



THE FOUNTAIN

TRINITY COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

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EDITORIAL

Trinity might not have existed but for the persuasive argument of a woman, Katherine Parr, sixth and last wife of our founder, his late majesty Henry VIII—as explained by Aysha Pollnitz in the most recent *Fountain*. Nonetheless, it took 430 years for the College to admit women as members—graduate students in the first instance—and a further year to elect our first woman Fellow, Marian Jeanneret, later Professor of French at Queen Mary College. After such precautionary inoculations it took another year before, in 1978, we admitted our first female undergraduates. This issue of *The Fountain* celebrates this last anniversary, that small earthquake.

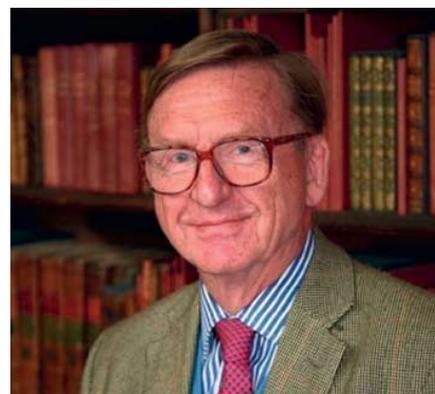
Trinity was not the first male college to admit women members in that distant age when feminism was supplanting socialism as the banner under which progressive men and women liked to march. But neither was Trinity the last. Indeed, that we should not be last was one of the arguments that persuaded the Fellowship to vote for the change. Another, more selfish, point was that mixed colleges were doing rather better in the Tripos tables. The most high-minded plea was that it would be unjust to deny women the privilege of belonging to the most distinguished college in Oxbridge.

By the 1970s there was little logic one could deploy against the admission of women. At best, one could say we ought not to be beastly to the remaining all-female colleges, Newnham, New Hall and the new Lucy Cavendish, by poaching their choicest

applicants. (Girton was known to be going mixed in 1979). At worst, those who manned the last masculine ditch put their trust in the absence of segregated lavatories—until the Fellow most reliant on this point had to admit that at home, with wife and daughters, there were no notices to specify ‘ladies’ or ‘gents’.

The liberals’ victory was assured when one of our oldest resident bachelors, Sir James Butler, declared himself in favour of women. But even reformers were suspicious of liberal slipperiness. ‘No quotas, no ghettos’, accordingly, were the provisos that silenced many remaining doubts. Trinity would neither admit women simply to meet a predetermined gender ratio, nor pamper them in plusher rooms than men. It was with this assurance of an equal opportunity for students to enjoy Trinity, regardless of gender, that a decisive majority of Fellows voted to admit women.

Our contributors appear to have negotiated their time at Trinity with little trouble. Only one of them had to bite back. Doubtless they speak as much with present courtesy as from past courage. Others—men and women—will have found the hothouse politics of Trinity and Tripos, gender and sex, more oppressive. But the general impression given by our members’ reflections is surely correct. In a world which their mothers and grandmothers had struggled to change, most women have simply taken an opportunity owed to them by right—a right that Trinity, with no



more than its usual caution, agreed to honour.

On 17th May Trinity women are invited to College to discuss not so much past history as what more can be done in the future, true to the spirit of Katherine Parr. That will be an occasion to report on and celebrate in the next issue of *The Fountain*.

*Professor John Lonsdale (1958),
Fellow, Secretary to the Alumni
Relations Committee*

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SMALL EARTHQUAKE

By Clare Harrisson

A lot can happen in thirty years. We have seen two Gulf wars, the fall of Apartheid and the end of the Cold War. Progress in technology has revolutionised the way people live and communicate. Compared to some of the events of the past three decades the arrival of the first women undergraduates at Trinity can seem rather a small earthquake in comparison. However, its importance should not be underestimated. Not only was it hugely symbolic, but its impact has been and will be felt for years to come. At a university often said to produce the leaders of the future, allowing women to share in this opportunity has the potential to change the worlds of politics and business forever. It not only provides women with new opportunities and aspirations; it changes attitudes.

So what is it like to be a woman in Trinity in 2008? How much has changed since their first arrival in 1978? On the whole my experience has been very positive. Nearly two thirds of the students in my

year are male. However, this male preponderance was not something that immediately struck me when I arrived nearly two and a half years ago. The accommodation I lived in for my first year was relatively gender mixed and my history group was 50–50. It probably wasn't until I first entered Hall that I realised that there was such an imbalance in numbers. There are many reasons for this, perhaps the main one being that Trinity is a strong maths and science college—subjects traditionally taken by men more than women.

That said, I have never felt isolated or excluded as a woman in Trinity. My friends are a mixture of both genders and many of my closest friends are male. Compared to when women first arrived at Trinity in the 1970s there are more systems of support available. The 'Women of Trinity' group provides important welfare services ranging from pregnancy tests to self-defence classes and opportunities for women in the College to socialise with one another. The Advisor to Women

Students is a valuable resource who provides support and advice on a range of issues. Speaking to fellow female students, I get the sense that most feel that their experience of Trinity has been equal to that of their male friends.

