

THE MITRE

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THE QUALITY STUDENT NEWSPAPER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS JUNE 24, 2005 - FREE

A MIDSUMMER'S DAY EDITION

KATHLEEN JAMIE SCORES BOOK OF THE YEAR PRIZE

*Collects £10,000
Prize at Council's
Edinburgh Event*

KATHLEEN Jamie, a lecturer in the School of English, has been presented with the 2005 Scottish Book of the Year award. Miss Jamie collected the 10,000 prize given in recognition of her 'The Tree House', a collection of poetry. The same book of thirty five poems was earlier awarded the Forward Poetry Prize.

The award is given by the Scottish Arts Council and was presented in a ceremony held at the Dynamic Earth centre in Edinburgh on June 9.

ESLER TO LEAD ARTS, HUMANITIES RESEARCH BOARD

*Leave of Absence for
Eminent Divine*

ESTEEMED Professor Philip Esler, of St. Mary's College here at the University of St Andrews, has been appointed Chief Executive of the recently reorganised Arts and Humanities Research Council.

Lord Sainsbury, the Science and Innovation Minister, told the press that "Prof. Esler's research background in Theology and Biblical Studies, his international research

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ST ANDREAN OFF TO THE VATICAN

*Fr. Patrick Burke, Former Debates
Convener, Called to Rome Job*

KNOWN AS SCOURGE OF SECULAR MEDIA

by ANDREW K. B. CUSACK

ONE OF the University's most prominent alumni, Fr. Patrick Burke, has been appointed to the highest doctrinal body at the Vatican. Fr. Burke, currently editor of *Faith* magazine and parish priest at Our Lady and St. Ninian's in Bannockburn, Stirlingshire, will take up his position at the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith at Rome in September.

Fr. Burke, known in St Andrews for his popular and blunt talks to

the Catholic Society, has become well known of late in the British media for ardently defending the Catholic faith from attacks both from within and without during the period surrounding the death of John Paul II and the election of Benedict XVI. The exacting rhetorical barrage he laid on Christina Odone on the B.B.C.'s *Newsnight* programme was of particular note. The appearance made Fr. Burke stand out as one wholly

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GRADUATION 2005

THIS YEAR'S HONORARY DEGREES

*Include Nobel Laureate, Travel Writer,
BBC Journo, and Kirk Conveners*

MOST NOTABLE among this year's recipients of honorary degrees from our university was the esteemed Nobel Laureate and Saoi of Ireland, the poet Mr. Seamus Heaney. Heaney accepted his Doctorate of Letters on June 21, the first graduation of the week.

Also honoured were the popular travel writer Mr. Bill Bryson, known for

his 'Notes from a Small Island', and Mr. John Simpson, a BBC television journalist credited by some with the liberation of Iraq.

The Very Rev. Dr. Iain Torrance and Dr. Allison Eliot, former moderators of the Church of Scotland who both failed to halt that institution's decline, were awarded honorary DDivs.

PATERSON BIDS ADIEU TO FAIR CITY OF BONN

*Returns to Helm
of University's
Tory Association*

OUR OWN popular columnist, Mr. Stuart Paterson, will return to St Andrews in the autumn to resume his presidency of the University of St Andrews Conservative Association. Mr. Paterson has successfully completed a year of studies at the University of Bonn in Germany, from whence he penned his *Bonn Voyage* column, the last of which is printed on **pages IV-V**.

COMMITTEE OK'S HAMILTON HALL DEVELOPMENT

*Objections from
R&A, Com. Council*

PLANNING permission has been granted by Fife Council to transform the former Grand Hotel on the Scores, currently the University's Hamilton Hall residence, into twenty five holiday timeshares. The decision was made by the East Area Development Committee of the Council despite the strong concerns over traffic and parking considerations as well as complaints raised by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club across the street.

Wasserman Real Estate of Providence, Con't on Page II

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COUNCIL OK'S HAMILTON PLAN

ESLER WILL HEAD RESEARCH COUNCIL

Con't from Front Page networks and his interest in the visual arts will be of great benefit of the Council."

"The arts and humanities are indispensable to the cultural life and economic vitality of the United Kingdom," the popular Prof. Esler said



PROF. PHILIP ESLER

himself, adding that he was "excited" about taking up the position as Chief Executive.

The Australian born Esler, currently Professor of Biblical Criticism, will begin his position in the autumn at the A.H.R.C. in Bristol. He previously held the position of Vice Principal for Research until 2001. Earlier, Esler had been a solicitor and barrister at law in Sydney, while working as a part time lecturer in New Testament Studies at the University of Sydney.

The Arts and Humanities Research Council was created by the Higher Education Act 2004, taking over the role of the previous Arts and Humanities Research Board. The government has allocated 81,000,000 to fund the Council, which in turn will award funding to qualifying research projects.

