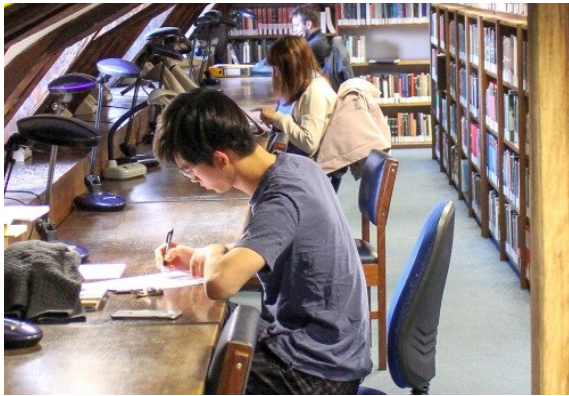


## Welcome to a new term!



The library team wishes you all the very best for your Easter Term exams and other projects. In case of library-related questions please do not hesitate to contact us either by coming into the library (Monday-Friday, 9.00-17.15) or by emailing us at [library@queens.cam.ac.uk](mailto:library@queens.cam.ac.uk).

### Where to study in Easter term?

In addition to the WML, Erasmus Room and the Fitzpatrick Gallery, even more rooms are now available as library study spaces. The Angevin Room, Green Room, and the Cafeteria entrance area are all reserved for study this term, with extended opening hours (7.00am-3:00am). Seminar Room DD47 is also available in the evenings (7:00pm-midnight). We will be monitoring these spaces during office hours as best as we can. In case of problems please do contact us.

## Coffee mornings are back

After a three-year hiatus, Queens' library's famous exam term coffee mornings are making a comeback. To offer students a well-deserved brain break: tea, coffee, and biscuits will be served in the Munro Room at 11.00-11.20 every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, from 2nd May until 6th June. Come down and recharge with friends, coffee, and a biscuit or two (donuts on Fridays).



## New online tool to discover recent WML acquisitions in your subject



Many thanks to the many students and DoS who've provided us with book requests and informed advice on developing the Queens' collection this year. To keep you up to date with the continuous development of our collections as well as new publications in your fields of study, each term we are publishing an iDiscover-linked list of new acquisitions from the previous term. Ordered by subject, you can skip straight to the relevant sections for your tripos course. Browse the new titles now available to you here: [bit.ly/WMLnewacq](https://bit.ly/WMLnewacq).

## Easter Term Old Library Workshops

Would you be interested in knowing more about Queens' Old Library and its fabulous collections of 15th-18th century books? Regardless of whether your interest is study-related or born of general curiosity, do come along to one of these workshops. They will take place on Monday 9 May, 9.30-10.30 and 17.00-18.00. Book your place here: [bit.ly/OLEaster22](https://bit.ly/OLEaster22).

