

FRIENDS OF CHRIST'S COLLEGE LIBRARY NEWSLETTER, Festive edition 2020



A word of welcome... From John Wagstaff, College Librarian

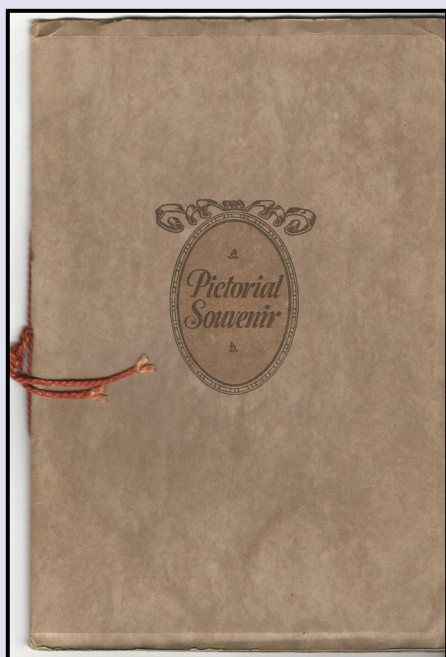
2020 seems to have been a year that many people have simply written off because of COVID, and it certainly seems very likely that history will not look back kindly upon it. We almost seem to have forgotten that, at least until early March, it had started as a year like many others, with Cambridge University, including its library services, working away to fulfil its teaching and learning mission. How different things were to become, with all of us scrambling to adapt to new rules!

As I write these words in mid-December, there seem, finally, to be some glimmers of hope among the darkness. I was reminded of this only the other day when, for the first time in many months, we were finally able to welcome an outside researcher to the Old Library. In a very small way this represents a return to some sort of normality, and is a very welcome first step on the road to reopening the Old Library to more researchers and, perhaps in a few months, to those more general

visitors who simply enjoy seeing the Library and the collections it holds. While it may still be a while before I can invite our library Friends to a new library exhibition, somehow this all now seems more possible than before.

We will surely all come out of this pandemic as changed people, and at such times it can be a comfort to know that some things — including scholarship, books, and libraries — are still here to be used and marvelled at. All the library staff wish our many Friends a happy and relaxing festive season.

Two additions to the Library support College research

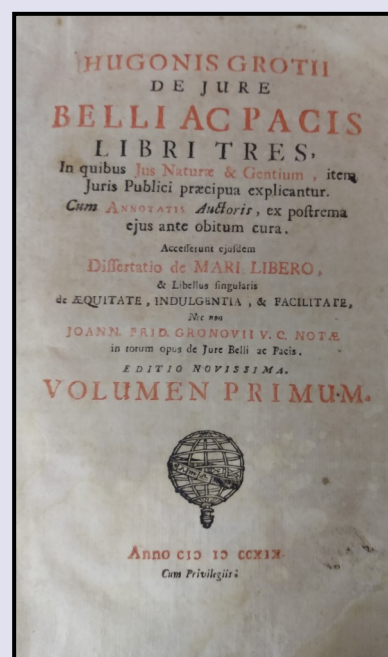


Forfarshire Women's Rural Institutes Pictorial Souvenir - Pageant of Angus History

The Library is pleased to have added two fascinating new books to its collections this month. The first, the *Forfarshire Women's Rural Institutes Pictorial Souvenir*, describes a 1930 pageant in Carnoustie, Angus. The acquisition supports undergraduate research in Geography.

We were also delighted to acquire a 1719 edition of *De Jure Belli ac Pacis*, a foundational political work on the legal status of war by the Dutch diplomat Hugo Grotius, first published in 1625. This volume was purchased from a bookseller in Rome for one of our College Fellows.

We hope these books continue to support College research for future generations.



**Hugo Grotius,
*De Jure Belli ac Pacis***

Seasonal panto, anyone?

We've said before that you never know what you're going to find in the Old Library, and to prove it once again here is an image from a book of 1870s pantomime scripts that — to some extent — has been hiding in plain sight in the Lower Old Library. While the Upper Old Library houses our holdings of material up to ca. 1850, other nineteenth-century volumes are housed in the Lower one too; many of these remain uncatalogued, meaning that there is always a chance of finding something really

unusual. Moreover, many items in the Lower Old Library came to us as gifts, increasing the possibility of making a chance discovery! There are eight scripts in the book, all relating to pantomimes, or, as they are referred to here, "Grand comic Christmas annuals". Many traditional favourites are to be found, including the one shown here, of Dick Whittington and his Cat. All are by E. F. Blanchard (real name Edward Litt Leman Blanchard; 1820-1889).



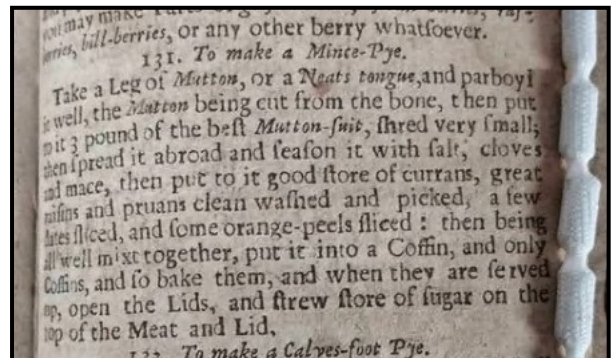
Holiday cooking ideas from the Old Library

Are you considering trying out a new recipe this Christmas? Look no further than the Old Library's current "Treasure of the Month", which is a 1706 edition of the popular cookery manual *The Accomplisht Lady's Delight*.

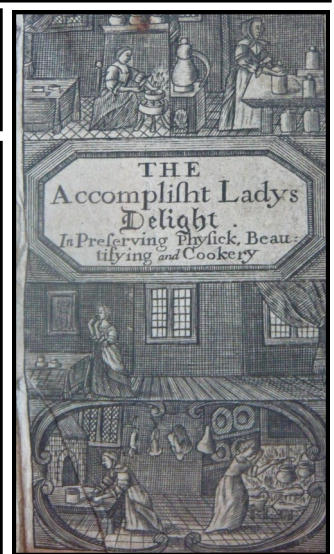
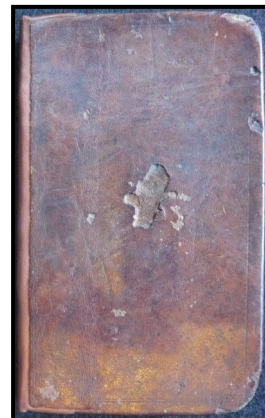
First published in 1675, the book has been attributed to Hannah Wolley (b. 1622?, d. in or after 1674), one of the first English women to make her name as an author. Her name continued to appear on new books after her death, capitalising on the authority of her association.

The manual, which sought to equip women with all the knowledge and practical skills necessary for the smooth upkeep and running of the early modern household, contains this festive recipe for 'a Minc'd-Pye'.

After boiling a leg of mutton and seasoning some mutton suet, the instructions call for cloves, nutmeg, raisins, prunes, dates, and sliced orange peel to be added, and for the mixture to be baked in pastry, with a final sprinkling of sugar. Delicious!



Christ's College
Old Library Rouse
9.28



We would love to hear from you! If you would like to send us comments about this *Newsletter*, arrange a visit to the College Library, sponsor a book, make a donation, or simply share some memories, please contact us at library@christs.cam.ac.uk; by telephone at 01223-334950; or by post at Christ's College Library, St Andrew's Street, Cambridge CB2 3BU.