

New College is well known for having educated many significant novelists past and present. Three of those who come to mind immediately are 1932 Nobel Laureate John Galsworthy (1867-1933) who wrote *The Forsyte Saga*; the only ever winner of Pulitzer Prizes in both fiction and poetry Robert Penn Warren (1905-1989), who won the 1947 fiction prize with his *All the Kings Men*, and the author of *The Collector*, *The French Lieutenant's Woman*, and *The Magus*, John Fowles (1926-2005). But there are many other illustrious fiction writers and poets associated with New College, and 2021 has seen the library acquire notable copies by some of these writers, superbly enriching our collections.

His renown has been eclipsed by the stellar literary fame of his wife, the novelist Dame Iris Murdoch, but New College alumnus and English tutor

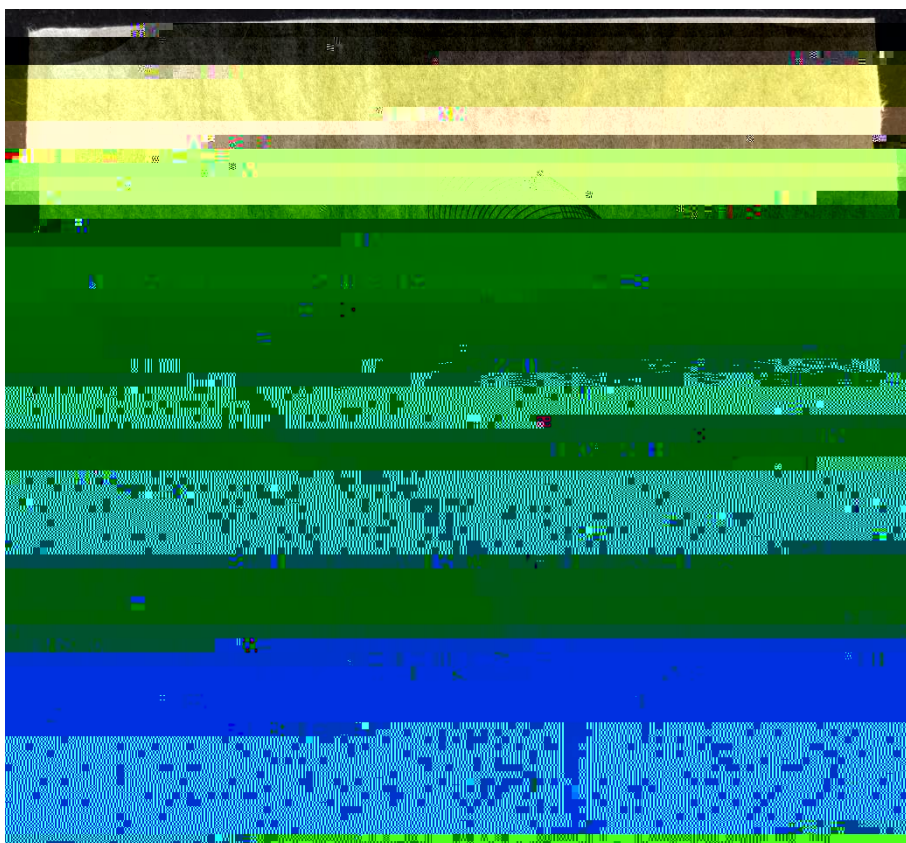
D. M. Thomas (b. 1935) is a prolific, Booker Prize-shortlisted writer, Ugc' cZ : i ``YffS generation, and he read English at New College. This year we acquired author-signed copies of his novels *Lady with a Laptop* (1996) and *Charlotte* (2000), and of \]gVW]XfYb]Vcc_ The Devil and the Floral Dance (1978). A signed, fifty-copy limited edition printing of his first poetry collection *Two Voices* (1968) has nicely filled a notable gap in our holdings of Thomas. It is k cf_g too. However, on account of its provenance, the most significant acquisition for us has been a signed copy of H\ca Uqj poems, *Love and Other Deaths* (1975), which D. M. Thomas presented to the Oxford husband and wife couple, John Bayley and Iris Murdoch.⁵

New College Library, Oxford, NC/THO

The publisher Sir Victor Gollancz (1893| 1967) and the crime writer Milward Kennedy (1894| 1968) were contemporaries| both students at New College. Though Gollancz published a cghicZ? YbbYXm]bcj Y's, *The Top Boot* (1950) Kennedy published elsewhere; copies of this book are very hard to come by. The library has this year acquired a very fine copy indeed, along with a fl c``UbW\di V`]g Yff]Z]YVtdmcZ? YbbYXm] Escape to Quebec (1946).⁶