Holiday Timeshares and Conference Facilities to Replace Hall of Residence

Con't from Front Page Rhode Island in the United States have agreed to purchase the hall of residence from the University and transform it into a private club with leisure, catering, and conference facilities as well as the twenty five "holiday apartments".

The Royal Burgh of St Andrews Community Council have objected to the scheme on the grounds that no further parking will be provided and questioning how further construction will alter the roof of the landmark structure, thus changing the world famous skyline it provides.

The St Andrews Preservation Trust also registered its official objections and a representative from the Scores Hotel next door to Hamilton Hall also complained about the development.



HAMILTON HALL: Built as the Grand Hotel.

Fife Council developing the building planner Grant Baxter would be required to devise a suitable traffic management scheme by stating that transportation officials during construction to ensure that pedestrian and vehicular access remained acceptable as well as to keep congestion to a minimum. It is unknown when construction is expected to begin. Mr. Baxter also emphasized that the firm

Lang Breaks Ground on New Arts Building Next to Library

PRINCIPAL Brian Lang has broken ground for the construction of a new Arts Faculty building in the centre of town. The 8,000,000 structure is to be located between the main University Library and St. Katharine's Lodge West. The 33,000 sq ft building will house on four storeys lecture theatres, tutorial rooms, and offices, and is scheduled to be completed during the summer of 2007. It will be constructed primarily out of glass, stone, and zinc.



Principal & Vice Chancellor Dr. Brian Lang breaks the ground with David Downie of Morrison Construction.

The University claims that the new building, designed by Reiach & Hall Architects of Edinburgh, has been "designed with the historic setting in mind" but some critics have complained that it more complements the bland brutalist library than the series of Scots Flemish Revival buildings which will be its neighbours on the Scores. The building, however, is set back from the street, and is unlikely to mar the views of one of St Andrews' more quiet and leafy thoroughfares.

FR. BURKE OFF TO VATICAN JOB

Con't from Front Page

unafraid to unabashedly put forth the worldview of the Catholic Church and defend it from secular attacks, though some liberal opponents claimed he was vainly seeking a media persona whilst ignoring the care of his parishioners in Scotland.

However, the *Mitre* spoke to Jamie McMorrin, a St Andrews student and former parishioner of Fr. Burke, who described such allegations as “frankly ridiculous” adding “those who further them clearly have no idea what they’re talking about”.

“Father has many great gifts,” McMorrin said. “He is an eloquent and persuasive speaker and is very knowledgeable on his subjects. He is young, dynamic, and not afraid to speak the truth. Catholics should be glad to have him on their television screens! But he is first and foremost a parish priest. It has been my experience that he would never put *anything* before the care of souls entrusted to him. No other commitment never mind personal ambition comes even close to that.”

Professor John Haldane met Fr. Burke during his undergraduate study at St Andrews. Prof. Haldane declared Burke is “multiply gifted as theologian and pastor,” and described the appointment as “a mark of the high estimate of his abilities formed by Cardinal Ratzinger, now Pope Benedict.”

The appointment marks the latest step in an interesting and varied life. Patrick Burke was born in Rhodesia during that country’s final years, coming to Britain in 1982. While attending the University of St Andrews, he studied theology and philosophy, being elected convener of the Debating Society and president of



CARDINAL SAYS MASS IN RUINS OF CATHEDRAL

*Archbishop of St
Andrews Observes
Anniversary*

THE RUINS of the shrine and Cathedral of St Andrew which gave this town its name played host to His Eminence, Keith Patrick O’Brien, the Cardinal Archbishop of St Andrews & Edinburgh on May 16, 2005 the Monday of Pentecost. Cardinal O’Brien, who a day before had the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination as priest, said a mass on the remaining stones of the high altar for a conference of religious women held nearby. The mass ended with the entire assembly about fifty turning east and praying the *Salve Regina*. Tea and coffee followed in the parish hall of St. James Church.

In pre reformation times, the Archbishop of St Andrews was *ex officio* also the Chancellor of the University, reflecting our foundation by Bishop Henry Wardlaw in the fifteenth century.

the Catholic Society.

After completing his undergraduate studies, Burke moved on to the Scots College in Rome to answer a vocation to the Catholic priesthood. He earned two degrees from the Gregorian University in the Eternal City and was ordained a priest in 1991.

Fr. Burke then spent some time as the curate of a parish in West Lothian, but returned to Rome to complete his doctorate. During this period, Fr. Burke was in residence at the Teutonic College which gave him the

opportunity of frequently meeting Bavaria’s Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, now known to the world as Pope Benedict XVI. Fr. Burke, fluent in German, shared with Cardinal Ratzinger a not uncritical interest in the Jesuit philosopher Karl Rahner, the subject of Fr. Burke’s studies. Burke’s doctoral thesis was completed in 1997 and published by Fordham University Press of New York in 2001 titled as *Reinterpreting Rahner*.

