



Christ's College Library, Cambridge

Sponsor-a-Book

2023-24



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The Sponsor-a-Book Scheme

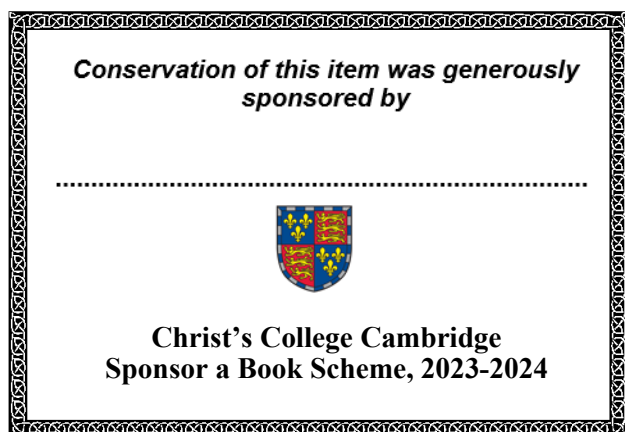
For more than 500 years, the Old Library's rich collections of early printed books and manuscripts have informed, entertained, and inspired some of the greatest minds of their age. By providing for their long-term care we can ensure that they continue to enthuse and inform generations to come.

If you would like to assist in conserving our important collections, why not consider sponsoring a book in need of repair? The money you donate will fund tailored treatment by a team of specialist conservators from the Cambridge Colleges' Conservation Consortium, based at Corpus Christi College.

This year the Library is also delighted to offer the opportunity to sponsor the digitisation of two volumes through the Cambridge Digital Library. These items will also be conserved before digitisation.

In recognition of your support, a personalised book-plate acknowledging your sponsorship will be placed inside your chosen volume, and you will receive an illustrated report detailing the work carried out.

For more information, please contact the Development Office, by email (development@christs.cam.ac.uk) or telephone (01223 761769 or 766710).



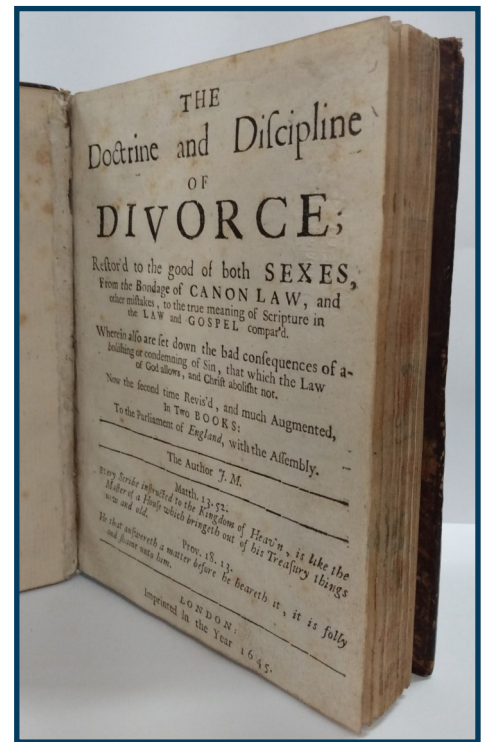
Alternatively, please write to:
The Development Office
Christ's College
Cambridge CB2 3BU

Items Available for Conservation

John Milton, *The Doctrine & Discipline of Divorce* (London, 1645)

