

# JOHN RYLANDS UNIVERSITY LIBRARY OF MANCHESTER

SESSION 1974-75

## LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

*"In times of distress or pressure men make their first economies on their charities, and their second on their books."* (W. E. Gladstone)

It is now almost a century since Gladstone made this observation. A more appropriate time for testing its validity than the present day would be hard to find. Higher Education has become a prime target for economies and, within it, libraries have proved all too vulnerable. At the national level, Government cuts in University capital expenditure have had the direst consequences for our Library's well-being. At the local level, the dominant theme has been economy but the careful husbanding of University resources has averted harsh measures and positive policies have still been possible. The present financial uncertainties in universities, however, hardly point to a brighter future. Ironically, these restraints come at a time when the Library is making a greater contribution to the scholarship of the city and region than ever before, and when, in its postponed new building, an even greater regional rôle was contemplated.

The overwhelming concern of the Library throughout the session has been its acute shortage of space. The cumulative nature of all aspects of Library life is nowhere more evident than in an accommodation crisis and no single area of the Library's activity has remained unaffected. The Library is now well into the second year of the postponement of the long-planned extension and the worst fears of the library staff, that the extensions would not materialise in time to avert a serious breakdown in library services, are being realised. The sole reason for this crisis not arising earlier was the merger and the spare capacity offered by the former Rylands Library building. This has now been absorbed and the only course open to the Library, if it is to function successfully at all, lies in the immediate introduction of large-scale storage with a considerable and growing measure of closed access.

The implementation of such a policy is in fact already far advanced. By the end of the Summer Vacation approximately 250,000 volumes will have been transferred into two separate stores. The transfer of the stock, however, is one thing; the emendation and up-dating of the hundreds of thousands of records relating to it is another, and the interruption to services in relation to this stock will take several terms to restore. Yet these two stores answer only emergency needs. They meet in no way the long-term problems of stock and service now besetting the Library and a much larger store with a capacity for one million volumes is essential for the coming quinquennium. To add further to the Library's difficulties, the new legislation on fire regulations is beginning to bite. The necessary precautionary measures presuppose considerable additional evacuation of stock in all three library buildings on the campus. They will affect also our already inadequate reader accommodation in a most adverse way. They imply the rehousing of many members of the Library staff and the resiting of the Library bindery outside the Main Library building.

A policy of storage is not in fact inconsistent with the long-term development plans of the Library. All the planning over the last eight years has

assumed that a large element of storage was unavoidable in a library of our size and with our readership. It was planned, however, that this should grow gradually out of the new Library building with a continuing transfer into store of stock selected through use and consultation with Departments. This order of planning has now been reversed and the stores currently being created cannot be subject to the careful scrutiny which should characterise transfer. To minimise any disadvantages and to ensure rapid service from the stores, the University authorised several new posts despite the financial constraints.

With the postponement of the extensions comes another different but potentially more serious problem. Over the last eight years the Library staff have borne the discomforts and inconvenience of inadequate accommodation with great patience in the knowledge that 1977 would bring new and attractive working conditions. It would see the introduction of a new style of librarianship with great service potential and real scope for innovation. Very many members of the Library staff have been engaged in planning for this Library millenium. Suddenly, this is no longer the case and the apprehensions of staff faced with utterly inadequate accommodation and service problems can no longer be masked by the optimism generated by the projects of planning. As a result there are, for the first time in many years, problems of staff morale. The frustrations of librarianship in conditions such as those now experienced are legion and their impact on staff is so real as to constitute a serious factor in a deteriorating library situation.

This crisis in library provision has dominated the discussions of the Library Committee. Other pressing matters, in themselves normally sufficient to provide more than enough thought for any Library Committee, lost some of their urgency in the face of rapidly disappearing accommodation. Inevitably, the Library Committee has had its fair share of concern about finance. A considerable supplementary grant intended to offset inflation was unable to prevent a further fall in the number of volumes purchased during the year. The receipt of additional invoices from overseas to supplement the drop in value of the pound since the original invoices were despatched is now a commonplace and highlights in a peculiarly descriptive way the real significance of the downward floating pound. Perennial problems such as security, mutilation and loss of books, recruitment of staff, inter-library loans all featured in Library Committee discussions with exaggerated emphases. It certainly held true that " Misfortunes rarely come singly " and there was an unusual amount of business for the Committee, which met five times under the chairmanship of Pro-Vice-Chancellor Professor Geoffrey Gee. He also chaired two meetings of the Student User Sub-Committee which considered in particular the implications of the accommodation and purchasing problems for undergraduate services.

