



Somerville College University of Oxford

August 2017
Volume 1, Issue 2

Friends of the John Stuart Mill Library Newsletter

Welcome to the 2017 newsletter for Friends of the John Stuart Mill Library at Somerville College.

In this issue we have fantastic news about our conservation plans, intriguing findings from our marginalia hunter, Dr Hazel Tubman and all the latest progress from Professor Albert Pionke at the University of Alabama. We also report on the two big events of the year, the annual lecture and Tea with John Stuart Mill, and say goodbye (but not farewell) to two of our founding members and key supporters, Drs Alice and Frank Prochaska.

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, we have also been able to make our first acquisition to the collection. Plus: before and after photos from the first volumes back from conservation; meet our new conservator Nikki Tomkins and dates for your diary in our list of forthcoming events.

Inside this Issue

- 2 Alice and Frank Prochaska
- 3 National Manuscripts Conservation Trust Grant
- 4 Annual John Stuart Mill Lecture
- 5 Tea with John Stuart Mill
- 6 Mill Marginalia Project
- 7 The Marginalia Hunt
- 8 Exciting Acquisition for the Collection
- 9 Conservation Work
- 10 Publications and Papers
- 10 FORTHCOMING events



Editor Dr Anne Manuel, Somerville College, Oxford, OX2 6HD anne.manuel@some.ox.ac.uk

ALICE AND FRANK PROCHASKA

At the end of August 2017, Somerville College says goodbye to two of the John Stuart Mill Library's greatest champions—Alice and Frank Prochaska. Since the day Somerville's Principal took office in September 2010, both she and her historian husband have taken a huge interest in the library and have been the driving force behind ensuring the collection was better preserved, promoted and researched. Alice has given her help and support to all the initiatives, events, and fundraising activities and been a valuable source of advice and of useful contacts! But it has been Frank, not having a college to run, who has been able to devote a huge amount of time and effort to keeping the project moving forwards. It was he who, browsing through the library, first came across the astonishing annotations in RW Emerson's *Essays* and wrote the article that first brought a wide public attention to the marginalia and the library. It was also Frank who first floated the idea that we should launch a crowdfunding campaign to raise funds for the preservation of the library. But throughout the past seven years, he has been tireless in writing, talking and generally enthusing about the library and been at the heart of building the community of scholars, donors and supporters with which we are now blessed.

In recognition of Frank's particular contribution to the Mill collection and with a nod to his American roots, the College presented him with his own key to the library and a first American edition of John Stuart Mill's *Autobiography*. This volume has added significance as it contained evidence of having been on the RMS Laconia on its last commercial voyage to New York before being requisitioned by the Royal Navy and eventually sunk by a German U-Boat in 1942.

Although Alice stands down from her role as Principal of Somerville at the end of August, we very much hope that both she and Frank will stay in touch with the John Stuart Mill Library and its various ongoing projects, and we look forward to seeing them at future Friends' events.



I am delighted to see the progress made over the year in making the Mill library more accessible and better known. One day I foresee that Mill and Somerville will be mentioned in the same breath the way Pepys and Magdalene College are in Cambridge. Great thanks to Anne, Albert, and Hazel for their various labours, and to our Friends and donors for their support. I look forward to continuing my association with the project in the coming years.

Frank Prochaska



NEW GRANT FOR CONSERVATION FROM THE NATIONAL MANUSCRIPT CONSERVATION TRUST

In 2013, the College launched a successful campaign to raise funds for repairing and conserving the books in the John Stuart Mill Library, many of which had become dangerously unstable and difficult to handle. This campaign enabled us to subscribe to the Oxford Conservation Consortium (OCC) for two years and to make a start on the preservation work so necessary for a good proportion of the books. Progress was slow, however and following an introduction from Friend of the Library, **Linda Hart**, we decided to put in an application to the National Manuscripts Conservation Trust



(NMCT) to speed up the process. The NMCT had never before funded projects to protect marginalia in printed books and we were therefore uncertain whether the application would succeed. However, with advice from the NMCT and a great deal of input and support from **Jane Egan** at the OCC, an application was submitted in October 2016.