Reflecting on the appointment, Fr. Burke himself had the following

words: “It is an honour to have been asked to contribute to the work of the universal church in this way. My sadness at leaving my parishioners in Our Lady and St. Ninian’s in Bannockburn and Sacred Heart in Cowie is tempered by excitement at the prospect of new challenges which lie ahead.” He added: “I am grateful to Cardinal O’Brien the Archbishop of St Andrews & Edinburgh, Fr. Burke’s bishop for his support and his willingness to release me from my current responsibilities in Scotland.”

CORRESPONDENCE

Mitre reader, I write this, my last *Bonn Voyage* column, as I recover from a rather nasty shock. Whilst breakfasting this morning, I saw something which nearly caused me to choke on my *pain au chocolat*. A certain Edinburgh based newspaper has a column entitled Letter from Cologne, which appears to be not too dissimilar to the *Mitre's* much loved Bonn centered feature, albeit without the ingenious title. Now, I am an avid reader of the organ in question, and I have never before come across this item, which leads me to believe that it is, in fact, a cheap imitation of my own work. The similarities are just too numerous, right down to the gritty realism that this column strives to represent.

Having regained my composure, I decided to take advantage of the glorious sunshine, which has blessed this part of the country for the best part of a week, and head down to Bad Godesberg. Now I quite often find myself in this particular spa town on many a Saturday morning, as I am keen to escape the crowds that engulf Bonn city centre, but today I had an ulterior motive. I was going to meet a liberal. If any of you have visited the website belonging to this newspaper's editor, you may have chanced upon an article concerning my departure to Bonn. The article was accompanied by a photo of Angela Merkel, the leader of the Christian Democrats, Germany's principal opposition party. The photograph was taken by myself at a small rally held before the town's municipal elections in September. Having now developed a taste for observing German



STUART PATERSON



Angela Merkel (right)

political leaders, you can imagine my joy when I learned that Guido Westerwelle, the leader of the Free Democrats was giving a speech in the city's southerly suburb. Now, I must caution those of you who are asking yourself, why this writer, a lifelong conservative with both upper and lower case c's would want to associate myself with the leader of Germany's equivalent of the Liberal Democrats. Have I donned sandals and started calling for the legalisation of cannabis? Fear not, *Mitre* reader, I have not departed from my traditional political standpoint, and there is an explanation. The Free Democrats are, in fact, nothing like the British LibDems. They have been

moving rightwards since the early 1980s and are the self styled 'party of the well to do people'. Their use of another moniker, 'Die Liberalen' falls foul of trade description legislation in a similar fashion to the parties of John Howard and Junichiro Koizumi. As it turned out, Herr Westerwelle, who resides in the 'Bohemian' Altstadt area of Bonn, and is widely tipped to become Foreign Minister in 2007, was giving his speech at 2:00pm, not the 11:00am stated on the hundreds of posters around the city. Misleading and economic with the truth, perhaps Westerwelle's party is not too different from the LibDems after all.

Despondent, I

considered trying to find the house on Wurzelstrasse where a certain Benedict XVI used to live. A quick look on a street map quickly dissuaded me from undertaking such an expedition, especially as I have often walked past one of the Holy Father's other former residences in the city centre. The election of a new Pope resulted in the ringing of bells at the city's cathedral, which I live a few hundred yards from. I was most impressed, as the bells started a mere five minutes after the first puffs of white smoke were seen escaping from the Sistine Chapel's chimney. I did, at the time, wonder if there was a team of campanologists on standby. The fact that

CORRESPONDENCE



The University of Bonn

the new occupant of the Vatican, taught at the University of Bonn, has given the town more reasons to celebrate.

I had travelled to Bad Godesberg on a mainline train, a journey of four minutes. For some reason, I decided to return to Bonn using the underground. This brings me on to my next topic subterranean Bonn. The existence of an underground network in a city of Bonn's size has always struck me as a little odd. Vast stations lie a mere few metres underneath the city, including underneath the vast park in front of the University's main building. When partaking in games of football, as is customary, one becomes aware of a violent shaking, every time a train passes below. To be fair, the U Bahn only goes underground for a few stretches and travels above ground for most of the network. Indeed, it travels the 30km between Bonn and Cologne before it links up with the other city's underground system. However, trains are not the only thing lurking

beneath the streets and squares of Bonn. Most cities in Britain are blighted by enormous car parks. You will not see too many of them here, for they are underground. Wandering through the city centre, you will quickly become aware of people appearing from steps and lifts, and cars ascending ramps at a rather alarming speed. There are at least three major car parks below the city centre, each capable of holding hundreds of cars. As a result, Bonn is relatively free of parked cars and there is no need to concrete over vast tracts of land. Intrigued by this, I decided to investigate.

