

Annual Report

2017-18



**WHIPPLE  
LIBRARY**



**UNIVERSITY OF  
CAMBRIDGE**

Department of History and  
Philosophy of Science

2017-18 has been an eventful year in the Whipple Library. After bidding a very fond farewell to Anna Jones in August, Dawn Kingham stepped up as Acting Whipple Librarian for Michaelmas term, pending the appointment of a new Librarian. In September we said goodbye to Clare Matthews, who left us to pursue a PhD in *Classical culture and the industrial city: Birmingham, Manchester and Liverpool and the art of Greece and Rome* at the University of Birmingham. Clare had worked within the library for 2 ½ years, initially as Library Assistant and then moving to a role as Special Collections Assistant, and her contributions to the library will live on in the many blog posts and virtual exhibitions on the Library website.

Between August and December we welcomed Toby Bryant for four afternoons a week as General Assistant, through the generosity of the department.

James Livesey also joined the Library in September, working two days a week as Library assistant, as well as continuing his work as HMS Module co-ordinator.

We were fortunate to have many of our lunchtime and evening invigilators continue from the previous academic year, and the ongoing stalwarts of Meira Gold, Aga Lanucha, Jack Tavener and Annie Thwaite, were aided by Daniel Ott and Elise Williams in Lent and Easter terms.

Finally Jack Dixon was appointed as the new Whipple Librarian and arrived in January. Jack was previously Assistant Librarian at Corpus Christi College (so didn't have far to move), and before that had a number of roles in the University Library. Jack would like to express his thanks to the existing library staff who maintained excellent service levels during the 'interregnum', and also to the Department and the wider HPS community as a whole for being so welcoming.

January also saw the long anticipated launch of the new Library Management System, known as *Alma*. Preparation for the Library Management System switchover was a large scale multi-stage project which had been ongoing for over two years, and, like all major projects, was not without its hiccups and teething problems along the way. Due to the dedication of Whipple Library staff throughout the run up and training periods, however, the transition went smoothly and service disruption was kept to an absolute minimum. The launch of Alma is not the end, however. The LMS will continue to evolve and grow with the needs of the Cambridge scholarly community. The first addition to the LMS went live in July and was the Cambridge Library Patron System (known as CLiPS), which enables simplified management of library users details and permissions. A number of future evolutions of Alma are currently being considered, some of the most exciting being the potential addition of dedicated reading list management and referencing software.

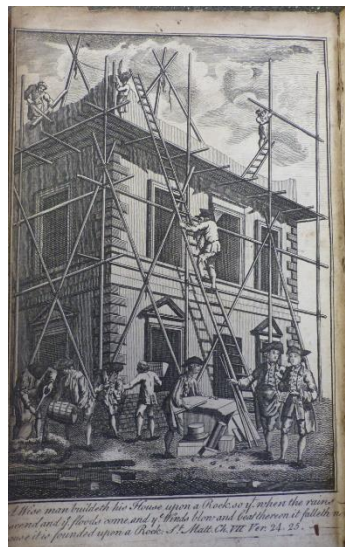
## Collections

The collection has continued to develop over the last year. Purchasing continued (though at a reduced pace) through Michaelmas term, and accelerated throughout Lent and Easter to ensure reading list materials were acquired and requests for research materials were fulfilled. 382 print titles and 12 ebooks were added to the collection.

2 items have been added to the Whipple library special collections in the last year, and both were blogged about in detail. They were;

R. Lee *Taxidermy: or the art of collecting, preparing and Mounting Objects of Natural History for the use of Museums and Travellers'* (London, Longman, 1835)

<https://whipplelib.wordpress.com/2017/11/22/latest-accession-mrs-lees-taxidermy/>



And

Leadbeater's *The Gentleman and Tradesperson's Compleat Assistant; or, the Whole art of Measuring and estimating, made Easy. In three parts.* 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. 1770.

<https://whipplelib.wordpress.com/2018/03/19/leadbeaters-the-gentleman-and-tradesmans-compleat-assistant/>



## Staffing

Library staff:

Whipple Librarian: Jack Dixon

Library Assistants: Dawn Kingham, James Livesey

Invigilators: Meira Gold, Aga Launcha, Jack Tavener, Annie Thwaite, Daniel Ott, Elise Williams.

## ***Training & professional development***

All permanent members of staff attended Strategic Priorities working groups organised by the UL. This was a fantastic opportunity to have our voices heard in the wider Cambridge library community and has fed back into the Strategic Drivers for Change document currently being finalised and shortly to go before the University Library Syndicate for approval. This major policy document will set the strategic direction of the University Libraries for some years to come. Dawn, James and Jack had the opportunity for a tour around the brand new Library Storage Facility in Ely. This enormous facility will open up new possibilities for storage of low-and-no-usage material across the Cambridge Library landscape, and we hope to be able to take advantage of this in future. The LSF has conservation grade air protected by 3 layers of airlock, 106 km of 11 meter high shelves built to VNA (Very Narrow Aisle!) standard, and is being filled at a rate of 12 tonnes (about 400 linear meters) per week.

