

## A Library about New College: Noteworthy Acquisitions in 2022

Ensuring through collection building that New College Library is a library about as well as for college is one of my many rewarding responsibilities. As we seek to enrich our collections and to preserve our institutional history, this year has seen important purchases and donations: of books written by alumni past, of items associated with our college and our partner Wykehamist foundation Winchester College, as well as of books penned by celebrated fiction writers and poets of New College presently writing.

George Isaac Huntingford (1748–1832) was born in Winchester, educated as a scholar from 1762 at Winchester College (where he was known by his nickname ‘Tiptoe’), then proceeded to New College, where he matriculated on 19 July 1768, eventually graduating DD in 1793. He became bishop of Gloucester and subsequently bishop of Hereford, but it was Winchester College that would largely preoccupy him, where he was appointed warden on 5 December 1789, a post held until his death. We have purchased two theological pamphlets written by him, both published in 1807, *A Charge, Delivered to the Clergy of the Diocese of Gloucester*, and *Preparation for the Holy Order of Deacons*. Of greater interest, though, is another volume we have acquired, containing Huntingford’s *An Apology for the Monstrophics* (1784) which is bound together with *Poems, Original and Translated* (1794) by John Warton (1756–1820), works by two authors who would have known each another well, not least through their network of Wykehamist and New College connections.<sup>1</sup> John was the grandson of the Revd Thomas Warton (1688–1745), a clergyman and poet (the second man to hold the Oxford professorship of poetry), he was the nephew of the more celebrated Thomas Warton (1728–1790) (the seventh Oxford poetry professor, and a poet laureate) who wrote *Verses on Sir Joshua Reynolds’s Painted Window at New College Oxford* (1782), and he was the son of poet and literary critic Joseph Warton (1722–1800). Joseph Warton was headmaster of Winchester from 1766 to 1793, and in 1777 he acted on behalf of New College warden Dr John Oglander (c. 1737–1794) to engage Sir Joshua Reynolds to design for our college ante-chapel that beautiful ‘painted window’, the subject of his 1782 poem. *Poems, Original and Translated* contains three poems credited to Thomas Warton, the first of which is ‘THE PYRAMIDS OF ÆGYPT, *Written in the year 1771, at Winchester College, by the late Reverend Thomas Warton of New College, Oxford*’; the book was published by subscription, and its list of subscribers records some thirty-nine men of ‘New college, Oxford’ who financed the publication, including Oglander, who subscribed to six copies.<sup>2</sup>

Born in Burma, Scottish Decadent poet John Evelyn Barlas (1860–1914) matriculated at New College on 16 October 1879, where he read classics, gained notoriety for his anarchist views, and befriended Oscar Wilde. He married Nelson’s great-grandniece in 1881, and their daughter was born the following year while he was still an undergraduate and prior to his graduating in 1884. New Year’s Eve 1891 he fired shots outside the House of Commons, and Wilde subsequently stood bail for him following his arrest. He ended his days in Gartnavel Royal Asylum, a Glasgow psychiatric hospital where he had lived for over twenty years. He is known to have published eight volumes of verse, one anonymously and the others under his pseudonym Evelyn Douglas, and his writings received an early appreciation in *The Yellow Book* of 1896, where he is compared to Richard Jefferies, Shelley, Swinburne, Poe, and De Quincey. Copies of Barlas’s books are extremely rare, so the library has been most fortunate to acquire his self-published *Bird-Notes* (1887), thought to be held by only two other libraries in the British Isles (the British Library and the London Library).<sup>3</sup>