Just in time for Christmas it was announced that we had been awarded the £15,000 that we had asked for. This enables us to have a dedicated conservator working on the project for a year from

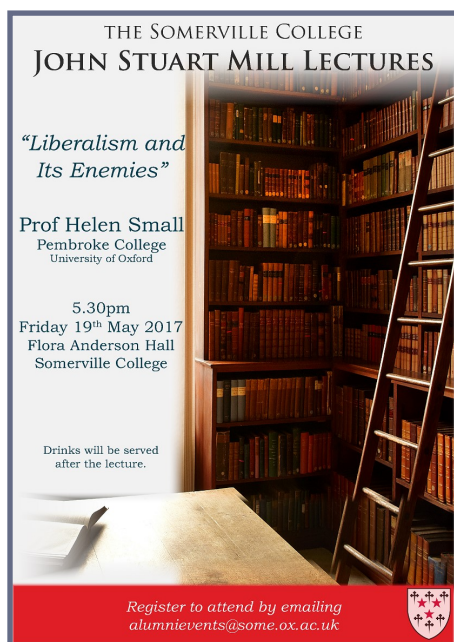
August 2017 repairing 60 of the books containing marginalia. These will include, Mill's author-inscribed copy of *Democracy in America* by Alexis De Tocqueville (containing Mill's annotations), James Mill's heavily annotated copy of pamphlets by Ricardo and Bentham on Corn Laws and John Stuart Mill's *On Liberty* translated into French with Mill's corrections to the translation.

This award added to the funds that we have already received ensures that the books belonging to James and John Stuart Mill will be made robust to provide future generations of scholars the chance to see and handle the books that informed these philosophers and to understand more about their engagement with these texts.

Our OCC conservator is called **Nikki Tomkins** and she introduces herself on page 9. For an opportunity to meet her and see some conservation in action, see Forthcoming Events on page 10.

The Trustees of NMCT agreed to award a major grant of £15,059 to your The John Stuart Mill Marginalia Project. Whilst the collection is of printed material, which would not be eligible for NMCT support, the Trustees felt that the marginalia added significant evidential value making it appropriate to award a major grant. Congratulations on your grant award!

(Message from Nell Hoare, Secretary to the NMCT)



THE ANNUAL JOHN STUART MILL LECTURE MAY 19TH 2017

This year’s lecture was given by **Professor Helen Small** of Pembroke College University of Oxford and was entitled *Liberalism and its Enemies*.

Her lecture reappraised, 150 years on, the importance of John Stuart Mill’s Inaugural Lecture as Rector of St Andrews in 1867. Mill’s lecture, a classic text in the history of advocacy for the liberal university, is usually read as one of the fullest articulations of what liberal ‘breadth’ of study would ideally mean: a syllabus of study beginning with the classical languages and literatures and taking in almost the full range of subjects grouped today

within the sciences and social sciences (Mill has his own rationale for ordering them).

Prof. Small argued that the lecture is a less internal and less placid document than may be apparent to those



approaching it now at a long historical distance. She suggested that it has a particular antagonist of liberalism and liberal education within its sights: a charismatic conservatism, recently given expression by another university rector. This charismatic conservatism raises various challenges for Mill’s liberalism; also for the motives of education he assumes, and (not least) for the assumptions he makes about the proper form and temper of public debate. Those challenges, Helen Small suggested, have returned in force to our own political sphere, and give Mill’s lecture renewed salience now.

The lecture was very well attended with over 75 Mill enthusiasts enjoying her presentation and the drinks reception that followed. Unfortunately we are unable to reproduce the full text of the lecture due to copyright restrictions but will certainly notify Friends when it is to be published and how they can access a copy.

A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

We would like to thank all our Friends for their contribution to the library this year and for supporting our events.

Please see page 10 for news of our plans for events this academic year. We will be sending out invitations to re-subscribe to the friends for a further year during September.

Some of our Friends have been particularly generous with their donations this year and our grateful thanks go to:

Christopher and Margaret Kenyon, Virginia Ross, Mary Ling, Max Egremeont, Louise Richardson, Maxine Semmel, the estate of Mary Dobson

TEA WITH JOHN STUART MILL MARCH 2017

Our first exclusive event for Friends of the John Stuart Mill Library was held at Somerville College on March 14th 2017. 18 Friends attended to hear a programme of speakers that included Professor Albert Pionke from the University of Alabama, Dr Hazel Tubman of Somerville College and Ms Helen O'Neill from the London Library.

Dr Anne Manuel welcomed the Friends to the New Council Room and introduced **Helen O'Neill** from the London Library who has been carrying out research on the many books that John Stuart Mill gave the London Library when it was founded in 1841. It was fascinating to see some of the letters that her collection contains



in which John Stuart Mill doubts his own ability to recommend books on logic but claims a 'little' knowledge of political economy!