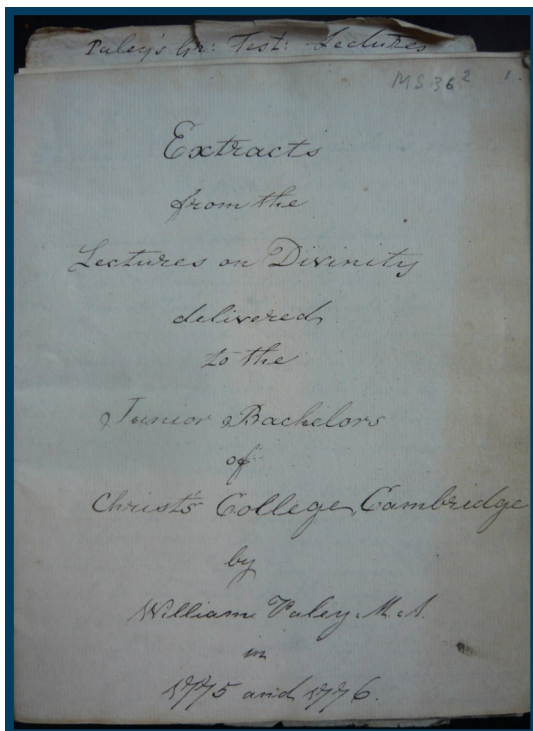
John Milton (1608-1674), the poet, pamphleteer, and alumnus of Christ's College, was first married to Mary Powell (1625-1652) in the spring of 1642. Apocryphally, this marriage was to pay off Powell family debts to John Milton Senior (who was acting as a moneylender). Soon after the wedding, Mary went back to live with her family (issues regarding Milton's Puritanism and Mary's potential Catholicism are often cited) where she remained until 1645.

This second edition particularly notes that despite Milton's personal interest in being able to divorce, he writes for all men, as 'a husband may be injur'd as insufferably in marriage as a wife'.



Cost: £480

Ref.: SB23-24/1



Manuscript notes from William Paley's lectures (18th century)

One of the eighteenth century's leading theologians and moralists, William Paley (1743-1805) was a Fellow at Christ's, where previously he had been a student, from the late 1760s. The manuscript here contains extracts from a series of his divinity lectures, many of the arguments of which later resurfaced in his famous published works.

Sponsorship of this item would allow for the treatment of degraded pages, and the protection of a section of loose leaves currently tucked into the main body of the manuscript. A custom-made box will allow for the various sections to be stored together.

Cost: £800

Ref.: SB23-24/2

Mahābhārata (Sabhāparvan), 1868



This manuscript contains the *Sabhāparvan*, one of the 18 parvans of the *Mahābhārata*, a Sanskrit epic of ancient India and the longest known epic poem. In this section, the eldest of the five Pandava brothers loses everything in a rigged dice match, and the brothers are exiled to the forest for twelve years. It is written in *Devanāgarī* script, in black and red ink, and several pages show annotations and corrections.

The volume was donated by the scholar and classicist W.H.D Rouse (1863-1950), who also donated a substantial collection of early printed books and Greek manuscripts. Conservation of this manuscript includes re-casing the book into the covers, to allow for safe consultation.

Cost: £800

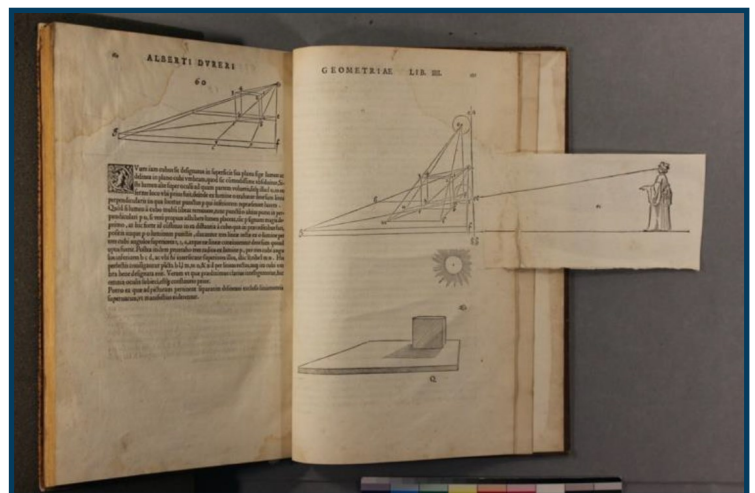
Ref.: SB23-24/3

Albrecht Dürer, *Institutionum Geometricarum* (Basel, 1532)

Considered one of the greatest figures in European art during the Renaissance, Albrecht Dürer originally published his four-book treatise on geometrical forms in German in 1525 under the title *Underweysung der Messung*, or Instruction in Measurement.

