



TRINITY

THE NEWSLETTER OF TRINITY COLLEGE OXFORD – SPRING 2024



A weekend for second years

Launch of a new personal development course

PLUS Trinity travellers • Celebrating History • Remembering Robert Smallbones

Lasting friendship and moments for reflection



There is much to report since the last Newsletter, as Michaelmas and Hilary terms were as busy as ever. But the pace of activity doesn't let up even after our undergraduates go down for the vacations, with Trinity hosting a combination of school residentials, teacher visits and academic conferences.

Over the Easter vac, we also hosted distinguished guests at the annual Domus Dinner, followed by a very enjoyable Gaudy for Old Members who matriculated between 1974 and 1978. It is good to learn just how many of this generation of former students have maintained their contact and friendships with each other.

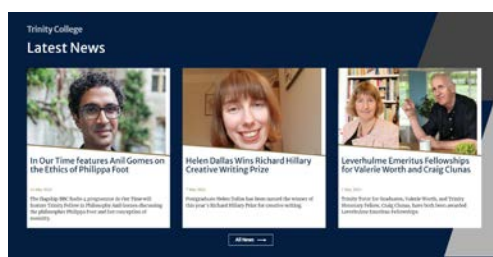
Back in January, students, staff and senior members came together to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day, at which we dedicated a plaque to Old Member, Robert Townsend Smallbones (1903). Robert's extraordinary

intervention during 1938 is credited with saving the lives of some 48,000 German Jews and it seems entirely fitting that the college should recognise his actions. Visitors to the college will find a new plaque in the entrance to the War Memorial Library, telling the remarkable story of Robert's personal contribution to enabling so many people at risk to find a safe haven. You can read about him on page 11.

I hope you find much else to enjoy in this newsletter.

With warmest wishes to our global community,

Dame Hilary Boulding, DBE



Keeping up with Trinity news

More details on the news stories in this edition, as well as all the latest news from Trinity, can be found on the website: trinity.ox.ac.uk/news-and-events

New Professorial Fellow

■ Professor Janina Dill, joined the Fellowship in Michaelmas term, as the inaugural Dame Louise Richardson Chair in Global Security, which is based at the University's Blavatnik School of Government, and combined with a college fellowship at Trinity. Professor Dill's work focuses on critical priorities in global security such as the proliferation of nuclear weapons, terrorism, ethics of warfare and international law.



In memoriam

■ The college has been deeply saddened by news of the deaths of three recent Trinity graduates.



Kome Gbinigie (2017), who completed her DPhil in 2022, died in January. Kome had been particularly involved in College over the past five years, and with her research group in Primary Health Care, where she worked for many years with Trinity Fellow Chris Butler, Professor of Primary Care. Chris described Kome as the 'most enthusiastic and committed colleague that one could have wished for. She had so much to offer and is a great loss to clinical science and general practice'. Kome and her husband, Christopher, were married in Trinity only last year.

Julius Shi-rong Yam (2017) was at Trinity to gain a DPhil in Law, and since 2021 had been an assistant professor at the University of Hong Kong, where last year he won the faculty Outstanding Teaching Award. He died of cancer in March.

Joseph Mellor (2018), who died in October, was awarded a BA in Philosophy and Theology last summer. His tutors and all those who worked with Joe at Trinity are very proud of his achievements.

Wayne Shorter

■ It was with enormous sadness that the college community learned of the death of Wayne Shorter, a key member of the college's workshop and maintenance team. Wayne had undergone treatment during 2023 for leukaemia and dealt with it with great courage. He is survived by his wife, Jenny, and his three children, Dillon, Harvey and Stan.

Wayne joined the maintenance team in 2018 and quickly established himself as a valued and much-loved colleague, and he is greatly missed in College.



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On the cover

The Personal Development Weekend; many of the incoming second years attended a weekend full of talks and activities at the start of Michaelmas term (see page 7).



Staff farewells and arrivals



There has been a number of changes among the members of Trinity’s staff since the last Newsletter.

Bar and Hall

We were sorry to say goodbye in August to Bar and Café Manager **Albie Freitas** (*centre image*), who has moved to Czechia (Czech Republic) to be with family. **Ian Stacey** has since been promoted as Albie’s successor; it will be an exciting year for Ian and Juan Gonzalez, Bar & Café Assistant, as they reopen the college bar in the Beer Cellar over the summer, as part of the move back to the Hall and kitchens. Among the SCR and Hall team, which will also be very busy with the move, **Lisa Linzey**, a long-serving member of the team, has been promoted to Deputy SCR/Hall Steward.



Porters Lodge

There have been changes too in the Lodge, where we were very sorry to say farewell to **Martin Wizard**, Deputy Head Porter, after nearly seven years at Trinity. He and his wife **Pauline**, who had been Facilities co-ordinator in the Maintenance



team since 2022, have taken early retirement to move nearer to family in Yorkshire; they will both be very much missed. Happily, an existing member of the Lodge team, night porter **Clarindo Almeida**, has succeeded **Martin** (*pictured with Clarindo, above left*) as Deputy Head Porter.

Access and Conference

In the College Office, **Rob Harrison** (*above, with Hannah Rolley, Head of Access*), has moved on from the role of Access Officer to take up a new role back in Northern Ireland, where he eventually hopes to become a teacher. Trinity’s new Access Officer is **Innocent Otunnu** (*below left*), who was previously a secondary school history teacher in Berkshire.

In the Conference and Events team, **Laura Cox** (2017) (*below right*) has been appointed as Conference and Events Officer. She is no stranger to the college. Having joined Trinity to take an MSt in English, she has served as a Junior Dean and has also worked in the Lodge and Development teams—and has recently been awarded a PhD from Exeter University.



The President's garden in full bloom for the NGS opening

Opening the gardens

■ In September the college's gardens team were delighted to open Trinity's grounds under the National Garden Scheme (NGS), for the first time in five years. Despite all the evidence of ongoing building works, there was plenty to see; the gardens team put information around College describing their efforts to work more sustainably, and the President's Garden was particularly admired—with a second flush of the more than 60 roses, it was looking at its best. The Hall and kitchens team and many others in College helped ensure the success of the event.

The NGS raises money from entry fees for the health and gardening charities it supports—around 430 visitors came to see the gardens, and raised almost £2,500, while cream teas were on sale in aid of the Sobell House hospice.

Library award

■ The recent renovation and refurbishment of the War Memorial Library was nominated in the Oxford Preservation Trust's 2023 awards scheme and deservedly received a certificate of recognition in the Building Conservation category.

The project, completed in 2022, entailed the removal of 48,500 library books and included a full redecoration, and restoration of the reading desks and some original features. New lighting and an upgraded power supply were installed, along with sound-insulation and double-glazed windows. Accessibility, already greatly improved by the Levine Building, was further enhanced.

The project team included architect Andrew Dawson and his team from Original Field of Architecture, builders Benfield & Loxley, and project manager, Trinity's own clerk of works, Andy Hooper.

Trinity's treasures

■ A recent exhibition at the Ashmolean, which received excellent reviews, featured rare books from Trinity's collection. *Colour Revolution: Victorian Art, Fashion & Design* showed how the breakthroughs of the Industrial Revolution allowed Victorians to become increasingly revolutionary in their use of colour, with new hues greeted with both excitement and suspicion. Trinity loaned copies of *The Yellow Book* from the Danson Collection.

The exhibition was part of a research project funded by the European Research Council, whose team included Trinity's Fellow Librarian Professor Stefano Evangelista and Visiting Fellow Dr Charlotte Ribeyrol.



The college silver

■ The extensive and varied collection of silver at Trinity dates back almost 500 years; many pieces are regularly used in the chapel and the dining hall. To give current students, Fellows and staff a chance to

learn more about some of the pieces, Chatters Assistant Russell Dominian gave a fascinating introduction to the collection's history and significance for the latest in the series of Trinity Treasures talks. Among the pieces on display was the silver-gilt chalice (London, 1527) given by the founder (pictured).



Launching the *Sir Ivor*



■ Last year, Mike Baldwin (1963) generously funded a new boat for the women's 1st VIII, to be named in honour of former president Sir Ivor Roberts (pictured with Mike, left). In March, the arrival of the *Sir Ivor* was marked by members of the Boat Club who, along with Mike and Gill Baldwin, and Sir Ivor and Lady Roberts, met at the Boat House to toast the newest addition to Trinity's fleet.

The boat was formally named by Lady Roberts (below). Photo credits: Ian Wallman



TCBC takes on the Oxford Half Marathon

■ The Boat Club has made great strides in a major fundraising effort for the club's future by taking part in last year's Oxford Half Marathon.

Sixteen TCBC members were among the 13,000 runners taking part in the 13.1-mile race around Oxford in October—with the start and finish very close to home (on Broad Street and Parks Road respectively).

The Boat Club has a target of just over £2,600 to raise for equipment and training support.

The Boat Club relies on the support of former members and other donors who generously give to the club to support its goal of maintaining a high

standard of equipment to ensure future generations of students enjoy the same facilities as current students.

Although the TCBC JustGiving campaign page is now closed, donations to the Boat Club can be made via the website, trinity.ox.ac.uk/make-gift.



Representing Oxford

■ Two Trinity undergraduates have recently represented the University in their sport.

In March, Caity Watson (BA English) joined the OURFC women's squad for the 2024 Varsity Match at the StoneX stadium in London. Having been victorious last year, Oxford narrowly lost to Cambridge in what was described as a 'thrilling encounter'.

