
CAM QUA

The newsletter of the
GODWIN INSTITUTE FOR QUATERNARY RESEARCH

ISSUE FIFTEEN

LENT TERM 2000

**M INTO THE NEW
MILLENIUM M**

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ALSO FREE WITH THIS ISSUE:

REVISED LIST OF KEY QUATERNARY JOURNALS

Diary

Quaternary Discussion Group

Lent Term

Friday 28th January Dr. Martin Head,
GIQR, Cambridge
Late Cenozoic dinoflagellates - new kids on the block

Friday 11th February Dr. Martin Bates,
Dept of Archaeology,
University of Wales
*The Meeting of the Waters: the raised beaches and river
gravels of the West Sussex coastal plain*

Friday 3rd March Dr. Clive Oppenheimer,
Dept of Geography,
Cambridge
Volcanism-climate feedbacks

Meetings are held at 8.30pm at West Court, 11 Herschel
Road, Cambridge, and further information may be
obtained from Dr John Stewart (jrs49@cus.cam.ac.uk),
McDonald Institute (x39353)

Coventry Quaternary Discussion Group

Wednesday 26th January, 1p.m. Mr S Hampton
*Late-glacial chronostratigraphy and
palaeoenvironmental change in Glen Spean & Glen Roy,
Scottish Highlands*

Wednesday 9th February, 1p.m. Prof. A Dawson
*Ocean-atmosphere interactions and historic climate
change in the North Atlantic region*

Friday 25th February, 7.30p.m. Dr P. Ponei
*Beetles contribution to our understanding of climate
change in the last climatic cycle*

Wednesday 1st March, 1 p.m. Dr D. Schreve
*Bones and biostratigraphy - telling the Middle Pleistocene
interglacials apart*

Meetings will take place in the William Morris Building,
Coventry University, and further information may be
obtained from Dr Michael Field (tel: 024 7688 8428,
e-mail: apx126@cov.ac.uk).

Saturday 29th January Dr P Wadhams
SPRI, Cambridge
From Greenland's icy oceans - the threat of climate cooling
8 p.m., Scott Polar Research Institute, Lensfield Road

Monday 31st January Dr J. Haigh
Imperial College, London
Solar variability and climate change
11.15 a.m. Room 414, Chemistry Dept, Lensfield Road

Wednesday 9th February Pallavi Jha
Earth Sciences, Cambridge
Distribution of Mg/Ca and Sr/Ca in planktonic foraminifera
1.10p.m., Harker Room, Earth Sciences

Thursday 10th February Dr D. Sugden
University of Edinburgh
*The timing of the last glacial/Holocene transition in Patagonia
and global climatic inferences*
3.30p.m. Seminar Room, Department of Geography

Wednesday 16th February
Evening Seminar on Gondwana with various speakers
5.30p.m., Dirac Room, St John's College, with food.
Contact Rachel Flecker (rf211@esc) for details.

Thursday 24th February Dr A. Gurnell
University of Birmingham
*Large wood, sediment deposition and island development
along a gravel-bed river.*
4.15p.m. Seminar Room, Department of Geography

Wednesday 1st March Steve Jones
Bullard Laboratories
When was Britain exhumed - Mesozoic or Cenozoic?
1.10p.m., Harker Room, Earth Sciences

Thursday 2nd March Dr P. Pettitt
University of Oxford
*Mousterian tool use, discard, and the constitution of society:
did Neanderthals give a toss?*
5 p.m., Pearson Lecture Theatre, Room G22, Pearson
Building, main Quadrangle, University College, London.

Thursday 9th March Dr T. Payne
University of Southampton
*Modelling the dynamics of the Siple Coast ice streams, West
Antarctica*
4.15p.m. Seminar Room, Department of Geography

Thursday 16th March Prof T. VanAndel
University of Cambridge
*Neanderthals, a relict fauna and a deteriorating climate:
how does it add up?*
5 p.m., Pearson Lecture Theatre, UCL - as before.

Thursday 23rd March Prof. L. Aiello
University College, London
Neanderthals in cold weather
5 p.m., Pearson Lecture Theatre, UCL - as before.

