WORCESTER COLLEGE SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

The United Oxford and Cambridge Club has become a regular venue for the Annual Meeting of the Worcester College Society. For the past four years they have catered for us magnificently and this year was no exception. Some fifty Old Members gathered on Monday 3 November 2003 for the Annual Meeting and were then joined by their guests for drinks and dinner. As last year, the Provost gave his end of year report at dinner: this was again followed by a lively question and answer session.

We are again looking for nominations for membership of the Worcester College Society Advisory Council. The Council consists of 20 Old Members who advise the College on the development of its relations with Old Members and other friends; these include events, publications and other services.

Council members serve for a period of four years. The Council meets at least once a year and normally twice. If you feel you would like to become involved or you know of someone who would, please complete the form enclosed in this issue and return it to the Development Office by 30 August 2004.

November 2003 – June 2004
Advisory Council Members

Elected Members
Elected 2000 all retiring: re-eligible
Mr Sven-Erik Bergh (1934)
Mr David Lilley (1969)
Mr James Mirabal (1970)
Mrs Catherine Roe (1979)

Elected 2001
Professor Neville Moray (1953)
Mrs Helen Mukerjee (1981)
Mr Henry Thompson (1959)
Mr Nigel Urwin (1969)

Elected November 2003
Prof Nigel Reeves (1959)
Mr Kenneth Pearce (1949)
Mr Paul Zisman (1978)
Mrs Julia Mullins (1999) née Dmitrievskaia

Co-opted Members
Mr John Curtis (1953)
Mr Adrian Gardner (1981)
Mr Kenrick Prescott (1939)
Mr David Roberts (1967)
Prof Simon Smail (1964)
Mr Matthew Taylor (1973)
Sir John Weston KCMG (1958) President
David Lilley (1969), elected member of the Worcester College Society Advisory Council and Careers Adviser at Loughborough University, writes:

The graduate employment market is more competitive and more diverse than it has ever been. The continuing expansion of higher education produces an increasing number of graduates each year, while the new century has brought with it career opportunities (and job-titles) unimagined even a decade ago. The need for clear and up-to-date careers information and advice has never been greater. Student debt adds urgency to that need.

Oxford University Careers Advice Service does excellent work and there are many useful websites. However, the College also sees an opportunity to channel the goodwill and interest of its Old Members into practical assistance to Worcester students and recent graduates. Any contact, from a brief chat to a period of work experience, could make all the difference, helping to confirm decisions and giving added credibility to applications and interviews. Employers are quick to spot candidates who really know what they are talking about!

A system similar to the one we propose has been working successfully at Loughborough for several years and I am sure that the closer-knit community of the College can at least equal that success.

You could help a student interested in your area of work in any of the following ways:

- through telephone or email discussion or a short meeting
- by arranging a visit to your workplace
- by visiting the College to talk to a group of interested students or to take part in a ‘careers evening’

The information gathered from such contact would be invaluable. Some of you might wish to go further and offer a day’s shadowing or a period of work experience, but that is by no means expected.

Anything you do would complement, not replace, the activities of the Careers Service. When you think back to your own career decisions, there are probably things you wish you’d known at the time or experiences you wish you’d had. This is an opportunity to give a new generation the best possible start - and besides, as many a don will testify, what could be more stimulating than an hour or two in the company of a Worcester Student!

The Development Office will be sending out further information about this network but, in the meantime, if you would like to offer your support please return the enclosed address update form completing your current business details and ticking the box to register your interest.

Stop Press

We greatly regret to announce that as this issue of the magazine was going to press, Michael Woods, (1956) Chairman of the Advisory Council of the Worcester College Society, died suddenly after a courageous battle against cancer. A fuller appreciation will appear in the next issue.

Michael was a keen sportsman and a stalwart supporter of the College Society’s annual trip to Twickenham for the Varsity Match, where he usually took charge of the picnic wine.
Professor Ian Aitchison retires

When the University created a lectureship in Theoretical Physics in 1966 Ian Aitchison joined Francis Price as the second Tutorial Fellow. Over 36 years his enthusiasm for the subject and care for them inspired generations of Worcester Physicists, who turned out in force to mark his retirement (see page 6). Ian held most of the important College Offices: Vice Provost, Senior Tutor, Tutor for Admissions (twice) and Garden Master. He was particularly concerned about what are nowadays called “Access” issues, serving on the Dover Committee, which reformed Oxford admissions procedures from 1985. In the wider University he acted as head of his department on a number of occasions and was a powerful supporter of the Joint Honours school of Physics and Philosophy.

Ian is succeeded by:

Dr Fabian Essler
Fellow and Tutor in Physics

Fabian graduated from Würzburg in Physics and Mathematics in 1987 and then obtained an MA in Physics, followed by a Ph.D in that subject at the State University of New York. Between 1993 and 2002 he has held Fellowships in Bonn, Oxford, Kings College London and Warwick. He is the author of many publications in his field, and joins us from the Brookhaven National Laboratory in the USA.

