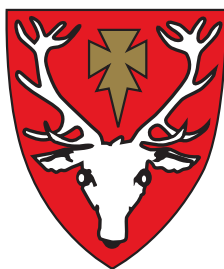




Hertford Revivals

By

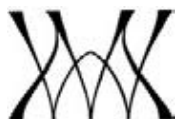
Miles Vaughan Williams



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By

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FOREWORD

Hertford College in 2013 is a flourishing and prosperous establishment, with more than forty Fellows and twenty Lecturers. There are 112 entries under Hertford in the University phone book. Sixty years ago the situation was very different.

I had been requested on a couple of occasions to describe the renovations undertaken to the Library and some other buildings. A detailed account of the college's development over six decades would have required much research into archives, which may not have survived - a task which I had neither the ability nor inclination to undertake. I did agree, however, that I would gladly co-operate with anyone interested in documenting the college's recent history.

In August 2012, when I entered my 95th year, I realised that I was the only Fellow who had been present throughout the period. Since no colleague had been found to assist me, I decided that I ought to record what I could, before I, or my memory, departed.

Fortunately I still had all my original architectural drawings, copies of which had, of course, been submitted for approval to the City authorities. I also had retained many personal records. The result, thanks to the help of my daughter, Armelle Wilkinson, has been the production of this little booklet.

Miles Vaughan Williams

HERTFORD REVIVALS

INTRODUCTION

I came up to Oxford in 1937 with an award to read Literae Humaniores (once called ‘Greats’, now ‘Classics’). Owing to paucity of available teachers at Wadham I was ‘farmed out’ to Lincoln (Cox), All Souls (Jones), Christchurch (Jacobstahl) and Hertford (Denniston). I was not a favourite pupil of “Denny’s” because I displayed little interest in the Greek particle, on which topic he was the world expert and author of a book. I did, however, have two undergraduate friends at Hertford; one (Dawson) who had been a contemporary at Wellington, the other whom I knew as a hockey player originally (I was captain of hockey at Wadham).

I returned from a Rockefeller Fellowship in Medicine at Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, in 1953, to a University Lectureship. Wadham elected me to membership of their Senior Common Room, so that I had full College facilities for dining etc. (I also taught Wadham medical students for a decade from about 1965).

In 1953 I met a lady whom I recognised as having been a childhood friend, who had married a don at Queen’s, Guy Chilver, who was a close friend of Felix Markham, a History don at Hertford. Sylvia invited me to dinner at which Felix was a guest. Felix later invited me to play golf at Frilford (a ‘posh’ club) and asked if I had ever thought of a teaching college job, to which I said “NO”, because my main interest was research and I already was an SCR member at Wadham. In spite of this he invited me to a dinner at Hertford, at which all Fellows (8) were also present. A few days later, I was requested to call upon the Principal (Murphy), which I did that afternoon. “Do you know why I asked you to call on me?” “No, but I much enjoyed the dinner the other evening”.

“I have been instructed by my Governing Body (as though he would not have dreamed of doing so on his own) to offer you a Fellowship at this college. No doubt you are acquainted with the 1921 statutes?” “No, I’m afraid not” (not exactly my bedtime reading). “According to these statutes I am no longer able to offer you a Fellowship for LIFE. All I can do is to offer you a Fellowship for 15 years in the first instance, but, my dear fellow, I can assure you that re-election is a pure formality”. I replied that I would need to think it over, although I was, of course, very appreciative of the honour of the invitation.

I discussed the offer with my professor (J H Burn) who was not enamoured of Hertford, an impoverished and decrepit place, with an academic record at the bottom of the pile. He was anxious that I should ‘cultivate’ my connection with Wadham, in the hope that I would be made a Fellow there.

Nevertheless, Hertford had offered me a Fellowship and Wadham had not, and so I accepted, with some trepidation, I must say, because no mention had been made of duties or emoluments etc. – it was simply assumed that I, as an Oxford man, would already know exactly what was required.

When I took up the post I was surprised to discover how few Fellows there were. Felix Markham and John Armstrong, historians, both bachelors living in college. Felix had a flat with sitting room, dining room, bedroom and bathroom on New Building (NB) 6. John had a double set (4 rooms) on the first floor of NB 1 and 2, with a key to the only bathroom in the block, on the same floor near his room. The Chaplain (Hynde), also a bachelor living in college, had been made a Fellow and served as Senior Tutor. Hignett, a distinguished Ancient Historian, was a bachelor who lived in college during term time, but escaped to Wales during vacations. Murphy, the Principal, acted also as the tutor in Philosophy, and lived as a bachelor in the copious Principal’s Lodgings. The married Fellows were Ross (Economics), Fifoot (Law) and Ferrar (Mathematics), who was also the college bursar. In

addition there were two Professorial Fellows, Le Gros Clerk (Anatomy) and Mason (Geography) who came into college occasionally, but, of course, undertook no college teaching. No Physicist, Chemist, Biologist or other scientist, and now just a Medic.

The College had few endowments, and was, as were most of the women's colleges, among the poorest in the University.

Not long after my arrival there was a 'Flu epidemic. With the spectre of 1918 in mind, I was horrified to discover that the only latrines available to undergraduates in the Old Buildings were in a block on the far side of the Old Chapel, so that students, perhaps with a high fever, would have to cross the quad at night to relieve themselves. I asked the bursar to install portable Elsan cabinets on the landings of each staircase, so that inmates could at least relieve themselves under cover.

Fortunately, unlike 1918, mortality was zero.

Reflecting upon my first year as a Fellow, it was clear that there was inadequate teaching in scientific subjects and that amenities for undergraduates were very poor.

TUTORIAL REVIVAL

Admissions policy in the selection of students varied from college to college. Few medical students were accepted by those colleges, such as Hertford and Wadham, which did not have Fellows in Medicine or Biology. Most medical students were chosen from candidates who had entered for the scholarship examinations. Each year there would be a joint meeting of the representatives of those colleges who had offered scholarships. At these meetings the names of successful candidates would be announced, and efforts were made to ensure that talented boys who had failed to win an award, would nevertheless be found a place at another college. Since Hertford offered no awards I could not even attend the meeting.

I explained my dilemma to the Governing Body and pleaded that if the college could allow me just one lowly Exhibition, I could at least attend the scholarship meeting, and have a chance to interview one or two candidates from the pool. Happily the college agreed to offer one £50 Exhibition, and a seed was planted from which the reputation of Hertford as a college favouring medicine could grow.

Although the existing Hertford Fellows were distinguished scholars, they were so few in number that they were obliged to take on other duties in addition to their tutorial teaching (I became Dean of Degrees). My own salary as University Lecturer ensured that my college stipend was not a great burden (£200), and I argued that, although not affluent, the college could afford to appoint a Science Fellow who already had a University post, but had no college affiliation. There were, in fact, so many of these that Wolfson and St. Cross colleges were later founded to accommodate them.

Eventually it was decided to consider candidates for a Fellowship in Physics. At that time it was customary to invite a favoured applicant to a dinner, which all Fellows (now 9)

would attend. On the occasion that the Australian Neil Tanner was the guest, I drove him home after the meal, and he asked me to give my candid opinion about the college generally, and what the position of a Fellow would involve. My reply was that the post offered a challenge. Neil accepted, and rose to the challenge magnificently.

Before the 39-45 war, boys admitted to Oxford came mainly from affluent families who could afford to support them at University. If a boy from a poor family won a major scholarship (£100) his County would supplement this with a further £50, and it was possible for him to survive reasonably well. The Labour government elected in 1945 not only started the NHS but guaranteed any winner of a University place a grant sufficient to cover fees and living costs. Although the financial hurdle blocking applicants from State schools had been removed, there still remained the deterrent of the Entrance Examination. It was highly probable that in schools unable to provide special coaching to prepare pupils, there would be some talented children who would qualify as being what was patronisingly considered 'Oxbridge Material'. Neil spent much time visiting Comprehensive schools, and encouraged head teachers to send gifted pupils to Hertford for interview. He promised that if they performed well they would be offered a place without examination. It was a risk, but it paid off, and Hertford rose steadily up the table of results in Finals. Indeed the enterprise was so successful that it raised the ire of some other colleges, and Neil was not the most popular of admissions tutors. Ultimately the Entrance Examination was abandoned and admissions were largely based on performance in A-levels.

ADMISSION OF WOMEN

In 1955 the mere entry of females invited to Hertford College premises was strictly controlled. But the onward march of the “monstrous regiment” of women was relentless. During Janet Vaughan’s reign at Somerville, rules were relaxed to permit girls to invite their male friends to dine in college on a special Guest Night. It was not long, of course, before Hertford undergraduates demanded a reciprocal privilege, which was eventually conceded. I pointed out to our SCR sovereign, Felix Markham, that I was not permitted to invite my wife to dine. Reluctantly Felix gave way. He was, in fact, a good friend to my French spouse. He had, after all, written a biography of Napoleon. The concession exacted was for Fellows to be permitted to invite female guests to dine at a special Ladies’ Night during the long vacation only, and provided they were not held in the Hall.

Female undergraduates at Oxford performed consistently well in the Final Honour Schools. This was explained by the fact that the women’s colleges held their own entrance examination. It was argued by male chauvinists that, if both men and women were to be admitted by the same exam, many fewer women would succeed. But, countered the feminists, if it were to turn out, on the contrary, that many more women were to qualify for admission, (preposterous!), than could be accommodated by the five women’s colleges, would the men’s colleges be willing to admit them? A debate ensued, and it transpired that several men’s colleges took the proposal seriously.

The composition of the Fellowship at Hertford was now different from the bachelor-dominated 1950s, and in spite of some reluctance on the part of the Principal (Warnock), Hertford was one of five colleges, including Wadham, which agreed that they would be willing to admit women, if required.

The women's colleges, however, were strongly opposed. They feared (correctly) that if there were a free-for-all admissions policy, many female candidates would opt to apply to rich and famous colleges, in preference to the poorly-endowed women's establishments. Ultimately a compromise was reached. The five men's colleges would be permitted to admit up to 100 girls (a maximum of 20 per college). Hertford duly accepted a few, but they were housed in a ghetto on the top floor of the Principal's lodgings.

All this may seem strange in the 21st century, because all the colleges soon became co-educational, even St. Hilda's, which was the last to yield.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

When I was a research student in 1944 the only tool I had to assist my calculations was my father's slide-rule. Next up was an electric calculating machine. Some years later the University installed a computer in a large room in South Parks Road, to which we could submit approved programs on punched tape. The first computer I had of my own was a Hewlett Packard desk-top, with a RAM of 14K (wow!) and an in situ cassette tape-recorder for programs, which I had to compose myself in BASIC. Meanwhile various companies were putting home computers on the market (Atari, Pet, etc.), and I installed one of these for the JCR in the Cottage (in the Old Building). A lot of fun was had with it; the 'college computer' was even proposed as a candidate for an election. The rapid evolution of IT has been extraordinary; from slide-rule to tablet in half a century.

