

## Theatre of Insects: Entomology in Queens' Old Library

A new exhibition will be opening in November 2023, exploring entomology, or the study of insects, in our historic collections. The display was curated by Emma Sibbald (Q Old Library) with Prof David Sattelle (UCL & Q Fellow Commoner) to accompany an international conference organised by Prof Sattelle at Queens' last month, focusing on 'Control of Human Disease Vectors, Pests and Parasites'. Exhibits include works by notable scientists and natural philosophers, such as Carl Linnaeus, Antonie van Leeuwenhoek, Francesco Redi and many more. By tracing the history of humanity's fascination with the miniature worlds of insects in Queens' historic print collections, we can observe a variety of cultural, political, and scientific developments from the Renaissance to the present day.



THEATRE OF  
INSECTS:  
ENTOMOLOGY AT  
QUEENS'

Old Library Exhibition

**Nov 20th—Dec 1st, 2023**

Monday–Friday, 1.30–  
4.30pm

Old Library | Queens' College  
Access via 1st floor of WML  
(student library)

To see the exhibition please visit the Old Library between 1.30pm-4.30pm on any weekday afternoon from November 20th to December 1st. Access will be via the 1st floor of the WML.

### Welcome to all new and returning students!

Whether you're a fresh face or a familiar one, we're looking forward to having you in the library this year. If you need an introduction to, or a reminder of, how to make best use of Queens' library, take a look at [this year's guide to our services](#), or just ask a librarian at the desk for a brief explanation of what's available.

Do get in touch with any questions: [library@queens.cam.ac.uk](mailto:library@queens.cam.ac.uk)



@QUEENSLIBCAM

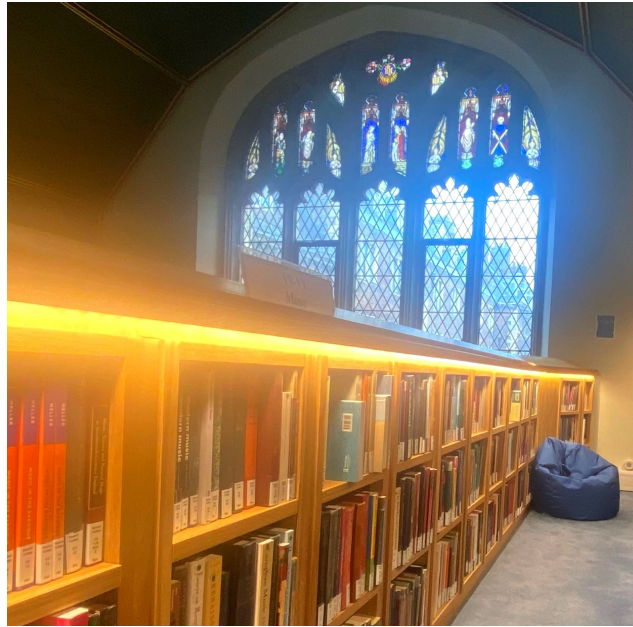
### New Instagram Account

This October the Library team have launched our very own Instagram (@queenslibcam)!

We will be using this as our primary platform for social media communication, so do give us a follow and keep your eyes peeled for War Memorial Library events, displays, and updates, as well as Old Library collection highlights and upcoming exhibitions and more.

## New study spaces and WML lighting!

Great news! A new study space is now open for undergraduates in G1 and G2, which can be found in Walnut Tree Court. This new study space has designated areas for individual and group study, as well as computers and monitors. If you encounter any issues with study spaces outside the library, please don't hesitate to contact us. Beautiful new lighting has also been installed on the WML galleries, just in time for autumn!



## The return of Graduate Writers' Space!

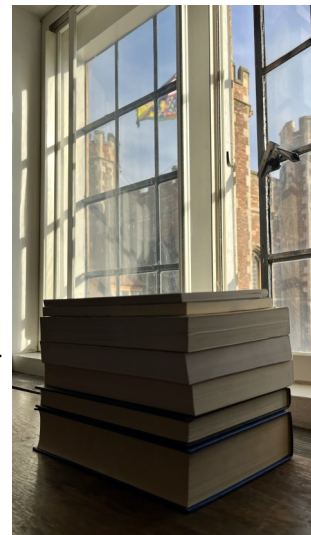
Graduate Writers' Space is back once a week in the Munro Room from 9.30am-5.00pm (with an hour break for lunch 1-2pm). Free tea, coffee, and biscuits will be served all day—enjoy a peaceful, collaborative working environment in this historic College space. Dates for the rest of term can be found [here](#).



**Library Acquisitions:** Looking for new books? See the latest acquisitions of physical and electronic books from Easter term and the summer vacation [here](#).

