

***Lincoln Unlocked* Fundraiser**

On March 30th 2019, we were delighted to welcome guests to the *Lincoln Unlocked* fundraiser in the Upper Library. As part of a convivial evening, guests generously sponsored work on the items on display, whether for cataloguing them, digitising them or sending them for conservation work. Many interesting conversations were had with the items' "champions": a mix of Fellows, students, Library and Archive staff and conservators. Despite the interruptions of the pandemic, we are delighted now to be able to show you the completed work that we have been able to undertake, thanks to the generosity of our sponsors.

12th century Greek Gospels in an early Greek-style binding given by George Wheler.

The clergyman, traveller, amateur botanist and Lincoln alumnus George Wheler (1651-1724) gave this manuscript to Lincoln in 1698. Wheler had bought the manuscript in Zakynthos in 1676 while he was travelling in Greece and the Levant, a journey recounted in his *A Journey into Greece* (1682).

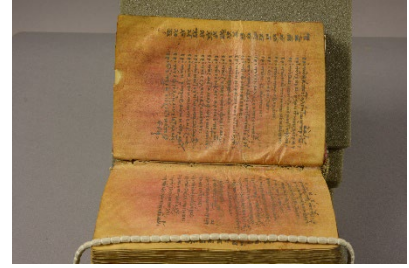
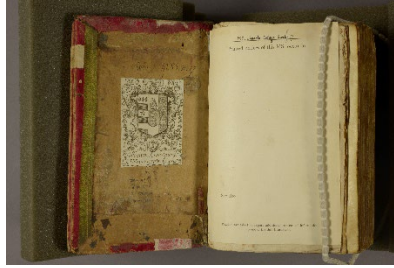
Before:



During:



After:



Treatment:

Tailband secured; detaching and split leaves stabilised with Japanese paper; shelfmark label repaired and re-attached; new Kasemake box made.

Learning from a damaged book

Julius Caesar, *Rerum a se gestarum Commentarii* (Lyons, 1570)

This small, well-used and extremely fragile book came to Lincoln as part of the bequest of William Vesey, a Fellow of the College for over 50 years who died in 1755. The original French binding of blind-tooled calf over boards made up of printed sheets pasted together was so badly disintegrated that the book was too fragile to be handled. Yet it is precisely this disintegration, where the structure of the binding is laid bare, that makes the book such an interesting object of study for anyone interested in the history of books and their bindings.

Before:



After:



Treatment:

A bespoke Kasemake box with five Plastazote inserts was made to re-house the textblock, detached back board and leather cover safely. The book can be displayed in its disbound state, visible from several angles on lift-out acrylic supports, for teaching and exhibition, as it is an excellent example for showing both how books were constructed and what can happen to them. Minimal conservation treatment: stabilised endbands, reinforced attachment of front board, re-hinged detached flyleaf with Japanese tissue and secured leather cover with toned Japanese tissue.

Fragile Artistry: history on glass

LC/PH/P: Glass Plate Negatives series: Arnold Fairbairns for Lincoln College, 1907.

Arnold Fairbairns (1881-1918, matriculated 1901) was a gifted photographer. His evocative images of College and College Estates were used in his friend Stephen A. Warner's work *Lincoln College Oxford*, published in London by Sidgwick & Jackson in 1908.

These give an unrivalled sense of the College and its estates at the turn of the 20th century and are valuable to inform work on the fabric of the College as well as for outside researchers. Because of the fragile nature of the glass plates, digitisation and hosting on Digital.Bodleian allows high-quality image viewing from anywhere in the world.