Gracie Davison (BA History) rowed in this year's OUBC Lightweight crew. The lightweight race is held the day before the main Boat Races. Unfortunately it was very much Cambridge's year, with Oxford winning only the women's reserve crew race.

To be selected to represent the University is a tremendous achievement and Caity and Gracie are to be congratulated.



A weekend for second-years

■ Immediately before the start of Michaelmas term, incoming second years were invited to take part in a three-day Personal Development Course. The aim was to help students to work together to contribute to the life of the college and the wider world. With talks, team-building exercises and a virtual escape room, students worked in groups which, on the final day, gave presentations on how they would make the Freshers, whose arrival was imminent, feel part of the community. It was funded by Andrew Tucker (1973), and Old Members Tom Drew (1989), Ben Lake MP (20011) and Rai Sengupta (2021) were involved in leading groups and meeting students. Photo credits: Ian Wallman

Best Law dissertation award

■ Dr Jason Brickhill (2016) has been awarded the Law Faculty's Subedi Prize for best doctoral dissertation in the 2021-22 academic year for his DPhil submission, 'Strategic Litigation in South Africa: Understanding and Evaluating Impact'.

The Subedi Prize was established in 2019 and is awarded to the thesis that, in the opinion of the judges, makes the most exciting original contribution to the relevant field of scholarship and is best-crafted in terms of organisation, style and presentation.

Jason's thesis lays out a contribution to a global discussion about whether strategic litigation has any positive impact on public policy; whether the courts have the 'potential' to make a 'material contribution' to 'legal, material, and political impact' that can be deemed valuable (or detrimental). While some views in modern literature deem strategic litigation either to have hardly any impact in terms of such litigation producing 'significant social reform' or to be positively harmful overall, the thesis concludes that strategic litigation has the potential to make a positive impact.



Jason Brickhill

The case studies each track a decade of litigation on education provisioning and 'state capture' in South Africa. Jason drew on over 40 semi-structured interviews with leading activists, politicians, lawyers and experts in these fields, as well as budget and other data.

Trinity support

On winning the prize, Jason said, 'I am honoured to have been awarded the prize. Trinity provided me with the wonderful home and community that made my DPhil

experience such a joy and enabled me to thrive. I am grateful to everyone who was part of my college life: my fellow students, all the staff (especially the scouts and porters and staff in Hall and the Beer Cellar), and the Fellows. The Law tutors, Nick Barber and Luke Rostill, supported me throughout and actively brought me into the college law community. I am also thankful to Hilary Boulding for her personal support to me.'

Jason served as MCR president in 2017-18 and graduated in 2022. The thesis is available on the Oxford thesis repository, ora.ox.ac.uk.

Fellows' news



Frances Ashcroft

■ Professor Dame **Frances Ashcroft** has been selected as the 2024 recipient of the Rolf Luft Award, given by the Rolf Luft Foundation for Diabetes Research and the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm. The prize is awarded to recognise outstanding research in diabetes, endocrinology and metabolism and has gained a high scientific status, having been given to very prominent researchers within the field of diabetes and metabolism; it is currently the only independent award given in this field. Professor Ashcroft, who will be the first woman to receive the award in its 20-year history, will deliver the prize lecture in September.

Professor Ashcroft is currently presenting a podcast series, **A Good Science Read**, in which she and a guest discuss popular and entertaining science books. The series can be found at <https://podcasts.ox.ac.uk>.



Natalia Gromak

■ Professor **Natalia Gromak**, Fellow and Tutor in Medicine, has been awarded a prestigious Senior Research Fellowship by the Medical Research Council (MRC). The five-year fellowship will support her research group's investigation of R-loops in health and disease. R-loops have emerged as important

regulators in biological processes as diverse as transcription, DNA replication, generation of antibody diversity, epigenetics and DNA damage responses. Their research focuses not only on the fundamental molecular processes mediated by these R-loop binding factors, but also their relevance to rare neurodegenerative diseases such as Aicardi-Goutières syndrome and Friedreich's ataxia.

■ Tutorial Fellows **María del Pilar Blanco** and **Anil Gomes** have both been awarded titular professorships as part of the University's Recognition of Distinction Awards. María Blanco is now Professor of Spanish American and Comparative Literature and Anil Gomes Professor of Philosophy.

These awards recognise the distinction that academics show in their work across the full range of their contribution to the University, their college and to scholarship more widely.

■ Fellow and Tutor in Law Dr **Luke Rostill** co-organised the Herbert Smith Freehills Disability Mooting Championship, held in November. The event included a distinguished panel of judges and a panel discussion on disability and maternity.



Luke Rostill

■ Professor **Katherine Ibbett** hosted the annual conference of the Society for Early Modern French Studies (of which she is also chair) at Trinity last September. Fifty delegates heard papers given on everything from French refugees in 17th-century London, to translations of Lucretius. Those attending expressed how much they enjoyed the Levine Building facilities, the gardens, the food and the tour of the Old Library.

Arts and sciences award

■ Professor **Martin Kemp**, Honorary Fellow and emeritus Professor of the History of Art, has been awarded the third Pedretti Medal for Arts and Sciences by the Nuova Fondazione Rossana & Carlo Pedretti for his outstanding contribution



to Leonardo Studies and his fruitful explanation of the roots of modern science in the context of Renaissance Arts. Professor Kemp received the medal from Professor Gino Tarozzi, the foundation's president, in Florence in October.

Photo credit: Monika Walter



Trinity welcomes an Associate Fellow

Dr Mykola Tarasenko is a Ukrainian scholar, based in Oxford on the British Academy Researchers at Risk Fellowships programme, and an Associate Fellow of Trinity. An Egyptologist, he specialises in the study of ancient Egyptian funerary literature and art, especially the Book of the Dead.

In the autumn of 2022, I became a Research Fellow at Oxford's Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, and Associate Fellow at Trinity. In Ukraine I hold the positions of Leading Researcher at the A Yu Krymskyi Institute of Oriental Studies of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine in the Department of Near and Middle East, and head of the Centre of Egyptology at the same institute in Kyiv.

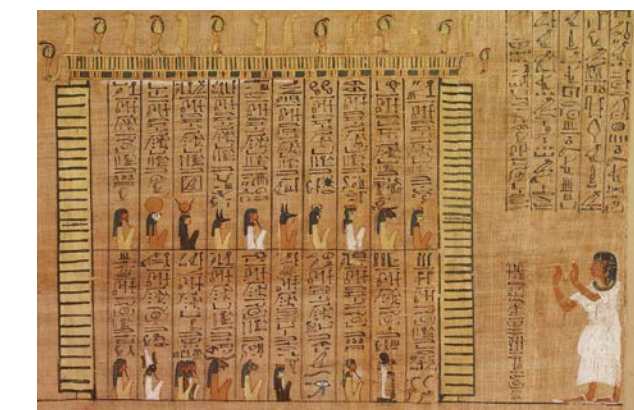
In recent years, I have been researching a special group of ancient Egyptian texts and images connected with the so-called 'deification of body parts'. This was the focus of my seminar at the Faculty in June last year, and of my six months at the Department of Near Eastern Languages & Cultures, University of California Los Angeles, on a Fulbright Visiting Scholars Fellowship.

Research aims

The purpose of my research is to investigate the texts of the 'deification of body parts' (German *Gliedervergottung*) in the context of ancient Egyptian conceptions of theogony, anthropology, and state theology. The study is based on a combination of general, humanistic, and historical methods, as well as specialised procedures of textual criticism. The main idea is to collect all known Egyptian texts mentioning the deification of body parts, as well as accompanying scenes and vignettes, to translate the texts, make a comparative analysis, and



'This study will allow the introduction of materials useful for related disciplines in the humanities studying the spiritual heritage of the Ancient World'



Spell 42 of the Book of the Dead with the list of twenty body parts and images of associated gods in the papyrus of Nakht, New Kingdom (London BM EA 10471) © The Trustees of the British Museum.

offer a detailed interpretation, as well as cross-cultural criticism.

Research of the last 15 years on the Egyptian understanding of the body makes the project very timely. Its topicality consists of the need to generalise the existing source base (textual), its processing and publication, as well as the interpretation of its linguistic and semantic content in the wider context of religious, philosophical, and cultural studies.

The research is highly topical because the texts are very revealing in relation to Egyptian conceptions of the body, as well as more broadly for comprehending how the individual body related to the wider social field. The integration of texts addressing the needs of the dead into research on medicine and magic promises to increase understanding in both areas, as well as helping gain a more holistic interpretation of how the living and the dead together constituted ancient Egyptian society.

The results of the work will be presented in a monograph with a parallel-text edition of the texts.

Development of the project is aimed at a full coverage of the sources so far known (textual and visual). The results of the study will allow the creation of a complete collection of the *Gliedervergottung* texts and their commented translations, which is important and necessary for Egyptology.

This work will also allow the introduction of materials useful for related disciplines in the humanities that involve the study of the spiritual heritage of the Ancient World, and the Middle Ages, since similar anthropomorphic ideas about the human perception of the macrocosm and microcosm were inherent in many cultures and are still part of modern European religious perceptions of the world. In this respect, the texts of Ancient Egypt provide voluminous and invaluable material for comparative studies of ancient and modern worldviews.

Working at Oxford

Since my first days of research at Oxford and Trinity, I have been exposed to a very good academic environment, having access to all necessary resources and one of the world's best Egyptological libraries. Trinity has provided me and my family with excellent accommodation. The college and the President have been very supportive in many ways, from domestic to academic, and I am very grateful for this help.

