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# MAGDALENE MATTERS

THE NEWSLETTER OF MAGDALENE COLLEGE CAMBRIDGE



# COMMENT from the Development Director

Dear Member,

As I write, the annual Telephone Campaign is taking place and we are, once again, delighted with our student callers who spend many hours chatting with their predecessors. Rather than telling you about the campaign from my perspective, I asked the students for their thoughts about the process. Harry Gower, third year English student wrote: *"Not everyone would choose to be a return caller on a telephone campaign. It's not the most glamorous job in the world, I won't lie. Nor is it easy. However, after just four days of my second campaign, I'm already being reminded of the reasons I chose to do it again. The community atmosphere of the student callers is always great, but, simultaneously, the sense of a community connection that I get whilst speaking to alumni who may have attended the College over 50 years ago is incredible. It is amazing to speak to so many alumni who still hold Magdalene in such high esteem and hearing stories of how the College has evolved over its history is fantastic."* Colm Murphy, third year Historian, taking part in the Campaign for the first time, commented, *"I have to say I've been pleasantly surprised...I was initially hesitant about calling people I had never met in person... I've quickly realised that this Campaign is a great way to keep Members in contact with their old College and to update them on what's going on. It also puts us current students in touch with people who have gone through the same process we have, meaning they can even give us valuable advice!"* We

are especially pleased that one of our exchange students from MIT, Tess Hegarty, who has only been here since October, was persuaded by her friend and fellow caller, Polly Thompson, to take part. She writes: *"I had never heard of Magdalene when I was randomly allocated here last August, but soon after arriving at Cambridge I realized just how much I had lucked out! Magdalene has quickly become a second home, thanks to the warm welcome I've received from students of all ages, the College staff, the Porters, and the Master... Initially, I laughed off the idea of actually participating [in the Telephone Campaign] because talking on the phone wasn't exactly my cup of tea. But lured by the promise of free pizza, I spoke to some past callers and found out more about the campaign and started to realize it actually might be a great fit for me... the chance to speak to Magdalene alumni and find out interesting facts about College history has been great."*

I would be delighted to hear from you, our Members, about being called. Is it a welcome and enjoyable chance to reconnect with the College or a chore? Do you value the opportunity to speak with one of your successors? Please do drop me a line and let me know your thoughts.

**CORINNE LLOYD (2010)**  
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**Telephone Campaign Callers**

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The views expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily represent the views of Magdalene College Cambridge.

Photo on the front cover: 'Willow Tree by the River' courtesy of Eleanor Richardson-Bryant

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# ENCOUNTERING MAGDALENE'S ANCIENT HEART

BY NICK WIDDOWS (2015), CHAPLAIN

I remember vividly the first time I visited Magdalene Chapel. I had strolled over Jesus Green, from my temporary home across the Cam at Jesus College which boasts a vast space for worship; more Cathedral than Chapel.

I walked through the gloomy area that passes for an ante-chapel and entered the main body where I was immediately struck by the simplicity, almost austerity of the building. Yet even more so by the quietly impressive beauty. Vivid windows framed in plain white walls; elegant lines of candle-punctuated, polished wood; a towering organ, overshadowing the pews like a guardian angel.

This, I thought, is how a Chapel is meant to be. Small and simple enough to feel intimate, homely even, maintaining a sense of the collegiate, yet managing also to retain the sense that here is a place to approach one who is transcendent and Holy.

This also felt like (and, I subsequently learned, is) a place which carries the history of the College within its walls. The backs of the stalls hold the names of former Masters and Presidents; the striking memorials remind of those from the College who fell in combat; plaques commemorate eminent teachers, and missionaries to far-off lands; the plain walls with ornate statues echo the College's rich Christian heritage, from Benedictine Monks to ardent Evangelicals; the stained glass scenes show Mary Magdalene herself, standing at the crucifixion of Jesus and clinging to the risen Christ.

This is part of Magdalene's ancient heart. Here is where the College has provided food for the soul to generations of those who have come to Cambridge to study. Just as the Hall against which it rests has offered them food for the body, and the library on the other side has resourced their minds.

This is what a College does best: providing holistically for those who come to learn intellectually; understanding intuitively that the members of a College are not disembodied minds but whole beings who learn most fully by being fully fed.

As Chaplain I find myself contributing to a community which values sharing life together and, alongside the



business of academic study, enjoys intellectual conversation, art, sport, spirituality and celebration in healthy measures. I am part of a caring and effective pastoral network of tutors, porters, the nurse, and student welfare. I serve on a governing body that views this College as the important and transformative institution it is.

It has been a privilege to become part of this community. To realise that the ancient heart of Magdalene is not a dying heart but one that continues to resource new generations of students and scholars as they seek to grow in their own understanding and to add to the sum of human knowledge. It has been a pleasant surprise to see so many faces coming through the doors of the Chapel especially. If any part of the historical functions of College was to dwindle, one might expect it to be the Chapel (leaving the Chaplain to perform a purely pastoral role). Yet a surprising number of people remain open to spiritual things. For Members of Magdalene, even if they don't believe every word they hear in a service, this is their Chapel and their Choir. Coming to Chapel offers them an opportunity to feel part of the rich tradition of this place and to experience a beautiful and historic part of College life. Perhaps more importantly, it also offers a space to contemplate for a moment the idea of something much bigger than themselves (hard to find in the whirlwind of a Cambridge term), and to find food for the soul.