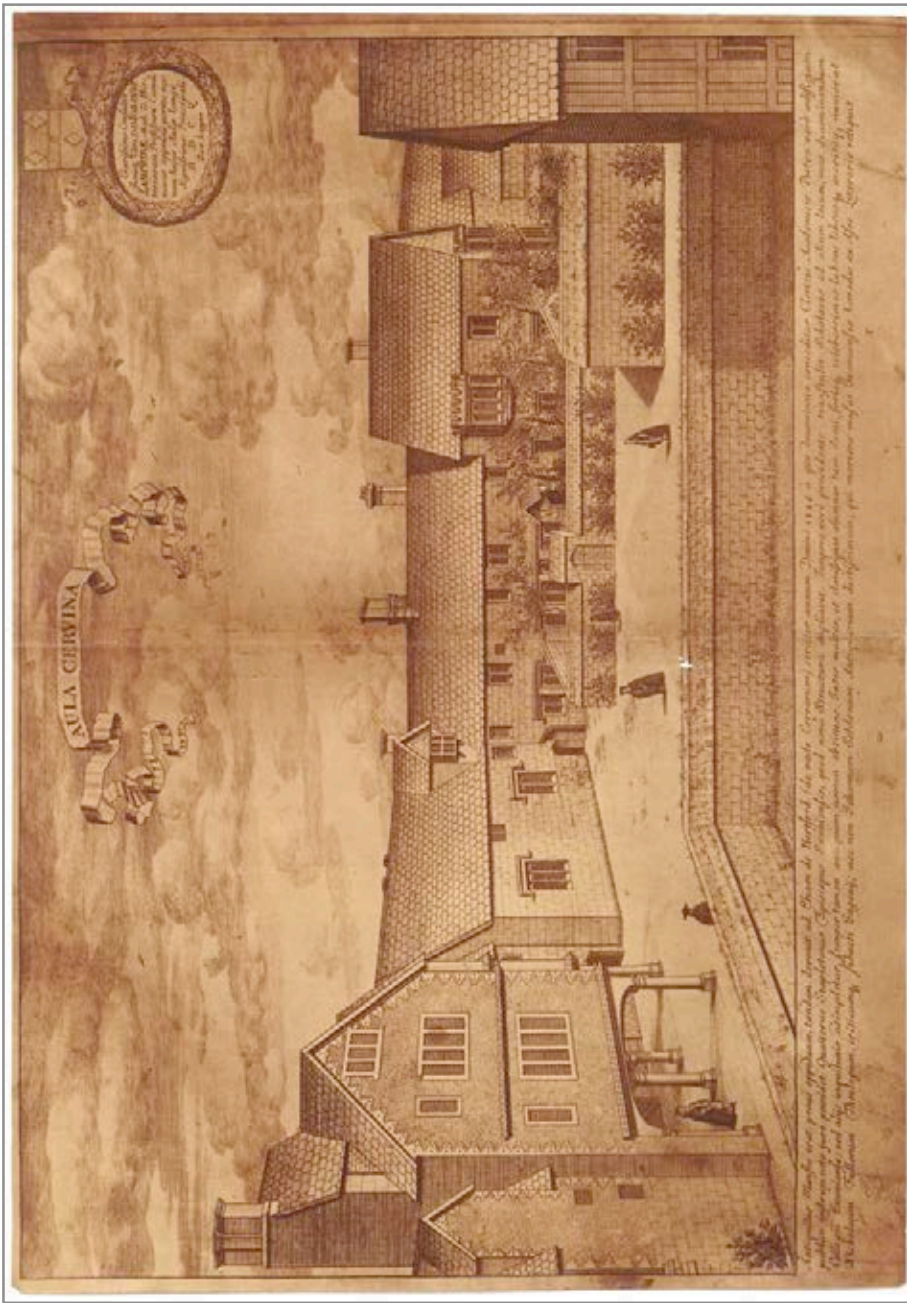


FIGURE 1. AULA CERVINA

REVIVALS OF BUILDINGS

The oldest parts of Hertford, incorporated into the current structures, are the Octagon, the Old Hall, the Old Library and SCR suites. The Octagon was originally a small Chapel in the line of the North wall of the city. Figure 1 depicts Hart Hall (Aula Cervina), as it was in 1675. The word Hart is derived from the Greek for a horn. Hart Hall, and Magdalen Hall, had their own heraldic shields, without horns. The Hertford College shield more appropriately shows a horned stag's head.

FIRST REVIVAL

Hart Hall became Hertford College in 1740. The college did not flourish, through lack of funds. Part of the buildings actually collapsed, leading to the demise of the college in 1805.

SECOND REVIVAL

Magdalen Hall was situated on the Magdalen College site, and was the home of some brilliant, but avant garde, scholars. The dissolution of Hertford College presented the Fellows of Magdalen with an opportunity to rid themselves of Magdalen Hall, and they purchased the Catte Street site. Two splendid blocks (as depicted in Figure 2) were constructed, now Old Buildings 1 (OB 1) and the Principal's lodgings. The architect cleverly left a big gap between them, so that the magnificent façade of the Bodleian would serve as appearing to be the Western wall of the quadrangle. (A trick repeated later with New College tower).

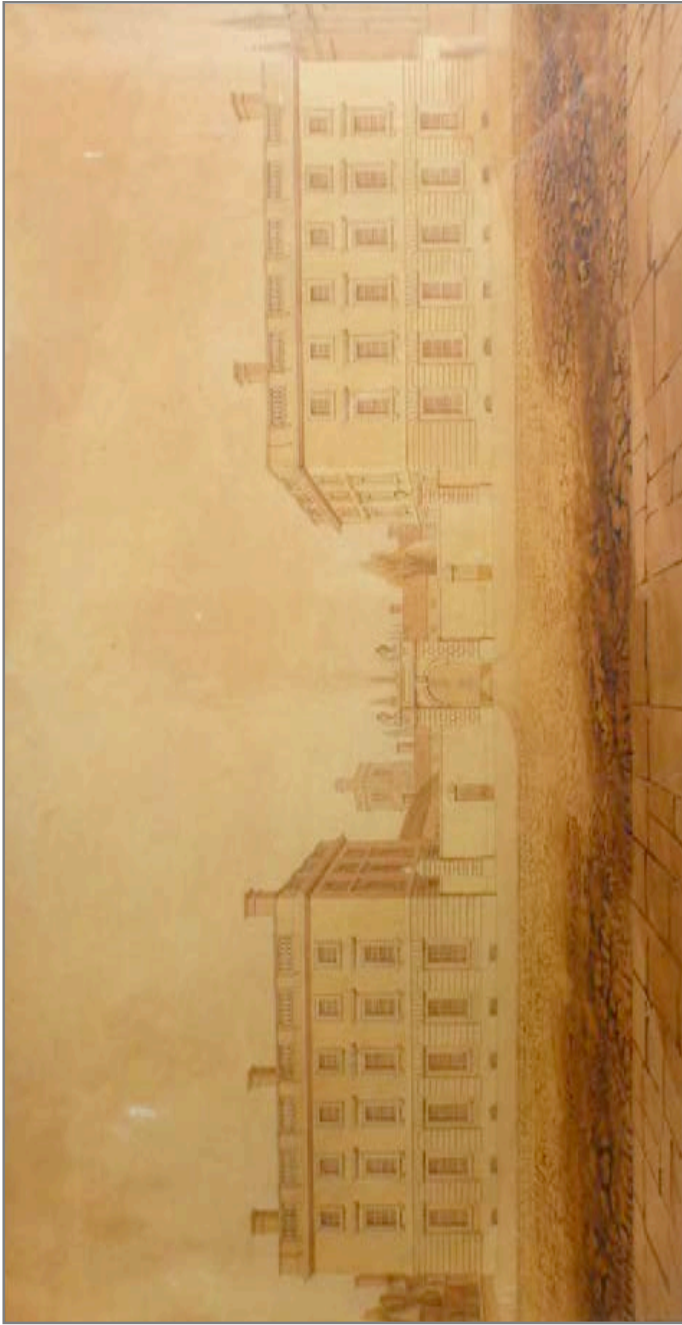


FIGURE 2. MAGDALEN HALL 1820 BLOCKS

THIRD REVIVAL

Thanks to the generosity of Thomas Baring, Magdalen Hall morphed into a new Hertford College in 1874. Jackson, the architect of many neo-Gothic buildings in Oxford, (Anglo-Jackson, as Maurice Bowra quipped), was responsible for designing additions to Magdalen Hall, including a new Dining Hall between the Magdalen 1820 blocks, so that the view of the Bodleian was lost. The new Chapel, the buildings to the North of New College Lane and, finally, the bridge, were added later. Apparently it had originally been intended that a tunnel under the bridge would serve as a communication between the two quadrangles for the staff, but this was never constructed, presumably because a sewer runs under New College Lane. In spite of a common appellation, the bridge bears no resemblance, of course, to the Bridge of Sighs in Venice, which led from the Doge's Palace to a prison, from which there was no return.

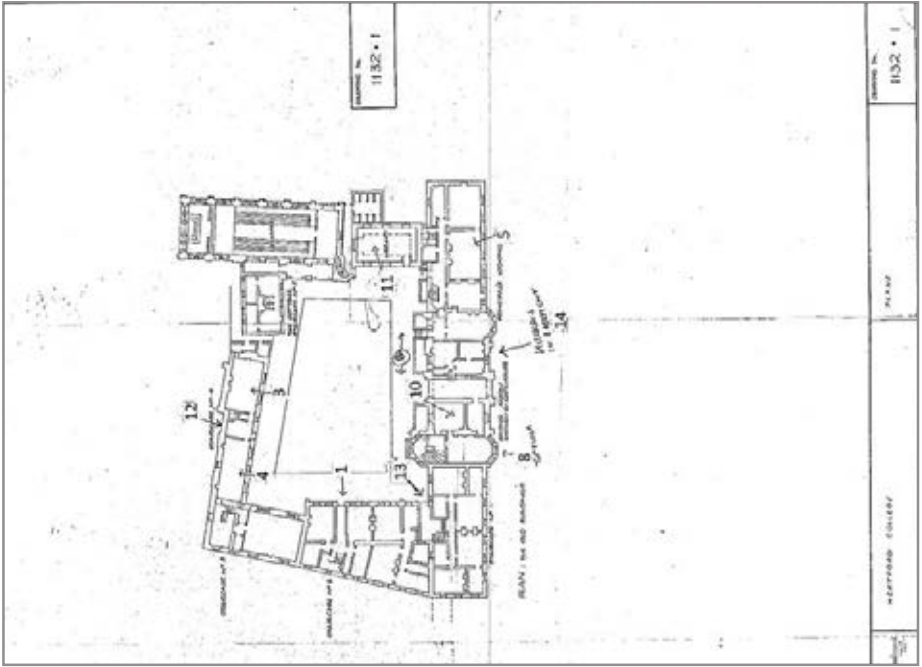


FIGURE 3A

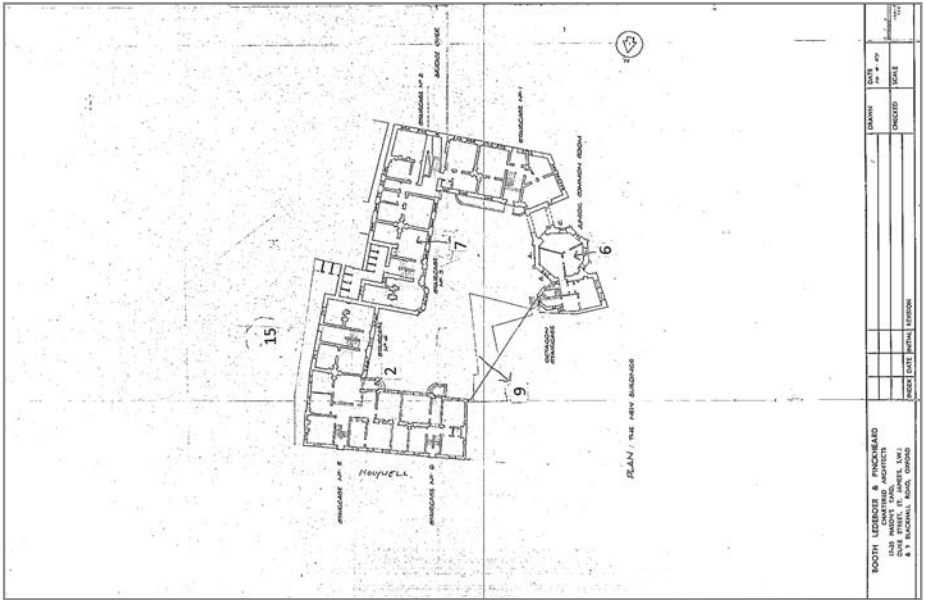


FIGURE 3B

FOURTH REVIVAL

In 1960 it was clear that much of the infrastructure of the college was in need of modernisation, especially in the provision of sanitation and ablution facilities for the undergraduates. Under the supervision of the architect Gray, the cottage had been gutted and re-roofed, and the interior was reconstructed, but there was no net increase in the available accommodation. In Old Buildings some plumbing was installed on staircase 3, but no extra rooms were created. In New Buildings (NB) 5, plumbing was installed, and by creating bed-sitters, the number of rooms was increased (marked 2, in Figure 3B).

In 1964 I submitted to the Governing Body a memorandum which made a number of suggestions for improving amenities, and which included the following statement: “My particular task was to assess the possibilities of development in the front quadrangle.

1. Knock down existing W.C. block (situated between the old Chapel and All Souls).
2. Install floor in the Old Chapel at the level of bottom of windows.
3. Build over the W.C. block and the passage giving access to it, and the space at present unused between the W.C. block and the Principal’s lodgings, to create a large library on two floors. The total space made available on each floor would be 3,600 square feet.
4. The space to the East of the Principal’s Lodgings could contain book stacks.”

From 1964 onwards I became involved in a number of projects, the sites of which are indicated in Figures 3A and 3B, which show plans of the college as it was in 1957.

PROJECT 1: OLD BUILDINGS 2

MODERNIZATION OF OB 2

OB 2 was ‘the Dons’ staircase’, and in order to encourage the Fellowship to support a modernisation programme, I thought it would be diplomatic to start by improving their own amenities. I engaged a small local firm to redecorate the rooms, to install washbasins in all bedrooms and provide toilet and cooking facilities, (for £700).

PROJECT 2: NEW BUILDINGS 5

Alterations to NB 5, by Gray, have been described above.

PROJECT 3: REDECORATION OF THE SENIOR COMMON ROOM

The furniture in the SCR in 1955 consisted of a set of Victorian black leather ‘button’ chairs and a two-place settee, with notoriously broken springs on one side. If one sat heavily on the broken side, there was a risk that someone already seated on the unbroken side would be precipitated onto one’s lap. Two comfortable sofas were purchased and a set of chairs with arms was specially designed. Window seats and velvet curtains, and a decent carpet were fitted. Faux panels were added to break up the bare faces of the walls to provide a setting for the portraits. Dutch style chandeliers on the ceiling were supplemented by shaded table lamps. Cost, about £1000.

PROJECT 4: REDECORATION OF THE OLD LIBRARY

The Old Magdalen Hall library served as a Lecture Room. It was cold and dingy, with wooden benches and table.