Trinity Talks

■ The Trinity Talks series has continued as part of the 2023-24 programme of Events at Trinity, with a number of Old Members among those talking about their work.

Shehan Hettiaratchy (1988) gave the first talk in October. He has worked for the last 30 years as a trauma reconstructive surgeon with military and aid organisations, and spoke about the human experience of managing trauma casualties and the challenges of dealing with the burden on healthcare created by war.

Hugh Brody (1962) returned to College in November to present ‘Filming the spoken word—the Khomani San of the southern Kalahari’. A distinguished author, filmmaker and anthropologist, Hugh spent 15 years working with the San peoples living on the border of South Africa and Botswana. His project, aiming to recover land and a language long believed to be extinct, used film and oral history to counter a century of brutal oppression. Hugh’s compelling illustrated talk demonstrated



Panel discussion on NATO: from left, Jonathan Shaw, Janina Dill, Seth Johnston and Patrick Porter

documentary film making and anthropology working side by side to achieve remarkable outcomes.

In February, **Justin Stebbing (1989)** editor-in-chief of *Oncogene*, one of the world’s leading cancer journals, visiting professor of oncology at Imperial College London, and professor of biomedical sciences, Anglia Ruskin University, spoke on ‘A story of artificial intelligence and drug development during the pandemic’. He described how during the pandemic, a computer programme led, in early 2020, to studies at breakneck speed that produced a treatment that was

approved by the US Food & Drug Administration nine months later.

To coincide with the 75th anniversary of the founding of NATO, **Jonathan Shaw (1976)**, former senior Army commander and foreign policy expert, and **Seth Johnston (2003)**, a scholar and military veteran of NATO missions, joined Professor Patrick Porter, an expert in security studies, for a panel discussion. The panel set out to explain NATO’s foundations and current role, and was chaired by **Janina Dill**, Professorial Fellow at Trinity and the Dame Louise Richardson Chair in Global Security.

Shapers of modern equestrianism in Britain

■ An update to the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* (ODNB), released in the autumn, featured the lives of 22 men and women who shaped British equestrianism in the 20th century. The release was introduced by **Dr Hannah Smith**, Lecturer in Early Modern History at Trinity and a Tutorial Fellow of St Hilda’s, who has also written seven of the biographies.

As Dr Smith explains in the introduction, equestrianism in Britain underwent major changes during the twentieth century. The future of British riding was uncertain following the First World War, with mechanisation seemingly making the horse obsolete, while British riders achieved only limited success in international competitions.

However, new organisations that promoted proficient horsemanship, such as the Pony Club, were founded, and by the 1960s British riding was transformed. There were British successes in competitive equestrian events, dressage as a sport flourished, and riding schools boomed. The majority of those who worked with horses or rode were by then women and girls. The biographies included in the new update illuminate these profound

changes, and how they came about.

The new biographies include:

- Dorothy Brooke, founder of a charity that became the global equine welfare charity Brooke
- Marjorie Bullows (Lady Wright), an early member of the British Show Jumping Association, who won competitions at Olympia in 1920s
- Ruby Ferguson, author of the popular Jill series of pony stories
- Harry Faudel-Phillips, a prime mover in the creation of the Pony Club
- Dorian Williams, broadcaster and ‘The Voice of Show Jumping’

The Oxford Dictionary of National Biography

The ODNB is the national record of men and women who have shaped British history, worldwide, from prehistory to the year 2019. From September 2023 the Dictionary includes biographies of 64,881 individuals, written by over 10,000 contributors. It is freely accessible to members of most public libraries.

Honouring Robert Smallbones

This year's college commemoration of Holocaust Memorial Day included the recognition of the considerable efforts to save lives undertaken by a remarkable member of Trinity.

A few years ago, the President received an email from someone called Sandra Wellington, who wrote:

*Dear President,
I am the granddaughter of Robert Townsend Smallbones, who attended Trinity College and later joined what was then known as the Consular Service. He served as a diplomat in various African and European countries and was eventually appointed as Consul General in Frankfurt until the outbreak of World War 2...*

Sandra went on to tell the remarkable story of her grandfather.

Paul Robert Townsend Smallbones (1884-1976) came up to Trinity to read Modern History in 1903. Always known as Robert, he joined the Foreign Office in 1910, and went on to many diplomatic postings. He was appointed consul-general at Frankfurt-am-Main in 1932, just before the Nazi Party gained power in Germany.

When the Nazis went on the rampage during Kristallnacht in November 1938, Robert was visiting London. His wife Inga called him to say the British consulate-general was being besieged by hundreds of desperate Jews.

Robert met a senior official at the Home Office that day. He asked the Home Office to provide a temporary haven in the UK for Jews living in Germany who would eventually go to the United States under the US immigration quota system.

The next day in the Savoy Hotel in London, along with Otto Schiff of the Jewish Relief organisation, Robert



Robert Smallbones at Trinity; from a group photograph of the Impromptu Society, a short-lived college debating society

drafted the documents, which were authorised that same afternoon to introduce this system across Germany. The scheme was kept hidden from the British Parliament.

Robert returned to Frankfurt that night and, with his staff, began to issue visas, working eighteen hours a day. Every one of the visas he issued had to be typed and then signed by him or a member of his staff.

Robert later wrote,
I usually worked about eighteen hours a day. The longest stretch I remember

'The feeling was horrible, that there were people in a concentration camp whom I could get out and I was comfortable in bed...'

was from early in the morning until midnight when I fell asleep for a few minutes on my desk...I went to bed... After two hours sleep my conscience pricked me. The feeling was horrible that there were people in a concentration camp whom I could get out and I was comfortable in bed. ...I returned to my desk and stayed there until the next midnight. I had a nervous breakdown after a few months... The last straw was the case of a person who died in a concentration camp because one of my staff had failed to get my signature and to dispatch the promise of a visa which was in order.

He continued to issue visas until 3 September 1939, the day Britain declared war on Germany. After his return to Britain, Robert learned that some 48,000 individuals had benefited from the 'Smallbones Scheme' and that another 50,000 cases had been under consideration when the war broke out.

British officials feared an outcry if the public knew how many people had been admitted to the country under the scheme; they insisted that Robert and others involved keep it a secret. It was not revealed until 2009.

Robert was posthumously awarded the medal of a British Hero of the Holocaust.

Robert's son Peter (1935, PPE) is commemorated in the War Memorial Library. He was killed on active service in Egypt on 17 May 1941.

For Holocaust Memorial Day in January, the college held a ceremony to dedicate a plaque to Robert. It is mounted at the entrance to the library.

As consul-general in Frankfurt in 1938, Trinity graduate Robert Townsend Smallbones MA (Modern History, 1903) established the 'Smallbones scheme', whereby German Jews could obtain temporary visas to come to the UK.

Between November 1938 and September 1939 he worked 18-hour days signing every individual's documents.

It is estimated he saved over 48,000 lives.

He died in 1976 and was posthumously awarded the Medal of British Hero of the Holocaust in 2013.

A yachting exchange in Japan

Harry Cowell (2019), who graduated with an MEng in Engineering, was awarded the Whitehead Travel Grant in his final year to participate in an exchange between Oxford University Yacht Club and Doshisha University Yacht club in Kyoto, Japan. This is Harry's report of his travels.

Fresh from a victory against Cambridge at Varsity, five Oxford University sailors and I made the long trip from the Isle of Wight to Kyoto, Japan. Thirty-six hours later we were met by our hosts for the week.

I stayed with a 4th-year commerce student called Mahiro, sharing his tiny one-room apartment that is typical for Japanese students but a bit of a contrast to my own student house in Cowley! The first couple of days were spent adjusting to the 35°C heat and getting over jet-lag. We visited a historic Japanese village and tried on kimonos, traditional Japanese formal wear. We then attempted to write some simple phrases in kanji calligraphy, with some of us creating beautiful phrases and others, less beautiful ones.

The following day consisted of a trip to the 'boat races'. Mahiro was very excited to show me one of the few legal forms of gambling in Japan and we enjoyed watching 2m long speedboats race around an oval track. Unfortunately, my lack of knowledge of the exchange rate led me to lose quite a lot of yen! Luckily my spirits were lifted with a trip to a snack café, which offered a mind-blowing range of extremely sweet Japanese candy and the opportunity to play some classic Japanese video games. I believe I represented the country well taking the win in Mario Kart.

The following day we met with senior members of Doshisha University Yacht Club and the president of Doshisha University. Gifts were exchanged between the two clubs and our Blues blazers were completely overshadowed by



Above: 'Trinity' written in kanji symbols

Below: Harry and Mahiro winning the exhibition race

the president's beautiful kimono. We then got to experience a traditional tea ceremony and learnt about the intricacies that date back hundreds of years.

Day four consisted of a trip to Osaka. Let loose without our hosts, the Oxford team managed to navigate the highly efficient public transport system and even understand some of the history and the cultural importance of Kyoto as the ancient capital. The evening was spent enjoying some incredible Wagyu beef; possibly the only meal I have had that rivals Trinity's Monday-dinner steak and brie! With stomachs full of amazing food, we headed to a local karaoke bar. Karaoke suddenly revealed itself as a highly competitive sport with

scores given out at the end of each song. We were shown a masterclass in how to sing by our Japanese hosts; shout-out to Kaito for scoring 100 per cent on vibrato.



