



**WHIPPLE
LIBRARY**



**UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE**
Department of History and
Philosophy of Science



Annual Report 2012-13



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Whipple Library Annual Report

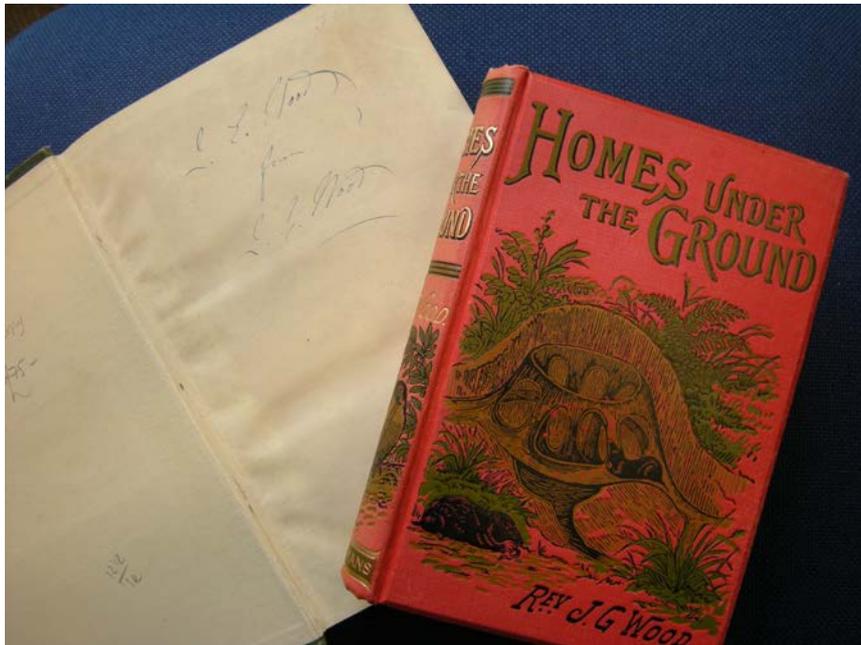
2012-13

It's been an eventful year at the Whipple. A significant roof leak in the Old Library in December brought disaster response theory to life in a particularly vivid way as we sought to contain the damage before closing for Christmas, and offered valuable lessons we hope never to need to implement again in future. The start of compulsory Open Access journal article publishing for all publicly funded research in the UK on 1 April presented challenges of a different order, as we sought to comprehend the implications of policy in the making for the Library and the Department in the short, medium and long term. The goal to make research outputs readily available regardless of institutional affiliation or means to pay is broadly to be welcomed, but it's important to ensure that the interests of authors, and especially early career researchers and independent scholars are protected in the process. We end the year looking forward to building new and mutually beneficial relationships with the wider network of libraries in Cambridge, and the University Library in particular, as the Whipple becomes an Affiliated Library of the UL from 1 August 2013.

The Library was staffed this year by Anna Jones (Librarian), Dawn Moutrey (Library Assistant) and Agnieszka Lanucha (Library & Departmental Assistant). An adjustment in Aga's hours at the start of the academic year provided the opportunity to offer two lunchtime invigilating posts to the Department's PhD students, and we are grateful to Andrew Buskell and Allison Ksiazkiewicz for their hard work and cheerful disposition in this capacity.