Conference Report

QRA Annual Discussion Meeting

6-7th January, 2000

University of Southampton

The first QRA meeting of the new millennium focused on a simple and timely theme that, arguably, has revitalised our science in the last decade or so: that of millennial scale changes. The presence of over 170 delegates testified to the interest that this subject has generated across all disciplines, reflected both by the diverse background of speakers and breadth of topics covered by the posters. Cambridge was admirably represented, with members of all but one of the four constituent Departments of the Godwin Institute in evidence, along with a strong contingent from the British Antarctic Survey.

Although it is customary in these reports to note that the standard of presentation was very high even if, in reality, it was distinctly patchy, I can say without any guilt whatsoever that in this case, the quality of both the presentations and the posters was truly excellent, with only a smattering of unreadable overheads. Reasons of space preclude a detailed listing of the talks involved, but I list here a few of my personal highlights (in no particular order).

Bas van Geel (Amsterdam) preached an extremely enthusiastic case for solar forcing of climatic change, using ^{10}Be and radiocarbon records as proxies to support his argument. This was echoed by Keith Barber's presentation of impressive work by his group in Southampton: they have been using a combination of plant macrofossil, humification and testate amoebae proxies, in conjunction with AMS dating and tephrochronology, to detect centennial and millennial scale climatic variability from a number of peatland sites. Sigfus Johnsen (Copenhagen) comprehensively summarised the current viewpoint and progress of the ice core community, responsible for kicking off the search for millennial-scale variability. Due acknowledgement was made throughout the sessions to the initial impetus and continuing contribution of these records to the field. Nevertheless, notes of caution were sounded by many speakers, not least Nick Shackleton (Cambridge), against the temptations of indiscriminate wiggle-matching with these enviable climatic archives. Keeping with the chilly theme, Julian Dowdeswell (Bristol) presented an elegant and clear discussion of the response times of ice-sheets to climatic forcing and the effect this would have on the distribution of ice-rafted detritus and subglacially derived sediments in the marine record. From more equable climes, James Scourse (Bangor) examined highly detailed data from the Congo Fan suggesting (amongst other things) that the tropical record leads the changes associated

with the Younger Dryas in high and mid-latitude sites by approximately 250 years. The possible asynchrony of climate records was also explored by Mark Maslin (UCL), who suggested an oscillating deep-ocean conveyor system to explain the apparent 'bipolar climatic see-saw' operating between the northern and southern hemispheres. However, Mark discovered to his cost (but to the benefit of the audience) the down-side of presenting a short, yet somewhat controversial theory in front of such an eminent and well-informed audience!

On the home comforts front, the catering was good (particularly the dolphin-shaped biccies), the pub was conveniently close and, as Pete 'Funkmeister' Coxon can attest to, the Thursday evening entertainment at Rhino's was only for the truly dedicated and stout of heart! In all, the conference can be marked as a huge success and a credit to the Southampton organising committee. As Jim Rose (Royal Holloway) pointed out in his closing address, it was satisfying that the very real significance and healthy state of our science at the beginning of the new millennium could be marked in such a clear and definitive way.

Mick Frogley

Professorship at the Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam

The Faculty of Earth Sciences of the Vrije Universiteit in Amsterdam has a vacancy for a full professor of Paleoecology and Paleoclimatology. The new professor should be an inspiring team leader with an excellent international reputation in his/her field of research. The professor should also be a specialist in the study of marine or terrestrial paleodata by observation or modelling, but should also have demonstrated a broad view and knowledge on paleoecology and paleoclimatology. A sound knowledge of climate modelling is required. The new professor is expected to have good teaching capabilities and to be willing to take part in the management tasks of the Faculty and national research bodies.

A copy of the report of the defining committee for the full professorship of Paleoecology and Paleoclimatology and further information can be obtained from the chairman of the search committee, Professor H.F. Vugts (Tel., +31 20 444 7332, Fax +31 20 646 2457, e-mail: vugh@geo.vu.nl).

Application deadline February 14th, 2000

The editor has the full text of the advertisement

THE Q.P.G. GO WEST



As no doubt most of you are aware, as the event was well attended, the official opening of the new home of the Quaternary Palaeoenvironments Group occurred on Friday December 3rd 1999. However, for those of you that weren't able to join us, here is a brief report of the day's events and some photos which we were particularly pleased with.