Taking to the water

By day five we were all excited to get on the water and get sailing, but first we took part in a blessing ceremony in a local temple. This was one of the most moving parts of the trip, with a monk blessing each of us for our race against Doshisha. Upon arriving at the yacht club we were given a demonstration on the boats we would be racing, Snipes. The Snipe is very different from the Firefly we sail in Oxford, so there was a lot of information to take on board and a very steep learning curve once we got out on the water. We also had the opportunity to sail with some of the sailors from Doshisha University. This added a lot of excitement as counting down to a manoeuvre becomes a lot more difficult when neither

of you know how to count in your partner's language! Despite the language difficulties, the Doshisha sailors were an invaluable source of information and essential for getting us up to speed.

We returned to shore to a beautiful dinner cooked for us by members of DUYC before settling down for sleep in the main dining room with 30 other members of the yacht club—not something we can replicate in our small shipping container in Oxford!

Regatta day

The next day we were woken at 7am for the regatta. Every member of DUYC has a specific housekeeping role they perform every morning and we were able to join in with this daily maintenance programme, although we suspect we were only trusted to do very simple jobs such as sweeping. Housekeeping was followed by an opening ceremony and a very impressive school chant, akin to haka, performed by a member of DUYC. The race committee then set up the course and we headed out for a day of very intense competition.

The breeze was up and races were close, leading to some close passes and tight finishes. Unfortunately, DUYC were able to secure the win after six races and credit has to be given to the incredible skill shown by the DUYC sailors. After the formal regatta concluded, a number of exhibition races took place. Here members of OUYC and DUYC paired up to race together. The last exhibition race was my highlight of the trip, as my host Mahiro swapped in to crew for me. Despite our lack of language skills we still managed to communicate. A particularly memorable moment saw us get a bad header, with Mahiro putting his head in his hands and looking as if about to cry, only to scream with excitement seconds later as it flicked back and put us in a great position. We took the win in that race, and I will never forget the moment we crossed the line, stood up and hugged with no words needed.

Once we returned to shore, we were greeted with a bamboo noodle party where noodles were washed down a bamboo slide to hungry people waiting downstream to collect and eat. It was a brilliant culinary experience and,



Oxford and Doshisha students wearing traditional kimonos

in my opinion, vastly improved the taste of noodles. An exchange of party games continued and it was wonderful to celebrate a great day of sailing with all of DUYC.

Our last full day in Japan began by touring the floats constructed for Kyoto's Gion festival. They were very impressive with some over 25m tall. We continued to make the most of the Japanese restaurants, this time opting for a sushi bar. In the evening, we attended the closing ceremony and prize-giving service.

This was a real eye-opening experience, giving a first-hand encounter with Japanese customs and etiquette at a formal dinner, as well as tasting some jellied jellyfish. Dinner was followed by speeches celebrating the week, including some very poor attempts to use the Japanese we had learned. We finished the evening in an izakaya, an 'all you can drink' bar common in Japan and a rival to even the mighty Beer Cellar. We continued our celebrations of an amazing week with a return to the karaoke bar, trophy still in tow.

The next morning we nursed our sore heads and

reflected on all the experiences that were only possible due to the unique opportunity of living with a Japanese student for a week. We said a tearful goodbye to our hosts, and new lifelong friends, who had been amazing at guiding us through the cultural differences and had taught me far more than any guidebook or solo trip ever

could. Guidance on the correct way to use chopsticks turned out to be the most useful lesson. We concluded the exchange by very excitedly jumping on a bullet train bound for Tokyo.

This wonderful experience was only made possible due to the generosity of the Whitehead family, and I would like to thank both them and Trinity for facilitating a once in a lifetime trip with so many unique experiences that I will never forget.

The James and George Whitehead Travel Grant was endowed by Sir George Whitehead (1880) in memory of his two sons, James (1909) and George (accepted for admission in 1914), who were both lost in the First World War. It is awarded to one or more undergraduate students each year to enable travel abroad following Finals.

Trinity travellers

Trinity's travel grants and awards provide students with wonderful opportunities to learn beyond the library or the lab. Those receiving awards are asked to write a short report on their experiences; some of those from last year's recipients are reproduced below.

Lucy Keeley (BA Music) Caistron-Calgary award



■ The Caistron-Calgary award enabled me to travel to Mbale in Uganda to work with the Saved by Music Foundation. I organised a four week summer placement there, which is a key part of my Music in the Community module.

The Saved by Music foundation was formed in 2009 with the aim of helping

vulnerable children in the community to become skilled, productive and self-sustainable, and overcome poverty through skills empowerment for social transformation. To achieve this, the project offers a range of educational and vocational training programmes, including music, tailoring and baking. Life skills are the key ingredients that help these marginalised children to build a better future, with music being at the forefront.

I helped with the music programme, which provides the children with a creative outlet, all the while building their self-esteem and confidence. I taught the recorder, harmonica, and singing, creating some ensembles, which I hope can continue into the future. Instrument-wise, I decided to return to my

musical roots! Recorders are cheap, light, easily transportable, and will withstand the Ugandan climate. I achieved a distinction in my Grade 8 recorder exam, and this stood me in good stead. I also taught music theory, and English, as the language barrier was prominent.

It was very eye opening to see music being used in such a different and varied context. It was a challenging month, but to experience first-hand the difference that music can make to lives was invaluable.

I am passionate about music being accessible to all and the ability of music to reach out to everyone regardless of age and background. After Oxford, I intend to pursue a musical career with musical outreach work at the centre.

Georgina Fooks (DPhil Medieval and Modern Languages) General Academic Grant



■ I am very grateful that I received support from the Trinity Academic Grant to attend the conference hosted by the Society for Latin American Studies (SLAS) at Queen's University Belfast. I was able to attend the two-day conference, as well as the Postgraduates in Latin American Studies

Lauren Ragbourne (BA Classics) Academic Grant and Lingen Fund

■ The funds I received greatly facilitated my trip to Italy. The excavation at the Tavole Palatine (pictured) was an incredible learning opportunity and the first practical experience that I have gained in archaeology. This has been incredibly beneficial for helping me determine how I wish to use my degree and what career path I would like to pursue.

I had the opportunity to meet some extremely knowledgeable people with a great deal of relevant information on the artefacts we discovered, and I was lucky enough to learn some of the practicalities of starting a dig from them. I learned how a dig must



be set up, some of the specifics of safety wear, and how to use subject-specific equipment, such as a totals station, with which I had not been at all familiar.

Having received funding for the flights meant I was more easily able to cover not only the expense of the trip as a whole, but also the unreimbursed excursion we unofficially took as a group to see the National Archaeological Museum of Taranto, which was enormously interesting and informative. The assistance with transport costs was a great help and means I will be much more likely to pursue similar opportunities, such as the Metaponto dig next year, to which I have been invited back.

(PILAS) one-day conference the day before. The grant covered the conference registration fee, and the transport to and accommodation in Belfast.

I attended SLAS as a speaker, and I chaired the panel on translation. I presented my Master's dissertation entitled 'No Mother Tongue? Translation and Alejandra Pizarnik's Translingual Poetics'. Pizarnik is one of two poets I am working on for my doctoral project, and the experience of presenting was extremely valuable, both in terms of the questions I was asked about my research and the feedback on my presenting style. I also got to attend a number of excellent panels during the three days and speak to a number of leading researchers in Latin American literary and cultural studies, including the keynote speaker, Cristina Rivera Garza.

The PILAS conference was also valuable because I spoke to my peers working on Latin American topics, and I appreciated the opportunity to talk with fellow PhD students about our research. Following the conference, now that I have submitted the materials for transfer of status, I am revising the paper I presented in order to submit it for publication in an academic journal, which will be an important milestone in my preparation for an academic career.

Dr Wakithi Mabaso (MSc Clinical Medicine)
General Academic Grant



■ I write this report with sincere gratitude for the fulfilling academic experience I was able to create with the assistance of the Trinity academic grant. I travelled to the Free University in Berlin to undertake generative thesis work with a collaborating supervisor, exploring the ethical and methodological aspects of my dissertation.

Whilst there, I encountered a depth of mentorship and level of supervision I could have never anticipated. We spent mornings walking and discussing various methodological outlooks and their implications on my research. I had the opportunity to present my research to the department of Educational Psychology, with fruitful discussion and refining of my posited arguments, and frequent afternoons discussing my results and how to refine their interpretation in my discussion.

My collaborating supervisor was ever-present and available, which complemented my working style, and we spent brief periods in between brainstorming career planning. Subsequently, as a result of my visit, we had an online meeting with an academic from South Africa that enabled me to work further on a field of particular interest to me, as a natural progression from my previous work.

I can't believe I managed to stumble across such remarkable academics in Berlin, a testament to the ethos of their work and a reminder that provision of equal opportunities for all students from varying backgrounds seeds the greatest good.

Manfredi Castelli (DPhil in Clinical Neuroscience)
General Academic Grant



■ My participation in the 2023 Hippocampus Meeting in Verona was a transformative experience, significantly expanding my knowledge of the hippocampus component of the brain, and strengthening my academic network.

This smaller, more intimate conference setting allowed for meaningful interactions

with leading experts, including researchers from University of California San Francisco, Cornell University, and University College London. Trinity, alongside support from the Medical Research Council (MRC), played a pivotal role in making this experience possible.

