that 'my flesh and bones are to be carried to Holy-head, for I will not lie in a country of slaves'.⁸

Holyhead, in Swift's day, was not the busy port that it later became. It was only with the Union that improvements to the harbour and approach roads were seriously contemplated. The South Stack lighthouse was built in 1808, to guide packets in and out of the harbour and a connection between Holyhead and Howth, meant that ships could avoid the stretch of rocky Welsh coast encountered on a journey from Liverpool or Parkgate. In 1815, the Scottish engineer Thomas Telford was commissioned to survey and improve the Holyhead Road, setting in motion one of the first great infrastructure projects of nineteenth-century Britain. Telford built his suspension bridge over the Menai Straits (the first such iron suspension bridge in the world, completed in 1826) and greatly improved the road. From the 1830s, competing railway companies started to run from Holyhead to London.

In the course of the 1800s, the Welsh port came to occupy a particular place in the Irish imagination. It was, most obviously, a gateway to a new life. In Gerald Griffin's description of a crowd embarking from Dublin Bay in his story 'The Half Sir' (1827), boats were filled with 'adventurers of every description, who devoutly believed that gold and fame grew like blackberries upon hedges every where but in poor Ireland'.⁹

By the early twentieth century, Joyce's Stephen Dedalus could opine that 'the shortest way to Tara is *via* Holyhead' while Frank O'Connor mused that 'an Irishman's private life begins at Holyhead'.

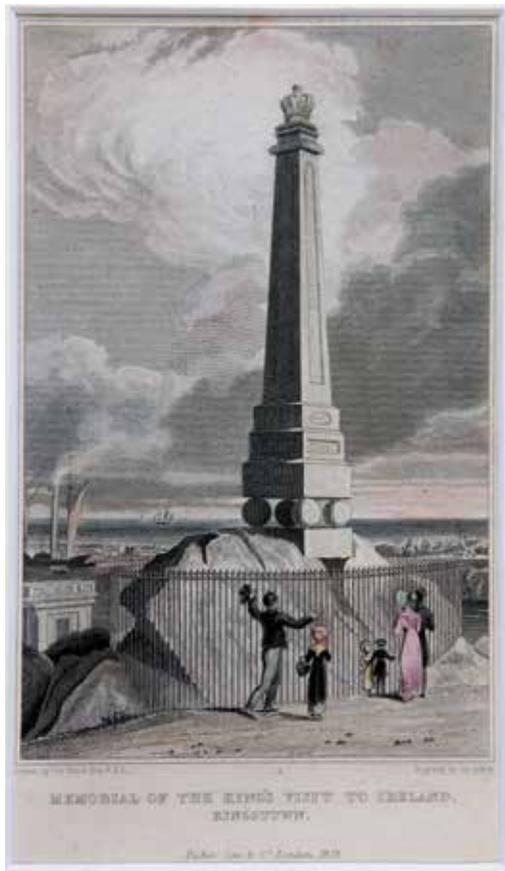
The introduction of steam on sea had been a key development. From May 1821, the steam ships the *Lightning* and the *Meteor* began to carry the mail between

⁷ Jonathan Swift, *Complete Poems*, ed Pat Rogers (New Haven, CT, 1983), 329-30 (ll. 1-12).

⁸ Jonathan Swift, *Correspondence*, ed Harold Williams (vol 4: 1732-1736; Oxford, 1965), 408. Swift died in 1745.

⁹ Gerald Griffin, *Tales of the Munster Festivals Containing, Card Drawing; The Half Sir; and Suil Dhuv, the Coiner* (3 vols; London, 1827), I: 347-68.

Kingstown (Dunleary [Dun Laoghaire] until the departure of George IV from the port in 1821 and later renamed as such by the Free State) and Holyhead. A journey from London to Dublin that could take up to four days before Telford's road made it a matter of some forty or so hours. Later, improvements in steam technology and new rail lines reduced the journey still further so that ten or twelve hours, with a four-hour sea crossing, came to seem normal. More broadly, these technological changes were part of the post-Union opening up of Ireland, which is also the fortification of Ireland: steamships berthed in new extended and recently fortified harbours to connect with a more extensive stage coach network, military roads and later rail links.



George Petrie, *Memorial of the King's Visit to Ireland, Kingstown*, engraving on paper, 15.5cm x 10cm. Crawford Art Gallery, Cork. 1

George IV's visit to Ireland in 1821, the second year of his reign, stands as a pivot point, with its traces preserved on both sides of the Sea. At Holyhead, the George IV Arch (also known as the Triumphal Arch or Admiralty Arch) was erected in 1822–3, at once marking the northern terminus of Telford's road as well as the recent visit of the king who had embarked from the Welsh port. George IV's arrival in Howth and subsequent departure from Kingstown were also recorded in both places: his tiny footsteps were chiselled in granite at Howth harbour while a memorial to his departure from Dun Laoghaire was erected in 1823. In William Thackeray's notorious description, the monument consisted of 'A hideous obelisk, stuck upon four fat balls, and surmounted with a crown on a cushion – the latter were no bad emblems perhaps of the monarch in whose honour they were raised'.¹⁰

¹⁰ William Thackeray, *The Irish Sketchbook* [1843] (Gloucester, 1990), 3.

