

Cambridge Squire Law Library: historical development and current status of International Law collections

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Abstract

The Squire Law Library has existed since 1904, and it has occupied three sites: Downing Street (till 1935); The Cockerell Building, Old Schools (1935-95); and West Road (1995-present), but until the mid-1950s, there was no designated collection space for International Law materials. Prior to this, the Whewell professors had their own collections, while the arrival of Harold Gutteridge as Professor of Comparative Law in 1930 saw a nucleus of international books develop in his room in the mezzanine of the Downing Street library. Similarly, when Hersch Lauterpacht became Whewell Professor in 1937, international material tended to be concentrated in his room 6 of the Cockerell Building.

Finally a space was designated within the Squire Law Library for Foreign & International Law in 1957, and in 1962 the Sir Hersch Lauterpacht Memorial Room was created for this purpose. In the mid-70s, Professor Parry arranged for the whole of the 1st floor in the Cockerell Building to be set aside for these collections. Currently, the 3rd floor of the Sir David Williams Building on West Road houses both Foreign and International materials.

Collection development policy has been driven by Faculty interests, especially those of the incumbent of the Whewell Chair of International Law, which was established in 1868. Since WWII, the main growth areas have been in Human Rights, Law of the Sea, Trade Law, and Investment Law, largely prompted by UN/EU/global trade-centric studies. Since 1982, journal acquisition policy has been increasingly dictated by the University Library, especially since 2003, when the UL Journals Co-ordination Scheme was piloted. After the 1980s, material has been increasingly of an electronic nature. Establishment of a specialist post (1997) singled out International Law as the premier component of the Squire Law Library collections. Currently ~30% of both Faculty staff and research students engage in International Law.

Historical background

Cambridge's University Library (UL) is one of the world's foremost university and research libraries. It came into existence in the 15th century (Steiner 1991, p. 248, citing Oates 1986), and with approximately 8 million volumes, 120,000 e-journal titles and numerous materials in other formats. The UL is a major scholarly resource, not only for the whole of the University of Cambridge's academic community, but also for researchers nationally and internationally. The UL is one of the six legal deposit libraries in the United Kingdom and Ireland, and has held this copyright/legal status since 1710. An account of the 18-19th century development of the University Library can be found in McKitterick (1986). It consists currently of the main University Library complex (which it occupied in 1934) and twenty-one affiliated libraries.

The Squire Law Library (SLL) is the library of the Faculty of Law at the University of Cambridge, and is affiliated to the UL. It has one of the most comprehensive collections of

¹ Foreign & International Law Librarian, Squire Law Library, Cambridge.

legal materials in the UK and is large, even by global standards. Although now an affiliated library, the SLL, is, effectively, and was developed originally as, the research and teaching collection of the Faculty of Law at the university. Consequently, the composition of its holdings reflects the interests of personnel who have graced the Faculty over the last century or more.

The study of Canon and Civil Law was well-established at Cambridge by 1250 (Baker 1996), but until the Squire Law Library was named by Edward VII in 1904, and opened its doors to readers in 1906, law books were contained in the main UL collections, under conditions that F W Maitland described in letters dated 1905 as “exceedingly bad”, and “in the manner of foreign law books and periodicals it is shamefully poor” (Fifoot 1965, p. 336; Steiner 1991 footnote 6).

International Law was established as a specialist field of study at Cambridge with the creation of the Whewell Chair of International Law by the Trustees of the estate of the polymath William Whewell (1794-1866) in 1868². It was further strengthened by the creation of the Lauterpacht Centre for International Law in 1983 in honour of the seventh incumbent of the Whewell chair, Sir Hersch Lauterpacht³, who went on to become President of the International Court of Justice. The importance of International Law within the context of the SLL was recognised by the Faculty and Law Sub-Syndicate with appointment in 1997 of the author (Lesley Dingle) as the first specialist librarian at the SLL, and first in International Law in a UK university library.

Collections of legal materials, including some on International Law, also reside in college libraries, and Steiner (1991, p. 248) particularly mentions Downing, Gonville & Caius (early law books), St John’s (early law books), Trinity Hall (old Canon Law), and Trinity College (old Canon Law).

Development of the Squire Law Library

Good accounts of the history of the SLL have been given by Steiner (1991) and Baker (1996). In addition, I have gleaned information from the minute books of the Law Faculty Library Committee (for the period 1925-1974), and the University Library Law Sub-Syndicate (1982-2015). Also, I have used the original Accession Register (Vols 1-2) which covers the period 1929- 1956.

To understand the circumstances under which the International Law collections have been amassed, I include a brief survey of the physical facilities of the SLL, the Librarians who have guided the development of it, and the Faculty staff who constituted the Library Committee.

Buildings

Prior to the establishment of the Squire Law Library, legal collections had been housed in the central University Library, which was based in the Old Schools complex (see

² Master of Trinity College, Professor of Mineralogy (1828 - 32), and Knightbridge Professor of Moral Theology and Casuistical divinity (1838 - 55).

³ <http://www.lcil.cam.ac.uk/>. It was founded by his son, the late Professor Sir Eli Lauterpacht, himself an international lawyer.

Baker 1996). The Squire Law Library has existed in three physical manifestations (Figs 1-3).

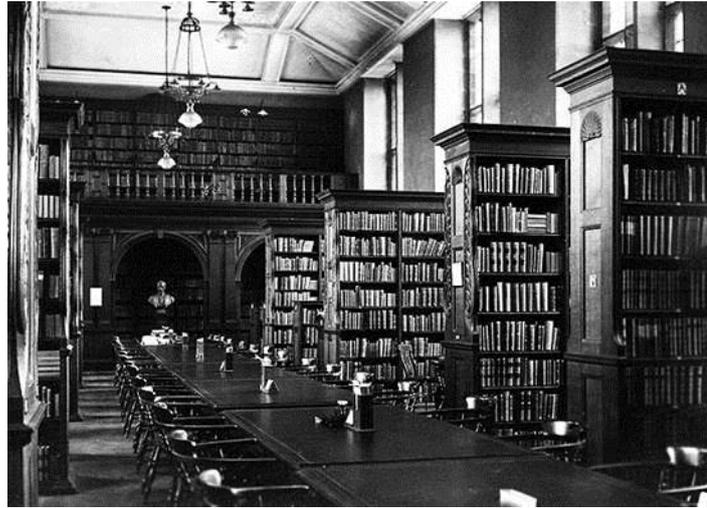


Fig.1. The SLL on the custom-built first floor of the Downing Street site, which was open for readers 1906-1935. The mezzanine area occupied by Professor Gutteridge after 1930, and which contained mainly International Law volumes, is clearly visible.



Fig.2 The first floor of the SLL in the Cockerell Building, Old Schools site. From ~1975 to 1995 Foreign & International Law materials were concentrated in this hall.

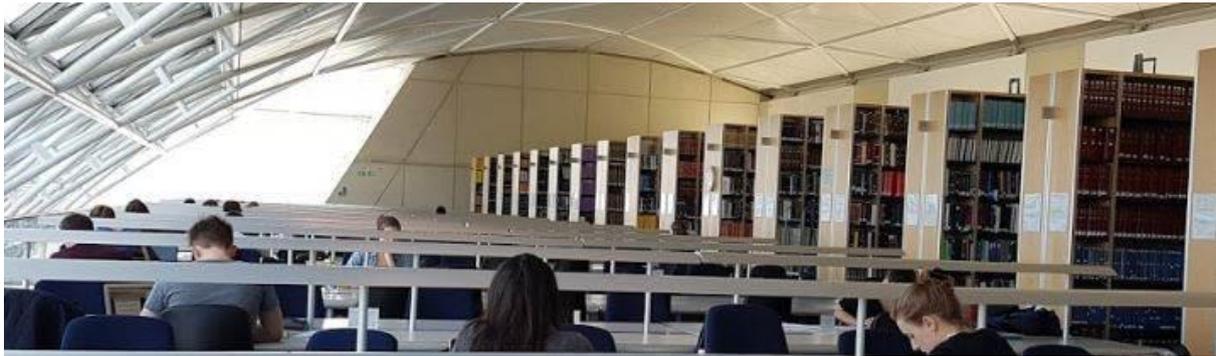


Fig.3 Third floor of the SLL in the Sir David Williams Building, West Road site. Since 1995, this floor has contained the Foreign & International collections. Photo taken by the author 2016.

