

# FRIENDS OF CHRIST'S COLLEGE LIBRARY NEWSLETTER, June -July 2020



## A word of welcome...

### From John Wagstaff, College Librarian

I'm delighted to report to our Library Friends that, after 15 weeks of library lockdown, our library is finally beginning to come back to life as I write this message in early July. That's not to say, alas, that either the Working Library or the Old Library are actually open to, and receiving, visitors; but library staff are beginning to return to College to work, rather than keeping things on track from home using their PCs, Macs, iPads etc. The situation is similar

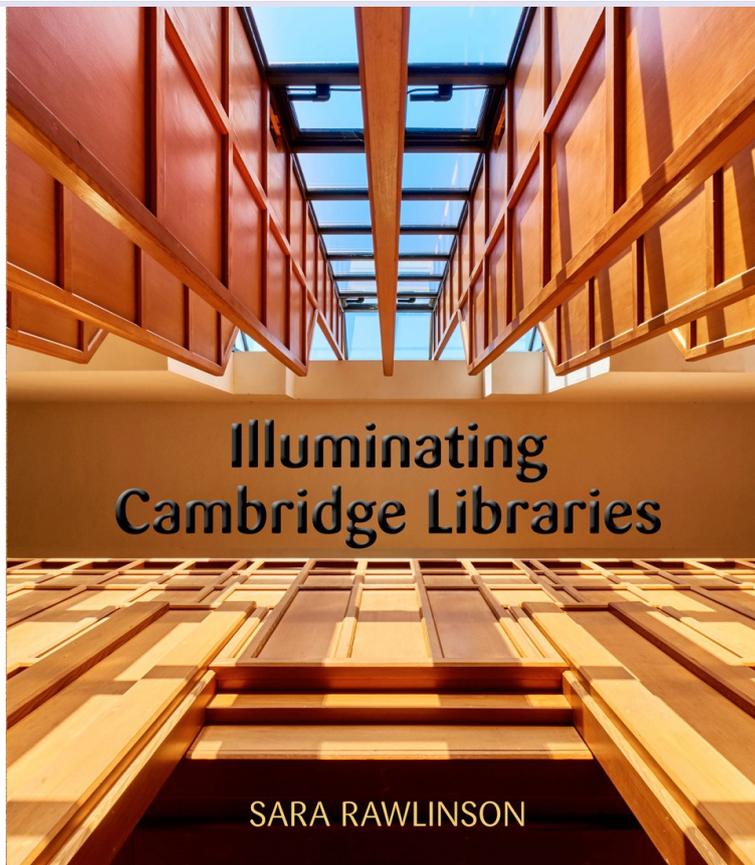
in many other college libraries, and several of the College Librarians have, since the start of lockdown back in March, been meeting regularly by Zoom each Friday to discuss issues of common concern. In terms of our own library, the situation has probably been most bizarre for our new colleague, Amy Bowles, whose programme of library induction has had to take place run remotely and who only now is getting the chance to be in College.

There is plenty of other library news for you this month. Usually about now the library would be looking forward to participating in Open Cambridge, and, while Open Cambridge is going ahead this year, it will be as a "virtual" event. We've been asked to create a video featuring the Old Library as part of this event, and are currently considering it — hopefully I will have more to report in our next Newsletter. I also hope — as always — that you will enjoy this one. Thank you for continuing to be a Library Friend!

## A new book about Cambridge College Libraries

For the past three years, local professional photographer Sara Rawlinson has been busily visiting all 31 Cambridge college libraries and taking artistic photographs of each. Since — as our Friends will already know — Christ's College Library is always interested in being part of a wider project, we were happy to welcome Sara to Christ's a couple of years back, and have been delighted with the photographs of the Old Library that she has produced.

Sara's work is now available as a high-quality book, entitled *Illuminating Cambridge Libraries*. When published this November it will be available for £28, but Sara is accepting pre-publication orders at £25 per copy. If you are interested, go to Sara's website at <https://www.sararawlinson.com/product/library-monograph/> Please mention the Friends of Christ's Library in the "order notes" section of your order if you can, even though we're afraid that that won't get you any further discount! The book is a high-quality paperback, though Sara is already thinking about also producing a hardback version eventually.



# A new Archives Catalogue for Cambridge University

Christ's College Library and Christ's College Archives, while not forming a single administrative unit as frequently happens elsewhere in Cambridge, nevertheless work closely with each other. After all, the books in the Library, and the papers in the Archives, are part of the College's history and heritage, along with the College's plate and picture collections. The Archives and Library have a shared desire to make information about their holdings available to scholars, researchers, alumni, and other interested parties, but not much information about our archival holdings has been available online up to this point, with the catalogue of the Christ's College Archives having consisted of two typescript volumes with no electronic access. Regarding the latter, library staff have been working since summer 2019 to produce a version of the catalogue in Microsoft Word, and having to work from home since March has enabled considerable progress to be made on this catalogue. Once complete (later this summer, we hope) it will be made available via the College's website.

For the past 17 years, Cambridge archivists — of whom there are a good number — have been cataloguing their holdings into a web-based database called Janus. However, 17 years is quite an age for a resource of this sort, and Janus was beginning to look increasingly old fashioned. It was also time to move to a new system that didn't rely solely on local technical support. After considering two systems — AtoM (short for "Access to Memory") and ArchivesSpace — a decision was made to use the latter, and Christ's is beginning to add records of its archival holdings to this new system. Our holdings in Janus were always — to put it kindly — rather patchy, and it is hoped that we can contribute to ArchivesSpace in a rather more systematic way. As an example, we show below the ArchivesSpace record for the papers of one of our "big three" nineteenth-century donors, Charles Lesingham Smith. You can search the new database yourself at <https://arcspac-pub.lib.cam.ac.uk/>, where there is much fascinating material to be discovered!

## ArchivesSpace Public Interface

[Home](#) [Repositories](#) [Collections](#) [Digital Materials](#) [Unprocessed Material](#) [Subjects](#) [Names](#) [Record Groups](#) [Q](#)

Cambridge University Library and the Faculty and Departmental Libraries are now closed to the public. All our online resources remain available to staff and students at the University of Cambridge. Please see [our FAQs](#) for more details.

### Papers of Charles Lesingham Smith (1806-1878)

Series Reference Code: GBR/1849/FP44-52

Christ's College Archives | Papers of Charles Lesingham Smith (1806-1878)

[Collection Overview](#)

[Collection Organization](#)

[Container Inventory](#)

#### Dates

1850 - 1878

#### Conditions Governing Access

As far as we know, there are no legal or other restrictions on access to any of the Lesingham Smith materials.

#### Biographical / Historical

Not much is known about Charles Lesingham Smith's parentage or early life. He was born in Gloucestershire in 1806, and admitted to Christ's College in 1825 to study mathematics. After taking his B.A. as 5th Wrangler in 1829, and his M.A. in 1832, he remained at the College as a Fellow till 1839. In April of that year he was presented by the College to the living of Little Canfield in Essex, and here he remained for the rest of his life.

He...[See more >](#)

#### Extent

9 archive box(es) (9 clamshell boxes (each approximately 15" x 10"), numbered 44-52 in the College's Fellows' Papers collection)

#### Language

English

**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](mailto: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.