Whilst stocking up on provisions in Kaufhof's basement food hall, I noticed a door. Being the naturally inquisitive soul that I am, I went through the door and found myself in one of these underground car parks and what an interesting place it turned out to be. Much to my surprise, I discovered that these car parks are on several levels allowing the good people of Bonn to park there Audis and

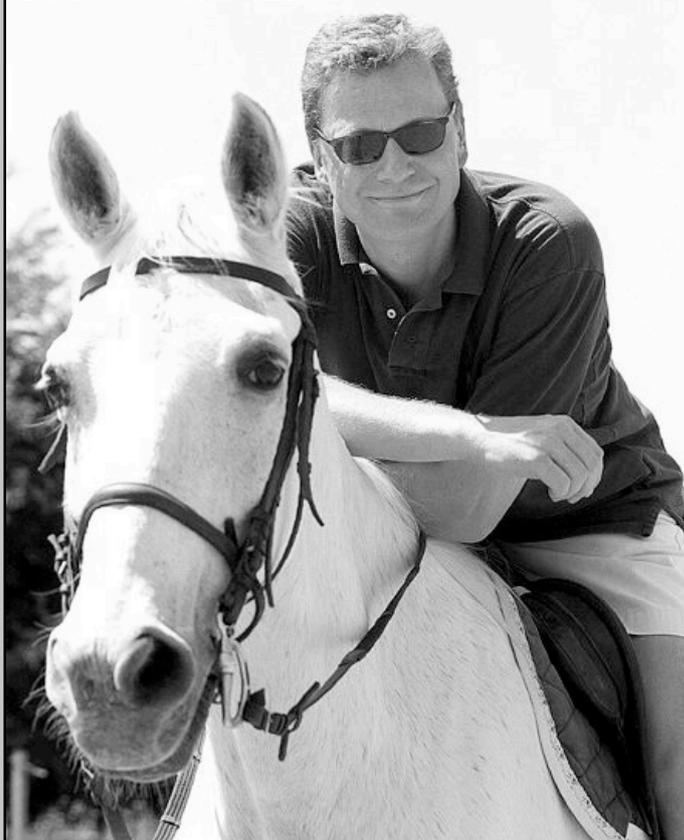
BMW's that little closer to the earth's crust.

As I intimated above, this is to be my last column, as the St Andrews term draws to a close and you lucky people will shortly be beginning your holidays.

I, on the other hand, have barely started my second semester and will be here until the end of July. So while you are hiking through the Andes; building schools in Namibia; or whatever else it is that the typical *Mitre* reader does in his or her summer holidays, spare a thought for this writer who will be stuck in a classroom in deepest Germany struggling to give a presentations on subjects as diverse as Luxembourg's role in the Yugoslav Wars, and paedophilic connotations in *Through the Looking Glass* by Lewis Carroll. It's been a most enjoyable year, and I hope that those of you who have followed the trials and tribulations of life in Germany, have shared in my joy. Until we meet again, may I bid you all a Bonn Voyage.

Stuart Paterson returns to St Andrews in the autumn.

Guido Westerwelle



THE MITRE

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Reform Graduation!

This past week many of our friends and peers enjoyed the pomp and ceremony of the Graduation Ceremony, and so this seems an appropriate moment to make a series of recommendations for its embellishment and elaboration. We firmly believe that much would be gained were the ritual made more obsolete, if more Latin was used thereby making the procedure less intelligible, and if medieval traditions were restored with the aim of increasing wining *poculum* and dining *bellaria*, things indispensable but not currently obligatory at St. Andrews, as they were in days of yore.

The necessary historical background to the graduation ceremony is straightforward. St. Andrews was established along the lines of the great university at Paris, and our ceremony, as our syllabus, was essentially a replica. At the time of the Protestant Revolution, many of the more enjoyable aspects of graduation were replaced by extremely dull ones. For instance, it had been an obligation for a new *magister* to entertain his teachers lavishly with a sumptuous banquet *poculum et bellaria*, as well as to present gloves. This declined with the advent of Protestantism and was finally abolished in 1642 when, according to one history, 'all feasts were forbidden and replaced by a money payment, or the presentation of a book, to the University Library'. How utterly reprehensible.

Much of what captures the imagination today in the graduation procedure is thanks to Victorian medievalism. The varieties of academic dress, as with much else which was good, had fallen foul of the Reformers, and it fell to the Victorians to resurrect whatever they could ascertain was the Parisian academic style. Those who have witnessed the graduation ceremony will be aware of how splendidly differentiated are every academic in the hall; one knows their position and standing *from their attire*. This code, akin to the Canterbury pilgrims of Chaucer, is truly medieval and cuts against the mundane meaninglessness of modern dress. We declare ourselves satisfied with the current system of gowns, hoods &c..