The conference's smaller size, in contrast to larger events, offered a unique advantage. It provided a conducive environment for in-depth conversations and networking opportunities, which were particularly valuable for connecting with renowned researchers. A stand-out outcome of the conference was the enthusiastic interest shown by these established experts in my work. This genuine appreciation led to discussions about potential collaborations and the possibility of applying for post-doctoral positions at their institutions, which speaks volumes about the conference's significance in fostering important connections.

The conference also expanded my knowledge of hippocampal research, offering insights into the latest findings, methodologies, and trends directly from leading experts in the field. These insights have been invaluable in shaping the

'The financial support...was essential in making my attendance at the conference possible—and enabled me to seize this unique opportunity.'

direction of my research. Although student presentations were not part of the conference format, this did not detract from its overall value. Instead, it emphasised the focus on engaging with established researchers and deepening one's understanding of the subject matter.

The financial support from Trinity and the MRC was essential in making my attendance at the conference possible—and enabled me to seize this unique opportunity to expand my knowledge and network.

The Hippocampus Meeting was a pivotal event in my academic journey. Thanks to this exceptional conference, I am better equipped to contribute to hippocampal research and explore exciting post-doctoral opportunities.

(Manfredi was one of the speakers at the 2022 Benefactors Lunches)

Celebrating History at Trinity...



Above: History tutors past and present, Dr Fanny Bessard, Fellow and Tutor, Dr Aurelia Annat, Lecturer, Professor Bryan Ward-Perkins, Emeritus Fellow, James McDougall, Fellow and Tutor, Dr Peter Carey, Emeritus Fellow, and Dr Elina Screen, former lecturer. Below: the archive exhibition

The History Dinner held in March spanned the generations, attracting Old Members from the 1960s to current first-years, and everyone was delighted to see the tutors who have brought History to life at Trinity—Peter Carey, Bryan Ward-Perkins, James McDougall, Fanny Bessard, Aurelia Annat and Elina Screen.



This event was originally due to be held in 2020 as a retirement dinner for Bryan Ward-Perkins, and the evening got off to a tremendous start with an archive exhibition, entitled ‘These are a few of my favourite things’, inspired by Bryan’s time as Fellow Archivist. Afterwards, those present gathered in the auditorium to hear Bryan talk about some of the problems encountered in studying early Christian saints. Questions were eventually brought to a close in time for pre-dinner drinks.

Several memorable speeches concluded the event, including one from Peter Carey, in which he said,

I have carried you all in my heart ever since taking early retirement in 2008. I look back on my 42 years (1966-2008) man and boy (I first came up as an undergraduate to Trinity in 1966) with the deepest affection and for you who were my pupils you taught me much—not least how to prepare to enter the frankly bizarre world of Indonesia, where history and history writing seems to have taken on a life of its own.

Throughout the evening, there was a wonderful atmosphere as old friends caught up and new introductions were made.

Ward-Perkins Scholarship

When the dinner was first planned to mark his retirement, Trinity historians were invited to make a donation to support a graduate scholarship in Bryan’s field. Old Members and friends responded very generously and have now given more than £12,000. Unfortunately, the pandemic disrupted plans for the dinner

and delayed the award of the scholarship. The scholarship has now been awarded and the holder will start a Master’s course in October.

The appeal, of course, continues and it is our hope to fund the scholarship for further years. Thank you again to everyone who has been so generous in their support.

...and Bryan Ward-Perkins

Among those who spoke at the History dinner was Neil Hallows (1990). He sent us this abridged version of his speech, and we are delighted to share his tribute to Bryan here.

Can I take you back to Finals just for a moment? To a paper which tends to reward the industrious, but rains vengeance down upon the slacker. A paper I hated.

Historiography. An unpronounceable name for an unproductive attempt to make unsustainable comparisons between unrelated historical events.

But—one of the questions was a bit different. It was clear, it was concise, it was free of murky Marxist dialectics. And it was this: *Which historian has had the most influence over you?*

I realised, I know this. I know a historian. I have read his work. In fact, I have read my work to him. In tutorials, where, like Bagpuss, he would raise his wise, furry old head, fix you in a kind but compelling gaze, and tell you, gently, that everything you've been saying for the last 20 minutes was absolute bollocks.

This historian had exerted an almighty influence. Above all, he had taught me that things we now find abhorrent could, in another place, and at another time, serve a genuine purpose. Things like blood feud. Or corduroy.

It was a dream question, but as I began to scratch out a plan, I realised it was one that I could not possibly answer.

I could not begin to do justice to those tutorials. Where I had merely blustered and spluttered, but where he had the rare intellect to fill my head with ideas, and a grace—rarer still—to make those ideas seem like my own. Addressing that question was going to take longer. About thirty years longer.

The historian who has influenced me the most cares about small things, because small things are anything but small in people's lives.

Take the Fall of Rome. When I was a student, it was fashionable to present what happened next as a kind of lifestyle choice.

The Dark Ages were not dark, the argument seemed to run. They just had a very subtle form of mood lighting.

As for the people, well, it was true that they no longer had a decent roof over their heads. But maybe they liked the pitter-patter of rain soaking them as they tried to sleep? It was true that they no longer had coins. But who doesn't enjoy a bit of bartering, a kind of medieval Swap Shop?

This whole fancy theory had grown up around it. The Roman Empire hadn't faced a catastrophe, just a new set of circumstances and opportunities. If it sounds familiar,

it's the kind of thing you're told when you're being fired.

This historian wrote a beautiful and elegant book about why it matters if people's lives are made vastly more miserable. We can demonstrate, through archaeology, through the size of their cows even, that they were poorer. And it's wrong, it's always



End of the evening: crossing paths at the Lodge. From left, Neil Hallows, Bryan Ward-Perkins, Peter Carey and Matt Blossom (1990)

'This historian will be celebrated for years to come, not only by us, but by those who draw upon the vast works of scholarship he has led.'

wrong, to ignore that.

That's because we all know what happens when we gloss over human suffering for the sake of a fancy theory. It's more than just the rain that falls on people's heads.

This historian will be celebrated for years to come, not only by us, but by those who draw upon the vast works of scholarship he has led. The detailed surveys of Roman statues, and the cult of saints, available, we must hope, forever, for everyone.

This historian deserves his own statue, and very possibly his own cult of sainthood—although that will have to wait.

Bryan, the pandemic robbed you of your retirement dinner four years ago, but it won't deprive us of the chance to say thank you for your forty years at Trinity.

You rightly warn us that any civilisation can fall, but I think we'll be all right—as long as you're around.

A century (and a bit) of DPhils at Trinity

The legacy of Alan Titley

Clare Hopkins, Archivist, looks at the history of the DPhil degree.

In 2019, Oxford celebrated the centenary of the University's very first DPhil students, a significant anniversary—which entirely passed Trinity by. This summer, however, marks one hundred years since the graduation of the fiftieth DPhil, and of that pioneering first 50, two were members of Trinity College.

Higher degrees in themselves were nothing new. Under the Foundation statutes, every fellow of Trinity had been required to proceed to the Bachelor of Divinity within nine years of taking the MA, and to the Doctor of Divinity within another six. Doctors of Medicine and Civil Law were respected senior members of the University. Partly to counter accusations that Oxford favoured examination brilliance over research, in 1895 and 1900 Bachelors and Doctors in Science and Literature were introduced for those seeking recognition for their original work.

What then was different about the Doctor of Philosophy? The new degree was conceived during the First World War, intended, in part, to attract to Oxford Americans who might formerly have studied in Germany, and also students from across the British Empire, as it then was. Its requirements were more rigorous than the DLitt, which merely demanded 'evidence...containing an original contribution to the advancement of learning or science'. Now, candidates were expected to produce 'an original contribution to knowledge set forth in such a manner to be fit for publication *in extenso*'.

The names and thesis titles of Oxford's first 50 DPhils suggests some 20 per cent were from the Indian sub-continent and south-east Asia, the majority working in the fields of philosophy, religion and literature. Another



Gryphon Club group photograph, 1921. Alan Titley sits at the feet of the then president of Trinity, Herbert Blakiston.

20 per cent, approximately, were scientists and mathematicians. Just one was a woman—the intrepid Evelyn Simpson (née Spearing), graduate of Newnham, Cambridge and sometime English tutor at St Hugh's College.

Trinity's first two DPhils, who both came up in 1919 and graduated in 1922, were perhaps atypical. Alan Francis Titley, just shy of his 22nd birthday, had been born and bred in Bristol, was educated at Clifton College, and was a graduate of Bristol University. Boson Gabriel de Montgomery was three years older and a graduate of the University of Stockholm, where his father was mayor of the affluent suburb of Djursholm. Uniquely among the first 50 DPhils, Bo, as he was known in later life, was working in the field of contemporary international

labour relations, his thesis entitled, 'British and continental labour policy—the political labour movement and labour legislation in England, France and the Scandinavian countries 1900-1920'.

Alan Titley

Alan Titley was a student of organic chemistry. After completing his DPhil thesis, 'A study of the derivatives of epicamphor', in 1923 he was awarded a two-year research fellowship from the Ramsay Memorial Trust, and he stayed in Oxford working on ring formation under the Waynflete Professor of Chemistry, William Perkin. Alan never had college rooms, but was an active member of the community, his name appearing regularly in the minutes of the Gryphon Club. Photographs suggest he may have suffered from restricted growth, although his obituary spoke of a 'man who did not allow physical



Incoming Titley scholar, Flora Hewitt-Harris, writes

I am currently doing a Master's by Research in Biochemistry at the University of Bristol, working in the field of protein design and engineering. I graduated with a BSc in Honours Biochemistry from the University of Edinburgh in 2023. My main research interest is structural biology, with a particular focus on protein-protein interactions.