Not funded. Subsequently digitised on Digital.Bodleian:

<https://digital.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/objects/064e049b-bef1-4973-a752-d1b5d026d4a4/>

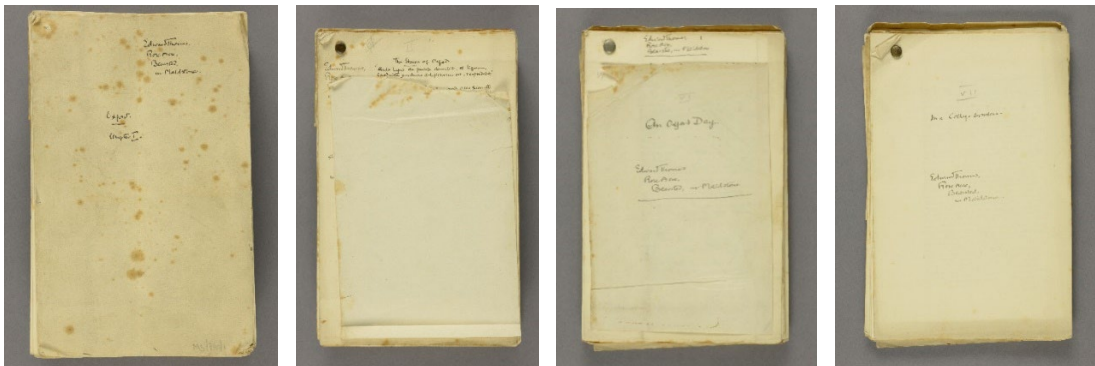


‘An original poet of rare quality’

MS/THO: The Edward Thomas papers 1895-1989

The poet Edward Thomas was an undergraduate student in modern history at Lincoln College, taking a 2nd class degree in 1900. His daughter Myfanwy Thomas gave a collection of papers relating to her father to Lincoln in 1968 and 1989. Highlights of the collection include Thomas’s famous poem *Roads*, written on the back of a letter to his wife Helen, a manuscript copy of his work *Oxford*, and his annotated copy of *The Lyrical Poems of Shelley*. *Oxford* required conservation treatment to repair tears on the edges and folds of the manuscript.

Before:



After:



Treatment:

Cleaned with latex sponge; edge tears repaired with Japanese paper; worst folds and creases humidified by brushing on a small amount of water and flattening between blotters; separate sections stored in folds of Old Grey Ivory Photokraft paper, and placed into bespoke Kasemake box.

Although catalogued at the time of deposit, a resurgence of interest in Thomas and advances in cataloguing standards necessitated an investment in re-cataloguing. You can see them at <https://archives.lincoln.ox.ac.uk/records/LC/MS/THO>

Materials for cataloguing and exhibitions

Our cataloguing projects can benefit from specialist equipment such as UV lights for reading manuscript annotations that have been erased or struck out and light sheets for viewing photographic negatives or watermarks in books. Exhibitions are an important part of the work we do to make our collections more accessible and equipment such as special supports and identification help these to be as clear and attractive as possible.

A UV light was purchased.

College History in Print

LC/P/R. The *Lincoln College Record*, 1897-present.

The annual report of the College to its Old Members was first published in 1897, stating, "The compilation of these pages is an attempted answer to suggestions which have been often made, that old Lincolnians would like to possess a short record of all those who have taken their degree

at the College and have kept their names on its books. Old acquaintances would thus be in closer touch with one another..."

Still in publication, the back copies contain a wealth of information about the College, and chronicle the changes in its fabric, its members and its ethos over time. The Oxford Conservation Consortium would ensure the *Records* are in good condition for future use. Digitising the pre-2010 collection and hosting them on Digital.Bodleian would open this treasure trove up for the use of those interested from anywhere in the world.

Not fully funded. Subsequently digitised on Archive catalogue:

<https://archives.lincoln.ox.ac.uk/records/LC/P/R/1>

Lincoln College MS Hebrew 1 Roll of the Pentateuch.

This parchment scroll dates to, we think, the 19th century and is on two ornately turned ivory rollers. The scroll was contained in a brocaded textile cover, with figured panels woven with silver thread alternating with red velvet panels. This cover is fringed with silver metal-wrapped thread, and has a red silk lining. The scroll is in good condition, although the rollers show some damage. The textile covering is in fair condition, although it appeared darkened and tarnished, and some of the woven metal threads are broken. There are two holes at the top of the cover through which the ends of the rollers protruded, which have become frayed making it difficult to extract the rollers.