Downing Street. The decision to build a new Law Faculty on a site in Downing Street was taken in 1898 (Baker 1996, p. 17) after Law had been squeezed out, in 1885, of the two lecture rooms (Rooms 3 and 4) that it had occupied on the Old Schools site. Ironically, this had been to make way for the expansion of the central University Library.

Fortuitously, the University was simultaneously offered £15000 for the construction of a law library by the Trustees of Miss Rebecca Flower Squire's estate. Prior to this, in the 1870s, Professor Clark⁴ had petitioned both the Library Syndicate, and Council of the Senate for a separate Law reading room in the University Library (McKitterick 1986 p. 745), so the bequest was timely. This offer was accepted in 1900, and the combined building was opened by Edward VII in 1904 (although readers were not admitted to the Squire Law Library, which was on the first floor, until 1906)⁵. The Squire fund also provided a further £1500 for the purchase of books (Steiner 1991, p. 261), which, together with legal literature that the Faculty persuaded the UL to transfer to the new SLL, gave it an estimated starting collection of 8,000 volumes (Steiner 1991, p. 252). Baker (1996, p. 19) cites the planned capacity of the new SLL at 10-15,000 volumes.

With time, the library filled, and by the early 1930s it had an estimated 20,000 volumes (Steiner 1991 p. 252), with the Foreign and International Law books housed in rooms above the main library reading room. As told to me by Professor Kurt Lipstein⁶ "*there was a little staircase which led up to the roof rooms [where] there were the additional books which nobody wanted to look at. They were the ones on comparative law and they were the beginning of the library on comparative law. That was where the professor sat, Professor Gutteridge.*"⁷

⁴ Edwin Charles Clark (1835 -1917), Regius Professor of Civil Law (1873-1914), Faculty Chairman (1873-1914).

⁵ Designed by Thomas Graham Jackson.

⁶ Interviewed for the ESA, April 2005. He spent a year in the Downing site library as a PhD student of Professor Patrick Duff.

<http://www.squire.law.cam.ac.uk/sites/www.law.cam.ac.uk/files/images/www.squire.law.cam.ac.uk/legacy/Media/Eminent%20Scholars%20Archive%20Transcripts/Lipstein%201%2014%20April%202005.pdf>

⁷ Harold Cooke Gutteridge (1876-1953). Professor of Comparative Law University of Cambridge 1930-1941. Author of *Comparative Law* 1946 (2nd Edit. 1949).

Old Schools. After thirty years, the SLL outgrew its premises in Downing Street, and in 1935 the Law Faculty moved back onto the Old Schools site. This had been vacated in 1934 by the UL, which itself moved to new, grand, and rather forbidding buildings on West Road (where it has remained).

The SLL occupied the first floor of the Cockerell Building ⁸, which lay along the north range of the Old Schools and above the Seeley History Library. As recorded by Steiner (1991 p. 253)⁹, there was “little, if any, accommodation for readers....and only two small offices.... with seven alcoves along each side....with a gallery with a small room at the end on each side.....The galleries on the North side were enclosed to form rooms for teaching members of the Faculty.”

The Library expanded steadily, and by 1957 there were 38,500 volumes (Library Committee Minutes for 26th Oct 1957). Extra space was acquired in 1968, when the History library moved out, and the SLL overflowed onto the ground floor, by which time the collections had grown to 61,435 volumes. They increased further to 110,000 by 1991 (Steiner 1991 p. 254-55).

A further few memories of the Old Schools SLL by the late Professor Lipstein are worth including from the ESA. “*For me it is still the ideal library. It was old fashioned with lovely wood panelling and wood flooring. Big tables which are so necessary for lawyers to spread their books, a wonderful atmosphere, on one side King’s College on the other side Caius, and at that time enough room for accommodating all the books which we had. Of course we didn’t have that many books at that time and they could all be somehow accommodated though some had to be done on the first floor and you had to climb up the stairs to go there. It was a lovely atmosphere, light windows and altogether a time of which I think with pleasure.*” ¹⁰

Apropos the alcoves set aside for faculty members (Dr Lipstein was appointed lecturer in 1946), “*You did not keep anything [in them]. These were not private rooms. They could be used by anybody who wanted to have access to those rooms. If I remember rightly, the first and second rooms had some important Roman Law Books. Room 5 was certainly [for] Gutteridge which had Comparative Law. Room 4 had all the French law. Room 6 Lauterpacht ¹¹ must have had - International Law. There was no room for your keeping anything. Since they were accessible to everybody you could not leave your own things there because it was [for] public use.*”

A significant event in the development of the SLL came in 1982 when its administration and status was transferred to the University Library, of which it became a dependent library. This affected, *inter alia*, the SLL’s staffing structure, and the arrangement of receiving UL’s deposit books, which was rescinded in 1982. Steiner (1991 p. 280) estimated that by the mid 60s 15-20% of the SLL stock fell into the deposit category, although, as he pointed out (1991 p. 278), International Law books had never been included, as they were considered also to be of potential interest to staff outwith the Law Faculty (similarly Roman Law and legal history).

⁸ Designed by Charles Cockerell and built 1837-42.

⁹ Who was Assistant Librarian in the Cockerell Building from 1959-68. He was librarian at IALS 1968-81.

¹⁰ It is also poignant to recall that during the war years, Dr Lipstein spent nights on the roof of the SLL as a firewatch warden.

¹¹ Professor Sir Hersch Lauterpacht (1897-1960). Judge at International Court of Justice 1954-60. Whewell Professor of International Law, 1938-55.

The steady increase in size of the SLL in its Old School manifestation, was mirrored by both the enlargement and dispersal around central Cambridge, of entities of the Faculty, so that by the 1980s urgent thought was being given to an entirely new location to draw together all the elements of the law school. This was achieved by the University's decision to build on the Sidgwick site on West Road.

Sir David Williams Building, West Road. Designed by Sir Norman Foster, the Faculty and SLL decamped to this glass, open-plan, titanic edifice in 1995. It had been in the planning since 1987. Prominent in its organisation were Professors John Baker, and Len Sealy and Mr Michael Prichard, while the logistics of the move were completed under the chairmanships of Professors John Tiley, and John Spencer.

The SLL occupies three floors at the west end of the building, with International Law, along with office of the Foreign & International Law Librarian, taking up the third floor. Total current holdings in the SLL are 190,000 volumes, which includes ~2000 serial titles (entry in 2016 Faculty handbook).

