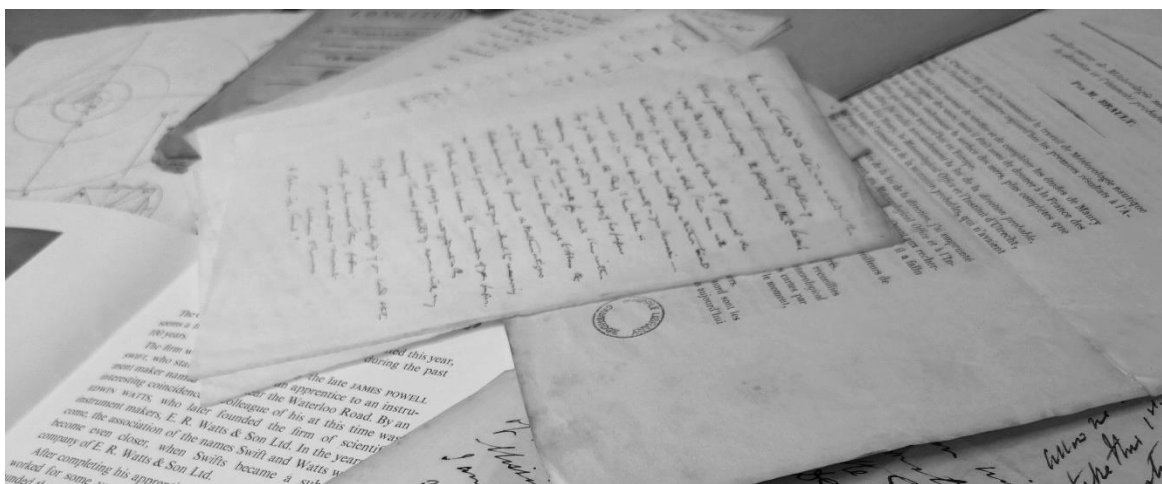


Annual Report

2018-19



Overview:

The year of 2018-19 has been full of happenings, some anticipated, some of a more surprising nature. Dawn Kingham left us in November on maternity leave, and we were delighted to hear of the arrival of Sam Glenn Kingham in the early hours of 10/12/2019. Sam and the rest of the family are doing well, and we look forward to welcoming Dawn back to the team later this year.

To assist during Dawn's absence we were happy to welcome Francesco Mannu to the Whipple Library team, on a year-long Secondment from his regular role at the University Library. Francesco comes to us via the Engineering Faculty Library, and has a wealth of experience working in Rare Books and Manuscripts at the UL.

We also welcomed some new faces to our invigilation team, and Rebecca Charbonneau and Victor Parchment joined returning invigilators Meira Gold and Annie Thwaite, providing staffing during late opening hours in Term time throughout the year. In August we said goodbye to Meira, as she left to take up a Max Weber Postdoctoral Fellowship in the Department of History and Civilization at the European University Institute in Florence. During this one-year postdoc Meira will finish her dissertation and write an article on 'long-distance archaeology.'

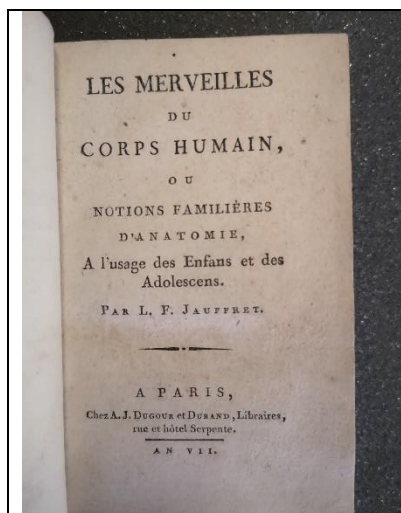
During its second year the Library Management System (known as Alma) has bedded in well, benefiting from numerous behind the scenes and under the hood improvements in workflows and processes. Perhaps the change that most library users will notice is that, from August 2019, books borrowed from all Affiliated Libraries will auto-renew. In practice, what this means is that users should monitor their library accounts carefully and pay particular attention to recall notices.