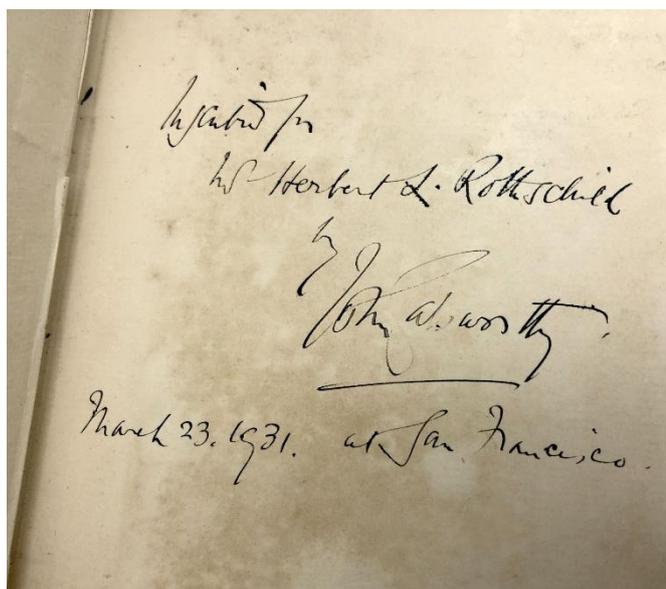
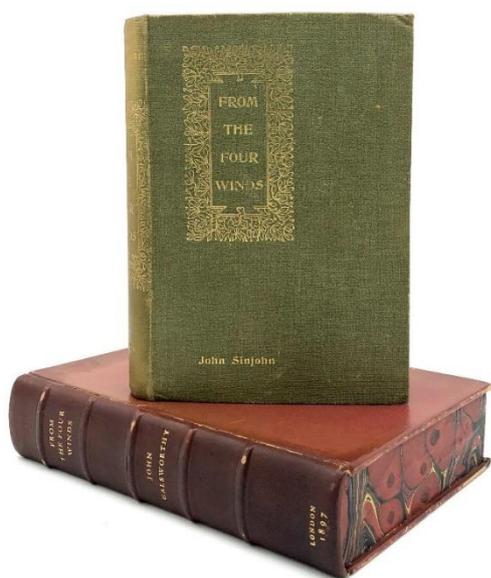
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<sup>1</sup> George Isaac Huntingford, *A Charge, Delivered to the Clergy of the Diocese of Gloucester, at the Triennial Visitation of that Diocese in the Year 1807* (London: Cadell and Davies, 1807), and his *Preparation for the Holy Order of Deacons: or, The First Question Proposed to Candidates . . .* (London: Cadell and Davies, 1807), New College Library, Oxford, NB.73.20(1,2); George Isaac Huntingford, *An Apology for the Monstrophics Which Were Published in 1782. With a Second Collection of Monstrophics* (London: Printed for the Author, by J. Nichols, 1794), bound with John Warton, *Poems, Original and Translated* (Salisbury: Printed by E. and J. Easton, for the Author, 1794), New College Library, Oxford, NB.73.15(2,1)

<sup>2</sup> Warton, *Poems*, pp. 10–13, [i]–xxvii.

<sup>3</sup> Henry S. Salt, ‘John Barlas’s Poetry’, *The Yellow Book* 11 (October 1896), 80–90; Evelyn Douglas, *Bird-Notes* (Chelmsford, Essex: Printed by J. H. Clarke, 1887), New College Library, Oxford, NC/BAR.

Also rare is the first published book of a far better known writer, Nobel literature laureate, novelist and playwright John Galsworthy (1867–1933), who read law at New College, where he graduated in 1889 with a second. Galsworthy’s fame today rests largely on three trilogies of novels, *The Forsyte Saga* (1922) in particular, *A Modern Comedy* (1929)—together adapted as a very popular 1967 BBC television series—and *End of the Chapter* (1935). Galsworthy would decline a knighthood in 1918, but was subsequently elected an honorary fellow of New College in 1926, appointed to the Order of Merit in 1929, and awarded a Nobel Prize the year before he died. (He is also honoured by a commemorative plaque in our cloisters.) His collection of tales *From the Four Winds* appeared in 1897 in a green cloth hardcover edition of 500 copies, under the pseudonym John Sinjohn. The copy we have acquired is notable for its signed inscription of 1931 by the novelist to the San Franciscan lawyer, arts and silent movie patron, and bibliophile Herbert Lionel Rothschild (1881–1935).<sup>4</sup>