Although most female experience is positive we shouldn't become complacent and there is still some progress to be made. Trinity, like the rest of Cambridge, is still home to some very traditional attitudes. Although it may be nice to have a door opened for you, old fashioned manners should not come at the expense of an equal voice. I am president of a university society, but at least once a term I am still asked if I am the secretary. This, however, is a reflection on a minority of men rather than the majority and I am proud not only to be a woman at Trinity but also, simply, to be a student at Trinity—part of a community both male and female. On the other hand, of the 32 Nobel Prize winners Trinity has produced so far, not a single one is a woman. So come on girls, we have a 432 year head-start to catch up on!



Clare Harrisson (2005) came up from Greenhead Sixth Form College, Huddersfield, and is now in her third year reading for Part II of the Historical Tripos.

IN AT THE BE

By Joan Lasenby

In London recently I lectured on Computer Graphics to a thousand A-Level students. Afterwards, one of them gave me greetings from her mother, Tamlyn, with whom I had studied maths at Trinity thirty years ago! It is sobering to think that our own children are now thinking of university. Tamlyn and I were part of the first Trinity intake of women in 1978, and constituted two-thirds of the women brave enough to read maths here.

In early October 1978 we drove down from the North West and installed my belongings in B19 Angel Court. My parents left soon after because of the long drive back. That gave me a chance to wander round Trinity and make a few friends. I was singularly unsuccessful, mainly because I feared that my Liverpool accent was incomprehensible! Things improved when I met my neighbour, Neil, a Part III mathematician, and his neighbour Claire, one of Trinity's two first-year women geographers. I have stayed in touch with both. (Claire gives her own perspective on 30 years of women at Trinity in this same issue).

I have forgotten much that happened during my undergraduate years, but that first day will stay with me forever: at no point did it feel strange to be a woman in Trinity. It just felt odd to be here at all.

That first cohort of Trinity women was amazingly keen—in sports at least. Within weeks we had formed a women's boat, squash team, athletics team, and a mixed hockey team. With some embarrassment I admit to joining them all! Professor Bollobas

will confirm that during that exciting first year I devoted a vanishingly small amount of time to maths and an unfeasibly large proportion of my energy to sport. The inaugural 1st & 3rd Women's first boat made a great impression in the 1978-9 Lent Bumps, or was it the Fairbairns?—the First and Third website says nothing about women before 1995—but for all the wrong reasons. In their enthusiasm, those intrepid lasses crashed into the bank and broke the boat in two. I can well imagine the groans back in the boathouse and at High Table. But we have come far since then: last year Trinity men and women both finished Head of the River in the Lents. Today, women are an integral and important part of the Boat Club, as well as every other side of Trinity life.

I was neither religious nor musical, but had friends who were one or the other, or both. With them I discovered Chapel and witnessed the birth of our mixed choir. The Chapel was often a haven for me: somewhere to escape to, listen to amazing music, feel a sense of peace and forget about the example sheets piling up in my room. Today I remain neither religious nor musical but fond of both Chapel and Choir.

Whatever misgivings Fellows, Porters and Staff had about admitting women, I was never made aware of them. For me the atmosphere was, astonishingly, one of women always having been here. Thirty years ago Trinity had more easily accessible women's toilets than the University Engineering Department has today! Perhaps the Bedders noticed the change most. The arrival of girls



Joan Lasenby then

seemed to bring out the mother in them. The Bedder for 'B' Angel Court was Christine. I am grateful to Christine for many things, but especially for those hot baths she ran for the B staircase rowers when we returned one cold, wet February morning from a 7.30am capsizing in the Cam.

My first year was far from plain sailing: it took a long time to adjust to studying a subject read mostly by men, many of them extremely bright. At the start of my second year, things ostensibly took a turn for the worse: my two female Trinity mathematicians abandoned me, to change to other subjects. But by now Cambridge was my home, I was happy at Trinity,



GINNING

FIRST AND THIRD SECOND TO NONE



Joan Lasenby now

happy that women were starting to make a difference—that year I started the first-ever Women’s Cross Country Cuppers competition—and I at last believed I could cope with the Maths Tripos.

During my undergraduate and postgraduate years at Trinity, the College’s gender balance gradually changed. Women formed 25% of the 1978 admissions cohort. 30 years on, we look as if we will welcome a freshers’ intake comprising a record 40% women. Even more amazingly, we are set to have a contingent of a dozen women mathematicians!

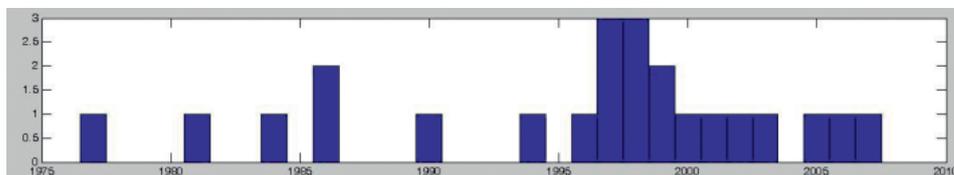
After teaching mathematics in Louisiana, taking Part III Mathematics, a PhD in Radio Astronomy and then a job in the real world with Marconi Research, I returned to Trinity as a Fellow in 2001—some 15 years after leaving. Seven years later still and I have just about got used to walking

on the grass. In 1978 I thought little about the composition of the Fellowship but was dimly aware that we had one woman Fellow, Marian Jeanneret, elected in 1977. While the College pushed forward with admitting undergraduate and postgraduate women, the Fellowship did not keep pace. The histogram below shows when the current body of women Fellows (other than short-term Junior Research Fellows) were admitted. It was not until the mid 1990s that the Fellowship became truly mixed.

