ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE TO THE FRIENDS OF CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY FOR THE YEAR 2011–2012

President: Dr G. Johnson.

Patron members: Mr T. Aoi, Mr Gordon E Moore, Mr and Mrs J. Potter, Dr Lisbet Rausing.

Benefactor members: Mr H S Barlow, Mr James H Brandi, Mr J. J. G. Brown, Dr David Cohen, Mr Gifford Combs, Dr Robert Sansom and Ms Edie Eligator, The Hon Mr S Evans-Freke, Mrs E. M. Fairclough, Mr N Farrow, Mr Michael Frayn, Mr Ram Gidoomal CBE, Mr Gurnee F Hart, Sir Kirby & Lady Laing, Dr E. S. Leedham-Green, Mrs J. E. Mellor, Mr R Menschel, Mr James W Needham, Dr Peter Outen, Professor James Marrow and Dr Emily Rose, Dr Walter Stanners, Lord Tugendhat, Mr David L Walker.

The aims and management of the Friends

As stated in Clause 1 of the Friends’ Constitution in force until 31 July 2012, the aim of the Friends of Cambridge University Library is to advance the education of the public in particular by supporting and furthering the charitable work of Cambridge University Library. In furtherance of this aim but not further or otherwise the Friends may:

(i) raise funds for the purchase and conservation of printed manuscript and other material important for research, provided that the Friends shall not undertake any form of permanent trading in seeking to raise funds;

(ii) help the Library to acquire such additions by gift or bequest;

(iii) raise funds for and otherwise support such charitable projects undertaken by the Library as the Committee shall deem appropriate.

The activities recorded in this report are those undertaken in order to carry out the Friends’ aims for the public benefit.

The affairs of the Friends are conducted by a Committee ordinarily consisting of a President, Secretary, Treasurer and not less than nine nor more than fifteen other members. The President, the Secretary and the Treasurer are elected annually and other members of the Committee for terms of three years renewable for a second term but not thereafter until the lapse of two years. These elections take place at the Annual General Meeting, held during the Michaelmas Term of the academic year, and any member of the Friends, if duly seconded, may stand for election to any post. The Committee may additionally and on its own authority annually co-opt up to two members of whose skills or expertise it wishes to make use.
By a resolution of an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Friends held on 16 July 2012 the Constitution of the Friends was replaced by a Memorandum of Understanding between the Friends and the University which was intended to set the legal status of the Friends on a more secure footing. The Memorandum of Understanding came into force on 1 August 2012.

The Committee

The members of the Committee on 31 July 2012 were Dr Gordon Johnson (President), Mr William Hale (Hon. Secretary), Mr John Wells (Hon. Treasurer), Ms Mel Bach (co-opted), Dr David Butterfield, Mr Brian Corley, Dr Christopher de Hamel, Professor Mirjam Foot, Professor Brian J. Ford, Mr Peter Jones, Professor James Marrow, Dr Mark Nicholls, Dr Ruth Smith, Dr T. P. Underhill, Dr Jill Whitelock and Mrs Joan Winterkorn.

The Committee met three times during the year, on 28 October 2011, 16 March 2012 and 25 May 2012. At the Annual General Meeting on 26 November 2011, Mrs Patricia Aske, Mr David Hall and Dr Elisabeth Leedham-Green, having all come to the end of their second three-year terms on the Committee, stood down. Dr Butterfield, Professor Foot and Dr Underhill were elected to the Committee on that occasion, and Mr Hale was elected as Secretary in place of Mr Wells. Ms Bach was co-opted for a further year at the committee meeting on 16 March.

On 31 July 2012 the Financial Panel of the Committee consisted of the President, Treasurer, Mrs Winterkorn, Professor Ford and Dr Underhill.

Membership

On 31 July 2011 there were approximately 570 members of the Friends.