Before:



During:



After:



Treatment:

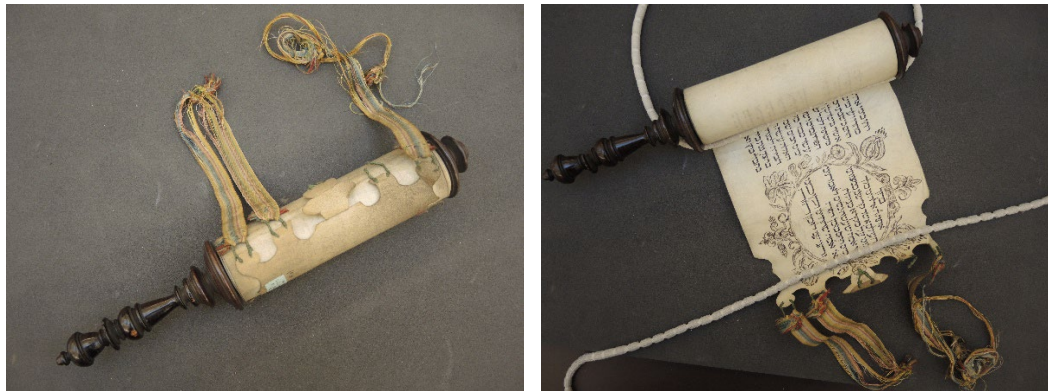
The mantle was padded with acid-free tissue to gently relax the creases in the velvet caused by crushing in the narrow box. The fringing was untangled and aligned and bands of acid-free tissue were pinned around to help the fringe relax and straighten.

The main task was provide more suitable storage, which would also encourage safer handling by readers. Following the example of The British Library, the mantle and scroll are housed separately in the same box, with acid-free tissue padding inside the mantle to prevent folds and creases. Plasterzote separates the scroll rollers, with a Tyvek wrapping tied with unbleached cotton tape protecting the parchment. Plasterzote inserts protect the scroll and tissue padding the mantle in the box and step-by-step handling instructions were created to guide readers.

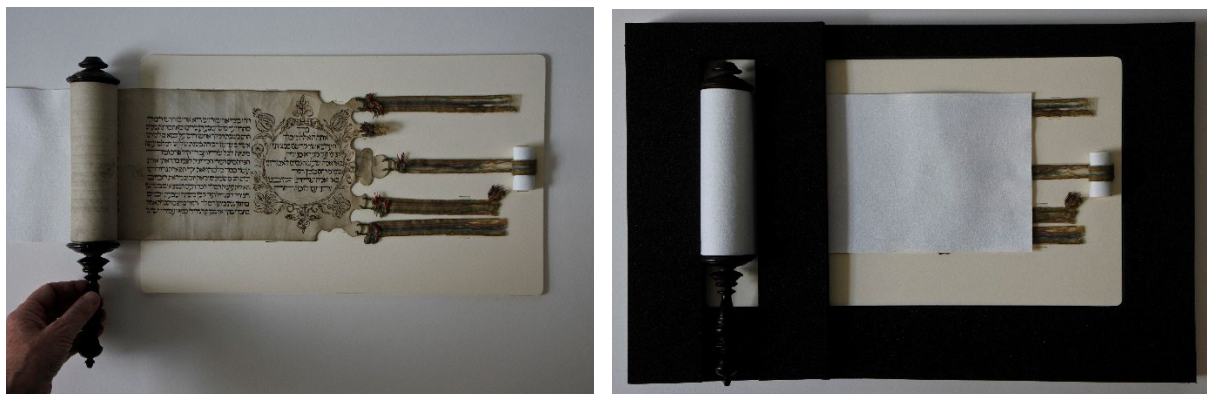
Lincoln College MS Hebrew 2 Roll of Esther

This roll dates to, we think, the 19th century and contains the Book of Esther. It is a parchment roll on a single turned wooden roller. The leading edge of the roll has been beautifully shaped, and has four ornate woven ties of brightly coloured striped silk to tie the roll. These ties were originally knotted together in pairs, and attached to the edge of the roll by hand-worked loops of green silk. One pair of decorative silk ties was in very poor condition, one of the green silk loops had broken and its tie had become detached, had unravelled, and was little more than a group of threads. These single threads clung to the nap of the parchment roll, making it difficult to unroll, and if not stabilised would be completely lost. The other pair of ties was in better condition and they are still tied together. The roll was unprotected in a box shared with another item, where they rubbed together and were difficult to take out.