In a year of such real difficulty the Library nevertheless was forward-looking in its planning. Not only did the Committee produce a policy to meet the difficulties of the postponed extensions but it endorsed a submission to the Whitford Committee on Copyright and Design seeking copyright deposit library status for the University Library. The size and quality of our library with its reputation in international scholarship, coupled with its traditional direct service to the scholarship of the region, provides the substance of a case which must be worthy of consideration and, in spite of all its difficulties, the Library and the University put much determined effort into this undertaking. The immediate future will see a continuing emphasis on this issue, seeking an expression of support from the region. During the year demands on our services from extra-mural scholarship and non-University membership of the Library reached new peaks.

It would be less than honest not to acknowledge with gratitude that the Library does not face its problems alone. Its dilemma is a University dilemma and University priorities in terms of Library provision persist in the difficult context of straitened University finances. Library problems have appeared regularly on the agendas of other Committees and there is no lack of understanding and support, not least among the officers of the University. Unlike some areas of service, economies in the Library cannot be simply "sat out" and expenditure deferred. Underprovision in stock creates permanent scars in research reading and exceptional opportunities to enrich holdings, once lost, are gone for ever. Fortunately, among the acute problems facing the Library, this has so far been avoided and for this undoubtedly there must be cause for real congratulation.

The Library is fortunate in having many friends and well-wishers and it is always sad to record the loss of any of them. Two particularly good friends died during this year. The late Earl Spencer, a former Trustee and friend of the Rylands, was a serving member of the Library Committee until his death. He took a real interest in our affairs and maintained his close association with the Library after the merger, of which he strongly approved. Ronald Hall, a former Librarian of the John Rylands and an honorary graduate, was present at the now historic meeting which gave its blessing to the merger. He took great pride in his Library and his University and continued to work on the collections until his death. Both men had the interests of the Library very much at heart: both will be greatly missed.

#### *Administration*

Administration implies ordered procedures. It would be pleasing to record that this had characterised the library's administrative endeavours during the year. In fact it has been far from the case. At times the day-to-day routines seem to have developed around a series of *ad hoc* decisions fitted somehow or other into the general administrative framework. The Library seems to exist in an atmosphere of recurrent emergency and uncertainty deriving directly from the distressing shortage of accommodation. Each day, for example, a major upheaval in the cataloguing room arises as new acquisitions out of all proportion to the space available flow in. This creates a great physical effort for a disproportionately small return as books are moved from shelf to shelf and time for the cataloguing is reduced.

Throughout the year the removal of stock to newly-established stores in other University buildings and the rearrangement of subjects within Library buildings has been in progress. Behind this simple statement lie hours of planning and "timetabling" of moves, to say nothing of extensive redeployment of staff from their normal essential routine. In a library with a stock which is so much the product of its University's teaching and research interests, as ours is, decisions on materials for store cannot be straightforward, since daily subject needs have to be borne continually in mind. The moves so far have been influenced mainly by library considerations. Moves of the immediate future will reflect the criticisms of the local Fire Officer and the consequent structural alterations prescribed by him for the main building. All transfers of stock are utilised as a means of providing some breathing space in all parts of the building. As a result, at the end of the Summer Vacation a total not far short of one million volumes will have been moved during the preceding fifteen months. Since the full Library extension programme envisaged a large permanent store, staff find some consolation in the thought that some part at least of the clerical work involved will already have been carried out.

The recruitment of temporary staff to assist in transfer of books during the Vacation became essential, since all permanent staff are already under considerable pressure. It would have been impossible with the accelerating difficulties of day-to-day administration to deploy established staff to empty the 150,000 volumes from library basements into the Dixon store. Again, the University quickly recognised the need and the temporary staffing was immediately authorised. Twelve students were recruited to work in the Summer Vacation and an otherwise impossible task has been completed. A most important respite from the pressure has been achieved and it is even possible that some improvement will be felt by readers in October. Unfortunately, wholesale removal of books invariably creates additional binding, however carefully the material is handled, and the bindery is already unable to cope with the ordinary intake of stock. Now, the resiting of this department in accommodation outside the Main Library is being planned, not only to comply with the recommendations from the Fire Officer but also to improve working conditions, and if possible, output, whilst at the same time releasing valuable space for the rehousing of seriously overcrowded library administration. Every single move in the present situation is approached with the new Library in mind so that duplication of effort will be held to a minimum.