The woodcut shown here illustrates how projection can be used to represent three-dimensional objects on the two-dimensional page.

Our version of the treatise is a Latin translation published by the famous 16th-century printer Christian Wechel (1495-1554), widely reputed for the beauty of his editions.



Conservation treatment would include reattaching both front and back boards, to allow for safe handling.

Cost: £800

Ref.: SB23-24/4

Vincenzo Scamozzi, *Discorsi sopra l'Antichità di Roma* (Venice, 1582)

Vincenzo Scamozzi was one of the most important Italian architects of the sixteenth century. His *Discorsi sopra l'Antichità di Roma* contains illustrated commentary on the ruins of Rome as they stood in the late Renaissance. The historic sites included the Colosseum and the Roman Forum (pictured).



Sponsorship of this volume would enable repairing and reinforcement of the bookblock leaf edges, new spine linings, repair to the spine cover and to the binding cover materials.

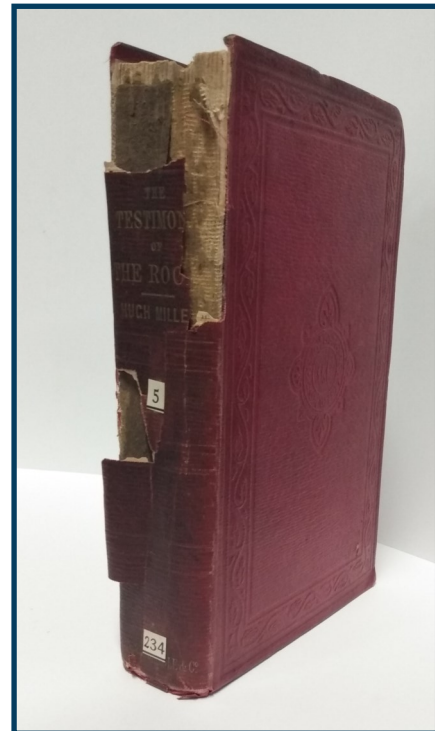
Cost: £1000

Ref.: SB23-24/5

Hugh Miller, *The Testimony of the Rocks* (Edinburgh, 1857)

The subtitle of Hugh Miller's treatise promises a work on 'geology in its bearings on the two theologies, natural and revealed'. The volume is comprised of twelve lectures, many delivered to the Edinburgh Philosophical Institution, and sought to reconcile the new discoveries being made in Scottish geological research with 'the old theology of Scotland'. Miller concludes that God's creation of the earth 'was not a brief period of a few hours' duration, but extended over mayhap millenniums of centuries'.

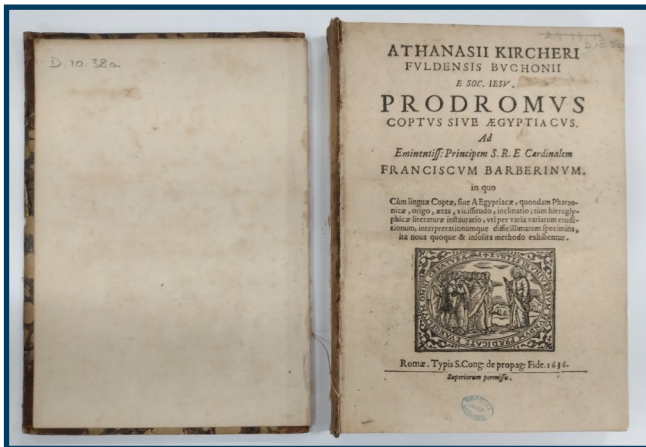
Sponsorship of this volume would enable surface cleaning, spine linings, repairs to the cover material, and recasing the bookblock.