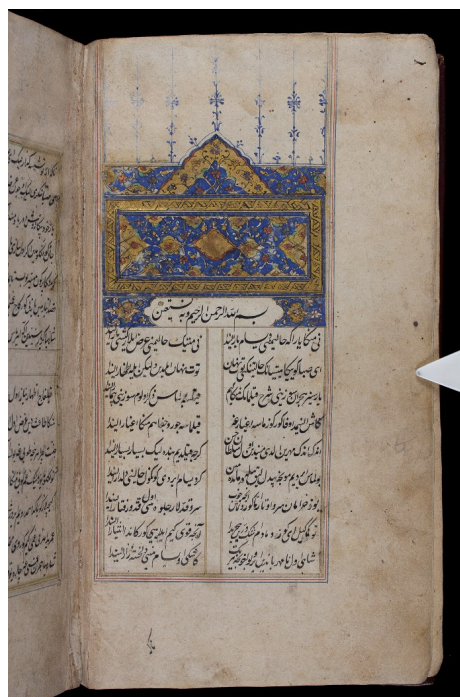




Confused owl, MS 29

## Update on our medieval manuscripts digitisation project

Funded by the most generous gift of Dr Virge James, our project to digitise the Old Library’s manuscript collection is now well underway, with an initial batch comprising medieval manuscripts soon to be freely available to explore via the [Cambridge Digital Library](#). The need to research and catalogue in painstaking detail these volumes for inclusion in the Cambridge Digital Library has required the advice of experts in various fields (to whom we are grateful) and occasioned the discovery of numerous unique features such as this owl perched on top of an initial in a 13th-century Psalter [MS 29]. In particular, the project is shining a light on a hitherto little known aspect of the library’s holdings, our magnificent collection of twelve Persian and Turkish manuscripts. The donation of these volumes, apparently by one Thomas Thompson in 1665, is significant for the fact that it occurred alongside the expansion in Arabic studies that took place in Cambridge following the establishment of a chair in Arabic (1632), when the University acquired its first Islamic manuscripts. Amongst works of religion, poetry and science, the collection includes two copies of the *Gulistan* (Rose Garden), a landmark of Persian literature, by the renowned poet Sa’di (1203-92) [MS 3 & 4] and a *diwan*, a collection of poems, finely decorated with a headpiece in blue and gold [MS 9]. The completion of this project later in the year will offer a long-awaited and essential step in our plans to make the Old Library’s collections fully accessible and realised as a teaching, learning and research resource.



Head-piece decoration in Persian diwan, MS 9

## Elizabeth Elstob and the history of women’s education



Initial with portrait of Elizabeth Elstob

Emma Anderson, our Graduate Trainee Librarian, has uncovered interesting evidence to link Queens’ with an early attempt to promote women’s education. This can be found in the subscribers’ list to the library’s two copies of Elizabeth Elstob’s *English-Saxon Homily on the Birth-day of St Gregory* (1709), a scholarly translation that also includes powerful arguments in support of women’s education. Among 268 subscribers listed can be found ‘Dr. [Henry] James, Master of Queens’ College’ (he was in fact President in 1675-1717). In subscribing to this text James had made public his financial contribution towards its production and, perhaps, its ethos. In return he received copies, which explains the book’s presence in the Old Library. Sadly, support for women’s education did not extend to the admission of women as Queens’ members: that didn’t happen until 1980. Read more about Elstob and Queens’ here: [bit.ly/OLblogElstob](http://bit.ly/OLblogElstob).

## After 50 years, 'Oriental Collection' books revealed in Armitage Room



The Oriental Collection, shelved in the newly refurbished Armitage Room for graduate study

The recent installation of lockable shelving in the Armitage Room has enabled us to finally provide a home for the eighteenth- and nineteenth-century books from the college's huge Oriental Collection. Amassed by eminent Queens' scholars over the past 400 years, this important collection reflects the college's historic specialisms in

Hebrew and other subjects relating to the study of Asian languages, religions and history. The collection was returned to Queens' a few years ago following nearly fifty years of neglect during which time it was on permanent loan to another institution. We're pleased to say that the books are currently undergoing a process of conservation, made possible in part by a recent donation from a former member. With the earliest books in the Old Library, the part of the collection that is now in the Armitage Room is looking magnificent in its new home where we hope scholars might see it and, hopefully, be inspired to use it. See our blog post for more information on the Oriental Collection: [bit.ly/OLblogOriental](http://bit.ly/OLblogOriental).

***Need to comb-bind your dissertation?***

***We can do it in the library!***

***Get in touch at least a day before it's due. £1 per binding.***

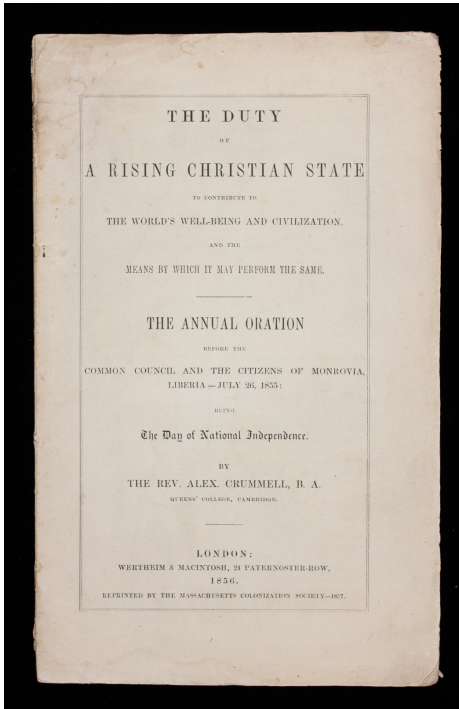


### In need of a break? Come and visit the Old Library

Do you fancy a break from exams and revision in your 15th-century medieval library? If so, we've got you covered. The Old Library (Queens' original library) will be open from Tuesday 3 May to Friday 13 May, Monday -Friday, 1.30-4.30pm. The connecting door on the first floor of the WML (student library) will be left open at