The original bookcases, with the Magdalen Hall books in their designated places, were retained, but the shelves were enclosed with glass doors for security. A large oval table was designed to suit the proportions of the room and was handmade especially, together with comfortable armchairs to supplement it. A standard lamp and side tables, in matching style, were also especially made for the room. Adequate heating rendered the room habitable in winter. New flush fitting ceiling lights were fitted and could be fully on or subdued. The Old Library now became the most sought after venue, both for lectures and festive occasions.

These designs are shown in Figures 4A and 4B.

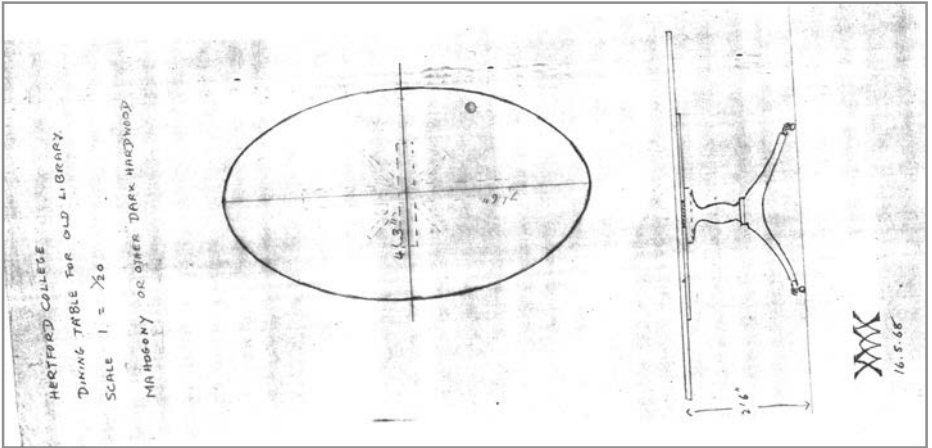


FIGURE 4A. MAIN TABLE

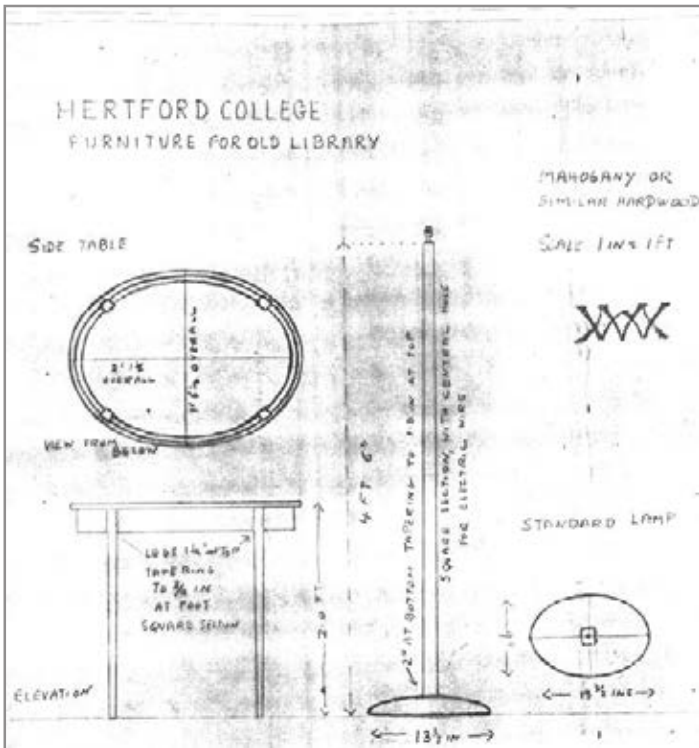


FIGURE 4B. SIDE TABLE AND STANDARD LAMP

PROJECT 5: CENTRAL HEATING IN PRINCIPAL'S LODGINGS

An estimate had been obtained from one of the main Oxford firms to install central heating in the Principal's lodgings. It was widely believed that there was collusion between the major companies. If firm A was habitually employed by college X, and firm B by college Y, they would not trespass on each other's 'territory'. If college X sought an estimate from firm B, it would be higher than that from firm A.

I considered that the estimate we had received was excessive. I made plans of the lodgings as though it were a separate house, with the identical number and sizes of rooms, and submitted it to a smaller firm, asking if they could give me an approximate idea of how much it would cost to fit a central heating system. The estimate was about one third of the one obtained originally. On pursuing the matter further, as soon as the new firm learned that the 'house' was part of a college, they withdrew and declined to submit a tender.

PROJECT 6: THE OCTAGON

The ground floor was in use as a carpenter's workshop and store for the man employed on college maintenance. Alternative premises were found, so that the ground floor and first floors of the Octagon were refurbished and became useful additions to student facilities.

PROJECT 7: NEW BUILDINGS 3, THE COLLEGE BAR

Before 1939 junior members of the University (in statu pupillari) were not permitted to enter Public Houses. Undergraduates from Wadham and Hertford, however, could sometimes be found in their nearest hostelrys, the King's Arms and the Turf Tavern. These were routinely raided by a Proctor and Bowler-hatted Bulldogs, who 'progged' the miscreants, who were subsequently fined. After the war the University welcomed numerous ex-service men to continue their studies, and it was clearly inappropriate to restrict the liberty of someone who could recently have been a Captain or a Major. Several colleges created their own 'pubs' where members could consume alcohol on the premises. Hertford had neither a college bar, nor any obvious place to put one.

In my survey of the college premises I discovered that a great deal of space in the cellars of NB 3 was being used to store 'junk' of various kinds. This was cleared out and the area was fitted out to form a college bar for students.

PROJECT 8: MIDDLE COMMON ROOM

The college had many graduate students, but no MCR. The domestic bursar occupied a room at the top of the Hall staircase. Between the stairs and the door and East wall of the room, was a large lobby, a substantial wasted space. I realised that if this wall (a partition wall only) and the door were re-sited to the top of the stairs, a large long room would be created. This enlarged room then became the MCR and was appropriately re-furnished. It is now known as the Ferrar Room.

PROJECT 9: THE INDIAN INSTITUTE

In 1947 India became an independent state (“threw off the yoke of her oppressor”), and the Oxford Indian Institute no longer had its former significance. The University decided that if an alternative site could be found in which to locate the archives and other contents which it wished to preserve, the building itself could be released to serve another purpose.

One obvious possibility was to incorporate the institute into Hertford College, where its unsightly backside already intruded into the New Buildings quad, as is illustrated in Figure 5. A lone tree provides inadequate camouflage.



FIGURE 5. PROTRUSION OF REAR OF INDIAN INSTITUTE

A number of discussions were held, but no conclusion was reached. Ultimately it was decided to put the matter to a vote in Convocation. All Oxford MAs were entitled to vote, but had to be present in person to do so. Hertford contacted alumni to explain the situation, and invited those who took the trouble to travel to Oxford to a lunch in the hall of their alma mater.

A certain alumnus, whose name I know, but will not divulge, treacherously leaked this information to the gutter press, who, always eager to bash the toffs, produced headlines about BRIBERY. Nevertheless, Hertford won the vote.

The University was in no mood for an immediate hand-over, however, and discussions continued. Surveyors reported that there was some misalignment of the West front of the building, and that expensive remedial work would be needed before any substantial redevelopment could proceed. Also, an alternative site in which to house the contents of the Institute had first to be found. Rhodes House had been suggested as a possible recipient, but the project was abandoned. Even if the whole Institute were to be assigned to Hertford, there were serious doubts whether the large main spaces could be usefully adapted for college facilities. Our main interest was to increase our accommodation for students. By demolishing part of the East block of the institute, which intruded into our quad, it would be possible to replace it with an L-shaped block of student rooms, with a staircase in the centre, between the two wings, as illustrated in Figure 6.

Since it was doubtful whether Hertford could make good use of the whole Institute, as a compromise, I suggested that the University should retain the fine structures to the West, and that Hertford could be allotted the ugly extensions to the East, which already extended into our NB quadrangle. This proposal was favourably received, because it solved the immediate problem of housing the contents of the Institute, and no renovation of the West front would be involved. Accordingly I prepared some detailed plans for a redevelopment of the East block, to provide additional accommodation in harmony with our existing buildings. This plan is shown in Figure 6.

The plan was approved sufficiently for a major firm of architects (Arup) to be invited to comment, and we discussed the feasibility of its implementation. Indeed, the project now seemed so possible that it was decided to launch an appeal, and a professional fundraiser was employed. There were still some architectural details to be completed, however, and a disagreement arose concerning the exact position of the dividing wall between the North West-to-East section and the extension into the NB quad. This was of no practical importance, because the wall actually existed, and would not be altered by any development of the East block. In Figure 6, I have drawn in the position of both the dividing lines, and it is apparent that either line would be acceptable. At a subsequent meeting the Principal (Brown) made a comment which implied some incompetence on the part of the surveyors, which was not well received by the Vice-chancellor (Bullock), who reminded us that the University possessed the Indian Institute, and ownership was not transferred by a vote in Convocation.

In the meantime Brown died, and eventually the new Principal discontinued negotiations on the ground that Hertford did not have sufficient funds to pursue the development. (Later, the appeal was highly successful.)

Eventually the Institute was occupied by the Modern History faculty. Recently the University undertook a complete overhaul of its library policies, and the Indian Institute is currently the home of the Oxford Martin School. If the whole of the building is not required, is it possible that the East block might again become available, and our claim be resurrected?

PROJECT 10: THE SWIFT ROOM

As can be seen in the 1957 plan of the Old Buildings (marked as number 10 in Figure 3A), just to the North of the entrance lobby there was a small post-room (containing pigeon-holes etc.) with a window giving onto Catte Street. To the East of this, a room opening onto the Hall staircase was occupied by the bursar (Ferrar).

I realised that if the bursar were to relocate, and if the wall dividing his office from the post-room were to be removed, a large room stretching from the quad to Catte Street would be created, conveniently next to the buttery. This became a new JCR, and was later named, for a reason unknown to me, the Swift room. I had discovered that, when the Old Chapel was superseded, an oak screen and pews were removed and stored in the basement under the New Chapel. A carpenter was engaged to resurrect the fine oak screen, and re-install it as panelling on the walls of the Swift room. Many years later it was decided to enlarge the lodge, but plans I had made, which retained an extended lodge on the South of the lobby, were rejected, and the lodge was repositioned to the North. If the alterations that led to the creation of the Swift room had not been carried out, however, an enlarged lodge to the North of the lobby would have had nowhere to go. So, although the Swift room expired, it did not perish in vain.

PROJECT 11: THE NEW LIBRARY

In my 1964 report to the Governing Body (mentioned earlier), I had suggested how a much larger library could be created by developing the Old Chapel and the space between it and the Codrington Library of All Souls. The proposal was approved, and I prepared detailed plans, which involved constructing a second floor in the Old Library at the level of the foot of the windows overlooking the quad, and extending it Southwards over the W.C. block, which would have to be demolished. Plans were already in tow, however, for providing new toilets in the basement of OB 1, and it was intended these would be executed first. On the ground floor of the Old Chapel library, tables and desks were installed, each place having an individual light, and being separated from its neighbour by a partition to minimise disturbance. On the floor above there was a more open design, with shelves for reference books. The windows on the South side of the Old Chapel were removed, so that there was access from the North to the South side of the upper floor through the window openings. In the South East corner of this floor a window provided light and a view over the garden of the warden of New College.

It was decided to go ahead with the project, and my plans were handed to the architect Gray, under whose supervision the development proceeded in full. In 1982 a small office for a librarian was added in the South East corner of the ground floor, executed by a firm who made copies of my plans. The originals were not returned to me, but the 1982 copies are reproduced in Figures 7A and 7B.