She has published a paper on Mill's contribution to the London Library (see p 10 for details of this publication)

Helen was followed by **Professor Albert Pionke** of the University of Alabama. Albert, first inspired by Frank Prochaska's article on the marginalia in Emerson's *Essays**, has been working with his digital humanities department to create a bespoke database to accommodate the numerous verbal

and non-verbal markings in the books. This database will house photographs of the marginalia and will be fully searchable. The plan is to make it freely available on his own University's website and also eventually on the Digital Bodleian manuscript site. His project website is a fascinating repository of his findings and observations to date :

<http://millmarginalia.as.ua.edu/>

Finally **Dr Hazel Tubman** presented some of her findings from her work mapping the marginalia in the collection. Having informed us about the more serious notes



and her interpretation of them, she entertained us with some of the drawings (headless torsos) and bookmarks she found amongst the collection. When she came across the cut-out paper dolls, she hazarded a guess that Mill was using the books to instruct his step-daughter Helen Taylor! The afternoon concluded with tea, cake and a visit to the collection to see some of the equipment Albert is using to digitise the marginalia and for a chance to see some of the marginalia at close hand. A similar event will be held in the early Spring of 2018 to showcase more of the work being done on the collection over the year.

*Prochaska, F (2013) 'Sense and Nonsense' in *History Today* 63 (9)

MILL MARGINALIA PROJECT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA



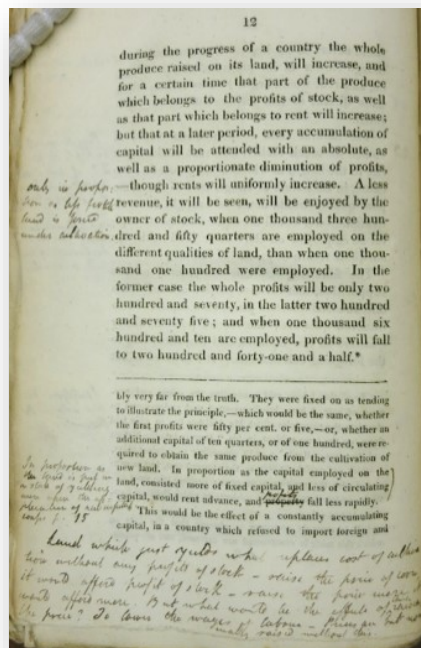
Professor Albert Pionke of the University of Alabama recently completed his fourth data gathering trip to the Mill Library. During the week of 3-7 July, he took approximately 4700 photos of 2800 examples of marginalia in 125 separate volumes. He has now completed a photographic survey of marginalia in the A, B, and first half of the C stacks, as well as select

books in D, H, I, and L.

Among the most heavily annotated of the texts photographed this July was David Ricardo's *Essay on the Influence of the Low Price of Corn on the Profits of Stock*, which was one of a number of pamphlets bound together under the unassuming title *Corn and Labour*. James Mill assumes the role of meticulous editor here, offering recommendations on word choice, page layout, and punctuation; summarizing, expanding, and occasionally challenging the arguments of his friend; and sometimes calling for clarification in a clearly anticipated future edition. Page 12 (pictured here) can serve as a synecdoche for his readerly care

At one time, the two-volume 1870 edition of Richard Cobden's *Speeches* might have presented readers with an equally fulsome glimpse of the younger Mill at

work upon a text in which he might be expected to have as much interest as his father did in Ricardo's pamphlet. Certainly, the nineteenth century's foremost liberal theorist's response to the oratory of perhaps the early Victorian period's principal middle-class liberal politician and prime mover in the repeal of the Corn Laws, would have more than passing significance. Indeed, no fewer than 87 pages in the first volume bear evidence of close attention, at least some of it in Mill's distinctive handwriting; except that a subsequent anonymous handler has assiduously rubbed out every marginal mark and handwritten annotation on 259 of the book's first 260 pages. Until this book is subject to hyperspectral imaging or a similar technological enhancement, all that remains legible are minimal but still suggestive traces.



Professor Pionke plans to return to Somerville in March of next year for more photos. Until then, his team remains hard at work on transcribing marginalia from the existing photographs and building the electronic database and user interface that will enable everyone, from members of the general public to specialist researchers, to search, compare, and otherwise

examine every page with a handwritten mark or annotation in the John Stuart Mill Collection.

Albert Pionke

THE MARGINALIA HUNT

Last year we introduced **Dr Hazel Tubman** who had started trawling through the collection, mapping all the marginalia in the 1700 + volumes (something that had never been done in the 110 years since we acquired the collection). The task turned out to be so huge that the initial grant from the Delmas Foundation was insufficient to enable Hazel to complete the task. So far, Hazel has recorded more than 27,000 annotations, markings and other notes.

