

Librarian's report for 2024–2025

The **Meyricke Library** currently holds 33,497 [*last year: 33,862*] printed books. During this academic year, 730 [790] books were added, including 35 [47] gifts, and 61 [116] suggestions from students. The average number of readers present was 30 [31]. A **leak** following prolonged intense rainfall in September caused 36 books to be withdrawn at a cost of over £700. This is the tenth leak in the last 10 years.

The **Celtic Library** holds 8,546 [8,829] books and journal volumes. There are 42 [36] registered readers. This year, 115 [94] books were added to the collection, including 47 [14] gifts.

Five [9] **e-books** were purchased at our request through CleF (the College Libraries' e-Book Fund) and are now available to all University members.

5,855 [4,460] **loans** were made from the Meyricke and Celtic Libraries. Of 675 [669] students, 545 [423] (that is, 81% [63%]) borrowed from the Libraries at least once.

There were 14 [11] visits to the **Fellows' Library** by researchers from outside College, with 9 [6] enquiries answered by email. The termly open afternoons for College members continued, with themes of food and drink, portraits, and women in Jesus since 1974, as well as tours for Old Members and groups.

Gifts accepted included Celtic books from Winifred Stevenson (1927–2024) and John Woodhouse FBA (1937–2023). 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.

Reclassification in the Celtic Library began with a shift from sequential numbering within each subsection to alphabetical arrangement by author, with the intention of facilitating browsing. In the Meyricke Library, the Graduate Library Trainee instigated rearrangements of linguistics and African and Asian history, and created a new section bringing together books on the history of gender and sexuality.

The Librarian published an article in the *College Record* on successfully deciphering a **code** found by the Rare Books Cataloguer inside a collection of 17th-century pamphlets.

A copy of *Travels in Mesopotamia* (1827) inscribed by **Mary Foulkes**, wife of Principal Henry Foulkes, was purchased from the London bookseller Peter Harrington, thanks to a generous donation from Professor Fred Biggs. The Fellows' Library also accepted a gift from the English Faculty Library of Edward Lye's *Dictionarium Saxonico et Gothico-Latinum* (1772).

Dr Andrew Dunning (Hugh Price Fellow in Book History) continued his support for the cataloguing and digitisation of the College's **manuscripts** deposited in the Weston Library. The **Oxford Conservation Consortium** assessed and conserved manuscripts prior to photography.

There are 366 [357] scores and books in the **John Wellingham Organ Studies Library** in the Chapel.

Dr Sarah Cusk continued as part-time **Rare Books Cataloguer**. Ash Lammers was this year's **Graduate Library Trainee**.

Owen McKnight (College Librarian)