New College Library, Oxford, NC/GAL: book with its custom-made box; first endleaf [detail]  
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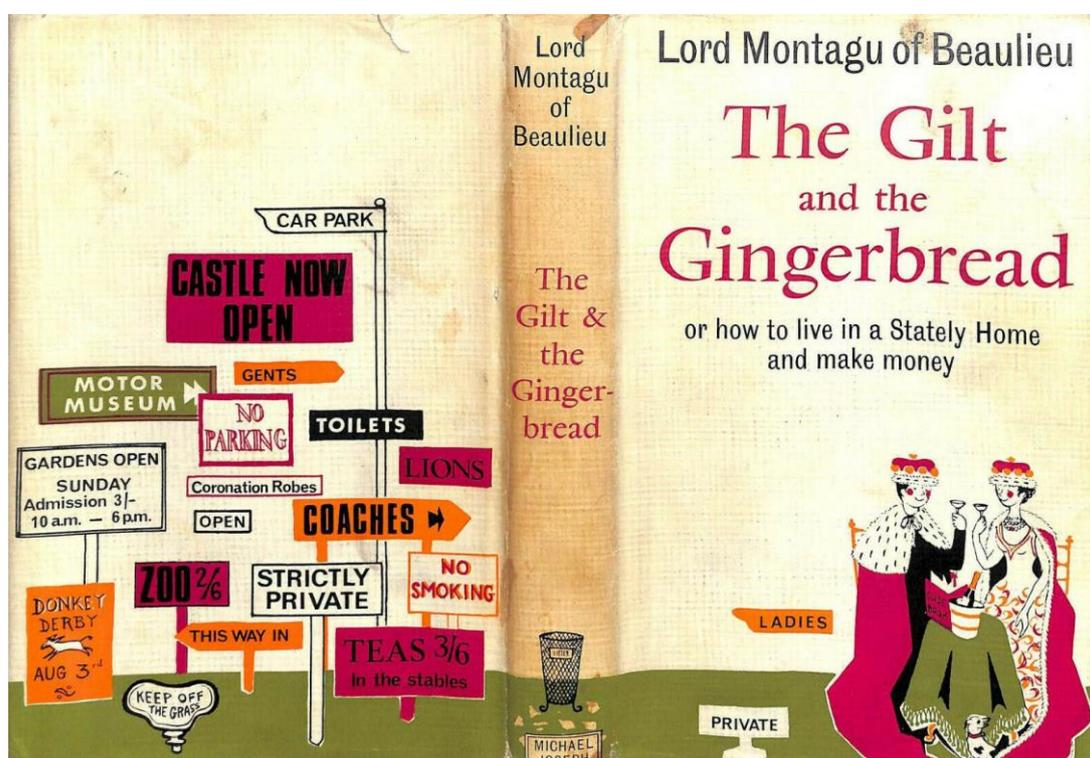
John Fowles (1926–2005) is another New College alumnus novelist with an international literary reputation, who has enjoyed huge popularity: this year we acquired three little-known books by him, each a signed copy. These are his 1977 translation of a French novel of 1823, *Ourika* by the Duchess of Duras (1777–1828)—which inspired possibly his most famous novel, *The French Lieutenant’s Woman* (1969)—his version of the fairy tale *Cinderella* (1974), adapted from another French work *Cendrillon* (1697) by Charles Perrault (1628–1703) and also signed by its illustrator, and his second published book, *The Aristos* (1964), a collection of several hundred philosophical aphorisms, in the manner of ancient Greek philosopher Heraclitus.<sup>5</sup>

Born the same year as Fowles, Lord Edward John Barrington Douglas-Scott-Montagu, third Baron Montagu of Beaulieu (1926–2015) came to Oxford from Eton to read modern history, but the trashing of his rooms at New College, as a result of a fracas between the Bullingdon Club and the Oxford University Dramatic Society, both of which he was a member, precipitated his

<sup>4</sup> John Sinjohn, *From the Four Winds* (London: T. Fisher Unwin, 1897), New College Library, Oxford, NC/GAL.

<sup>5</sup> Claire de Dufort, *Ourika*, translated into English with an introduction and epilogue by John Fowles (Austin, Texas: W. Thomas Taylor, 1977), *Cinderella*, adapted from Perrault’s *Cendrillon* of 1697 by John Fowles, illustrated by Sheila Beckett (London: Cape, 1974), and John Fowles, *The Aristos: A Self-Portrait in Ideas* (Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1964), New College Library, Oxford, all held at NC/FOW.

premature departure in December 1949 during his second year. As he relates in his published autobiography of 2000, his father John Walter Edward Douglas-Scott-Montagu (1866–1929), the second baron and likewise an Eton and New College man, also left Oxford without a degree, having being sent down from college in 1889 for blockading dons into their rooms.<sup>6</sup> The third baron was thrust into public consciousness in the 1950s on account of his trial and conviction for gross indecency, the so-called ‘Montagu affair’, probably the biggest *cause célèbre* since that of Oscar Wilde in the 1890s. The dignified manner with which he handled the scandal, however—and public unease that stemmed from a perception of unfair judicial treatment and consequent sympathy for the peer—helped ensure both his successful rehabilitation into society and, indeed, the eventual decriminalisation of homosexual acts between consenting adults in private with the passing of the 1967 Sexual Offences Act. We have acquired an author-inscribed copy of his *The Gilt and the Gingerbread* (1967), his account of successfully monetising ownership of his stately home and estate at Beaulieu, with a striking book jacket designed by Lord Montagu of Beaulieu’s first wife, Belinda.<sup>7</sup>