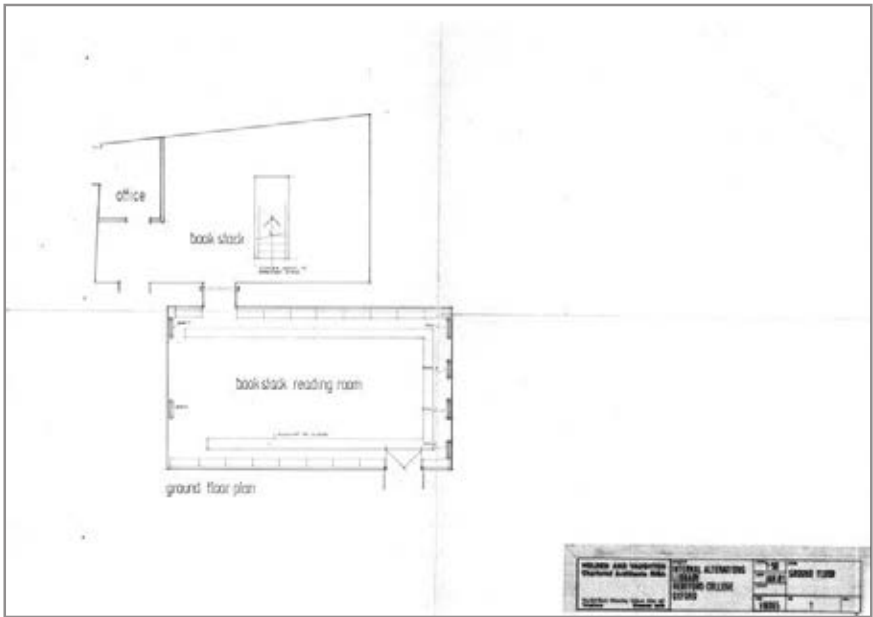


FIGURE 7A. LIBRARY GROUND FLOOR

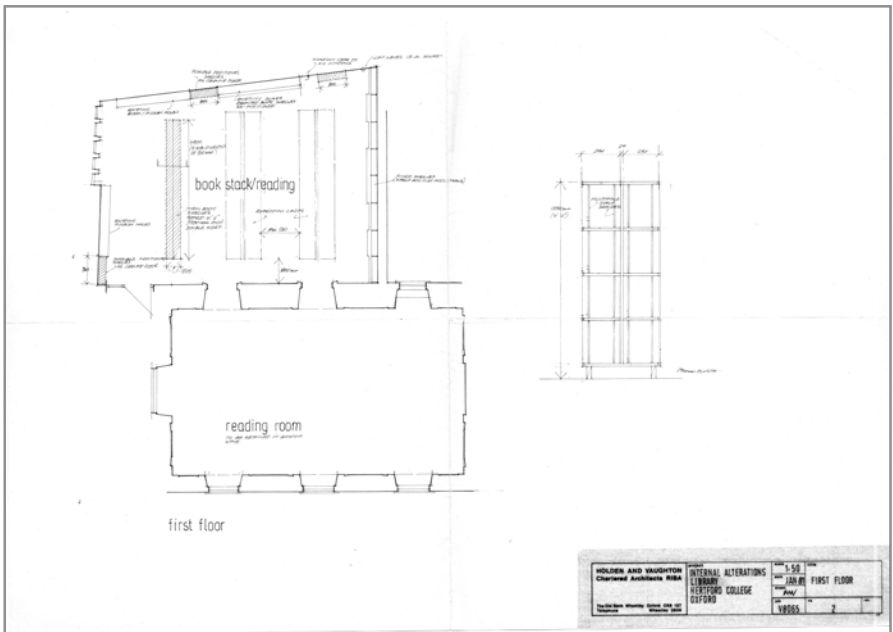


FIGURE 7B. UPPER FLOOR OF LIBRARY

PROJECT 12: IMPROVEMENTS TO OLD BUILDING 4

I was allotted a room in the old Hart Hall part of OB 4, opposite the SCR. There was an adjoining unfurnished closet. A sewer ran under the road in New College Lane outside, and a new sewer connection was made, so that the closet became a bedroom with en-suite bath and W.C. After my retirement it became a guest-room for many years. It was especially appreciated by former pupils of mine who came to present a talk at a 'VW dinner' and who could then spend the night in the room in which they had attended tutorials.

PROJECT 13: MAJOR REDEVELOPMENT OF OLD BUILDING 1

An account of the two-year saga of this project is given in detail in the appendices. An early proposal to redevelop OB 1 had been put forward, and the architect, Gray, in August 1961, submitted a plan, which, inter alia, involved the demolition of chimney-stacks. The project was not pursued, however. In 1965 I was asked to take up the question of modernising OB 1 again. Mr Gray had believed that supporting beams for the floors were attached to the stacks, and that some steel joists would have to be installed before the stacks were removed. I personally doubted whether, in 1820, builders would have inserted wooden beams into stacks containing several flues for coal fires. It seemed prudent, however, to seek an expert opinion. A structural engineer was commissioned to report, and for his convenience we supplied a copy of our plans of the building. He recommended the provision of steel joists and ties, and when, much later, the development proceeded, the recommended steelwork was ordered and installed. The installation proved to be unnecessary, in fact, because, when the stacks were being prepared for demolition, we found that, as I had surmised,

there was no connection at all between the wooden beams and the stacks. It transpired that the ‘expert’ had just made a guess after inspecting the plans, which we had provided, and had never even visited the site. Unfortunately he had long since been paid his fee.

I had meanwhile prepared detailed plans for the whole development, which were submitted to, and passed by, the City Council. It had been our intention to proceed with the project in phases, during successive long vacations. The first phase consisted of installation of showers and toilets in the basement, including a new connection to the sewer under the Bridge (Figure 8B). Unfortunately, various delays, detailed in the appendix, made it impossible to start as planned, leaving insufficient time to complete this phase before the end of the long vacation. The construction of the New Library, however, was already in full swing, and the original W.C. block had disappeared.

The removal of the stack permitted simple partitions to be constructed in their place, converting ‘sitting-room and small-bedrooms’ into two substantial bed-sitters. With the additional modifications to the East, the available accommodation in OB 1 was doubled. In the North-facing end of the original 1820 block the window apertures had been blocked in. I had these opened up and new windows installed, giving the rooms on this façade fine views of the Bridge and Clarendon Building (Figure 8A).



