

On 6th June this year, an annexe to the south of Long Gallery was opened as a display area for the collection of D-Day landing maps and associated documents. It includes original landing lists, bombardment charts from *HMS Warspite*, maps showing the cleared channels, booklets of instructions to captains of warships, aerial photographs taken on the day, and a range of newspapers for 6 June 1944 and the succeeding days. There is also a series of photographs, taken in 1943 from X-boats (midget submarines), arranged as a panorama of the Normandy coast from Ouistreham to Barfleur.



Nicholas Love's fireplace

Perhaps the most remarkable of the Library's rooms is **Warden Harmar**, which is used as a reading room for outside researchers, for both the Library and the Archives, and for the teaching of small A level sets. This room was built by John Harmar (Coll, 1569-72) on his election as Warden in 1597. It was constructed over the old bake-house which appears to have been a way of providing underfloor



Warden Harmar

heating; Harmar used it as his study. In this room, as a member of the Oxford Committee B, he translated the Gospels, the Acts of the Apostles and the Book of Revelation for the King James' Bible. The room houses his collection of bibles, which he bequeathed to the School. The room is dominated by the extravagant fireplace surround installed in 1615 by Harmar's successor as Warden, Nicholas

Love. Our most notable recent gift is housed here: an almost complete set of first editions of the works of Anthony Trollope (Coll, 1827-30), all of which are inscribed, with varying degrees of affection, to his son, Henry Merivale Trollope. This unique collection was the gift, in March 2007, of Albert H. Gordon, and is housed in one of Trollope's own bookcases,

kindly loaned by Mrs Celia Salwey. ■

A world famous library with a decent school attached

Sir Thomas Phillipps of Middle Hill (1792-1872) suffered from bibliomania and accumulated a library of 40,000 printed books and 60,000 manuscripts, believed to be the largest collection ever amassed by a single individual. He is estimated to have spent around £14m (some £17m in today's money).

His interest in Win Coll derived from his mistaken belief that he was related to Owen Phillipps, the Second Master (1649-78), whose memorial is on the south side of Cloister. As a result Sir Thomas decided to make a substantial gift of books to the College. As earnest of his intentions, Phillipps presented the 5 volumes of Bottah's Nineveh, and the magnificent set of Denon's Egypt, which is made up of 10 elephant folio volumes of plates and an accompanying 24 octavo volumes of commentary. He also gave 15 quarto manuscript notebooks in Thomas Warton's holograph. It is not known how many books were eventually to be received,

but the draft deed of gift specifies that they were to be accommodated in a purpose-built library, to be constructed over the south side of Old Cloister, 'upon the present Walls of the Cloister, without disturbing the Buttresses, or the Roof, except at the eaves of the latter'. Chantry was deemed too small to hold the gift and the mind boggles at the prospect of a Puginesque edifice over the plain 14th century Cloister.

Should Phillipps' conditions not be met, the books were to go to St John's Oxford, but he also negotiated with Disraeli, then Chancellor of the Exchequer, with a view to the collection being acquired for the nation. Phillipps was a most difficult man and his various plans came to nought. His Will stipulated that the collection was to remain at Thirlestaine House, that no bookseller or stranger was to rearrange it and that no Roman Catholic was to be permitted to view it. Ultimately all negotiations foundered and the dispersal of his collection took over 100 years.



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Cover picture:
One of the earliest representations of Becket from *Thomas Becket* by William of Canterbury (1180)

Design by Bernard Fallon Associates.

Fellows' Library

Fellows' Library

Books have been central to the School since its foundation, and Fellows' Library is witness to this. The eclectic collection of over 15,000 books and manuscripts which forms this library was peripatetic for ages. In the late 18th century, Old Cloister was a place of quiet and retirement for the Fellows and in the middle was their Library until it reverted to a chapel in 1875. The collection, initiated by William of Wykeham and added to consistently since 1382, has now been brought together into a number of rooms around Outer Court. There are few libraries around the world which can lay claim to such a history. The earliest item in the collection is a cuneiform tablet some 2500 years old, and the latest is a collection of documents from the D-Day landings of 1944.

Over the centuries there have been many major gifts, and only a small percentage of the collection has been purchased. Within the College some books are used as

aids to teaching; those studying Mathematics will examine the first edition of Newton's *Principia*, and the Biology department makes good use of the spectacular plates of insect life in Hooke's *Micrographia*, the first text to use 'cell' with a scientific meaning. Elements of the library are now constantly on display, but owing to the nature of the collection, access cannot be entirely open. A recent development is to welcome visits by children from local schools, to look at and handle items that are of relevance to their studies. This new accessibility is in marked contrast to the approach of earlier ages, when the librarian might have dropped in just once a week to pick up his mail and to make sure that nobody had touched anything! It is intended that programmes of this nature will be expanded as far as resources allow.

Sadly we have not the space here to offer any more than a brief tour round the many books and manuscripts which the library houses; this we will do taking each room in turn.