New College Library, Oxford, NC/MON

The prolific Scottish poet and novelist (and radio broadcaster) George MacBeth (1932–1992), and the sometime warden of All Souls College, the English academic and book collector John Sparrow (1906–1992) both excelled as undergraduates at New College, gaining scholarships in classics, and then achieving firsts; both men died twenty years ago. George MacBeth was a member of the informal London-based 1950s’ and ’60s’ assemblage of poets The Group—which included Ted Hughes—and he was widely celebrated and admired as a poet. His first collection of poetry *A Form of Words* (1954) appeared while he was still at New College, his second *The Broken Places* (1963) won the prestigious Geoffrey Faber Memorial Prize in the prize’s inaugural year, and

<sup>6</sup> Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, *Wheels Within Wheels: An Unconventional Life* (London: Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 2000), p. 76. We hold two noteworthy copies of this autobiography: one a limited edition, author-signed copy donated to the library by Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, and the other, purchased this year, including a signed letter by the author to a motoring journalist and historian, New College Library, Oxford, both held at NC/MON.

<sup>7</sup> Lord Montagu of Beaulieu, *The Gilt and the Gingerbread, or, How to Live in a Stately Home and Make Money* (London: Michael Joseph, 1967), New College Library, Oxford, NC/MON.

that, together with his third volume *A Doomsday Book* (1965), established his reputation. Helping to fill a surprising void in our collections, this year we acquired some seven of his books, each a signed copy, including copy number one of the twenty-five numbered copies of *A Doomsday Book*, and a copy inscribed by him to Welsh poet Dannie Abse (1923–2014) of his later poetry collection *The Long Darkness* (1983), as well as his sensationalist and lurid novel *The Samurai* (1975)—he collected samurai swords—accompanied by a small collection of signed typed letters and other manuscript materials.<sup>8</sup> We have also augmented our holdings of books by and owned by Sparrow with a signed copy of his epigraphical anthology *Line Upon Line*, a book privately printed in 500 copies for his friends at Christmas, complete with original slipcase. John Sparrow, who had also been a scholar at Winchester College, started at New College in 1925, the year another of our famous alumni, archaeologist Sir Max Mallowan (1904–1978), graduated in classics. Most renowned for his spectacular excavations of the ancient Assyrian city of Nimrud—and for his marriage to the world’s bestselling novelist Agatha Christie—Mallowan published his autobiography the year before he died. His time at New College overlapped with that of Christie’s own nephew, the politician James ‘Jack’ Watts (1903–1961), who opposed the idea of his aunt’s marrying a former fellow New College student of his, thirteen years her junior. In his memoirs, Mallowan describes how moving from his school Lancing College to New College was ‘a step from purgatory to paradise’. However, he gained only a third, and concedes: ‘Aesthetic appreciation of Oxford, its buildings, its history, the society of congenial friends and congenial books, weighed more with me than any curriculum which it had to offer.’<sup>9</sup> The library has purchased a first edition copy of his autobiography, which has been inscribed by Mallowan to his friend, botanist Sir George Taylor (1904–1993).

John Buxton—Edward John Mawby Buxton (1912–1989)—who read classics at New College may be best known to aficionados and friends of college these days for the excellent set of essays about the history of the college he edited with his fellow New College tutor Penry Williams, published to commemorate the college’s sixth centenary in 1979.<sup>10</sup> But alongside his career as an English literature academic, he was also an ornithologist and poet, and we have acquired four volumes of his poetry, including his first *The Pilgrimage* (1936).<sup>11</sup> Born the same year as John Buxton, James Ian Arbuthnot Frazer (1912–1966) won a scholarship to New College to read modern history, wrote fiction under his *nom de plume* of Shamus Frazer, and penned his first novel *Acorned Hog* while still at college. A precocious, sardonic and dystopian novel—in part a satire on Oxford university life, with a hero Philip Kinnell at ‘Winton College’ (i.e. New College)—it was first published in 1933, and received some favourable reviews, with the *Manchester Guardian* praising the ‘combination of real characters with shrewd satire and rollicking farce’, and Frazer’s ‘certainty of touch’ and his ‘keen, impartial wit’, while the reviewer for *The Spectator* wrote:

I can never resist books about Oxford . . . I take off my hat to Mr. Shamus Frazer, who has produced a first novel of surprising quality. He has wit, invention, confidence, and he says what he thinks.<sup>12</sup>