We suffered from two water ingress events this year, one major, one minor. During a flash downpour, the drainage of the Old Library's flat roof was overwhelmed and water began to enter through a skylight at an alarming rate. Thanks to the swift and prompt action of readers in alerting staff to the issue, and everyone pitching in to assist with removing book stock from the affected area, we are very pleased to report that only one book was water damaged enough that it had to be removed from stock and replaced. The other slight leak occurred in the roof of the Heycock Wing and has been contained and rectified. We will have the paint and plaster stripped off an area of the

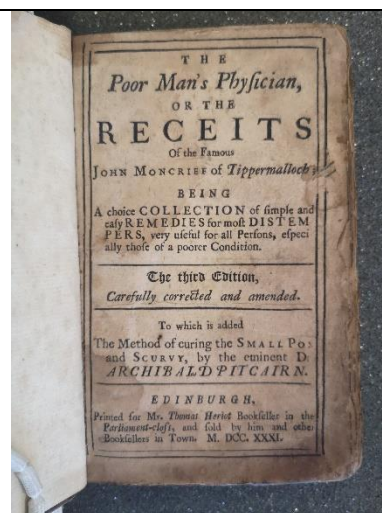
Heycock Wing for the entirety of 2019-2020 to enable it to fully dry before it is re-plastered and repainted.

Collections

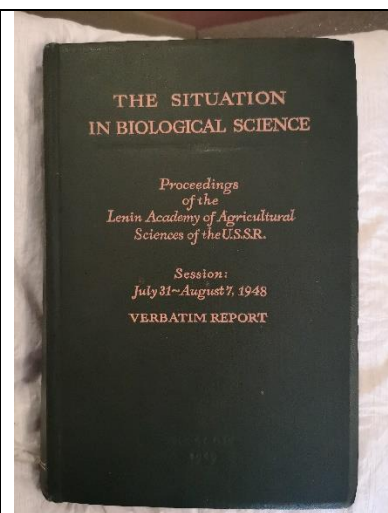
The collection has continued to expand this year as we have continued to ensure necessary reading list materials arrive on time, and to satisfy the vast majority of requests for research materials too. 431 physical items and 22 ebooks added to the working collection. We have also acquired through donation and purchase several new items for the Special Collection over the course of the year. Though not all catalogued yet, they are:



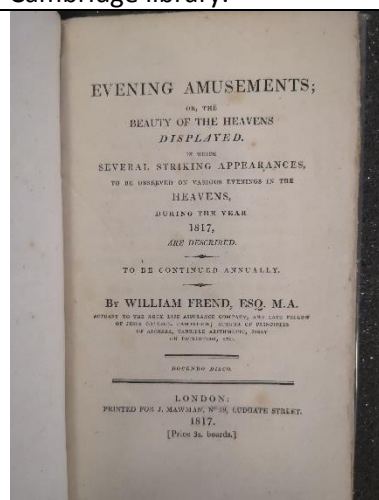
Les Merveilles du Corps Humain, ou Notions Familieres d'anatomie, A l'usage des Enfants et des Adolescents. L.F. Jaufferet. Paris, An VII (1799). No other copy held in a Cambridge library.



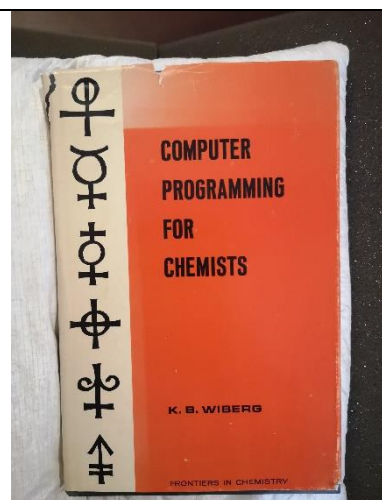
The Poor Man's Physician or the Receipts of the Famous John Moncrief of Tippermalloch... London, 1731. Only copy held in a Cambridge library



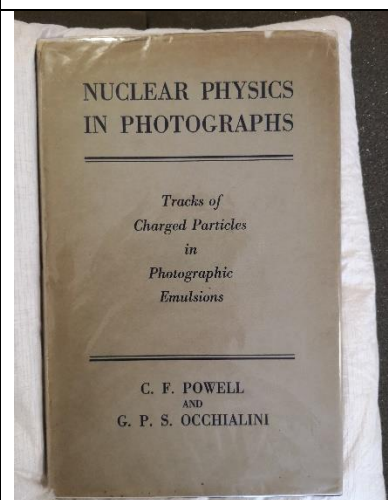
The Situation in Biological Science: Proceedings of the Lenin Academy of Agricultural Sciences of the U.S.S.R. Session: July 31 – August 7, 1948. Donation



Evening Amusements; or, The Beauty of the Heavens Displayed... William Friend, London 1817. Supplementing our 1805 copy.



Computer Programming for Chemists. K. B. Wiberg. W.A. Benjamin, Inc. New York. 1965. Only copy held in a Cambridge library. Donation.



Nuclear Physics in Photographs. Tracks of Charged Particles in Photographic Emulsions. C.F. powell and G.P.S. Occhialini.