Dr Arnd Kerkhecker
Fellow and Tutor in Classics

Arnd Kerkhecker was appointed to succeed Michael Winterbottom when he became Corpus Professor of Latin in 1993 and so moved to that College. With the University in the midst of one of its periodic funding crises no University post was immediately available, but after two years as a College Lecturer Arnd became a Fellow in 1995. Diverted into faculty administration early in his career, he nevertheless left his mark on College arrangements by instigating the hugely-popular “SCR pudding night”: on Thursdays, diners at high table shared his delighted discoveries of traditional English fare. Arnd has been elected to a Senior Research Fellowship so that he can continue to enjoy College facilities on his research visits to Oxford. His scholarly teaching will now be enjoyed at the University of Berne, where he is Professor of Greek.

Arnd is succeeded by:

Dr Scott Scullion
Fellow and Tutor in Classics

Scott graduated from the University of Toronto in 1982, gaining his Ph.D in Classics at Harvard in 1990. His special interests are Greek literature, especially tragedy; Greek religion; fifth-century Theatre of Dionysus and dramaturgy. He has written extensively on his subject and joins us from Union College Schenectady, New York where he was an Associate Professor and Chair of the Department of Classics.

Cathryn Costello
Francis Reynolds Fellow in Public and EC Law

Cathryn graduated from University College Cork with First Class Honours in the BCL. During her undergraduate years she spent nine months at the University of Cologne. On graduating she spent a year reading for the LLM at the College of Europe, Bruges. After gaining experience at the European Commission, Cathryn became a lecturer in European Law at the Law School at Trinity College, Dublin in 1998, becoming in June 2000 Director of the Irish Centre for European Law. She was called to the Bar in September 2001.

Professor Jean Aitchison retires

Jean Aitchison became the first holder of the Rupert Murdoch Professorship in Language and Communication. Her good personal relationships
with senior executives at Times Newspapers led to a number of initiatives, especially a scheme of student placements at the newspaper. Reith lecturer for the BBC in 1996, Jean seemed too slight and charming to stir such controversy, but her delight in windsurfing indicated the strength and courage which confounded her critics.

Jean’s successor is:

Professor Deborah Cameron
Rupert Murdoch Professor of Language and Communication

Deborah graduated from the University of Newcastle upon Tyne with First Class Honours in English Language and Literature, gaining an M.Litt in General Linguistics at Oxford in 1985. Previously Professor of Languages and Head of the School of Culture, Language and Communication at the Institute of Education, University of London, she has also held academic positions at the Roehampton Institute, the College of William and Mary, Virginia, USA and Strathclyde University as well as a number of visiting appointments including Gothenburg, Sydney, New York and Washington. She specialises in spoken discourse, and gender and language. Topics on which she has recently published include language and gender, the significance and changing nature of language standards, and the impact of globalisation on ideas and practice relating to communication.

Dr Ann C Huppert
Scott Opler Senior Research Fellow in Architectural History 2003 – 2005

On leave from her position as Assistant Professor of Architectural History at the University of Kansas, Ann is completing a book on Baldassare Peruzzi and architectural practice in the Renaissance, centered on the extensive corpus of Peruzzi’s surviving drawings. This study develops the research conducted for her doctoral dissertation, “The Archaeology of Baldassare Peruzzi’s investigation of ancient Roman architecture through drawings”, a project she conducted while a pre-doctoral fellow at the Bibliotheca Hertziana in Rome.

Reverend Emma Pennington
Chaplain

Worcester’s first female Chaplain graduated in 1992 with a BA in English with Medieval Studies from the University of Exeter. Emma trained at Ripon College, Cuddesdon, Oxford where she did her BA in Theology, completing an MA in Theology at the University of Kent. Previous appointments include Curate, St Nicholas Church, Shepperton. Research interests are Christian Spirituality, in particular Julian of Norwich and 14th century devotional writings. Emma was appointed from 1 September 2003 for a period of three years.

Dr Andrew Gant
Chapel Music Consultant

After graduating from the University of Cambridge 1984 in Music and English, Andrew took his MMus at the Royal Academy of Music, 1992 and completed his PhD 2000. Currently Organist, Choirmaster and Composer at Her Majesty’s Chapel Royal, Andrew is a freelance composer and singer. In his role as Chapel Music Consultant he advises the organ scholars on all aspects of choir training. Andrew’s appointment is for three years from September 2003.
Physics get-together 7 September 2003
Garden party for all former Physics students and their families

The last Physics gathering took place in 1979, when Francis Price retired as Senior Physics Fellow. This time it was Professor Ian Aitchison who was retiring: between them Francis and Ian have covered 50 years of Physics at Worcester. It could not have been a better day; the weather was glorious even though rain had been forecast. Over 220 Old Members and their families attended. The children, in particular, made the most of the College gardens, managing to find a gardener’s broom which became Harry Potter’s broomstick and magically ended up in the College Lake! A day to remember and a great tribute to Ian and Francis.

No need to wish Professor Aitchison a happy retirement!

“I’m off to get the prospectus for entry in 2020!”

“Do you remember the tutorial about...”

Three generations of Senior Physics Tutors (left to right)
Dr Paul Ewart (2003 - ) Dr Francis Price (1954- 79)
Professor Ian Aitchison (1980 - 2003)
Partly in response to requests from the JCR, the library is currently being catalogued onto the online University union catalogue, OLIS. Since the autumn of 2002, several part-time cataloguers have been employed to carry this out, one of whom, Greg Drew, is an old member (1955). Greg read French under Richard Sayce, whom he helped in the Library when the French section was being reclassified. He subsequently qualified as a librarian, and worked until his retirement in the Taylorian, where he was in charge of cataloguing. His career has therefore come full circle back to cataloguing in Worcester, starting with the French section, as he is particularly well qualified to do.