Puking all over the ship

A painting, *George IV on board the Lightning, the first Post Office Steam Packet to Dublin, 12 August 1821* had been commissioned to mark the king's departure from Holyhead. The king had intended to travel on the royal yacht, the *Royal George*, only to meet bad weather and rough winds on the Welsh coast. And so he and his party transferred to the *Lightning*. Just right of the centre of the painting, the mail boat can be seen with Holyhead harbour and the height of Caer Gybi visible in the distance. The *Lightning* is shown in starboard broadside with smoke issuing from the funnel, illuminated by bright light, with the king and his group just visible on deck. The *Royal George* with its fluttering royal standard is visible to the left, flanked on the far left by the other steam-packet, the *Meteor*. Both the *Lightning* and the *Meteor* lie flat on the waves as if firmly quelling the sea's action, while the older ships are tossed up by the waves. The transition from sail and steam is strongly marked: the painting is framed by the image of a frigate in bow view, receding into darkness as it fires a farewell salute, signalling the end of an era.



William John Huggins, 'George IV on board the 'Lightning', the first Post Office Steam Packet to Dublin, 12 August 1821', oil on canvas, 940 mm x 1525 mm. National Maritime Museum, London, Caird Collection.

If the painting makes purposeful history of windy weather, its story rides roughly over the continuing realities of slow crossings in bad weather, which remained the experience of sea passengers throughout the age of steam. Daniel Maclise's evocative sketch of passengers aboard the ship *Severn* as it

makes its way from Cork to Bristol tells a different story. A familiar genre scene is transformed by Maclise's unusual choice of a shipboard location, while his attention to slumped bodies and hunched shoulders captures the passengers' plight.



Daniel Maclise RA, 'On board the Severn from Cork to Bristol', ca 1825–70.
Drawing, 14cm x 25cm. Victoria and Albert Museum. F.88:244.

Such a predicament was often described in travel writing. For instance, John Gamble, a retired army surgeon with literary ambitions, offers a vivid account of the bodily realities of travel in his *Sketches of History, Politics and Manners, Taken in Dublin and the North of Ireland, in the Autumn of 1810*. And he includes practical advice: 'I would recommend every person who goes to sea for the first time to keep upon deck as much as possible; it is the most effectual method of avoiding sickness, and if at length he is obliged to yield to it, the tone and refreshment which the pure and cold air has given him shortens in duration, and weakens in violence'. Failing that (surely familiar) protection, Gamble recommends that when 'a person is compelled by sea-sickness to quit the deck and betake himself to his berth, he should stretch himself as much at length as possible, with his head low and firmly pressed to the pillow, endeavouring to lose all motion of his own, and to accommodate himself to the ship's. Wine or spirits is bad; though, of the two, the latter diluted with water is preferable. The drink I would recommend is a highly-taken bottled porter, soda or seltzer water'. Lest there be any doubt of suffering from 'this nauseous disease', Gamble's list continues, finally ending with the suggestion of 'a small

opiate plaister, applied to the pit of the stomach', a precursor perhaps to modern motion sickness tablets.¹¹

Get some air, avoid alcohol, lie flat, take medicine – Gamble's advice seems evergreen, in spite of the latest improvements in travel. Prior to the advent of cheap air travel, rough crossings of the Irish Sea seemed both fated and inevitable, carrying with them the weight of history. Austin Clarke captures this process in oblique lines from his long autobiographical poem 'The Hippophagi': 'WeatherM reports / Lay bare our soul in ancient ports'.¹² That laying bare of the soul was to play a key part of the social history of twentieth-century Ireland. Edna O'Brien captures the impress of the journey over these rough waves when Cait and Baba set sail from Dublin to Liverpool at the end of her novel, *The Lonely Girl* (the second in *The Country Girls* trilogy, 1962, later filmed as *Girl with Green Eyes*). A pregnant friend asks Cait to send abortion pills from England, reminding readers of the many women in twentieth- and early twenty-first-century Ireland whose terminations were 'pushed out of sight on the Liverpool boat', as Mary Holland once remarked.¹³ As the two young women leave Ireland on board the *Hibernia*, the ship itself seems to share and embody their plight:

Baba waved a clean hanky, and we leaned on the rails and felt the ship move and saw the dirty water underneath being churned up.

'Like a hundred lavatories flushing', Baba said to the foamy water as the seagulls rose up from their various perches along the rails and flew, slowly, with us.

