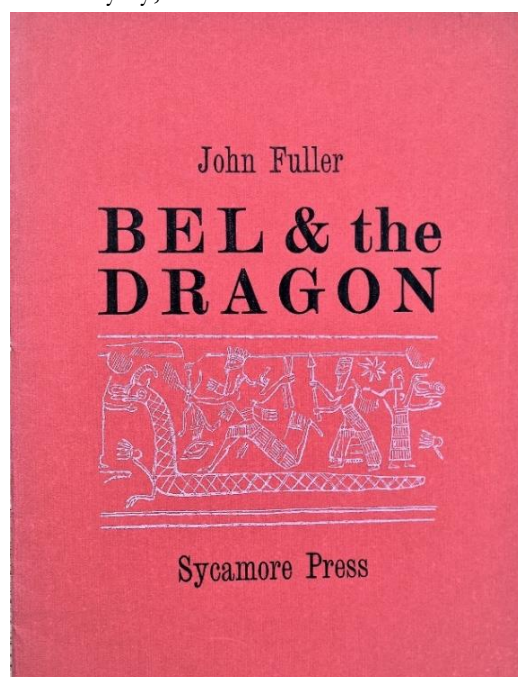


Novelty and Notability: New College Library Acquisitions 2021

New College is well known for having educated many significant novelists past and present. Three of those who come to mind immediately are 1932 Nobel Laureate John Galsworthy (1867–1933) who wrote *The Forsyte Saga*; the only ever winner of Pulitzer Prizes in both fiction and poetry Robert Penn Warren (1905–1989), who won the 1947 fiction prize with his *All the King's Men*; and the author of *The Collector*, *The French Lieutenant's Woman*, and *The Magus*, John Fowles (1926–2005). But there are many other illustrious fiction writers—and poets—associated with New College, and 2021 has seen the library acquire notable copies by some of these writers, superbly enriching our collections.

His renown has been eclipsed by the stellar literary fame of his wife, the novelist Dame Iris Murdoch, but New College alumnus and English tutor John Bayley (1925–2015), the university's Warton Professor of English Literature, also published five novels of his own. This year we acquired a presentation copy of his 1994 novel *Alice*, signed by him with a dedication dated 3 July 1994 to the Booker Prize-winning novelist Anita Brookner 'with deep admiration from John Bayley'. Bayley won the university's coveted Newdigate prize for poetry in 1950—the year he achieved his first in English from New College—with his poem 'Eldorado', and the library has acquired an author-inscribed copy of that book as well. Bayley is now perhaps best known as a memoirist of his first wife—and the library has this year likewise purchased author-signed copies of his *Iris* (1998) and *Iris and the Friends* (1999).¹

The poet and publisher John Fuller (b. 1937), a New College writer somewhat younger than Bayley, was Booker Prize-shortlisted for his 1983 *Flying to Nowhere* which won the Whitbread



First Novel Award; and we have acquired a fine author-inscribed copy. It was published in Edinburgh by the Salamander Press, a highly respected publishing house of the 1980s, which also published Poet Laureate Sir Andrew Motion, and the celebrated poet, writer, and editor Craig Raine (b. 1944), sometime New College English tutor. Fuller ran his own Sycamore Press (1968–1992), which he started from his garage in Oxford, and with that press he produced *Bel & the Dragon*, which was the 1977 Oxford Prize Poem on a Sacred Subject. The copy we have acquired is number 2 from an author-signed, limited edition of 160 copies.²

One hundred and sixty copies printed by hand in 1977
at the Sycamore Press, 4 Benson Place, Oxford
numbered and signed by the author

2 John Fuller

New College Library, Oxford, NC/FUL

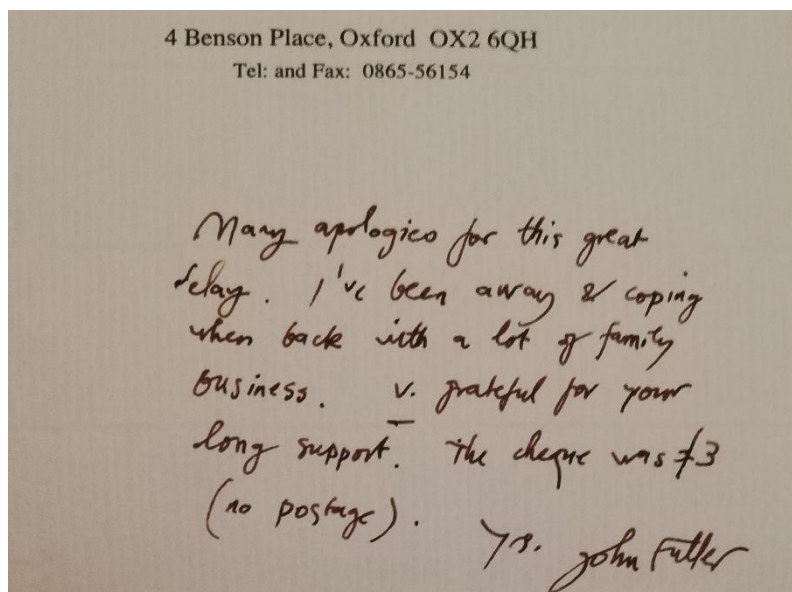
Fuller's Sycamore Press produced fine pieces, and the library has been fortunate to acquire a full set of his thirty *Sycamore Broadsheets* (1968–1983) which he edited and published: a numbered

¹ John Bayley, *Alice* (London: Duckworth, 1994), title-page; John Bayley, *Eldorado: The Newdigate Prize Poem, 1950* (Oxford: Basil Blackwell, 1951); John Bayley, *Iris: A Memoir of Iris Murdoch* (London: Duckworth, 1998); John Bayley, *Iris and the Friends: A Year of Memories* (London: Duckworth, 1999)—all these books are held within the New College alumni sequence at New College Library, Oxford, NC/BAY.