The prospect of free wine and nibbles drew a large cross section of the Cambridge Quaternary research community to the Sir William Hardy Building, the new annex of the Geography

Department. After a chance to catch up with colleagues, the first speech was given by Phil Gibbard. He thanked the Department of Geography for providing the first official home for the terrestrial part of the Godwin Institute, and noted that this was the first time this group had had purpose-built facilities in its 50 year history! Thanks were also given to the organisers of the day Becky Briant and Katy Roucoux.

Then Richard West took the floor giving a short speech expressing his pleasure that the Laboratory was to be named after him, before leading a small party down the corridor to witness the official cutting of the red ribbon thereby opening and naming the R.G. West Laboratory. After this, guests were able to view the facilities which are now all up and running (details can be found in last term's edition of CAMQUA).



Words: Will Gosling
Pictures: Martin Head

Erratics...

On relocating collections and journals on Quaternary subjects

Several years ago, by edict of the University, the Sub-department of Quaternary Research ceased to exist after having handed over many of its functions to the Earth Sciences and Geography Departments, and the overall care of the well-being of Quaternary studies at Cambridge to the new Godwin Institute of Quaternary Research. The change also involved disposal of many things once within the purview of the Sub-department, equipment, type and sample collections and a large specialised library holding of Quaternary journals, reprint collections and books.

Transfer of equipment and palaeobotanical type collections to the Geography Department was accomplished several months ago and the loosely called 'geological collection of Quaternary materials', including macro-plant remains and bone material, is now in the custody of the Sedgwick Museum at its Madingley site where it can be consulted.

Late last year transfer of the journal holdings together with a commitment to continue the subscriptions took place. The Earth Sciences Library was the main recipient; a few went elsewhere. The Revised List of Locations of Quaternary Journals appended to this issue of *Camqua*, includes those new locations. The very valuable Godwin and West reprint collections are also in process of being moved to the Earth Sciences Library where they are available to those who need to consult them. The collections are being catalogued and some 700 titles are already on the Internet as part of Earth Sciences website (<http://www.esc.cam.ac.uk/new/v10/library/publications/body.html>). The books will for the time being remain in the Plant Sciences Library, but are expected to find a new home at Earth Sciences when space demands at Plant Sciences require this.

I owe thanks to Professor Roger Leigh of Plant Sciences and several members of the staff for having generously allowed and facilitated these transfers.

Tjeerd H. van Andel

If you're interested in what last years's M.Phil students spent their summer researching, check our their dissertation abstracts on the web:

www-qpg.geog.cam.ac.uk/mphl98-99.html

Hail ...

... to Dr Martin Head, who has been with us since the 1st of November working on dinoflagellate assemblages from last interglacial sediments in the Baltic region. Martin is based in the Quaternary Palaeoenvironments Group in the William Hardy Building.

... and farewell

Mark Chapman has left us to go to a lectureship in the School of Environmental Sciences at the University of East Anglia, but we are pleased to report that he will be continuing his close association with the Godwin Institute - and anyway Norwich isn't too far away!

Ian Hall will be leaving Earth Sciences at the end of January to take up a lectureship in Marine Geosciences at Cardiff, and his new contact address will be:

Department of Earth Sciences, Cardiff University,
Main College, Park Place, PO Box 914, Cardiff,
CF1 3YE, Wales, U.K.
Tel. +44 (0)1222 874830, Fax: +44 (0)1222 874326
Email: HallI@cardiff.ac.uk
<http://servant.geol.cf.ac.uk/>

Adam Gardner has just been appointed as a post-doctoral researcher in the Department of Archaeology, University of Nottingham.

At the end of March, Rich Meyrick (who was awarded his PhD at the beginning of last year and spent the summer on a short post-doc in Canada) is off to Weimar in former Eastern Germany, to take up a 5-year position as a Quaternary Malacologist with the Institute of Palaeontology, a satellite of the Senckenberg Museum in Frankfurt. The position is enviable, comprising about 80% research and only around 20% curatorial and editorial duties (this latter part in particular holding no terror after his experiences in co-editing *Camqua* for over a year!).

We wish them all very well as they leave us!