Further out to sea, Baba prepares for life in London by doling out seasickness tablets 'in case we puke all over the damn ship': 'If I'm sick, twill spoil everything, Baba said as she burped, and then put a hand towel over her new dress, for safety's sake'.¹⁴

The phenomenon of sea crossings is both public and private; it traversed centuries, countries and lives in diffuse, intricate patterns. Yet the crash of the rough waves of the Irish sea has been condensed and crystallised within compelling literary metaphors. In Elizabeth Bowen's *The Last September* (1929), Lois draws on the remembered miseries of the sea crossing as a kind of perverse resource to feed an 'inner blankness': 'She was lonely, and saw there was no future. She shut her eyes and tried – as sometimes when she was seasick, locked in misery between Holyhead and Kingstown – to be enclosed in a nonentity, in some ideal no-place, locked and clear as a bubble'.¹⁵ As the novel allows the past

¹¹ Breandán MacSuibhne (ed), *John Gamble, Society and Manners in Early Nineteenth-Century Ireland* (Dublin, 2011), 16-17.

¹² Austin Clarke, 'The Hippophagi', in *Collected Poems* (Manchester, 2008), 233-9.

¹³ Mary Holland, 'An Issue the Liverpool Boat Can't Carry Away', *Irish Times*, 25 June 1986; quoted in Lindsey Earner-Byrne and Diane Urquhart, *The Irish Abortion Journey* (Basingstoke, 2018), 80.

¹⁴ Edna O'Brien, *The Country Girls Trilogy, and Epilogue* (London, 1988), 374.

¹⁵ Elizabeth Bowen, *The Last September* (London, 2015), 89.

to invade the present via the intense image of a 'no-place' on board ship, *The Last September* reimagines strange memories of seasickness as a kind of negative freedom. As with Swift's suggestion of burial in Holyhead, Bowen finds in the sea's roughness a form of miserable release from both isolation and connection.

Discussing the idea of rough seas and turbulent crossings has meant thinking about rough waves that separate us and uncovering durable lines of connection. The Parnell Fellowship at Magdalene is a supreme example of the latter and it has been an enormous pleasure to be part of its steady course through Irish and British history. My warm gratitude to the Master and Fellows of Magdalene College and in particular to Professor Eamon Duffy.

CC



Holyhead and the Irish Sea

MARGARET, LADY BROOKE

RANEE OF SARAWAK



(Photo: Susannah Roberts)

Margaret, Lady Brooke, born a subject of Queen Victoria, became herself queen at age twenty. Bestowed the title Ranee, derived from the Sanskrit word for queen, Margaret reigned over the kingdom of Sarawak as Queen Consort alongside her husband, the Rajah, for more than fifty years in the late nineteenth century.

This portrait of Margaret was painted by Barbara Sotheby¹ thirty years into Margaret's reign, offering a glimpse of a bizarre and uncomfortable aspect of British imperial history. The so-called White Rajahs of Sarawak, three generations of one English family, imposed absolute rule over a kingdom on the northwest coast of Borneo from 1841. The third and last ruler, Charles Vyner Brooke,

¹ Unfortunately, little is known about Barbara Sotheby née Leighton (1870–1952), the daughter of Sir Baldwin Leighton. A photographer and a painter, E B Sotheby is known for a portrait of Edward Burne-Jones at work. She seems to have been skilled in a variety of artistic mediums, as she also designed the Art Nouveau stained glass window of the Leighton family chapel near Shrewsbury.

matriculated as an undergraduate at Magdalene in 1894. From their kingdom in modern-day Malaysia, the Brooke family exploited the island's natural resources, including rubber, and enforced a governance emphasizing the personal nature of their authority over a region dominated by the Malays, the Dyaks, and the Ibans. Indigenous officers were incorporated into the Sarawak government but this was chimerical: real authority was retained by the Brookes and their cronies.

The dynasty began with James Brooke (1803–68), an ambitious middle-class English adventurer who accepted power over the Sarawak river area from the Sultan of Brunei after suppressing an 1839 regional rebellion of Malay chiefs. The length and extent of this control was originally undefined however, and James only cemented the title of Rajah in perpetuity in 1846 after a public display of support from the British Navy. The Brookes set an undesirable precedent of the transformation of British subjects into colonial sovereigns. The British government now held some responsibility to protect not only the commercial prerogatives of British citizens abroad, but their potentially-contentious political interests as well. This relation between monarchs, both British, was a recurring question throughout the Brooke family's rule.

As the first Rajah of Sarawak, James designed the foundation for his 'kingdom', protecting trade and consolidating authority by giving Malay chiefs administrative jurisdiction while limiting their power. In her memoirs, Margaret, Lady Brooke even dared to declare that the native peoples, in their own interest, *selected* James Brooke as ruler, as they 'insisted on Sarawak being independent of the Sultan's and his emissaries' authority, and chose Brooke as their own Rajah, thus regaining their former independence'. As the first Rajah advanced his administration he focused on the modification of indigenous custom rather than full displacement, a political model followed by his successors.

Unmarried and without legitimate children, James Brooke named his nephew Charles as his successor. Charles Brooke (1829–1917), raised in England, entered the Sarawak Administrative Service in 1852 and became Rajah following the death of his uncle in 1868. In 1869, only a few months into his reign, Charles returned to England deliberately to acquire a bride: the subject of the portrait.