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# FELLOWS' NEWS

## DR WATKINS WINS PILKINGTON PRIZE

**DR CARL WATKINS**, Tutor and University Senior Lecturer in Medieval History, has been recognised for his outstanding quality and approach to teaching and named as one of the winners of this year's Pilkington Prizes. He works on religious culture in the central and later Middle Ages, especially on beliefs about, and conceptualisations of, the supernatural. He has written about concepts of sinfulness and the emergence of purgatory, has completed a book for Cambridge University Press which explores beliefs about the supernatural in a

medieval English context and has, more recently, explored beliefs about the dead during the middle ages in *The Undiscovered Country: journeys among the dead*, Bodley Head (2013).

The Pilkington Prizes were inaugurated in 1994 and endowed by Sir Alastair Pilkington to acknowledge excellence in teaching. The prizes are awarded annually to inspirational academics who make a substantial contribution to the teaching programme of a Department, Faculty or the University as a whole. There are twelve prizes



awarded annually by the Vice-Chancellor with nominations made by each school.



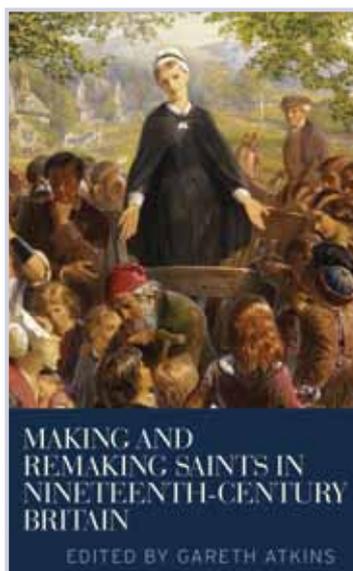
**PROFESSOR NEIL RUSHTON** is to become a "Fellow of International Orthopaedic Research" (FIOR), *Emeritus*". The FIOR is a very exclusive honorary status awarded by ICORS, which has represented 11 worldwide orthopaedic research societies since 1992. It recognises individuals who gained a status

of excellent professional standing and high achievements in the field of international orthopaedic research and have shown sustained commitment to international, and in particular global, collaboration and society life.

Prof Rushton has been working to elucidate the reasons for failure of total joint replacements since the early eighties. He was first to describe the involvement of polyethylene wear particles in the process of aseptic loosening (the most common cause of failure). He has designed a hip system that reduces the bone loss owing to stress shielding.

This recent honour is the latest recognition of his work. In the past he was awarded a Hunterian Professorship

of the Royal College of Surgeons of England and the Chapman Medal of the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining together with an invitation to become a Fellow of the organisation.



**DR GARETH ATKINS**, Senior Research Fellow and Joint Director of Studies in History, will be publishing an edited volume, *Making and Remaking Saints in Nineteenth-Century Britain*, with Manchester University Press during Easter Term. He is also organising a series of lunchtime talks and an evening concert, to take place in May and June in the Fitzwilliam Museum, 'The Bible and Antiquity in Nineteenth-Century Objects'.

For details, and to book, see [www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk/calendar/whatson](http://www.fitzmuseum.cam.ac.uk/calendar/whatson)

**DR EMILY SO**, Director of Studies in Architecture, University Senior Lecturer in Architectural Engineering and Director of the University's Centre for Risk and the Built Environment was recently interviewed by the BBC World Service Inquiry Programme on whether it is possible to earthquake-proof a city. She explained that different types of buildings around the world have differing collapse mechanisms which depend on the roof types and the particular environments the buildings are in. In drier climates, for example, roofing structures tend to be much lighter so that these, despite collapsing during earthquakes, do not tend to crush people to death. Her work is focussed on these subtleties and discussed in her most recent book *Estimating Fatality Rates for Earthquake Loss Models* published by Springer: [www.springer.com/gp/book/9783319268378](http://www.springer.com/gp/book/9783319268378)

### New Fellows

**DR ADAM COUTTS** is the Mellon Fellow in Public Policy in the Department of Politics and International Studies. His research focuses on the links between public policy, health and wellbeing in the United Kingdom, Europe and the Middle East and North Africa. He is a former graduate student of the College and a Teaching Bye-Fellow.

### Visiting Fellow

**PROFESSOR WEI LI** is this year's YIP (Chinese) Visiting Fellow to July 2016. He is Professor in the School of Physics, Huazhong University of Science and Technology (HUST for short), and is a leading expert on metal-organic framework materials ("Mof's"). HUST is one of the best universities in China, well known in the fields of engineering, medicine and natural sciences with 55,000 students and is based in Wuhan.

# THE FRIENDS OF THE PEPYS LIBRARY AND HISTORIC COLLECTIONS

In the last issue of *Magdalene Matters*, we announced the launch of The Friends of the Pepys Library and Historic Collections, and we are delighted to give our first update on progress.

There has been a superb response and we are delighted to have welcomed many new Friends in the first phase from among Members of the College based both in the UK and abroad. Our first newsletter, full of information about the Magdalene libraries, our work and our collections, was sent to members in April.

The programme for the coming year has now been agreed, including: a special event in June to celebrate Magdalene's unique association with poets and writers from T S Eliot to Seamus Heaney, from Samuel Pepys to Julian Fellowes; a chance to hear about recent conservation projects in the Pepys Library in July; the forthcoming international conference on the Ferrars of Little Gidding; and – what will be a real highlight in the programme – the inaugural lecture to the Friends by Professor James Raven (world renowned scholar on the History of the Book), taking the theme of *Pepys and Bibliomania*.

