

## Librarian's report for 2023–2024

The **Meyricke Library** currently holds 33,862 [*last year: 32,918*] printed books. During this academic year, 790 [*1,054*] books were added, including 47 [*175*] gifts, and 116 [*66*] suggestions from students. The average number of readers present was 31 [*32*].

The **Celtic Library** holds 8,829 [*8,722*] books and journal volumes. There are 36 [*50*] registered readers. This year, 94 [*247*] books were added to the collection, including 14 [*33*] gifts, and 1 suggestion [*5 suggestions*] from students.

**Gifts** accepted included a complete run from 1934 to 2000 of *Oxford* (the journal of the Oxford Society) donated by Wil Evans (1969). Fellows and Old Members continued to present complimentary copies of their books, as listed in the *College Record*, and the Librarian is grateful for their generosity.

Nine [*10*] **e-books** were purchased at our request through CLeF (the College Libraries' e-Book Fund) and are now available to all University members.

4,460 [*4,680*] **loans** were made from the Meyricke and Celtic Libraries. Of 669 [*694*] students, 423 [*386*] (that is, 63% [*56%*]) borrowed from the Libraries at least once.

There were 11 [*6*] visits to the **Fellows' Library** by researchers from outside College, with 6 [*8*] enquiries answered by email. The termly open afternoons for College members continued, with themes including alchemy and Wales, as well as tours for Old Members and groups. The Oxford Bibliographical Society hosted a pair of workshops by the bookbinding historian Professor Nicholas Pickwoad in January.

Dr Sarah Cusk started as Rare Books Cataloguer in July 2023, alongside her similar role at Lincoln College. Saul Bailey (M.St. English) undertook a donor-funded project to transcribe the Benefactors' Book. The bookseller Christopher Edwards of Henley alerted the College to an anthology of poetry pamphlets compiled by Principal Thomas Pardo, now acquired for the Fellows' Library.

Work on the **manuscripts** this year focused on the miscellaneous collection of 'additional' manuscripts numbered 150 and above, which had been divided between the Libraries and the Archives. A short-title list of these manuscripts with correct locations is preparing for publication on the College website.

The **Oxford Conservation Consortium** continued to advise on and repair our special collections (archives, manuscripts, and early printed books). The dust monitoring project in the Fellows' Library was completed, alongside the continuing monitoring of temperature and relative humidity, concluding that conditions are stable with no cause for concern.

There are 357 [*353*] scores and books in the **John Wellingham Organ Studies Library** in the Chapel.

Grace Exley continued as Library Assistant until March 2024. During the Long Vacation of 2023, she completed a mural in the Upper Meyricke, called 'GeoMeyricke', which was featured on the front page of the *Oxford Times*.

Owen McKnight  
College Librarian