Staffing

Library staff:

Whipple Librarian: Jack Dixon

Library Assistants: Dawn Kingham, James Livesey, Francesco Mannu.

Invigilators: Rebecca Charbonneau, Meira Gold, Aga Lanucha, Victor Parchment, Annie Thwaite.

Training & professional development

All staff have undergone continuing training and professional development throughout the year. Both James and Francesco undertook a three-day Cataloguing course at the University Library, which has enhanced and expanded their abilities in cataloguing both monographs and periodicals in MARC 21 using the RDA language to conform to the Cambridge Cataloguing Standard. This is a very intensive course and definitely not for the faint-hearted. Francesco also took a course in English Sign Language, while James took courses in mental health first aid, the future of Falcon (our website Content Management System) and minute taking. He also proved his skills with an extinguisher and some hi-vis by becoming a Fire Marshal. Jack qualified as a First Aider in December, joined the newly formed University Libraries Staff engagement Group, attended training on GDPR for librarians, and attended staff development and review training. He attended a two-day 'Book Historians' Toolkit' course at the UL, which has proven very useful while cataloguing older material, particularly when deciphering armorial bookplates.

User Education

Induction Tours

This year we offered induction tours on a drop in basis throughout the first two weeks of Michaelmas term, and these were well-attended. Jack was also very kindly permitted to gate-crash the end of the very first HPS Part 1b lecture of term in order to persuade (with cake) the Part 1b students to come and register at the library, and to raise awareness of the term time late opening. Visiting Scholars were all offered one to one tours if they had not visited the department before.



There was occasional morale boosting cake on offer throughout Exam term (and whenever else we felt like it).

Outreach and Public Events.



PhD candidates Karollina Pulkkinen and Meira Gold put the finishing touches to their respective displays on installation day.

Displays:

Two displays were curated throughout the academic year, both by current PhD students. In Michaelmas Term, Karoliina Pulkkinen kick-started the Year of the Periodic Table by putting together a fascinating display entitled *Curating the Chemical Elements: Julius Lothar Meyer's Periodic Systems*.

**Curating the
Chemical Elements:
Julius Lothar Meyer's Periodic Systems**

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE
UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE
Whiffle

Exhibition by Karoliina Pulkkinen
PhD student

The year 2019 marks 150 years from Dmitrii Ivanovich Mendeleev's discovery of the periodic system of chemical elements. However, Mendeleev was not alone in discovering the system. In 1862-1870, seven chemists created systems that historians recognise as the "precursors" for the periodic table we have today. One of them was Julius Lothar Meyer (1830-1895). Both Meyer and Mendeleev were awarded the Davy Medal for their discovery of the "periodic relations of the atomic weights" by the Royal Society of London awarded in 1882.

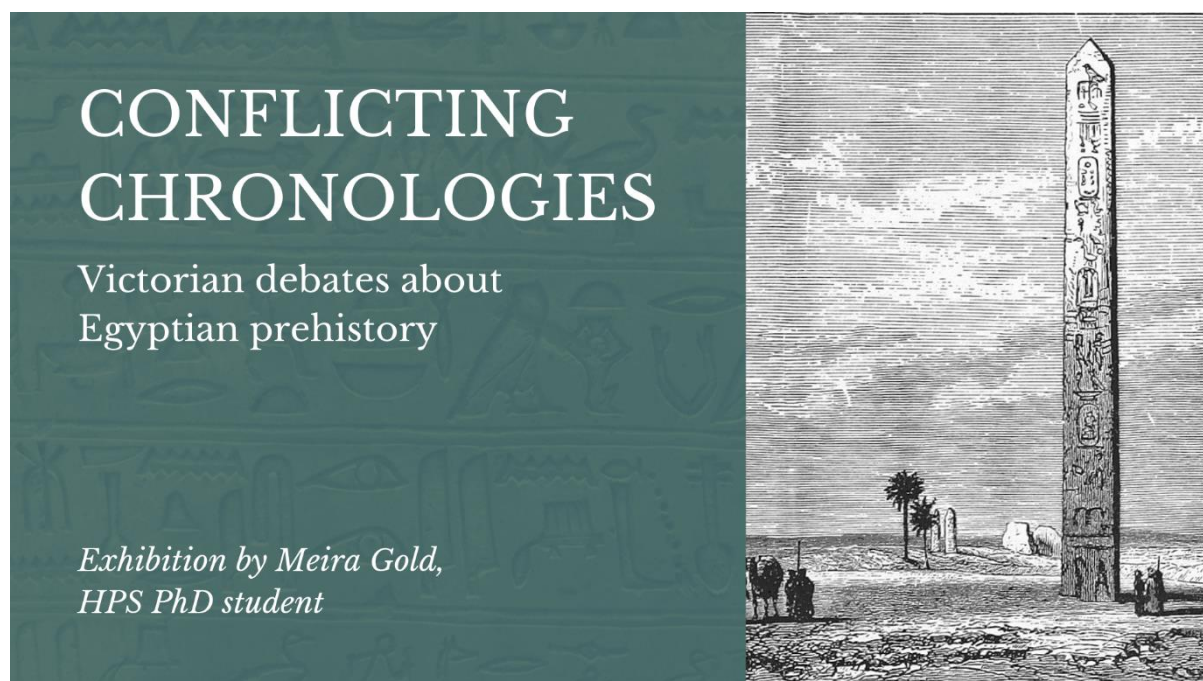
Meyer is known for his textbook *Die modernen Theorien der Chemie*. In the book, Meyer argued that theories and hypotheses were helpful aids in chemical investigations. Such an argument was quite bold, as chemistry was marked by its empiricism in the 19th century. Apart from the textbook, Meyer is also known for his graphic curve that shows the periodic relationship between atomic volumes and atomic weights. The curve is perhaps the most vivid early illustrations of the periodicity of the chemical elements.