About 31,000 records have so far been entered and the aim is to finish by the end of July. The benefits to readers are (i) that they need to consult only one catalogue to find out which Oxford libraries hold copies of a particular title and (ii) the catalogue can be consulted from outside the Library. In due course, we expect to automate circulation, which will mean goodbye to filling out slips by hand and the labour of filing them.

In addition, ethernet points and electric sockets have been installed at all the desks in the Franks Room: this has proved very popular with students. The Lower Library for the moment remains a computer-free zone.

An era ends for our sister publication, the College Record, as Lesley Le Claire (née Montgomery), who took over from Harry Pitt in 1997, vacates the editor’s chair.

Lesley came to Worcester via Glasgow University where she read English, and Lady Margaret Hall where she was Assistant Librarian. Worcester appointed her in 1967 when it was realised that the growing undergraduate library needed the services of a professional librarian. The most important projects during the 25 years of her librarianship were: firstly, the creation of the book stack under the Library roof and the refurbishment of the Upper Library; secondly, the conservation of drawings and prints in the Lower Library - a long process which continued under her successor Dr Joanna Parker; finally the work of cataloguing and interpreting the manuscripts and pamphlets of the English Civil War.

At a personal level, she says, ‘moving to Worcester expanded my horizons enormously. Not only did I become a member of a particularly friendly and stimulating Senior Common Room, but also the uniquely important historical and architectural material in the Library increasingly attracted scholars from all over the world, many of whom became my life-long friends’. This same material provided her with ideas for articles, lectures and several programmes which she wrote for the BBC. She still remembers the fun she and a group of Worcester undergraduates had in staging her dramatisation of the Putney Debates. She has enjoyed editing the College Record. But she says ‘the most difficult - and at the same time, the most rewarding - editorial task I have ever undertaken was the compilation of the little memorial volume for Harry Pitt’. Lesley is now researching the life of Sir Kenelm Digby, born four hundred years ago and referred to as ‘the ornament of England’. She describes him as one of our most glamorous and intriguing Old Members.

Francis Lampert, retired Fellow and Tutor in German, current Dean of Degrees, has kindly agreed to take over the editorship from Lesley. She has already briefed him on the do’s and don’ts!

Developments in the library

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November 2003 saw the restoration to the Venetian window at the East end of the Hall of the stained glass designed by William Burges. The panels had been on loan to the Victoria and Albert Museum for 36 years, and their return was the happy result of what began as a piece of official tidiness.

In September 2001 the Registrar’s section of the V & A wrote to say that in the course of a renewal and reconciliation project of the long term loans to and from the museum, records had come to light of a loan of Burges stained glass panels from the College: these records being incomplete, could we confirm that the panels had been returned? No such panels had appeared in the College, but it seemed likely that they were those removed in 1966, when the hall was controversially returned from its mid-Victorian Burges designs to the original interior of James Wyatt. Memories suggested that the subject-matter of that window was the Canterbury Tales. This threw the V & A search off the scent somewhat; but by July 2002 some Burges panels had been located in the V & A’s vast store at Kensington, though the scenes were from the Odyssey, Shakespeare and Milton, not from Chaucer. Rough measurements taken by our maintenance team were enough to permit Ms Terry Bloxham, of the Ceramics and Glass Department at the V & A, to return her rough sketch to Vanda Thomas, the Estates Bursar’s secretary, with the triumphant message: “Vanda, your window!”.

In October 2002 the decision was taken to seek planning permission to restore the window to the Hall. Dr. David Landau, the Curator of Pictures, had been to see the glass, and felt that although restoration would involve mixing Burges with Wyatt, the colours of the window were such that the two styles would complement each other. In the “post-modern” spirit of the 21st century, the College Architect, Ian Angus, agreed: in 1966 his predecessor, Emil Godfrey, (from the same firm) had confirmed that the removal of the stained glass window was regarded “as an essential part of the plan to a return to a full Wyatt scheme of decoration.”

After careful restoration by Chapel Studio, the stained glass was installed in October–November 2003, and is generally considered a great success. It is good to record a peaceful restoration of glass which was removed, with the panelling, in the face of fierce opposition led by Sir John Masterman, who had retired from the Provostship four years before. No less than seven Governing Body meetings discussed the removals. The panelling, sideboard and fireplace are now on display at the National Trust property, Knightshayes Court, Tiverton, Devon, which the College Society visited in June 1995.
Work on the interior and . . .

. . . exterior of the window

Top: Ulysses and the swineherd
Middle: Demodocus sings at the Feast of Alcinous
Bottom: Penelope rebukes Phemius

(left top)
Adam and Eve

(right top)
Kate and Petruccio

(left bottom)
The Harpies
(from the Aeneid)

(right bottom)
Slender and Anne Page

The Burges Window finally reinstalled.
Diamonds are forever

Dr. Mike Searle is a Senior Research Fellow and Lecturer in Geology at Worcester College, specialising in the geological evolution of the Himalayan mountain belt. In 2003 he spent three months in the University of Cape Town as the prestigious Louis Murray Fellow, financed by DeBeers. During his stay in South Africa he visited various DeBeers diamond mines and prospects in South Africa and Zimbabwe, and gave a course of lectures in Cape Town, Johannesburg, Kimberley, Pretoria, Venetia and Bulawayo.