Margaret Alice Lili de Windt (1849–1936) was a traveller from an early age, spending early childhood moving between her family's French chateau and residences around Britain. When Charles Brooke, the new Rajah of Sarawak, arrived at her family's English home, it first appeared he had come to court Margaret's widowed mother, Lily Willes Johnson. Although Charles stayed with her family for several months, Margaret remembers that he seemed more interested in athletic pursuits than conversation with the women of the family. Then, during a holiday in Innsbruck, Charles rose early and slipped Margaret a poem while she was at the piano: 'With a humble demean / If the King were to pray / That You'd be his Queen, / Would not you say Nay?'² Motivated by a keen

² Margaret, Lady Brooke, *Good Morning and Good Night* (London, 1934), 24.

interest in distant and alluring Sarawak, Margaret acquiesced and the two were married in late 1869. She was twenty years old. He was twice her age.

The portrait of Margaret held in the College collection underscores her enthusiastic, but naïve, and many might say offensive, embrace of local tradition upon arrival in Sarawak within the year. To her credit, Margaret avoided the familiar company of the British wives of white administrators. Instead, she sought out those whom she regarded as her 'subjects'. In her later memoirs, *Good Morning and Good Night*, Margaret pronounces that '[The Rajah's'] people were my people, and indeed I loved them from the first'.³ In the early years of their marriage Margaret often accompanied Charles into the territories of various ethnic groups, seeming to take sincere pleasure at meeting inhabitants and building up an atmosphere of general good-will. However misplaced, Margaret's own admiration of local culture is reflected in this portrait, as she wears a *tudung keringkam* headscarf with gold thread embroidery, traditional of Sarawak Malays. Margaret recalls in her memoirs how she took to local dress because of her desire to fit in with Malay friends, but moreover for the practicality of loose clothing in a humid climate. Sporting a traditional *sungkit* skirt and embroidered jacket, here she holds back her headscarf in an exoticizing gesture accentuating both her far-off gaze and the wedding ring that legitimizes her position as Raneé.

Margaret's affectation of local clothing is certainly unusual not only among British women in Sarawak, but across the empire. British administrators and their families routinely performed their Englishness in their imperial clothing while interacting with locals. The wearing of Indian dress by members of the East India Company was even officially banned in 1830. Maintaining differences through dress allowed a physical distancing from subjects. As Aldous Huxley observed in a 1930s visit to India that:

From the Viceroy to the young clerk who, at home, consumes high tea at sunset, every Englishman in India solemnly dresses. It is as though the integrity of the British Empire depended in some directly magical way upon the donning of black jackets and hard-boiled shirts... Women, robed in the latest French creations from Stratfordatte-Bowe, toy with the tinned fish, while the mosquitoes dine off their bare arms and necks. It is magnificent.⁴

Clothing held the substance of authority, and for her at least, Margaret's adoption of Malay attire denoted a step away from a defined set of British social values and codes of conduct. Rather, Margaret sought to underscore her royal authority to her 'subjects' through the adoption of aristocratic local dress.

³ *Ibid.*, 49.

⁴ Aldous Huxley, *Jesting Pilate: The Diary of a Journey* (London, 1926). 143.

Fast friends with the Malay women in her court, Margaret aspired to learn their language. When in the course of her studies Margaret found that her female companions were illiterate, she insisted that all should learn together. In her memoirs Margaret recalls how she addressed the delicate cultural issue of a male teacher by acting as intermediary instructor herself, pronouncing that ‘as Malay women are not supposed to meet with men other than their husbands or near relations, I arranged that Inchi Sawal should teach me and that I should pass on his teachings to my friends’.⁵ Margaret emphasizes how she facilitated the education of her Malay companions while considering their cultural customs: an indulgence that also, of course, supported her family’s ruling authority. Margaret reports that her educational endeavours interested the Rajah and he soon founded the first of numerous Sarawak schools in which Malay and Chinese students were taught in their native languages; whether these schools were open to women is unclear however.

The demands of administration and the scourge of malaria led Margaret and Charles to return to England for a visit with their three children in 1873. This return proved devastating however, as all three children perished en-route. While on rest in the UK Margaret gave birth to the heir and eventual third White Rajah, Charles Vyner Brooke, in 1874. Despite the ill-health that had drawn her home, Margaret dreamed of her kingdom: ‘when I remember Sarawak, its remoteness, the dreamy loveliness of its landscape, the childlike confidence its people have in their rulers, I long to take the first ship back to it, never to leave it again’.⁶ Margaret’s mention of a ‘childlike confidence’ exposes a superficial understanding of relations between people and rulers. Her recollections of her extensive travels and her Malay companions also suggest that she held an unusually prominent role and an authority that she missed upon her English homecoming.

Margaret’s romanticized recollections appear in two volumes of memoirs, each of more than 300 pages: the first volume, *My Life in Sarawak*, written in 1913, while an edited and updated version was published as *Good Morning and Good Night* two years before her death. Margaret’s time in Sarawak dominates these accounts, which otherwise mention only briefly her decades in England.⁷

Margaret reflects on her time in England through her social circle. She counted author Henry James, painter Dorothy Brett and the Princess of Monaco among her close friends. Margaret entertained herself in society without her husband. Sylvia Brett, the eventual wife of Margaret’s son Vyner, recalls in her own memoirs how Margaret contrived to found an orchestra among the

⁵ *Good Morning and Good Night*, 104.