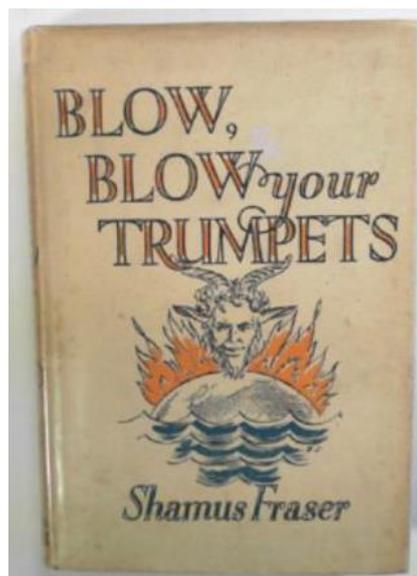
<sup>8</sup> John Sparrow, *Line Upon Line: An Epigraphical Anthology* (Cambridge: Printed by B. Crutchley at the University Print. House, 1967), New College Library, Oxford, NC/SPA; George MacBeth, *A Doomsday Book: Poems and Poem-Games* (Lowestoft: Scorpion Press, July 1965), his *The Long Darkness* (London: Secker & Warburg, 1983), and his *The Samurai* (New York, Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1975), New College Library, Oxford, all held at NC/MAC.

<sup>9</sup> Max Mallowan, *Mallowan’s Memoirs* (London: Collins, 1977), p. 23, New College Library, Oxford, NC/MAL.

<sup>10</sup> *New College, Oxford, 1379–1979*, ed. John Buxton and Penry Williams (Oxford: Warden and Fellows of New College, Oxford, 1979).

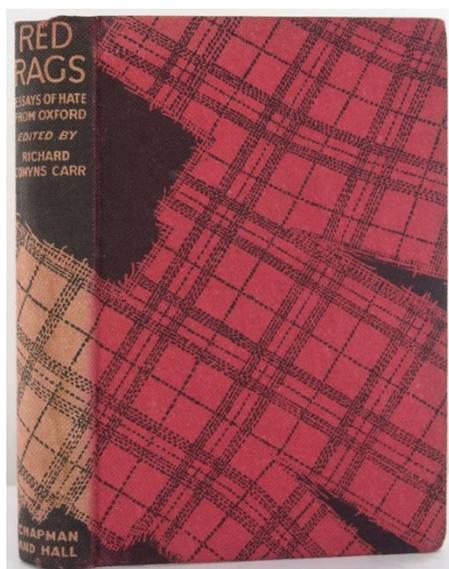
<sup>11</sup> John Buxton, *The Pilgrimage* (Oxford: Printed at the Shakespeare Head Press and sold by Basil Blackwell, 1936), his “*Such Liberty*” (London: Macmillan, 1944), his *Walking in the Snow and Other Poems* (Oxford: Perpetua Press, 1992), and *Five Years to Liberty: The War Poems of John Buxton* (Edinburgh: Pentland Press, 1994), New College Library, Oxford, all held at NC/BUX.

<sup>12</sup> ‘Books of the Day’, *The Manchester Guardian* (17 February 1933), 5; L. A. G. Strong, ‘Fiction’, *The Spectator* 159 (5,457) (27 January 1933), 126.

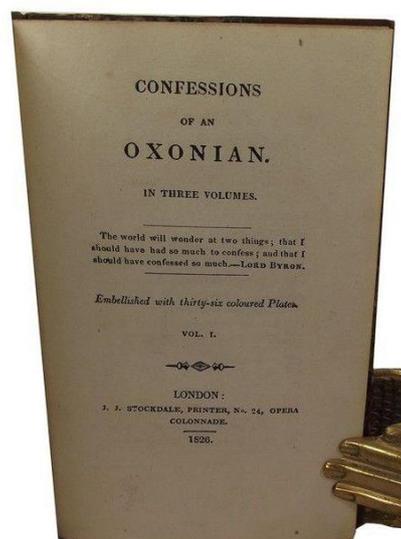


New College Library, Oxford, NC/FRA—with the author’s surname on the dustjacket (right) misspelled

The novel appeared with major British publishing house Chapman & Hall, which was run from 1902 to 1930 by New College alumnus Arthur Waugh (1866–1943), and the rear dustjacket of no less a novel than *A Handful of Dust* (1934) by Evelyn Waugh (Arthur’s son) was entirely given over to promoting *Acorned Hog* and Frazer’s second novel *Porcelain People* (1934). We have acquired three of Frazer’s novels, *Acorned Hog* (1933), *Blow, Blow Your Trumpets* (1945), and *Barbary Court* (1948), each with its rare dustjacket, as well as a splendidly titled anthology *Red Rags: Essays of Hate from Oxford* (1933), another Chapman & Hall publication, and including ‘Cricket and the Cromwell Cult’ an essay by Frazer. We have also purchased another book about Oxford—from a century earlier—an excellent copy of a now rare, popular three-decker novel, *Confessions of an Oxonian* (1826), written by the pseudonymous Thomas Little, and complete with its thirty-six hand-coloured plates.<sup>13</sup>



New College Library, Oxford, NC/FRA



New College Library, Oxford, NB.88.1

<sup>13</sup> Shamus Frazer, *Acorned Hog* (London: Chapman & Hall, 1933), his *Blow, Blow Your Trumpets, a Novel* (London: Chapman & Hall, 1945), and his *Barbary Court: A Novel* (London: Chapman & Hall, 1948), New College Library, Oxford, all held at NC/FRA; Thomas Little, *Confessions of an Oxonian*, 3 vols. (London: J. J. Stockdale, 1826), New College Library, Oxford, NB.88.1–3.