² John Fuller, *Flying to Nowhere: A Tale* (Edinburgh: Salamander Press, 1983); John Fuller, *Bel and the Dragon* (Oxford: Sycamore Press, 1977)—both at New College Library, Oxford, NC/FUL.

series of folded leaves, each bearing poetry by a different hand, and including the work of Fuller's father, Oxford Professor of Poetry Roy Fuller, as well as Thom Gunn, David Harsent, W. H. Auden, Andrew Motion, Craig Raine, and other poets. Full sets of the broadsheets are held in very few libraries worldwide. Broadsheet 28, published in 1979, is 'A Journey to Greece' by New College poet Craig Raine.³

A further Sycamore Press publication we have acquired is a copy of poet David Harsent's *Storybook Hero* (1992), which also contains an autograph letter by its publisher John Fuller, apologizing for the late arrival of the book. But visually, the most exceptional Sycamore Press publication we acquired this year has been a copy of the signed, numbered-edition *A Bestiary* (1974), which comprises twenty-six striking linocuts by Brigitte Hanf that accompany Fuller's own verse.⁴



New College Library, Oxford, NC/FUL

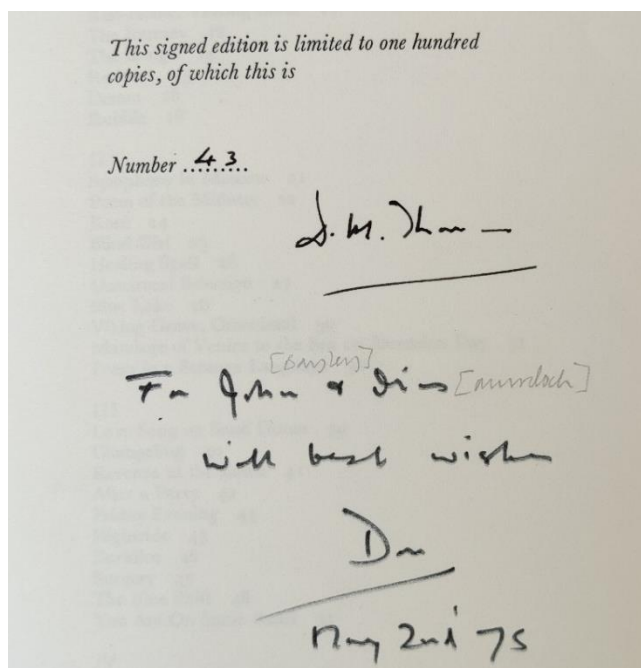


New College Library, Oxford, NC/FUL

³ John Fuller, *Sycamore Broadsheets* (Oxford: Sycamore Press, 1968–1938), New College Library, Oxford, NC/FUL.

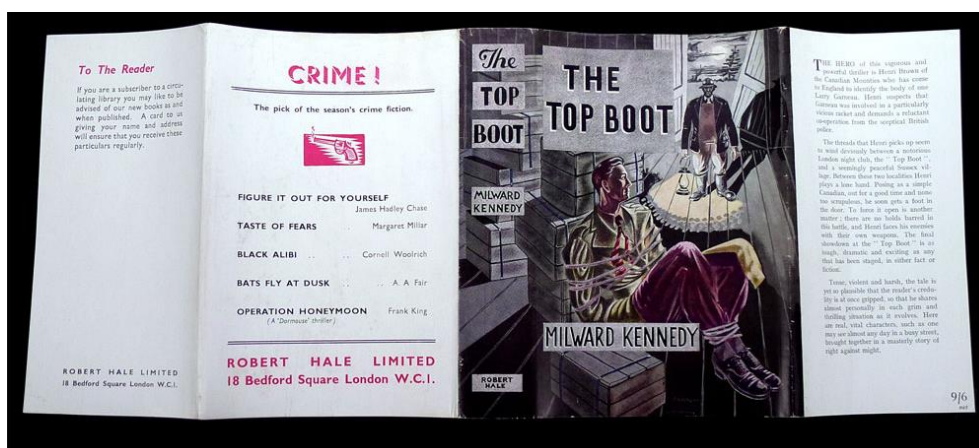
⁴ David Harsent, *Storybook Hero* (Oxford: Sycamore Press, 1992); *A Bestiary: Twenty-Six Linocuts*, by Brigitte Hanf; with poems by John Fuller (Oxford: Sycamore Press, 1974)—both at New College Library, Oxford, NC/FUL.

D. M. Thomas (b. 1935) is a prolific, Booker Prize-shortlisted writer, also of Fuller's generation, and he read English at New College. This year we acquired author-signed copies of his novels *Lady with a Laptop* (1996) and *Charlotte* (2000), and of his children's book *The Devil and the Floral Dance* (1978). A signed, fifty-copy limited edition printing of his first poetry collection *Two Voices* (1968) has nicely filled a notable gap in our holdings of Thomas's works too. However, on account of its provenance, the most significant acquisition for us has been a signed copy of Thomas's poems, *Love and Other Deaths* (1975), which D. M. Thomas presented to the Oxford husband and wife couple, John Bayley and Iris Murdoch.⁵



New College Library, Oxford, NC/THO

The publisher Sir Victor Gollancz (1893–1967) and the crime writer Milward Kennedy (1894–1968) were contemporaries—both students at New College. Though Gollancz published most of Kennedy's novels, *The Top Boot* (1950) Kennedy published elsewhere; copies of this book are very hard to come by. The library has this year acquired a very fine copy indeed, along with a (Gollancz) publisher's file copy of Kennedy's *Escape to Quebec* (1946).⁶



New College Library, Oxford, NC/KEN—showing its exceptionally fine dustjacket

Another famous publisher and New College man, Arthur Waugh (1866–1943), was father to two novelists—Alec Waugh and, far more notably, Alec's younger brother Evelyn Waugh, one of the twentieth century's greatest novelists. But Arthur Waugh wrote no novels himself. Arthur took his third in Classics at New College in 1889, the year after he, too, had secured something which would

⁵ D. M. Thomas, *Lady with a Laptop* (New York: Carroll & Graf, 1996), *Charlotte* (London: Duck Editions, 2000), *The Devil and the Floral Dance* (London: Robson Books, 1978), *Two Voices* (London: Cape Goliard, 1968), *Love and Other Deaths: Poems* (London: Elek, 1975)—all at New College Library, Oxford, NC/THO.

