

FRIENDS OF CHRIST'S COLLEGE LIBRARY NEWSLETTER, March-April 2021



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

Well, another Lent Term came... and went. COVID, alas, stayed with us, but fortunately we had very few cases of the virus in College overall (a sad exception was a COVID fatality among the college's catering staff, a terrible event that affected us all). Case numbers in general have remained low across the university.

The College Library reopened on 26 January and has remained open ever since. It is one

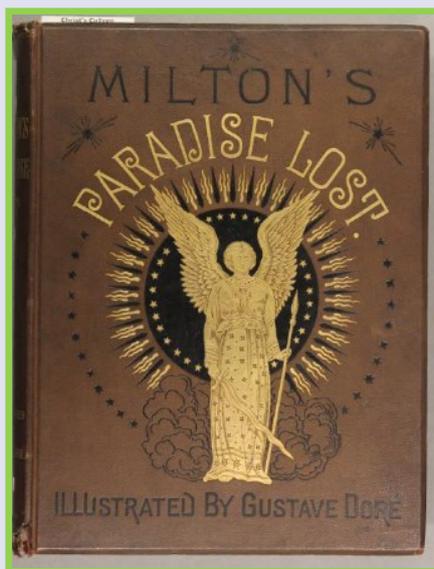
of just a few libraries within the university to be open, although, as I write, Faculty and Departmental Libraries, as well as the University Library, are taking steps towards a phased reopening. The situation in respect of the upcoming Easter Term remains uncertain, but we are hoping to continue to be able to offer a full set of study and other library facilities as students prepare for their exams.

Other potential signs of nor-

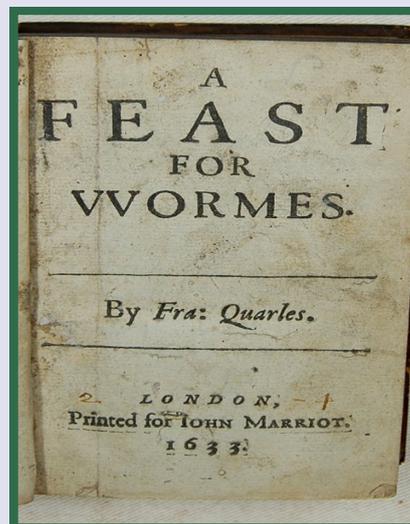
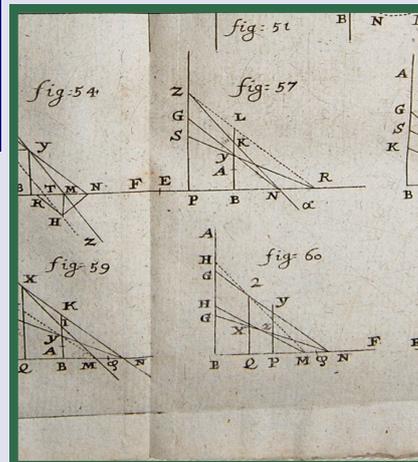
malty are the hoped-for return of our Old Library book-cleaning team from the Arts Society Cantab sometime during April; and we are even considering putting together a summer exhibition in the Old Library, so that when visitors are once again permitted we will be ready with something special to show them. We look forward to welcoming our Library Friends back for the exhibition opening. Libraries (old or new) are best when people are in them!

A fine start to our "Sponsor a Book" programme

We're very pleased to announce that we have already received donations towards the full or partial conservation of three out of the ten items advertised in our 2020-21 "Sponsor a Book" brochure earlier this year. The three items are Isaac Barrow's *Lectiones opticae* (published London, 1674); Francis Quarles' *A feast for wormes* (London, 1633); and the edition of Milton's *Paradise Lost* illustrated by Gustave Doré, all shown to the right. This means that we have raised £1,790 towards our goal of £9,365 required to conserve all ten items in the brochure. We remind our Friends that any donation, large or small, helps bring about the conservation of an item, and brings us closer to our fundraising goal.



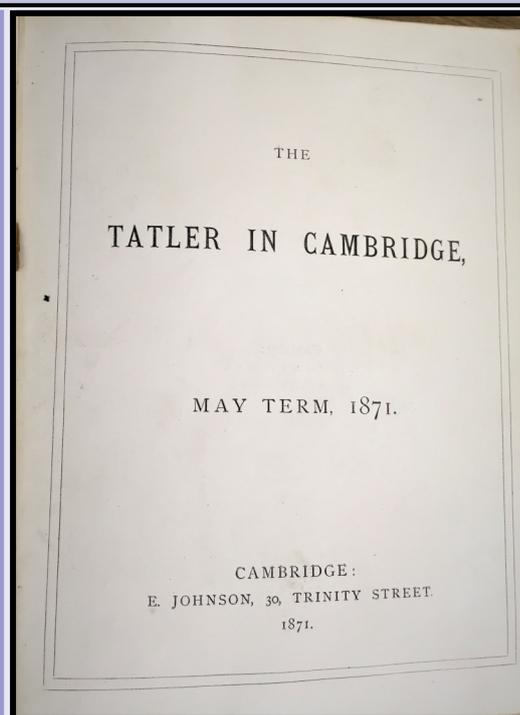
Ready for conservation! *Paradise Lost* by Christ's alumnus John Milton, handsomely illustrated by Gustave Doré (1882)



“The Tatler in Cambridge”

Each month we take an item from the Old Library’s collections and display it in our Working Library — the idea being that students gain an appreciation and understanding of some of our older material. The item on display this month is *The Tatler in Cambridge*, quite a rare item. Its namesake was, presumably, the original *Tatler* magazine produced by Joseph Addison and Richard Steele between 1709 and 1711. Unfortunately, *The Tatler in Cambridge* had an equally brief existence, from May term 1871 until the end of Easter term 1872. During that time, however, its writers were busy producing 3 numbers per week, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays during term — 80 numbers in all.

Our copy was originally owned by John Tennant (Trinity College, matriculated 1866, and a contributor to the magazine). It later came into the possession of W.H.D. Rouse, and thence into Christ’s College Library. The image to the right shows the title page of the very first issue. The fact that it is described as “May term 1871”, and the 1872 final issues as “Easter term”, suggests that the nomenclature of Cambridge terms actually changed between those years to the “Easter term” we still use today.



Finally...More Medals...



We had a marvellous set of responses to our appeal in the January-February 2021 *Newsletter* for information about some of the medals that were recently found in a drawer at the bottom of an exhibition case. So much so, that we thought it would be fun to display some more of them here. This time there are two photographs, with the top one showing another full row of medals like last time. However, the medals in this set are each about the size of a pre-decimalisation sixpence. The second photograph shows the same set, flanked by two larger-size medals. We know that one of these is a military CBE, as the box in which it is housed tells us so. But what about the other one (the one with the blue and yellow ribbon)? Once again we are seeking our expert Friends’ help.

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.