Regrettably, reader seats, already far below our requirements, are being reduced further in the reorganisation. The attempt to safeguard the reader and especially the undergraduate from the full impact of the library crisis wherever possible forms in itself a major administrative exercise. Throughout the Vacation, for example, one member of staff has been occupied exclusively in the creation of new notices and guides to the stock. Again, the very successful library instruction courses, arranged by Mrs. Ethel Parkinson for freshmen and new members of staff, are now heavily slanted towards encouraging readers to overcome apparently irrational obstacles of access whilst generally explaining our problems. At another level, during periods of intense use in term time when the building is thronged by hundreds of undergraduate users, problems of security, both in regard to library and personal possessions, are taking on a particularly threatening form. Once more a special kind of administrative expertise is here required. In this respect we are more than just containing a serious problem, although the inevitable inconvenience to readers hardly stimulates appreciation.

Despite so many problems it is gratifying to report that the development of the on-line issue system is keeping strictly to its timetable. The Library's two mini-computers and first three terminals were acquired and the coding of stock and input into the computer is actually under way. The importance of this is reflected in the counter situation where, contrary to all expectations, issues increased yet again by sizeable margins in all library buildings. To mount the most advanced and sophisticated system of its kind in the country in the midst of our existing conditions is a justifiable matter of pride to the staff. So also are the plans now in hand for reorganising the main reading floor and exhibition areas in the Deansgate building. The scheme, produced in consultation with the Planning Department, originated in new fire precaution requirements, but it does more than simply meet these: it extends service facilities in virtually all respects whilst signally improving our general security. In the Stopford Building the new Medical Faculty Library has overcome its teething troubles. The Faculty *Medline* link with the National Library of Medicine, U.S.A., is operating experimentally from the Library and will remain there, if successful and in demand, until it becomes incorporated into the main information retrieval systems planned in

the new Library. There have been a number of achievements of this kind which are all too easily forgotten in the welter of activity produced by problems of space. Judged against our difficulties, the Library can be seen to have enjoyed a successful year.

### *Additions to Stock*

The awareness of need for economy pervades all Library thought and action. The deleterious effect of inflation led for the second year running to a reduction in the number of volumes acquired by purchase. Of the 51,625 items accessioned, no less than 9,852 volumes were acquired by gift, compared with 53,116 (5,852 by gift) and 65,771 (4,441 by gift) in 1973-74 and 1972-73, respectively. Serious as the implications of these returns are, it is important to note that the quality of the accessions has not merely been maintained but in some respects even improved. The Departmental library groups or committees, which were advocated some eight years ago to ensure full and representative subject growth in the library, have played a vital part in the assessment and acquisition of materials. Their function is more important than ever in lean years when purchases have to be seen in the context of immediate curricula and research requirements almost exclusively.

The cost of certain publications reached levels commensurate with pre-war expenditure on whole subjects. The acquisition of three subscriptions in the Science/Medical areas at a cost of £4,800 may seem exorbitant in the context of the library book grant but the purchase is essential for the subjects concerned and at the same time almost trivial in the context of their Departmental costs. To discontinue them would be to damage essential University work, yet some aspects of library provision are bound to suffer when funds are short. On the other hand expenditure on undergraduate materials is rarely consistent. The purchase of duplicate and multiple copies for courses reflects curricula needs and long periods of modest expenditure are often experienced once stock has been established. As it happened, the demand in this area last year was low, but had it been otherwise the Library would have been hard-pressed to provide on the scale of past years. Fresh courses or new research ventures cause inevitable repercussions in library provision and in times of economic pressure might not always find the appropriate level of support in the Library.

The acquisition of manuscript and archive material was as usual very much dependent on gifts and deposits, but such items as did appear for sale which were relevant to our famous holdings were acquired with the aid of endowment funds and outside grants. These additions are fully recorded among the notable accessions. The same sources, of course, supplied the funds for our modest acquisitions of early or rare printed books. Our recorded, accessioned holdings now total 1,770,769 volumes, more than 16,000 manuscripts, c. 400,000 deeds, charters, archival items and c. 400,000 titles in microform. These figures exclude certain large special collections which are reckoned in tens of thousands of square feet. The total stock is now estimated as being in excess of 2,600,000 volumes.