However, thanks to the generosity of sponsors, **Virginia Ross** and **Christopher and Margaret Kenyon**, we were able to welcome Hazel back for a three month visit in March this year and a final one which will commence in September. Here Hazel talks about some of the findings from her most recent visit.



My stint in the Mill room earlier this year took me from the didactic world of the classics, through history, into literature and poetry. I knew very little about John Stuart Mill's taste in literature and while finding marginalia in volumes of

economic and political thought and classical philosophy was predictable, I had no idea what to expect when it came to the works of novelists and poets. I was not disappointed. While the marginalia was less voluminous, it was just as illuminating about Mill's ways of reading. It was the first time I met Mill the literary critic. Particular highlights were the dismissive notes written alongside sonnets by Irish Romantic poet Aubrey De Vere, criticizing both his style - 'catalogue, not a poem' - and the religious content of his work. Works of social commentary provoked similar ire; Mill noted a vehement 'ach gott!' in the margins of Bulwer-Lytton's *England and the English*.

The further through the collection I get, the more the books themselves command my attention. As well as the invaluable insight they provide



into the reading habits of their owners, they offer a revealing glimpse of publishing history and collecting trends in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Volumes produced by publishers contemporary to the Mills, for example, sit alongside works bearing the imprint of Aldus Manutius and the Elzeviers. Both are and were collectible — editions with the imprint of the seventeenth-century Dutch publishing dynasty, Elzevier, were particularly desirable in the nineteenth century. Perhaps, I thought, when I first came across them, they will shed light on another dimension of the Mills' enjoyment and use of books: as collectors, buying prized volumes to horde in pristine condition on their shelves. Yet it quickly became clear that that was not the case. Bearing the imprint of a much-prized and collectible publisher granted no immunity from the Mills' - sometimes ruthless - pencilling. As I argued in a paper I gave at a conference on the 'Elzeviers and their Contemporaries' in June, the 13 Elzevier editions in their collection show evidence of

being read and reread, pored over and critiqued. In fact, it was in an Elzevier volume that John Stuart Mill tucked his stepdaughter's paper dolls for safekeeping. In all cases, these were texts put to work, rather than pristine prizes to be treasured. *Hazel Tubman*

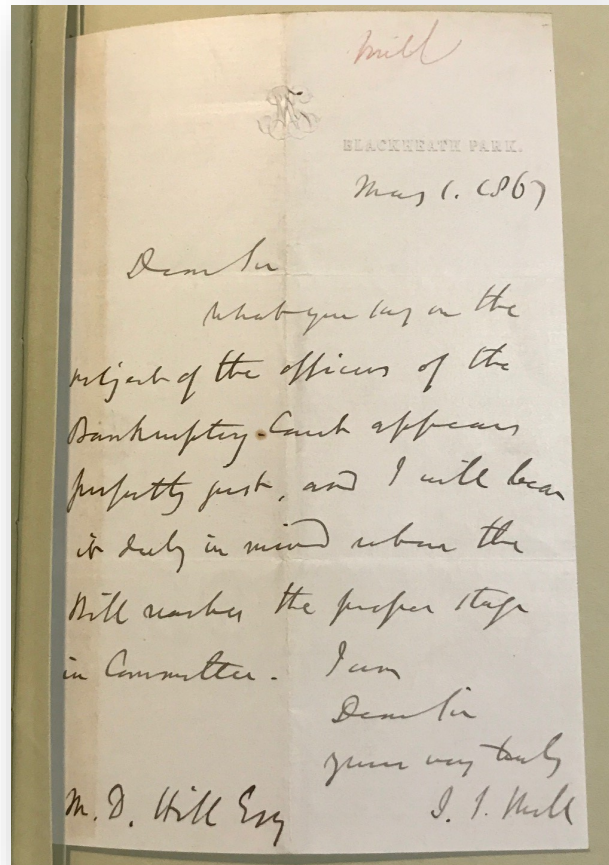
EXCITING ACQUISITION FOR THE COLLECTION

Thanks to donations from supporters and the Friends of the John Stuart Mill Library, we have been able to make our first acquisition in the form of a letter from Mill to Matthew Davenport Hill (1792-1872). Matthew Davenport Hill was a penal reformer and educationalist who wrote and published a good deal on a wide range of subjects, from a Whiggish, radical viewpoint. In 1867 when the letter was written, Mill was an MP and he concurs with Hill's judgment on the Bankruptcy Court officers, promising to bear it in mind when the Bill reaches the proper stage in Committee. The Bill referred to may well have been the Representation of the People Act of 1867 with which Mill was much concerned. Hill was at the time Commissioner of the Bristol and District Court of bankruptcy.