⁶ Margaret, Lady Brooke, *My Life in Sarawak* (London, 1913), 1.

⁷ The first two hundred pages of *My Life in Sarawak* focus on Margaret’s few years in her kingdom in the 1870s, while the last one hundred both continue to refer back to Sarawak and also rush through forty years predominantly in England.

elite young ladies of London, using rehearsals as an excuse to parade potential marriage prospects past her sons.⁸ Indeed, Margaret's memoirs of this time read as a procession of notable friends and witty exchanges, her husband scarcely present as royal duties called him abroad and his interest in hunting occupied him when home.

In England, Margaret felt her royal status ill-defined. Her 'society friends... acknowledged quite frankly that they did not know what to do about me regarding my precedence at dinner-parties'. Moreover, the Rajah felt slighted in correspondence with the Lord Chamberlain when he was refused entry to a royal levée and addressed dismissively as 'Mr. C. Brooke'. Margaret endeavoured to improve 'royal relations' between Sarawak and the British monarchs through her wide circle of influential friends. Eventually, her friend Sir Frederick Ponsonby convinced Edward VII that Charles should hold the status of 'Ruler of an Independent State under British protection', ensuring that in the future the Rajah would be received in Court as 'His Highness'. In recounting this story in her memoirs, Margaret underscores her own social authority beyond the crown, holding her feminine power in 'persuasion, kind words and often very good advice'.

Margaret and Charles seem to have had an at-times estranged relationship, reported in a surprisingly frank discussion of their marriage in Margaret's 1934 memoirs.

Sarawak was his whole life, it had claimed him heart and soul. It was not to be expected, therefore, that I, an inexperienced girl of twenty, could interest him greatly or evoke from him any great demonstrations of romantic attachment...I honoured my great man for his efforts for Sarawak, and... I soon realized how unreasonable it was to expect great rulers to be 'family-men' as well.⁹

Despite this occasional distance, the two were unified in their respect and enthusiasm for Sarawak, travelling broadly together throughout the province early in their marriage. Moreover, although the royal couple lived apart for more than half of their married life, Lady Brooke's influence in Sarawak carried on beyond her reign as the family dynasty continued by her son Vyner.

The last White Rajah of Sarawak, Charles Vyner Brooke, saw his future kingdom on a few childhood visits but otherwise grew up with his mother in England: Winchester-educated, he matriculated at Magdalene in Easter 1894. Following his time at Magdalene, Vyner joined his father and entered the Sarawak Service at age 23. When Margaret, Lady Brooke was widowed in 1917, Vyner became the last White Rajah of Sarawak. More hands-off than his father,

⁸ Sylvia, Lady Brooke, *Queen of the Head-hunters* (London, 1970), 28.

⁹ *Good Morning and Good Night*, ix - x.

Vyner nonetheless (or perhaps as a result) led a relatively popular regime until the Japanese invasion in 1941. Following liberation in August 1945, Vyner found a kingdom in need of more reconstruction than he felt prepared to support, and despite strong local opposition he ceded Sarawak formally to the British. Sarawak became Britain's last colonial acquisition in 1946.

Lady Margaret Brooke died at age 86 in 1936, forty years after her last visit to Sarawak and only ten years before the rule of the White Rajahs came to an end. Pre-dating her lengthier written endeavours, Margaret's pen left a mark on Sarawak history. In 1872, she composed the lyrics of the kingdom's anthem, 'Gone Forth Beyond the Seas'. A copy is held in the Magdalene Archives. Her imperialist hymn, asking for divine sanction for the rule of the Brookes, reflects the same sort of passion for the land and people of Sarawak embodied in the Sotheby portrait of a devoted queen.

Tho' danger may encroach, / and envious tongues draw near, / such evils will
approach / to threaten thy career.

Stand fast and only heed, / those calls beyond the sea, / shall always help in
need, and ever pray for thee.

Tho' past and gone in light, / thy name is still renown'd, / and as Chief in
might, / thy deeds are ever crown'd

Let echoing vales redound, / by mountain, crag and nook, / sing loud with
joyous sound, / God bless the Rajah Brooke!