Take a piece of carbon down to 200 km depth in the Earth where temperatures exceed 1500°C and pressures exceed 60 kilobars, and the carbon will transform to diamond. The word ‘diamond’ is derived from the Greek ‘adamas’ meaning invincible, because nothing can damage a pure diamond crystal. Diamonds are the hardest minerals known and are found only in very old, stable areas, such as Africa, Australia, North America and Russia. They originate from depths over 150-200 km beneath these continents and have been brought up to the Earth’s surface in kimberlite pipes, one of the most astonishing geological features known. Kimberlite, the rocks that host diamonds, were first discovered near the town of Kimberley in South Africa. Kimberlite pipes are very narrow, sometimes only 20 or 30 meters across, and rise vertically through the Earth’s crust and upper mantle, in a similar structure to the pipes that feed large volcanoes.

Diamonds are also much older than their kimberlite host rock. South African diamonds range in age up to 3000 million years old. The pipes at Kimberley were formed during an eruption only 90 million years ago, yet some diamonds in them are about 3000 million years old. The diamonds are brought to the surface as xenocrysts, fragments of rock, or even individual crystals, within a matrix of volcanic extrusive material. Also in the kimberlite pipes are rounded boulders of rocks brought up from these extreme depths. These boulders, transported from hundreds of kilometers depth along a vertical river of kimberlite lava, are the only direct clue we have as to the composition of the deep Earth. The boulders include peridotites, bright green rocks composed of olivine and pyroxene, and eclogites, composed of brilliant red garnets and green omphacite pyroxene.

Diamonds can only form at these extreme depths in the Earth under certain conditions. Firstly, there has to be some carbon around in the mantle, secondly there has to be a very thick, relatively cold (but still at temperatures around 1500°C) root to the continental crust, and thirdly there has to be some mechanism to get these diamonds from depths of over 150 km up to the Earth’s surface.

The carbon in the mantle is usually thought to have been derived from very deeply circulating fluids rich in CO₂ (carbon dioxide) or CH₄ (methane). Carbon is of course very common around the surface of the Earth.

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and in crustal rocks, such as coal. It is one of Nature’s ironies that probably the most unattractive rock on Earth can also transform into one of the most beautiful stones, a girl’s best friend. Surface rocks can be transported deep into the Earth along subduction zones where they are recycled into the deep. Such subduction zones are characteristic of plate margins, for example like those all around the Pacific ocean today. It is quite possible that some diamonds mined from South African kimberlites originated as organic material on the surface of the earth millions of years ago, which was transported deep into the Earth’s mantle along subduction zones to depths where the carbon was converted to diamond, and then, much later brought back to the surface by the sudden, violent explosion of a kimberlite pipe.

Although kimberlites are found all over Africa, the diamond-bearing pipes are restricted to Archaean crust (crust older than 2.5 billion years old), which is underlain by thick, and relatively cold continental lithosphere. Thus, most of Africa’s diamonds come from the oldest parts of the continent in South Africa, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Angola and the Congo. Temperatures are too hot beneath the East African rift, and north of the Sahara, the rocks become too young.

Likewise, the diamondiferous kimberlites found in northern Canada, Siberia and Australia come from pipes intruded into some of the oldest rocks on Earth.

How, then, are these diamonds transported to the Earth’s surface? In southern Africa the upper 30-40 kilometers of the crust are composed of old metamorphic and granitic rocks (dominated by quartz), which overlies the mantle lithosphere, composed largely of ultramafic peridotite (dominated by the denser mineral olivine). The kimberlite pipes originate from depths between 150 and 300 km deep into the mantle. Exactly what triggers a kimberlite intrusion is not really known, but it is possible that these diamond-bearing rocks take only a day or two days to travel to the Earth’s surface. When the molten kimberlite rock reaches the water table, it explodes with the force of many nuclear explosions. The eruption results in the sudden and violent release of volatile gases into the atmosphere and deep mantle nodules and diamonds can literally be thrown into the air in the same way as modern volcanic eruptions eject boulders. In some Cretaceous kimberlites, fossilized remains of dinosaurs and frogs that lived in the volcanic craters have been found right next to diamonds and mantle nodules that must have come from depths of over 150 km.

The earliest discoveries of diamond in southern Africa were from rivers that drained out of the Orange Free State and the Transvaal (Limpopo, Vaal and the Orange rivers). The old prospectors painstakingly panned the rivers and traced the diamonds back to their source. Their methods were simple, just following the trail of associated minerals such as garnet, ilmenite, pyroxene and olivine. Where these minerals were common, they knew that somewhere up-stream must be an exposed kimberlite. The kimberlite pipes, once found, might be a veritable treasure trove. One in a hundred of these small pipes were loaded with diamonds, like the largest diamond mine, the Orapa mine in Botswana. Another major source of diamonds today are the desolate beaches of coastal Namibia, close to where the Orange river drains into the Atlantic. The Orange river flows west from the Transvaal, tapping a few diamond pipes en route. Diamonds are the hardest minerals known, so they can withstand most of the erosional destruction of rivers. After being washed down hundreds of kilometers, the diamonds are deposited onto the beaches of Namibia, often washed ashore by the vigorous northerly flowing, cold Benguela current, which sweeps up the western coast of southern Africa. Modern offshore diamond exploration in Namibia involves giant hoovers sucking up sand and filtering out their precious loads of diamonds.