Cost: £1000

Ref.: SB23-24/6

Athanasius Kircher, *Prodromus Coptus siue Aegyptiacus* (Rome, 1636)



Sometimes considered to be the 'founder of Egyptology', Athanasius Kircher (1602-1680) wrote over 40 works which were circulated widely in the seventeenth century. This volume contains the first published grammar of Coptic, and sought to connect the language to Arabic, Armenian, Ethiopic, Samaritan and Syriac.

A new typeset for the Coptic alphabet had to be created in order to print the work, and the volume

contains type founts including Syriac, Arabic, Estranghelo, Samaritan, Chaldean, Hebrew, Rabbinical Hebrew, Ethiopic, Saracen, and Hieroglyphic.

Conservation would enable surface cleaning, front board reinforcement, the repair of an internal split, and the consolidation and repair of the cover.

Cost: £1000

Ref.: SB23-24/7

Three scientific tracts (1657, 1669, 1674)

This small volume contains three scientific tracts from the seventeenth century. Marcello Malpighi's *De viscerum structura exercitatio* was published in 1669 and describes the human nervous system. Malpighi was one of the first scientists to suggest a connection between the spinal cord and the brain via the nervous system.

The second tract is William Petty's *The discourse made before the Royal Society...concerning the use of duplicate proportion* (1674). The final scientific tract is *De statica medicina et de responsione ad Staticomasticem* (1657). This work is by the Italian physician and scientist Santorio Santori, and describes his pioneering research into metabolism. Santori invented a weighing chair (pictured) which recorded the weight of all his ingestions and excretions for a period of thirty years.

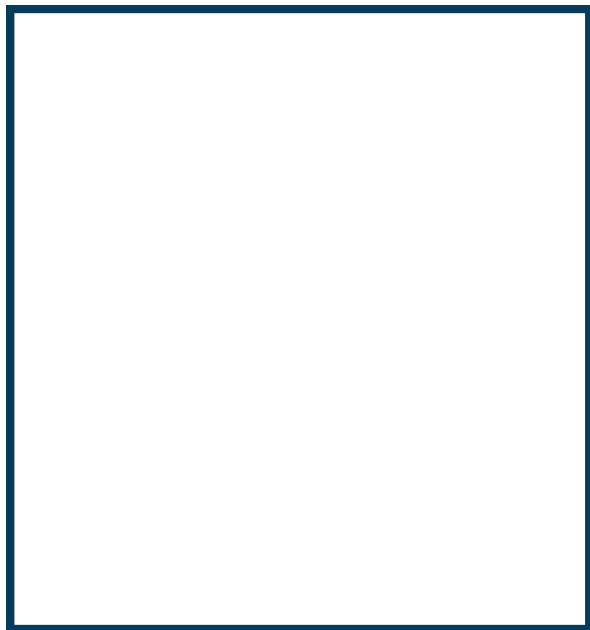
Conservation of the volume would involve rebacking the book in leather, with new spine linings and reinforced internal joints. The book would also be cleaned and given new endbands.



Cost: £1000

Ref.: SB23-24/8

Thomas Boreman, *A Description of Above Three Hundred Animals* (Edinburgh, 1797)



“The Humming-bird is the least of all birds: the head, together with the feathers, is of the bigness of a mean-sized sweet cherry”. 300 such imaginative descriptions grace the pages of Thomas Boreman’s (fl.1730-43) illustrated guide to worldly (and occasionally otherworldly) birds and beasts. Boreman was the first publisher to target the juvenile market, and this innovative book was the “first work on natural history published for children”.

The book was extremely popular, running to 38 editions by the end of the 19th century, and influenced many later natural history publications. Sponsorship would fund cleaning and repair of the pages, mending of the spine, and repair of the cover material.

