

500 Years of Maths at Queens'

A new exhibition has recently opened in the Old Library, showcasing the history of Queens' College as a place of mathematical learning through a selection of books used at the college during its long history. From sixteenth-century humanist translations of ancient Greek texts, to Charles Babbage's proposition of an 'Analytical Engine', these books document the development of seminal theories, ideas and discoveries. Included are ground-breaking works by Archimedes, Euclid, John Napier, René Descartes, Pierre Simon Laplace, Jacob Bernoulli and many others. Of particular interest are four first editions of key works recently donated by Queens' alumna Tara Symeonides (m. 2001).



To see the exhibition please email us to make an appointment, or drop in to the Old Library between 1.30pm-4.30pm on any weekday afternoon in the last two weeks of term (5-16 June). Access will be via the 1st floor of the WML.



Coffee and doughnuts in the Munro Room!

The fabulous Queens' Library exam term coffee mornings have returned! We strongly encourage students working in the library to take a break and chat with friends over freshly-brewed coffee, tea, and fancy biscuits in the Munro Room at 11:00-11:20 every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, until June 2nd. On Fridays there are doughnuts!

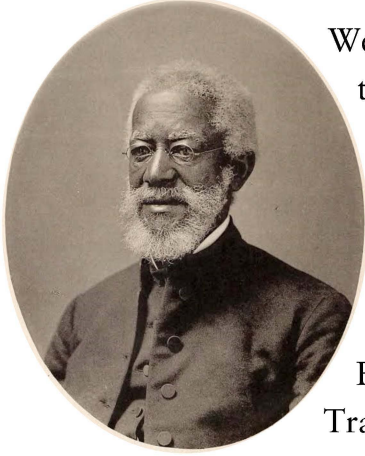
Study spaces in exam term

Great news! As we enter our busiest time of the year, we are pleased to remind you that additional study spaces are now available for our students. The Erasmus Room, Angevin Room, and Green Room are all open for study, with the Erasmus Room as a silent space. Cripps Hall is also available 9.30-11.45 and 14.30-16.30, complete with hot drinks, fruit, and biscuits.



If you encounter any issues with study spaces outside the library, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Reflections on Legacies of Enslavement at Queens' College, 2020-23



We are delighted to have welcomed almost 1,400 visitors to our Old Library exhibition, *Enslavement and Salvation* over five months prior to its conclusion, just before Easter. To find out about reactions received from the general public, together with our own reflections on the exhibition's curation and the project more generally, please read the blog article by Tim Eggington (Librarian) and Emma Sibbald (Library Grad Trainee): bit.ly/OLblogReflectionsLegacies.

Obsolete orders: the need to reclassify Queens' War Memorial Library

Classification is key to unlocking a world of discovery, allowing students to stumble across works on specific and related subject areas as they peruse the library shelves. A new blog post by our Reader Services Librarian, Harry Bartholomew, elucidates the peculiarities of the War Memorial Library's historic classification system. By shining a light on some of its murkier parts, including treatment of race and Eurocentrism, he seeks to offer solutions to make our system of classification fit for purpose in the WML of the 21st century: bit.ly/WMLblogObsoleteOrders.



New displays!

Looking for your next great read? Check out our new displays in the WML lobby and the Armitage Room for a selection of new fiction, prize-winning works, staff picks, spring reads, and more.

Library acquisitions

Since the start of 2023 we have received 56 book requests from students and fellows which have been swiftly acquired and added to the collection. You can browse these by subject together with over 300 more new additions to the WML's shelves on our accessions page:

bit.ly/WMLAcq.



Exciting new research project to catalogue our magnificent collection of medieval, Persian, and other early manuscripts

We are delighted to announce the donation to the library by former Queens' member, Nigel Farrow (m. 1958), of a gift to enable us to commission and publish two books: a printed catalogue of our medieval, Persian and early modern manuscripts, together with a more general interest book about the Old Library and its collections. The catalogue data will also be formatted for availability

via various online catalogues. This project represents a really important step forward in our efforts to realise the importance of our unique collections as a resource for research, education and outreach. Until now the medieval manuscripts have been known only via a published catalogue created by MR James in 1905, but that is now considered to be very inaccurate and incomplete. The Persian manuscripts which were given to the college in the mid-17th century are at present virtually unknown, as are most of our early modern manuscripts. The new catalogue will also describe and index the hundreds of precious fragments from medieval manuscripts that have been identified in the bindings of early modern printed books and elsewhere in the Old library. Earlier this month we were delighted to welcome Prof Rod Thomson (University of Tasmania) who will be cataloguing the medieval manuscripts during his initial three-month residence at Queens' as Distinguished Academic Visitor. Other scholars are being appointed to undertake work on other aspects of the project. We anticipate that the project will take two years to complete. We are extremely grateful to Nigel Farrow for his generosity in making this important project possible.

(As yet) unidentified Anglo-Saxon fragment [Queens' College MS 75*].



Fol. 3r from *Graduale ad usum Sarum* [Queens' College MS 28].