The largest diamond ever found is the Cullinan diamond, discovered in the Premier mine in South Africa in 1905. It weighed 3106 carats, and nine stones were eventually cut from it, including the Great Star of Africa, the largest cut diamond in the world, and the 530 carat pear-shaped centerpiece of the British monarch’s Crown Jewels. The 108 carat Koh-i-Noor (mountain of light) diamond from India also belongs to the British Crown Jewels.

With thanks to the DeBeers Group, the University of Cape Town, Jock Robey, Peter Hildebrand and Maarten de Wit.
Poetry and theology in Ancient Egypt

Roland Enmarch, currently holder of the Laycock Senior Studentship in Egyptology, writes about his doctoral research.

Egypt is one of the world’s most photogenic ancient civilisations, calling to mind a whole host of evocative images of pyramids, sphinxes, tombs, and of course pharaohs: nearly everyone today has at least heard of the gold of Tutankhamun. But modernity seems to respect the Ancient Egyptians solely for their material achievements, their ‘hardware’, and still largely ignores the ‘software’ of their cultural life: when I say that I study Ancient Egyptian literature, I frequently get the response “I didn’t realise there was any!” While I appreciate a nice gold pharaonic death mask as much as the next man, what really fascinates me about the Ancient Egyptians is their intellectual world, and the possibility of trying, however imperfectly, to understand what they thought and how they felt. One of the most direct ways of achieving this is through their poetry.

The Egyptians began composing literary works around 2000 B.C. and continued to be productive down to the end of antiquity. However, they considered one particular period, the Middle Kingdom (c.1991-1640 B.C.), as the age when their writing was at its best. One might say it was their ‘classical period’, and its literature was reverently memorised, transmitted, quoted and emulated for over 1500 years, down into the Graeco-Roman period. The range of their literature was quite broad, encompassing narrative tales, wisdom teachings, discourses and hymns. One of its most distinctive features is, however, its exceedingly dark perspective on life.

This is in part because of the circumstances from which it sprang: shortly before 2000 B.C. Egypt went through a lengthy and traumatic time of political and economic disintegration. The kings of the 12th dynasty (c.1991-1786 B.C.) restored unity to the country, and attempted to promulgate a strong centralising ideology of pharaonic rule around which the nation could focus. They had, however, to contend with powerful regional rulers who were reluctant to yield to central control. Civil war marked the start of the period, and major rebellions occurred periodically throughout it. Kings had to take harsh measures to ensure their authority. Even in later years, when open insurrection was no longer prevalent, Senwosret III (1878-c.1841) still felt it necessary to keep a tight control over his population by instituting the sinister sounding ‘Great Labour Enclosure’ to direct work throughout the country.

None of these myriad tensions and pressures is evident from the timeless, serene façade presented to us by the monuments, which would have us believe in a perfect cosmos where the king represented the gods on earth, and where evil was righteously repelled through beneficent royal action. The Egyptians could easily spot this gap between the positive state-backed ideologies and the rather more complicated realities of the situation. The kings too were aware of the shortcomings of the ‘official view’ of things. It was from this complex of tensions that the Middle Kingdom’s pessimistic literature arose. It looked at the gaps in official ideology, the awkward unanswered questions, the grey points, the what-ifs.

My doctoral thesis has been based on one such poem, called the Dialogue of Ipuwer and the Lord of All. In this poem, an Egyptian sage (Ipuwer) debates with the king (the Lord of All) why chaos exists in the world. Ipuwer opens with a lengthy, dystopian description of a world where nothing is right. The rich are poor, and the poor rich; foreigners are invading and settling in Egypt; famine and strife are everywhere. This abstract and schematic presentation of woe leads Ipuwer on to consider who is responsible for such a state of affairs. He first of all blames the creator god for having made humanity imperfect, and hence predisposed to wrongdoing:

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Look, why did He seek to create mankind,
when the god-fearing man is not favoured over the fierce-hearted?...

It is said: 'He is the shepherd of everyone.
There is no evil in his heart'.
But His herd is lacking, since fire is in their hearts!

The tenor of such passages has led in the past to the who le poem being characterised as a 'Reproach to God', centred around concepts of divine justice and human free will. In this ligh t it has been compared to the Old Testament Book of Job. My own research has however suggested that the poem is somewhat more complicated than this interpretation implies. Theology and politics cannot be simply distinguished in Egyptian culture. The creator god made the world, but angrily withdrew from earth up to heaven after humanity sinned rebelliously against him and thereby brought evil into existence. In his stead he placed the king to rule over humanity as his representative. When the creator god is criticised, there is potentially therefore an implicit political critique. This potential is made explicit later in the poem when Ipuwer contrasts the creator gods ('He') with his addressee, the king ('you'):

When He thus acts as one who attacks us,
who will protect (us), when you disdain to save?