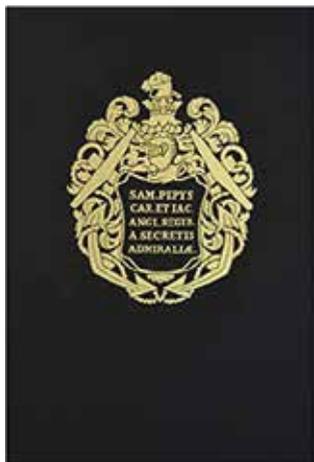
Susannah Roberts
(Accommodation Coordinator)



*Kuching, Sarawak (photo: Matt Moon)
This painting hangs in the Brooke Gallery in the College Library.*

BOOK REVIEWS

C S KNIGHTON (ed), *Catalogue of the Pepys Library at Magdalene College: Cambridge: Supplementary Series II. Collections 1* (Boydell & Brewer, 2018, 525pp)



More than forty years ago Robert Latham, as Pepys Librarian, commenced a project to catalogue the great library of Samuel Pepys at Magdalene. This volume is the ninth to be published and is the second in the Supplementary Series which was begun in 2004 by Latham's successor, Richard Lockett, at the suggestion of Dr Charles Knighton, now Principal Assistant Keeper of Archives at Clifton College, Bristol, and a widely published authority on Pepys. With the active encouragement of the current Pepys Librarian, Dr Jane Hughes, Charles Knighton continues a distinguished series with a publication that is indispensable to the fuller understanding of Pepys's extraordinary collection.

Before this modern undertaking, the only general catalogue was that made by John Jackson, in two volumes, under his uncle Pepys's direction. This consists of an alphabetical index with both class and subject catalogues, with the books numbered from 1 (the smallest) to 3,000 (the largest). Nonetheless, Pepys's books have been catalogued in other ways and on many occasions during his lifetime and in the centuries since. Pepys attended closely to the arrangement of his books, as he pondered the range of his acquisitions, adding new titles and disposing of others. He was greatly concerned to catalogue his collection, renumbering many of his prized volumes when he moved them between shelves. His bookcases protected books arranged by size, but the size, appearance and, crucially, the original cataloguing, of many volumes disguised their construction: many volumes contain dozens of small pamphlets and printed items, gathered together under a generic title given to them by their proud collector.

The cataloguing of these miscellaneous works has been the task of the Supplementary Series of the modern catalogue to the Pepys collection. This new Catalogue volume contains three sections: Maritime, comprising the four Pepysian volumes of Sea Tracts and one of Naval Pamphlets; Religious, comprising the eight volumes of Sermons Polemical, the three of Liturgick Controversies, one of Sermons on the Death of Queen Mary, and the ten of Convocation Pamphlets; and finally Political, comprising a volume of Parliamentary Votes and Papers, and seven of Narratives and Tryals. Each separately bound volume of pamphlets has its own original catalogue number, with a number in brackets

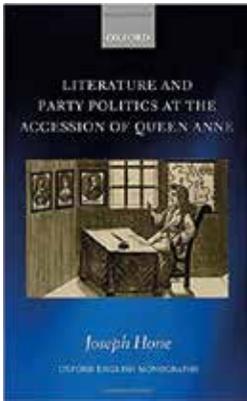
after it, representing the position of the pamphlet in the volume. So, for example, the four volumes which Pepys named Sea Tracts are classmarks 1077, 1078, 1079 and 1080, and although all the separate pamphlets within these volumes are already briefly listed in the Pepys printed books catalogue and its census volume, this new Collections volume describes them in far greater detail. Moreover, each section is prefaced by a marvellously informative account of the scope and history of the constituent items, and a guide is given to their original numbering and collecting history (as well as fascinating attendant information). Each entry for the individual tracts and pamphlets is a model of bibliographical detail and concision. Among many corrections to existing descriptions of the material are telling reproaches to modern revisions to older and more accurate scholarship. The catalogue is also beautifully illustrated, with numerous reproductions of prints found within the Pepys collection, the majority drawn from Pepys's albums of engraved 'heads'.

If I were to single out one part of the Catalogue for special attention, it would be that devoted to the many volumes of Sermons Polemical. Within these are 172 pieces by 129 individuals. During the eighteenth century many guides to book collecting and library associations urged the avoidance of works of 'polemical divinity,' but in this earlier age, Pepys seems to have revelled in it. Most of the sermons he bought reflected the religious and indeed political upheaval of his childhood, and most were preached before parliament in the 1640s. As with other sections, the entries for the sermons highlight numerous bibliographical puzzles for those who wish to follow the trail, and a fascinating side-line is the relationship between the 'pirate trade' in sermon publication and the use and development of shorthand. As Knighton writes in the introduction to the Religious section, we can too easily misunderstand or even overlook Pepys's interest in sermons and his criticism of them. Partly this is because his diary mentions sermons he heard – and the many through which he slept – but rarely offers much commentary upon them. Most reflections occur in the early 1660s, when, as Knighton muses, 'the earnestness of youth was still with him' but Pepys's comments are often opaque. An exception came with his censure of James Duport, later to be Master of Magdalene, who gave 'the most flat, dead sermon, both for matter and manner of delivery, that I ever heard'.

Those interested in Pepys and his collection will be hugely indebted to Dr Knighton. These days, most new catalogues are digital and available online. While this enables searching opportunities beyond the traditionally printed catalogue, a searching session in front of the screen can often be a soulless exercise, and one usually unaccompanied by any detailed explanatory guide to the collection under review. Not so with this sumptuous volume, elegantly conceived and printed, faithfully matching others in the series, and continuing the series' extremely high standards of scholarship, presentation and display.