SLL Librarians

Since its inception, there have been eight Librarians at the helm of the Squire Law Library, and their status has reflected the management structure of the library. The first six incumbents were appointed by the Law Faculty Special Board (called the Faculty Board after 1926), and were members of Faculty: Regius Professor of Law, Edwin Charles Clark (1905-07), Mr Austin H. Johnson (1907-29), Dr Tom Ellis Lewis (1929-1968), Mr William T. Major (1968-70), Dr John Baker (1970-73), and Mr Gordon G. E. Hughes (1979-82 - he was Deputy Librarian-in-charge 1973-79). During this period of Faculty management, the Chairman of the administrative Library Committee was also Chairman of the Faculty Board, until 1967, when Professor Clive Parry took the position, more or less continuously until his death in 1982. This is significant, as he was at the time Professor of International Law.

After the incorporation of the SLL into the UL, the position of Librarian has been on the staff of the UL, with the status of Under-Librarian: Mr Keith J. A. McVeigh (1983-95), and Mr David Wills (1995-present).

Of these SLL Librarians, the longevity of T Ellis Lewis (TEL) is particularly noteworthy (39 years), while Johnson (22), and Wills (21+) have also had long tenures. Although Lewis undertook both research and teaching in the Faculty, particularly on Tort, and under his stewardship the SLL expanded greatly in size and influence (see Steiner 1991 p. 268 etc), he does not seem to have had a major influence on the collection development of International Law.

In contrast, Dr Lewis's replacement, Mr Major, was an international lawyer and teacher, and it was he who supervised the expansion of the SLL into the ground floor area of the Cockerell Building. However, his potential to expand the International Law collections was not realised, when he resigned after only two years, to return to teaching in London.

In recent years (2015), the status of the SLL has altered further, by becoming an affiliated library of the UL (in contrast to a dependent library). This has entailed a further integration of collection management, particularly with regard to digital services, serial publications, electronic books, and the introduction of the Open Access regime.

Library Committee: members, chairmen, accession records (1904-74)

Since its establishment, the running of the SLL and, *inter alia*, purchase of stock, has been guided in various ways by appointees. Initially, this consisted of Professor Clark,

Chairman of the Special Board, who reported directly to the University authorities. He was assisted by Mr A H Johnson, who was the Custodian and undertook shelving and cataloguing. Steiner (1991 p. 257) speculated that F. W. Maitland ¹² may have had some early input into the planning stages, despite his serious illness. After Clark's chairmanship, professors Kenny¹³ (1914-18), and Buckland ¹⁴ (1918-25) would have been responsible for the SLL's administration in their capacities as Faculty chairmen, both of whom were assisted in the day to day running by Mr Johnson, who by this stage, had been appointed Librarian.

It was only with the Faculty chairmanship of Professor Hazeltine ¹⁵ that formal meetings to discuss and organise SLL affairs were initiated by the Law Faculty Special Board, with the appointment of a professorial committee. Its first meeting was 25th February 1925, and it consisted of Hazeltine (Chairman), with Kenny, Buckland and Pearce-Higgins ¹⁶. Despite his obvious interest in proceedings, it was not until the Library Committee meeting of 22nd November 1928, that the SL Librarian was admitted to these meetings, although from then, the incumbent was an ever-present member until the committee was disbanded in 1982. From 1904, Chairmanship of the Library Committee went with Chairmanship of the Faculty until the end of Professor Parry's Faculty stint (1968-70), when it passed, mainly, to Dr (later Professor) Lipstein for four years, rather than Dr R. N. Gooderson (Faculty Chairman 1970-73), and Professor Stein (1973-76). (Gooderson attended 9 meetings 1954-56, and Stein 6 meetings 1970-74, but neither in the Library Committee chair). The record of Library Committee minutes ceased in 1974. The last meeting recorded was 11th March, when those present were Professor Lipstein (Chairman), Professor Parry, Mr Prichard, Mr Glazebrook, Dr Baker, Mr Hughes (Temporary Librarian-in-Charge), and Messrs Bellis and Finn ¹⁷ (student representatives). At that meeting, two sub-committees were established, one to oversee acquisitions (Finn, Hopkins and Prichard), and the other staff (Baker, Glazebrook and Stein).

Discussions I have had with Professor Baker, Mr McVeigh, and Mr David Wills indicate that meetings under the chairmanship of Professor Parry continued until 1982, when administration of the SLL was transferred to the UL. However, there are no (surviving) details of attendees or proceedings for these eight years.

Between 1925 and 1974 (ie the period for which we have records of the SL Library Committee), a grand total of fifty-two appointees attended meetings, with Dr T Ellis Lewis (64 meetings) by far the longest-serving member (1929-68). Other doyens were professors Lipstein (46, 1947-74), Hamson (40, 1947-70), Emlyn Wade (36, 1929-62), and Patrick Duff

¹² Frederic William Maitland (1850-1906), Downing Professor (1888-1906).

¹³ Courtney Stanhope Kenny (1847-1930), Downing Professor (1907-18).

¹⁴ William Warwick Buckland (1859-1946), Regius Professor of Civil Law (1914-45).

¹⁵ Harold Dexter Hazeltine (1871-1960), Downing Professor (1919-42).

¹⁶ Alexander Pearce Higgins. (1865-1935), Whewell Professor (1920-33), Specialist in Maritime Law, served as adviser to the Procurator General and Treasury Solicitor in WWI, member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague (1930), President of the Institut de Droit International (1929-31).

¹⁷ **Error! Main Document Only.** Professor Justice Paul Finn (1946-), Judge of the Federal Court of Australia (1995), Goodhart Professor (2010-11), Professor & Head, Department of Law and Division of Philosophy and Law, Australian National University (1988-1995).

(35, 1947-66).

The Library records also contain two Accession Registers. These were commenced only in 1929, and volumes acquired after this date were numbered sequentially from 1 to 14,482. This gives a detailed record of stock growth for the period 1929 to 1956 (July 26th), which I show on a graph of calendar year (Fig. 4). The Register started when Hazeltine was Committee Chairman, but there is no mention in the minutes of this having been initiated, and similarly there is no mention in the minutes as to why the Register was discontinued at the end of the academic year 1955-56 (Hamson was Chairman of both the Faculty and Library Committee at this time).