Money generously donated by the Friends has already been invaluable in allowing us to commission two custom-made oak units in which to preserve the unique collection of prints, letters, music and documents known as the Ferrar Papers. This collection of over 1200 items relating to the Virginia Company and to the Anglican Community at Little



**As well as preserving beautiful prints and letters of family life, the Ferrar Papers also provide a unique understanding of trade and economic history in the Tudor and Stuart periods: in this letter, we hear of the quarrel over the tax on currants from Turkey (an eye-watering 400%) which is 'too great a burthen for any commodity to beare'.**

Gidding go back to the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The new units will be unveiled during the conference on the Ferrar family in Magdalene in September, attendance for which will be at reduced rates for members of the Friends. Our innovative 'back-a-book' conservation scheme and the forthcoming special Pepys Birthday Lunch (February 2017) will both raise money for the restoration of the iconic book presses (bookcases) in the Pepys Library.

Membership is still open. The standard subscription is £45 per annum. Application forms are available from the membership co-ordinator, Mrs Aude Fitzsimons. Please email [pepysfriends@magd.cam.ac.uk](mailto:pepysfriends@magd.cam.ac.uk) or write to Mrs Fitzsimons at The Friends of the Pepys, Magdalene College, Cambridge CB3 0AG.

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# EUROPEAN INTEGRATION – REALISTIC OR IDEALISTIC?

DR MATHIAS HAEUSSLER (2015)

With the potential 'Brexit' dominating headlines everywhere, the current Lumley Research Fellow, Dr Mathias Haeussler, looks back to the 1970s.

As a German growing up in the United Kingdom, I have always been fascinated by the very different attitudes of both countries towards the European Union. Why is it that two middle-sized European countries with such close political, economic, and cultural ties are still at loggerheads over European integration?

This issue has puzzled German commentators for many years, one of the most prominent among them the recently deceased former Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, the subject of my Ph.D. thesis. Born in the North German port city of Hamburg in 1918, Schmidt was an enthusiastic Anglophile in his early life, so much so, that he abstained from voting on the Treaties of Rome in the German Bundestag in 1957. As much as he was convinced about the necessity of European integration, he believed that the proposed European Community (EC) simply would not succeed without Britain.

In November 1974, he went to great lengths in attempting to convince a highly sceptical Labour Party conference of the virtues of European Community membership, comparing himself to, *“a man who, in front of ladies and gentlemen belonging to the Salvation Army, tries to convince them of the advantages of drinking”*. During his eight years as German Chancellor from 1974 to 1982, however, his views on the subject changed profoundly.

Harold Wilson's renegotiation of Britain's European Community membership in 1974–5 and Margaret Thatcher's crusade with respect to the British budget contributions in 1979–84 left Schmidt bitter about British attitudes towards Europe. In his eyes, Wilson and Thatcher had deliberately tried to hijack the European Community, fighting domestic political battles on the backs of other member states. Almost nobody in Britain, he mused frequently in later years, seemed to think *“that the Atlantic*

*Ocean between England and America is broader than the Channel between England and continental Europe”*.

Schmidt's view reveals much about the wider conceptual gulf dividing Britain and Germany over Europe. Though deeply scornful of the Brussels bureaucracy, Schmidt, like most post-war German politicians, regarded the European Community/European Union as the natural framework for Germany's post-war international rehabilitation. In light of the country's unique historical burden and its central geostrategic position, Germany always had to embed its foreign policy firmly in a European framework in order to mitigate fears of a potential revival of German power. If, on the other hand, Germans were tempted by their economic strength *“into claiming a leading political*

*On 23–24 March 2016, Magdalene hosted an international conference on post-war Anglo-German relations, including 15 participants from 6 countries. Keynotes were held by Professor Sir Richard J. Evans, former Regius Professor of History at Cambridge, and Dr Piers Ludlow, Associate Professor of History at the London School of Economics and Political Science.*

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*Almost nobody in Britain ... seemed to think "that the Atlantic Ocean between England and America is broader than the Channel between England and continental Europe".*

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role in Europe” he claimed in 2011, its neighbours would soon mount ‘effective resistance’, eventually crippling the EU and resulting in Germany’s isolation. This overarching strategic imperative explains why Germany is still firmly wedded to the integration project, whatever the European Union’s manifold institutional and political shortcomings.

Britain, by contrast, never developed a similarly powerful narrative for EC/EU membership. In the 1950s, the country’s very different wartime experience, its extra-European trade links, as well as the remaining global scope of British power, did little to endear policy-makers towards an ever closer union with the Continentals. Once the country reluctantly applied for membership in the 1960s, it did so mainly to preserve its political and economic influence in light of the European Community’s unexpected successes. But Britain’s slow move towards Europe was still driven by essentially negative motivations: *if you can’t beat them, join them*. When Britain eventually did join in 1973, membership was sold to the general public primarily on the grounds of the perceived economic benefits; later, during the 1975 referendum, the pro-EC campaign similarly argued that Britain simply could not afford to drop out at a time of global crises. But Britain never quite warmed to the political goals behind the integration process and to this day, its European policy remains essentially a reactive one.

It is for this reason that Europe continues to be such a toxic issue in domestic politics today. Opponents of EU membership still tilt at windmills in artificial arguments over British sovereignty; supporters fight yet another scare-campaign based on the alleged risks of dropping out. Yet both sides ultimately shy away from a serious, all-out debate over the country’s future international role in a rapidly changing world. Whichever way the vote will go on 23 June, one thing is clear – it certainly won’t solve Britain’s problem with European integration.