Less satisfactory is the actual ritual of graduation. The *birretatio* or 'capping' by the chancellor is the sole remnant of a ritual formerly more satisfying. As it stands, the graduate proceeds to the chancellor, who slaps you across the head with a 17th century cap said to have been made from John Knox's breeches and says either *Te ad gradum Magistri Artium/Baccalaurei* etc. or simply *et super te*. This is fine. However, we kindly request that the university restores two features: the ascent to the magisterial chair, followed by the *lectura* in Latin by all graduates. The most intrusively modern characteristic of the graduation ceremony is the omission of any differentiation according to degree classification. This is a recent development and should be reversed.

Our final recommendation concerns the role of the chancellor. We are currently blessed with Sir Kenneth Dover, a gentleman and scholar held by the *Mitre* in the highest esteem. In times like these when we might naturally fear a celebrity chancellor, Sir Kenneth brings gravitas to the position. Nevertheless it must be pointed out that the office of chancellor belongs properly to the Archbishop of St. Andrews and Edinburgh currently Keith Patrick Cardinal O'Brien. This is a matter of propriety; our personal preference would be for the current incumbent. But this ought to be rectified, and the Church given its due place in the hierarchy of the university. And incidentally, when you see Sir Kenneth in Tesco, do give him a hand; after the appropriate prelate, we could not wish for any better than he.

LETTERS

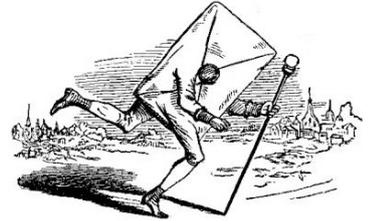
Christ and Multiculturalism

SIR I would like to add my humble two cents to the wonderful editorial 'Multiculturalism, Move On' The *Mitre*, February 15, 2005. I wholeheartedly agree that multiculturalism, as one would know it today, is one of the most destructive elements to come out of twentieth century secularism, and the question at its heart is not a new one. It has been asked a million times in centuries past. It is just the answers that are different.

Missionaries to the Far East in the mid 16th century were fascinated by the cultures they discovered, and struggled with how to spread the Gospel of our Lord most effectively to those people. A humanist today would more likely take offence to any suggestion that implied Christianity was truth and Buddhism is not. One need only briefly survey 18th century philosophy to see how the answer to the question "How does one interact with another culture?" has changed so drastically, and unfortunately the 'humanistic' approach is ever so dominant today.

The question now at hand is how to move away from the destructive multiculturalism to a healthy one as envisaged by early missionaries. This is a question as yet unanswered

and some might say unasked. However there is one good starting point: drama. A brief glance at the mainline cinema listings during the summer gives a good idea of what people are seeing. For the most part, it is for lack of



Letters to the EDITOR

a better word excrement. Literature and cinema are a significant factor in forming and changing the way people think. And unless the taboos strictly enforced by modern multiculturalism on the popular literature and cinema of the day are broken, the greater public will forever be trapped in what Henri du Lubac, S.J. called 'the drama of atheist humanism.' It is this drama that stands in the way of a multiculturalism that celebrates the diversity of the person and of the world, but is not afraid to offer them the promise of salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Mr. Timothy Allen
Tertian, St. Mary's College

THE MITRE OF ST ANDREWS

the Quality Student Newspaper
at the University of St Andrews

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EMPEROR CHARLES PRAYER LEAGUE FOR PEACE AMONG THE NATIONS

Blessed Kaiser Karl and Peace

Sofie von Hauch presents a personal message urging you to help Benedict XVI in his efforts for peace and unity in Europe and the world.

Benedict XVI – Pope of Peace

The Holy Father Benedict XVI takes up the Petrine Office explicitly in the spirit of his predecessor and namesake Benedict XV, who led the Church of Christ through the terrors of the First World War by constantly working to promote peace and cooperation between the nations of Europe.

A prominent cardinal and close friend of Pope Benedict XVI before his election said that Benedict would be a 'pope of peace' if the office fell to him. By the grace of God it has, and it is now our duty as members and children of the Church to support our spiritual Father in his aims.

The Holy Father has already on many occasions asked for the assistance of our prayers. Alliance with the Church in heaven is a great support in this effort, which is why I would ask all Christian readers to consider, in support of the Holy Father's efforts, to take part in the Prayer League for the Peace of Nations through the intercession of Blessed Emperor Karl I of the House of Austria.

Blessed Emperor Charles

Karl or Charles was a nephew of Franz Josef I, and only through the assassination of Franz Josef's heir and then the Emperor's own death in 1916, did Karl come to the throne of the Empire. He was already then married to Princess Zita of Bourbon Parma, and the happy marriage was blessed with eight children.

A deep piety focussed on the Eucharist and the Sacred Heart of Jesus characterised Karl's entire life, in which he always sought to discern through prayer the will of God and follow it at the cost of the glamour and compromises of court life and world politics. Karl saw his primary task as King and Emperor to ensure the welfare of his people, especially by securing peace among the nations. As the only one of the many heads of state in Europe, Blessed Karl supported the strenuous efforts for peace made by Pope Benedict XV, and



The League Prayer

O Blessed Emperor Karl, you accepted the difficult tasks and burdensome challenges that God gave you during your life. In every thought, decision, and action you trusted always in the Holy Trinity.

