

St Hugh's College Library 1886 - 2011



St Hugh's Hall is founded and, in the early years, occupies properties in **Norham Road, Norham Gardens** and **Fyfield Road**.

1886

The first Library Committee meeting is held in 1896. The Librarian, **Miss E.M. Venables**, reports that the Library owns more than 1,000 volumes. In 1899, **Miss Hayes-Robinson** is appointed Librarian for one Term. She is succeeded by **Miss D. Wylie**.

1896 - 1899



Miss E.F. Jourdain

Librarian: **Miss E.F. Jourdain**
The Librarian reported that the Library hold more than 2000 volumes, mostly on History, English and Science. **Miss H.C. Deneke** is appointed Librarian in Trinity Term 1904.

1903 - 1904

An important bequest is made by **Mary Church** who gives her father, Dean Church's collection to the college. The books from this bequest were mainly on the topics of Theology, History and English Literature.

Dame J. Evans is appointed Librarian. In 1919, the Library Committee contacts the University of Louvain to offer two books for the restoration of their University Library after the First World War.

1918-1919

Original portrait by Percy Horton, 1961



Philippa Hesketh-Williams is appointed Librarian in 1935.

1926



In 1936, the College receives an important bequest from **Mary du Carroy**, Duchess of Bedford. This is a collection of Natural History volumes, with special reference to Ornithology.

1936

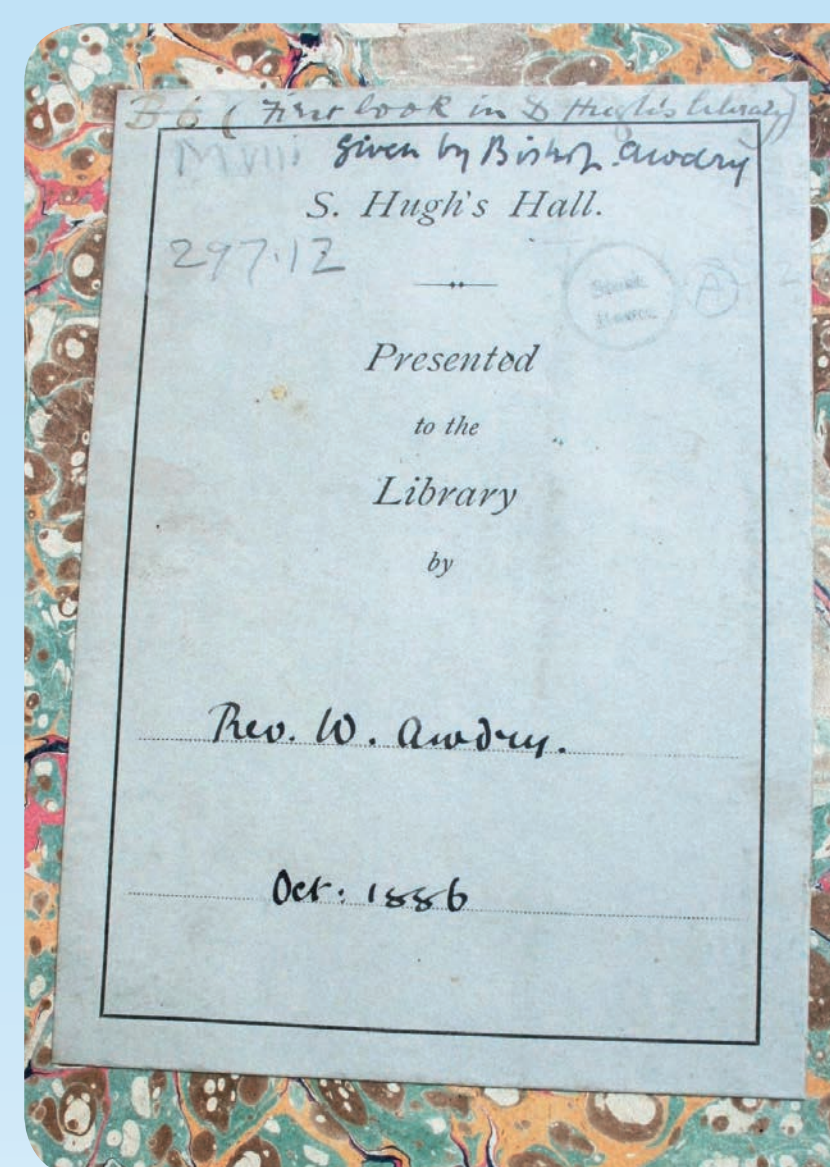
1888



Library, No.17 Norham Gardens

October 1888, St Hugh's Hall moved to 17 to Norham Garden and a library is established.

1900



In 1900, Miss Moberly, principal of St Hugh's Hall, wrote on the early days of the Library: "Of books we had few, and it is amusing to remember that our first volume was **the Koran**, presented by the present Bishop of Tokyo."

1914 - 1916

The College's new main building is constructed including **The Mordan Library**, named after the College's benefactress Clara Evelyn Mordan. In 1917 **Miss E.M. Thomas** is appointed Librarian.