The provenance of the letter is not evident (though it was purchased from well-known dealer Hamish Riley-Smith) but it is written on Mill's embossed and headed writing paper, handwritten and signed. Interestingly, the letter is not mentioned in the University of Toronto's masterly 'Collected Works' (1963-1991) which records all of Mill's writings in known collections. It has therefore probably been in private hands for some time.

The letter has at some time been bound into a hardboard casing for protection. The Oxford Conservation Consortium will carry out tests on the letter and its binding to make sure the binding is not damaging the letter in anyway.

It is hoped that we can continue to search for and purchase letters by Mill and his father James as well as to locate more books that were owned by them. The letter will be on show at the Tea with John Stuart Mill event in March 2018.



WELCOME TO NIKKI TOMKINS FROM THE OXFORD CONSERVATION CONSORTIUM

As we mentioned on page 3 our grant from the NMCT will allow us to have a dedicated conservator working on the volumes this year, who hopes to be able to rescue up to 60 volumes in need of conservation. Some of you may have already met her at the Tea with John Stuart Mill event in March 2017 or the annual lecture in May, but here she tells us a bit more about her career to date.

We are delighted to welcome her to Somerville and look forward to showing off some of her work over the coming months on our Facebook page. She will also be holding a 'meet the conservator' day in



November 2017 (see Forthcoming Events page 10)

<https://www.facebook.com/jsmlibrarysomerville/>

After completing my MA in Book Conservation, I worked a number of freelance projects including a summer at the College of Arms conservation department. Since joining the Oxford Conservation Consortium, I've worked on a variety of objects from bound volumes to archival documents. This last year I've focused on the library of Nicholas Crouch, a 17 Century Balliol physician who also liked to annotate his books. It'll be exciting to work with the John Stuart Mill collection: conservation is an important part of making objects more accessible to readers, while preserving their material structure for the future.



Emerson's *Essays* before conservation, being carefully re-sewn and in its restored condition

JOHN STUART MILL LIBRARY PUBLICATIONS AND PAPERS

FRIENDS OF THE JOHN STUART MILL LIBRARY

The Friends of the John Stuart Mill Library group was formed in 2016 by Somerville College to provide a focus for Mill enthusiasts from around the world to engage with this important collection of books and marginalia. The aim of the college in setting up the group is to provide support for the preservation and digitisation of the collection, to generate interest in and research on the library and to enable the dissemination of information and research about Mill and the collection to a wider audience.

New members are always welcome. Please use the back cover to send us your details with the appropriate fee:

Individuals £25 per annum

Two adults at the same address £35 per annum

Students £5 per annum

This year, in addition to the Annual John Stuart Mill Newsletter for Friends, the collection has been the subject of the following conference papers and publications:

O' Neill, Helen (2016) 'John Stuart Mill and the London Library: A Victorian Book legacy revealed' *Book History* (19) pp256-283

Pionke, A. 'Measuring Hot Air in the Age of Steam: Mill on Carlyle on Hudson' *2016 Victorians Institute Conference: Victorian STEAM*, Raleigh, NC, 14-15 October, 2016.

Pionke, A. 'The Unauthorized Autobiography of John Stuart Mill, in his own Words' *2017 University of Alabama Digital Humanities Center Digitorium*, Tuscaloosa, AL 2-4 March, 2017.

Small, Helen (2017) 'The Liberal university and its enemies' *Annual John Stuart Mill Lecture*, Somerville College, Oxford, 19 May 2017

Tubman, Hazel (2017) 'Elzevier publications in the John Stuart Mill Collection at Somerville College, Oxford' *The Elzeviers and their Contemporaries: Reading, Writing, and Selling Scholarship* Institute of English Studies, School of Advanced Study, University of London, 2 June 2017

Bensick, Carol (2017) '“The Saint of Rationalism” on “The Friends and Aider of Those Who Would Live in the Spirit”' *Summer Institute of American Philosophy*, University of Oregon, Eugene, OR 10-15 July 2017

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

• MEET THE CONSERVATOR

Nikki Tomkins, our conservator, will be carrying out minor repairs in the John Stuart Library at Somerville College on **Monday 13th November 2017**. You are warmly invited to drop in between 10am and 4pm (no booking needed) to meet Nikki, see a display of 'before and after' photos of repaired volumes and watch as she works on some of the volumes. A reminder will be sent nearer the time .