Before:



After:



Treatment:

The fragility of the ribbons required them to be strapped to a support board, which also necessitated the leading edge of the scroll to be strapped in place.

Housing was devised which would allow consultation whilst keeping the ribbons secure. A U-shaped plasterzote support and Evolon fabric cover were created for the roll. Plasterzote inserts protect the scroll in the box and step-by-step handling instructions were created to guide readers.

John Wesley's walking stick

Wesley is known for travelling to his preaching commitments on foot, as well as walking with his students, so this piece is a particularly significant item in the collection. Finely turned wood with a metal top engraved 'J. W.', it was donated to Lincoln by Old Member G. N. Eales in 1965.



Treatment:

A bespoke Kasemake box has been created by the Bodleian's Packaging and Display Service. Tankerdale Ltd re-adhered the initialed brass cap to the walking stick with fish glue.

A rare 15th century book in its original binding

St Augustine, *Explanatio Psalmorum*. [Southern Netherlands: printer of the *Explanatio Psalmorum*, about 1486-1487]

Lincoln's copy of the first edition of one of St Augustine's most important exegetical works, his commentaries on the Psalms, was given to the College in around 1518 by Edmund Audley, Bishop of Salisbury. While many of the College's books were rebound in the 16th and 17th centuries, this copy is still in its original binding: a leather binding over wooden boards that was created between 1489 and 1496 by a continental binder working in London who is known only as the "Octagonal Rose binder" (a name drawn from a particular decorative tool associated with his work). This is an important work, one of only 5 complete copies in British libraries in a contemporary binding and given to Lincoln by one of its most important donors.

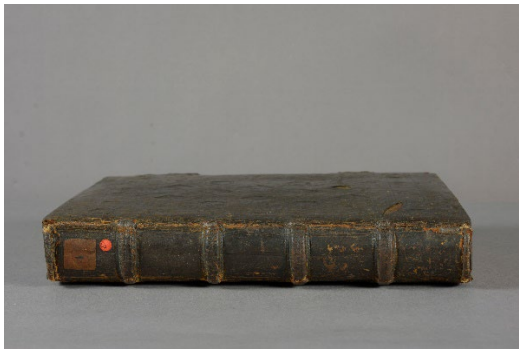
v.1 Before:



During:



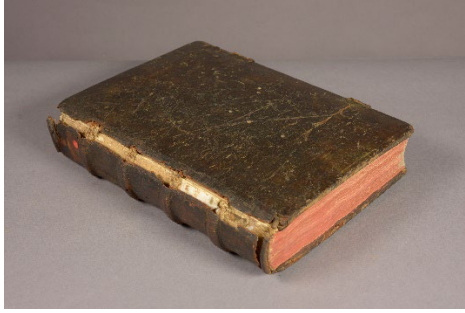
After:



Treatment:

Board re-attached using textiles and Japanese paper; corner of board stabilised and endband secured.

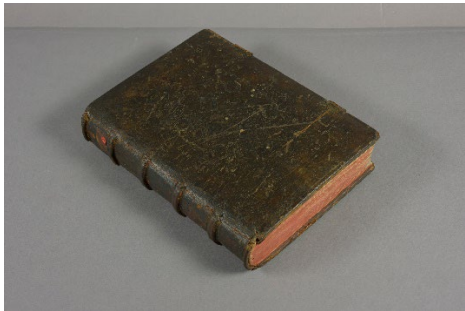
v.3 Before:



During:



After:



Treatment:

Board re-attached using textiles and Japanese paper.