The uniquely important Deaf Education Library increased by twenty-three volumes during the year, bringing its total to 10,056 highly specialised volumes. This is, by terms of the original bequest, open to anyone concerned with the education of the deaf and again it was heavily used by extra-mural readers. The Education and the Economic and Social Sciences Faculty Libraries increased their stock by 1,122 and 1,034 volumes,

to give holdings of 23,080 and 26,965, respectively. Like the new Medical Faculty Library, and a gradually increasing number of Departmental Libraries, these are duplicatory reference working collections administered directly by the Library.

#### *Donations and Deposits*

In a year in which donations have approached one-fifth of our total accessions they must assume even greater importance than usual. Many had considerable value in a purely monetary sense: virtually all had permanent value for scholarship. Most came as a result of personal links with the University. The large and important collection of current science books from Mr. and Mrs. W. L. D. Campbell was presented in memory of their son I. S. C. Campbell, a research student in the University. In a similar sad way a large collection of letters, diaries and papers of the late Miss Margaret Pilkington came to the Library through the good offices of Lady Worthington, who also gave generously during the year on her own account. The collection of the late Dr. Tom Blench, a familiar figure in the University, was also offered to the Library. It contained much literary material of a valuable kind, particularly from the 'twenties and 'thirties. From another well-known medical man, the late Dr. Faulkner Hill, came some 400 illustrated volumes of travel books, children's books and private press items. These were presented by his daughter, Miss A. Hill.

Dame Mabel Tylecote donated a significant number of Fabian Tracts and rare pamphlets of the same period. Mr. V. G. Funduklian, a regular benefactor, gave items of general interest to the Humanities, including private press books. Mr. Arthur Behrens, Sir William Mansfield Cooper, Dr. A. L. Rowse and Miss Pauline Leech, daughter of a former outstanding benefactor, all contributed significantly to our holdings. Dr. A. V. Symons, Treasurer and sometime Chairman of the University Council, handed over papers and reports of national Committees and Commissions on which he had served. The widow of a former member of University staff, Mrs. E. Ehrhardt, herself a regular user of the Library, donated the sum of £100. The Friends of the National Libraries made a substantial grant towards the purchase of a very important fourteenth-century manuscript, incidentally endorsing in an appropriate way the status of the Library. There were many other donors and their names are listed in full in the minutes of the Library Committee.

Welcome deposits of important material continued to be made. From Tillotson's Ltd. of Bolton came a collection of correspondence and papers relating to the leading novelists whose works were syndicated by Tillotson's Fiction Bureau from the 1880's onwards. These included such writers as Conan Doyle, Thomas Hardy, H. G. Wells, G. B. Shaw, Jerome K. Jerome, Barrie, Quiller-Couch and many others. The Unitarian College added extensively to its former deposits and included in its transfers an impressive collection of letters, diaries and papers concerning the history of the Unitarian Church and prominent members of it from the eighteenth to the twentieth century. The famous collection on the History of Dissent was among the collections received from the College. There were additions of twentieth-century letters and papers to the Bromley-Davenport muniments from Capesthorne Hall and a variety of materials were received from many other sources. The quality of the Library is such as to attract important collections in this way: often they add to our strength decisively and neglect of this kind of acquisition could only be detrimental to the University's scholarly interests.

*Departmental Use and Statistics**Cataloguing*

For the second year running a reduction in the total number of volumes catalogued has been accompanied by a rise in the records produced. 51,249 volumes were catalogued (53,613 in 1973–74) and 189,511 catalogue entries were made (180,965 in 1973–74), 139,979 into the author, 49,532 into the subject catalogues. This apparent inconsistency simply reflects the amount of alteration to records due to the relocation of stock. It is depressing to record that the thousands of books now in transit will form a huge backlog of additional work for an overcrowded and overworked department.

*Manuscripts (Special Collections)*

The work of this department defies reduction to statistics. It has, however, been a year of achievement and great activity. Research scholars visiting Deansgate were more numerous than ever before, particularly from North America. No less than 153 universities and other institutions visited the Library or corresponded with it. Manuscripts in twenty-two languages were actually used.

In a year when acquisitions have been of particular significance, it is important to draw attention to one outstanding item, a fourteenth-century copy of *La Vie Seinte Edmund le Rei*. It is one of only two known extant manuscripts and contains nearly 1,000 lines which are not in the British Library copy. The existence of the manuscript has been hitherto unknown to scholarship. It is rare that an addition of such immense importance can be made to our world-famous manuscript collection.