that time so just pop in for a break and explore Queens' medieval library. An exhibition of treasures will also be on display so you can discover some of the fascinating volumes held in the library. Lucille, our Rare Books Curator, will be around to answer any questions.

## Two recent acquisitions relating to Queens' Legacies of Enslavement

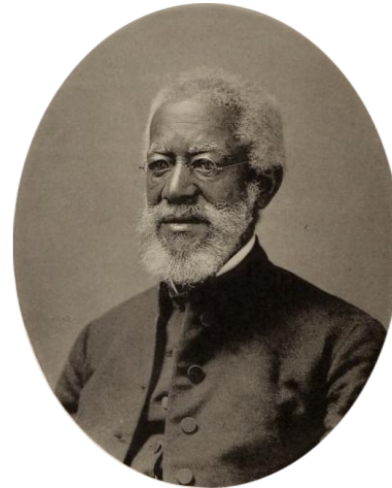


Title page of Crummel's pamphlet

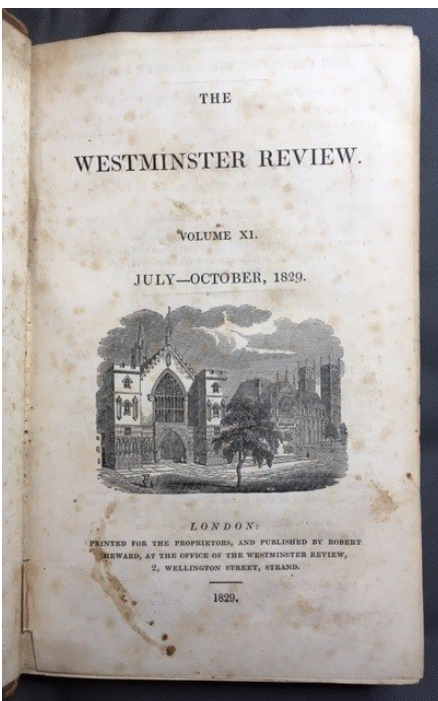
The Old Library's extensive collection of books relating to this subject is significant for the fact that many of them were written or donated by Queens' members who played significant parts on either side of the debate. In seeking to fill gaps in our historic collections we have been lucky enough to source a pamphlet by the former Queens' member Alexander Crummel (m. 1849). Born in New York, the son of a formerly enslaved man, he overcame the severest obstacles of race and prejudice to achieve distinction as a pioneering African-American minister, academic, abolitionist and African nationalist. His pamphlet on *The Duty of a Rising Christian State*

(1856) was the product of

time spent in Liberia where he sought to convert Africans to Christianity as well as formulate a pan-African ideology aimed at strengthening bonds of solidarity between indigenous and diaspora ethnic groups of African descent.



Alexander Crummel



Westminster Review (July-Oct 1829)

A further recent acquisition is the July-Oct 1829 issue of the *Westminster Review*, a mouthpiece of radicalism founded by the philosopher Jeremy Bentham but later partially owned by one of its main contributors, the former Queens' member Thomas Perronet Thompson (1783–1869). Having graduated and gained a fellowship at Queens', Thompson had left Cambridge (c. 1806) to gain fame as a radical MP and political economist, devoting much of his career to colonial and particularly West Indian matters. A lengthy article by him in this 1829 issue represents one of the most outspoken and sarcastic attacks on slavery and the system of British government levies that supported it. From his perspective 'A good meal once a quarter, is taken from the haggard wife and the starving child [by way of taxation]; because, without it, there would be no possibility of carrying on the flogging of [enslaved people] in the Colonies.'