New College Library, Oxford, NC/KENÍ showing its exceptionally fine dustjacket

Another famous publisher and New College man, Arthur Waugh (1866| 1943), was father to two novelists| Alec Waugh and, far more notably, 5 ``Yff] younger brother Evelyn Waugh, one of the k YbhYh Wbh fmg] fYUhgbcj Y]gq. But Arthur Waugh wrote no novels himself. Arthur took his third in Classics at New College in 1889, the year after he, too, had T/F0.0000nBq0.000008871 0 595.32 841.92 rev



Signed handmade print and leather binding
Alice Oswald and Maribel Mas, *A Short Story of Falling* (Rochdale: Andrew J. Moorhouse, 2020)
New College Library, Oxford, NC/OSW Oversize

Three other books of poetry by New College alumni we have acquired this year warrant mention. The most noteworthy is *A Pride of Sonnets: Together with an Essay on a Sonnet*, published in Madison, New Jersey in 1951 by the Golden Hind Press. Morley (1890-1957), who hailed from Pennsylvania, was a prolific and versatile writer, best remembered today for his novels. He

The Edinburgh Review. Smith, who contributed prolifically to the *Edinburgh* in its early years, writes concerning Francis

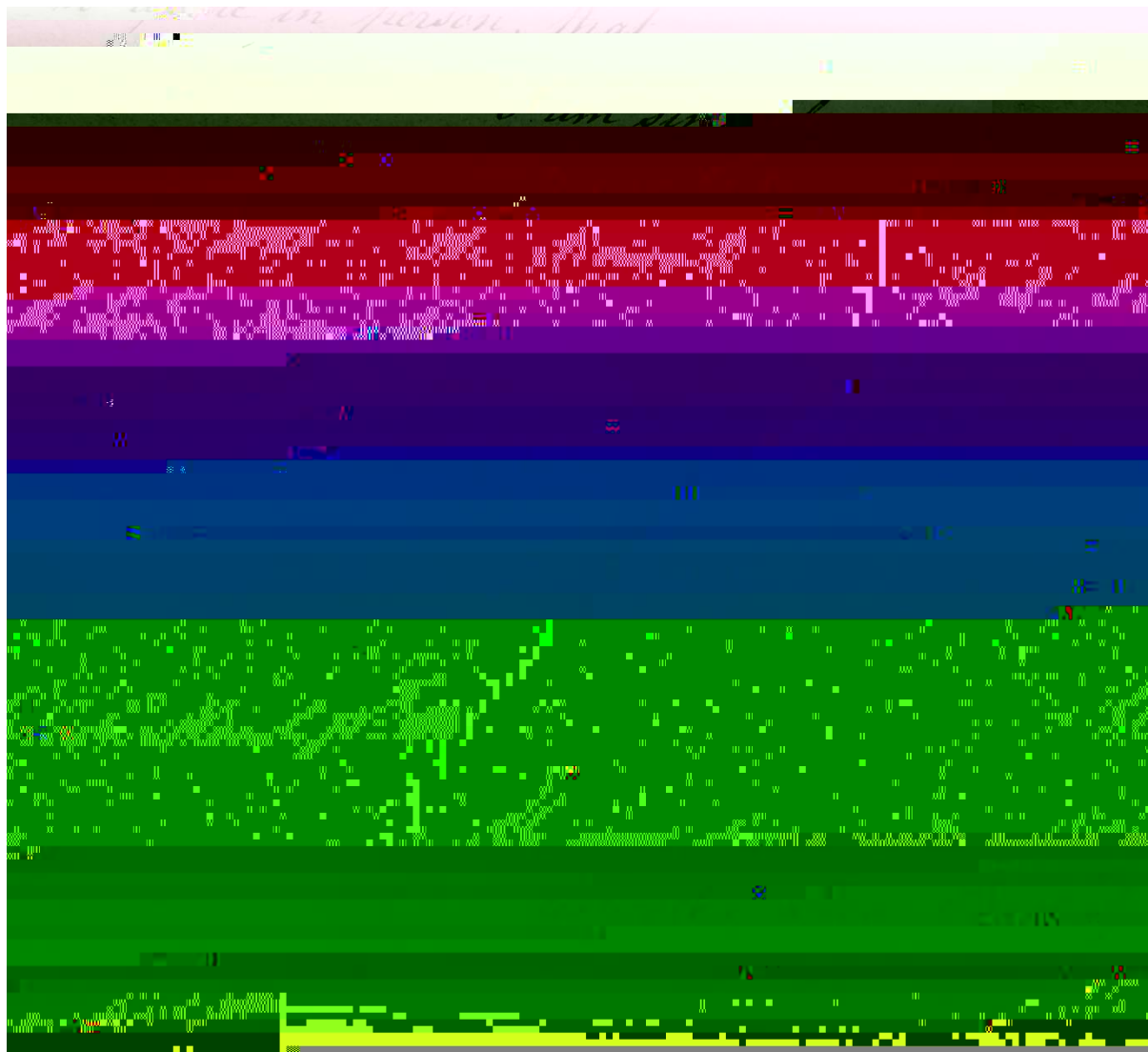
I did not promise an article & you must not absolutely depend upon me but if I can I will I think it worth while to make you pay the postage merely to put you upon your guard & that you should not deceive yourself. I will write to you at length very soon.¹⁷