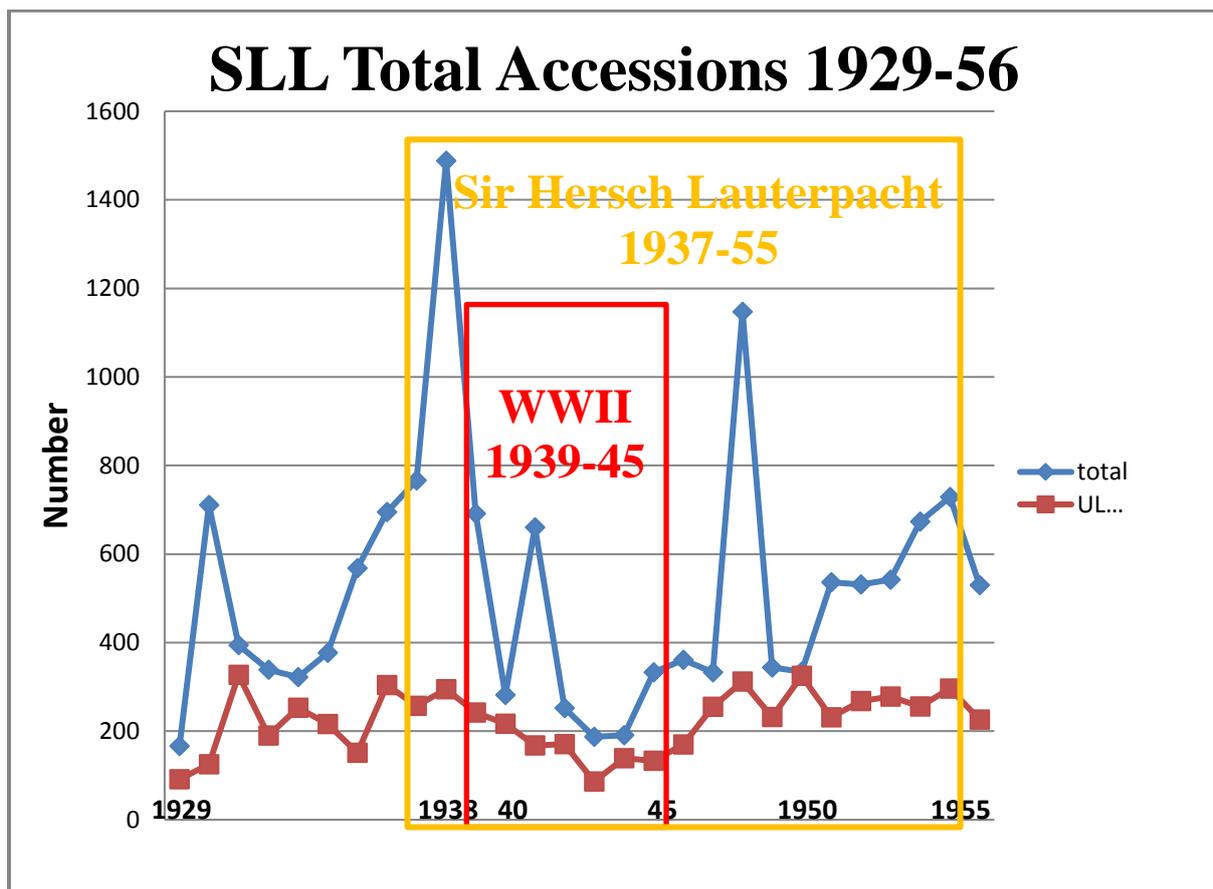


Fig. 4 Graph showing accessions to the Squire Law Library, as recorded in the Accession Register for the period 1929-56. Blue [diamonds] = total volumes, Red [squares] = Transfers from UL. Number of volumes is shown on left hand axis. Dates are shown on horizontal axis. The tenure of Sir Hersch Lauterpacht as Whewell Professor is shown in orange, while the duration of the Second World War is outlined in red.

The graph of the number of acquisitions (Fig. 4) shows that over the twenty-seven years, a period of low growth in the early 30s, was followed by increased acquisition in the late 30s. Annual growth rose from a low of 322 volumes in 1933 to over 700 in 1937. The annual tally of acquisitions fell below 300 volumes only 4 times between 1929 and 1956, unsurprisingly, all during the war (1942-44), when it reached a low of 187 in 1943. It rose steadily in the post-war years to 729 in 1955 (the 1956 value of 530 is a part calendar year).

This history is punctuated by two sharp peaks: 1938 (1488), and 1948 (1147). The former coincided with extensive use of Whewell Fund monies, and the latter, a single purchase of 612 volumes of *Law Reports* covering 1865-1947.

During the period covered by the Registers, the total SLL holdings rose from ~20,000 to ~34,482 (i.e. including the 14,482 in the Register). This comprised a mix of donations from individuals, Government departments, and colonial and dominion administrations, purchases from commercial booksellers and late faculty members' estates, as well as exchanges with the *Cambridge Law Journal*. In addition, there were constant transfers from the UL. In his account of the history of the SLL, Steiner (1991 p. 277-81) discussed the transfer of UL books, and comments that after the initial allocation of ~8,000 17th-19th century volumes in 1905 (mainly law reports, 2/3 of which had been returned by 1970), only "material received under the Copyright Act" was transferred. He also noted that items pertaining to "Roman law, legal history, ecclesiastical law, International Law, constitutional law, administrative law, and jurisprudence" were never included. In this sense, the SLL International Law stock did not directly benefit from Cambridge University being a designated copyright deposit library.

I have tallied the record of transfers from the UL to the SLL in the Registers, and over the period 1929-56, 6,214 volumes were transferred (43% of the books acquired by the SLL) (see Fig. 4). Relative numbers acquired in particular years varied from 97% (1950) to 20% (1938). Actual lowest numbers were during the war (86 in 1943).

Throughout the period recorded in the Registers, much business was conducted with the local book seller Bowes & Bowes, (eventually taken over by W H Smith, 1953), on the site of the present CUP bookshop. Interestingly, for a short period during the war (1941) many donations and purchases were made by and through "A Lieck Esq" (perhaps when B&B found it difficult to get books?), although I cannot find who or what this vendor was. It is also salutary to see that during the war, purchases of law journals continued from societies and institutions in Canada, and the USA - given the fraught military conditions in the Atlantic, and priorities of wartime trade.

Finally, a poignant feature of the SL Library Committee minutes book (volume 1) is worth comment. This is the record for the meeting on January 26th 1939, which is signed by the chairman of the next meeting as "accepted". The latter is dated March 19th 1947. There is no mention whatsoever of the eight years of war, mayhem, and changes in world order (including the establishment of the UN) that the intervening years encompassed. The fortunes of the SLL seem, on the surface, to have been unaffected by them, with the Committee taking up the baton of administration again without faltering. The world as they knew it had tottered on the brink, but the minutes book had been dusted off and continued, without comment.

For the record, the members present at these two meetings were: 1939 - Bailey (Chairman), Hazeltine, Lewis, Winfield, Lauterpacht, and Wade; 1947 - Wade (Chairman), Lewis, Hamson, Lauterpacht, Lipstein, Duff, and Bailey.

University Library: Law Sub-Syndicate (1982-2015)

During the most recent period, since the SLL has been a dependent/affiliate library of the UL (1982-2015), the fortunes of the SLL have been guided by a board entitled the Cambridge University Library Law Sub-Syndicate. This has held 58 meetings over the intervening 34 years. It met for the first time on 4th Nov 1982. The UL Librarian and SLL

Librarian have been ever present ¹⁸. The incumbent Whewell Professors (Bowett and Crawford) were not on the board as a matter of course, and Bowett did not attend one meeting. Crawford, however was appointed in 1992 (when he became Whewell Professor), and was made Chairman in 1993. He retired from the Sub-Syndicate in 1996, but rejoined in 2005. The other members were from the UL and the Law Faculty, and in later years the latter have become prominent.

Issues of International Law collection development have figured only intermittently throughout this period, but some items stand out and are worth recording. Large fund-donations and purchases are recorded in the period 1992-94 of EU-related materials with the establishment of CELS (Centre for European Legal Studies), coinciding with the prominent Sub-Syndicate membership of Professor Bill Cornish. This was supplemented by two large grants to the SLL by the Board of the *Cambridge Law Journal* in 2008 & 2010, which were also used to bolster the SLL's Commonwealth collections. The latter had also been supplemented by a series of donations from the Smuts Fund over the period 1986-2003.

A significant development was precipitated by an adverse report from the first HEFCE quality assessment survey which was communicated to the Sub-Syndicate in Nov 1993. While the Faculty was rated as "highly excellent", the SLL was criticised for its collections and financial state. An Action Group was set up to address the matter in February 1994. Notwithstanding the disruption of the Faculty and SLL decamping from the Old Schools site to West Road in 1995, the upshot was that with the installation of the new SLL Librarian (Mr Wills), he and Mr Zawada were funded to visit various North American law libraries in 1996. The Whewell Professor Crawford was then Chairman of the Sub-Syndicate. One result was a recommendation by Mr David Wills to appoint a specialist Foreign & International Law librarian to upgrade these collections. The author was appointed in 1997.