**Dr Mathias Haeussler**

**MATHIAS HAEUSSLER** is currently the Lumley Research Fellow at Magdalene College, having recently submitted his Ph.D. on ‘Helmut Schmidt and Anglo-German relations, 1974–82’. In his dissertation, supervised by Professor David Reynolds and fully funded by the AHRC, he questions Schmidt’s narrative of a gradual worsening of bilateral relations, arguing instead that Schmidt’s chancellorship actually saw an extraordinary degree of Anglo-German cooperation outside formal European Community structures. By locating and compartmentalizing intra-EC differences firmly within the bigger picture of Western European cooperation in a rapidly changing international environment, the dissertation reveals how Anglo-German relations under Schmidt played a crucial part in the emergence of a distinctive European position inside the transatlantic alliance, particularly during the ‘re-heating’ of the Cold War in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

More widely, Mathias is interested in the interrelations of the Cold War and European integration, as well as in Europe’s changing role in the transatlantic alliance during the course of the Cold War. He is currently getting started on his postdoctoral project, tentatively titled ‘John F. Kennedy’s “Atlantic Community” – the history of an idea in Cold War Europe’. He can also be found on Twitter, and dislikes writing about himself in the third person.

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# ACCESS AT MAGDALENE

The College is committed to encouraging young people with the academic potential and enthusiasm to succeed at Cambridge, to apply, regardless of their school or background.



**Access residential at Magdalene March 2016.**

Both the University and the individual Colleges run a number of initiatives to assist students from schools or families where there is little tradition of sending applicants to research-intensive universities such as Cambridge.

We are part of the University's Area Links scheme (please see information opposite) which partners Cambridge Colleges with schools in specific areas of the UK. Magdalene has particular responsibility for outreach activities in Merseyside and North and West Wales, and we run a number of events for potential applicants in secondary schools every year. We aim to provide potential applicants with accurate information about the courses on offer at Cambridge, the available financial support, the style of teaching and the social, cultural and musical opportunities available here. Some outdated myths about the University still linger and we aim to accurately inform potential applicants about the realities, to allow students to make clear and well-informed decisions about whether studying at Magdalene would suit

them. We are keen to recruit the brightest and best students from all backgrounds, who will make the most of the many opportunities that Magdalene and Cambridge offer to develop both academically, and as individuals.

The College employs a Schools Liaison Officer, who co-ordinates visits to Cambridge, attends UCAS fairs and HE conferences, and regularly organises sessions in schools and colleges in Magdalene's link areas. State-maintained schools and colleges in these areas receive regular Access Bulletins from the Schools Liaison Officer, containing information about events and resources for both students and teachers. A recent two-day residential Access event here at Magdalene was very successful and an ideal addition to our series of Application Workshops for Year 13 students in Merseyside and Wales in advance of their university applications. We also regularly visit schools in our link area and welcome schools and individuals to the College Open Days. Our hard working Admissions team is always very ably supported by many of

our current students who take the time to talk about their studies, describe the activities they take part in at Magdalene and Cambridge, and act as guides to our visitors and ‘buddies’ to those participating in our residentials.

We have been fortunate in receiving a number of donations from Members and Friends to help finance these activities, not least our biennial large-scale event at Goodison Park in Liverpool which attracts as many as 400 gifted and talented year 10 and 11 students from schools across our link area. The Access Admissions Tutors are joined by several colleagues from the Fellowship as well as twenty current students and they travel to Liverpool together to ‘bring Magdalene to Everton’. A number of mock lectures take place and the pupils have the opportunity to speak with students and Fellows and learn about life at Cambridge. Crucially, teachers are able to gain valuable insights from discussions with Fellows, of whom almost all are actively involved in the annual admissions round. The costs of this and similar events are considerable and we were delighted to receive a gift from the Drapers’ Company recently, specifically a generous grant from the *Thomas Howell’s Education Fund for North Wales*, to support the College’s work in this area.

This gift enabled our Schools Liaison Officer, Sandy Mill, a Philosophy graduate from Selwyn College, to organise a small-scale access event with over 50 Year 11 students from 9 schools across our link areas in North Wales at Eirias Park, Colwyn Bay. The day started with a session on admissions with Mr Mill and Magdalene’s Admissions Tutor, Dr John Munns, describing the applications process in depth. They explained what the students could begin to do now to ensure that they will be in a position to make strong applications, with a particular focus on choosing the right A Level subjects for the courses they are interested in. The pupils then engaged in a session run by Dr Heather Brink Roby, the Lumley Research Fellow in Literature, on ‘The Nineteenth Century Novel’ which had students actively delving into descriptive texts and exploring their own interpretations of key themes within these. After lunch, Dr Sarah Caddy, the Neville Research Fellow in Molecular Biology, spoke to the students about her work in the field of veterinary medicine, outlining how it has crossed over into aspects of human medicine, particularly in terms of viruses, thus demonstrating the practical applications and real-world effects of research carried out at the University. In addition, teachers were given the opportunity to speak directly to Dr Munns, gaining valuable insight on how to best ensure that their students’ applications to Cambridge and other top universities were as competitive as possible. The day concluded with a Question & Answer session with 5 current Magdalene students, with questions ranging from aspects of student social life, to the all-important question of which College to choose!



Dr Brink Roby leading a session in Colwyn Bay.

#### THE UNIVERSITY’S AREA LINKS SCHEME

enables the Cambridge Colleges to build effective, coherent relationships with schools and colleges across the UK and:

- gives schools and colleges a direct way of staying in touch with the University by providing specific contact points
- enables the Cambridge Colleges to get to know specific regions and the local educational environments

All the Colleges are pleased to provide advice and guidance, and to listen to schools’ perspectives on what can be done to help make Cambridge as accessible as possible to all students with the ability and potential to study here.

The Area Links Scheme does not preclude any potential applicant from contacting or being contacted by a College other than the link College for a particular geographical region but is intended to facilitate contact. There is no expectation or obligation for students to apply to the relevant link College in their area. Participation in specific Area Links Scheme initiatives does not influence whether Colleges invite applicants for interview or offer them places.