12th century English manuscript owned by Robert Fleming

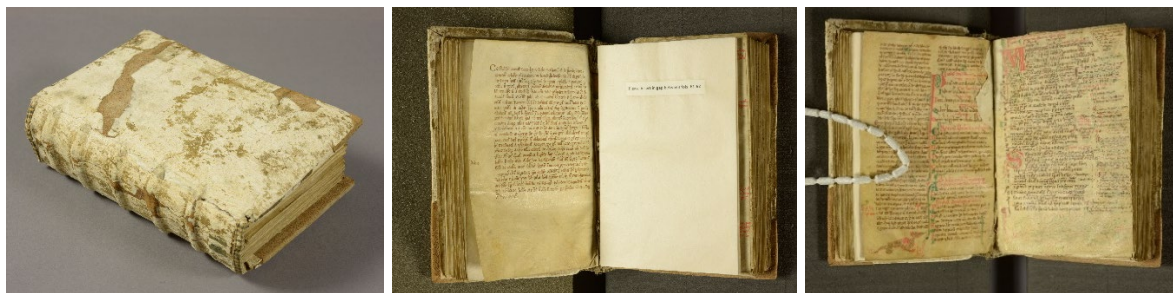
Lincoln College MS Lat.27. *M. Epistola ad G. multorum monasteriorum fundatorem epistola de S. Salome* [and 14 other works]. England, 12th century.

Robert Fleming (nephew of the founder of Lincoln, Richard Fleming) was an early English humanist and the greatest donor of manuscripts to the College library. This small composite manuscript contains 15 works dating from the 11th and 12th centuries and includes a copy of Macrobius' *In somnium Scipionis* commentaries, complete with the world map often found in this work. The volume was previously owned by Sempringham Priory, Lincolnshire. Now in a 14/15th century binding, sewn on 5 double alum-tawed supports, all laced into lightly shaped wooden (oak) boards in the Gothic lacing style, this binding is a rare survivor and shows the best qualities of medieval binding.

Before:



After:



Treatment:

Board secured with linen thread and partial panel spine linings; protection and consolidation of textile extensions onto boards and supports with Japanese tissue, providing support to fragile skin covering; stabilisation of sewing of one quire; correction of misaligned fragment on folio 62, held in place with toned thin Japanese tissue; securing of endbands; creation of a loose quire of Japanese paper for insertion between folios 61 and 62 to prevent further damage; bespoke Kasemake box made.

An early 15th century English collection of sermons

Lincoln College MS Lat.112. Radulphus Acton, *Sermones Dominicales in evangelia et epistolas per annum*. England, early 15th century.

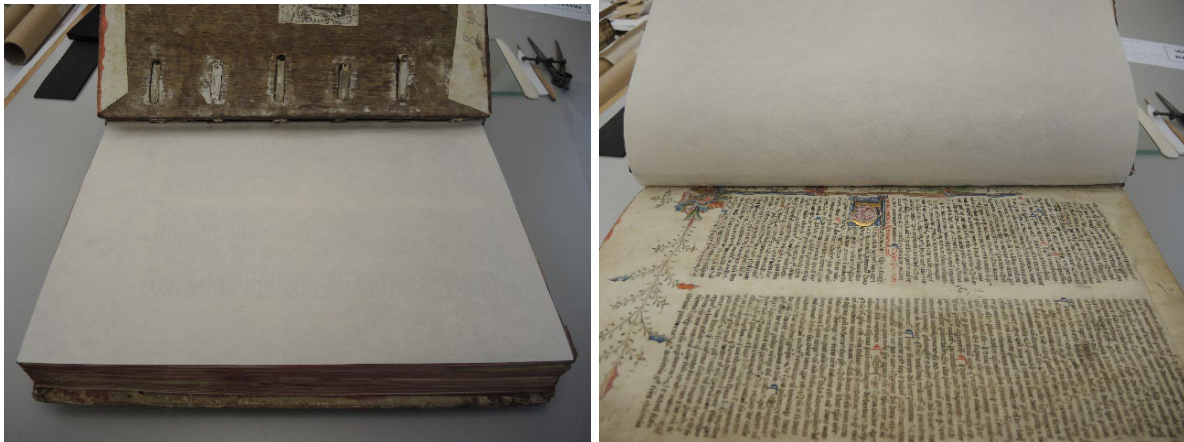
This large manuscript dates to the first quarter of the 15th century, and is in a 14/15th century binding.