J R R

JOSEPH HONE, *Literature and Party Politics at the Accession of Queen Anne* (Oxford University Press, 2017, 222 pp)



Before Olivia Colman’s Oscar-winning portrayal in *The Favourite*, few of us knew very much at all about the exceptional life of Queen Anne. Crowned Queen of England, Scotland and Ireland in 1702, Anne had, by the time of her death in 1714, overseen England’s role in the War of the Spanish Succession, the crystallisation of a two-party political system, and, upon the Acts of Union in 1706–7, the birth of Great Britain itself. The niece of Charles II, and daughter of James II, she was to be the last monarch in the Stuart line, having endured at least twelve failed pregnancies, and suffered the loss of five children in infancy or later childhood.

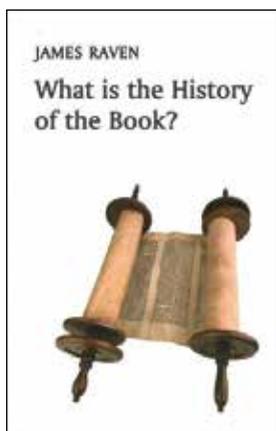
Thanks to *The Favourite*, the pomp and pain of Anne’s existence have become part of the bloodstream of popular knowledge, but those more interested in factual rather than fictionalised accounts of the significance of Anne’s reign might prefer to turn to Joseph Hone rather than Olivia Colman. Hone’s wonderful (and rather prescient) first book, *Literature and Party Politics at the Accession of Queen Anne*, was published in 2017 but can now be read amongst a renewed public as well as academic interest in his subject. The book offers a rigorous yet lucid account of the first year of Anne’s reign, its five main chapters exploring, in turn: the aftermath of William III’s death; Anne’s coronation; her first Royal Progress; the early moments of the War of the Spanish Succession; and the general elections that followed Anne’s accession. The overarching argument is that Anne’s accession was not, contrary to most scholarly opinion, without controversy. Historians who come to this conclusion, Hone suggests, have neglected the extraordinary wealth of literary documents from the period – poems, polemics, sermons, histories, newspapers, entertainments, correspondence – which prove otherwise. *Literature and Party Politics* is, then, a book in which literary texts are put to the practical service of historical analysis. Chapter 1, for instance, uses the elegies and mock-elegies written for William III as sources with which to understand the polemical positions of various political factions. The pamphlets, broadsides and panegyrics written for Anne’s coronation afford a similar opportunity to understand popular perceptions of the new queen in Chapter 2.

But Hone’s book is also one within which historical analysis deftly illuminates literary texts. In this respect, Hone places himself among other scholar-critics such as J G A Pocock, Quentin Skinner and Kevin Sharpe. The most prominent literary figure discussed by Hone is Daniel Defoe (Chapter 4 considers *The Spanish Descent* within the context of Whig satire, whilst Chapter 5 offers a detailed dissection of

The Shortest-Way with the Dissenters, which Hone places very productively alongside Edward Hyde, 1st Earl of Clarendon's *The History of the Rebellion*), but other writers discussed are rich and numerous: Alexander Pope, Joseph Addison, Nahum Tate, John Tutchin, William Pittis, John Dennis, Charles Leslie. This is not even to mention the abundance of anonymous and pseudonymous material Hone must have toiled hard to dig up from various archive libraries across the world. Indeed, the strength of Hone's book relies partially in its ability to offer fresh insights into well-known writers at the same time as making a serious case for the quality of many lesser known and unknown texts. But this is only one of a multitude of strengths. Hone's own prose is always eloquent, yet easily accessible; its clarity manages to avoid reducing the complexity of his analysis and argumentation. His conclusion that English literature in the age of Queen Anne is uniquely contingent on royal succession is convincing, and should command enduring influence. *Literature and Party Politics* is a fantastic achievement of both historical scholarship and literary criticism. If only Oscars were available for such pursuits.

JJ

JAMES RAVEN, *What is the History of the Book?* (Polity Press, 2018, x + 191 pp)



Writing a history of the book is not like writing a history of the tobacco pipe or the landscape garden. For, as John Milton famously wrote, 'books are not absolutely dead things, but do contain a potency of life in them to be as active as that soul was whose progeny they are'. To write a history of the book not only means dealing with matters of print and paper and palaeography, but also wading into the histories of knowledge, of memory, of information, of communication, of imagination—indeed, of history itself. It requires asking questions about the 'dead' forms of physical pages and bindings without forgetting the 'potency of life' which can lurk within.

James Raven's new title, *What is the History of the Book?*, documents how generations of scholars have squared up to this challenge and suggests some new ways forward. In its erudition, ambition, and chronological, geographical, and disciplinary scope, this is a remarkable work. Raven's previous books can hardly be accused of being narrow in focus, having covered the rise of the British book trade from the introduction of printing to Westminster by William Caxton in 1476 through into the nineteenth century. A good many careers have been devoted to a good deal less. And yet the coverage of this latest book is on a different scale. Over the course of six brisk, energetic chapters we learn about notched bone plaques from the Palaeolithic era; about

inscribed tortoise shells from ancient China; about Sumerian clay tablets from five-thousand years ago; about rolled bamboo books and papyrus scrolls; about finely illustrated manuscripts, painstakingly copied onto vellum; about the skilled processes of handpress printing; about the possibilities and potential futures of e-books and Google. We learn about Aztec books, Korean books, Indian books, American books, and African books, about handwritten books, printed books, and digital books. *What is the History of the Book?* is no parochial work of antiquarian bibliographical scholarship.