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# *A deadly dictionary, shadowy connections, and a bookseller's harsh story*

## ACROSS THE TAIWAN STRAIT

BY FEI-HSIEN WANG (2012)

Publishing could be a fatal business. This was the lesson Chen Guanying learned in the early summer of 1953 before he was executed in Taipei by the Republic of China (ROC) authority. Since the autumn of 1951, this small time bookseller had been put in Chiang Kai-Shek government's notorious military jail for "attempting to overthrow the government by illegal means."

The ROC authority was convinced that Chen was an undercover communist spy: not only did he reprint and sell books in Taipei that contained "misleading" descriptions of the government, but he also regularly remitted money to his father in Shanghai, a man whom the ROC believed had "joined the communist bandits." The centerpiece of Chen's subversion scheme, according to the ROC authority, was a popular political dictionary *Xin mingci Cidian (Dictionary of New Terminologies)* that the ROC Navy discovered on a Chinese steamer in 1951.

In the autumn of 1949, an ambiguous border between mainland China and the island of Taiwan was created when the Chinese Communist Party founded the People's Republic of China (PRC) in Beijing, and the government of the ROC retreated to Taiwan. It was not uncommon for Chinese families, uncertain about the future of China, to split their businesses into two or three separate parts and disperse these to different places to minimize the risks at a time of extreme political turmoil. The political division of 1949, however, did not completely cut the Chinese market into two, and many of these dispersed families and businesses established and maintained shadowy connections and exchanges with each other for some years into the early 1950s. Following the proverb "don't put all your eggs in one basket," Chen, the junior proprietor of the Shanghai-based publishing firm *Springbright Books*, relocated to Taiwan in August 1949. As he set up a new branch of *Springbright Books* in Taipei, his father and the 30 plus staff he left behind, continued to run the original publishing house in Shanghai.

In the transitional, uncertain years of the early 1950s, both companies, in order to survive in Nationalist Taipei and in Communist Shanghai, adapted to the new political reality and ideologies of the "China" they were operating in. The problematic *Dictionary of New Terminologies* which the ROC authority declared as a reactionary work which "defamed the government" and "insulted the leader" was, in fact, a book published by Shanghai based *Springbright Books* in September, 1949, with the aim of providing simple explanations of communist terms and ideas. Should Chen thus be liable for something published on the other side of the Strait after he had left for Taiwan?

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*Chen's case took place at the climax of Taiwan's 'White Terror' period during which thousands of civilians were prosecuted and executed by the ROC authority as communist spies or reactionary insurrectionists under Martial Law.*

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While Chen claimed that he had been marginalised by his pro-communist employees in Shanghai after his departure, and, that as a consequence, he had no knowledge about any of the new titles delivered since that time, the ROC



leadership of the trade association, as an example of a profit-driven private publishing house which needed to be transformed and re-educated in the new China. On the surface, it was an anti-piracy campaign aiming to “help” private publishers in Shanghai to “educate themselves” that the true mission of the publishing industry in the socialist economy was to serve the People, not to make money. However, as Ye Shengtao, the Vice Director-General of the PRC’s General Administration of Publishing, hinted in a public speech later that year, the reason why *Springbright Books* became the target was because of the *Dictionary of New Terminologies*. For China’s top officials overseeing the nation’s cultural industry, this popular reference book was a poor product of the opportunistic and ignorant staff of *Springbright Books*. The unorthodox and mistaken interpretations of the party’s ideologies and policies proffered by this dictionary, they worried, were misleading tens of thousands of enthusiastic Chinese readers who were eager to learn the new and “correct” way to live and think in the new China. To stop such kinds of intellectual “pollution,” they believed, private publishers like *Springbright Books* ought to be nationalized.

authority insisted that Chen must have been fully aware of the production of this very large dictionary before he left Shanghai. It was simply impossible, they argued, for anyone to compile and publish – within a month – a dictionary containing thousands of entries. They further suspected that Chen, as the brain behind this dictionary, had been purposely spreading subversive ideas across the Taiwan Strait. Throughout the case, the ROC authority failed to provide any conclusive evidence to prove Chen’s involvement in the making of *Dictionary of New Terminologies*, but Chen was nevertheless executed for treason and subversion after trials and investigations lasting two years.

The treason case against Chen Guanying in Taipei and the anti-piracy campaign against *Springbright Books* in Shanghai took place in the same summer. They offer us a unique opportunity to examine how these two contemporary Chinese regimes employed different legal mechanisms to achieve the same goal: strengthening state control over the publishing industry to ensure their monopoly of the truth. By ruthlessly prosecuting those who seemed to be associated with any subversive ideas and censoring all incoming texts, the ROC authority created a sense of great terror to discourage people from possessing and circulating books that might get them into trouble. Meanwhile, on the other side of the strait, the PRC authority relied on the old trade associations and endless political campaigns to gradually reorganize private publishers. By collectivizing China’s publishing industry, they controlled all publications and thus what their citizens could read.

Chen’s case took place at the climax of Taiwan’s ‘White Terror’ period during which thousands of civilians were prosecuted and executed by the ROC authority as communist spies or reactionary insurrectionists under Martial Law. Sometimes mentioned by scholars in passing as yet another example of the miscarriages of justice during the ‘White Terror’ period, the case of Chen Guanying, however, was more than an innocent bookseller being wrongfully accused by an authoritarian regime obsessed with information control. What happened to Chen Guanying in Taipei was just half the story of *Springbright Books*.

The story of *Springbright Books*, however, was not just a story of increasing information control across the Taiwan Strait. The rich legal records of these two cases also provide us with a rare window into some of the survival strategies these minor economic players developed to cope with the enormous changes in post-1949 China.