FIGURE 8A. WINDOWS OF NORTH FAÇADE OF OB 1

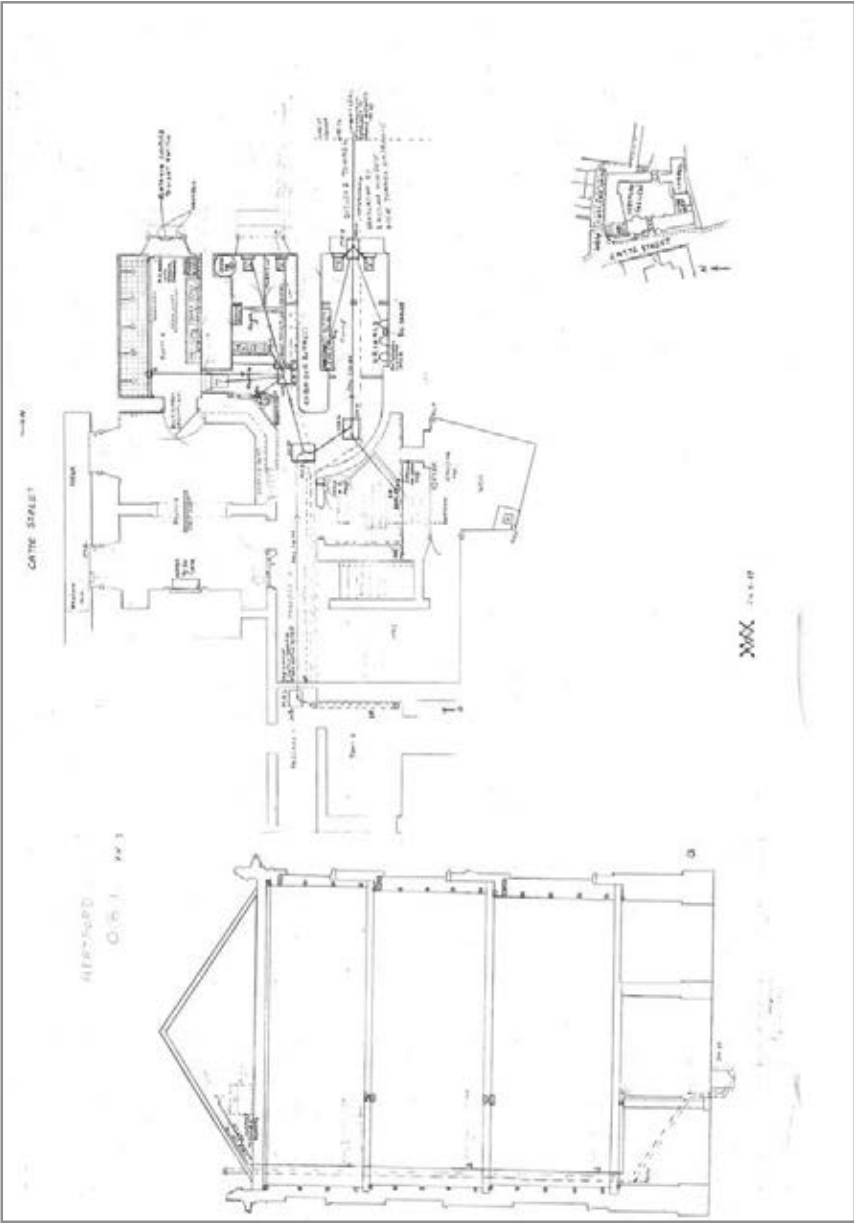


FIGURE 8B. PLUMBING OF OB 1
BASEMENT AND SECTION

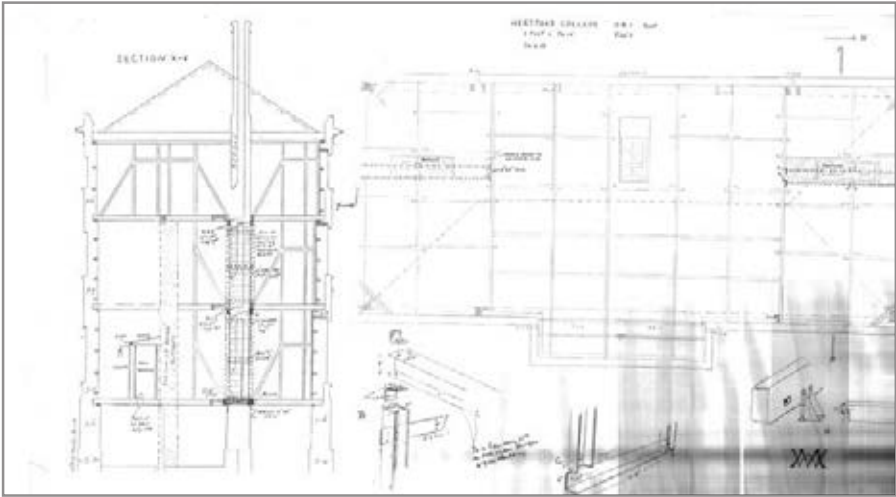


FIGURE 8C. OB 1 SECTION

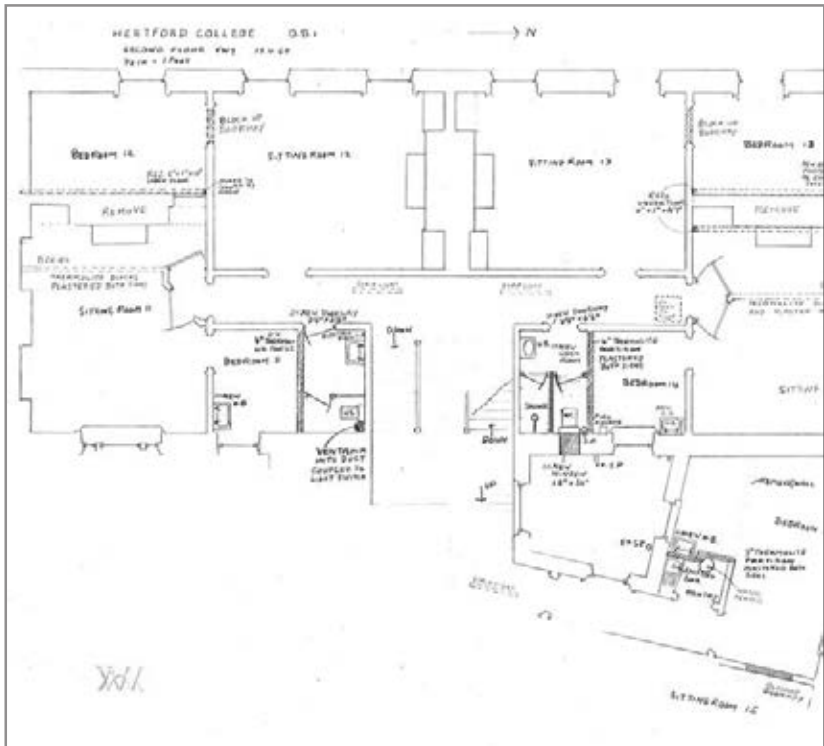


FIGURE 8D. OB 1 2ND FLOOR

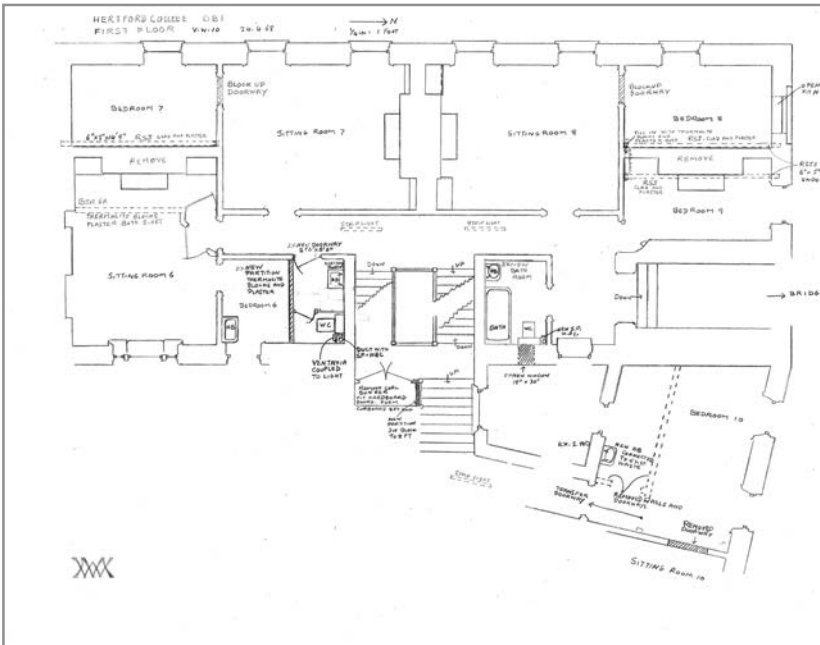


FIGURE 8E. OB 1 FIRST FLOOR

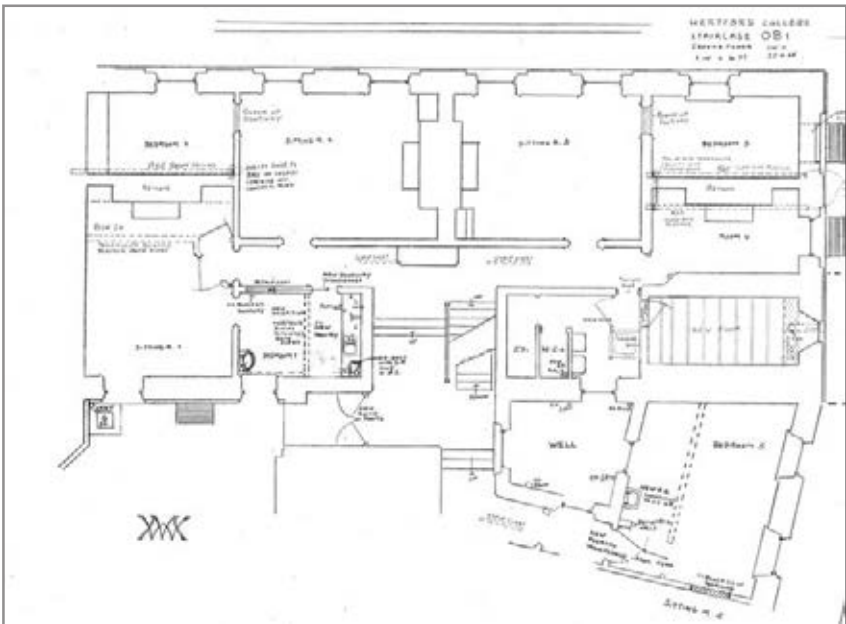


FIGURE 8F. GROUND FLOOR

PROJECT 14: RENOVATION OF KITCHEN AND ENVIRONS

In the 1950s the cuisine supplied for the dons on High Table was excellent, but that for the undergraduates was not so good. One of my pupils from the North of England, accustomed to fine home cooking, found Hertford food so repulsive that he took most of his meals in Wadham, through the collaboration of a friend. The Wadham fare was much better, but not more expensive, so where did the money go? Eventually, members of the Junior Common Room organised a strike, by refusing to take meals in Hall.

Not long after my election I was taken by the SCR butler, Norman Bayliss, to inspect the kitchen after the staff had left. I was surprised by the poor state of hygiene (e.g. an old egg shell in the gap between cookers), and I could understand Norman's disquiet. Much of the equipment was old.

It was apparent that improvements could be made not only in the material facilities, but also, perhaps, in the organisation. If the chef were to concentrate on the preparation of the meals, a catering manager could be in charge of the purchase of ingredients. An area would have to be found for a catering manager's office nearby. In placing the kitchen under the hall, Jackson had created the problem of transporting a great deal of food, some of it hot, from cooking to consumption. There was, in the North East of the basement, a cabinet which could be hauled up and down in a shaft by pulling on a rope. This clumsy and time-consuming apparatus was replaced by an electric lift closer to the hall.

The Hertford chef (Dyer) had played an influential role in the foundation of a catering school at the Oxford Technical College (now Oxford Brookes University), and he suggested that a group of catering students be engaged to design a new kitchen layout with modern equipment, as their research project. I had located, in the basements adjoining the

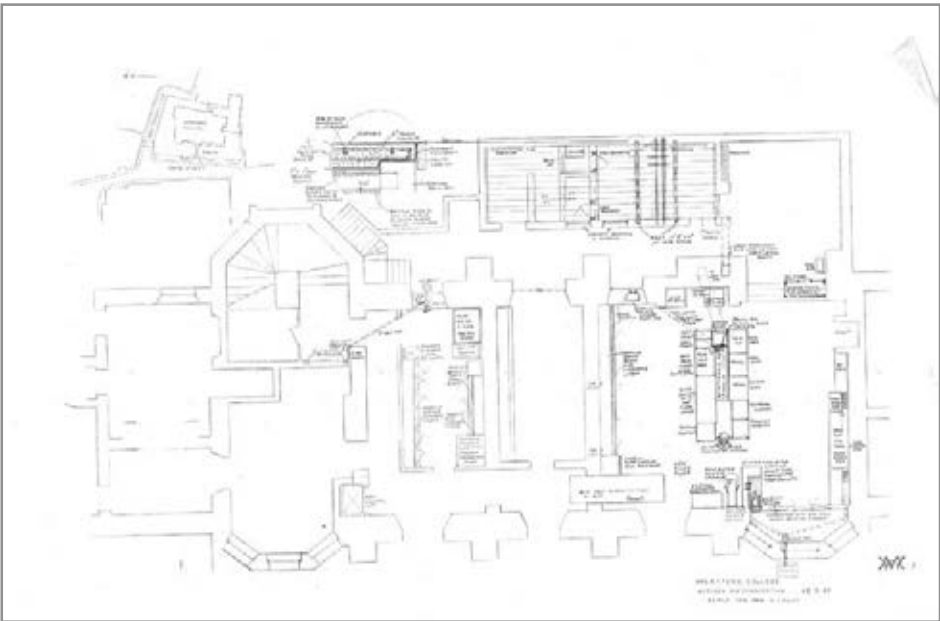


FIGURE 9A. PLAN OF NEW KITCHEN

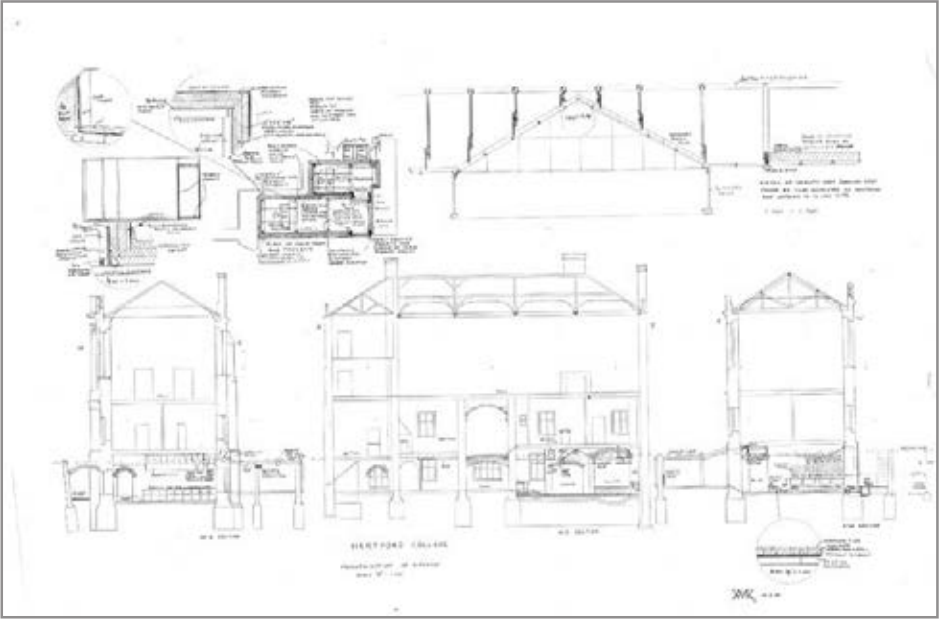


FIGURE 9B. KITCHEN SECTION AND PLAN OF KITCHEN

kitchen, a lot of space which was filled with material no longer useful (fire-lighters, for example, a serious hazard). By re-using these areas for storing provisions, the large room next to the kitchen currently used for this purpose could be released to create a separate pastry kitchen. There was also room for a walk-in freezer and an office for a catering manager. The kitchen ceiling was disfigured by pipes supplying the, recently installed, central heating for the Principal's lodgings. A new ceiling was fitted below the existing one, to hide the pipes, and a 'marbled' floor was laid for easy cleaning. Outside the kitchen, disused coal bunkers were cleared, and adapted for use as changing-rooms for the kitchen staff.

When all these developments had been completed, there was a grand opening ceremony, with VIPs and speeches. The kitchen looked magnificent, with spanking new modern equipment, a gleaming floor and uncluttered ceiling. Unfortunately, serious problems arose. The floor was slippery when wet. The ceiling had insulating properties, and the kitchen became too hot in summer, so that a large fanned ventilation was needed. Worst of all, the ceilings of the old coal storage bunkers were not waterproof, and major work had to be undertaken to replace the original roofs with a reinforced concrete slab. In spite of these setbacks, the quality of the food was greatly improved.

PROJECT 15: THE HOLYWELL QUADRANGLE

The houses between Hertford College New Buildings and Bath Place on the South side of Holywell Street belonged to Merton College. Merton decided to sell them, and offered them on generous terms to Hertford. The purchase and cost of further construction on the site was beyond the college's resources in 1966, and additional funds had to be found.

1. All Souls college needed some extra accommodation, and raised the possibility that if suitable rooms could be found for their use in a redevelopment, they would be willing to contribute to the cost and, after a number of years, would depart and leave the accommodation in Hertford's possession. After prolonged negotiation this proposal was abandoned.
2. Swimming Pool. There was no swimming pool in central Oxford. One of my medical students, Gary Green, swam for the University, and we thought there might be room for a 25 metre pool parallel to St. Helen's passage to the South of the Holywell houses, in what were currently their gardens. A Canadian Hertford alumnus, James Catty, heard of this possibility from a conversation with our bursar (Houston) who was on a Canadian visit. I received a letter from Mr Catty, dated Nov 30th 1970, in which he wrote: "I discussed this matter with Mr David Henry, the President of MAJOR POOL EQUIPMENT CORPORATION (Canada), with which I had been previously associated. I asked David whether I could pay MAJOR POOL for the manufacturer's cost, including the filter and related equipment. If arrangements can be worked out, it is still my intention to do so." This proposal was taken seriously, and progressed to an architect producing a plan, but subsequent discussion with Oxford City Council resulted in the conclusion that the proposition was not viable, because the excavation could reach the water table.

3. The Appeal. In 1967 it had been decided to launch an appeal for funds to pay for redevelopment (the possibility of gaining the Indian Institute was still in play). Professional fundraisers were engaged (Hooker, Craigmile & Co), who prepared an elaborate brochure with photos etc. By 1970, £129,000 had been raised.

During Principal Boyd's long reign the New Chapel was built (Jackson 1908) with help from the Drapers Company. The Company continued to be benefactors, and every year the Master and Officers have been invited to dine in college at a special 'Drapers Dinner'. Naturally on the next occasion, the possibility of developing the Holywell site was mentioned. It so happened that the Master of the Drapers at that time was an architect (Playne). He wrote to the Principal (Robert Hall) offering to help, and expressing an interest in the fact that an architect had not yet been chosen. The Governing Body duly engaged Playne & Vallance as architects to design a new quadrangle extending South to St. Helen's passage. The site as it existed then is shown in Figure 10, which presents a survey of the available houses.

Playne & Vallance produced their designs for the Holywell development. The main plan is reproduced in Figure 11C. An artist's impression of the buildings, as seen from inside the quadrangle, looking East towards New College, is shown in Figure 11B, and a view from St. Helen's passage, looking West towards New Buildings, is depicted in Figure 11A.