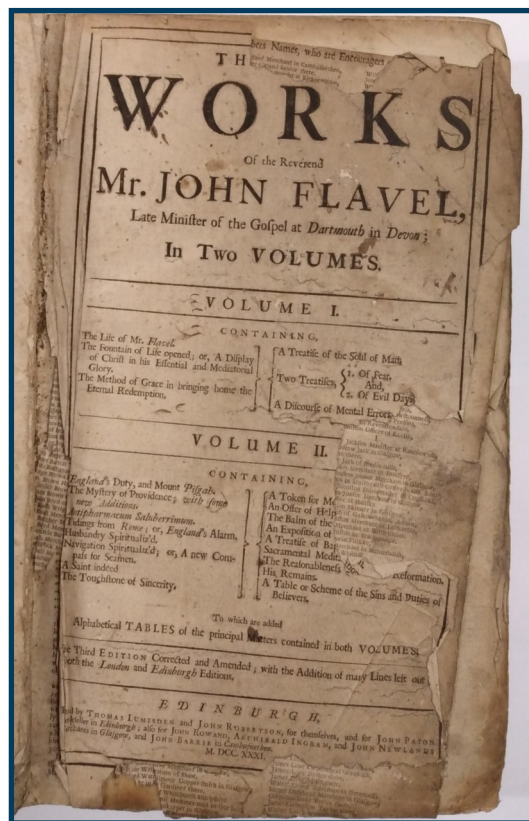
Cost: £1200

Ref.: SB23-24/9

John Flavel, *The Whole Works of the Reverend Mr. John Flavel* (Edinburgh, 1731)

This two-volume set collects all the written work of the presbyterian divine John Flavel (?1630-1691). Flavel became a non-conformist following the ‘Great Ejection’ of 1662. After narrowly escaping shipwreck in a storm while travelling to London, he settled in Dartmouth. His works include the intriguingly titled ‘A Faithful and Succinct Account of some late and wonderful Sea Deliverances’, and ‘A Practical Treatise of Fear’.

Conservation of this book would include repair of the boards, adding a new spine lining and making internal hinge repairs.