The other Sydney Smith item purchased is a first edition printed copy in its original stitching of his *A Letter to the Electors upon the Catholic Question* (1826). In it, Smith the Anglican cleric presents a emancipation, opening provocatively with,

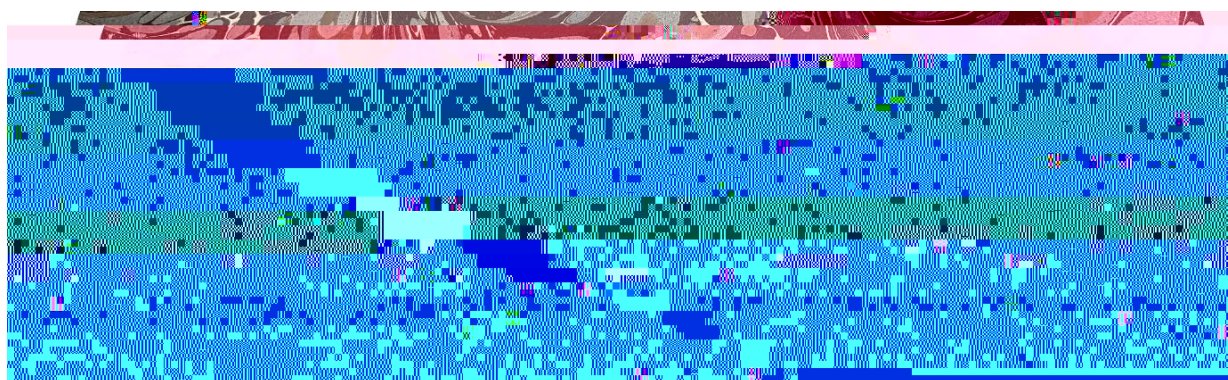
A Wykehamist and New College man of the previous generation, Bishop of Norwich Henry Bathurst (1744–1837), also campaigned for Roman Catholic emancipation, and was known for being a liberal bishop" ordained an Anglican priest in the Oxford diocese eight years later. He was one of the thirty-six children who were second wives, and, in time, he would be father himself to three daughters and eight sons. His eldest son, likewise named Henry Bathurst (1781–1844), also became an Anglican priest and in due course archdeacon of Norwich in 1814 where he assisted his father and he too was a New College man. Henry (the younger) published two-volume memoirs of his father in 1837: i.e. the sometime Winchester and New College scholar Philip Shuttlesworth in our library to this day.¹⁹

This year we have acquired for our collections a very distinctive item relating to Bishop Henry Bathurst, which is notable for its refinement and uniqueness as a physical book.

Handwritten manuscript containing a letter of 22 February 1813 from Henry Bathurst to William Pitt, and a letter of 17 March 1813 to the bishop. The second refinement to our recently acquired copy is more surprising and yet more compelling: a superb fore-edge painting of the river Arno in Florence.



Third manuscript leaf, verso [detail], interleaved at the front of New College Library, Oxford, NB.73.6