These plans were considered, and a decision had to be made whether to accept them as a basis for our appeal, and to proceed to seeking a tender from builders. I personally felt they failed on three grounds. First, they involved the demolition of the houses, destroying the charm of one of Oxford's surviving 'heritage' streets. Similar fine old houses had already been lost in 1937, when the New Bodleian was constructed. Secondly, the modern glass 'treatment' was

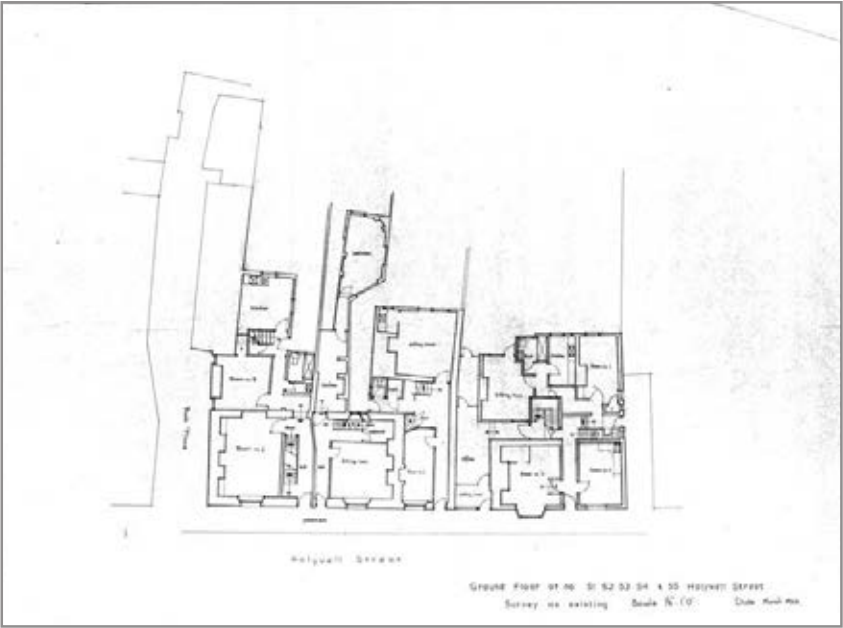


FIGURE 10. HOLYWELL HOUSES

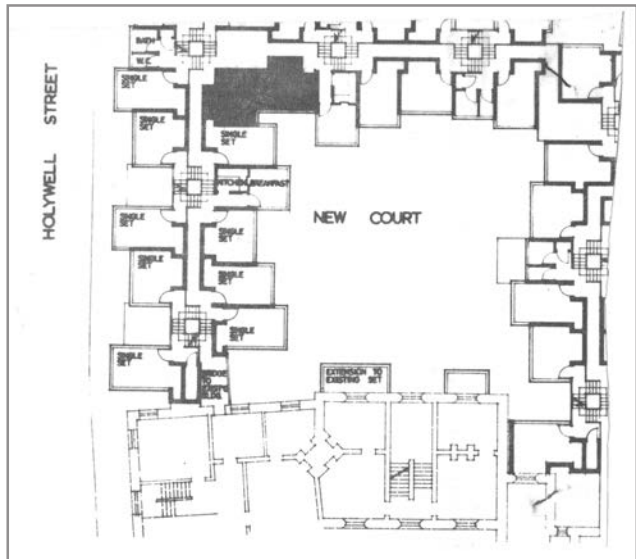


FIGURE 11A. ARTIST'S IMPRESSION OF MAIN BUILDINGS

FIGURE 11B.
VIEW OF BUILDINGS
FROM ST. HELEN'S
PASSAGE



FIGURE 11C.
MAIN PLAN



wholly out of keeping with the architecture of the area. Thirdly, the view of New College tower was blocked.

It was evident that the Playne & Vallance partnership had put in a great deal of work in preparing their plans, and if these were not accepted, the college would still be required to pay a substantial sum in fees. Furthermore, it would be undiplomatic to appear to be unappreciative of a traditional benefactor. At a crunch meeting of the Governing Body, I presented my objections to the Playne & Vallance scheme, and the vote was to reject it, in spite of the difficult consequences. Our face was saved to some extent, however, because not long afterwards the Playne & Vallance plans, which had to be submitted to the Arts Council, were turned down.

“It’s all very well, VW, to be negative about the Playne & Vallance scheme, but what are we going to put in its place?” I got down to drawing and actually produced three sets of plans, revised each time in response to criticism. It so happened that a Hertford alumnus was secretary to the Royal Institute of British Architects. His former tutor, Felix Markham, had told him of our problem, and he arranged a lunch at the Oxford & Cambridge Club in London for Markham, myself and the President of the RIBA (Shepherd). When we got to the coffee, Shepherd asked “What can I do to help?” Whereupon (I just happen to have my poems with me.....) I produced my latest drawing, admitting how embarrassed I was, as an amateur, to submit architectural plans to the President of the RIBA. “My dear chap, do not be the least bit embarrassed. One of our problems, as architects, when requested to design a building, is that prospective clients sometimes have no idea what they want. Even a sketch on the back of an envelope would be helpful. On the contrary, you have taken the trouble to produce a detailed plan, drawn to scale. Any architect worth his salt should be able to provide all you want, plus 10% more.”

The upshot was that Shepherd came to Oxford, and we went over the site together. He took many photographs from different positions, including the top of New College tower. My plan had retained the frontage of the Holywell houses, removing some later additions to the rear (kitchens, outhouses etc.), and adding a new range of rooms in their place. New building, on the South and East sides, would include a low one-story structure at the South East corner, so that a view of New College tower would be framed, as though it belonged to us. Shepherd's plan retained these features, but in addition he restored a fine façade to the rear of the original house in the North East corner of the quad, and he placed the staircase to the South block in a tall structure which echoed New College tower. In fact, he "provided all I wanted plus 20% more", as is illustrated in Figures 12A (my drawing) and 12B (architect's plan).

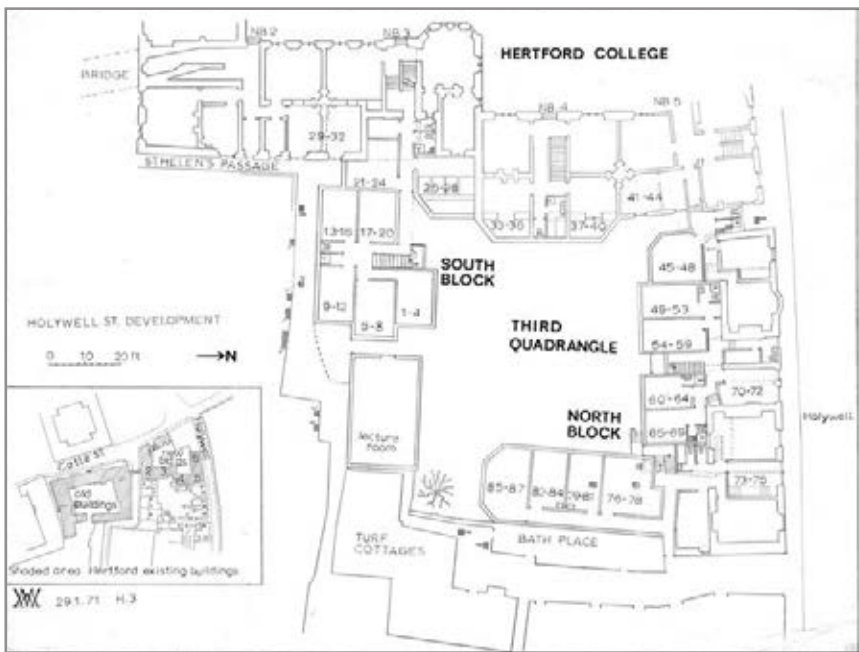


FIGURE 12A. VW PLAN OF HOLYWELL QUAD

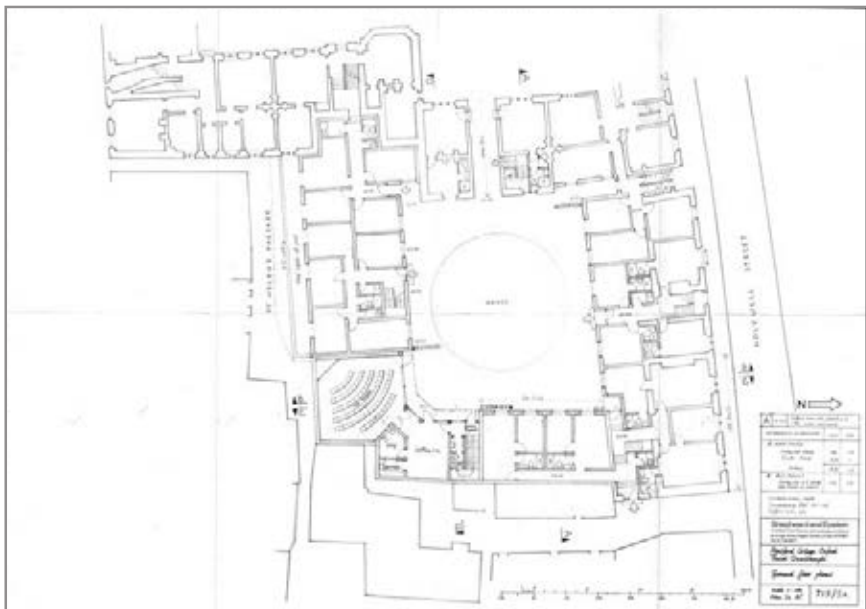


FIGURE 12B. ARCHITECT'S PLAN OF HOLYWELL QUAD

PROJECT 16: ABINGDON HOUSE SITE DEVELOPMENT

The college acquired Abingdon House, the houses to the West, and a large open area to the South West, which had formerly been a garage. There was a stream on the South boundary. I prepared plans for an ambitious development, damming and culverting the stream to form a pond on the South border of a three-story block of student rooms. A kitchen and dining room to the West completed a new quadrangle. These plans were rejected by the City Council, on the grounds that the site was overloaded. We had to be content with a remodelling of the existing buildings. After a decade I resigned from my role as supervisor of modernisation, to concentrate on my research. The financial position of the college was vastly improved after the Franks Report, whereby substantial endowment funds were redistributed from rich to poor colleges. Hertford no longer needed unpaid amateur services. The Graduate Centre to the South of Folly Bridge, and the Warnock block to the North, have provided sufficient accommodation for all.

THE APPENDICES

I conserved all correspondence, invoices etc. related to the above sixteen projects, and on my resignation I collected them into some box-files, which I handed over to the Principal. Some years ago, I was approached by the librarian (Stephanie West), who thought I might have the answer to some query “because I had had something to do with the library’s renovation.” I referred to the existence of the box-files, in which all the information she required could be found. Unfortunately the whereabouts of the files is at present unknown. I had retained most of my original drawings (copies of which had to be used as blue-prints for submission for planning permission etc.). I had also retained copies of some documents for my personal records, from which the accounts above have been prepared.

My decade of supervision was stressful, because nearly all work had to be completed during a long vacation. The worst nightmare was the redevelopment of OB 1, due to the chicanery and downright dishonesty of some participants, which made it impossible to complete the first phase by the end of the long vacation, and the whole project had to be postponed for a year. I used to keep a diary of the progress of each project. To provide a flavour of the effort and frustrations involved, the appendices are facsimiles of my diaries written during the OB 1 development.

APPENDIX ONE

Brief. Staircase OB.1, Hertford College.

1. Some time during Mr. Ross's tenure of office as Bursar, Mr. Gray, of Booth, Ledeboer and Pinkheard (now Pinkheard & Partners, 18 Beaumont Street), was asked to prepare a scheme for modernising OB.1 staircase.

At present there are sixteen suites (sitting-room and bedroom) accommodating 20 persons.

In Mr. Gray's first scheme, dated August 11th, 1961, provision was made for 25 bedsitters, accommodating 25 persons, with appropriate plumbing.

In the second scheme, there were 19 bedsitters and six suites, accommodating 25 persons, but with a different layout for plumbing.

Both Mr. Gray's schemes involved the demolition of the chimney breasts on the North side and in the centre of the building.

Mr. Ross then left Oxford, and the scheme fell into abeyance.

2. In the summer of 1965 Dr. Vaughan Williams was asked to take up the question of modernising OB.1 again. A new scheme was prepared, in which provision was made for 27 bedsitters and 4 suites, accommodating 31 persons. The scheme involved demolition of all three chimney breasts. Mr. Gray confirmed that in his own scheme, the weight of the floors, which is now taken by the chimney breasts, would be transferred to rolled steel joists let into the existing external and internal walls.

The Vaughan Williams' scheme was approved by Governing Body, and a specification and drawings were prepared in considerable detail and sent out to tender, in Michaelmas Term 1966. Estimates received were:

20.1.66	Quinton & Breakspear	£ 5,961	(including redecoration)
31.1.66	Knowles & Son	£ 9,742	" "
20.1.66	Gray & Thomas	£12,000	" "
1.2.66	Marshall Andrew	£ 8,486	(excluding redecoration)

7.2.66 An estimate for rewiring of £850 was received from Watson & Co., but after some discussion with representatives of the firm, 21.2.66, this was reduced to £576.

15.3.66 After talks with representatives of Marshall Andrew & Co. their estimate was reduced to £7,840. This was nearly £2,000 higher than Quinton & Breakspear's estimate, but because the latter was a small firm which had never undertaken such a big job, it was decided to accept Marshall Andrews tender, owing to the

necessity for completing the work during the summer vacation of 1966. Quanton & Breakspear accepted this decision amicably, and an ex gratia payment of £50 was made to them for the work they had done in preparing the estimate.

18.3.66 Marshall Andrews tender was formally accepted.

3. In submitting their estimate of 15.3.66, Marshall Andrews stated "We would confirm that it would be necessary to obtain the advice of a structural engineer regarding the practicability of removing the chimney breasts".

The College agreed verbally to this, and it turned out that the internal walls, which according to Mr. Gray's original scheme, were to have taken the weight of the floors via steel joists let into them, were insufficiently strong, and that it would be necessary to add steel members to take the weight, and tie-rods to stabilize the outer walls. Mr. Moore, the engineer consulted by Marshall Andrews, was asked to prepare details of the additional strengthening required, and for Marshall Andrews to submit an additional estimate.

4. Marshall Andrews then took the initiative in suggesting that it might be to the advantage of the College, in view of (3) above, to scrap the Vaughan Williams' scheme, to strip down the whole of the inside of the building and to build weight-bearing walls in appropriate places from the basement up.

The critical question was one of cost. Until we knew how much the extra strengthening required for the Vaughan Williams' Scheme would cost, we had no means of comparing the cost of the Vaughan Williams scheme + necessary steelwork, with that proposed by Marshall Andrews.