Records of accessions

On the growth of the SLL collections, the 1925-74 Library Committee minutes intermittently recorded the increase in size of the total SLL holdings (but there was no separate record of the growth of the International Law book collection). Incorporating data cited in Steiner (1991), the best record I can construct for the long-term growth of the overall SLL collections is: 1904 - 78,000 ¹⁹; 1929 - ~20,000 ²⁰, 1956 - ~34,482²¹, 1957 - 38,500 ²²; 1969 - 61,435 ²³; 1991 - 110,000 ²⁴; and 2016 - 190,000 ²⁵.

International Law Collections

Tracing the fortunes of the "International Law" collections is not straightforward because historically, no distinction has been drawn between it and "Foreign Law". The position I hold epitomises this: "Foreign and International Law Librarian".

¹⁸ Mr Noblett acted for the SLL until the new Librarian Mr McVeigh was installed by the second meeting.

¹⁹ Steiner 1991 p. 252

²⁰ Op cit p. 253

²¹ Including Accession Register tallies 1929-56.

²² Library Committee minutes 26th Oct 1957

²³ Steiner 1991 p. 254

²⁴ Op cit p. 255

²⁵ Law Faculty handbook 2016.

Until the mid - 50s, collections of such materials had no designated place within the SLL. In the Downing Street library, Kurt Lipstein remembers their being housed along with Professor Gutteridge in the mezzanine floor above the main library hall. Gutteridge was primarily a comparative lawyer, and much of the material he used was his own, but it was not until 1954 that there is a record in the Library Committee minutes (March 11th) that SLL bought some of these for £47, although the quantity involved must have been small ²⁶ (Gutteridge died in 1953).

By this time, the library had moved to the Old Schools (1935), a change which coincided with the appointment of McNair in the Whewell chair. McNair left after two years to become Vice-Chancellor of Liverpool University (1937-45) ²⁷. Almost from the outset of his Whewell tenure, Sir Hersch Lauterpacht ²⁸ based himself in room 6 in the Old Schools library area (next to Kurt Lipstein in room 5). As recounted by Judge Stephen Schwebel in his 2009 ESA interview, Lauterpacht's room "*hardly admitted more than a desk and his chair, and a chair for his guests...he didn't do his work there, he did his scholarly work at [Trinity], but he received students there*" ²⁹. Sir Hersch tended to corral the International Law books within this area, but the first mention of a designated area for the International Law material was a recommendation in 1957 by Eli Lauterpacht (his son) for a table to be set aside in Bay 1 of the first floor hall in the Cockerell Building to house United Nations materials. This table is currently in the Lauterpacht Centre ³⁰

In 1959, the SLL expanded into the library space on the ground floor of the Old Schools previously occupied by the Modern Language collections, and a request was made for part of this to be designated for International Law. This suggestion was supported by Professor Robbie Jennings, and in 1961 it was agreed with financial support from Lady Lauterpacht and her son Eli (who was a University lecturer at the time) that this would be turned into the Sir Hersch Lauterpacht Memorial Room to hold International Law materials. It was opened in 1962.

International (& Foreign) materials have been housed separately ever since, and a further demarcation was achieved by Professor Clive Parry. He was Chairman of the Library Committee from 1975 until 1982 and he arranged for the concentration of the International (& Foreign) collections, in the teeth of some Faculty opposition, on the first floor of the Cockerell Building at the expense of English Law materials. The latter were moved to the ground floor ³¹. In the current David Williams Building on West Road, International (& Foreign) materials lie on the 3rd and 2nd floors.

Meanwhile, the opening of the Lauterpacht Centre in Cranmer Road in 1983 ³²

²⁶ Curiously there is no record of this in the Accession Register.

²⁷ He returned to Cambridge in 1945, but as Professor of Comparative Law (1945-46), and never served again on the Library Committee.

²⁸ He had been an LLD student of McNair at LSE in 1925.

²⁹ Question 4 in his interview. He was talking of the situation in 1950.

<http://www.squire.law.cam.ac.uk/eminant-scholars-archive/judge-stephen-m-schwebel>

³⁰ Pers. comm. Mr Michael Prichard 2016.

³¹ Pers. comm. Mr Michael Prichard 2016.

³² This was due to the tireless efforts of Sir Eli Lauterpacht, who reminisced on its origins in his ESA interview. See e.g. interview 4, question 69
<https://www.repository.cam.ac.uk/bitstream/handle/1810/197069/Eli%20Lauterpacht%20interview%204%20transcript%20->

superceded the Memorial Room as a focus of intellectual activity for visiting scholars. The Centre's library has an *ad hoc* collection of international legal materials, housed mainly in the Old Library and Finley Library at No 5 Cranmer Road³³. Many items have been donated from the libraries of eminent scholars, but the collection does not duplicate the resources of the SLL. Researchers and visitors mainly use the latter as a source of paper and electronic data.

Whewell Professors of International Law

The acquisition history of International Law materials is equally elusive, but clearly its trajectory has been primarily influenced by the succession of eminent scholars and practitioners who have held the Whewell Chair of International Law, along with other international lawyers who have graced the Faculty over the last century.

Since the establishment of the Whewell professorship in 1868³⁴, there have been eleven incumbents: Sir William Vernon Harcourt (1869-87); Sir Henry Maine (1887-88); John Westlake (1888-1908); Lassa Francis Lawrence Oppenheim (1908-19); Alexander Pearce Higgins (1920 - 35); Lord Arnold McNair (1935-37); Sir Hersch Lauterpacht (1937-55); Sir Robert Jennings (1955-81); Sir Derek Bowett (1981-91); James Crawford (1992-2015); Eyal Benvenisti (2016-).

Apropos the International Law collections, it is germane that, with the exception of occasions for absence of leave etc, the incumbent Whewell Professor was also ever-present on the Library Committee between 1925 and 1973. This encompassed the tenures of professors Pearce-Higgins (15 meetings, 1920-33), Arnold McNair (14, 1927-37), Hersch Lauterpacht (9, 1938-54), and Robbie Jennings (27, 1957-73). Other noted international/foreign lawyers appointed by the Faculty to serve on the Library Committee were professors Lipstein (46 meetings, 1947-74), Parry (11, 1966-82), Eli Lauterpacht (10, 1963-68), Gutteridge (7, 1930-38), and Ivor Jennings (4, 1964-65).

When the first two Whewell incumbents (Sir William Harcourt and Sir Henry Maine) were in place, the SLL had not opened, while in 1906 John Westlake was near the end of his tenure (1908). In contrast, both Oppenheim and Pearce-Higgins served their entire tenures during the time the SLL was based in Downing Street.

Lassa Oppenheim, after he came from Germany in 1895, lectured at LSE prior to his move to Cambridge. None of his collection of ~1200 volumes on International Law appear to have come to the SLL, as they were purchased from his widow in 1923 by the Trustees of the Edward Fry Library of International Law at the LSE³⁵. When this was disbanded, most of its contents were presumably integrated into the International Law section of the present LSE Law Library. As the SL Library Committee did not exist in his day, Oppenheim's

%2020%20March%202008.pdf;jsessionid=01CFCD5182A5862471EF16423B9D85?sequence=3

³³ http://www.lcil.cam.ac.uk/research_links/lauterpacht-centre-library

³⁴ Dr. William Whewell laid in his will: "*an earnest an express injunction on the occupant of this chair that he should make it his aim in all parts of his treatment of the subject, to lay down such rules and suggest such measures as might tend to diminish the evils of war and finally to extinguish war among nations.*" In this grandiose cause, occupants of the chair have so far singularly failed.

