

Oxford Union Society Library Committee

Minutes for Meeting TT 2019 Week 3 (Monday 13th May)

Present: Sara Dube (*Librarian*), Tom Corrick (*Librarian-in-Charge*), Mahi Joshi (*Librarian-Elect*), Brian Wong, Daniel Villar, William Prescott, Connor Warden, John Whitehead, Kitsu Egerton, Jonathan Sheinman, James Pettifer, Elliot Bromley, Elizabeth Piper (*Trainee Librarian*).

- Apologies and Absences
 - Phillip Counsell is in France so sends his apologies
 - Altair Brandon-Salmon and Okorafor Ikeagwu have tutorials clashing with committee
 - Yee Kwan Law sends his apologies also
 - Brian Wong's absence from last week was passed with no objection.
- Membership
 - New Members- Elliot Bromley was in attendance and wished to become a voting member. He is currently doing an MPhil, but whether this means he is a junior or senior member is under discussion. This will have to go to Standing Committee next week as the rule change in MT2018 was filibustered to the point that the rules regarding library committee membership were not officially changed. This needs to be brought up again which the Librarian will do at the next meeting. Elliot Bromley has been engaged a lot in other part of the Union, but wishes to see all parts of the working body. His particular area of interest is contemporary India, and his favourite book currently is *Accidental India* by Shankkar Aiyar.
- Minutes and Matters Arising from Previous Meeting
 - None.
- Matters Arising from Standing Committee
 - None.
- Strategy Committee – 5th Week (Wednesday 29th May) 1030hrs
 - Representatives from Library Committee required. Daniel Villar said that he must resign from this duty as he is busy. Connor Warden is unable to do that date. Will Prescott says that he will most likely be able to do so, but Brian Wong will take his place if so required. John Whitehead is also able to represent. The Librarian asked if the Standing Committee Representative was required to go. The Librarian-in-Charge said that he would check, but that he thought it likely.
- Suggestions Book
 - None.
- Members' Suggestions (£79)- all passed with no objection.

- Book List TT Week 3:
 - Medical Sciences (£240, Daniel Villar). These were chosen for general interest so that non-scientists could read and find interesting the social input of science, rather than competing with the science library. It was slightly overbudget, but the Librarian pointed out that all has been underbudget so far in the term, so it was alright. All passed with no objection.
 - Politics (£290, William Prescott/Jonathan Sheinman). Will Prescott chose his list to show contemporary interest- all passed with no objection. One book from Jonathan Sheinman's list was switched out for the reserve suggestion: *How Propaganda Works* swapped for *Plutocrats United*. Otherwise, all passed with no objection.
- Book List TT Week 4: Oxford (£225, Daniel Villar), Economics (£200, Librarian-in-Charge)
- Book List TT Week 5: History (£270, Will Prescott, with input from John Whitehead), Classics (£195, Connor Warden)
- Withdrawals 2019TT3
 - Five books are to have their statistics checked, otherwise all were passed for withdrawal. The books to be checked are:
 - *Economic problems of the church*
 - *The reformation in England*
 - *Golden mouth*
 - *The archaeology of early Christianity*
 - *Science and the Christian society*
 - Deferred withdrawals from TT2. Two are to be kept, two are to be withdrawn. The two to be kept were judged on their cultural significance to the collection:
 - *The hidden words*
 - *The principal Upanishads*
- Any Other Business
 - Overhauling subject list. This is to change the way that the booklists work as several of the subjects put together do not work together, such as putting geography and geology together as they are two different disciplines and it means that they do not receive equal and proper attention as some other subjects do. The Librarian-in-Charge proposed changes to the lists to reflect a change for the better. He said that fiction was the best used and best value for money, from the library point of view.
 - The committee agreed that archaeology and anthropology are two different fields, and that anthropology should be joined with sociology, but that separating archaeology out might make it too small a list. The Librarian-in-Charge said that he would check what other libraries do regarding archaeology.
 - Daniel Villar (as a biologist- historically something that has been underrepresented in

Library Committee) pointed out that biochemistry and biological sciences are, in fact, two different degrees and that the disciplines have been growing apart for some time. The classification as far as the Dewey Decimal System 21 shows should not be taken into account for this (biochemistry being 572 and biological sciences being 570-600).

- Dividing history into “European” and “non-European” the committee thought was ‘clunky’ and would run into problems regarding areas such as the conquest of the Americas, for example. There are several history lists throughout the year, so perhaps one could be turned into a specific knowledge area as required, as opposed to general history.
- Having theology renamed as religion was seen as a good move.
- Travel and geography should be separate as one is an academic subject, and the other is a recreational pastime.
- Connor Warden suggested creating two lists entitled “earth sciences”, covering earth geography, and geology, etc., and “human sciences”, covering anthropology, sociology, human geography, etc., such as is done in St. Hugh’s. This is to be investigated further.

The Librarian-in-Charge said that this was a good start and that he would see how these ideas are reflected in other libraries around Oxford, and that he would begin to look at how the budgets would work regarding this.

- Time and Date of Next Meeting
 - The next meeting will be held in the Morris Room at 1415hrs on Monday 20th May.

The meeting was brought to a close at 1447hrs.