5. In March 1966 it was decided to have a joint meeting to discuss the whole problem.

<u>Present</u>	Dr. Vaughan Williams	Mr. Harding (Marshall Andrews)
	Mr. Malpas	Mr. Banfield, Architect, introduced
	Mr. Van Noorden	by M.A.
		Mr. Moore, Engineer, " " "

There are no written minutes of this meeting, but there are four points on which we are absolutely clear.

- (a) Mr. Moore was instructed to go ahead quickly with an assessment of the extra steelwork required by the Vaughan Williams' scheme, to provide a basis for comparison of costs.
- (b) No instructions were given to Mr. Moore to work on the Marshall Andrews' scheme.
- (c) Costs were discussed at considerable length. Dr. Vaughan Williams described more than once the economics of the situation. It was explained that each new room which would permit an extra undergraduate to be accommodated represented an asset worth about £1,000 to the College. For example, OB.1 at present accommodated 20 persons. The Vaughan Williams' scheme would permit 31 persons to be accommodated. Thus it would be an economic proposition for the College to spend £11,000 on the scheme. If Marshall Andrews could devise a scheme to accommodate 35 undergraduates, then a cost of £15,000 would be economic.
- (d) Mr. Banfield was asked to prepare a scheme on the lines suggested by Marshall Andrews (i.e. gutting the building, and constructing weight bearing walls) bearing in mind the following points.
 - (1) cost to be approximately £1,000 per extra person accommodated.
 - (2) No room to be less than 140 sq.ft.
 - (3) Washing facilities and at least 1 W.C. on each floor.

31.3.66 Letter from Harding accepting the cancellation of the contract for Vaughan Williams' scheme, expressing hope that, "When you have finalised the revised scheme we will have the opportunity of negotiating the contract for the execution of the work."

6. Who engaged Mr. Moore to work on Banfield's scheme?

6.5.66 Letter from Mr. Moore referring to meeting in Hertford on April 20 and discussion with Van Noorden on May 5th. "I confirm that I shall be pleased to act as your Consulting Engineer in connection with this scheme." Letter headed, "Reconstruction of 1820 Building"

Van Noorden maintains strongly that in conversations with Mr. Moore he discussed only the extra strengthening required to make the Vaughan Williams' scheme possible. It was never contemplated that Mr. Moore would be engaged to work on Mr. Banfield's scheme. Indeed, the only advantage of gutting the building was that the new internal walls would be solid and weight-bearing, so that the question of additional steelwork

would not arise.

Mr. Moore agrees to work on an "actual time" basis. He notes that Mr. Banfield "of Messrs. Marshall-Andrew is preparing layout drawings for your consideration". This, again, is an important point because it dissociates Mr. Moore from Mr. Banfield. If at this time he had contemplated working in collaboration with Mr. Banfield, would he not have said so?

7. Architectural drawings.

At the joint meeting in March 1966 (para (5)) it was evident that if Mr. Banfield was to measure up OB.1 and draw plans, the College would be involved in considerable expense.

We mentioned that we had in our possession books of original architectural plans, some of them drawn by Jackson himself. It was pointed out that these were a valuable heritage, and quite irreplaceable, and that although we would be glad for Mr. Banfield to examine them, we would be very reluctant to part with them. We finally agreed to allow Mr. Banfield to take them away, on the strict understanding that he would keep them for only so long as was necessary for him to make copies of the relevant parts, and that they would then immediately be returned to the College.

Before Vaughan Williams left Oxford to go to India in August 1966, he learned that the books had still not been returned, and urged that Mr. Banfield be enjoined to return them immediately.

In June 1967, Vaughan Williams could not find one of the books, and learned that it was still in Mr. Harding's keeping. It was only returned on 10th July 1967.

The main point of this, apart from demonstrating appalling slackness on the part of Marshall Andrews, is that at no time was it necessary for Mr. Banfield or Mr. Moore to make any architectural drawings, but only to sketch in their ideas on copies supplied by Hertford.

8. 23.5.66. Letter from Marshall Andrews submitting Banfield's plan OB.1./1.

This plan was quite unacceptable, and was by unanimous agreement inferior to the Vaughan Williams' plan. The main objections were:

- (1) two rooms were 126 and 135 sq.ft. respectively, i.e. below the minimum stipulated.

- (2) the separation of the handbasins from the cupboards, and the siting of beds, handbasins and cupboards made the rooms even more "poky" than they need be on the basis of the space available.

Only a sketch of a "typical floor" was provided, in less detail than was given in Vaughan Williams' plan, and marked in on a copy of a plan supplied by us. This could have been prepared in a couple of hours, yet we had waited 7 weeks for it.

These objections were communicated to Marshall Andrew by Mr. Van Noorden by telephone.

9. 3.6.66 (2 weeks to go before long vacation). Letter from Marshall Andrew enclosing Mr. Banfield's OB.1/2.

This was now beginning to look very like Vaughan Williams' plan, but still contained one room of 132 sq.ft.

Here again, only a sketch of a "typical floor" was provided, with hardly any detail.

However, better use was made of the space available, (according to ideas supplied by us), and as time was so short it was felt that this would have to do. All now hinged on whether the net cost would be less than Vaughan Williams' plan.

Since Mr. Banfield's plan applied only to the 1820 buildings, the number of persons accommodated would be the same as in the Vaughan Williams' plan, i.e. according to our instructions (No.5 above) we anticipated the cost at about £10,000. (22 persons, instead of the present 12 persons, in the 1820 buildings only).

10. It was obvious that the delay of Mr. Banfield in submitting even outline sketches (total for the two, 1 day's work) even though he was provided with original architectural drawings of the whole building, had now made a start in long vacation 1966 an impossibility, and thus the whole project was delayed a year.

Further we could not understand why we had not received Mr. Moore's assessment of the structural work needed for making the Vaughan Williams' plan viable.

In fact it was not until September 13th 1966 that we received Marshall Andrews estimate for ~~the work~~. £ 40,000. Utter consternation!

Mr. Banfield's scheme.

11. The tender was, of course, immediately rejected.
The College is quite firm on a number of points.

- (a) There was a clear direction that the cost that would be acceptable to the College was approximately £1,000 per extra person accommodated. i.e. if 35 persons were accommodated instead of 20, £15,000 would be reasonable. This point was repeatedly emphasized at the meeting (5) above.

In the event, the plan would provide for 30 persons (Vaughan Williams' plan, 31), and thus a cost of £10,000 would have been the target.

- (b) It must have been clear to Marshall Andrew very early on that the cost would vastly exceed £10,000. The College considers it quite inadmissible that they should have continued with these plans, including - as it turned out, though we did not know this - the employment of a structural engineer, without warning the College of the very great increase in estimated cost. We feel we cannot accept liability for architectural and engineer's fees in these circumstances.

12. It seemed, therefore, that the best solution was to revert to the Vaughan Williams plan. But we still had not received an estimate for the strengthening required. Mr. Van Noorden repeatedly telephoned Mr. Harding during Michaelmas Term 1966, requesting this estimate.

13. 25th January 1967 (!) The estimate at last arrived. The cost of additional strengthening was only £625.

Had we known this in March 1966 or soon after, we would have gone ahead with the Vaughan Williams' plan straightaway, and the whole project would have been completed by October 1966.

The delay in the submission of this estimate, and the intervention of an alternative scheme, on the suggestion of Marshall Andrew, with gross misrepresentation of probable cost, has clearly involved the college in considerable financial loss. Each extra undergraduate represents an income of approximately £200 per annum, nett. i.e. 11 extra students in October 1966 would already have brought in £2,200 to offset a capital expenditure of, say, £10,000.

The total cost of the Vaughan Williams' project, in Marshall Andrews new estimate, had now gone up to £11,655, or £11,030 (allowing for the £625 of additional strengthening) i.e., £3,190 more than the estimate of £7,840 submitted for the same job on March 31st 1966. This increase of approximately 40% in a few months was difficult to understand. Confidence in Marshall Andrews was rapidly evaporating, and the tender was

rejected. A breakdown of costs included an item of £450 professional fees.

14. Meanwhile the College had already embarked on a library extension which had involved the loss of 8 W.C.s in the front quadrangle. According to our original timetable this would not have mattered, because extra W.C.s would have been available in OB.1 by October 1966.

The problem was acute, and it was felt that a reduced scheme for OB.1 concentrating on the plumbing, but postponing the demolition of the chimney breasts, should be adopted.

29.1.67 Letter to Mr. Harding requesting estimate for a limited scheme. Since this was part of the original scheme (Vaughan Williams), very little additional work in preparing drawings should have been required.

15. 7.2.67 Estimate from Marshall Andrew for revised scheme of
£5,755 N.B. Basement area £ 400
Plumbing £2075

Some breakdown of these costs was requested, and as a result of a satisfactory explanation to Van Noorden (At this meeting Mr. Van Noorden and Mr. Banfield agreed on some alteration of layout in the basement only. The scheme above ground was unaltered.)

13.2.67 Mr. Banfield was requested to prepare working drawings for the revised and limited scheme.

This was the first time that the preparation of working drawings had been requested by Hertford and the request was made on the understanding that the work would cost £5,755.

16. 18.4.67 Letter from Marshall Andrews to say Banfield had submitted drawings for bye-law and planning permission.
26.4.67 Letter from Marshall Andrews enclosing specification for electrical work submitted to Watsons.
2.5.67 Copies of some of Mr. Banfield's working drawings sent by Marshall Andrews.
5.5.67 Estimate by Watsons for electrical work £270. 9. 7d.
9.5.67 Receipt of estimate from Marshall Andrew for revised and limited scheme, for £9,755.

Renewed consternation!

- 12.5.67 Letter to Marshall Andrews rejecting tender. Pointed out
- (a) building work in basement raised from £400 to £1,525.
 - (b) plumbing raised from £2,300 to £3,755.
 - (c) electrical work now £950.
 - (d) building work for (c) raised from £45 to £150.

17. Visit from Mr. Wright, managing director of Marshall Andrews. Suggestion by Mr. Wright that his firm might be permitted to submit an estimate, involving no additional work for drawings, for a very minor scheme, providing 4 W.C.s, urinal, handbasins and necessary manholes and connection to sewer.
- 24.5.67 Letter to Wright from Vaughan Williams to put record of meeting in writing.
- 26.5.67 Letter from Marshall Andrews enclosing specification of very limited plan for basement only. Estimate £3,478.
- 1.6.67 Tender rejected.
- 6.6.67 Bill from Marshall Andrews for £525 for services (sic) rendered.
- 28.6.67 Bill for exploratory work done by Marshall Andrews for £21.13.10 paid.
- 3.7.67 Letter to Marshall Andrews stating that bill considered excessive, and that matter was being dealt with by College solicitors.

18. Employment of Mr. Moore.

As stated above, Mr. Moore attended meeting in March 1966, at which he was asked to assess amount of additional structural work required for Vaughan Williams' scheme. After the meeting Vaughan Williams accompanied Mr. Moore into roof of OB.1 to examine chimney breasts, layout of beams etc.

20.3.67 Moore submitted bill for £149. 3.10d.

The only thing that Vaughan Williams could find that the College had acquired for this sum was a copy (Drawing No.2262/2 undated) of one floor-plan and an elevation from the book of plans supplied by us, on which had been sketched in a few stanchions and tie-rods.

If we were to pay nearly £150, it seemed that we ought at least to have complete details of what was required to make the Vaughan Williams' scheme possible. A request was made to Moore to supply details of what had been done for £150.

A telephone call was received stating that Mr. O'Reilly, who, it was said, had done the work on OB.1, was visiting Oxford anyway on June 28th, and requesting an interview. This was agreed to.

Mr. O'Reilly was seen by Van Noorden and Vaughan Williams.

It was immediately obvious that he had done very little work on OB.1. He was questioned in considerable detail, and freely admitted that he had not calculated dimensions, thicknesses, materials etc., of the supporting framework required, but made a few guesses to help us. He had never even inspected the building.

It was apparent to him that we were wondering what the £150 was for, and he suggested that he thought some other work might have been done for Mr. Banfield, but he was not sure. This was a complete surprise to both Mr. Van Noorden and myself. It had not occurred to us that Mr. Moore was to be employed to help Mr. Banfield. His role, in both our minds, had been to instruct Marshall Andrew how much additional steelwork was necessary to make the Vaughan Williams' scheme possible.

29.6.67. Personal call to Vaughan Williams from Moore, obviously worried by report of conversation with us from O'Reilly. Claimed that 85 - 90% of work, for which £150 was asked, had been done on Mr. Banfield's scheme.

3.7.67 Letter to Moore from Vaughan Williams putting in writing a record of telephone conversation.

4.7.67 Letter from Moore claiming that he had been instructed to assist Mr. Banfield in drawing up his scheme. This is not our recollection, but there is no written record of this meeting. IN any case, our main point is that it must have been clear at a very early stage that the cost of their scheme would greatly exceed the £10,000 to £15,000 we were contemplating (according to the number of extra rooms), and Marshall Andrew had no justification for committing the College to continued employment of either Mr. Banfield or Mr. Moore without first warning us that costs would be higher.