Meetings

'Paleo-Grassland Research 2000'

a conference on the reconstruction and modelling of past grass-dominated biomes (sponsored by the National Science Foundation Geosciences: Earth System History and PAGES Past Global Changes - IGBP)

1 - 3 June 2000

Long Island Sound - Water's Edge Resort, Westbrook, Connecticut.

'Palaeo Grassland Research 2000' will bring together international researchers to synthesise an informed multi-proxy approach to the reconstruction of past grasslands. The conference will take place over three days and will involve researchers actively involved in studying the reconstruction, biogeography, ecology and physiology of past grasslands.

Further details from: K.R.M. Beuning (kbeuning@wesleyan.edu) and M.J. Wooller (m.wooller@swansea.ac.uk)

The 30th International Arctic Workshop

March 16-18, 2000

Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research, University of Colorado, Boulder, CO U.S.A.

The meeting will consist of oral and poster presentations covering all aspects of high-latitude environments, past and present. Travel support (per diem, lodging, and registration) is available for each graduate that presents a talk or a poster. Join us for another Arctic Workshop!

Any questions? Contact: ArcticWS@colorado.edu, or register online at: <http://instaar.colorado.edu/AW2000/>. The pre-registration and abstract submittal deadlines are February 24, 2000.

8th International Paleolimnology Symposium

20th-24th August, 2000.

Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario

The symposium web site contains registration forms, abstract submission information, and other details. It can be accessed at: <http://biology.queensu.ca/~pearl/paleo2000.htm>

The registration and abstract deadline is March 15, 2000.

The Peribaltic Group (INQUA Commission on Glaciation) Field Symposium on Quaternary Geology in Denmark

August 29-September 3, 2000

Quaternary Research Center, Department of Earth Sciences, University of Aarhus, Denmark

The intention of the Symposium is to summarise the current state of knowledge of Quaternary Geology in Denmark and to introduce the participants to key field localities. The meeting will focus on glacial geology and sedimentology, depositional environments during the Weichselian Glaciation, and the stratigraphical framework of glacial/interglacial events during the Quaternary. The excursion will include both the classical localities and new, recently investigated areas. There will be 4 days in the field and one day with paper and poster presentation.

Further information from: Jan A. Piotrowski (jan.piotrowski@geo.aau.dk)

Deadline for registration: January 31, 2000.

QRA Annual Field Meeting

April 10th-14th April
UEA, Norwich

The QRA annual field meeting returns to East Anglia to visit classic type sites, and also present new research.

Further details are available from:
<http://www.qra.org.uk>

Deadlines

Copy for the next issue of *Camqua* should be submitted by **Friday, 28h April, 2000** to the editors at the Geography Department.

Credits

Editors: Becky Briant (rms1005@hermes)
Will Gosling (wdg20@hermes)

Camqua would like to thank the Department of Geography for generously supporting the production of this issue.

Erratics...

Antarctic Data Available from BAS

The British Antarctic Survey (BAS) Metadata Management System (MDMS) is hosted by the Antarctic Environmental Data Centre, the NERC designated centre for Antarctic data. The MDMS currently contains publicly accessible metadata records on 350 datasets covering all aspects of Antarctic science, many of which will be of interest to CAMQUA readers. Examples include:

- * Physical and biological oceanographic records of the Southern Ocean
- * Long term meteorological and atmospheric chemistry (including ozone) records
- * GIS and digital cartography data for the Antarctic continent and islands
- * Satellite photographs of the Antarctic from c.90W to c.60E
- * Archives of long-term geological and biological data

Search the MDMS from: <http://www.nerc-bas.ac.uk:8000/query/> or, for some background material on metadata, visit the Antarctic Environmental Data Centre web site at: <http://www.nerc-bas.ac.uk/public/aedc/>

Arid Plant Database

SEPASAL (the Survey of Economic Plants for Arid and Semi-Arid Lands) database is now available for searching via the Internet.. It includes information on more than 6200 useful dryland species, excluding major crops.

For more information, and to gain access to the database, see SEPASAL's home page at: <http://www.rbgkew.org.uk/ceb/sepasal/> or e-mail sepasal@rbgkew.org.uk

Q.A.A.

The Dictionary of Quaternary Acronyms and Abbreviations has now reached over 1000 entries!