⁶ Milward Kennedy, *The Top Boot* (London: Robert Hale, 1950), and his *Escape to Quebec* (London: Victor Gollancz, 1946), which is stamped on its dust jacket and inside upper board as a Gollancz 'file copy'—both at New College Library, Oxford, NC/KEN.

have mattered far more than the class of his degree—the university’s 1888 Newdigate poetry prize. From 1902 to 1930, Waugh ran the illustrious London publishing house of Chapman & Hall, founded in 1830, which had published the works of some of the great Victorian novelists—Elizabeth Gaskell, Thackeray, Dickens, Trollope, Meredith—and later published Evelyn Waugh as well. Arthur Waugh was also a writer and a literary critic: he reviewed over 6,000 books for the *Daily Telegraph*, and he wrote a history of his publishing house, and a biography of Tennyson, as well as two notable books of literary criticism. In 2021 the library acquired the very fine, green vellum-bound copy of his *A Hundred Years of Publishing: Being the Story of Chapman & Hall, Ltd* (1930), one of fifty, signed and numbered copies produced on handmade paper, and with an interesting provenance, as it once belonged to the American publisher Edward M. Crane, Jr. We also purchased author-inscribed copies of his *Reticence in Literature: and Other Papers* (1915), which was dedicated to Alec, and his *Tradition and Change: Studies in Contemporary Literature* (1919), dedicated to Evelyn. Though he wrote no novels, he wrote verse—or, perhaps it would be no unfair designation to say in some instances, doggerel. Arthur Waugh liked to inscribe copies of his books generously, very personally, even flamboyantly. The copy we acquired this year of his poetry collection *Legends of the Wheel* (1898) is a signed presentation copy to a friend, along with an autograph manuscript poem of thirty-two lines. We also acquired two author-inscribed copies of the 1935 printing of his autobiography *One Man’s Road*, one presented to fellow publisher and writer Bertie van Thal, the other to a married couple of his acquaintance, complete with manuscript poem. As father to so major novelist as Evelyn Waugh—and as well as being a New College man—manuscript correspondence from Arthur Waugh provides us with welcome and unique research material.⁷

As for contemporary New College novelists, we were pleased this year to acquire author-signed copies of books by Rachel Cusk (b. 1967), Sophie Kinsella (b. 1969), Tom McCarthy (b. 1969), Haydn Middleton (b. 1955), Kate Mosse (b. 1961), Natasha Pulley (b. 1988), and Dominic Selwood (b. 1970). The copy we purchased of McCarthy’s Booker Prize-shortlisted *Satin Island* (2015) is of particular note—a special, signed limited edition, printed on fine Swedish-manufactured paper, bound in green-black Japanese silk, and housed in a suedel-lined slipcase.⁸

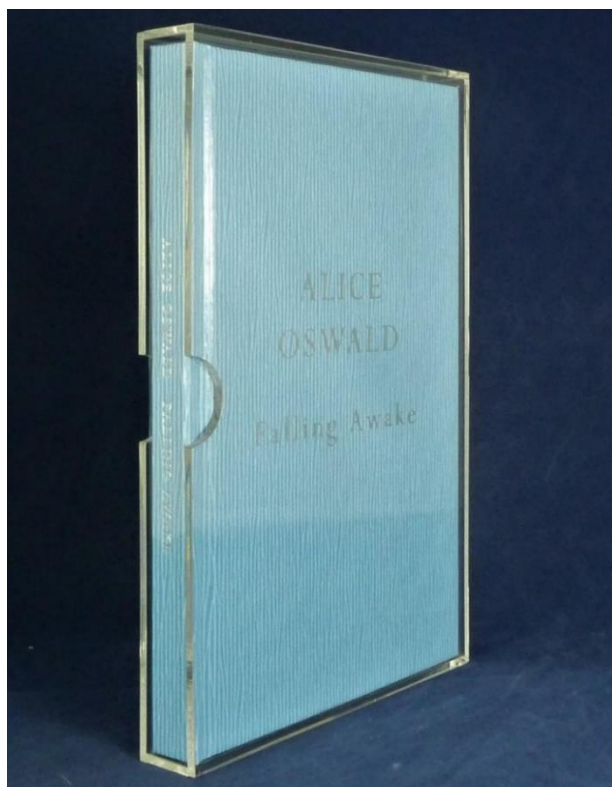


New College Library, Oxford, NC/McC

⁷ Arthur Waugh, *A Hundred Years of Publishing: Being the Story of Chapman & Hall, Ltd* (London: Chapman & Hall, 1930), *Reticence in Literature: and Other Papers* (New York: E. P. Dutton, 1915), *Tradition and Change: Studies in Contemporary Literature* (London: Chapman & Hall, 1919), *Legends of the Wheel* (Bristol: J. W. Arrowsmith, 1898), *One Man’s Road: Being a Picture of Life in a Passing Generation* (London: Chapman & Hall, 1935)—all at New College Library, Oxford, NC/WAU.

⁸ Tom McCarthy, *Satin Island: A Novel* (London: Jonathan Cape, 2015), New College Library, Oxford, NC/McC.