Among our acquisitions this year there have been those with a double connection to Winchester and New College, as well as interesting presentation and association copies relating to college. We were fortunate to purchase for the archives a copy letter of 29 July 1711 from bishop of Winchester Sir Jonathan Trelawny, third baronet (1650–1721), to physician and philanthropist Dr John Radcliffe (after whom several landmark Oxford buildings are named), relating to Trelawny's intervention into Winchester College affairs. Trelawny has often been characterised in history as a timeserver; he is best known as one of the seven Anglican bishops whose intolerance in 1688 of James II's attempts to grant freedom of worship by suspending legal conformity to the Church of England, and the bishops' subsequent acquittal at trial for seditious libel, precipitated the king's being deposed and led to the accession of William and Mary. Our letter suggests how some fellows of Winchester College may have solicited Dr Radcliffe to act to prevent Trelawny's enquiry into their disobeying injunctions of the warden and fellows of New College:

I have reason to believe yt some of ye Fellows of Winchester College may some how or other have made friends to you to engage My Lord Treasurer to countenance ym so far as to get an Order of Council to put a stop to my Proceedings in my enquiry into ye reasons of theyr disobeying ye Injunctions of ye Warden & Posers of New College.<sup>14</sup>

We have also acquired a finely bound first edition copy of *A History of Winchester College* (1899), written by an outstanding expert on the history of English schools, himself a Winchester and New College man and later fellow of All Souls, Arthur Francis Leach (1851–1915).<sup>15</sup>

In the wake of changes to the college's statutes regarding admission, in 1862 William Spooner (1844–1930) became the first ever scholar of New College who had not proceeded from Winchester College; (he had been a pupil at Oswestry School in Shropshire). In 1903 the Revd Spooner became warden of New College, and is remembered today as one of the most effective wardens of recent times, and for having given his name to the verbal slip called the Spoonerism. We have acquired for the archives a signed letter of 6 November 1946 from a later warden, philosopher Alic Halford Smith (1883–1958)—who gained a first at New College—which is written to the university of Oxford public orator Thomas Farrant Higham (1890–1975), commenting on a typescript after-dinner speech on Spoonerisms of 27 December 1942 that Smith was returning, likewise acquired by us.<sup>16</sup> Following Spooner and preceding Smith as warden was historian and politician H. A. L. Fisher (1865–1940). Educated at Winchester and New College, where he took a first in classics, Herbert Fisher, a cousin of Virginia Woolf, would prove to be one of the most distinguished academics ever elected to the wardenship. We have acquired an edition of James I's works by New College student, fellow, and tutor in history Sir Robert S. Rait (1874–1936)—later Historiographer Royal and Principal of the university of Glasgow—which is inscribed by its editor to Fisher.<sup>17</sup>

The copy we have purchased of W. B. Yeats's *Seven Poems and A Fragment* (1922), published by his sister Elizabeth Yeats's Irish arts and crafts Cuala Press, is—aside from being a lovely item in its own right—significant on account of its provenance: it is inscribed 'John Sparrow from Maurice Bowra', and bears John Sparrow's bookplate. Thus it was given by one New College classics scholar who would become an Oxford college head, Sir Maurice Bowra (1898–1971)—later warden of Wadham—to another, John Sparrow—later warden of All Souls. In both men's friendship circle was Lord David Cecil (1902–1986), fellow (later honorary fellow) of New College,

<sup>14</sup> Copy letter from Jon[athan Trelawny, 3rd baronet, bishop of] Winchester, from Chelsea, to Dr [John] Radcliffe (19 July 1711), New College Archives, Oxford, NCA 15004, f. 1r.