³⁵ Established after Sir Edward Fry, formerly one of the Lords Justices of Appeal, and first delegate of Britain at the Hague Conferences. See Headicar (1923, p. i).

contributions to the SLL collection development were not documented, but they seem to have been small, although he did edit the papers of one of his Whewell predecessors, John Westlake³⁶.

Pearce-Higgins, in contrast, played an active role in the SLL, being a member of the Committee from its inception in 1925 to 1933, when he retired. He died in 1935, and one of the first acts of the then Chairman Hazeltine, and McNair, the new Whewell incumbent, was to purchase ninety-six of Pearce-Higgins books for the SLL - this would have been one of the first large acquisitions of the SLL after it had moved to its new home in the Old Schools³⁷. The bulk of these are late 19th - early 19th texts, but include the 1805 edition of *Droit Maritime de l'Europe* by M D A Azuni. Pearce-Higgins was a specialist in maritime International Law, and fourteen of the books acquired by the SLL related specifically to this topic. Also during Pearce-Higgins's time on the Committee, Arthur Goodhart³⁸ (who was then Professor of Jurisprudence at Oxford), was asked to provide advice on the acquisition of US material (1930 - a meeting which he attended), and this liaison continued into 1936 (by which time McNair held the Whewell chair). It was at this time (Dec 1936) that Professor Hazeltine (who was Chairman) made a gift of books relating to Air Law, and other International subjects, to the SLL.

During his tenure of the Whewell chair, Lord McNair (1935-7) attended the Library Committee five times, but prior to this appointment, he had been to eight meetings (1927-9) while the SLL was still housed in Downing Street. This was before the accessions had been recorded, but Steiner (1991) estimated that overall, the collections had grown by about 12,000 volumes between 1905 and 1929 (i.e. an average of ~500 per year, including UL transfers), the latter part of which two international lawyers (Pearce-Higgins, and McNair) had helped oversee. Also, it was while they were both on the Committee that the decision to allow the Librarian to attend meetings was taken. Further, it is likely that Pearce-Higgins would have been supportive of the move to contact Dominion administrations to donate copies of their official legal publications to the fledgling library (26th Oct 1926 meeting). Their contribution to the SLL's overall growth seems to have been positive, though we have no evidence of particular contributions to International accessions in the 1920-30 period.

McNair was succeeded in the Whewell chair by Hersch Lauterpacht in 1937 (Fig. 5). Although the latter chaired only two Library Committee meetings near the end of his tenure (Feb & Mar 1954), he attended throughout his tenure in the chair (1937-55). Lauterpacht was also one of only six Faculty members to attend meetings both pre- and post-war³⁹, and spent part of the war years in North America on Government Foreign Office business to advise on the Lend/Lease Program⁴⁰. Immediately after the war, and while still Whewell Professor, Sir

³⁶ 1914. *The Collected Papers of John Westlake on Public International Law* (CUP 1914). No mention is made of their whereabouts (in 1914).

³⁷ Items 2774-2869 in the Accessions Register - 4th Dec 1935.

³⁸ Professor Sir Arthur Lehman Goodhart (1891-1978), American-born British academic jurist and lawyer in whose honour the Goodhart Visiting Professor post is named in the Cambridge Law Faculty.

³⁹ Lauterpacht, Lewis, Emlyn Wade, Hollond, Bailey, and Ashton-Croft.

⁴⁰ See Eli Lauterpacht's ESA interviews, Questions 15 & 16

<http://www.squire.law.cam.ac.uk/eminent-scholars-archiveprofessor-sir-elihu->

Hersch was a Member of the British War Crimes Executive (1945-6), and attended the Nuremberg war trials (1945-9). He left Cambridge to join the bench of the ICJ in 1955.



Fig.5 Dr Hersch Lauterpacht (later, Professor, Sir), his wife Rachel and son Elihu (later Professor, Sir) in ca. 1933, when he was a Reader in Public International Law, University of London.

Arguably, the tenure of Hersch Lauterpacht in the Whewell chair was a period during which some of the most important decisions on acquisitions in the field of International Law for the SLL were made. Also, because of the high regard in which he was, and still is, held in International Law circles, his tenure conferred on the subject the high status it continues to hold in the Faculty and SLL to this day - *vide*, the Lauterpacht Centre to which I have already referred⁴¹.

The year after his taking the Whewell chair, Lauterpacht allocated monies from the Whewell Trust Fund (use was at the discretion of the Whewell incumbent) to make significant purchases of international legal literature. Thus, in March-May 1938, the Accession Register logged 688 acquisitions, many bought from Dr Hans Preiss Booksellers, London, W.C.1⁴². They included 160 volumes of the *League of Nations Series* and *Index* bought from the League at a cost of £64 17s 10d. This tranche was by far the largest single purchase in the 27 years of the Accession Registers, and immeasurably boosted the International Law holdings. Further use of the Whewell fund was made by Hersch Lauterpacht in Jan 1939 (9 items), Apr 1947 (13 items) and Oct 1951 (51 items). He also made a significant acquisition in Apr 1951, when the SLL negotiated 42 volumes of the *Nuremberg Trial Series* (French edition) to be transferred from the University Library, while he also arranged for the purchase of 64 volumes relating to UN General Assembly, Economic, Trusteeship and Security council meetings for the late 1940s to be purchased from HM Stationery Office in Feb 1952.

Hersch Lauterpacht's huge contributions to the status of International Law at Cambridge were both physical and intangible. They came in the form of prestige, physical acquisition of materials for the SLL, and in his legacy of teaching and inspiration (both Robbie Jennings and Derek Bowett later became Whewell professors), while his son Sir Eli played a significant role in the development of the SLL in the 60-70s, and in the establishment and running of the Lauterpacht Centre for International Law.

On the international stage, Hersch Lauterpacht participated actively in the transition of

lauterpacht/conversations-professor-sir-eli-lauterpacht

⁴¹ See http://www.lcil.cam.ac.uk/about_the_centre/sir-hersch-lauterpacht-1897-1960

⁴² [https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hans_Preiss_\(Buchh%C3%A4ndler\)](https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hans_Preiss_(Buchh%C3%A4ndler))

a world wrestling with the politics and rules of the League of Nations to the modern order dominated by the United Nations. He had personally participated and suffered in the traumatic war that brought down the old and ushered in the new. Clearly no other Whewell professor has experienced such dramatic changes in the foundations underpinning International Law, and his priorities in SLL acquisitions reflected this. Sir Hersch's papers and books are currently in the possession of the estate of his late son, Sir Eli Lauterpacht.

Robbie Jennings was awarded the Whewell chair when Hersch Lauterpacht left to join the ICJ in 1955, but did not attend a Library Committee meeting for over two years. It was during this period (Feb 1956), while Professor Hamson held the chairmanship, that Professor Emlyn Wade and Dr Lipstein undertook a survey that resulted in the SLL, on grounds of cost, elected not to "compete" with IALS in the collection of all British Commonwealth legal material, but rather to concentrate their resources on Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Ceylon and South Africa. This was a significant decision, as it determined a bias that persists to the present.

Sir Robbie Jennings's tenure of the Whewell chair lasted until 1981, when he also left the University to take up a position on the bench of the ICJ, and ultimately its Presidency. Effectively, he was the last Whewell professor to serve on the Library Committee, as the SLL was absorbed into the UL in 1982. His lengthy period in the Whewell chair saw two major changes in provenance of intake for Foreign and International materials: the UN and the EEC/EU.

In 1961 Jennings pushed for UN documents to be deposited in the SLL as a matter of course, and Eli Lauterpacht was charged with looking into the matter, perhaps of getting the SLL limited "deposit" status. Resolution took a year, after which the UL acquired full access to the UN output. This persisted until the UN went online, and open access is now available. At the same time (Nov 1961), Eli Lauterpacht suggested that the SLL purchase EEC documents (UK was not then in the EEC), but the request was turned down on cost grounds - £28 to buy back parts. The Committee relented in May 1964, despite the annual cost of £80.