When it comes to the art of the physical book, publications by Oxford Professor of Poetry and New College alumna Alice Oswald (b. 1966) frequently prove special, due to the collaborations she has sought with visual artists, musicians, fine press publishers, and other artisans and creatives. Her *Weeds and Wildflowers* poetry collection with etchings by Jessica Greenman, published in March 2009 by Faber on quality paper, in a crown quarto-size hardback, is an earlier case in point. This year through acquiring several beautiful and bibliographically interesting items, we have again expanded our Alice Oswald collection, with the aim of its becoming the finest available. We have acquired a signed limited hardback edition copy, in its Perspex case as issued, of her *Falling Awake* (2016), her seventh collection of poems, which won both the Griffin and the Costa poetry prizes.⁹



Alice Oswald

One hundred and five copies of
FALLING AWAKE
have been specially bound
and signed by the author.

One hundred copies
numbered 1-100
are for sale.

Five copies numbered I to V
are reserved for the author.

This is number

64/100

New College Library, Oxford, NC/OSW

A revised and expanded edition of *Moth* was published this year. It is Oswald's collaboration with both artist Sarah Gillespie (the book contains Gillespie's mezzotint studies of twenty-one British moths, and is signed by her) and with the gifted designer and typesetter Kevin Mount and his Letter Press, with whom Oswald has often successfully collaborated; the Letter Press is a fine press based in Devon, where the poet now has her home.¹⁰ We also acquired Alice Oswald's eight-poem *A Short Story of Falling*, complemented by eight metal engravings by Venezuelan-born artist Maribel Mas, published last year by the fine press poetry publisher Andrew J. Moorhouse. One of eight numbered copies, the book is a tremendous work of art, fully leather-bound, enclosed in a Solander box, and including a cloth portfolio with an individual handmade print on high-quality Japanese Kouzo paper (signed by the artist) of one of the images in the book. It provides an exquisite presentation for the outstanding poetry of Alice Oswald, who was elected to an honorary fellowship at New College in 2019.¹¹

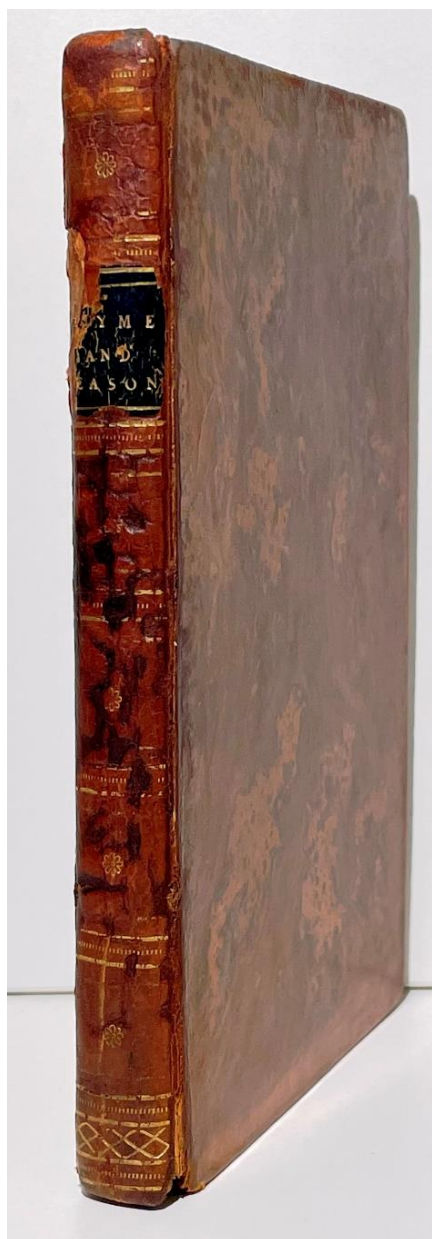
⁹ Alice Oswald, *Falling Awake* (London: Cape Poetry, 2016), New College Library, Oxford, NC/OSW.

¹⁰ *Moth*, mezzotints by Sarah Gillespie with a poem by Alice Oswald (Totnes: Letter Press, 2021), New College Library, Oxford, NC/OSW.

¹¹ *A Short Story of Falling*, poems by Alice Oswald, metal engravings by Maribel Mas (Rochdale: Andrew J. Moorhouse, 2020), presentation copy no. III (of VIII), New College Library, Oxford, NC/OSW Oversize.



Signed handmade print and leather binding
Alice Oswald and Maribel Mas, *A Short Story of Falling* (Rochdale: Andrew J. Moorhouse, 2020)
New College Library, Oxford, NC/OSW Oversize



New College Library, Oxford, NB.73.7

Three other books of poetry by New College alumni we have acquired this year warrant mention. The most recently published is a limited edition of Christopher Morley's *A Pride of Sonnets: Together with an Essay on a Sonnet*, published in Madison, New Jersey in 1951 by the Golden Hind Press. Morley (1890–1957), who hailed from Pennsylvania, was a prolific and versatile writer, best remembered today for his novels. He was a Rhodes scholar at New College from 1910 to 1913, where he studied modern history, and in 1912 he published a book of poetry *The Eighth Sin* with Blackwell's of Oxford. Copies of *A Pride of Sonnets* are uncommon in the UK—the only other institutional copies appear to be those in the Bodleian and at Cambridge University Library. Ours is a presentation copy from Edna and Arthur Rushmore, whose private press the Gold Hind was.¹²

Copies of *The Temple of Friendship and Other Poems* (1903), by New College man Vincent Hughes Bernard Benson, are held in even fewer libraries worldwide. This book is also published by Blackwell's of Oxford, and the copy we have acquired once belonged to Uranian poet Charles Kains-Jackson (1857–1933).¹³

The rarest book of the three, though, is *Rhyme and Reason; Short and Original Poems* (1803), an anonymously published collection by Philip Smyth, who came from Norfolk, matriculated at New College in 1777 (BCL, 1784), and was rector of Worthen parish church in Shropshire from 1809 until his death in 1840.¹⁴

Philip Smyth appears not to have presumed too much about the merit of his own work, as he explains: 'he is not so *courteous* to himself as to think that his Poems have the smallest Claim to the Title of POETRY'.¹⁵ There appear to be only five other copies held in libraries worldwide: the British Library, Durham University, the Bibliothèque nationale de France, the University of California Los Angeles, and the University of Texas at Austin.