It can be found at:

<http://www.ualberta.ca/~abeaudi/cap/diction.htm>

CALIB on-line

The on-line version of the radiocarbon program CALIB 4.2 can be run from your browser at the following sites:

University of Washington

<<http://depts.washington.edu/qil/calib/>>

Queen's University of Belfast

<<http://radiocarbon.pa.qub.ac.uk/calib/>>

Operating instructions are given on the web page. Not all options of the downloadable versions have been included, but some may be added later. The number of samples which can be entered or pasted into the data area for calibration depends upon various factors but is on the order of 300-400. Plots may be printed directly from your browser or saved as postscript files. The on-line version is otherwise identical to CALIB 4.1.2. It also uses the 1998 international radiocarbon calibration datasets. Please refer to the CALIB 4.1 manual for details about the calibration datasets and calculations.

Postdoctoral Research Fellowships at Exeter

The School of Geography is currently advertising a number of research fellowships including one or two fellowships in Late Quaternary Palaeoenvironmental Analysis (REF:4174). The research project is open to the candidate, but there are several areas that the Late Quaternary Palaeoenvironments Research Group believe have high research potential. A flier which the editor has gives further information on these possible topics. The School is looking towards research based in S W England but other projects are not discounted.

The University of Exeter welcome applications from anybody with pollen, beetles or other palaeoecological interests or geomorphological/Quaternary sedimentological interests. The project is open to negotiation with members of the research team.

Further information can be obtained by contacting Prof. A. G. Brown (preferably by email) at a.g.brown@exeter.ac.uk.

The closing date for applications (CV, referees and name/addresses of two referees) is the 28th January. Applications should be made to: University Assistant Registrar (Research and Development) Ms Helen Loughlin, University of Exeter Exeter EX4 4QL

STAGE 3 PROJECT

PHASE 4: ON THE DIVIDE

In order to refresh my readers' memory (if I have any readers), the Stage 3 Project is a major research programme of the Godwin Institute that started in 1997 and was designed to simulate the climates, landscapes and mammalian fauna of Europe between c. 45,000 and 30,000 yrs BP with newly available very high-resolution climate and vegetation models. Using only existing data for a minimal input and for validation and interpretation, the project, rather than hoping for a flood of novel answers, aims to ask better questions than hitherto possible regarding the unusual conditions of the middle of the last pleniglacial and their potential role in the demise of our Neanderthaler cousins.

Currently, the final simulation runs are underway and we should have the best possible results in hand some time in May or June. Then the existing data supply will have been exhausted and we must turn to testing, evaluating and interpreting whatever we may have obtained. That is a dramatic step from the, essentially still separate, input and modelling activities within a set of disciplines ranging from palaeoclimatology to palynology to a major cross-disciplinary dialogue involving a much larger range from geophysics at one end to human physiology at the other. Thus the project, started partly because its members strongly believe that Quaternary studies now and in the future can flourish only as an interdisciplinary enterprise, will be meeting its true test this coming summer.

In the meantime, the unexpected and the serendipitous, hoped for by some and greeted with reservations by others, have made their presence strongly felt since our last meeting in July. An example of the unexpected is the boreal coniferous woodland that turned up, disguised as the output of coupled climate and biome models, where tundra was expected for warm and cold events. This somewhat unwelcome result has led to a series of tests of the sensitivity of biome models to changes such as length of winter or range of average and winter temperatures. This enterprise is just beginning to yield results and should at the very least bring us better understanding of the models.

A lovely example of serendipity grew out of data gathered long ago by one of the project members that showed the presence of warm flora and fauna in cave data from valleys of some of the several plateaux and low mountain complexes that dot Europe north of the Alps like islands in a (presumed) tundra sea. Combine this with the memory of another member about winter field work in the Ardennes where the deep, steep-walled valleys were like oases below the level of the moors on the plateau. Consider also that a substantial part of the large-mammal fauna of Stage 3, rather than

being arctic, seems to hark back to the last interglacial and probably became only fully extinct some 30,000 years ago, broadly simultaneously with the Neanderthalers. All this, and there you have the glimmering of a set of rather audacious working hypotheses dealing with "island refugia" north of the Pyrenean-Alpine ranges and two-level climate conditions.