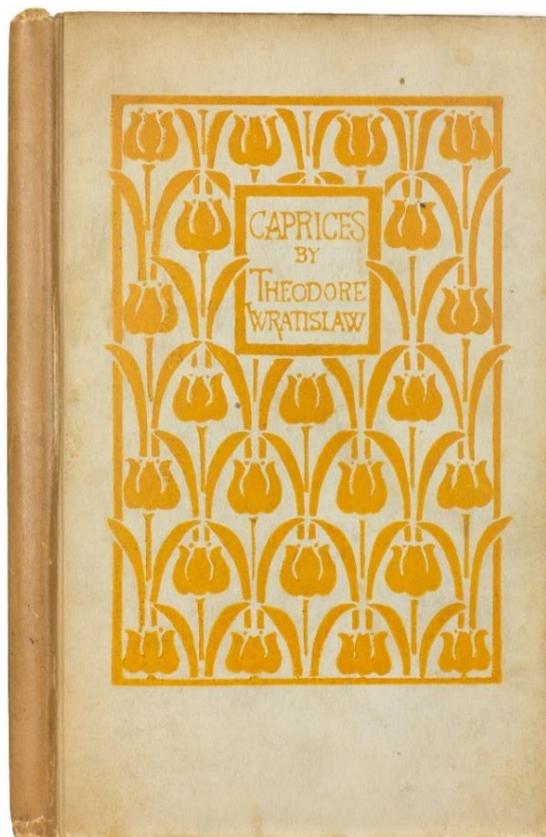
<sup>15</sup> Arthur F. Leach, *A History of Winchester College* (London: Duckworth, 1899), New College Library, Oxford, OX1/LEA.

<sup>16</sup> Letter from Alic Halford Smith, at New College, to Thomas Farrant Higham (6 November 1946), with a typescript after-dinner speech of 27 December 1942, initialed by Higham, New College Archives, Oxford, NCA PA/SMA 5/16.

<sup>17</sup> *Lusus Regius: Being Poems and Other Pieces by King James Ye First*, ed. Robert S. Rait (Westminster: Constable, 1901), New College Library, Oxford, RS/OS185.

where he was Goldsmiths' Professor of English Literature. We were pleased to acquire the dedication copy of *Pursuit: The Chase and Sinking of the Bismarck* (1974) written by television journalist, campaigner, and writer Sir Ludovic Kennedy (1919–2009); as a Royal Navy officer Kennedy had witnessed the battleship's sinking in 1941. Signed by the author on its title-page below its printed dedication to 'my friend and former tutor David Cecil', it also bears Kennedy's inscription: 'David Here it is, and I hope you won't be too embarrassed by it! I'm so very happy that you let me dedicate to you. Ludo'.<sup>18</sup>

One of our most significant acquisitions this year has been a first edition, second issue copy of *Caprices* (1893) by 1890s' poet Theodore Wratislaw (1871–1933), who was part of Oscar Wilde's circle. A very fine copy, in its original glazed pictorial boards designed by Gleeson White (1851–1898) depicting yellow tulips, ours is copy 24 of 100 copies for sale. The book is notable in terms of its publication history, and—to New College in particular—because of its provenance. It bears the bookplate of New College alumnus Simon Nowell-Smith (1909–1996), who was born in Winchester where his father was assistant master at Winchester College; Simon went on to become an outstanding bibliographer and the librarian of the London Library. His pencil note on the book's front flyleaf points to the fact that, though the homoerotic poem 'To a Sicilian Boy' (and another, 'L'Eternel féminin') remain in the volume's table of contents, they have been replaced by two others ('Paradox' and 'At Midnight') in this second issue of the book, having been suppressed following an objection from a journalist at the *Pall Mall Gazette*.<sup>19</sup> 'To a Sicilian Boy' had appeared earlier in the monthly magazine *The Artist and Journal of Home Culture* in August 1893, and also survives in print in the few first issue copies of *Caprices* known to exist.



New College Library, Oxford, RS5295

The art book *The End of the Known World* (2022) by Fernando Leal Audirac (*b.* 1958) is another very beautiful acquisition to our collections this year. Produced in Milan, Italy in a limited edition of 700 copies (ours is copy VII of 50 in Roman numeration), the book was launched on 18 October 2022 in Lucerne, Switzerland to accompany the artist's 'Panorama of Lucerne' exhibition that took place there. Leal Audirac is the son of Fernando Leal (1896–1964), a founder in the 1920s of the Mexican muralism art movement. A widely exhibited visual artist, known especially for his fresco and encaustic painting, in 2003 Leal Audirac was granted permission to paint a life portrait of Pope Saint John Paul II, resulting in his 10-metre long fresco. With a preface by American film director E. Elias Merhige (*b.* 1964), and containing the transcript of an interview I conducted with the artist, the copy we hold of *The End of the Known World* is a presentation copy, inscribed and dated by the artist.<sup>20</sup>

<sup>18</sup> William Butler Yeats, *Seven Poems and A Fragment* (Dundrum: Cuala Press, 1922), New College Library, Oxford, RS5297; Ludovic Kennedy, *Pursuit: The Chase and Sinking of the Bismarck* (London: Collins, 1974), New College Library, Oxford, NC/CEC, title-page and p. [5].