The library has sought this year to acquire significant materials that have Wykehamist as well as New College associations. We purchased two letters, of different kinds, by one of our most acclaimed alumni of the Georgian and early Victorian eras, the Reverend Sydney Smith (1771–1845), a writer, wit, and cleric, and sometime scholar at Winchester College and fellow of New College. We bought for the Archives a mischievously phrased autograph letter signed, of 2 January 1807—formerly part of Alan Bell's collection¹⁶—written to Francis Jeffrey, Smith's co-founder of

¹² Christopher Morley, *A Pride of Sonnets: Together with an Essay on a Sonnet* (Madison, NJ: Golden Hind Press, 1951), New College Library, Oxford, NC/MOR.

¹³ Vincent Benson, *The Temple of Friendship and Other Poems* (Oxford: B. H. Blackwell, 1903), New College Library, Oxford, NC/BEN.

¹⁴ Biographical details for Philip Smyth according to: Joseph Foster, *Alumni Oxonienses . . . 1715–1886* (Oxford: Parker and Co., 1888), p. 1324.

¹⁵ Philip Smyth, *Rhyme and Reason; Short and Original Poems* (London: Blacks and Parry, 1803), p. vi, New College Library, Oxford, NB.73.7.

¹⁶ New College holds the large collection of Dr Alan Bell's transcripts of Sydney Smith letters.

The Edinburgh Review. Smith, who contributed prolifically to the *Edinburgh* in its early years, writes concerning Francis Jeffrey's request to receive copy:

I did not promise an article & you must not absolutely depend upon me but if I can I will—I think it worth while to make you pay the postage merely to put you upon your guard—and that you should not deceive yourself. I will write to you at length very soon.¹⁷

The other Sydney Smith item purchased is a first edition printed copy in its original stitching of his *A Letter to the Electors upon the Catholic Question* (1826). In it, Smith the Anglican cleric presents a powerful polemic against the government's continued failure to pursue Roman Catholic emancipation, opening provocatively with, 'WHY is not a Catholic to be believed on his oath?'¹⁸

A Wykehamist and New College man of the previous generation, Bishop of Norwich Henry Bathurst (1744–1837), also campaigned for Roman Catholic emancipation, and was known for being a liberal bishop. He matriculated at New College in 1761 as founder's kin, and was ordained an Anglican priest in the Oxford diocese eight years later. He was one of the thirty-six children who were born to his father's first and second wives, and, in time, he would be father himself to three daughters and eight sons. His eldest son, likewise named Henry Bathurst (1781–1844), also became an Anglican priest—and in due course archdeacon of Norwich in 1814 where he assisted his father—and he too was a New College man. Henry (the younger) published two-volume memoirs of his father in 1837: 'New College Library, Oxford' (and 'Reverend the Warden of New College, Oxford', i.e. the sometime Winchester and New College scholar Philip Shuttleworth) appear in the book's list of subscribers, and the volumes are still held in our library to this day.¹⁹

This year we have acquired for our collections a very distinctive item relating to Bishop Henry Bathurst, which is notable for its refinement and uniqueness as a physical book. From the House of Lords, Bathurst disputed powerfully in favour of former Prime Minister Lord Grenville's Roman Catholic Petition of 27 May 1808, an action after which, according to his obituary in the *Gentleman's Magazine*, 'he is reported to have said to a friend, "I have lost Winchester, my dear Sir, but I have satisfied my conscience."'”²⁰ Other speeches he made in the Lords in favour of Catholic emancipation include those of 19 May 1817 and 21 May 1825. (The Roman Catholic Relief Act was finally given royal assent on 13 April 1829, though George IV was much opposed to it.) Our acquisition is a fine copy of *A Letter to the Right Rev. Henry Bathurst, D.D. Lord Bishop of Norwich: on the Tendency of Some of His Public Opinions, and the Benefits Likely to Accrue . . . by the Repeal of All the Disabling Statutes Against Roman Catholics & Protestant Dissenters* (1813) by William Firth (1768–1838). Firth contends against Bathurst's arguments for reform, employing antagonistic language and sentiment that were not uncommon in their day:

The Roman Catholic religion is the same it ever was, and it is only the want of power (which your Lordship's mild attachment to the Church of which you are a Prelate would readily yield up) that induces the want of exhibiting the same identical appalling face it ever displayed to affrighted Christendom.²¹

¹⁷ Letter from Sydney Smith to Francis Jeffrey (2 January 1807), New College Archives, Oxford, NCA PA/SMS 8.