19. What have we lost?

- (1) A building programme in ruins. Our planned projects are now hopelessly out of step. Instead of completing OB.1 in October 1966, before rebuilding the library, so that fresh W.C.s would be ready before the old ones were removed, we are 8 W.C.s short in the front quadrangle. This is causing serious inconvenience, and overloading the manhole from the * two W.C.s at present available for 20 people on OB.1.
- (2) We have lost more than £2,000 revenue, which will rise to £4,000 by the end of the minimum period we can hope to get OB.1 finished by another firm, October 1968. It may well prove impossible till October 1969.
- (3) We have lost a great deal of time and work to no purpose, especially Van Noorden and Vaughan Williams

20.

- * We have had to pay Knowles & Son £131 in February 1967 to clear the drains from these. This would not have arisen if new drains had already been installed by October 1966.

20. What have we gained?

- (1) We still have about £10,000 capital we would otherwise have spent, representing about £600 revenue. With the continued rise in building costs, this "gain" is illusory.
- (2) For the £525 demanded by Marshall Andrew we have two sketches of room layouts from Mr. Banfield, which provide us with no more rooms than the Vaughan Williams' plan Mr. Banfield's scheme was to replace.
- (3) We have some working drawings of a basement development which we cannot use, because the urgency of providing extra W.C.s is forcing us to adopt a different, much more limited, scheme in a hurry.
- (4) For the £150 demanded by Mr. Moore, we have one copy of a drawing supplied by us, on which a few stanchions and tie-rods have been sketched in. This is again useless, as there is insufficient detail for it to be helpful to a contractor.

APPENDIX TWO

Diary on Buildings and Modernization

		Hours
16.6.67.	Appointed Chairman Buildings & Modernization Committee. Discussion with Gilman. Present Van Noorden, V.W., Bursar. Gilman took away file on O.B.1. to study.	1
28.6.67.	Visit from O'Reilly. Letter to Moore.	1
29.6.67.	Telephone from Moore. Further letter.	½
June 30th to 12th July.	Preparation of brief from file recovered from Gilman.	16
12th July	Brief send to Gilman with file and plans.	
14th "	Start made on classifying plans and correspondence on other projects. Files prepared in Burnary.	3
14th - 19th July	Plans for basement in O.B.1. prepared.	28
14th July	Visit from Mr. Woodward S.E.B. to inspect cable.	½
18th "	Memo from Van Noorden sent to Gilman.	
19th "	Meeting with Quainton & Cutney. Submission of full specification and plan. Preparation of drawings for Library shelves. Send out to tender. Further meeting with Woodward & Summers of S.E.B. Was agreed they would submit estimate for new service for off-peak supply.	8
20th "	Quainton not happy about Cutney's estimate, said to be in region of £1,600. I said we'd have 2nd estimate. McLaughlan suggested G.W. Wheeler, Witney. Wheeler contacted. Asked to estimate. Estimates obtained from Hunt's for lockers. Meeting with Rep. (£135). Estimates for plumbing fixtures obtained M.B.S. (£404). Estimates for spare heaters from leaflets (£102).	8
21st "	Went over site with Wheeler. Prepared Bill of Quantities.	6
22nd "	Mr. Tigh of Building Inspection telephoned not happy about plan. Meeting with Tigh. Plans discussed, minor reservations agreed. New drawings prepared.	8
<u>Cleaning</u>	(Meeting with Parker of Stoneguard. Discussed cleaning in detail, on site after previous correspondence. Final raised estimate of £1,500 accepted).	3
		73

		b/f	73
23rd July	Commencement of arrangement of Library account		3
24th "	Estimate from Wheeler £994 + P. sum up to £70 for underground work. Quainton very unhappy that Wheeler's estimate so low. Suggested work not taken into account. Cutney's estimate now £1,260. Copies obtained of new drawing V.W. 3. Linen copy delivered to Tigh. Others to Quainton & Wheeler. Letter to Principal about cleaning. Letters to Bailey, Miss Noyce & Gray.		8
25th "	Depart to Littlehampton.		
28th "	Letter from Roger, requesting telephone to Quainton between 6 - 8.		
29th "	Telephoned to Quainton at 6.30, 7.0, 7.30, at last replied 7.45. Asked Quainton to go over site with Wheeler, and make sure he understood what was required, and submit raised estimate.		2
5th Aug.	Received estimate from Wheeler £900 for above ground. Nothing from Quainton. £257 for below ground.		
11th "	Letters to Quainton and Wheeler, White & Bennett, Armstrong and Jenner.		3
Aug. 17th	Returned to Oxford. Nothing done. Telephoned Quainton who finds Wheeler still not estimating for required cast junctions in manhole. Also stated Cutney's estimate included £30 'cut' to himself. Cutney's estimate, therefore, actually lower than Wheeler's if these factors taken into account. Telephoned Wheeler. Problem over cleaning 'standing by time'. Telephoned Parker.		6
18th Aug.	Meeting with Quainton. Final estimate for £3,312.9.-. agreed, including spare heaters, Sadies, lockers and £170 provisional for Water board and sewer connection. Letter to Wheeler rejecting final estimate. Meeting with Parker & Principal on site. Agreed solution to cleaning.		1
	Prepared documents and files to date.		3
	Meeting with Bennett in Library. Agreed details of shelving.		1
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Sept. 5th. Meet Quinton. Measure distance to manhole. Found to be 16ft. and not 8ft. (according to Banfield).
Excavation proved no tunnel. Must go in from top. Consult with Tigh. Agree on procedure. Stop work on tunnelling. Quinton talks of week's delay, and extra £200. 6

Sept. 6th Meeting in College with Van Noorden, Bursar & Quinton. Go to Town Hall. Pay for sewer connection. Arrange for permission. Visit Police. Arrange for supervision of excavation in road. Instruct Nixey's men to dig next morning 7 a.m. 4

Sept. 7th. A.M. Visit site. Arrange timetable for connection to sewer, and instruct Surveyor & Engineer's Department.
2 p.m. Meeting with Parker (1) Discuss completion of cleaning
(of Stoneguard). (2) Estimate for repointing.
(3) " " silicone.
(4) " " repair of basement stone.

Arrange for immediate removal of scaffolding on Bridge (with which a car had collided - no notification, apparently, to Town Hall). 6

Sept. 8th. Visit Town Hall. Pacify Tigh over scaffolding, and connection to sewer. (Lack of liason between Surveyor's and Engineering Departments had left him under impression we were connecting sewer without permission. I showed him my receipt for payment made to Engineer for making the connection. Sewer found. Connection made. Trench filled in. 2

Sept. 11th Visit site. Trench now over water main. No problems. See C.A.J.A. about crests. 1

Sept. 12th. Nixey finished work.

" 13th. No sign of anyone.

" 14th " " " " Rang Quinton to ask what was going on. Promised to contact plumber immediately.

" 15th. Still no workmen on site.
S.E.B. rang to give some information we had received, 8 weeks ago. Woodward said responsibility was that of Mr. Summers, who had 'forgotten' about the job. Rang Summers. Not available. Rang Woodward, who promised to contact Summers again without delay. 2

Sent copy of Crest to White & Bennett.

*Time sheet as draughtsman of Building. Redevelopment
for last quarter of '67*

- Sept. 20th Quanton & Cutney now at work on O.B.1. Still no reply from S.E.B. Went to 37 George Street and explained position to representative, who was appalled, and reported situation to Mr. Cox, head man, who promised action. 1 1/2
- Sept. 21st Letter to Quanton & Breakspear requesting piping and outflow for washing machine. Report (telephone) that something was being done.
- Sept. 26th Visit to College by Mr. Woodward. I was away. Was reported to have said that adaptation of existing supply to off-peak would cost £590. No written message.
- Sept. 27th 2.30. Saw Mr. Peet (?) of Gilman's, Solicitors. Discussed position of College concerning Marshall Andrews, and Moore. It was agreed that he should see Wright, and offer £300. Also, that he should contact Moore. Offer £75. Rang S.E.B. Appointment with Mr. Cox at 4.30 p.m. Rang Bennett. Agreed I would supply costs. He said they'd probably start installation of shelves on Monday. Cox stated that modification of our existing supply for off-peak on O.B.1. would cost £400-£500. But if we asked for a new supply, it would cost about £90. I referred him to my letter of a month ago in which I had already requested an estimate for a new supply. He apologised for ignorance, and said the estimate would arrive immediately. Inspected O.B.1. Found no provision had been made in soilpipe for future installation of w.c.s: also junctions were placed at floor level which would render connections difficult. Pointed this out to Quanton, who said he'd inform Cutney. 3
- Sept. 28th Inspected site. Quanton said Cutney had replied that he anticipated no difficulty in connecting w.c.s later. No reply from S.E.B.
- Sept. 29th No reply from S.E.B. Twice tried to ring. Line engaged.
- Oct. 3rd Request to electrician on site to install 3 kw outlet for washing machine and 6 kw outlet for drier in room 1. Separate bill requested. Received letter from S.E.B. giving estimate of £210 for larger capacity supply for O.B.1. But letter did not state how large this capacity was. Arrange meeting with Houston for 4.10. Ring S.E.B. to ask why still no estimate as requested 6 weeks ago for original low capacity (18 kw) supply. Discovered £210 estimate was for 100 kw.
- Oct. 4th Went to College. Houston did not turn up. Suggested we do not accept £210 estimate.
- Oct. 5th Houston agreed by telephone.

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- Oct. 6th Estimate for 25 kw at last received. £90. Mr. Jenner instructed to write and accept.
- Oct. 10th Suggest to Houston that since we only need 18 kw in basement, we should use spare 7 kw to heat Old Bursary. He agreed, and says he will instruct electrician, who was still on site, to install necessary wiring.
- Oct. 13th Plumber states he should finish work in basement next Wednesday (18th). Requested to remove remaining pipes from quad to basement.
- 22-29th Oct.
Preparation of three drawings and specifications for phase II development of O.B.1. 20
- Oct. 29th Copies obtained of specifications and plans for phase II development of O.B.1. sent to Quainton, with letter. ½
- Nov. 6th Dean complains store not finished chase up Quainton, promise store shall be done forthwith.
- Nov. 9th Meeting with Quainton to discuss phase II. Insistance on completion of work in Dean's stores. 1
- Nov. 11th Letter to Quainton noting that Sadia tanks had only 1 heating element, and saying this was not acceptable because 2 heaters were specified. Enclosed spare copies of electrical specification.
- Nov. 13th Meeting with M.C.R. Members to discuss plans for redecoration of library. 1
- Nov. 14th Detailed discussion with Quainton on estimates for phase II O.B.1. Agreed on electrical and building estimate. Considered plumbing £200 too high. 1
- Nov. 17th Draft letter on Indian Institute prepared for Principal. Meeting with John Armstrong to discuss Old Library. 1
- Nov. 19th Letter to Quainton with drawing and specification for room 6 in basement. 1½
- Nov. 20th Meeting with Cornish to discuss M.C.R. ½
- Nov. 21st Microscope cabinet installed in library.
- Nov. 22nd Registrar replied non-committally on Indian Institute.
- Nov. 23rd Inspect site. Discuss plumbing costs with Quainton. Agree to see Cutney. 1½

contd.

contd.

- 24th Nov. Meeting with Principal and Houston. Inspection of Indian Institute. Meet Quinton. Cutney did not turn up. Agree to second estimate to be asked from another plumber, Mr. Wheeler of Witney. 2
- 25th Nov. Jenner rang 9.30 a.m. to say there had been a fire on O.B.1. Came in to see electrician. Decided on procedure to be followed. 1
- 27th Nov. Meeting with Cutney and Quinton. Discussed phase II of O.B.1. in detail, item by item. Cutney reduced price by £85. (100 A per phase) in basement beside off-peak board and to carry our temporary repairs to existing circuits. 1½
- 1st Dec. Letter to Quinton on rewiring in phase II. Meeting with V.C., Principal, Bursar and others re Indian Institute. 1½
- 2nd Dec. Request from Bursar to look into requirements for self-service in hall. Discussions with Chef, relating to re-organisation of kitchen and amenities. Discussion with Mr. Dean on improvement of buttery facilities. Enquiries made at Coopers for catering equipment. 3
- 4th Dec. Discussion with Mr. Jenner on O.B.1. phase II. Discussion with Quinton. Jenner requests S.E.B. to move gas meter in basement. 1
- 7th Dec. Gas Board sends men to inspect gas meter.
- 9th Dec. Meeting with S.G.B. officials inspection of site. Confirmation that no gas goes to Hall staircase or kitchen from O.B.1. Wine cellars, and O.B.2. only supplied. S.G.B. agreed to cut off O.B.1. supply, move meter, and either to reconnect with O.B.2. or to run new supply to closet under stairs in O.B.2.
- 14th Dec. Letter to S.G.B., since nothing had been done. 1½
- 16-20th Dec. Visit site daily. Rapid progress with phase II.
- 20th Dec. Further letter to S.G.B. as no action had still been taken. 1½
- 21st Dec. Meet S.G.B. again on site and decide course of action to be as already decided on 9.12.67. 1½
- 15th Jan.
1968 Return to see O.B.1. after illness. (Gas meter has been moved!) Very poor progress on O.B.1. attributed to 'flu among workmen. Discuss situation with Quinton, decide priorities. 1
- 15-25th Jan. Visit site daily.