Acquisition of European materials remained an issue for several years, however, and in 1971 an unfavourable comparison was made to the Library Committee with the SLL's commitment to this area in comparison with the Bodleian and IALS. This was immediately prior to UK entry into the EEC, and in Mar 1973, at the prompting of Professor Peter Stein (he had joined the Committee in 1970⁴³), a £5000 grant from the University Grants Committee was used to rectify the situation. Again, open access to all EU materials online has radically altered the situation.

A significant purchase of books on Public International Law was the March 1967 £1200 investment in the collection of Commonwealth constitution books of the late Professor Ivor Jennings⁴⁴ who had served a short spell as a Committee member in 1964-early '65. He was a prominent constitutional lawyer who had spent much of his life in Ceylon and Malaysia.

⁴³ An amusing aside re Stein's membership of the Committee is the "hard" stand he took in Mar 1974 with two library assistants who went "on strike" re replacing users' books. He said it was their duty to do so: he was a serving magistrate in Cambridge at the time!

⁴⁴ Sir William Ivor Jennings (1903-65). Constitutional lawyer. Master of Trinity Hall (1954-65), Vice-Chancellor of University of Cambridge. Strong links to Ceylon and Malaysia, Member of the Reid Commission (1956-7), which drafted the Constitution of the Federation of Malaya (now Malaysia). Helped found the University of Colombo (1942).

A further development in the SLL's fortunes while Robbie Jennings was on the Committee, was the appointment in 1959 of an Assistant Librarian: Mr W A F P "Willi" Steiner⁴⁵, who henceforth also attended the Library Committee's meetings. Willi Steiner's lasting legacy was his effort to produce a computerised cataloguing system for SLL, which went in tandem with a new classification system for the overall collections. It is not clear from the minutes if the trial computer print-out for International Law was ever completed (May 1970), but after Willi left the SLL in 1968, his wife Barbara continued with the work for some time. Nevertheless, his unique classification system is still in use in the modern SLL.

Since 1982, and the demise of the Faculty-based Library Committee, the incumbent Whewell professor has not been officially involved in the running of the SLL. This coincided with the stewardships of Sir Derek Bowett (1981-91), James Crawford (1991-2016) and Eyal Benvenisti (2016-)⁴⁶.

Bowett's interests in International Law were well-explained to me when I interviewed him in 2006-7 for ESA. He described how, as a student, he had been strongly influenced by Hersch Lauterpacht in the late 40s, along with his contemporary Stephen Schwebel (whom I also interviewed later, 2009). Sir Derek's PhD thesis (undertaken at Manchester) had been on the subject of *Self-Defence in International Law*⁴⁷, after which he spent time at the UN in New York (1957-9), where he became deeply involved in negotiations surrounding the Law of the Sea Treaty. This was an interest he retained after he returned to Cambridge. He also worked for the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine (1966-68), and was on the spot when the 1967 Israeli/Egypt-Syria-Jordan war broke out in 1967. Human Rights in the context of war were thus another subject in which he was greatly interested.

While Robbie Jennings had been the first Whewell incumbent to operate entirely under the new world order of International Law brought about by the conflagrations of the Second World War, Bowett took over after the UN organisation had matured. By this stage it had established its political and humanitarian agencies, and had begun peace-keeping ventures. Also, the international environment was dominated by the "Cold War" between the west and the Soviet Union. Having worked in and for the UN organisation, Bowett was well-versed in its *modus operandi*. He actively engaged in International legal work, and was involved with litigations in nine ICJ cases, as well as numerous international boundary and land dispute arbitrations⁴⁸. He also did research on the international use of force, and how to best gain access to deep-sea floor mineral resources in the world's oceans.

Apropos his role in SLL's acquisition of International Law materials, it is significant that Sir Derek never sat on an analogue of the Library Committee. By this time (i.e. post-1982) the SLL was regularly in receipt of all UN materials via subscription, and this represented a large proportion of the SLL's intake.

⁴⁵ Wilhelm Anton Friedrich Paul "Willi" Steiner (1918-2003). Ass Librarian SLL (1959-68). Librarian IALS (1968-82). Vice-President IALL (1974-80).

⁴⁶ Previously Anny & Paul Yanowicz Professor of Human Rights, Tel Aviv University (from 2002), Hersch Lauterpacht Professor of Law, Hebrew University (1990-2002).

⁴⁷ Published by Manchester University Press, 1958.

⁴⁸ For a list see <http://www.squire.law.cam.ac.uk/eminent-scholars-archive/professor-sir-derek-bowett/international-litigation>

James Crawford became the Whewell professor in 1992, and resigned to join the bench of the ICJ in 2015. His specialities were in Public International Law, and International Arbitration. He was the second-longest serving Whewell professor (24 years) after Jennings (26 years). Professor Crawford served as Director of the Lauterpacht centre on two occasions (1997-2003, 2006-10), and engaged extensively in International Law litigation and arbitration. He appeared before the ICJ, ITLOS, ICSID and ICC tribunals, and ran an annual course for staff of the FCO, during the later years of which the writer was also involved.

Currently (from 2016), the Whewell chair is held by Eyal Benvenisti, whose special interest in International Law includes the History of International Law, particularly the Law of War, and Human Rights. He is also Director of the Lauterpacht Centre.

Brief history of print serial International Law acquisitions

As a metric to gauge the potential influence of Whewell incumbents on the development of the SLL International Law collections, I have analysed the development of the SLL print serial collections over time. Using data on the materials held on the SLL 3rd Floor, I have identified 1118 print titles of Foreign and International (F&I) serials to which the law library has begun a subscription or exchange since the inception of the Whewell chair in 1869 (with Harcourt)⁴⁹. I have used the tenure period of each incumbent as the unit for counting. For example: the number of Marine law-related journals acquired during Bowett's tenure was 12, and during Westlake's 2 (even though Westlake's tenure was twice as long as Bowett's).

Within this data set, I have identified a total of 621 titles that I would classify as International, in contrast to Foreign law⁵⁰. Thus, over the period of 146 years since Harcourt's appointment, an average of four new International Law titles a year were subscribed to. However, this figure hides a strong temporal dichotomy: before WWII this figure was 3 or less (for instance during both Westlake and Harcourt's tenures it was ~1/year), while since WWII, there has been a sharp increase from 5 new titles per annum under Lauterpacht, to 8 under Bowett and Crawford. Over the years, 347 of these titles have been discontinued, so that the current count of "active" International Law serials is 274.

Several significant changes stand out from the serials' subscription history. Firstly, since WWII, two areas of International Law have expanded: Marine Law, and Human Rights, both I suspect are a direct consequence of the focus on them by UN agencies. Interest in Marine Law has been based primarily on the UN Law of the Sea Treaty, and disputes on issues of mineral, fishing and territorial rights. Human Rights were highlighted by the Nuremberg war trials, and since then have been an issue with all subsequent conflicts. They have now become interwoven into domestic law via the ECHR. SLL's reflection of these two areas started with Lauterpacht's involvement with early UN activities. During his tenure the combined percentage of Marine Law + Human Rights serials acquisitions increased to 12%, and since Jennings's stewardship, has never fallen below 20%. This clearly indicates the role of the UN in influencing the global legal trajectory.