Typescript hand-lists were completed of the University Archives, recently transferred from the Registry to the Library, of Sir William Mansfield Cooper's files of his involvement in Higher Education in Britain and Europe, and of the Oldham and District Employers' Association Archives, among many others. This material, so local in its content, has been the subject of requests from such far away places as Australia, Japan and Israel. The listing of much other material is also in progress although completed lists were not available during the session. The *Guardian* correspondence under the editorships of C. P. Scott, W. P. Crozier and A. P. Wadsworth is in such an advanced state of listing as to be available for consultation.

*Printed Books (Special Collections)*

In a year of considerable variety, no less than eight separate collections of books were transferred to this department from the Main Library. The bulk of former University Library Special Collections is now in Deansgate but there is some material still to be moved. At the end of this exercise something like 200,000 items in all will have been transferred.

The Department purchased 1,993 volumes and received a considerable number as gifts. In addition, 5,735 volumes were catalogued and records revised for 483 volumes transferred from open shelves. Much work on various collections was also completed, in particular on the Kenneth Brown and Partington collections, hand-lists of which will shortly appear. As with the Department of Manuscripts, great use of the collections was made by international scholarship. Most noteworthy, in view of the merger, is the fact that more than 500 present members of the University made regular research use of the Department's resources. Of especial interest here is the steady rise in the number of scientists using the collections, particularly in astronomy, medicine and metallurgy. Also of

interest is the marked increase in use by the staffs of the Universities of Lancaster, Liverpool and Keele. These appeared regularly among the numerous research visitors from no less than sixty-nine British Universities and learned institutions.

Nowhere more than in the Departments of Manuscripts and Printed Books is the international standing of the library evident.

### *Bindery*

The pressures on this important service facility eased in no way during the session. The consultation of material at binding is now so regular as to require special reader tables on the busy corridor adjacent to the bindery manager, and it is not uncommon in term time to see all three seats occupied. The continuing difficulty of recruiting sewers was made worse in the year by the loss of 25 per cent of the experienced binders to the H.M.S.O. bindery at Chadderton. To counter this to some extent, but also to increase output, an order for a Cleat Sewing Machine was placed towards the end of the session.

In terms of statistics the output seems much the same as that of last year, despite staffing difficulties, but in real terms it is better than it at first appears. For example, a recent check on Science periodical binding revealed that five titles on a typical production sheet made up into no less than twenty-one volumes. A few years ago these same titles were bound into five self-contained volumes. In terms of statistics, they still count as five volumes although constituting four times the amount of work.

Details of output are: full bindings, 9,280; cut-flush bindings, 4,331; pamphlet bindings, 673; press-marking/lettering, 3,650 (in addition to the bindings listed which are also so treated); repairs, 162; periodical article restoration, 88; newspaper bindings, 77; maps edgebound, 17; card cutting and drilling, 672,050. During the period September 1974 to July 1975, 612 readers were supplied with material at binding.

### *Photography*

The Photographic Department made its usual strong contribution to Library life. In addition to its normal activities it negotiated with a commercial firm the production of eighteen picture post-cards based on Library stock and buildings. These became available from May 17th, the University Open Day, and they are stimulating a steady demand. All in colour, their price is 5p each or the entire set of eighteen for 70p. The Department is also much involved in the production of film for a proposed reprint series.

Departmental output was as follows: Xerox copies, 422,171; Xerox lithography, 844,053 copies from 35,425 Xerox masters; lantern slides, 4,000 (2 in.  $\times$  2 in.); black and white/colour microfilms, 118 (31,414 exposures); photographs, 9,560 (publications, research, archival, exhibition purposes). In addition, 281 films were developed for Departments. Of the work done, 2,727 Xerox copies and 306 slides were made for Deansgate research workers.

### *Library Co-operation*

The Library's commitment to the various co-operative schemes to which it belongs, especially those of the Precinct Working Party and the SKELLEM group, was as positive as ever. The production of a Union list of periodicals held by the Precinct Working Party Libraries represents a real



University contribution in that it will be based essentially on our computerised list and adapts a project already in progress. The high-water mark of our achievement in this field, however, is undoubtedly the rise in active registered membership of the Library to around 32,000. The steadily increasing direct service to non-University members continues to be our main contribution.