In October I will be joining the Raney lab, led by Dr Michael Raney, to pursue a DPhil in Biochemistry.

The Raney group focuses primarily on the Wnt/beta-catenin signalling pathway, which is essential for many fundamental human growth and development processes, including stem cell differentiation, embryogenesis, and adult tissue regeneration. Wnt/beta-catenin mutations are closely linked to cancer development, and understanding the pathway in more detail may provide insight into how this happens. My project will look more closely at the different proteins involved and how they interact with each other. I'm very excited to begin!

disability to dull an active mind or a happy talent for friendship'. The libraries and concert halls of Oxford enabled him to pursue his lifelong passions for music and literature, and he developed a breadth of interests which led to lectureships first in the Department of Education at Liverpool University and, in 1931, to King's College, London. Here he maintained his interest in science, and in 1937 was elected to membership of the Society for the Study of Alchemy and Early Chemistry.

Alan Titley was only 48 when he died. An obituary in the Society's journal *Ambix* suggested that 'wartime research problems' and 'work for the ministry of supply' had 'overtaxed his health' and contributed to his early death. He was unmarried, and in his will left generous legacies to numerous aunts and family connections, to St Thomas' Hospital, and, to Trinity College, £2,000 for 'the endowment of a Scholarship or Exhibition in Natural Science.' A file in the Archive gives fascinating insights into issues around 20th-century student finance that were raised by his generous bequest.

Graduate scholarships

Trinity had offered scholarships—free tuition and finance for living expenses—from the foundation, and these were augmented by a number of later exhibitions. The financial value of such places had been eroded by grants to ex-servicemen after the First World War, and subsequently by means-tested funding from the Ministry of Education. The prestige of a scholarship, however, remained. Now the President 'Reggie' Weaver suggested combining the Titley bequest with another fund, because the prospect of a 'really valuable award' would undoubtedly attract 'a better candidate'. Alan's executors demurred; the priority, surely, was to preserve the donor's name. The Will was reconsidered, and both parties agreed, Alan's intention was to do good in the college he had loved, and to promote the study of science: 'he seems to have willingly left it to the College Authorities to make a decision.'

Such flexibility was important. The 1962 Education Act mandated local authorities to pay full funding for undergraduate degrees, plus grants for living expenses, although it was not until 1985 that Trinity's entrance scholarships were reinvented to recognise and reward academic success after the first year of study. Today of course, student loans, and some grants, are centralised for UK undergraduates, and it is the postgraduate sector where scholarships have become especially valuable. In line with the Charities Act 2006, Trinity began a review of all its existing trust funds, and Alan Titley's Scholarship was re-launched, now as a postgraduate award for science. An accumulation of interest enabled the funding of two DPhil students in 2015-19, both of whom are now pursuing successful academic careers, and in Michaelmas term 2024, a third Titley postgraduate scholar, Flora Hewitt-Harris will embark on her DPhil.

Current graduate funding

Since the first DPhils started at Oxford more than a hundred years ago, the number of graduates at Trinity has grown steadily. Each year, the college welcomes between fifty and sixty new graduate students, some of whom have studied here or elsewhere in Oxford, though the majority come from other universities within the UK and overseas. They are selected on academic merit and once here, they are not only required to work hard, but to engage with others—undergraduates, academics, Old Members and Friends, the University and the local community—and to strive to make a positive impact on the world.

Funding for graduate scholarships remains a focus of the college's Five-Year Strategy and the college could not be more grateful to all those people who support the graduate community through their generous donations.

The photographs of Julia Margaret Cameron

Nichole Fazio (2005) has published a book that celebrates a remarkable collection of photographs by 19th-century photographer Julia Margaret Cameron, held at the Bodleian Library. As Nichole explains here, the book is a result of research begun while she was a graduate student at Trinity.

The book that I have recently published celebrates a remarkable collection of photographs by 19th-century British photographer Julia Margaret Cameron held at the Bodleian Library.

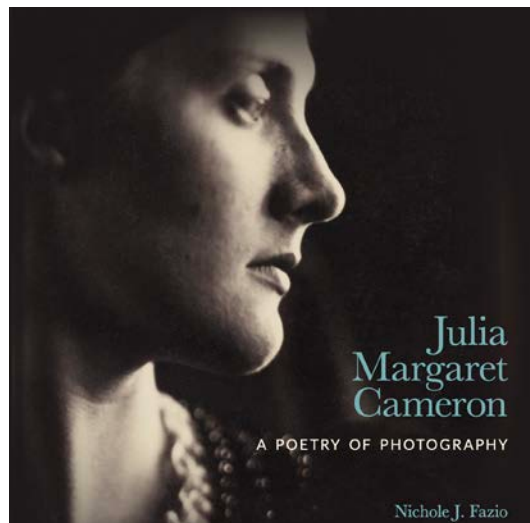
Drawing on over a hundred items from the photographic collections at the library and Ashmolean Museum, *Julia Margaret Cameron: A poetry of photography* (Bodleian Publishing, 2023) considers the aesthetic development of the photographer from her earliest pictures to her most poetic photographs. It also includes her poetry and key images she created for her *Illustrations to Tennyson's Idylls of the King, and Other Poems*, demonstrating her fascination with the artistic connection between poetry and photography.

While the material of the book originates with research I started while at Trinity, it is also the product of the relationships I built at Oxford. Early on, I met Colin Harris, then superintendent of the Bodleian's Special Collections Reading Room. Although I was pursuing a course in art history, I also had an abiding interest in C S Lewis. I helped restore Lewis's home in Headington and was aware of the materials held at the Bodleian. Within days of securing my reader card, I made inquiries about Lewis' papers. I still have the pink slip with the shelf mark numbers that Mr Harris gave me, and I will never forget the day I pored over Lewis' hand-drawn map of Narnia.

I began my formal research with Drs Mike Weaver and Anne Hammond, both experts in the history of photography. They taught in a new



Above: a plate from the book, 'The Return after three days' (Albumen print, Bodleian Library). 'The Return after three days' exemplifies Cameron's unique treatment of religious subject. Below, the cover of the book



MSt in the history of photography offered through Oxford's History of Art department under the leadership of Professor Martin Kemp (Honorary Fellow). Dr Weaver's scholarship on Cameron, and Mr Harris' in-depth knowledge of the collections at the Bodleian ultimately led to my study of the 'Taylor Collection', comprised of 112 photographs by Cameron.

The collection had yet to receive significant attention until I walked those few steps daily between Trinity College and the now Weston Library. Ultimately, this early conspiratorial collaboration led to the complete digitization of the 'Taylor Collection', which will help to preserve the photographs themselves, as well as to my book, which will enable a much wider audience to engage with Cameron's images.

My very first encounter with the Bodleian was in the summer of 1996 as an undergraduate student at Oxford's Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies. That summer set me on the path I am still on today; partnering with the library is therefore especially significant. I have spent the last two decades building undergraduate research and scholars programmes at colleges and universities in the US and the UK, cultivating an alternative academic career that has allowed me to work closely

'The collection had yet to receive significant attention until I walked those few steps between Trinity College and the New Bodleian.'

with thousands of students across all disciplines. Part of that effort includes supporting candidates for major fellowships to the UK, including Fulbright, Marshall, Ertegun, and Rhodes. But at every opportunity I return to Trinity, Oxford and to the Bodleian, which remain the most formative places for me as a scholar and educator.

A trio of Trinity horticulturalists

Three members of Trinity have featured in *Gardens Illustrated* magazine, highlighting the impact they are making in the gardening world.

Old Members **Aparna Stachowiak** (2003) and **Freya Willetts** (2009) were among a list of 22 people predicted by *Gardens Illustrated* to make waves in horticulture in 2024, while **Kate Burtonwood**, Trinity's head gardener, was included in a list of 12 of the top female gardeners, compiled to mark International Women's Day. All three have written about their work for the Newsletter.

Aparna Stachowiak

■ As a strong believer in the healing power of gardening and nature, I retrained as a gardener and garden designer, after 25 years building global brands in the marketing industry. I worked previously for companies like Amazon, Tesco, Unilever, and Reckitt, and over the past decade have slowly converted a hobby and a passion for plants into a full-time career.



Having recently completed a Diploma in Garden Design from the London College of Garden Design graduating with a Distinction, I now work

for renowned landscape architect, Tom Stuart Smith OBE, and his wife Sue Stuart Smith, author of *The Well Gardened Mind*, at their community interest company, Serge Hill Project, in Hertfordshire (*banner image, above*). The project aims to bring gardening, creativity, and health to children and adults who otherwise have little opportunity to connect with gardens and nature (sergehillproject.co.uk).

Having lived in busy cities like Bombay, New Delhi, New York, and London, and being a mum to three, I have always valued green spaces as places of refuge and relaxation. I have fond recollections of summer evenings spent on Trinity's lawns, taking in summer plays set against the backdrop of the long border. I got into horticulture in 2016 via RHS courses, to learn how to nurture our precious greenspaces and have never looked back.

Gardening is my way of staying grounded and doing something meaningful and purposeful in a fast-changing world. In my spare time, I volunteer in my community, and I am establishing my own design studio, gardensbyaparna.com, building gardens in and around Bedfordshire, where I now live.

Freya Willetts

■ After reading Modern Languages at Trinity I worked in fundraising, policy and communications for several years before retraining in garden and landscape design. I graduated from the London College of Garden Design in 2021, and shortly after I won the Society of Garden Designers' Student Commercial Award for my heritage-focused design for Port Meadow, which was inspired by my time at Trinity.