Passages like this show that the poem is not just about theology: it is about the entire ideology underpinning the Egyptian state. Ipuwer’s pessimistic laments can be read as a portrayal of the chaos that engulfs the land when there is no strong king to suppress it. When toward the end of the poem the king replies to Ipuwer, it seems from the surviving fragments of his speech that he argues instead that the woes besetting Egypt are the fault of his subjects, and that he is not to blame. Rather than an outspoken criticism of religion, the poem is therefore a review of human conduct, and an exploration of the balance of responsibility for government shared between the governors and the governed.

Sadly the end of the sole surviving manuscript of the poem is lost, and we shall probably never know whether the debate between Ipuwer and the king achieved a resolution. However, the poem offers us some insight into the varying political points of view current in Egypt in the later Middle Kingdom. It is neither state propaganda, nor countercultural. Instead the poem provides an opportunity to aesthetically express culturally untoward notions without ultimately undermining core beliefs. The Egyptians gained a sense of catharsis from such beautifully expressed pessimistic ponderings, and in this respect their poetry can be compared to Western genres, such as tragedy, which focus on matters problematic. It is thus perhaps fitting to conclude with the exclamation of another Egyptian writer about his heart:

I would announce to it the anguish I feel ...
and I would say 'Ah!' on account of my relief.

Perhaps we moderns are not so different from the ancients after all.

Roland has been elected to a British Academy Post-doctoral Research Fellowship at Liverpool University 2004-7.
Worcester College Honorary Fellows

At its Stated General Meeting in June 2003, the Governing Body elected four new Honorary Fellows. Three of them, Laurie Ackerman, John Hood and Michael L’Estrange, are former Rhodes Scholars, and were elected in time for the celebration of the Centenary of the Rhodes Trust.

Hon Mr Justice (Laurie) Ackermann (1954 Law, Rhodes Scholar) is Justice of the Supreme Court of South Africa and Secretary of the South African Rhodes Committee.

The Rt Hon Lord Arthur Hamilton (1961 Classics) is Judge of the Inner House of the Court of Session, and sworn of the Privy Council for Scotland.

Dr John Hood (1976 Management Science, Rhodes Scholar) is Vice Chancellor of the University of Auckland, and Secretary of the New Zealand Rhodes Committee. He is Vice-Chancellor elect of the University of Oxford and takes up his post in October 2004.

His Excellency Michael L’Estrange (1976 PPE, Rhodes Scholar), is the Australian Commissioner in London, and was formerly Secretary to the Australian Cabinet.

Professor Christopher Ricks
(1958 – 1968 Fellow and Tutor in English elected an Honorary Fellow in 1990)
Elected Professor of Poetry, University of Oxford.

Convocation exercised one of its last remaining powers on 15 May 2004, when the Divinity School was open for voting for the Professorship of Poetry. The argument about whether a practising poet or a distinguished critic should be elected was settled when Professor Christopher Ricks, Fellow and Tutor in English 1958-1968, and an Honorary Fellow since 1990, was elected against four other candidates Peter Porter, Anne Carson, Mark Walker and Ian McMillan. Professor Ricks, who will serve for five years from October 2004, is currently Professor of Humanities at Boston University.
35th Anniversary of the Daniel M Sachs Scholarship

May 30 2004 saw a large gathering of Sachs Scholars in Princeton to mark the 35th anniversary of the establishment of the Daniel M Sachs Scholarships. 17 former scholars and their families gathered to honour Professor Charles Gillespie and his wife Emily, who knew Dan well in his Princeton days, were instrumental in the establishment of the Scholarship and have been crucial to its success ever since.

T Dennis Sullivan
(1970 History and Economics)
Worcester’s first Daniel M Sachs Scholar

At a meeting on 19 February 2004, the American Church Pension Fund Board of Trustees unanimously elected Dennis to succeed as President of the Church Pension Group. Announcing the board’s decision, David R Pitts, Chair of the Church Pension Fund Board and Co-Chair of the board’s CEO/President Selection Committee, said “Mr Sullivan’s commitment to the public good, and his solid investment and financial management credentials informed by years of high-level business leadership, will be invaluable as CPG continues to study how best to serve its beneficiaries and the Church”.

Dennis’s career has revolved around investments, finance and administration in the for-profit, not-for-profit and public sectors, and he has extensive financial and investment experience. Most recently, he served as CFO for the New York Public Library; prior to that, he was Financial Vice President of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and Special Advisor to the President. Before joining Mellon, he was with J P Morgan Securities, then managed Princeton University’s investment company. He has also served as Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Industry for the State of New Jersey, Secretary of Finance for the State of Delaware, and Executive Director of the Municipal Assistance Corporation for the City of New York.

Dennis has been extremely supportive during the current £25m campaign. Many of our North American Old Members will know of him as the Secretary of Americans for Worcester College Inc. He has given generously of his time and energy to the Campaign keeping in constant touch with the Development Office.

Dr Tom Wright
(Fellow and Tutor in Theology and College Chaplain 1986 - 1993).

On 4th July 2004 the Archbishop of York, Dr David Hope consecrated Tom as the new Bishop of Durham.
Travel Grants

Each year the College, with funds provided by the Worcester College Society and the Wilkinson Trust, awards travel grants, this year amounting to over £10,000, for vacation travel. Proposed trips are not necessarily connected with the student’s academic work, but they are expected to be of specific intellectual value, and many detailed and well illustrated reports result. These are extracts from some of the reports of those who were awarded grants during the Easter vacation.