The Mordan Library

1922

Miss W.M. Mammatt is appointed Librarian.

Miss M.F. Perham is appointed Librarian. In 1929, **Miss E.E.S. Procter** replaces her for a year before **Miss B.M. Hamilton Thompson** is appointed Librarian in 1930.

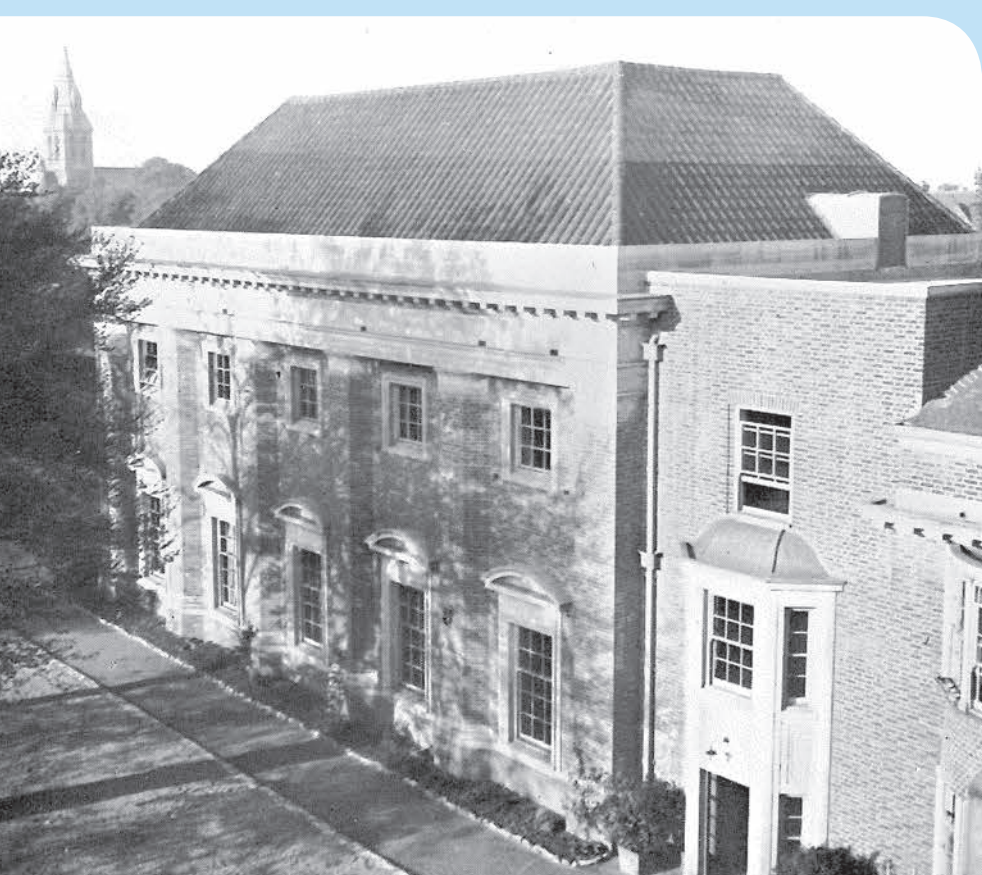
1928

1932

By 1932, the Library has over 12,000 books. The Librarian, **Miss B.M. Hamilton Thompson** insists that the accommodation situation has become acute.

1936 - 1937

For the College Jubilee, a new Library is designed by Herbert Buckland, the architect of the main building, who mirrors the interior design of the Mordan Library. The new spacious Library, is named the **Moberly Library** after the first Principal.



1939 - 1945

During the Second World War, St Hugh's is requisitioned as a Military Hospital treating head injuries. The Librarian, Philippa Hesketh-Williams, writes that "The Library was kept open as usual for students... it was also open to the whole hospital."

Treasures of the library: During the war, five of the most precious books owned by the library were sent to the Bodleian and housed in a bomb-proof shelter:

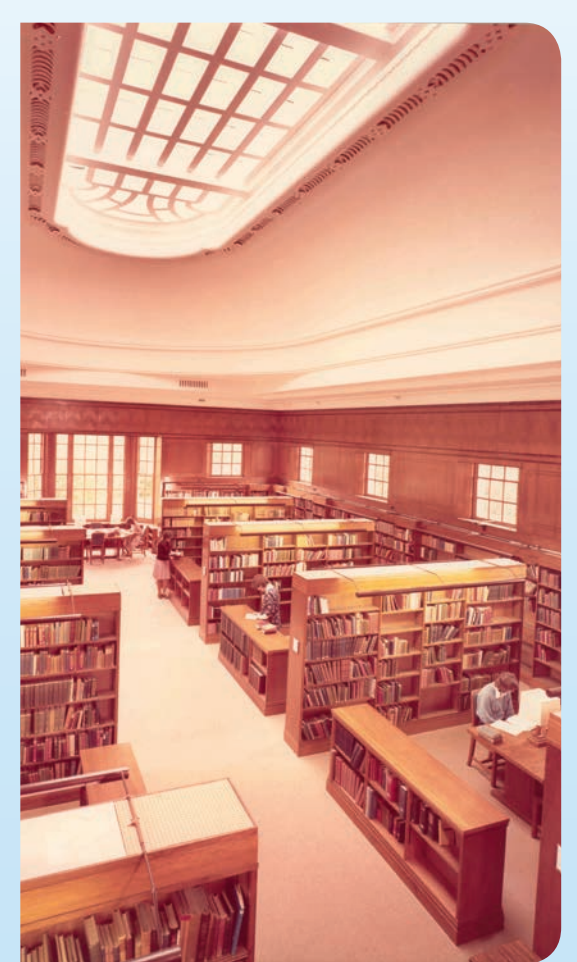
1947 - 1948

Dr Ady donates to the library a collection of music books. This bequest started a new Library policy on the provision of music "and coincided with the purchase of a nucleus **music collection** (biography and criticism)".

Isabel Aspin is appointed as the first professionally qualified librarian at St. Hugh's. In 1952, **J.G. Russell** is appointed Librarian and will stay in post for 27 years.

1950 - 1952

As a result of the growing collection, the Library is refurbished. A new room, The **Science Reading Room**, is inaugurated by Professor E.P. Abraham on 14 February 1978 and named after him. **The Law Library** is created to house the lawyers' books and periodicals in the Large Lecture Room in No.82 Woodstock Road.



1978 - 1979

1963 - 1964

The Library is reorganised and three rooms are added: The **Fulford Room**, the **Periodicals Room** and a **Stack Room**.

Ms Deborah Quare is appointed Librarian. The college introduces the position of Library Fellow to liaise between the Library and Governing Body.

1980

New subject areas of Engineering and Computing are added to the library collection.

The **centenary** fundraising appeal provides the Library with generous gifts that bring the number of volumes in the collection to 58,000.

A third stack room is added on the ground floor together with a **Rare Books Stack**.



A major extension is undertaken and the **Lobby** and the **Archive Room** are added.

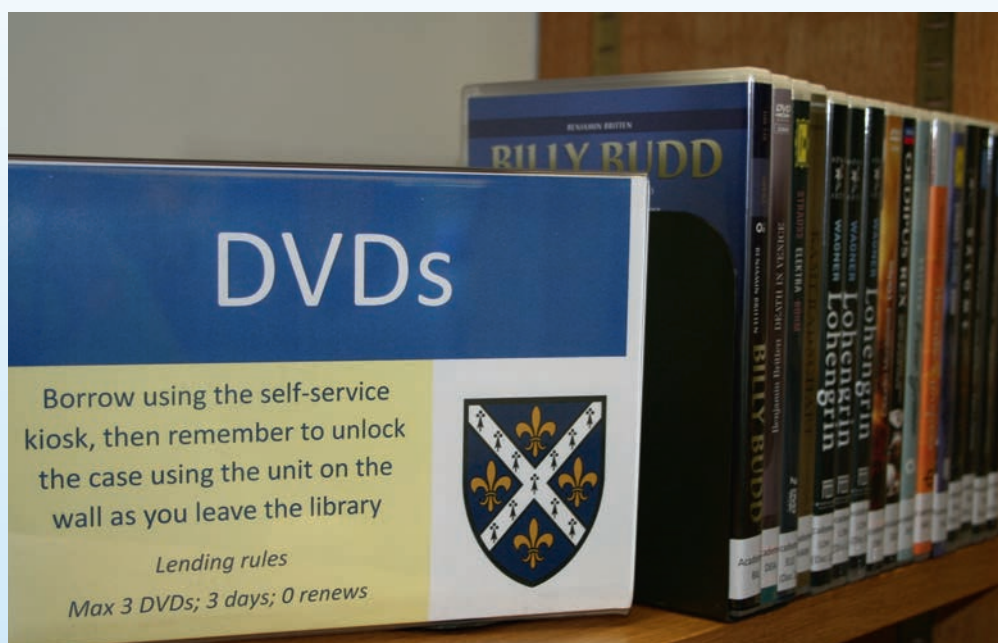


1986

1991

1996 - 1998

In 1996 **OLIS** (Oxford Libraries Information System), the computerised cataloguing system, is introduced by Oxford University. St Hugh's College Library introduces an automated circulation system and from 1998 the library holdings are shown on OLIS.



The Library features on the new College webpage.

1999 - 2000

Following a major gift from his parents, the **Library** is refurbished and renamed after the late Howard Piper, a St Hugh's alumnus, who matriculated in 1995.



BETTY BOOTHROYD AT THE DEDICATION OF THE HOWARD PIPER LIBRARY



2009

The College appoints its first **professional archivist** to catalogue and manage its historical records.

Ms Laura Wilkinson is appointed as Librarian. A major refurbishment of the lobby area is carried out and a new self-issue, security and stock management system is installed. The Law Library is moved from No.82 Woodstock Road into the Main Library. New collections are introduced including DVDs, Broader Reading and Books by Fellows of St Hugh's College.

2010