This, in turn, produced yet one further step in my own thinking. Four years ago, the Stage 3 project was conceived as two sets of snapshots, one of a typical warm, the other of a cold Dansgaard/Oeschger event, because to develop an evolutionary model simulating the transition of one into the other was beyond our computer capacity and available time. Those new lines of speculation, on the other hand, clearly point towards an emphasis on the temporal aspects of the oscillatory but ultimately inexorable climate deterioration in Stage 3. Like so much else, the practicality of this approach remains to be assessed during the Phase 4 of the project that will occupy the next year or so before we decide that Stage 3 has done what it could.

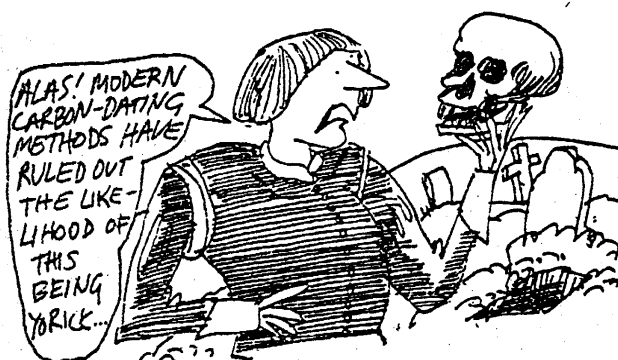
Whatever those final results may be, Stage 3 has been a lesson in the joy of interdisciplinary conversation and the possibilities of lateral thinking that, speaking only for myself, has been ample reward for efforts expended.

Tjeerd van Andel

***Going to any conferences
over the Easter break?***

***Feel inspired to tell the
Cambridge Quaternary
community about them?***

Contact the editors



Revised Index of Key Quaternary Journals

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	N.R.I.	1-	1958-
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Journal of Quaternary Science	Geol. SPL SPRI	1- 1- 1-2,5-	1986- 1986- 1986-7,1990-
Journal of Archaeological Science	UL Eth.	1- 1-	1974- 1974-
Journal of Atmospheric Sciences	SPL DAMTP BAS Nap.		1962- 1962- 1974- 1962-1973
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Journal of Climate	BAS	1-	1988-
Palaeoecology of Africa & Surrounding Islands	Geog. Eth. SPRI Geol.	1- 1-23 1- 3-7, 12	1966- 1966-92 1966- 1969-72,1980
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Paleoceanology	Geol.	1-	1986-
Pollen et Spores	Geol. Bot.	1-31 1-31	1959-89 1959-89
Proceedings of the Geologists' Association	UL Geol. SPL BAS Geog.	1- 1- 1-101 22-105	1859- 1859- 1859-1990 1936-85 1911-94
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Quaternary International	Geol. UL	1- 1-	1989- 1989-

Quaternary Proceedings	UL	1-	1991-
	Geol.	1-	1991-
	SPRI	1-	1991-
Quaternary Research	BAS	1-	1970-
	Geol.	35-	1991-
	SPRI	12-	1979-
	UL	1-	1970-
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Review of Palaeobotany & Palynology	Geol.	1-88	1967-95
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Vegetatio	Bot.		1948-1991
Vegetation History & Archaeobotany	Eth.	5-	1996-

* Review of Palaeobotany & Palynology is currently in Plant Sciences but should be transferring to the SPL in the near future.

This index was originally compiled by the librarians of the GIQR contributing Departments, and has been updated by Ruth Banger (Earth Sciences Librarian).

Index to abbreviations (all are in the University Library Catalogue, and further details can be obtained from there):

BAS	=	British Antarctic Survey	Geol.	=	Earth Sciences
Bot.	=	Plant Sciences	Geod.	=	Earth Sci. (Bullard Labs)
Class.	=	Classics	H.K.I.	=	Hamilton Kerr Institute
DAMTP	=	Dept of Applied Maths and Theoretical Physics	Nap.	=	Physics (Cavendish labs)
Eth.	=	Haddon library (Archaeology)	N.R.I.	=	Needham Research Institute
Fitz.	=	Fitzwilliam Museum	SPL	=	Scientific Periodicals Library
Geog.	=	Geography	UL	=	University Library