This volume has had a long and complicated history. It has survived very well, and is a complex and beautiful historical object. It is in good condition in keeping with its age and use, but there were several condition problems which needed to be addressed. First, there was no upper flyleaf and the first folio, which is illuminated, was unprotected and lay directly against the inner face of the upper board. There is no pastedown on the upper board, and the stiff sewing support slips where laced into the upper board, were rubbing directly against the illuminated leaf. Furthermore, the first three slips had worked free of their lacing exit holes, and in two cases, the wooden pegs which secure the slips had been lost. The first support was free of the hole, with the wooden peg still in place. The second and third slip had lost their pegs. Each time the upper board was moved, the first three slips came out of their exit holes. When the board was shut back on the volume, the slips pressed against the first decorated leaf and were pushed back into their slots.

Before:



After:



Treatment:

Selective cleaning with latex sponge; protective leaf of Japanese tissue pasted to spine between the sewing supports to prevent abrasion of text and illumination; loose support secured in recess; bespoke Kasemake box made.

Painting Conservation: Rectors of Lincoln College

Portrait of Thomas Marshall (1621-1685) Rector (1672- 1685)

Thomas Marshall (1621-1685) was a Lincoln alumnus and Oxford philologist who lived in exile in the Netherlands (where he acted as chaplain to the Company of Merchant Adventurers) from 1648 until he returned as Rector of Lincoln in 1672. He bequeathed many books and manuscripts to the Bodleian Library and was a generous donor to Lincoln College Library.

Attributed to the English School, this painting is most likely contemporary with Thomas Marshall's rectorship of the College. The portrait required conservation: the paint layers appeared to have been extensively overpainted with brittle cracking in the original paint layers of the hair, face and hands barely visible underneath. This suggested that the original paint underneath the later overpainting was significantly damaged.



Treatment:

Removal from frame, surface cleaning. Losses in the paint and ground layers were filled with 'Flügger' acrylic putty (chalk and butyl methacrylate dispersion). Retouching was carried out with dry pigments bound in 'Laropal', 40g in 35ml 1-methoxypropan-2-ol, 65ml white spirit.

The frame was treated by a frame conservator. It was surface cleaned to remove the darkened toning layer. Losses and flaking areas were consolidated with rabbit skin glue. The larger losses were filled with gilders' putty (chalk and animal glue). All flats were gilded and toned with rabbit skin glue and watercolour to suit the existing finish. Smaller losses and losses to the name plaque were retouched with watercolour. 3mm 'Optium Museum Acrylic®' was fitted into the frame.

The partial funding of the Euseby Isham portrait was allocated to the conservation of the Thomas Marshall portrait.

Cataloguing Senior Library collections

Cataloguing a book to Oxford antiquarian cataloguing standards is a two-part process: the first focuses on the "ideal copy" of the book and produces a full bibliographic record; the second adds information which is specific to the copy of the book in hand, such as bindings, bookplates, hand-coloured illustrations and manuscript additions. The resulting record is added to Oxford's online catalogue, SOLO, where it is accessible to any scholar or researcher with access to the internet.

The Senior Library is made up of a number of smaller libraries and collections, some of which date back to the founding of the College. Cataloguing these collections is an important part of understanding their importance and their role in the intellectual life of the College. We have also benefitted from more recent donations from Lincoln alumni, two of which are described below.

The library of a 17th century statesman

One of the treasures of the Senior Library is a manuscript library catalogue, dated 1661, belonging to Sir Edward Nicholas (1593-1669), Secretary of State to both Charles I and Charles II. This catalogue was offered for sale by the New York bookseller Herbert Reichner in 1956 and it is likely that this is when it came into the hands of the historian Donald Nicholas, a Lincoln alumnus and descendant of Edward Nicholas. Using the manuscript catalogue as a guide, Donald Nicholas attempted to reconstruct the library of his distinguished ancestor and left the resulting collection of 50 books to Lincoln in his will.