Secondly, some legal preferences of individual Whewell professors can be discerned. Again, Marine Law shows that the high point of post-WWII Marine law acquisition (15% of International Law titles) was during Bowett's tenure, and we know that the Law of the Sea

⁴⁹ It must be remembered that many of these subscriptions (~653) have been discontinued in later years of which 347 are International titles. I.e. on the SLL 3rd Floor, 465 F&I are current, of which 274 are International (=53%).

⁵⁰ Pre-1869 figures show 28 "International" titles, which start in 1689.

relating to mineral deposits and boundary issues was one of his specialities. Pre-WWII, Maritime Law was invariably concerned with navigational and military matters, and the latter was relatively strongly represented during Oppenheim's tenure, when WWI "prize"⁵¹ topics were important legal issues (18% of the serial titles acquired during this time). Maritime Law (E0549 - 54 books) and Maritime War (E0552 - 179 books) were well-represented in his personal library⁵², and he clearly had an interest in this area. There was also some interest during Westlake's and Harcourt's time (13% & 11%, respectively). (It must be remembered, however, that pre-WWII, only 9 acquisitions of "marine" orientated serials were made over 56 years, in contrast to 46 titles over 60 years beginning with Jennings's tenure).

An interesting paradox is that although Pearce-Higgins was a recognised expert in Maritime Law (during World War I he had served as adviser in International Law and Prize law to the Procurator General and Treasury Solicitor), only one serial publication on maritime matters was acquired during his tenure (in 1924). In contrast, he presided over the acquisition of six serial publications on the (then) new, upcoming form of transport: Air Law.

Human Rights acquisitions peaked during Jennings's tenure (17%), but they were also relatively high under Lauterpacht (10%) and Crawford (13%), both of whom had interests in this area. Human Rights were not a designated category prior to WWII.

Specialist Librarian post established 1997

The SLL's commitment to International Law as a central component of its collection development was its establishment in 1997 of a specialist post, within the UL staff structure, of the position of Foreign and International Law Librarian. It was the first of its kind in the UK academic library services. This was the result of a recommendation of the Librarian, Mr David Wills, after an inspection of various US law libraries, where International Law as a speciality, is commonplace. The writer was fortunate to be the inaugural incumbent, and my writ has been to develop the F&I law print and electronic collections. Also, I have for many years taught research sources to under- and post-graduates in the Faculty.

As an integral part of developing a scholarly base and creating unique archival resources, I founded the Eminent Scholars Archive⁵³ in 2005. With the assistance of Daniel Bates (and initially the web designs of Matt Martin), I have included several noted international lawyers as interviewees: Sir Derek Bowett, Sir Eli Lauterpacht, Professor Philip Allott, Judge Stephen Schwebel, Professor Martti Koskenniemi, Dame Rosalyn Higgins, Professor Kurt Lipstein, and Sir Bob Hepple.

Current International Law resources

International Law is shelved on the 3rd floor of the SLL in the Sir David Williams Building, along with Foreign Law material, which also occupies the 2nd Floor.

Summary of current holdings

The International collection at the Squire Law Library currently stands at ~60,000 volumes. This includes 621 International Law serial titles that are listed in the catalogue, of which 274 are current subscriptions (i.e. there have been 347 discontinued serial titles since

⁵¹ Relating to capture/blockade/destruction of shipping during conflict situations.

⁵² Which formed the basis of the LSE Fry Library in 1923 (Headicar 1923).

⁵³ <http://www.squire.law.cam.ac.uk/eminant-scholars-archive>

our records began). In addition, the Squire subscribes to ~ 32 electronic data services. We also greatly benefit by virtue of the UL being one of the “copyright” libraries in the UK ⁵⁴.

Reader facilities

Eight fixed computer terminals are provided on the 3rd floor, which has reading/study space for 104 readers, while the well-appointed PhD room seats 10. Further seating for PhDs is available on the 2nd floor.

Current Faculty staff/research students with International Law interests

The incumbent, and newly arrived, Whewell Professor of International Law is Eyal Benvenisti, who is also Director of the Lauterpacht Centre. As in the past, it can be expected that Professor Benvenisti’s research and teaching interests will influence the development of the International Law collections in the SLL for many years to come. So far, he has indicated that his immediate concern will be the Law of War in the 19th century, and to this end, a preliminary inventory of our resources on this topic has been compiled.

In addition, there are 32 Faculty members with International Law interests (from a total staff of ~120 = ~27%), several of whom are Fellows of the Lauterpacht Centre (which has a constant stream of visitors, both long- and short-term). Their interests range over International Trade Law, Investment, Global Governance, Human Rights, Dispute Settlement, Environmental Law, etc.

Growth points over the recent past have been in Investment and Environmental Law, and the SLL has inevitably responded to these. Currently (2016-17) there are 89 PhD research students in Law, of which 31 (35%) are doing international topics. Their research areas break down into Human Rights (23%), Investment (13%), Armed conflict (9%), Maritime Law (6%), Trade (3%) and others (46%).

Electronic resources

The earliest records of database usage at the SLL were in the 1982 and ‘83 Sub-Syndicate minutes (while the SLL was still on the Old Schools site), when a subscription to Lexis was considered. By early 1986 the service was in place and reported as “well-used”. Initially, this was only by staff, but by 1988-89 Butterworths had demonstrated it to undergraduates and LLM students, with very positive results. In 1995 access became via the Internet, coinciding with the library’s move to the West Road site. At this time, the annual subscription cost was ~£3k/yr. In 1996 this was increased to £15k precipitating a funding crisis, and other providers began to be considered.

Since then, under David Wills’ direction, the SLL has invested heavily in electronic resources. I annually monitor their usage by collating usage statistics obtained from the service providers, and report the results to the Faculty Computer Committee.

To assess the fluctuations in the use of six databases specialising in International Law (Kluwer, MPEPIL, WorldTradeLaw, ISLG, IAR, and ORIL), I have looked at the usage statistics over four years since the beginning of the 2012-13 academic year. (Although some database subscriptions pre-date 2012, we have no usage stats before this date). The metric I quote for relative usage is euphemistically termed a “hit” ⁵⁵.

⁵⁴ British Library, Bodleian Library Oxford, Cambridge University Library, National Library of Scotland, National Library of Wales, and Trinity College Dublin.

⁵⁵ These are provider-supplied metrics on a monthly basis. I have consistently plotted what are variously classed as “hits”, “requests”, “pageviews” etc so that internally (i.e. within

Several features stand out. There was a large decrease in overall usage of the six databases between the 2012-13 and 2013-14 academic years (a drop of 5645 hits = a fall of 37%), but for the last three years (2013-16) numbers have been steady, with a gradual increase in usage from 9489 to 9709 “hits” (a 2.3% rise over 3 years).

It is also worth pointing out that I monitor other specialised databases (a total of 12, including those already mentioned), as well as the three large, aggregator services: Westlaw, Lexis Library, and HeinOnline. As a matter of interest, these also record large fluctuations in annual usage, as well as, intra-annual variations, which are largely term-related (i.e. relate to particular courses, vacation times, exam schedules, etc).

Acknowledgements

I wish to thank Mr David Wills, Professor Sir John Baker, and Mr Michael Prichard for discussing various aspects of the Squire Law Library’s history and collection development. The main conclusions of this compilation were presented at the Socio-Legal Sources and Methods in International Law meeting at IALS in November 2016.

It is poignant, that during latter stages of writing this piece, in which Sir Hersch Lauterpacht’s impressive role in the 1930s-60s has been extolled, that the account of his son Sir Eli’s own significant role had to be modified , when he died on 8th February 2017.

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a specific database) the same metric is plotted annually for each “product”, and a consistent, relative comparison can be made within the set of providers.