The fact is, and it cannot be repeated too often, that the Library opens its doors to all scholars of the region with a genuine scholarly problem. This is a tradition which commenced in 1851 and, whatever our accommodation problems, it is a situation from which the Library would retreat with only the greatest reluctance. It has brought and brings its rewards in the shape of donations, deposits and plain goodwill to the University.

An ever watchful eye is kept on inter-library loans. These cannot be accepted within the Greater Manchester region because it is cheaper for the scholar to come to the Library than it is to send the book to the scholar. The Main Library, excluding medicine, loaned 4,039 items and borrowed 4,567, and for the first time borrowings exceeded loans. The Medical Library loaned 371 items and borrowed, again as a result of Medical Society subsidies, 1,766, for the most part from the B.L.L.D. at Boston Spa. Applications for borrowing from the Library were as usual far in excess of the items supplied, but it is the policy of the Library to balance loans against borrowings as far as possible. Given the present trends in prices it is particularly tempting to see inter-library loans as a substitute for book purchase. An examination of costs of this service carried out during the year for the Library Committee demonstrated that this was false economy.

### *Library and Staff Activities*

#### *Library Lectures*

The seven evening lectures held during term time were of their usual high scholarly standard. The timing of the lectures and their subsequent appearance in the *Bulletin* has not been conducive to the size of audience the lecturers deserve and a determined effort was made at the beginning of the calendar year to improve attendances. The results were encouraging and there is optimism that audiences will improve still further. The final lecture of the series was given by Dr. A. L. Rowse and here the question did not arise since he attracted a very large audience.

There were three mid-day lectures in the Deansgate buildings given by senior University staff. These lectures are aimed entirely at City lunch-time audiences and their success in terms of attendance is determined very much by extraneous factors such as weather, other competing activities in the City, and so on. In the Main Library Professor Basil Hall gave the Moses Tyson Memorial Lecture, also at mid-day. This Lecture, like all its predecessors in the series, was a real success by any standards. The Lectures are a worthy tribute to a distinguished librarian. Lectures given in the Library during the session are listed in full at the end of this *Report*.

#### *Exhibitions, the Bulletin and Visits*

Considerable importance is attached by the Library to exhibitions, both as a means of contributing to the cultural life of the City and as a support to University teaching. In the Deansgate building the exhibitions mounted towards the end of the 1973-74 session, namely "English Book Illustration, 16th Century" and "Greek and Latin Papyri, 3rd Century B.C.—6th Century A.D.", were followed by "Petrarch and his Admirers" and

" British Writers and Artists of the 19th Century: A Manuscript Exhibition ". They each excited considerable local and University interest. In the Main Library there were three exhibitions. These were " Sixteenth-century Italian Books "; " Castles "; and " Nineteenth-century English Book Illustration ". Of the five completely new exhibitions mounted in both exhibition centres, three were supported by litho-produced catalogues, all of which enjoyed wide circulation both within and outside the University. Also on the campus, for the University Open Day, a special exhibition relating to prominent personalities connected with the City of Manchester was displayed. This proved as popular as the contribution the previous year.

The international reputation of the *Bulletin* continued to grow under the editorship of Dr. F. Taylor. More subscriptions were received despite considerable increase in costs. It represents our main published contribution. Outside *Bulletin* activities, Mr. S. Strelcyn's *Catalogue of Ethiopic Manuscripts in the John Rylands University Library of Manchester* appeared at last, published by Manchester University Press on behalf of the Library. Reference has already been made to a proposed reprint series based on the Library stock. Negotiations for this undertaking had the complete support of the Library Committee and publication seems certain to commence before the end of the calendar year.

Scarcely a visitor of importance to the University or to the City fails to visit the Library. In this the Library discharges a most important public relations exercise for the University in addition to making itself better known. So much is the interest shown in the Library that a " prestige " film dealing with it is currently being produced. It is hoped that the film will commend itself for showing outside the University as well as within.

#### *Staff Activities*

This section relates only to extra-Library activities. The Director continued to serve on various committees including the Standing Committee on Libraries of the Vice-Chancellors' and Principals' Committee, the Manchester Cultural Committee and the Executive Committee of the Friends of the National Libraries. As Honorary Lecturer in Historical Bibliography, his lecture courses and practical sessions for research students on hand printing were continued and he addressed a number of extra-mural bodies on University Libraries and Historical Bibliography. He gave the following papers: to the Standing Conference on Library Materials in Africa—" Western Ways and Nigerian Means: University Librarianship in Nigeria "; to a Conference of Senior Library and Archives staff held at the School of Librarianship in Aberystwyth—" Rare Books and Scholarly Access: Problems of Preservation in Post-War Scholarship "; and at St. Deiniol's Library, Hawarden, of which he is now a Trustee, the Foundation Lecture entitled " Mr. Gladstone, Librarian, and St. Deiniol's Library ".