Volunteers

A team of volunteers, comprising Mrs Julia Allen Manheim, Mrs Fay Bendall, Mr David Gardiner, Mrs Rosemary Gardiner, Professor Anthony Edwards, Mrs Catharina Edwards, Mr Johannes van Vuren, Dr Gillian Rogers and Mr Stephen Bragg, rendered valuable assistance with the thrice-yearly Friends mailings and also at evening meetings. Mr D. Turnidge and Mrs J. Carter-Silk made important contributions to the work of the Indian Department and the Department of Manuscripts and University Archives respectively. The Committee expresses its gratitude to all who have volunteered their services in the past year.
The Financial Panel met on Wednesday 6 June 2012 and considered for purchase a variety of books, music, maps and manuscripts selected and described by members of the Library’s staff. Following a decision made by the Friends’ Committee on 25 May, £12,500 was available to the Panel.


As well as these purchases the Panel made contributions towards the cost of a collection of Manichaean manuscript fragments for the Near and Middle Eastern Department, the Shawe-Taylor and Sackville-West Archive for the Music Department, a facsimile of the first printed Chinese Buddhist Canon, dating from 971–983] for the Chinese Department, and, for the Rare Books Department, a volume containing Filippo Beroaldo, Varia opuscula (Paris: Jehan Petit and Josse Bade, 1505–1510) and Appendix Vergiliana (Argentiae [Strasbourg], 1509); another containing Thomas Lyster, Fragments (Printed 1715) and his Poems (1718) as well as some manuscript items; and Edward Evans, A New Compleat English and Dutch Grammer… (Rotterdam: Ph. Losel, H. van Pelt, A. Douci and J. Losel, 1758).

The Committee is grateful for donations of books, periodicals or cash from the following: Mr A.J.C. Bainton, Mr J. Brown, Mr & Mrs B.J. Corley, Mr D.J. Hall, Mr M. O’Donoghue, Dr C.D. Preston, Dr P. Searby, Dr T.P. Underhill, Mr D.L. Walker, Miss A. Walker, Mr J.D. Wells. We would also like to thank all Friends, in particular life members, who have made contributions in excess of the basic subscription.

Activities

Two receptions were held in connection with Library exhibitions, to which the Friends, who make a regular contribution towards the costs of the Exhibition Centre, were invited. On 17 January 2012 there was a reception to mark the

The first speaker meeting of the year was held on Saturday 26 November 2011, when after the Annual General Meeting Mr Peter Jones gave a talk entitled ‘Babies Make News’. On Thursday 15 December 2011 Paul Binski and Patrick Zutshi gave an illustrated presentation on ‘Library Illuminations’, including a display of some of the Library’s holdings of illuminated manuscripts. There were three meetings in the Lent Term, the first on Wednesday 15 February when John Gardner spoke on ‘Radical Print Culture from 1815 to 1822’. On Wednesday 29 February Julie Brown’s talk entitled ‘Exploring the Music of Epic of Everest’ centred on a silent film score held in the Library’s collection of music manuscripts. Finally on Tuesday 13 March 2012 Laura Nuvoloni spoke about the Library’s collection of incunabula in her talk “‘Neither a Borrower nor a Lender Be’: Incunables and their Owners’.

There was one speaker meeting in the Easter Term, when on Thursday 10 May Christian Staufenbiel gave a guided tour of a display of representative items from the Library’s rich holdings of German-language books. This was followed on Wednesday 6 June by the annual meeting of the Friends’ Financial Panel meeting, which was once again open to the membership. The books, maps, manuscripts and musical scores under consideration were put on display in the Morison Room, and presentations on the material were made by members of the Library staff.

The Committee thanks all those who have given their time and expertise to support the Friends’ programme of events over the year.

Obituary

We record with regret the deaths of Mrs E.P. Bray, Major P.G. Cox, Mrs D. Dorrell, Mr W. Greenwell, Mr D.N. Griffiths, Miss D.C. Holliday, Professor F.J. Lelievre, Mr A.G. Parker, Mr T.W. Scragg, Dr J.M. Smith, Mr E.P. Tyrrell and Mrs R. Woudhuysen.