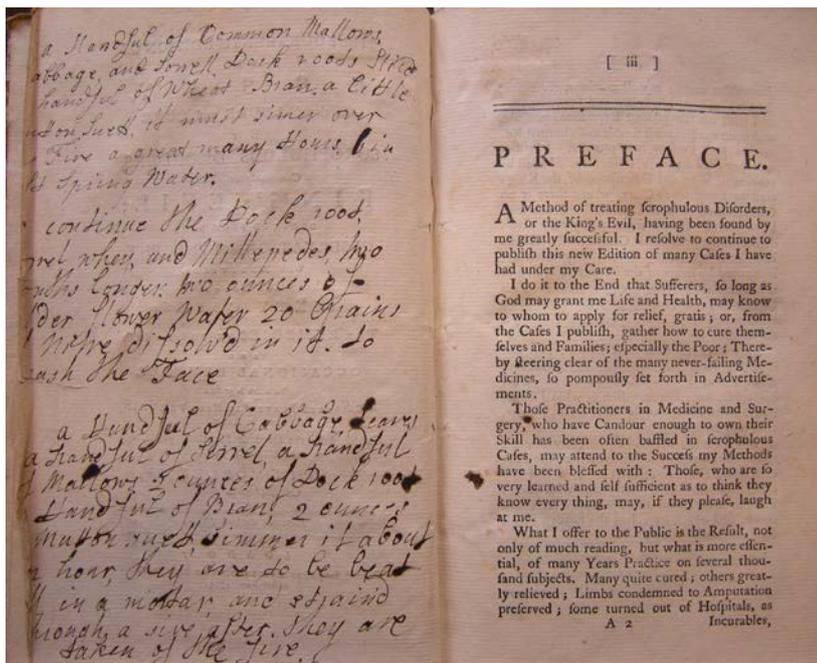
Acquisitions

620 hard-copy titles and a further 30 ebooks were added to the collections between 1 August 2012 and 31 July 2013. Academic publishing in HPS remains a mixed economy, with most new titles offered in e-format as well as print, but the conversion of older titles to digital, some of which are still in high demand, is slow or impossible while copyright issues remain outstanding. The Whipple took advantage of the opportunity to buy its own ebooks during this academic year, ordering direct from the University's approved suppliers rather than via the central administration, though we remain indebted to the staff of the ebooks@cambridge team for valuable support and advice, including the negotiation of licences and the loading of catalogue records. The guiding principle behind ebook purchasing remains to select the most popular titles from reading lists to complement our hard-copy holdings, thereby providing 24-hour access to content to multiple simultaneous users, for which the undergraduate appetite increases. The demand for longer and more complex works requiring a deeper level of engagement in ebook format has hitherto been less apparent, but the advent of new models for time-limited downloads to personal devices (including tablets and smartphones) may change this as the on-screen reading experience improves.



Notable among this year's book purchases were copies of J.G. Wood's *Trespassers* (signed by the author) and *Homes Under the Ground* for the Store, and a small selection from the personal library of Michael Hoskin, formerly of the Department.

Donations



Among the various generous donations to the Library during the year were two from people not previously connected with the Department. Miss Victoria Mills donated a copy of John Morley's *An Essay on the nature and cure of Scrophulous Disorders, commonly called the King's Evil...* 14th ed. (London, 1775), acquired from her great-uncle, which she hopes will be of interest to a wider audience via the Whipple, especially for the manuscript recipes written on the endpapers. In similar vein, we were grateful to receive an annotated set of 5 volumes of Robert White's *Ephemeris* (1794-1845) from Tina Cockett, which increases the range of almanacs in the Whipple's collection, and was the

subject of a post to the 'Whipple Books Blog' by Dawn in February:
<http://whipplelib.wordpress.com/2013/02/25/whites-ephemeris/>

Two further donations add to the Whipple's record of the history of science in Cambridge. In October, Professor David Ingram, formerly Regius Keeper of the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh (1990-98), and Master of St Catharine's College (2000-2006), offered copies of two editions of F.T. Brookes's *Plant Diseases* (Oxford University Press, 1928 and 2nd edn 1953). The first edition is the author's copy with extensive annotations for the second edition, which was completed after Brookes's death by S.D. Garrett, Professor of Botany at Cambridge in the 1950s and 1960s where Prof. Ingram began his career. In the spring we were very glad to receive from Professor Peter Bowler a collection of his lecture and practical class notes from his time as an undergraduate at King's in the mid 1960s. Tracing the publication history of textbooks and the content of undergraduate courses depends on material that is