I now work at Harris Bugg Studio, 'best in show' winners at Chelsea in 2023, on a range of private and third-sector projects in and around London, the South West and Scotland. While landscape design is often quite technical, I find that the underlying responsibility of honouring and creating sense of place through careful research and the connection of ideas draws heavily on my humanities background at Oxford.

I came to hear Chris Beardshaw's talk at Trinity last year and am intrigued to see how his plans for the long border take shape and how they intertwine with the brilliant work Kate Burtonwood and her team have been doing.

Kate Burtonwood



■ I continue to be thrilled by the challenges of leading a historic Oxford Garden, and to be mentioned alongside some very distinguished mentors and garden figures on International Women's Day was a surprise and a real pleasure.

The team has worked so hard over the last two years, since completion of the Levine Building, to bring new plantings to College and look after our amazing gardens, and each one shows their care and expertise in this task. We are bracing ourselves for the next round of building disruptions later this year, with the ground source heat pumps being installed under one of the lawns, while we look to restore the Fellows' Garden after the kitchen project finishes. This makes us look forward even more to working with Chris Beardshaw on the restored long border on the north side of the gardens in 2025. I feel this work will bring a feeling of completeness to the gardens at Trinity and keep them recognised as one of Oxford's truly special places.

EVENTS

■ The autumn events cycle began with a very well-attended Gaudy for years 2008 to 2010, with the chapel service taken by **Nathan Mulcock (2009)**, standing in for the Chaplain, and a full dining hall for dinner; then the Trinity Weekend, as always, bringing together Old Members from a wide range of years. It was combined this year with a Garden Party on the Sunday, giving those who hadn't seen it already a chance to tour the Levine Building.

The William Pitt Society, which for this academic year was moved from February to October, included a very informative talk on climate change and the melting ice sheets from Professor **Ian Hewitt (2002)**, Fellow and Tutor in Applied Mathematics. The first Benefactors Lunch in November was preceded by a very interesting and accessible talk 'On doing (and teaching) Philosophy' by Professor **Anil Gomes**, Fellow and Tutor in Philosophy, which he reprised in February for the



The Benefactors Lunch in November: Anil Gomes, who gave the pre-lunch talk, with Alice Sheepshanks and Will Carter (both 1983)

second lunch. It was lovely to be able to thank such a variety of Old Members and Friends for their support at these events. November also saw the latest informal London Drinks event.

Early in December the carol services, and seasonal refreshments served afterwards in the café, were enjoyed by all. To give new Fellow and Tutor in Biochemistry, Dr **Tobias Warnecke**, a chance to settle in, the Biochemistry Dinner was held a little later in the academic year than usual, in February, and was very well attended.

The end of Hilary term saw the long-awaited History Dinner,

at which Bryan Ward-Perkins updated everyone on his Cult of Saints project (see page 16). We finished off the spring with a packed Gaudy for years 1974 to 1978. The afternoon programme included a screening in the Garden Room of 'The Bull Dance', a student film shot in College during 1978 by **Paul Forbes Irving (1975)** and **Paul Dean (1976)**.



After the Informal London Drinks events, the 1976 cohort often meet for dinner, and they did so again after the November drinks. From left to right: Julian Roberts, Robert Milburn, Fred Satow, Robin Hunt, Richard Bull, Jonathan Shaw, Charles Randell, Martin Harrison, and John Newton. The photo was taken by Vicki Wilson (1996).



The Gaudy for 2008 to 2010

Book review

Mozart: A lifetime companion (2021, revised 2023)
and

A Divine Comedy: An introduction to Mozart's operas and choral music (2023)

by Mike Hughes (1956)

■ I was at Trinity with Mike Hughes: in our second year, we had adjoining rooms (almost suites!) on a Garden Quad staircase. Mike, emeritus professor of thoracic medicine at Imperial College, is a physician and scientist with a lifelong passion for Mozart's music, an interest he developed during his time at Trinity.

These short but readable and instructive books provide both a commentary on Mozart's life and work and, in the first, a detailed analysis of 70 of his most loved instrumental works. Mike 'scores' the instrumental and operatic scenes and the choral works on a one to four star ranking system—an inevitably subjective opinion but one which will invite readers to make their own assessments. *A Divine Comedy* looks at four amongst his greatest operas, (unravelling the complicated plots), together with the Requiem and the C minor Mass. He frequently writes of the joy and tenderness that Mozart shows, together with his extraordinary ability to bring instruments and voices together in highly complex scoring to produce sound that is beyond exquisite.

Mike writes as an amateur, but a devotee, and thus makes these books extremely valuable to people like me, who also love Mozart but are much more ignorant. His analyses enable the musical lay person to appreciate much more deeply the wonder of this composer. They were written during Covid lockdown and immediately after and it must be said that giving Mike the time to share this distillation of his knowledge is one of the few good things to come from that period. Do read and use them.

Ben Hopkinson (1956)



Trinity tennis puzzler

■ In his report on the Trinity vs Old Members Tennis Match in the last Newsletter, Oliver Smyth (1965) posed the question 'which Trinity alumnus was a Wimbledon men's singles semi-finalist?'

The answer is Hamilton 'Ham' Richardson (1955), a Rhodes Scholar, who reached the Wimbledon semi-finals in 1956, where he was beaten by Lew Hoad.

In an article about the history of tennis at Trinity in the 2008 Report, Matthew Johnson (1999), explained, 'Richardson, a Rhodes Scholar from Tulane University, was also one of America's top-ranked tennis players, who combined studying at Trinity with reaching the semi-finals of the men's singles at Wimbledon in 1956... Somewhat surprisingly, Richardson's achievements did not catalyse the sport in College, and tennis appears to have gone into a period of dormancy until 1970.'

Pictured, Ham Richardson in 1955 Photo: Dutch National Archives, The Hague

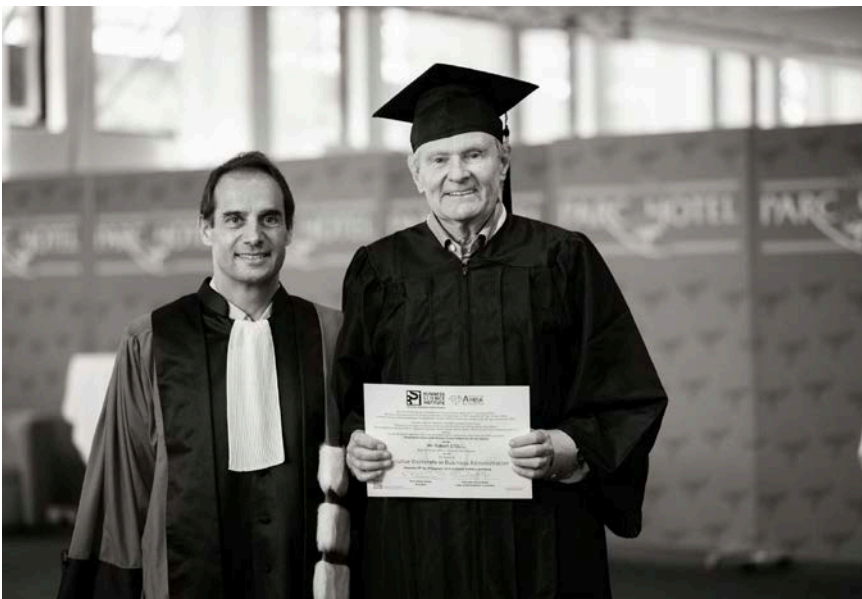
Old Members' News

Andrew Kirkham (1963) published *Sheffield United Reserves: A statistical record 1890 - 2012* in September 2023, which, he writes, was, 'Not done to make money but for the enjoyment in finding the facts.'

Robert 'Boyo' Stoll (1969) has obtained a double Doctorate in Business Administration (DBA) at the Université Lyon 3 (France) and

growing with the arrival of our first grandchild, the mighty Aris Achilleas-Carreras, a boy born to my daughter Angelika in March.

Claire Grogan (1981) started her new position as dean of Arts and Humanities at Vancouver Island University, Nanaimo, British Columbia, in August 2023. She can be contacted at claire.grogan@VIU.ca.



Boyo Stoll at his graduation, with his supervisor, Professor Jean-François Gajewski

the Business Science Institute (Luxembourg). The title of his thesis was: 'Transmission d'entreprise en l'absence d'héritiers naturels. Essai auto-ethnographique et paradigme'.

James Newcome (1971) has retired after 21 years as a bishop in the diocese of Carlisle. He has been made a Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order and has moved from Cumbria to West Oxfordshire to be closer to family.