• TEA WITH JOHN STUART MILL

Following the last very successful event we will be holding another Tea with John Stuart Mill in March 2018 when we will update you on the ongoing preservation and digitisation projects and reveal details of our next exciting project!

• ANNUAL JOHN STUART MILL LECTURE

Save the Date! Our annual lecture will be held on the evening of **May 18th 2018** followed by drinks and an opportunity to talk to our guest speaker and other John Stuart Mill scholars. We are delighted to announce that our speaker this year will be **Sir Adam Roberts** KCMG FBA and the provisional title of the lecture will be 'John Stuart Mill's Vision of a Liberal International Order'



BECOME A MEMBER OF THE JOHN STUART MILL LIBRARY

NAME:

ADDRESS:

POSTCODE:

EMAIL:

PHONE (select home, work, mobile):



MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS

- Students (proof of status required) – £5 per annum.
- Standard Membership – £25 per annum.
- Dual Membership (two living at the same address) – £35 per annum.
- I would like my gift to remain anonymous.
- I would like to learn more about making a gift to the John Stuart Mill Library in my will.

GIFT AID

giftaid it

Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate

Gift Aid is reclaimed by Somerville (a registered charity; its number is 1139440) from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your address is needed to identify you as a UK taxpayer. (Higher rate taxpayers can claim further tax relief in their annual tax claims).

- I want Somerville College to Gift Aid my donation and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past four years (unless I notify you otherwise).

Signature and date

I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid Claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

YOUR MEMBERSHIP

A regular membership by Direct Debit

- I would like to make a regular gift and have completed the Direct Debit Instruction overleaf.

A single year membership

- I have enclosed a cheque in the amount of £ , made payable to 'Somerville College.'
- Please debit my Visa MasterCard Maestro American Express in the amount of £

Card Number	Expiry Date	Security Code	Start Date	Issue No.
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> / <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> / <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Signature and date

PLEASE RETURN TO: The Library, Somerville College, Woodstock Road, Oxford OX2 6HD, UK
 E: The Librarian Dr Anne Manuel at anne.manuel@some.ox.ac.uk T: 01865 270694.
 If you no longer wish to receive mailed fundraising appeals from Somerville College, please tick here



Somerville College
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

THANK YOU for kindly becoming a member of the John Stuart Mill Library.



SOMERVILLE COLLEGE DIRECT DEBIT FORM



INSTRUCTION TO YOUR BANK OR BUILDING SOCIETY TO PAY BY DIRECT DEBIT

Please fill in the whole form using a ball point pen and send it to:

Development Office
SOMERVILLE COLLEGE
Woodstock Road
Oxford
OX2 6HD
UK

Name(s) of Account Holder(s)

Branch sort code

□□□ - □□□

Account number

□□□□□□□□□□

Name and full postal address of your Bank / Building Society

To: The Manager Bank / Building Society

Address

Postcode

Reference

□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□

Banks and Building Societies may not accept Direct Debit Instructions for some types of account.

Service user number

4 0 9 8 8 2

Payment details

Please pay Somerville College from my account
(please tick):

annual sum of:

Amount of each instalment in figures

£ □□□□□

Amount of each instalment in words

□□□□□□□□□□ pounds

for years or until further notice

starting from the 1st or 15th day of *(please tick)*

Month Year

(please allow at least one month between the starting date for payments and the date when you sign the Direct Debit form)

Instructions to your Bank / Building Society:

Please pay Somerville College Direct Debits from the account detailed in this Instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the Direct Debit Guarantee. I understand that this Instruction may remain with Somerville College, and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my Bank/ Building Society.

Signature(s)

Date

This guarantee should be detached and retained by the Payer.

THE DIRECT DEBIT GUARANTEE

This Guarantee is offered by all Banks and Building Societies that accept instructions to pay Direct Debits.

If there are any changes to the amount, date or frequency of your Direct Debit, Somerville College will notify you within 10 working days, in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise agreed.

If you request Somerville College to collect a payment, confirmation of the amount and date will be given to you at the time of the request.

If an error is made in the payment of your Direct Debit, by Somerville College or your bank or building society, you are entitled to a full and immediate refund of the amount paid from your bank or building society.

If you receive a refund you are not entitled to, you must pay it back when Somerville College asks you to.

You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by simply contacting your bank or building society. Written confirmation may be required. Please also notify us.