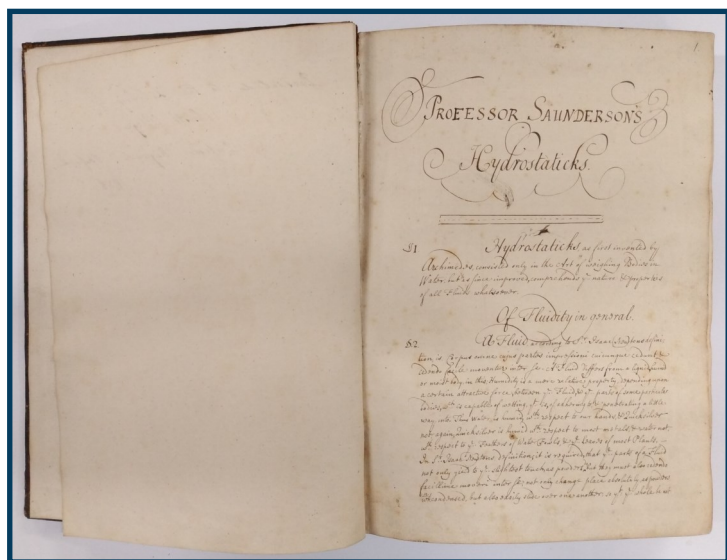
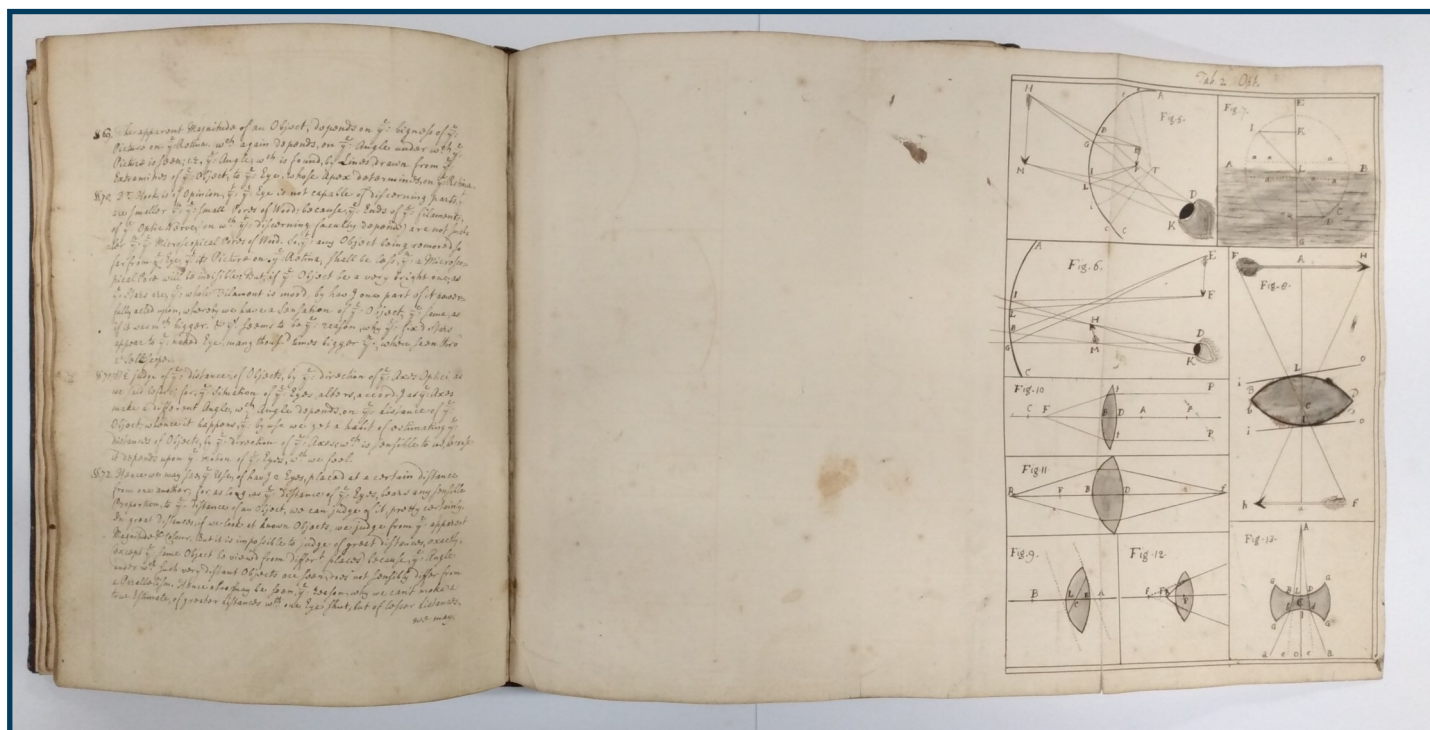
Cost: £1600

Ref.: SB23-24/10

Items Available for Digitisation

Works by Professor Nicholas Saunderson, 1739

This manuscript contains works by the scientist and mathematician Nicholas Saunderson (1682-1739). After losing his sight through smallpox when he was a year old, Saunderson is thought to have learned to read by tracing letters on gravestones with his fingers. He went on to become the fourth Lucasian Professor of Mathematics and was instrumental in the dissemination of the *Principia Mathematica* and the reformation of the University mathematics curriculum.



This volume contains his works, notes and lectures on topics including hydrostatics, sounds, optics, mechanics, astronomy, and the tides.

Conservation would allow board reinforcement, internal split reinforcement, and repairs to the cover material.