Dr. F. Taylor, Deputy Director and Principal Keeper, continued to serve on the Medieval Latin Dictionary Committee, the British Academy Committee on Oriental Documents and the SCONUL Sub-Committee on Manuscripts. He acted again as an assessor for the Reviewing Committee on the Export of Works of Art and lectured to students from the Department of the History of Art as Honorary Lecturer in Manuscript Studies. Mr. S. Roberts, Deputy Director, Administration, completed his final year as Chairman of the Board of Studies for Libraries of the School of Education, acted as a member of the Executive Committee of the SCONUL Group of

Orientalist Libraries, and also chaired until the end of 1974 the Rare Books Group of the Library Association, of the Committee of which he is now a member.

The Sub-Librarian in Social Sciences, Mr. Tom Kabdebo, succeeded Mr. Roberts as Chairman of the Board of Studies for Libraries of the School of Education. He lectured in Leiden on "Guyana" and published "On Guyanese Society" (*Feketék . . . Nemzetör*, January 1975, pp. 4—7), as well as a number of book reviews. Mr. David Cook, Sub-Librarian in Medicine, was again involved in local hospital activity, serving on the library committees of both St. Mary's and Withington Hospitals. He also participated in a Workshop for Teachers on Anaesthetics organised by the Department of Post-Graduate Medical Studies, giving a paper on library resources. Dr. M. M. Wright and Miss G. A. Matheson again acted as Secretary and Treasurer of the Manchester Bibliographical Society. Dr. Wright's series of articles in *Communication* entitled "Library Treasures" is now a firmly established contribution. Dr. Alan Neville gave a series of extramural lectures on the use of libraries for nursing research on behalf of the Department of Nursing and Mr. A. D. Walker, Library Assistant in charge of Music, published three brief articles relating to musicology. John Woodhouse, a journeyman in the Bindery, gave courses on Bookbinding at Strangeways Prison.

Professional studies on a part-time basis are encouraged among all staff and Mrs. E. Parkinson plays a major part here both as adviser and instructor.

Mrs. J. Wassall Timms and Dr. Ian Lovecy both completed the last four parts of the Library Association qualifying examinations and are therefore now fully qualified. Mrs. M. Turpin took the first two parts and was successful in both. Four Library Assistants acquired "A" levels as follows—Miss S. Murphy, two; Mrs. S. Ibrahim, Miss S. Reed and Paul Flitcroft, one each. In the Photographic Department Mrs. M. E. Gardner was successful in the final examination in General Photography of the City and Guilds. John Woodhouse in the Bindery passed two parts of the City and Guilds Printing Production Management course. Many staff gain qualifications in this way and subsequently leave University library service. Sorry as the library is to lose them, it doubtless benefits in the long term from the success of these former members of staff in their subsequent careers.

### *Staff Changes*

The most noteworthy item here is the change of title of Dr. W. Brockbank, who was appointed Honorary Archivist and Keeper from March 1975 and who, in this new capacity, is working full-time in his retirement for the Library. He retains a particular interest in Medicine in the planning and arranging of exhibitions but is based on the Main Library. He has already made truly significant contributions in the area of Special Collections. This voluntary service to the Library is entirely in keeping with his generosity from which the Library has so often benefited.

A change of a different but equally gratifying kind is the appointment of Dr. I. C. Lovecy as Honorary Lecturer in the Department of Celtic Studies. He continues, of course, as a full-time member of the Library staff.

*Appointments*

Miss D. Oxspring, B.A. (Manchester), M.A. (Sheffield), Assistant Librarian (March 24th, 1975); Library trainees, two; Library Assistants, twenty-eight; Administration, six; Order/Accounts, six; Bindery, six; Photography, five; Porters/Cleaners, ten.

*Resignations*

Library Trainees, two; Library Assistants, twenty-five; Administration, three; Order/Accounts, four; Bindery, two; Photography, four; Porters/Cleaners, ten.

**SELECT LIST OF SIGNIFICANT ACCESSIONS**

## REFERENCE AND GENERAL WORKS

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