Nor is it strictly a guide for the cognoscenti. Raven writes in lucid, concise, clear prose. He provides some sense of just what exactly book historians *do* and why they do it. The first half of the book surveys some of the formative activities of book historians, particularly the compilation of catalogues and other bibliographical resources over the past century. While these resources have spurred on scholarship in the field, Raven argues, their limitations have also hampered generations of historians from exploring the global impact of books. Equally, contextual factors of censorship, economics, copyright, and technology have historically been of less importance to bibliographers than seemingly arcane details such as watermarks and typefaces and ink. Here they are brought to the fore. It is Raven's chief strength that he can see both wood and trees, both the place of the book in broad historical context and the significance of books as particular historical artefacts.

It therefore comes as no surprise that perhaps the most exciting chapter covers reading and historical practices of reading, an activity which is central to understanding the history of books and yet which is also 'the most significant and challenging dimension' of their study. Readers leave few records and those exceptions who do, offer little insight into the habits of more typical readers. Studying a book with an eye to making notes or learning discrete gobbets of information is unlike reading for pleasure or entertainment. And the same book can be read in very different ways by different readers. Even a single, specific individual can approach a single, specific book in multiple ways: a literature student scribbling notes in the margin of a novel during term time is doing something different from reading that same novel on the beach during vacation, or from reading aloud among friends. Despite these challenges, Raven indicates some possible solutions: using library records, for instance, alongside marginalia, diaries, letters, the spaces in which people read, and the furniture, shelves, and stands they used.

Covering such vast territory in under two-hundred pages, there are bound to be one or two casualties. Readers seeking a more detailed narrative history of books and the book trade in Britain will undoubtedly find Raven's *The Business of Books* (2007) more to their liking. In many ways, this is a more reflective and more probing work, aimed at anybody interested in the book as a form, what it means, and how we might go about studying it.

J H

EVA-MARIA THÜNE, *Gerettet: Berichte von Kindertransport und Auswanderung nach Großbritannien* (Hentrich & Hentrich, 2019, 272 pp)



As the author describes on the accompanying website, her book is a collection of ‘Stimmen’, or ‘voices’. The act of listening to thirty-five survivors of the Shoa and transcribing their memories is the backbone of the project. The concept of ‘the voice’ here has three functions. First, using interviews serves to capture verbal first-hand descriptions. Second, it encourages us to listen critically to the *language* the interviewees use, and third, it serves to further the author’s mission of giving a voice to these individual experiences of trauma – but also of pleasure and joy.

Who are the interviewees? Most of them are ‘Kinder’, Jewish children who escaped from the Nazis on the Kindertransports in 1938 and 1939, leaving their former lives and families in Germany, Austria, Poland and Czechoslovakia to start new lives in Great Britain. Thüne’s interest is shaped by two main goals: first, her linguistic interest in finding out about language as a shaper of experience and identity informs questions such as how much passive and active knowledge of German is still detectable in native speakers who experienced trauma. At which points do the interviewees switch from German to English and back again? Which language do they use to describe different parts of their biographies? Second, it is the author’s explicit aim to compile narratives about this time in history for German-speaking readers. Other compilations of interviews with Shoa survivors exist but they are mostly in English.

For contemporary German-speaking readers and their children, this book fulfils a need. However, this book is a must-read for anybody with an interest in human nature and its powers of perseverance – the accounts are often moving, at times funny and always memorable. The transcriptions of the many hours of interview material is edited in such a way that we understand the individual trauma as part of a larger context. The book does not simply follow one individual’s biography. This helps to avoid the risk of depicting the Kinder as victims only. Rather, the gathered material is grouped in thematic chapters. We read about home life, the journey, and life in Great Britain. We also hear about positive memories among the trauma and it is here that we also see the speakers’ sense of humour.

In the introduction, Thüne gives the reader sufficient information about other studies to enable anyone who so wishes to find out more. She then

hands us over to the voices of her interviewees. This is like a carefully edited documentary in which the talking heads are given space to speak for themselves while an experienced editor has cut and edited the material in such a way that we appreciate the common narrative features without losing the sense that these are individual biographies.

One of several common threads is that of the treatment of refugees. In times when migration as a phenomenon is politicised so as to scare and manipulate, remembering the Kindertransport seems essential, not only for German-speaking readers. When Thüne presented the book to a full Benson Hall as a Visiting Fellow in the Lent Term 2019, it was very impressive and moving to have one of the 'Kinder' in the audience to attest to that fact. *Gerettet* deserves a readership as large as possible.

S C M



Summer display in First Court