Stratis Porfyrtatos (1978) writes, 'Older (and wiser?), I spend more time on my island Andros mixing agricultural pursuits with my love of the sea. We continue acting as marine correspondents in Piraeus for the BUDD Group. On the side, I have been busy translating two Greek works, now with publishers in the UK, and expected to hit the bookshops by the summer. The family is

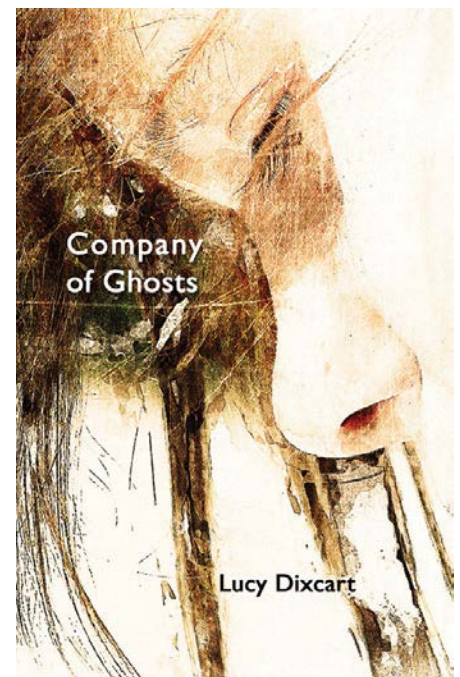
Liz Wilkinson (1982) was awarded, in June 2023, the national AGCAS President's Medal for outstanding contribution to careers work in Higher Education and for her commitment to her professional community.

Raj Bhala (1985), Brenneisen Distinguished Professor at the University of Kansas School of Law, has two new law review articles on Law and Literature ('Shakespeare and the law of war: Spotting issues in the second Henriad', and 'Origins of the Sino-American trade war: A case study of three Shakespearean proverbs on expectations'). He is working on a third piece (concerning a transactional analysis of *The Merchant of Venice*). His law review trilogy on the international trade policy of India, plus law review articles on the US-China trade war and trade sanctions against Russia, were published recently.



Lone Wolf, the latest novel by **Gregg Hurwitz (1995)** in his Orphan X thriller series, came out in February, hitting best-seller lists around the world.

Oliver de Peyer (1991) writes, 'I have been working for MeiraGTx, a pharmaceutical company specialising in gene therapy, since early 2023 in its London headquarters as the in-house laboratory automation specialist.'



The cover of the new book by Rebecca Brace (writing as Lucy Dixcart)



Jefferson Chen (2017) received the Commonwealth Young Person of the Year award for the Europe and Canada regions for his work with Lafiya Nigeria, which was set up to enable access to safe family planning and has so far worked with 10,000 rural women in northern Nigeria; Jefferson received a Trinity Society Travel Award to help with the pilot stages of the project and his work was featured in the 2022 Spring Newsletter. The ceremony, last autumn, took place at St James's Palace, attended by HRH Prince Edward, Duke of Edinburgh and the Commonwealth Secretary-General, Baroness Scotland (*pictured above with Jefferson*). Commonly known as the Commonwealth Youth Awards, they recognise the contribution that young people aged 15 to 29 make towards strengthening democracy and achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Jefferson was subsequently invited to the Commonwealth Day reception in March, where he gave a short presentation to HM Queen Camilla. Photo: © Commonwealth Secretariat

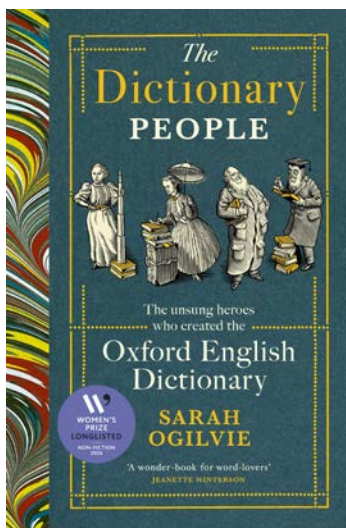
Vicki Wilson (1996) has been appointed by the Lady Chief Justice as a deputy district judge on the South Eastern Circuit to sit in the family jurisdiction.

Rebecca Brace (1998) was joint winner of the Geoff Stevens Memorial Poetry Prize 2023, and has published a collection of poems, *Company of Ghosts*, under the pen name Lucy Dixcart (Indigo Dreams Publishing, 2024).

David Vernon (1998) recently published a book on Beethoven's string quartets.

Sam Ashton (2005) has published an academic monograph, *Beyond Male and Female?: A theological account of intersex embodiment* (T&T Clark, 2023).

Sarah Ogilvie (2006) has published *The Dictionary People: The unsung heroes who created the Oxford English Dictionary* (Chatto & Windus, 2023), in which she describes how the dictionary, long associated with elite institutions and Victorian men, has also relied on contributions from members of the



public. By 1928, its 414,825 entries had been crowd sourced from a surprising and diverse group of people, from astronomers to murderers, naturalists, pornographers, suffragists and same-sex couples, and Sarah has used previously untapped archives, to tell a people's history of the OED and celebrate the many and varied contributors. *The Dictionary People* was long listed for the Women's Prize for Non-Fiction 2024.



Rachel Chivers Khoo (2009) has published her second book, *The Magician Next Door* (Walker Books 2024). It tells the story of a flying house that, one night, crash-lands in ten-year-old Callie's garden. It is the home of magician Winnifred and all of her magical artefacts. Winnifred asks for Callie's help finding her lost Wanderdust—until she realises it is Callie's sadness that is causing her malfunctioning magic. Can Callie and her friend Sam find the Wanderdust in time to save the magician?

Charlotte Watter (2011) received her Certified Public Accountant (CPA) licence in November 2022.

Marriages



David Yeoward (1985) to Pär Sjöström, on 6 August 2023, in Kristianstad, Sweden (*pictured above*)

Ben Lake (2011) to Elin James Jones, on 9 December 2023; the service took place at Eglwys San Mihangel, Ystrad Aeron, Ceredigion (*pictured right*). Adam Long (2011) and Charles Hirst (2011) were groomsmen, and were joined by Emma Tuckley (2011), Lucy Atkinson (2011), and Julia de Romémont (2014).



Sarah Hopkin to Chris Howland (both 2012), on 10 June 2023.

The marriage ceremony took place at the Oxford Register Office, and the reception at the Cherwell Boathouse, with the couple arriving by punt (*pictured left*). Olly Humphries (2012) was best man and many other Trinity and Oxford alumni were in attendance.



Nicola Selway, Wellbeing Advisor, to Anand Menon (formerly Fellow of St Anthony's), on 5 September 2023, at Carmel Beach, California (*pictured right*)



Births

To **Feng Rao (2006)** and Georgina Gosney, on 13 September 2023, a daughter, Isabella Yuqiu Gosney Rao

To **Rosie (née Smith, 2010)** and **Andrew 'Roo' Down (2009)**, on 6 February 2024, a daughter, Thea Linden

Deaths

The college has learned with sadness of the following deaths:

Jeremy Charles Browne (1949), on 1 May 2020

His Honour Judge (Alfred) Christopher Willoughby Hordern KC (1951), on 8 October 2022

Timothy Alan Gentle Raikes (1954), on 15 January 2024

Frederick David Scholefield (1954), in June 2023

David McIvor Wilson (1954), on 16 March 2024

(William) Angus Sinclair (1955), on 23 July 2023

John Alix Paine (1956), on 20 March 2024

The Venerable Christopher Hewetson (1956), on 2 April 2024

Anthony Julian 'Tony' Taylor (1957), on 7 January 2024

The Revd Canon George Francis Warner (1957), on 28 January 2024

Tristram Roger Dymoke Powell (1958), on 1 March 2024

Anthony Hugh Briscoe (1960), on 5 January 2024

Nicholas Peter Boileau (1961), on 13 January 2024

Professor Brian Frank Tippett (1961), in June 2023

Kenneth James 'Ken' Merron (1962), on 4 February 2024

(Edmund) Bernard Nurse (1965), on 21 February 2024

Derek Gervase Hunter (1965), on 22 March 2024

Dr (Lauchlan) Glenn Black (1966), on 12 January 2024

John Richard Moore (1967), in March 2024

Adam Jozef Zenon Czerniawski (1968), on 29 February 2024

Dr Nigel Charles Elliott (1969), on 10 February 2024

Christopher John David Harrald (1972), on 6 December 2023

Dr John Arthur Midgley (1974), on 9 December 2023

Dr Mark Jonathan Sharrard (1979), on 29 February 2024

Stuart Reginald Cashman (1991), in November 2023

Dr Oghenekome Abisoye 'Kome' Gbinigie (2017), in January 2024

Julius Shi-rong Yam (2017), on 19 March 2024

Offers to contribute or assist with obituaries for the Report would be very welcome: please email report@trinity.ox.ac.uk.

Events programme

The full Programme of Events and more information and booking details for each event, as they become available, can be found on the website at trinity.ox.ac.uk/events. Please email Sarah Jenkinson with enquiries about any of these events.

GAUDY 1979–1983

Saturday 22 June

TRINITY WEEKEND

Friday 20 – Sunday 22 September

Return to College for the first opportunity to dine in the reopened Hall.

Details and booking form are available online.

GAUDY 2011 - 2013

Saturday 28 September

A reunion for all those who matriculated between 2011 and 2013.

Invitations were sent in March.

WILLIAM PITT SOCIETY LUNCH

Saturday 19 October

A lunch for members of the society created to recognise those who have included Trinity in their wills.

Invitations will be sent in the summer.

BENEFACTORS LUNCH 1

Saturday 9 November

The first of two lunches (the second will be in February) for major supporters of the college's fundraising during the last financial year (August 2023 – July 2024). Invitations will be sent in the summer.

BIOCHEMISTRY DINNER

Saturday 23 November

A dinner for all who studied Biochemistry at Trinity.

Invitations will be sent out in September.

CAROL SERVICES

Saturday 7 December

The choir will lead the singing of Christmas carols interspersed with anthems and Christmas readings, followed by seasonal refreshments.

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This Newsletter is produced by the Alumni & Development Office. Feedback and suggestions for articles for future editions are very welcome.



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