In addition to the library catalogue itself, now in an elegant modern binding, the Nicholas collection contains many treasures, among them Archbishop Laud's copy of his *Conference with Mr Fisher the Jesuite* (1639), a contemporary manuscript copy of Cecil's negotiations with France in 1597 and a rare copy of the so-called *Quartermaster's Map*, published in 1644 for the use of both Royalist and Parliamentary forces in the Civil War.

The 68 items in the Nicholas Collection have now been catalogued (shelfmarks Nicholas Collection 1-62, with some volumes containing more than one item) and Edward Nicholas' manuscript library catalogue transcribed into an Excel spreadsheet. The Nicholas Collection is Donald Nicholas' partial reconstruction of the library of his ancestor Edward Nicholas, Private Secretary to Charles I and Charles II, based on a manuscript library catalogue he bought in New York in the 1960s. The cataloguing records how he did this, with the provenance of individual volumes described and specific sales and booksellers identified where possible.

The library of an 18th century country solicitor

In 1960, Lincoln alumnus Jeremy Ware took up a partnership at the Newark law firm Tallents & Co, a 200 year old firm which in Jeremy's words "had seen better days." Among the remains of what had been a well-respected practice, Jeremy found some fine 18th century furniture, boxes of documents and papers dating back to the early 19th century and a collection of early law books. With the help of Brian Simpson, then Law Tutor at Lincoln, and two law students (Andrew Longmore and Bill Evans), Jeremy cleaned up the attic and its contents. He donated the old library to Lincoln.

The collection is made up of over 120 volumes of legal reference works, the earliest dating from the 1650s and the latest from the 1820s. Among the volumes are early editions of the reports of Coke, Bulstrode and Blackstone as well as works on ecclesiastical law, common law and the chancery courts. Cataloguing the collection enables us to reconstruct the library of an 18th century provincial solicitor and, by looking at manuscript annotations, look at how these important legal texts would have been used.

The collection of 82 volumes has been catalogued (shelfmarks J.J. Ware 1-82). Many of the volumes bear the ownership inscription of the 19th century Newark law firm Tallents & Beevor (or in some cases its earlier incarnations). In the process of cataloguing a number of other

volumes from the same collection but not in its distinctive green cloth binding (and so absorbed into the general Senior Library collection) were identified and catalogued.

A collection of 18th century libretti

In an unassuming brown buckram box on the Senior Library shelves is a lovely small collection of 27 18th century libretti, some of them still in the simple blue paper wrappers they would have been sold in. The collection is made up of libretti of works by Handel, including *Esther* (the first English oratio), his pastoral opera *Acis and Galatea* and his setting of Milton's *Comus*.

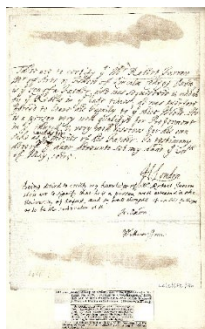
While the provenance of the collection is unknown, evidence in the libretti themselves suggests they were published on the occasion of performances of Handel's works in Oxford. Several of the texts were printed in Oxford and others refer on the title-page to performances at the Holywell Music Room. There is also evidence left by the 18th century owners of these libretti: these include allusions in the margins to specific performances and corrections of errors in the text.

These are now catalogued and Timothy Lloyd, a Lincoln alumnus, has done some initial research for a project he plans for 2022.

Acquisitions

An acquisitions fund allows Lincoln to purchase items for the historic collections which fill a gap or give new insight into the life of the College and its former members. Donations would allow us to be able to bid for items when they come up for auction.

