



## **Our Dental Library H W Noble \***

Bookplates and signatures illustrate some of the forgotten origins of the library which has developed so rapidly in the last fifty years as an essential element of the University of Glasgow Dental School.

The Glasgow Dental Students' Association which is as old as the Hospital itself was responsible for the first library. The Hospital Calendar for 1907 proudly asserts that "the Dental Students' Society has a good library which is kept thoroughly up to date by the frequent purchase of new books."

In 1911, the Glasgow Odontological Society agreed to a motion by Mr James Mason Noble that a library be formed in connection with this Society and approved the expense of £45 to purchase books and a bookcase. The Governors of the Dental Hospital gave permission to house the library in the Hospital and the order for books was placed with C. Ash and Sons. The Society appointed Curators who successfully looked after the library over the next twenty years. In 1921, the Glasgow Dental Students' Society proposed raising £1,000 to provide a library as a memorial to the dental students who had served in the recent war. By 1924 the sum of £350 had been raised but since no room to house the library was available in the Hospital, accommodation for it was provided by the Royal Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons in St Vincent Street.

In 1928, the Odontological Society Library was still housed in the Dental Hospital at Dalhousie Street but was not much used. A list of the volumes was printed with the syllabus for session 1928-29. The Council decided to donate the library to the Dental Hospital and when the new building at 211 Renfrew Street was occupied, the Odontological Society Library and the Glasgow Dental Hospital Students' War Memorial Library were combined and lodged in the room designated as the Library and Museum. It continued to be known as the Glasgow Dental Students' War Memorial Library (GDSWML) until 1970.

Development was slow in the early years and the balance sheets for the first quinquennium show that the amounts expended on the library were as follows: 1952/3 nil, 1953/4 nil, 1954/5 nil, 1955/6 £136 and 1956/7 £11.

It was not until 1970 that the dental library received official status as the Dental Branch Library of the Main Library of the University of Glasgow which it still enjoys today with a budget of approximately £18,000 per annum. Additionally it receives contributions from the West of Scotland Centre for Post Graduate Dental Education which in 1997 amounted to £2,000.

The ledgers of the GDSWML record the individual books on loan to generations of dental students from 20th November 1941 until 22nd June 1970. To begin with the library was only open at 4pm each Thursday afternoon. In 1949, it was opened for one hour each Tuesday and Thursday afternoon. It was not until 1955 that the library was opened daily with the arrival of Mrs Marjorie Prentice.

	<b>Term of Office</b>	
<b>Chairman of Library Committee</b>	<b>Start</b>	<b>Finish</b>
Professor James Ireland	-	1976
Dr Dorothy A Lunt	1976	1984
Professor W John S Kerr	1984	1990
Dr Marie E Watt	1990	Present
<b>Librarian</b>		
Mrs Marjorie Prentice	1955	1976
Miss Alison Faichney	1976	1982
Dr Helen S Marlborough	1982	1992
Ms Beverly Rankin	1992	present
<b>Secretary/Assistant</b>		
Mrs Isobel Duncan	1967	1983
Mrs Phyllis Cook	1983	?1991
<b>Assistant</b>		
Miss Anna Martin	?	1977
Miss Theo Linn	1977	1979
Miss Caroline Laidlaw	1979	?
Ms Lynn Bavarsad	?	1989
Ms Christine Leitch	1989	present

It is believed that between about 1976 and 1991 there was one full-time assistant as well as a part-time secretary and that when Mrs Cook left the secretary's post was not renewed. In September 1980 when Professor Ireland retired the library was renamed the **James Ireland Memorial Library** in recognition of his devoted work particularly in assembling a notable collection of back issues of dental periodicals. Thanks are due to Dr M Watt for checking the above information.

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