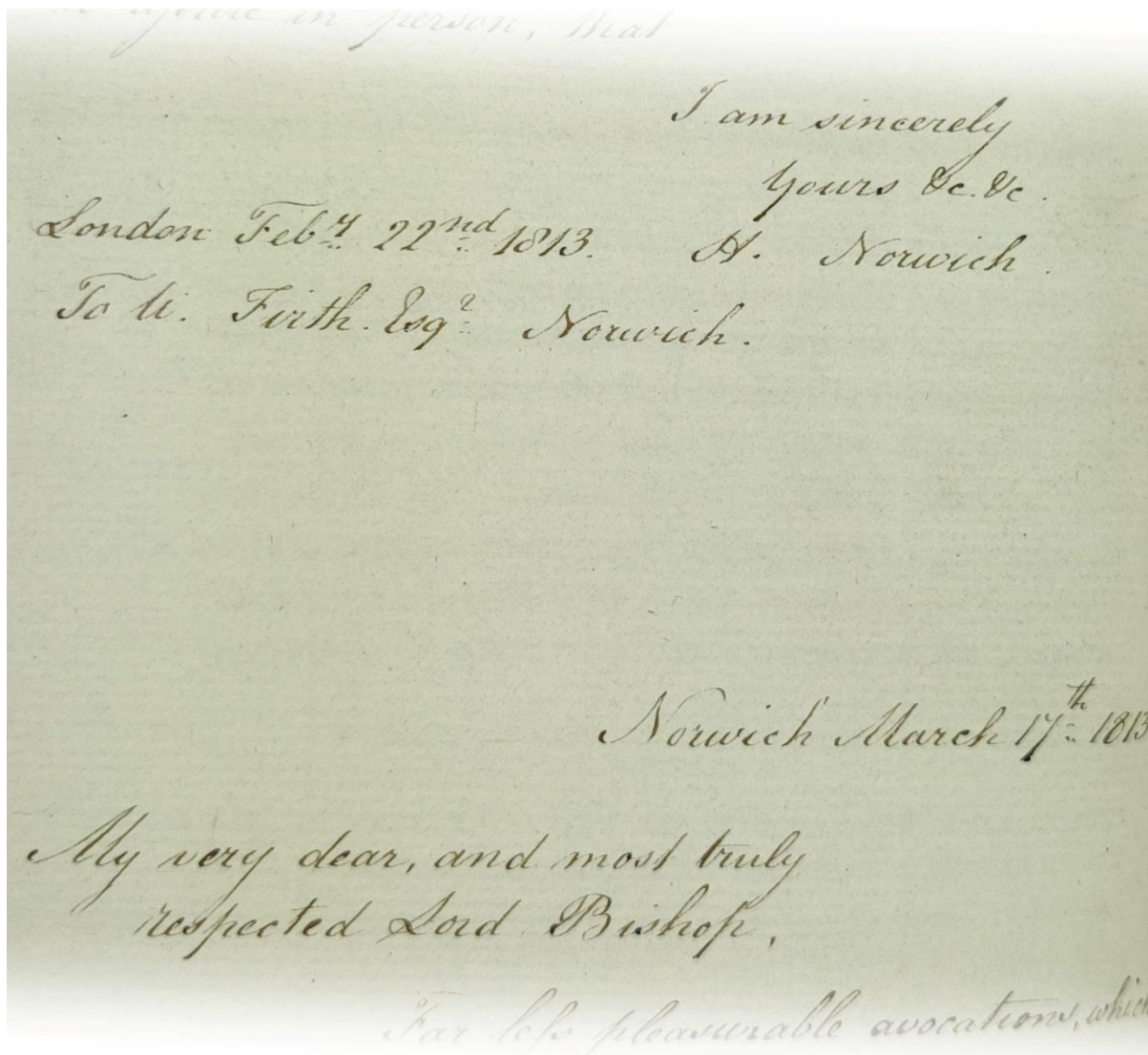
¹⁸ Sydney Smith, *A Letter to the Electors upon the Catholic Question* (York: printed by Thomas Wilson and Sons . . . sold by . . . J. and G. Todd, 1826), p. [1], New College Library, Oxford, .NC/SMI.

¹⁹ Henry Bathurst (the younger), *Memoirs of the late Dr. Henry Bathurst, Lord Bishop of Norwich*, 2 vols. (London: A. J. Valpy, 1837), I, viii, New College Library, Oxford, RS4998–9.

²⁰ '[Obituary for] Dr. Bathurst, Bishop of Norwich', *The Gentleman's Magazine* 7 (June 1837), 653–4, at p. 653.

²¹ William Firth, *A Letter to the Right Rev. Henry Bathurst . . .* (London: F. C. and J. Rivington, 1813), p. 73, New College Library, Oxford, NB.73.6. For details of Firth's life and writings, see the entry by S. R. Mealing on William Firth in the *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*: <www.biographi.ca/en/bio/firth_william_7E.html> (Accessed: 12 December 2021).

Two things make our copy so special. The first is the book's interleaving with eight pages that contain, in a very neat hand, the manuscript copying of a letter of 22 February 1813 from Henry Bathurst to William Firth, followed by Firth's reply of 17 March 1813 to the bishop. The second refinement to our recently acquired copy is more surprising and yet more compelling: a superb fore-edge painting of the river Arno in Florence.



Third manuscript leaf, verso [detail], interleaved at the front of New College Library, Oxford, NB.73.6



Fore-edge painting of the Arno River in Florence, on New College Library, Oxford, NB.73.6

The Reverend William Tuckwell (1829–1919) was another famous Winchester scholar and New College fellow. He shone at Winchester, took only a fourth in Classics at New College, but went on to become New College School headmaster from 1857 to 1864. Throughout his career as a schoolmaster, he pioneered the teaching of science, and a modern curriculum. Celebrated as a cleric and writer, albeit a cleric of a different strand of Anglicanism than Smith's or Bathurst's, Tuckwell became known as the 'radical parson', and supported disestablishment of the Church of England, and also promoted a range of other opinions which he together characterized as Christian socialism. We were delighted to receive as a donation from his direct descendent, Michael Robert Tuckwell, six of William Tuckwell's books—including his *Reminiscences of a Radical Parson* (1905)—each of which bears an autograph inscription from the parson to his son Henry Maurice Surtees Tuckwell. Altogether, with this provenance, they make up a splendid piece of New College history.

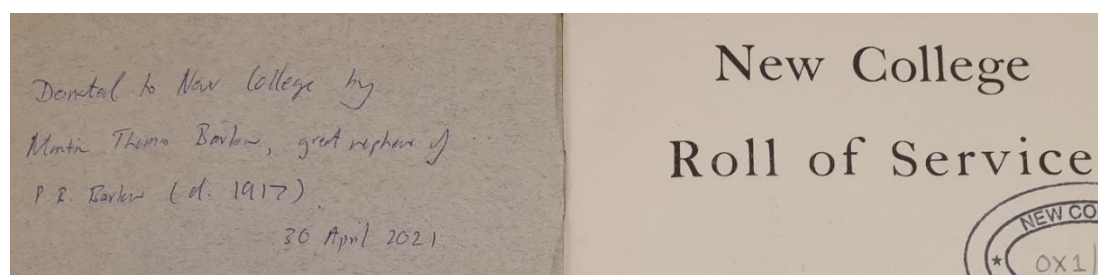
From the many donations to the collections we have received this year, gifts from two other donors also relate for us eloquent tales, thanks to their New College provenance.