Lizzie outlines the trip: ‘We took a roughly anti-clockwise route around the country, starting with three days in Damascus. We then travelled over the semi-arid ‘steppe’ into the desert where we visited the ruined city of Palmyra. From Palmyra we passed through Homs, a city important only for its strategic position as the halfway point between Aleppo and Damascus and its routes to the coast. We then stayed near the Crusader Castle, Krak des Chevaliers. From the Krak we travelled northward to Hama, then on a long daytrip saw the sights between Hama and Aleppo and made our way to this second city. After having stayed in Aleppo four days we travelled down the coast, to the westernised Lattakia, old fishing port Tartus and then back to Damascus.

Katie: ‘In Damascus we stayed with Jo Grummitt, a Worcester student studying Arabic at the French University there. We were lucky to have her to show us round, help us speak Arabic and teach us a bit about the country and its customs before we left to fend for ourselves. While we were in the capital we visited the Hamidiyeh Souk, where typical Arabic produce was being sold alongside some surprisingly western items. The Umayyad Mosque, the most important in Damascus, was beautifully decorated with mosaics. We had to wear dark robes with hoods that kept us completely covered up and take our shoes off.’

Emma adds ‘An early morning visit to the Arab Castle to watch the sun come up over the ruins was amazing (but cold!). We decided to view the site in the traditional way, so jumped on to camels and explored – it was truly sensational. We saw the Temple of Bel, the ancient theatre, and the main palace ruins. That evening saw what was probably my favourite experience of the trip. We were driven into the desert and taken to meet a Bedouin family. The hospitality we received was amazing – we were given tea, and we had brought food to share with them. Despite a significant language barrier, it was a fascinating and eye-opening experience.’

Victoria: ‘From Damascus, we caught a “luxury” bus (though we certainly didn’t consider it to be that luxurious, not with so many people on it that some people had to sit on plastic garden chairs in the aisle!) east to Palmyra, a ruined city in the middle of the steppe desert. Known to the locals as Tadmor, (its ancient Semitic name), Palmyra is one of the world’s great historical sites…. We arrived in Palmyra in the middle of a massive thunderstorm, a highly unusual event in the desert, but were immediately offered some Syrian hospitality when the mother of the owner of the hotel we were staying in cooked up dinner, something we experienced several times during our stay in Syria. At dawn the next morning, 5.30 a.m., we got a lift to the seventeenth century Arab Castle (in the back of a pick-up!) to watch the sun rise over the ruins, a totally magical experience.’

Victoria: ‘The microbus driver who drove us from Homs to Krak des Chevaliers invited us to his house for dinner with his wife and children. We welcomed this opportunity to see how ordinary Syrians lived, and to see inside a traditional Arabic house. We quickly realised that this family were relatively affluent; the house
Whilst some write travel diaries, others paint their impressions

A bridge in Venice

Alexandra Godfree (2001 English)

Although simple, was large and comfortable and the (many!) children were well dressed. However they still followed traditional Syrian customs such as eating dinner whilst seated on the floor surrounding a oil-burning stove, serving incredibly sweet cinnamon tea and coffee and smoking Narjilehs, or water pipes with flavoured tobacco. I still wonder now at how welcoming and hospitable the Syrian people are, to invite five western women into their house at a moment’s notice, and to look after us so well. I think perhaps that they are as fascinated by us as we are of them. This was another experience in Syria that I would not have missed.

At Aleppo, Emma and Victoria left to return to the UK while Katherine, Lizzie and Katie pressed on south.

Katherine writes ‘Day 10-Saturday. After revisiting the Souq and Hammam, Katie, Lizzie and I caught an early train to Lattakia in the morning. After a very confusing taxi ride we arrived in our hotel around lunchtime—dumping our bags we wandered into town where we ate at one of the restaurants in the centre. Because of its large Christian population, Lattakia was much more liberal than most areas and though most women seemed to bathe in full clothing, it wasn’t unusual for us occasionally to see local girls wearing skirts or short sleeved tops. This relaxed attitude was a relief after over a week of worrying whether we were showing too much flesh or acting too casually and we enjoyed the stress-free evening.’

Day 14 Wednesday. On our last day we took a day trip to Bosra, an amazing ruined town constructed almost entirely of black basalt and housing possibly the best Roman Theatre in existence. In the evening we all went out for a last meal in Syria, we dined on mezze and sipped wine, quite sad that it would be the last time we ate the delicious tabouleh and shish taouk.

Victoria ‘The Syria page of the British Foreign Office website does not make pleasant reading, “there is a high threat to Western interests from terrorism,” “review your personal security arrangements carefully,” “exercise caution and remain alert to your surroundings,” “we advise against all non-essential travel,” “the British Embassy in Damascus is closed.” Yet whilst such travel advice may be appropriate and justified given the current political situation in the Middle East, I found Syria to be one of the most interesting and beautiful countries I have ever visited and the people some of the most welcoming I have come across. I feel very privileged to be just one of a handful of westerners who visit this amazing country every year.’
Christopher Kyriacou (2002 Geography) and Anna Rader (2002 PPE) attended the Harvard World Model United Nations (MUN) Conference, which brings together university students from 6 continents. Held in the spring of each year, the 2004 conference took place in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt.