The Virtual Exhibition can be seen below:

<https://www.whipplelib.hps.cam.ac.uk/special/exhibitions-and-displays/curating-chemical-elements/curating-chemical-elements>

We would particularly like to extend our thanks to colleagues in the Chemistry Library for the loan of the very scarce F. Wöhler, J. Liebig, & H. Kopp (Eds.), *Annalen der Chemie und Pharmacie*, VII. *Supplementband*, and also to colleagues in Conservation at the UL who carried out conservation and repair work on this volume, and also constructed a beautiful custom display stand, allowing us to exhibit a very fragile fold out opening.

Our second exhibition of the year was curated by Meira Gold, and was titled *Conflicting Chronologies: Victorian debates about Egyptian prehistory*.



The deep human past was a key arena for Victorian intellectual controversy. Were humans older than the biblical tradition of 6,000 years? Where had we come from? Were we one or many species? Above all, who had the expertise to provide authoritative chronologies? The term 'prehistory' first appeared in English in 1851. Ancient Egypt soon emerged as a critical juncture between prehistoric and historic time and became a symbolic place of debate. Egypt was believed to be the source of ancient wisdom and precise measurement, a critical region for linguistic development, and the origin of agriculture and metalworking. For Victorians, the Nile Valley was 'the cradle of western civilisation.' Amid British control of semi-colonial Egypt, the period saw enormous changes to studies of human antiquity. British geologists, philologists, ethnologists, anthropologists, archaeologists and

astronomers identified traces of the remote human past in the region. All attempted to answer the question: who lived in Egypt before the pharaohs? This exhibit showcased some of the texts that debated the age, origin and development of early Egyptian civilisation. It illuminates how Egyptian materials and labour informed these cross-disciplinary disputes.

Again, the Virtual Exhibition can be seen below:

<https://www.whipplelib.hps.cam.ac.uk/special/exhibitions-and-displays/conflicting-chronologies/Introduction>

Several other outreach and public engagement events took place throughout the year. In September we put on a pop up display of library treasures for attendees at the CILIP Rare Books Conference, held in Downing College and, in conjunction with the Museum, ran a successful event for Open Cambridge based on the collection's phrenology-related holdings. In Michaelmas Term we also hosted two book launches in the Old Library, one for Joseph D. Martin's *Solid State Insurrection: How the Science of Substance made American physics matter*, and Dániel Margócsy, Mark Somos and Stephen N. Joffe's *The Fabrica of Andreas Versalius: A Worldwide Descriptive Cencus, Ownership, and Annotations of the 1543 and 1555 Editions*. In January, James took some of our Darwin related special collection material on the road to Impington Village College with the Whipple Museum's learning co-ordinator, to deliver a session on Darwinism. This went down very well and we received lots of complimentary feedback, and James blogged about the experience here:

<https://whipplelib.wordpress.com/2019/06/11/out-and-about-with-darwin-special-collections-on-tour/>.

In March we again took some of our Special Collections on the road for an event hosted at Churchill College, highlighting Science Archives and Special Collections in Cambridge as part of the Cambridge Science Festival. These experiments in roving with parts of the collection have been very successful and we hope to do more in future. This has been made much easier by the purchase of a sturdy and secure Peli-case to ease transport. We have also been busy hosting visits from a variety of libraries and archives both from within and without Cambridge.



The Librarian clearly enjoying being photographed at the Churchill College Science Festival event.