We pray to you to intercede for us with the Lord our God to give us faith and courage, so that even we may not lose heart, but continue faithfully in the footsteps of Christ.

Ask for us the grace that our hearts may be moulded into the likeness of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Help us to work with compassion and strength for the poor and needy, to fight with courage for peace in our homes and in the world, and in every situation to trustingly place our lives in the hands of God, until we reach Him, as you did, through Christ our Lord.

intentions of the League, and to attend the events organised by the League as far as possible.

Apart from formal membership, I encourage you to pray for Karl's intercession in any case for the peace and unity of Europe and the world, with our Holy Father Benedict XVI, Benedict XV, and Saint Benedict, Patron of Europe.

followed his advice on how to prevent civil war through social reform.

Karl's efforts were obstructed and he was exiled, but continued his peace efforts as far as possible. The poor conditions of the family's new home eventually afflicted Karl's health, and he died in 1922 a victim for peace poor, sick, and exiled, but without complaint because he trusted in the efforts he had been able to make by God's help.

The Prayer League for Peace Among Nations

Pope John Paul II beatified Kaiser Karl on 3 October 2004 after the urging of the Prayer League. The League now works for his canonisation, as well as publicising his mission in order to inspire more people to pray for his intercession and live by his example. To this purpose the Prayer League organises talks, Masses, pilgrimages for peace, and retreats to spread the word of this saint for our day.

Since Benedict XVI's accession, Karl's devotion and self-sacrificial work for a Christ-centred peace and unity in Europe is more relevant than ever before. Karl also remains a glorious and timely reminder that it is possible to be simultaneously saint and politician.

Membership of the League is free, but members promise to imitate the example of Karl by living by God's will, striving for peace in homes and between all men, and praying for justice and the forgiveness of sins. We also make an effort to pray the League Prayer daily, once a month to hear Mass for the

Contact Sofie at sh56@st-andrews.ac.uk to join.

SOCIAL REPORT



ABOUT THE TOWN

JAZZY SOIRÉE at the BYRE for ANDERSON-BRAIDWOOD 21ST

A grand fête was thrown on Sunday, May 22 by Miss **Arabella Anderson-Braidwood** to celebrate her accession to the age of twenty one. The evening was to have begun with a champagne reception on Castle Sands at 6:00pm, but storms earlier in the day portending unacceptable conditions, and thus the Common Room at Canmore on the Scores was arranged as a substitute.

The festivities continued nonetheless with **Andrew Ogletree** acting as host until the birthday girl herself made her grand entrance into the Common Room amidst widespread applause. **Oliver Jackson Hutt** chatted with fellow art historian **Margaret Breed** as the Officer Training Corps' redoubtable **J. Edward Barker** showed off his Countryside Alliance wrist band to all and sundry available online from the CA's website.

The party moved shortly thereafter to dinner at the Byre Theatre where **Nicholas Vincent**, a notorious enemy of formal dress, showed up late owing to his having to borrow each component of black tie from different friends around town at the last minute. Following the dinner, the splendid cotery enjoyed drinks and jazz and were joined by even more guests including the perpetually fashionable **Maria Bramble**, Kate Kennedy Club member **Tom Fothergill**, and court jester **Matt Bell** the celebrated cinema reviewer for our more erudite sister publication, the *Mitre Literary Review*. Shameless plug! .

Throughout the evening, funds were raised for the latest Maggie's Cancer Care Centre, being built in London. Those among our readers interested in making a donation may do so at www.maggiescentres.org.

