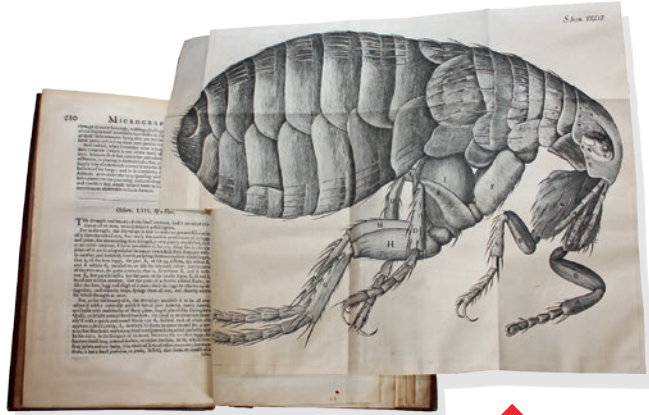


NOTABLE HERTFORD ALUMNI



from Robert Hooke's *Micrographia*, 1665

William Tyndale (1494-1536) *Bible translator and Reformation martyr*

Alexander Briant (1556-1581) *Jesuit and martyr*

John Donne (1572-1631) *Poet and Anglican priest*

Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679) *Political philosopher, author of Leviathan*

Edward Hyde, First Earl of Clarendon (1609-1674) *Historian and statesman*

John Wilkins (1614-1672) *Natural philosopher and clergyman*

Jonathan Swift (1667-1745) *Satirist, poet, Anglican priest and author of Gulliver's Travels*

Henry Pelham (1694-1754) *Politician and Prime Minister*

Charles James Fox (1749-1806) *Politician and statesman*

J. Meade Falkner (1858-1932) *Author of The Lost Stradivarius*

Alain LeRoy Locke (1886-1954) *Author of The Harlem Renaissance*

Evelyn Waugh (1903-1966) *Journalist and author of Brideshead Revisited*

“A **UNIVERSITY**
is just a
group of buildings
GATHERED AROUND
a **library.**”

Shelby FOOTE



The Library, Hertford College
Catte Street, Oxford, OX1 3BW

www.hertford.ox.ac.uk/library



Hertford
College
LIBRARY

a history



The story of Hertford College begins in the late thirteenth century with the establishment of Hart Hall as a boarding house for scholars of the University by Elias de Hertford. Hart Hall was one of a number of boarding houses in the immediate vicinity, including Black Hall, Cat Hall, Shield Hall and Arthur Hall, but it was Hart Hall that gradually subsumed its neighbours under a varied succession of owners, until Principal Richard Newton succeeded in securing it the status of a full college, Hertford College, in 1740 in the face of vigorous opposition from neighbouring All Souls and nearby Exeter.

Newton's successors were rather less capable however, and the College's fortunes dwindled: in 1805 the last Principal died without successor, and matriculations ceased in 1810. By 1816 only one tutor, Vice-Principal Richard Hewitt, was left, but no students remained to teach. In 1820 the mediaeval frontage of Hart Hall collapsed into Catte Street.

Eighteenth-century plans for a grand front quad



“ For anyone besides the Principal and the Librarian to take a book out is an offence punishable by **EXPULSION FROM THE HALL;**

A user shall be expelled if he presume to temper his studies by introducing wine, ale, beare or tobacco;

Admittance shall only be granted upon payment of **10 SHILLINGS.**”

from Magdalen Hall library rules



The ruined frontage of nineteenth century Hertford

Nature abhorred such a vacuum however, and nearby Magdalen Hall quickly acquired the site to accommodate its own ambitions for full college status. As the name Magdalen College was already taken however, Hertford College was duly resurrected, affirmed by Act of Parliament in 1874.

The library reflects the college's varied history, as its collection is built upon those of Hart Hall and Magdalen Hall. The main source of early accessions was donations from members, and the seventeenth and eighteenth century collections were dominated by economics and geography titles, as well as a number of theological, classical and natural science texts. In 1909-10 the Old Chapel (consecrated in 1716) was converted into the new purpose-built library, to which a second floor was added in 1963. Today's library occupies three floors and provides 24-7 access to approximately 50,000 books as well as to the University's wide array of electronic resources.