Recent acquisitions:



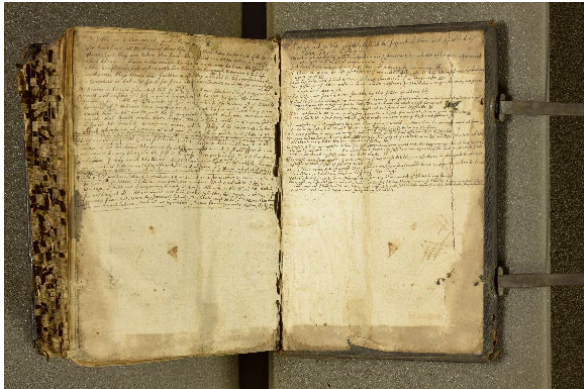
- Reference in favour of Robert Farrow, Master of Arts & Fellow of Lincoln College, Oxford, D.S (ref: LC/C/CFE/4b)
- Sporting tankard, engraved: Lincoln College Scratch Fours: JH Good, JW Holmes, JS Ashley, GA Norman, HS Dale 1865 (ref: LC/CT/3/5/1)

Back-up items

N.1.16 Thomas Marshall's Bible

This copy of the 1634 edition of the Authorised Version, or King James Bible, belonged to Thomas Marshall (1621-1685), an Oxford philologist who lived in exile in the Netherlands (where he acted as chaplain to the Company of Merchant Adventurers) from 1648 until he returned as Rector of Lincoln in 1672. It is bound in a rather sombre black goatskin binding with heavy metal clasps because the printed text is interleaved with blank sheets that almost double its size; on these sheets are what the Senior Library card catalogue describes as “many learned notes” - densely-packed handwritten notes (in Latin, Greek, Hebrew and even English) that cover the blank pages. The volume also has small parchment tabs pasted to the fore-edge of many pages on which chapter and verse are written in a small, neat hand. This bible is particularly valuable to Lincoln because Marshall's notes, ranging from commentaries on the text of the bible to a diary of his own biblical studies, are precious evidence of one reader's intense engagement with the printed word.

Before:



After:



Treatment:

Repair and securing of tabs, followed by microphotography; edge tears mended with Japanese paper; small split caused by copper-induced deterioration of paper secured with tabs of gelatine-coated tissue on Japanese tissue paper; first gathering secured with linen thread; title-page and first leaf secured with hinges of watercolour-toned Japanese paper to improve alignment; pleated area of title-page humidified and flattened; split in last bifolium repaired.

MS Gr.82 – 12th century Acts of the Apostles & 4 other works owned by Robert Fleming

This 12th century manuscript has been rebound in the 17 century, probably in Oxford. It is a typical Western binding, sewn on four double alum-tawed supports, in pulpboards with a covering of reversed tanned leather (probably sheepskin) and tooled in blind. It is an unassuming workaday binding, like many in Oxford collections. It may have been in an earlier Greek/Byzantine binding,

but the current structure conceals details such as preparatory V-cuts on the spine which would indicate an earlier Greek binding. No elements of an earlier binding can be seen at present. The manuscript preserves a fine full-sized portrait of a saint in ink (f1v), and richly coloured headpieces throughout the text-block.

Before:



During:



After:



Treatment:

Boards re-attached, after removal of old adhesive, with Japanese paper and aerolinen spine linings secured with wheat starch paste and linen braids, sewn in place with linen thread; broken headband secured with watercolour-toned linen thread; toned Japanese paper used where leather has been lost on spine; tears on two leaves repaired with Japanese paper tabs; bespoke Kasemake box made.

Cataloguing Drury Lane

The Senior Library is home to a collection of texts which is rather unusual for an Oxford college: several hundred 17th and 18th century plays left to Lincoln as part of the library of William Vesey, who died in 1755. The collection includes the works of Restoration dramatists such as Dryden, Wycherley and Congreve, rare works by lesser-known writers such as Susannah Centlivre and Elkanah Settle as well as Nahum Tate's rewritings of Shakespeare. Vesey, a keen bibliographer, also left Lincoln his manuscript catalogue of his collection of plays and an annotated bibliography of English drama that is still a useful reference work.

More than half the collection has been catalogued, but work was obviously paused during staff furlough.