Christopher writes ‘Having participated extremely successfully last year as Botswana, Cameroon, Iran, Ireland and Zimbabwe, Oxford University was this year assigned Turkey, Serbia, Montenegro, Myanmar and most prestigiously, the United Kingdom ... I was extremely honoured to fill our highest-ranking spot, that of the United Kingdom on the Security Council.

Model United Nations conferences always require a good deal of preparation, but this being one of the largest and most prestigious in the world, and in the knowledge that I would be amongst a select group of fifteen of the best delegates from across the globe, I spent weeks beforehand researching the topic to be discussed, namely that of UN crisis management.

We flew from London Gatwick to Sharm El Sheikh airport at 10 a.m. on Sunday 28th March, arriving just in time for the opening ceremony in the evening which boasted a host of prominent speakers including Egyptian ministers.

Committee sessions commenced on the Monday morning, and began apace, with countries quick to make their positions known, especially in regard to the possibility of creating a UN Rapid Reaction Force ...

... Midway through the second day, debate was interrupted by the introduction of a crisis simulation. Colonel Muammar Qaddafi and several key government ministers had been killed in an ambush of their convoy. Rioting and chaos had erupted on the streets of major Libyan cities, and, amidst details emerging that a breakaway faction of the Libyan army appeared responsible for the killings, news of fighting between units of the Libyan army was relayed along with an official call for assistance from the Libyan Vice President. This superbly detailed and well-run scenario led to two days of scintillating debate amongst the Council, with myself and the US delegate calling for a comprehensive peacekeeping deployment to restore order in the cities, and the immediate deployment of UK and US Mediterranean troops to protect Libya's eight WMD sites. This was fiercely opposed by Russia, France and China ...'

Anna writes ‘I had elected to represent the United Kingdom on the European Council, which, although not an actual body of the United Nations, has traditionally played an important role in large conferences. Being on the EC allowed me to participate in a very different kind of debate than I have done previously; the EC operates according to rules of consensus-building and must vote unanimously upon the resolution. This presented a unique task for myself and my 14 colleagues, having to work closely together to create a resolution which did not divide the committee. The topic that I fought to debate was that of Terrorism in the EU, a highly emotive and important subject, particularly in the light of the Madrid bombings...’

The Lemon Seller

by Halina Wielogorska (2003 Law) who visited Nepal
Peter Jones the JCR President and a second year lawyer, Matthew McKenzie and Arthur Dudney, both JYA students from Princeton, set off on a trip which combined Spain with Eastern Europe, starting off in Malaga then on to Granada, Alcazabar, Madrid and Toledo, Barcelona before moving East to Vienna, Wroclaw, Krakow.

These are extracts from Peter’s account of the Eastern Europe part of the trip. In Vienna, I was able to indulge my passion for historical plucked instruments at the Kunsthistorisches Museum’s large collection of ancient musical instruments. I have been learning the lute for a while now, and it was with great forbearance that the Americans traipsed around the museum listening to me waxing lyrical about citterns and giterns, theorbi and arch-lutes. Some of the more fascinating oddities included a unique 16th century base lute-cittern, standing at a massive 1m 75.5cm tall. The mind boggles as to how anyone managed to actually play the thing!

... From Poland, we headed south by sleeper train to Prague – the final city on our epic tour. The capital of the Czech Republic is indeed a beautiful city, marred only slightly by the huge number of tourists out for stag weekends and the subsequent salesmen, nightclub promoters, fast-food restaurants and prostitutes. Putting all this to the back of our minds, we visited the Hradcany castle and spent many happy hours getting lost in the back streets of the Nove Mesto district. We went to the National Opera twice, seeing Puccini’s *Tosca* from a private (and very cheap) box and Verdi’s *Nabucco* from the (even cheaper) stalls. We visited the Museum of Communism and the Czech national modern art gallery, which had an absorbing display of avant-garde theatre sets... We had all enjoyed a marvellous experience. I had taught the Americans whist, and they had reciprocated by peppering my vocabulary with colourful snippets of American slang. I am very grateful to the committee for helping me to finance this memorable trip.

The Buskins Summer Play

The Buskins performed “Twelth Night” by the lake in sixth week. Those planning summer events outdoors might care to note that for the second year running no performance was affected by rain!
MCR Garden Party

While the outside world commemorated the 60th anniversary of D-Day, for the MCR June 6th 2004 was GP-Day, the day of their annual Garden Party in the Provost’s Lodgings. In stark contrast to last year, when partygoers had to suffer wind and rain as well as sun, this year over a hundred Fellows, College staff, MCR members and their guests enjoyed glorious sunshine as they drank their Pimm’s and ate strawberries and cream while a string quartet played under the trees.

Summer Eights

M1 - Blades! Bumped Pembroke II, Wolfson, Mansfield and St. Anne’s.
M2 - Bumped University II, Queen’s II
W1 - Bumped Wolfson, LMH, Lincoln
W2 - Bumped Oriel II, Magdalen II, LMH II
W3 - Bumped by Queen’s IV, St. Peter’s II. Bumped Balliol II
W4 - Bumped Queen’s II, Hertford II, Corpus Christi II