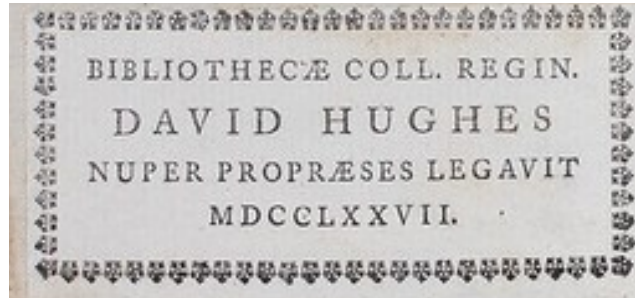
## Workshops and Rare Books Sessions

The Library is offering a range of [informative workshops](#) throughout the year to cater to your academic needs. For first-year students, 'Essential Literature Searching' sessions will help you to navigate university-level subjects. These workshops cover using Google Scholar, databases, JSTOR, and ebooks efficiently. You'll also get a brief demo on organizing bibliographies with Zotero. For graduate students, 'Advanced Literature Searching' teaches advanced searching and citation methods, crucial for dissertation and thesis work. Open to all, our 'Introduction to Old Library Collections' is an opportunity to explore the historic intellectual treasures contained within Queens' early printed books. Please see our website for dates and sign-up information, and we look forward to seeing you there.



## 'Every kind of useful knowledge': student researcher uncovers the mysteries of David Hughes (c. 1704-77)

Over a period of ten weeks from June to August, Ella Johnson (Q Pt II English) undertook invaluable research and curatorial work on the extensive collection of books and archival material bequeathed to Queens' by former vice-president, David Hughes.



David Hughes' bookplate, 1777.



The Elephant and the Bookseller'.  
John Gay, *Fables* (London, 1733) [A.18.69]

Supported by the college's excellent summer internship scheme, Ella learnt how to catalogue rare books, and enhanced her archival research skills.

In addition to making extensive inroads into the cataloguing of Hughes's book collection, Ella made interesting archival findings, not least to do with college finances, and the discovery that the Old Library's 18th-century extension appears to have been financed through the proceeds of East India Company investments.

To find out more please see Ella's blog post [here](#). Ella also adapted into an online format the library's 2018 David Hughes exhibition, '[The Age Of Reason, Religion and Ridicule.](#)'

## First ever College Archivist appointed at Queens'!

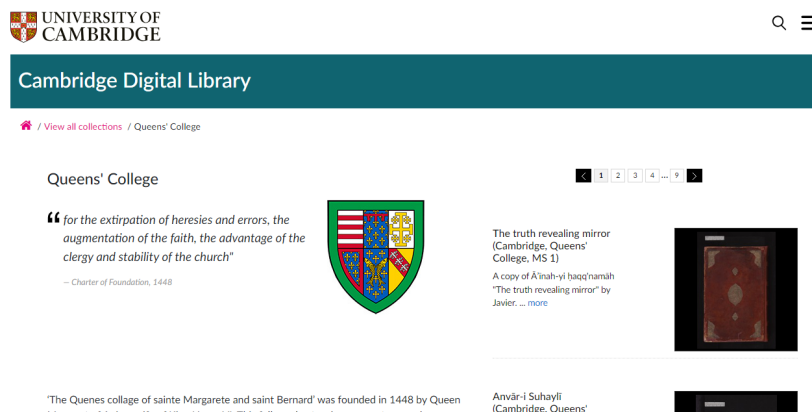
In hugely exciting news, Queens' College Library has appointed its first professional archivist in 575 years! Her name is Noemi Ortega-Raventos and the post is being shared with Peterhouse. Although faced with a massive backlog, her arrival offers a tremendous opportunity to finally discover and catalogue what is in our amazing archives and thus to realise their potential for education, research and promotion of the college. Noemi is keen to work with, and get to know the Queens' community. If you have questions feel free to email her at [archive@queens.cam.ac.uk](mailto:archive@queens.cam.ac.uk).



[Foundation of the Universitie of Cambridge](#) (1622) [Queens' MS 93.]

## Completion of exciting project to digitise all Queens' historic manuscripts!

Following two years of digitisation work and careful curation of over 13,000 images, we are delighted to announce the completion of our project to make Queens' manuscripts digitally available via the [Cambridge Digital Library](#). This was made possible thanks to a most generous gift from Dr Virge James in memory of her late husband Dr Nigel James (Q 1963). With our medieval manuscripts and many other rare artefacts digitised, Queens' Old Library treasures can now be freely accessed online by scholars the world over. Highlights include an extremely rare [papal indulgence](#) printed by William Caxton and issued in 1489 to aid a crusade against the Turks, an [autograph letter](#) recording scandalous intrigues as described by the 18th-century novelist, Laurence Sterne, [correspondence](#) by William Wilberforce, and a beautifully illuminated manuscript copy of [Soliloquies](#) (Pseudo-Augustine) once owned by Mary Tudor. Many more of the digitised items are as yet unknown to scholarship, and we hope that their availability online will stimulate exciting new research and discoveries. Little known artefacts include letters and notebooks of early modern Queens' members, and the college's important collection of Persian and Turkish manuscripts. Donated in 1665 by former Queens' member, Thomas Thompson, recent research reveals that these were acquired by him in India, where he fled following his imprisonment in England as a royalist. The digitisation of our manuscript treasures represents 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. We are most grateful to Dr James for making this project possible.



Left, from top to bottom: illumination from [Queens' MS 28](#) (fol. 3r), diagram from [Queens' MS 32](#) (fol. 21r), the binding of Erasmus' [Novum Testamentum omne](#) (1522) [C.2.9]



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