Bella Anderson-Braidwood, Nicole Zarafonitis, & Oliver Jackson Hutt

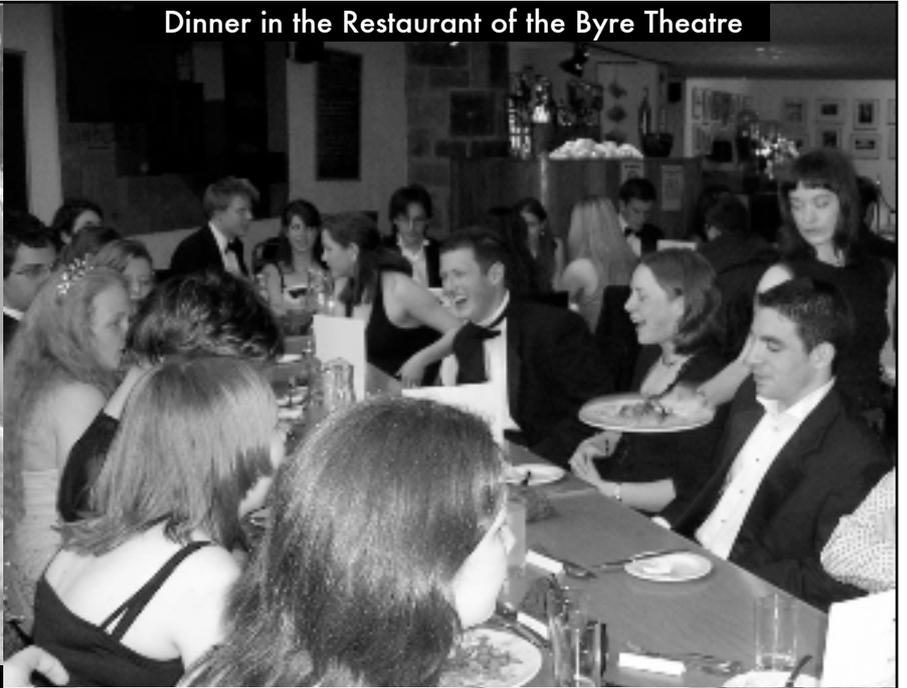


Ed Barker turns on the charm.

SOCIAL REPORT



Margaret Breed, Stefano Costanzo, and the Birthday Girl outside the Byre



Dinner in the Restaurant of the Byre Theatre



A rare photo of the beautiful Lizzie Briggs



Andrew Ogletree with two other lovely guests



A perturbed Matt Bell



Maria Bramble, Clare Dempsey, Bella Anderson-Braidwood

ARCHITECTURE

by NICHOLAS VINCENT

Few could fail to be impressed by the magisterial presence of the former Public Record Office PRO in Chancery Lane, even though it has been parcelled up since January of last year behind a carapace of steel poles and polythene. Such is the form and scale of this palace of towered ranges that, although Perpendicular Gothic decoration is temporarily obscured, it remains possible still to appreciate that this was the only state funded major public building to follow in the style of the Houses of Parliament.

Begun in 1851, to a modified design by Sir James Pennethorne, this imposing yet functional model of Victorian civic architecture became in recent years the magnificent setting for King's College Library. For years, the college's major collections were dispersed at different sites around London, but are now amalgamated and relocated to a building that was purpose designed to serve a similar function, housing the nation's records. There is little doubt that the King's Library is one of London's finest. The site itself is of considerable historical significance, being associated with the Rolls of Chancery from 1377 and incorporating relics of the Rolls Chapel, founded in 1232.

Contrary to what one might expect of a building designed as a repository for files and documents, its architectural history is fascinating. Geoffrey Tyack, the not entirely uncritical author of *Sir James Pennethorne and the Making of Victorian London* 1992 describes this early fire proof building as 'one of the most forward looking buildings of its age', although he sensed something of the

A New Library for King's

The recent conversion of the former Public Record Office to a library for King's College London is a fitting use of a building once dubbed 'the strongbox of the nation', and worthy of applause.



FOR THE RECORD: A view of the façade of Kings College London's newest library.

workhouse or prison in its 'overpowering massiveness', and thought it 'very intimidating, as it was presumably intended to be'. Pennethorne's first block, consisting of eighty storage

cells constructed of wrought iron girders with shallow, brick arched ceilings, established the building's functional module. Each unit of a small, self contained room,

with iron door and slate shelving on metal racks, was expressed externally by a tall window of leaded lights between boldly projecting mullions, divided internally by a mezzanine,

ARCHITECTURE

because there was not artificial lighting. 'No conflagration could ever break out in a fire proof Record Room', the architect guaranteed.

While first approached from Fetter Lane, the building's Gothic entrance lies at the centre of its south front, leading into a grand entrance hall with a painted zinc ceiling. Above this rises a tower, lower than originally intended, decorated with Perpendicular tracery, pierced parapets and polygonal turrets. Statues of four queens, coats of arms and gargoyles adorn its crown. A second phase, carried out between 1863 and 1868, consisted of an extension to accommodate more public spaces, including the ten sided literacy search room, now known as the Round Reading Room. This fine example of cast iron architecture, with two stories and a gallery top lit by a glass dome, evokes Smirke's reading room at the British Museum. Further blocks were added in 1869-71 and 1892-6, introducing to the building's skyline its distinctive ogee turrets. The latter of these extensions, incorporating an arched gateway on its Chancery Lane façade, was designed by Sir John Taylor to house offices, a small library and a storeroom.

The building was purchased by King's College in 1998, two years after the PRO completed its move to Kew. In October 2001, a partial opening of the building allowed the public a glimpse of the refurbishment and conversion programme that was underway. More recently, however, with the building's complete restoration, it is now obvious that although twenty five miles of slate shelving had to be removed and mezzanines rebuilt, the



philosophy of the college and its architects, Gaunt Francis, was always to preserve the architectural form and spirit of this great Victorian institution, whilst equipping it with state of the art library facilities.