Conservation: £600

Digitisation: £1150

Ref.: SB23-24/11

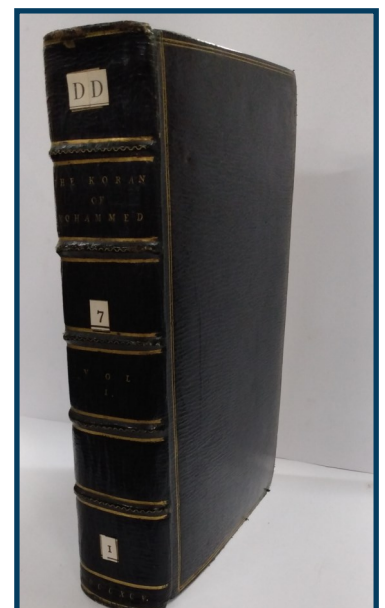
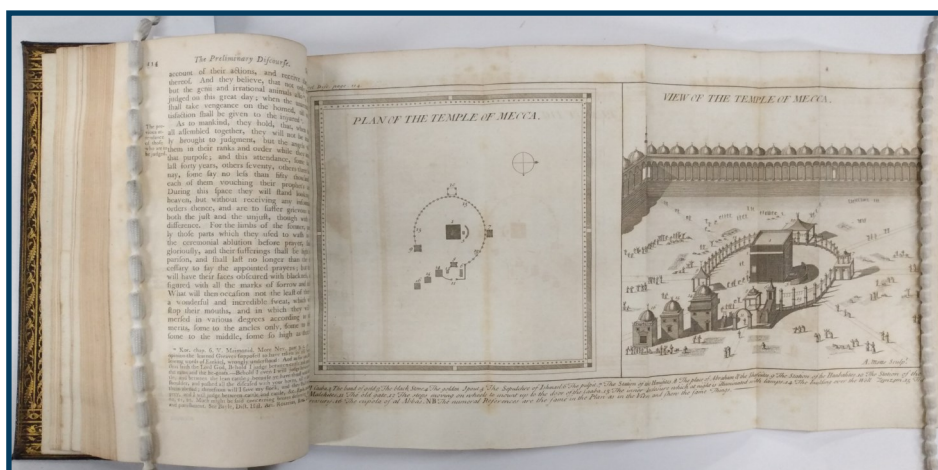
George Sale, *The Koran commonly called the Alcoran of Mohammad* (Bath, 1795)

This 1795 printed edition of the Qu'ran has been bound with an illuminated manuscript of the *Dala'il al-Khayrat* copied in 1767.

The *Dala'il al-Khayrat* is a collection of prayers for the Islamic prophet Muhammad, and was written by the scholar Muhammad al-Jazuli (d. 1465).

The manuscript is significant for its illustrations of the holy cities of Mecca and Medina. The volume reached the College from the collection of John Hutton of Marske in Yorkshire (d. 1841).

Conservation of the volume will ensure surface cleaning, repairs to a foldout tear, and a custom-made bookshoe with bookblock support.



Conservation: £200

Digitisation: £1999

Ref.: SB23-24/12

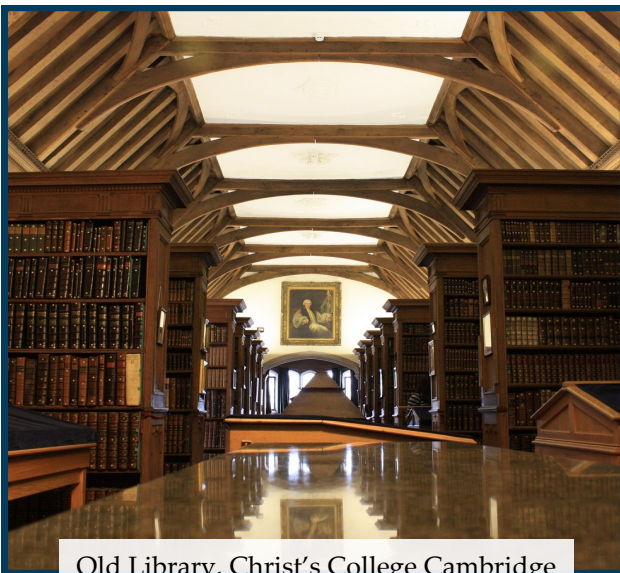
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Please quote the reference number(s) of the item(s) that you are interested in sponsoring. These can be found at the bottom of the item entries.

Thank you for helping to support the conservation of Christ's College's unique collections.



Old Library, Christ's College Cambridge



Model of HMS *Beagle*, Christ's College Cambridge