Just a few months before Chen was accused of treason in Taiwan, the staff of *Springbright Books* in Shanghai was subjected to a ‘public criticism forum’ orchestrated by the Shanghai Booksellers’ Trade Association. Accused of piracy, the company was singled out by the new pro-communist

The *Springbright Books* firm was first founded by Chen’s father in Shanghai in 1932. This mid-size publishing company had been known for its wide range of publications, from divination manuals and study companions, to martial art novels and detective stories. Since its early years, the

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company had found a niche by its sensitive and quick response to the latest trends in China's expanding urban book market. During the communist revolution of 1949, the market-savvy staff at *Springbright Books*, following their usual instincts, quickly produced texts on the party's new orthodoxy as soon as they noticed that the demand for such types of books was high. Although they were unfamiliar with communist ideas, they managed to produce a lot of books by pirating or plagiarizing party publications, blending the latest governmental propaganda with their own interpretations. The *Dictionary of New Terminologies* was one of the most successful works of this kind and over 100,000 copies were sold within two years. Most of the publishers in Shanghai were struggling to carry on but capitalist-minded *Springbright Books* thrived in socialist new China.

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*Their success deeply troubled the Communist party. Even though the party considered themselves the only rightful authority entitled to compile such a dictionary, they were incapable of doing so, due to the limited publishing and printing capacities of the party-owned publishing enterprises at that time.*

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Their success deeply troubled the Communist party. Even though the party considered themselves the only rightful authority entitled to compile such a dictionary, they were incapable of doing so, due to the limited publishing and printing capacities of the party-owned publishing enterprises at that time. One possible solution to this problem would be to make *Springbright Books* the party's own.

Meanwhile, in Taipei, Chen Guanying was facing a different kind of challenge. The handover of Taiwan to the ROC in 1945 profoundly transformed what people read on the island. After 50 years of Japanese colonization, the Taiwanese now had to learn to master their new "mother tongue", Chinese. The local publishers in Taiwan, however, didn't have the capacity to compile and publish Chinese-language books because of the language barrier and the shortage of Chinese fonts. Readers in Taiwan, therefore, had to rely on books imported from the mainland. As the demand for Chinese-language books remained high in Taiwan, political strife in 1949 cut off the China-Taiwan channel of book imports.

Although Chen set up a new *Springbright Books* branch in Taipei, he was unable to establish a sustainable stock of books solely by reprinting the few titles he had brought with him to Taiwan. Thus he very soon began to travel between Taiwan and Hong Kong and regularly shipped both legal and illicit books to Taipei.

Chen's confession in his treason case file and the 'self-criticism reports' delivered by the staff of the Shanghai branch of *Springbright Books* suggests at the shadowy operation these two branches ran at the time: as a considerable proportion of their pre-1949 publications – romances, old textbooks, comic books, etc. – were labeled by the new regime as "backward," and "feudal," and thus lost commercial value in communist China, the Shanghai based *Springbright Books* secretly shipped this remaining stock to Hong Kong so these books would have a "second chance." From Hong Kong, Chen then brought this remaining stock back to Taiwan for sale. The most striking evidence presented during the case is that which Chen Guanying used in his confession to prove his innocence, and it is evidence which suggests that after 1949, the two branches of *Springbright Books* remained fairly closely connected via Hong Kong. In order to demonstrate that he had been marginalized by his communist staff in Shanghai, intriguingly, Chen cited the negative comments about him in the 'self-criticism report' the staff produced in June 1951, during the anti-piracy campaign against them. Thus, the very document he used to prove he was not a traitor, ironically, showed that his connection with mainland China was never broken.

As information controls imposed by both Chinese governments intensified in the early 1950s, there was very little room left for the cultural entrepreneurs to negotiate the new rules of the two regimes. By 1954, even wrapping paper was subjected to careful censorship reviews in Taiwanese ports. And, one year after Chen Guanying's execution in Taiwan, the Shanghai based *Springbright Books* was "voluntarily" merged into a collective publishing enterprise. They continued publishing their blockbuster dictionary, but the content of it was no longer compiled by their staff, but by contributors assigned by the party.

*Dr Fei-Hsien Wang, a former Junior Research Fellow at Magdalene, is Assistant Professor in the Department of History at Indiana University. She focuses on the history of modern China with a particular research interest in how information, ideas and practices were produced, transmitted, and consumed across different societies. Her research revolves around the relationship between knowledge, commerce, and political authority in modern East Asia, especially China.*

# I WAS HITLER'S NEIGHBOUR

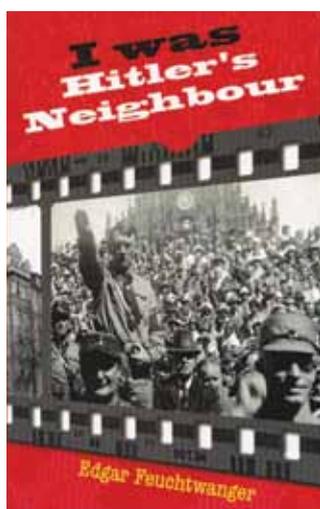
BY EDGAR FEUCHTWANGER (1944)

An important first-hand account of the early days of the Third Reich.

The author grew up living in a flat opposite to Hitler's private home in Munich. For him, as a Jewish boy, it was an uncomfortable experience, and one that he was lucky to survive.