<sup>19</sup> Theodore Wratislaw, *Caprices: Poems* (London: Gay and Bird, 1893), New College Library, Oxford, RS5295.

<sup>20</sup> Fernando Leal Audirac, *The End of the Known World* (Milan: NUL Art Editions, 2022), New College Library, Oxford, NC/SKE.



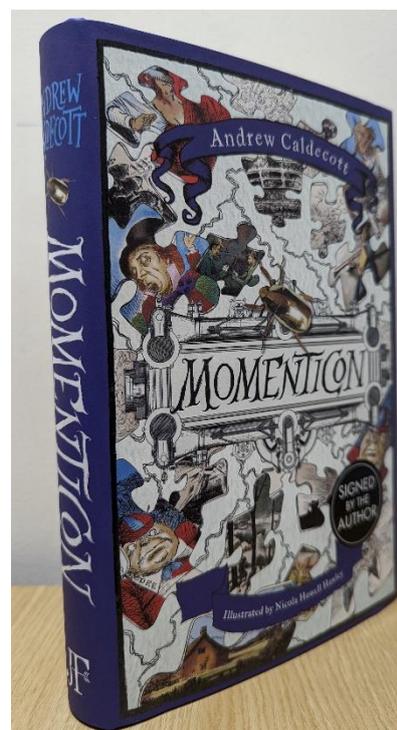
New College Library, Oxford, NC/SKE, various openings  
© Fernando Leal Audirac



New College Library, Oxford, NC/OSW

As in recent years, the library has obtained various books by contemporary biographers, fiction writers, and poets associated with New College. These include the poetry collection *Rich* by sometime English tutor and emeritus fellow at New College, Craig Raine (b. 1944), copy 17 of 21 in the yellow cloth binding produced in 1984 by Brian Dickson, and signed by the poet; and recent publications by Oxford professor of poetry and New College alumna Alice Oswald (b. 1966), including two rare and special items produced by the Letter Press of Totnes, the folded sheet *Living Under the Digestive System* (2018), and *The Same Blackbird* (2021), a ‘postal performance’ contained in an envelope, marking the quatercentenary of the Oxford Botanic Garden.<sup>21</sup>

We have sourced author-signed copies of biographies and fiction by our alumni writers: by A. N. Wilson (b. 1950), including *Iris Murdoch As I Knew Her* (2003) and his novel *My Name Is Legion* (2004); novels by Charlotte Mendelson (b. 1972), including her *Almost English* (2013), longlisted for both the Booker and Women’s Fiction prizes; novels by Patrick Gale (b. 1962), including *Friendly Fire* (2005), signed by its author and by its illustrator, Gale’s husband Aidan Hicks (b. 1966), and also his *Mother’s Boy* (2022), in its independent bookshop edition including a signed letter to the reader; the gothic novella *Cotton Cleopatra F VIII: The Abbess’s Tale* (2022) by Dominic Selwood (b. 1970); a special signed and numbered limited edition copy of *The Half Life of Valery K*, a novel by Natasha Pulley (b. 1988); biographical books by two of our alumnae better known for their brilliant novels, *Everything Is True: A Junior Doctor’s Story of Life, Death and Grief in a Time of Pandemic* (2022) by Roopa Farooki (b. 1974), and an independent bookshop exclusive edition copy of *Warrior Queens & Quiet Revolutionaries: How Women (Also) Built the World* (2022) by Kate Mosse (b. 1961); and, finally, a special numbered edition copy of the novel *Momenticon* (2022) by Andrew Caldecott (b. 1952) with its striking cover, signed by both the author and the illustrator.<sup>22</sup>



New College Library, Oxford, NC/CAL

Christopher Skelton-Foord  
 Librarian  
 New College, Oxford

<sup>21</sup> Craig Raine, *Rich* (London: Faber, 1983), New College Library, Oxford, NC/RAI; and Alice Oswald, *Living Under the Digestive System* (Totnes: Letter Press, 2018), and her *The Same Blackbird: A Souvenir from The Letter Press to Mark the Quatercentenary of the Oxford Botanic Garden* (Totnes: Letter Press, 2021), New College Library, Oxford, both held at NC/OSW.

<sup>22</sup> Copies of all these books are held in New College Library, Oxford, in our alumni collection at their respective NC shelfmarks.