The mathematician, and a great-great-grandson of Charles Darwin, Professor Martin Thomas Barlow (b. 1953) kindly gave us two items. One is a decorated, embossed, and signed dinner menu for a King's College Rugby Union Football Club match, played against New College, of 5 December 1903.

The other item has also come down to us courtesy of the family of Martin Barlow's great uncle, Patrick Basil Barlow. P. B. Barlow matriculated at New College in 1903, and we now hold a printed *New College Roll of Service* that is inscribed by Professor Barlow, and within which is a record of the death of his great uncle during the war.²²



New College Archives, Oxford, NCA JCR/P 11/2



Aug. 1914. D. France, 1914. Killed in action in France on Oct. 3, 1914. 1903 **Barlow, P. B., M.A.** (March, 1916). Pte. 1st Grenadier Guards. France. Died at Rouen on Jan. 18, 1917, of blood poisoning, contracted on active service.

New College Library, Oxford, OX1/NEW

²² *New College Roll of Service* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, [1920?]), inside front cover and title-page, and p. 13, New College Library, Oxford, OX1/NEW.

The second donor is Alan Pope, music bibliographer and former Lord Mayor of Oxford. On the occasion of the Inspection of the City Walls on 22 October 2021, he presented to the Warden in the Warden's Lodgings a printed music score of Herbert Howells's *Magnificat and Nunc Dimitis*—a choral piece with organ written for New College—which carries Howells's inscription. The inscription records that in January 1953 the composer had presented the score as a gift to New College's then organist and choirmaster Dr H. K. Andrews (1904–1965).²³

Roland Erasmus Philipps (1890–1916) was also both Wykehamist and New College alumnus, and another who died during the First World War. He was awarded the Military Cross in March 1916, and he died in action in the July. Son of the Liberal politician and financier John Wynford Philipps, 1st Viscount St Davids, Roland's short adult life was taken up with his work for the Boy Scout movement in London. When he died, the movement benefitted from his bequest to them of what became known as Roland House in Stepney. We have acquired copies of what must be exceptionally scarce pamphlet publications, tributes to his short life, printed in 1920 and 1933—the only other UK library with a copy of *Roland Erasmus Philipps, M.C., Captain, 9th Battalion Royal Fusiliers* (1920) appears to be the British Library, and the expanded 1933 pamphlet is also rare. Both were published from Roland House, the Georgian property he left to the scouting movement in his will, and they carry a preface from no less than Lord Baden-Powell, father of the scouting movement.²⁴

Charles Scott Moncrieff (1889–1930), the celebrated translator of Proust, also shone, though perhaps too electrifyingly, at Winchester College where he was a scholar. His talent shone in a way as to provoke a Winchester scandal, which—his great-great-niece and biographer surmises from her access to family papers—probably prevented his then going up to Oxford.²⁵ (He went instead to Edinburgh University.) Scott Moncrieff published his short story 'Evensong and Morwe Song' in the June 1908 pageant issue of the Winchester literary magazine *The New Field*, which he edited in his final year at school. The magazine was hastily withdrawn from circulation and issues were pulped. But only after some copies of the offending issue had been distributed to Winchester parents, old boys, and schoolmasters, containing—as they did—Charles Scott Moncrieff's tale of a hypocritical headmaster at a third-rate public school, 'Cheddar', who expels a boy for committing the same sexual act he had himself committed with the miscreant's father when they were both boys at 'Gainsborough' (almost certainly a fictitious version of Winchester College).

The library has acquired this piece of Winchester notoriety in the form of a very scarce copy of a booklet, in its original paper wrappers, which is entitled *Evensong and Morwe Song*, with a printed date of 1908 (but no details of publisher or place of publication), and bearing the notice: 'Fifty copies have been printed for private circulation only. None are for sale.'²⁶ (The British Library holds no copy; in the UK only the Bodleian, National Library of Scotland, and Cambridge and Leeds university libraries do.) It has been suggested, no doubt correctly, that the booklet was in fact printed in London by the Uranian poet and publisher Francis Edwin Murray, in c. 1923.²⁷

²³ Herbert Howells, *Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis, for New College, Oxford* (London: Novello, 1953), New College Library, Oxford, MSRS281.