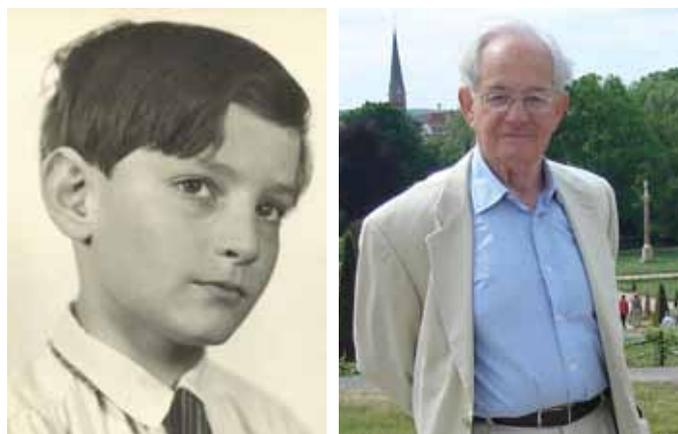
In this book eminent historian Edgar Feuchtwanger recounts his Jewish boyhood living in the same street as Hitler in Nazi Germany.

*"I can recall the Night of the Long Knives, Saturday 30 June 1934. I woke up fairly early in the morning because it was so light. I heard a lot of noise in the street outside, car doors being slammed, heavy boots clattering on the pavement. I saw that the commotion came from outside Hitler's house. It was the moment, so one later learned, when a motor column was being assembled to drive out to Bad Wiessee, about 30 miles away on the Tegernsee, to the Hotel Hanselbauer, where Röhm had been asked to assemble with his S.A. leaders. Hitler arrested Röhm and some of the others, who were brought back to Munich and murdered. Even as a small boy I could sense the tremendous, hot tension there was around. That public events could produce such tension, that gripped one's throat, almost took one's breath away, is something."*



He describes his narrow escape on *Kristallnacht* and how his family fled to Britain in 1939 just weeks before the outbreak of war. He was just 14 years old when the Gestapo arrested his father on that fateful date of 9–10 November, 1938 known as *Kristallnacht*, which saw the detention of 30,000 Jews in Austria and Germany, and witnessed the deaths of 91 and the widespread ransacking of Jewish-owned stores and synagogues.

Dr Edgar Feuchtwanger's father was then imprisoned at the Dachau concentration camp, and when he was released six weeks later, the family managed to obtain entry visas to



Man and boy.

Britain, and in February 1939, Edgar boarded a train bound for London. His father accompanied him as far as the Dutch border and then returned to Germany to finish arrangements for him and his wife to follow. In May of that year the family was reunited in England. In the later stages of the book the author recalls his frequent visits to post-war Germany and the changes he has encountered between Germany now and in Nazi times.

The book also contains a detailed account of his time at Magdalene College, Cambridge, from 1944–47, when A.B. Ramsay was the Master, and Frank Salter and Francis Turner were leading personalities. There are many anecdotes in the book about the author's encounters with these and other figures such as T.S. Eliot, who were, from time to time, about the College.

The book was launched at the Savile Club (the London club for journalists and other writers) in March 2015. The author will give a talk about the book at the 92Y Jewish cultural centre in New York in June 2016. It has served as the basis for recent articles in *The Oldie* and the *Daily Express* (see [www.feuchtwanger.com/Family.html](http://www.feuchtwanger.com/Family.html) >Edgar Recent Articles and Appearances).

After his escape from Germany in 1939, detailed in this book, **DR EDGAR FEUCHTWANGER** studied at Cambridge and went on to teach history at the University of Southampton. He has already published acclaimed biographies of Bismarck (2002) and Disraeli (1968) as well as a history of Prussia (1970) and of Imperial Germany (2001). In 2003 he was awarded the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany.

# “STOPPING WAS NEVER AN OPTION”



© Getty Images

The CUWBC crew battling the elements!

The Boat Race this year was fantastic for the University as a whole – wins for the men’s Blue Boat, after 3 years of Oxford supremacy, and for Blondie, CUWBC’s reserve boat. We can all enjoy those moments together – after all, we are Cambridge!

The performance of the CUWBC Blue Boat under pressure and in the face of disaster makes us all very proud. Hannah Roberts, CUWBC President said ‘stopping was never an option’ and this embodies the mindset of the team and has been evident all

year, in training at Goldie and on the water at Ely. We are proud that two of our Magdalene women, Daphne Marshenko and Evelyn Boettcher, are part of that team and of all the work they have both done in the past 7 months leading up to race day.

## JCR news



James Antell

Following on from the great work of the previous committee, the 2016 JCR committee have been working hard to improve student life at Magdalene.

We’ve made it possible for students to bring more guests to formal hall, allowing them to share one of the best features of College life with more friends and family. The JCR punts are now available for longer, so students can enjoy a spot of punting on the Cam anytime from early March until

late October. The New Year also saw the reintroduction of a University Challenge team at Magdalene. Sadly, they won’t be appearing on television, but they put in a great effort in the preliminary rounds.

Adam, our Welfare Officer, has continued to distribute delicious food packages to everyone just in time for week 5 of term. Meanwhile, Plum, our Ents Officer, has hosted a series of fantastic events, including two bop parties on the themes ‘When I Grow Up...’ and ‘Ancient History’. Chloe, our Access Officer, has been hard at work organising various events to give sixth form college students a taste of what life is like studying at Magdalene.

With two terms left in office, the JCR committee have a few more ideas up our sleeves. We’re planning on revamping the JCR website, securing new gym equipment and bike shelters for College, introducing themed formal halls, and we are also hoping to get Magdalene to participate in the annual e-Luminate Cambridge Festival which places light installations throughout the city every February.

Aside from the JCR Committee, College life has been thriving! Highlights include regular concerts held by the Vocal Society and the Music Society, a fantastic College production of *Godspell*, and countless sporting victories.