Micrographia

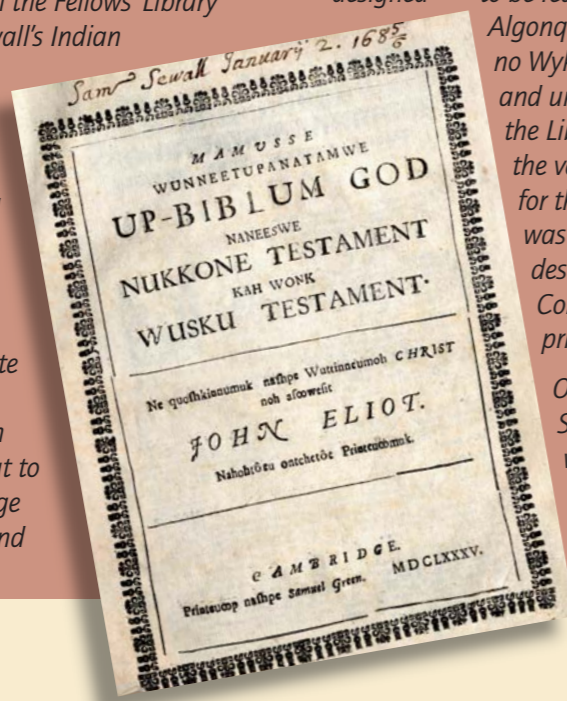


Local schoolchildren studying an Elizabethan manuscript

Samuel Sewall's Indian Bible

One of the most remarkable books in the Fellows' Library is the volume known as 'Samuel Sewall's Indian Bible'. Samuel Sewall is generally regarded as the first American tourist to Europe. In his diary he recorded that he visited Win Coll on 25 February 1689 and presented his 'Indian Bible', one of the major examples of early printing in North America.

John Eliot, a missionary and graduate of Jesus College, Cambridge was determined to convert the Algonquin Indians of Massachusetts and set out to translate the Bible into their language with close reference to the Hebrew and



Greek originals. Strict literal accuracy was the ultimate aim. The text is printed in a phonetic version of Algonquin, designed to be read aloud by an Englishman to an Algonquin audience. It is thus a book which no Wykehamist has ever been able to read and understand – possibly the only volume in the Library of which this is true. Backing for the venture was provided by the Corporation for the Propagation of the Gospel, and it was completed in 1663. Many copies were destroyed in the wars of the 1670s; Win Coll has a copy of the second edition, printed in 1685.

On his return to America in 1692, Samuel Sewall became one of the Salem witchcraft trial magistrates and was the only one of those officials to make a subsequent public admission that the trials had not been fair to the accused.

Eccles Room is housed in what was once the barrel store for Brewery, constructed in 1395. It was opened in 1994 as a Fellows' Library teaching room, having been refurbished by the generosity of Viscount Eccles (G, 1919-23), who donated his collection of private press books. The room now houses English literature, Mathematics and Science texts, and, as a result of the generosity of Viscount Gough (G, 1955-59), the magnificent set of Sir Joseph Banks' *Florilegium* – 743 hand-coloured plates of the plants discovered on Captain Cook's first circumnavigation in the *Endeavour*.

In **Clerk's Room**, above the Porters' Lodge, is a small collection of chained books given by Sir Robert Cecil, Elizabeth I's Chief Secretary. Until the late seventeenth century, all the books were chained and many volumes in the library show signs on their upper boards of the removal of the rivets. Clerk's Room also contains travel books and a fine collection of English Civil War pamphlets and related texts, as well as over 300 editions of the Bible given by Cuthbert Hamilton Turner (Coll, 1872-79). These include such



Eccles Room

changed the whole nature of the library, which until then had been predominantly a collection of religious material in Latin and Greek.

Next to Junior Poser, and in the Warden's Lodgings, is **Senior Poser**, a fine panelled room of 1697 with fire surround carvings by Edward Pierce, who was responsible for the Chapel panelling now to be found in New Hall. This is the Archivist's office and contains a collection of Long Rolls, the earliest of which records the school list in 1653.



Chained books

highlights as a Complutensian Polyglot with the signature of Thomas Cranmer, and the first seven editions of the New Testament of Erasmus. Clerk's Room is also notable for its fireplace with the initials P and R ('Philippus Rex?'), thought to have been installed on the occasion of the wedding of Philip and Mary in Winchester Cathedral in 1554.



1539 Stamped Binding

Directly above Outer Gate is **Junior Poser**, the Librarian's office, another fourteenth century room, housing classical texts and many of the books given by Alexander Thistlethwayte in 1768. This gift was one of the most remarkable in the history of the library. It consisted of some 3,500 volumes of literary texts in French, Dutch, German, Spanish, Italian, Latin, Greek and English, and



Long Gallery

Long Gallery, built in 1832-33, is the largest of the library rooms and contains most of the early religious texts, together with some interesting special collections, notably that of English travel books and maps given by Edward Gaspar Box (D, 1868-72). Recently the Gallery has been redecorated, and there is now a display of fine bindings, some of them royal; there are examples of books bound for Elizabeth I, James I, the first three Georges, and Louis XIII of France, as well as for a number of identifiable European nobility.



A fine binding