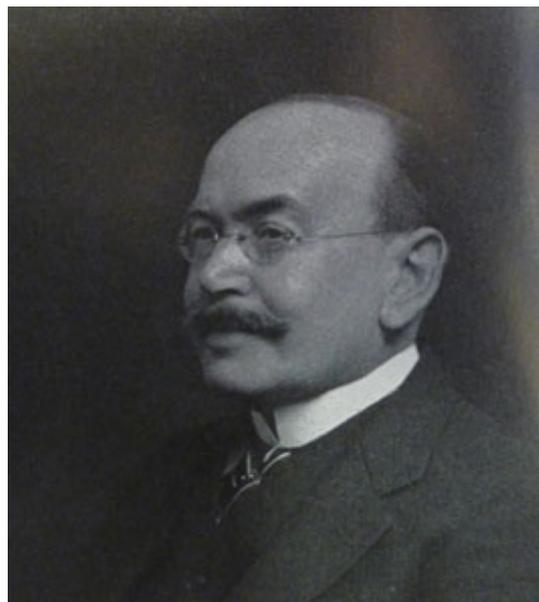
often regarded as ephemeral and so seldom survives, so we're particularly pleased to have the opportunity to preserve these two donations and hope they may feature in a future student project.

We are grateful as usual to all the Departmental members and associates who have presented copies of their work and other items during the year. Particular thanks are due to Anita McConnell, who has allowed the Library priority selection from her personal library following her move to smaller accommodation. This process is on-going, and items will be added to the online catalogue in due course. We are grateful also to Jim Secord for filling an important gap with his donation of a copy of Flammarion's *Le Monde Avant La Création De L'Homme* (Paris 1886), and thus enriching the Library's image bank for all occasions.

Special Collections

Dawn has been responsible for the greater share of promoting our special collections this year with several contributions to the Whipple Books blog, and an interesting display in the exhibition area on Level 1 of material from the phrenology collections, 'Know thyself: Phrenology in the Whipple Library' (<http://www.hps.cam.ac.uk/library/phrenology/>).

Conditions were significantly improved in the special collections Store in June when new shelving was installed for the oversize volumes. Some of these are very large and their bindings were under strain as long as they were stored upright on shallow shelves. The new metal shelving is much deeper and allows most books to be stored horizontally. With thanks to staff from the Fitzwilliam



Museum Conservation Department, a general risk assessment of the room was carried out in July, which sets out a case for regular environmental monitoring to keep track of significant changes in temperature and humidity, and signs of pest infestation, and we hope to establish a new regime for recording this data early in the new year.

Roof leak



Anticipating a quiet day one before closing for the Christmas break, and with the Librarian on leave, Library Assistant Dawn Moutrey prepared to open up the Old Library as usual on the morning of 20 December, only to be greeted by a steady stream of water pouring through the high-level windows in

the flat roof and falling onto the book case beneath. Thanks to exemplary quick thinking and equally quick-witted assistance from Mark Rogers (Computer Officer) and Claire Wallace (Chief Museum Assistant) the book case was cleared and computers and furniture moved to minimise the damage while the residue of the previous night's heavy rainfall, trapped on the roof by a blocked gutter, continued to trickle in. EMBS site manager Adam Lister was likewise quick to respond and cleared the gutter of the rubble left by contractors working on an adjacent building so that by the time the slow-moving Christmas shopper traffic delivered the Librarian to the scene, the worst was over and the clean-up operation could begin.



The primary objective in any library flooding situation is to minimise the risk of mould growth, since once established it will spread fast, including to otherwise dry books, and also poses a health risk to those involved in handling the books from breathing in spores. The University is a Priority User of Harwell Document Restoration Services, who will respond to emergencies by removing books and documents damaged by fire or flood from the premises to a large freezing facility near Oxford where they can be stored in stable conditions until decisions are taken about conservation and repair. A phone call to Harwell confirmed that we should remove the wet Whipple books as soon as possible, and a van arrived in 2 hours to take away 350 volumes from sections A to CG. Not all were soaking, but we erred on the side of caution, conscious that the building was about to close for 10 days. Having removed the books we were able to concentrate on drying out the room with fans and dehumidifiers provided by EMBS, and the Department's regular carpet cleaning contractor vacuumed an impressive 8 gallons of water from the affected area before the end of the day.



We accepted Harwell's quotation to freeze dry and clean the wet books, which were not returned until the start of the Easter vacation. Of the original 350, 23 were unfit to retain for lending on return (one of the affected sections was 'Science and the visual arts', including several books with plates on coated paper, which is very difficult to separate and repair after getting wet), and so were replaced, mostly by purchases from secondhand suppliers. We were extremely fortunate that nothing particularly precious or irreplaceable was damaged during the incident

(though a number of titles unique in the University to the Whipple were affected), and in the cold light of the new year we were able to reflect on how much worse the leak could have been. Had it occurred a matter of hours later, for example, it would almost certainly have remained undetected for up to a fortnight over Christmas, and much more damage would have ensued.