All permanent staff also attended All Staff Briefings by the University Librarian, Jess Gardener, in January, as well as the ever popular Evacuation Chair and Stair Climber Refresher courses, and completed the yearly online fire safety and diversity training.

Not content with stepping up as Acting Librarian during the summer and Michaelmas Term, and leading the way with blog updates, Dawn attended training offered by the Office of Scholarly Communication and became a Research Skills Ambassador.

James complemented his existing skills by training as a Mental Health First Aider, and also volunteered to run tours around the University Library's 'Tall Towers' exhibition, becoming one of the only members of staff of an affiliated library to do so.

Jack had a busy program of training and induction on arrival, and also attended the Cambridge Information Literacy Conference in June, and is regularly attending the Public Programming Working Group based in the main UL.

## User Education

### ***Science in Print***

Science in Print ran during Michaelmas term, but was unfortunately affected by the industrial action in Lent. During the Michaelmas term session Roger Gaskell ran 4 sessions on book production in the hand press period. Attendees were able to gain valuable experience of handling Special Collections material.

### ***Induction Tours***

Induction tours took place at the start of the academic year as usual. These welcome incoming staff and students into the library space and provide a useful introduction to the services which we offer. Tours were also arranged for arriving Visiting Scholars throughout the year, and on a one to one basis on request.

### Outreach and Public Events.

### ***Displays***

Three displays took place in the Library this academic year, as usual accompanied by virtual displays online, accessible by clicking the link below each description.

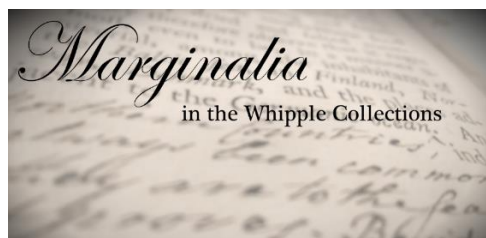
*Exploring Deep History* (September 2017 – February 2018)



Clare Matthews curated this display which was inspired by a generous donation of books and prints from Professor Martin Rudwick, affiliate of the Department of HPS and leading expert in the history of the earth sciences. His donation to the Whipple has greatly enriched our geological collections and includes a number of important 19<sup>th</sup> century works. From the interpretation of fossil finds, to studies of geological strata, maps and artistic illustrations, the items on view here reflect the unearthing of the “deep history” of our world, and the recognition that this history was far longer and more complex than previously imagined.

<https://www.whipplelib.hps.cam.ac.uk/special/exhibitions-and-displays/exploring-deep-history/exploring-deep-history>

*Marginalia* (February – July 2018)



A joint effort by Toby Bryant and James Livesey, his display included a selection of books from the library’s special collections that have, at one time or another, been subjected to notes, annotations, or other such inscriptions by their previous owners.

Books attract annotations for many reasons. The author might be marking up their own book for future editions; the interested reader highlighting passages of interest or making notes to refer back

to; the less-interested reader venting their opinions – via comments, scribbles, or doodles. The books that were included in this display have been marked up by people both known and unknown, for a variety of reasons. Where the provenance is known we have indicated this, but often the interest lies in the types of markings and comments made, and not specifically in their author.

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

*Visualising Plague* (July 2018 – October 2018)



This exhibition was curated by Ranana Dine, student on the MPhil in Health, Medicine and Society 2017-18, with support from the staff of the Whipple Library. For more than a millennium the disease commonly called the plague has terrorized, frightened and fascinated people around the globe. The plague has always been a horrifying disease and until the advent of antibiotics in the twentieth century it had an extremely high fatality rate. Throughout its long and terrifying history the plague has been visualized differently, depending on its context and victims. This exhibit focuses on three ways the plague has been imagined in the West, based on materials from the Whipple Library collection as well as other libraries in Cambridge.

<https://www.whipplelib.hps.cam.ac.uk/special/exhibitions-and-displays/personifying-plague>

### ***School sessions and visits***

Working with Museum Learning Co-ordinator Rosanna Evans, the library contributed again to delivering the 'Medicine and Anatomy through time' and 'Darwin, Evolution and *The Origin of Species*' workshops to several visiting school groups. Jack also arranged a successful day visit of gifted and talented Year 9 students to the Parker, Whipple and University Libraries. The library also hosted visits for staff from Churchill College Archives Centre, the Social and Political Science Library, Anglia Ruskin University Library, the Haddon Library and the University Library. We also hosted a student from Parkside Academy, Francesca, for a week's Work Experience in July, and visits from interns from the UL and Parker Libraries.