As well as the library collections of the college's schools of

humanities, law, and physical science and engineering, the library also houses rare books and special collections, which were previously located in Hampstead.

These outstanding collections have been built up, largely by bequest or donations, since the founding of

King's College in 1829, and have grown to support its strength as one of London's principal academic institutions.

Among the special collections are the wealth of unusual 19th and 20th century publications, notably works on Ottoman history, Portuguese studies and the history of science two first editions of Darwin's *On the Origin of Species*, for example, and literary collections, including signed copies of works by Samuel Beckett and T. S. Eliot.

Among the eleven thousand volumes in the rare books collection mostly published before 1800 are early works of theology particularly rare bibles, classical literature, travel, philology, early science and technology. First printed editions of the works of Homer 1488, Aristotle 1495-9 and Plato 1513 can be found here, together with an early copy of Ptolemy's illustrated *Geografia*. Most significant of the collections is that of the great linguistic scholar and traveller William Marsden 1754-1836, presented to King's in 1835. The library's oldest book is a copy of Silius Italicus' *Punica*, printed in Venice in 1483.

These Rare Books and Special Collections are housed in the Chancery Lane wing designed by Taylor. Here, the original appearance of the old PRO library, with its distinctive timber shelving is preserved.

The ambitious restoration of this major public building as a centralised library for King's College forms part of a remarkable 400 million redevelopment programme of the College's estate. At present, about 5 million is still being sought for the library project by its appeal board, chaired by Tim Waterstone.

Above: 10 sided reading room. Below: From Fetter Lane.



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AN OCCASIONAL REVIEW OF THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT FOR OUR DISCRIMINATING READERS

A Fitzrovia Renovation

16 Fitzroy Square finds two rescuers from Wall St, writes Nicholas Vincent.

Two retired Wall Street investment bankers are behind the restoration of this remarkable Grade II* listed building, since acquiring No 16 and two other houses in the Square in 2003. The Cherren Group was founded by Andrew Osinski and Jack Jacobs in 1996.

This grand Georgian centrepiece of the area known as Fitzrovia was developed by Charles Fitzroy, later Lord Southampton. Robert Adam designed the east and south sides shortly before his death in 1792, and the north and west were added in 1825. The parties to No 16's building lease of 1827 were Lord Southampton and Joshua Mayhew of Chancery Lane. From 1863 to 1879 the six-storey house was occupied by the distinguished surgeon and inventor Charles Brooke. It became an exalted neighbourhood: the prime minister Lord Salisbury lived at No 21 and Ford Madox Brown at No



37, while No 29 was home first to George Bernard Shaw and then to Virginia Woolf. Previously occupied by the charity SCOPE, No 16 has been painstakingly restored. Original features

that have survived include the staircase and some good plasterwork concealed behind suspended ceilings. According to the Georgian Group, whose offices are at No 6, the most remarkable feature is the first floor passage, where the decoration has obvious parallels with that in Sir John Soane's House of Lords, completed in 1824, but now demolished.

The accommodation of 6,376sq ft includes five reception rooms, six bedrooms, four bathrooms and a kitchen. The 24ft south facing drawing room on the first floor has French windows overlooking the circular garden of the square, which is now partly pedestrianised. Next door, restoration has begun on No 17, with the freehold for No 16 being offered at 3.95 million, if you can stand all that dust and noise.

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THE REALM OF THE RARE BOOK

A unique book dating from the 1520's and lost for over two centuries will be sold in July by the Edinburgh auction house of Lyon and Turnbull. The Codex Stosch is a series of twenty three folios of early 16th century drawings of Roman architecture which were bound together during the middle of the eighteenth century. There was no record of the Codex's whereabouts from then until its recent discovery at Pallinsburn House in Northumberland.

The Codex Stosch

"This is an incredibly exciting find," said Dr. Sebastian Pryke, an auctioneer and specialist at Lyon and Turnbull. "The book was last recorded in the 18th century in the library of Baron Philip de Stosch, a celebrated collector who was also an English spy who reported on the whereabouts of the Old Pretender in Rome. His library was sold in 1764

with most of the architectural drawings ending up in the Albertina, the drawings collection of the Vienna State Museum. The Codex, however, was not included in the sale and disappeared for over two hundred years only to resurface in the library at Pallinsburn House."

The Codex is named after its first known owner, Philipp von Stosch, who died in 1757. A 1762

reference attributed the folios to Raphael, claiming they were plans for the reconstruction of Rome as proposed in his letter to Pope Leo X. In actual fact, they are believed to be the work of Giovanni Battista da Sangallo 1496-1548 as they strongly resemble his illustrations for a first edition of Vitruvius, currently held in Rome's Biblioteca Corsiniana.

The Codex Stosch Sale 125 Lot 1 is scheduled to be auctioned July 1. See: www.lyonandturnbull.com.