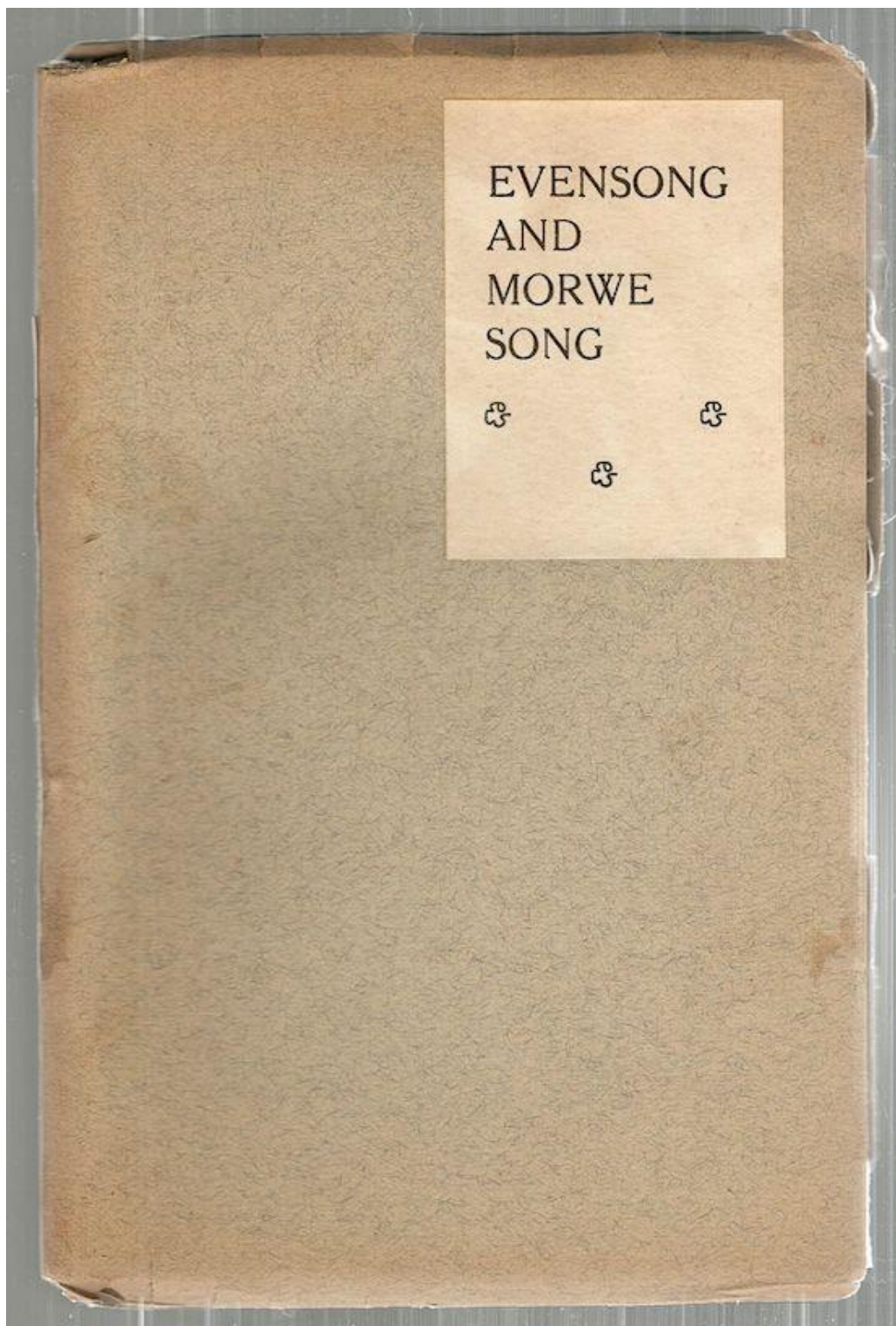
²⁴ Roland Erasmus Philipps, *M.C., Captain, 9th Battalion Royal Fusiliers: Commissioner of Boy Scouts for East & North-East London, Assistant Commissioner for Wales, Advisory Commissioner for Preparatory Schools* (London: Roland House, 1920), and *Roland Philipps: Boy Scout*, edited by E. M. Gate (London: Roland House, 1933)—both at New College Library, Oxford, NC/PHI.

²⁵ Jean Findlay, *Chasing Lost Time: The Life of C. K. Scott Moncrieff: Soldier, Spy and Translator* (London: Chatto & Windus, 2014), pp. 54–6. She cites a telling letter (7 April 1908) from Winchester headmaster Dr H. M. Burge to Charles's father William George Scott Moncrieff written after the *New Field* debacle, warning that Charles 'must not let his taste and style become too wayward—or his pen run away with him into the waste places of "Journalese"'.²⁶

²⁶ C. K. Scott Moncrieff, *Evensong and Morwe Song* ([s.l.: s.n.], 1908), p. [viii], New College Library, Oxford, OX1/MON; p. [vi] also gives: 'The author of this story was Charles Scott Moncrieff. It appeared anonymously in *The New Field*, Pageant No., June, 1908, which was consequently suppressed by the authorities of Winchester College and is now excessively rare.'

²⁷ According to Timothy d'Arch Smith, *Love in Earnest: Some Notes on the Lives and Writings of English 'Uranian' Poets from 1889 to 1930* (London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1970), pp. 147 and 266.

The title of Scott Moncrieff's Winchester tale is an allusion to Chaucer, while the English title *Remembrance of Things Past* that Scott Moncrieff gave to his fêted translation of Proust's *À la recherche du temps perdu* is, of course, Shakespearean.²⁸



New College Library, Oxford, OX1/MON

²⁸ Geoffrey Chaucer, 'General Prologue' to the *Canterbury Tales*, l. 830: 'If even-song and morwe-song accorde'; William Shakespeare, Sonnet 30, ll. 1–2: 'When to the sessions of sweet silent thought / I summon up remembrance of things past'.

Finally, we have this year acquired signed copies of books by our alumnus Gyles Brandreth (b. 1948), the multi-talented writer, broadcaster, former MP, and (Shakespearean) actor—while a student at New College from 1967 to 1970 he directed the Oxford University Dramatic Society. These include *Philip: The Final Portrait*, his biography of HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh who died in April this year, and Gyles's autobiography *Odd Boy Out*.

As you would expect from so skilled a raconteur, his autobiography is witty and entertaining, as he reminds us all—New College members past, present, and future—of our great good fortune in being able to claim this college as our own:

I wonder if any of us had any idea of how privileged we were? On our second night, in hall (high-ceilinged, oak-panelled, adorned with oil paintings of former New College luminaries, including Warden Spooner who gave us the spoonerism and saluted Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee with the cry, 'Three cheers for our queer old dean!'), the present Warden (Sir William Hayter, formerly ambassador to Moscow) did his best to remind us. 'Look up while you are here,' he said, sonorously, 'look around at the buildings. Unless you choose to live in Venice, you are unlikely to live in such a beautiful city again.'²⁹

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²⁹ Gyles Brandreth, *Philip: The Final Portrait: Elizabeth, Their Marriage and Their Dynasty* (London: Coronet, 2021), and *Odd Boy Out* (London: Michael Joseph, 2021), p. 305—both at New College Library, Oxford, NC/BRA.