*James Antell (2014), JCR President*

# INTRODUCING THE MAGDALENE SHAWL

BY ANNELI BERTSSON (1996)

Weaving is a part of my family history, perhaps even a part of my DNA!

I inherited my paternal great grandmother's loom; my maternal grandmother was a weaver for 75 years, and my mother is a weaving teacher, still active at 82. I did my first weaving when I was 5 years old and have grown up in a world of creative textiles and wonderful yarns and fibres. This has given me both knowledge of, and an appreciation for, the complexity and wonder of the technical and tactile side of weaving.

I trained as a Political Scientist with degrees from Stockholm University and studies at the Swedish Defence College. I obtained an M. Phil. in European Studies from Cambridge (Magdalene 1996) and have worked with various aspects of Security Policy in the Swedish Defence Force and at SIPRI (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute).

After a serious accident I realized that no matter how much I enjoyed working in my academic field, I wanted to focus on weaving, while I still have my mother to guide me in the art. I started my own handweaving and design company "Anneli of Stockholm Luxury Blankets AB". The four pillars of my work are quality, exclusivity, beauty and lasting value.

My year at Magdalene will always be one of my most valued experiences. Over the years I have heard many stories from Magdalene men of how significant the College tie has been in



making contacts and showing College affiliation both in University and other settings. Ever since I was a student, and even more so after leaving the College, my female friends and I have been frustrated that there has been no feminine equivalent to the College tie. The Magdalene shawl is my solution.

The shawl is made of yarn from one of the oldest Scottish mills in a luxurious soft mix between lambswool and cashmere. The design in the Magdalene colours, with an attached label depicting the College shield, is clean and elegant, and the weaving technique gives the fabric a special texture. The proportion of the colours is inspired by the College scarf to make it easily recognizable.

Also, the colour scheme creates a dark neutral that can be worn with almost anything. This makes the shawl appropriate for most events: from a Magdalene May Ball to a casual setting. The size (2m by 55 cm) and light weight make the shawl easy to carry, and it is perfect for trips in a cool airplane and great as a knee blanket when indoor temperatures or outdoor events require. When treated with appropriate care (dry cleaning only), the shawl will last a lifetime. A portion of the profit will be donated to Magdalene College.

*More information about how to purchase the Magdalene shawl can be found here [www.magdalene.cambridge.com/pages/content-pages/merchandise](http://www.magdalene.cambridge.com/pages/content-pages/merchandise)*

## Forthcoming Events

**4 JUNE 2016**

Buckingham Society Luncheon

**11 JUNE 2016**

English Reunion

**26 JUNE 2016**

Family Day

**30 AUGUST 2016**

Annual Magdalene Dinner in Singapore

**1 SEPTEMBER 2016**

Magdalene Dinner in Kuala Lumpur

**2 SEPTEMBER 2016**

Annual Magdalene Dinner in Hong Kong

**25 SEPTEMBER 2016**

Annual Donors' Garden Party

**14 OCTOBER 2016**

Annual Magdalene Dinner at the Oxford & Cambridge Club

**29 OCTOBER 2016**

Mandela Scholars & Alumni Dinner in Johannesburg

**4 NOVEMBER 2016**

The 25th Annual Magdalene Dinner in New York

**5 NOVEMBER 2016**

Magdalene Dinner in Washington DC

**12 NOVEMBER 2016**

Architecture and History of Art Reunion Dinner

**2 DECEMBER 2016**

Annual Choir Carol Concert at All Hallows Church by the Tower, London

**3 DECEMBER 2016**

Inaugural annual lecture for the Friends of the Pepys Library

Please note that other events may be added to this list. Always check our College website [www.magdalenecambridge.com](http://www.magdalenecambridge.com) on the 'Events' pages and read the updated listings in Magdalene E-Matters. Please email [events@magd.cam.ac.uk](mailto:events@magd.cam.ac.uk) to register your interest in any of the above events.

### *Non-resident Members' Guest Nights 2016-2017*

10 June 2016

15 October 2016

5 November 2016

18 November 2016

28 January 2017

10 February 2017

11 March 2017

29 April 2017

26 May 2017

These evenings are hosted by a group of Fellows and include pre-dinner drinks. They offer Members the opportunity of bringing one guest to dine at High Table. Please note that numbers of NRMs are limited to a maximum of ten at any one night. Please book via the Alumni & Development office.

## Reunions

### *Reunions in 2016*

**FRIDAY 16 SEPTEMBER**

Dinner for those who matriculated in 1977-1979

**FRIDAY 23 SEPTEMBER**

Dinner for those who matriculated in 1980-1982

### *Reunions in 2017*

**FRIDAY 31 MARCH**

Dinner for those who matriculated in 1983-1985

**SATURDAY 6 MAY**

Lunch for those who matriculated up to 1957

**FRIDAY 15 SEPTEMBER**

Dinner for those who matriculated in 1986-1988

**FRIDAY 22 SEPTEMBER**

Dinner for those who matriculated in 1989-1991

Invitations will be sent out 3 months in advance. Please note that the programme usually begins at 4.30pm with tea and coffee in the Senior Combination room. There will be an opportunity to visit the Pepys Library before dinner and to attend Evensong in Chapel. Pre-dinner drinks will be served in the Cripps Gallery at 7.15pm or Pepys' Cloisters, with dinner being served in Hall from 8pm.

Those who matriculated in 2010 will be invited to take their MA in person or in absentia in 2017.

If you are interested in making a gift to support Magdalene, please visit [www.magdalenecambridge.com/giveonline](http://www.magdalenecambridge.com/giveonline) or contact [development@magd.cam.ac.uk](mailto:development@magd.cam.ac.uk) for more information.