In the event, the key to the relatively successful clean-up and minimal disruption to readers after this incident (the Old Library re-opened in time for the start of the Lent Term on 15 January) was the rapid and clear-headed response from Library, Museum, other Departmental and EMBS staff on the ground as soon as the leak was discovered. I should like to take this opportunity to thank my colleagues wholeheartedly both for their professionalism on the day and for their unstinting support over the subsequent weeks. Thanks are due also to staff at Harwell Document Restoration Services, the University Library Conservation Department, and the Cambridge Colleges Conservation Consortium for further help and advice.



New Multi-Function Device

The chief excitement for December was to have been the arrival of a new multi-function device to replace the Library's photocopier. The previous high-capacity machine had been in use since the Library moved to its present premises in 2008, and was approaching the end of its serviceable life. Analysis of recent usage showed a clear drop in demand for photocopying as people access more material online or scan originals and print direct if they want a hard copy. A modern multi-function device offering mono and colour copying, scanning and printing (including from remote workstations) would expand the range of services to our users and improving the chances of breaking even on the investment.

A model was chosen to interface with the University Computing Service's DS-Print service, which enables current staff and students with active accounts to pay using funds loaded via the University card onto a central account, which can in turn be used at different workstations around the University. Generic cards for teaching and project use are available as before. Some teething problems followed the switch from disposable fixed value photocopying cards to the new charging mechanism, and the idiosyncratic sensors for detecting paper size in the MFD's copier mode have caused several moments' frustration, but we're glad now to be able to offer work-arounds for the most common functions, and those making regular use of the scanning and colour printing features have reported good results. If you're not yet using the remote printing facility but might find it useful (current students and staff members only), visit the DS-Print service webpages for details of how to download the necessary clients: <http://www.ucs.cam.ac.uk/desktop-services/ds-print/individual>

User education

The Whipple's mini-series of workshops in the Friday lunchtime Graduate Training Seminar slot introducing the basic principles of historical bibliography and book history were offered again this year, with contributions by Roger Gaskell, Anna Jones and Jim Secord. A special supplementary session on describing collation and illustrations was offered by popular demand in June, and all used examples from the Whipple's special collections to bring the theory to life. The Old Library was also used as the venue for a workshop on editing and translation techniques hosted jointly by the Diagrams Project and the Darwin Correspondence Project on a particularly cold and snowy day in January, and following the installation of new blinds in the large windows the room is now better suited to hosting presentations with a projector.

Induction and orientation sessions for new members occupied us for much of October, and we were particularly pleased with the success of a new mini-session for Part IB students, following the second

HPS lecture, when the class was escorted over to the Whipple en masse from Mill Lane for a brief tour and the chance to register to give them a head start. Further contributions to the Graduate Training Seminar during the year included a session on 'Managing your academic life online' and a joint workshop on the mechanics and implications of Open Access journal publishing for graduate students and early career researchers, which was well attended.

Staff development



International standards for cataloguing library material have undergone major revision in recent years and the University decided to adopt the new 'RDA' (Resource, Description & Access) code to replace the former Anglo-American Cataloguing Rules from 2013, in line with most other major research libraries in the western world. All staff have undergone training over the summer in anticipation of the switch for departmental, faculty and college libraries in October. Visible changes to users of OPAC should be minimal, but co-authors and editors of multi-author collections should be pleased to note that the troublesome 'rule of three' whereby all but the first named author in a collaboration by more than three people are rendered invisible in the catalogue record has now been abolished, so full credit will be given to all named on the title page henceforth.

Whipple staff were glad to welcome a group from the library team at Anglia Ruskin University for a visit as part of their annual staff conference in June, and Dawn and Aga made a reciprocal visit to the East Road campus the following month. Anna joined the organising team for the annual libraries@cambridge conference in January on the theme of 'Making an impact', and chaired the special collections session on 'Making an impact with exhibitions'.

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August 2013*



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