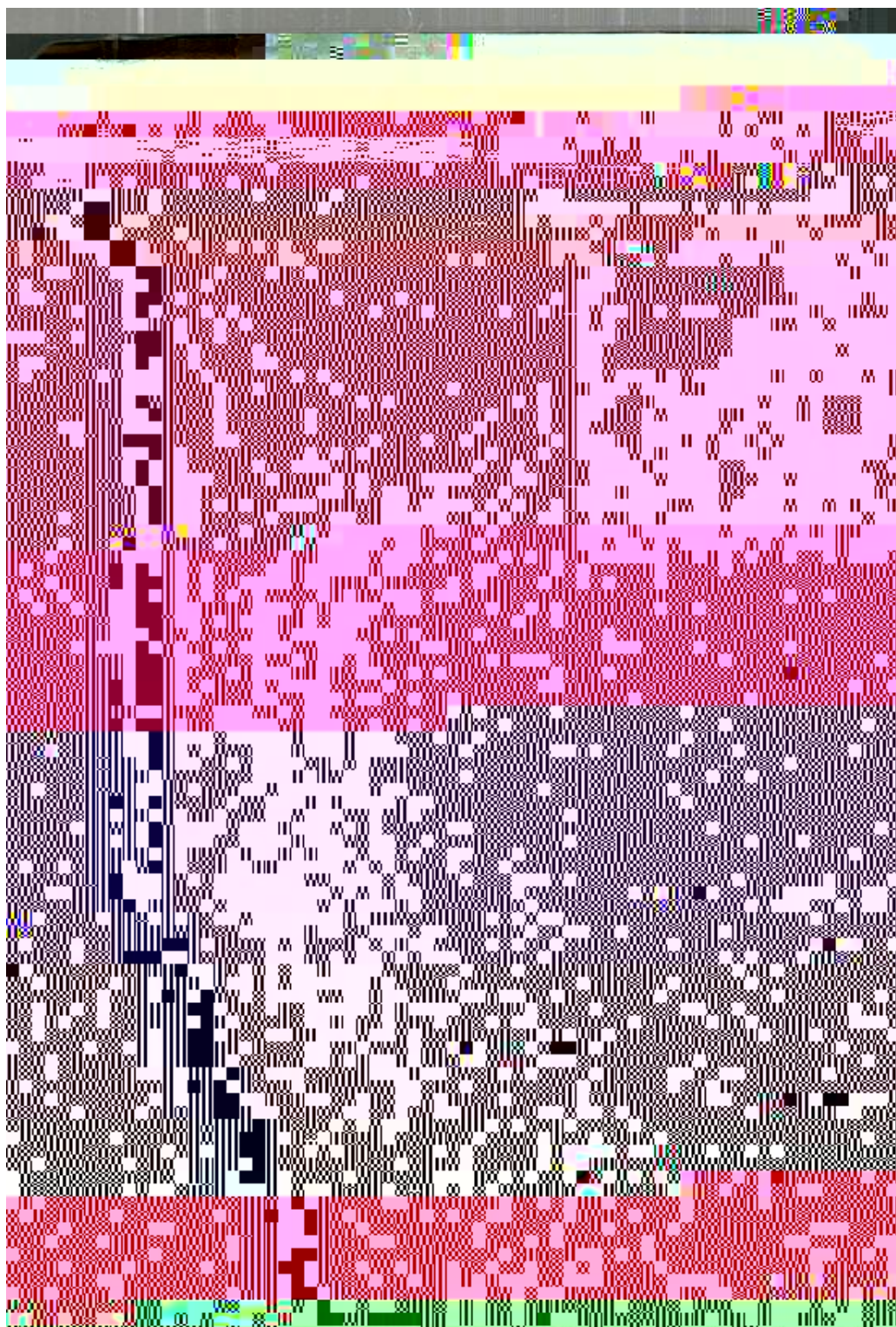


Fore-edge painting of the Arno River in Florence, on New College Library, Oxford, NB.73.6

The second donor is Alan Pope, music bibliographer and former Lord Mayor of Oxford. On the occasion of the Inspection of the City Walls on 22 October 2021, he presented to the College a choral piece with organ written for New College which carries the title *Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis*. The inscription records that in January 1953 the composer had presented the score as a gift to the College.²³

Roland Erasmus Philipps (1890–1916) was also both Wykehamist and New College

the Winchester tale is an allusion to Chaucer, while the English title *Remembrance of Things Past* that Scott Moncrieff gave to his fêted translation of Proust's *À la recherche du temps perdu* is, of course, Shakespearean.²⁸



New College Library, Oxford, OX1/MON

²⁸ Geoffrey Chaucer, "General Prologue" to the *Canterbury Tales*, l. 830: "Of even-song and morwe-song accorde"; William Shakespeare, Sonnet 30, ll. 11 & 12: "When to the sessions of sweet silent thought / I summon up remembrance of things past"

Finally, we have this year acquired signed copies of books by our alumnus Gyles Brandreth (b. 1948), the multi-talented writer, broadcaster, former MP, and (Shakespearean) actor. While a student at New College from 1967 to 1970 he directed the Oxford University Dramatic Society. These include *Philip: The Final Portrait*, his biography of HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh who died in April this year, and his autobiography *Odd Boy Out*.

As you would expect from so skilled a raconteur, his autobiography is witty and entertaining, as he reminds us all New College members past, present, and future of our great good fortune in being able to claim this college as our own:

I wonder if any of us had any idea of how privileged we were? On our second night, in hall (high-ceilinged, oak-panelled, adorned with oil paintings of former New College luminaries, including Warden Spooner who gave us the spoonerism and saluted Queen Elizabeth II) the present Warden (Sir William Hayter, formerly ambassador to Moscow) did his best to impress us with the beauty of the buildings. Unless you choose to live in Venice, you are unlikely to live in such a beautiful building.

Christopher Skelton-Foord
Librarian
New College, Oxford