I have just emerged from the 2007 admissions interviewing round. Through interviewing I have learnt that, despite my early misgivings, what really matters here is not who your parents are, which school you come from or how you speak, but that you are deemed intelligent enough to be given the chance to study at one of the most amazing scholarly establishments in the world.

Even the minority of Fellows who voted against the College going mixed over 30 years ago (and I’ve never asked who they were!) must now look at Trinity and think how wrong they were. In another thirty years, women retired fellows will outnumber their male counterparts, and the transformation begun in 1978 will be complete.

Dr Joan Lasenby (1978) is a College and University lecturer in Engineering



Like almost all things Trinity, the First and Third Trinity Boat Club May Ball has a long and distinguished history. Its 142 year tradition remains unbroken to this day, with a few exceptions. In 1910, the Ball was abandoned in mourning for the death of His Majesty King Edward VII, and no Ball was held at Trinity between 1939 and 1945 because of the Second World War. The Ball has come a long way since it was first held in 1866 to celebrate Trinity Boat Clubs’ triumph in the Bumps, progressing to become the epitome of an Oxbridge Ball, pride of Trinity, and a fixture in the Oxbridge social calendar. While no longer in any way affiliated with the First and Third, it retains its name, and its tradition of elegance and excellence. The Trinity May Ball 2008 Committee warmly welcomes any enquiries about the Ball, regarding in particular ticket applications and sponsorship.

The May Ball Committee
(www.trinityball.co.uk)

A JUGGLING

By Phyllis Agbo

I have to say, applying to Cambridge was not really a major issue to me. I knew of the prestigious reputation that Cambridge carries so well and even though I knew I was a very hard worker, I thought my chances were slim. However, the fact that I was a state-educated black female did not even cross my mind as being a reason not to apply.

I just thought, “I might as well. What’s the harm? It just means I’ll have to fill in my UCAS application form a lot quicker!” Cambridge had the perfect course for me—a scientist who did not know exactly what she wanted to do. Headed by some of the world’s top names, the Natural Sciences Tripos

provided me with the content and flexibility I was looking for in a course; slowly funnelling me towards what was the right concentration for my individual passion for science.

When it came to choosing a College, I only really had Trinity in mind. The one person I knew up at Cambridge was a Trinitarian ‘mathmo’ and athlete. He told me I could not go wrong applying to the biggest and richest college in Cambridge. As well as being an educational haven for scientists and mathematicians, the sheer size of the college meant it would be hard not to find someone you could get on with. I have to say the numerous grants available also helped make my

decision easy. I did not know about the apparent preconceptions some people have about Trinity, that it is home to mainly privately educated white ‘rich kids’ or extremely bright timid guys.

Getting my A Level results was one of the happiest days of my life. I had worked so hard to get the three As I needed, even going as far as recording my revision notes on a tape and listening to them everywhere I went! So when I travelled to my school of seven years and opened my envelope to see my grades, I think I can justify running through and nearly shattering the glass doors that lead to the sports hall. Even so, I truly did not believe I was a member of

Trinity until I was stood in Neville’s Court for my matriculation photo. Posing in my gown opened my eyes to what I had achieved and I could not wait to get stuck in. But I could not have predicted what struggles lay ahead.

Combining my athletics and A Levels was quite hard since both required more commitment than they had done in previous years. At school I trained more often and for longer than others, as well as having more work to do. But that was nothing compared to what was in store for me at Cambridge. Between Monday-to-Saturday lectures (which I had thought was a myth), practicals and evening supervisions, I had to fit in training six days a week as well as competitions. This was even harder in the winter as the University athletics track does not have floodlights and it was nearly impossible to see where you were going after 4pm. But somehow, with the help of friends, understanding supervisors and a Dictaphone (oh yes), I survived my three years and graduated with a degree I can be proud of.

I was surprised to find out women had only been able to attend the College for less than 30 years when I started at Trinity although I have to say, I did not know a large amount about the College’s history. When I browse the sea of faces looking proud in our matriculation photo, it is hard to believe that a generation ago, they would have all been male.

My experience at Cambridge, shaped by Trinity, is something that will stay with me for the rest of my life. Even though it was the toughest three years of my life so far, the lessons it



Competing at the National Championships. The 100m Hurdles is the first of seven events in the Heptathlon, which spans two days.



ACT STRATEGIES FOR LIFE

By Claire Sladden



taught me, including many in time-management, will be lessons that will help me to excel in my chosen path, be it athletics or within the working world. If I had to choose whether to go through the whole experience again, I would do it all again in a heartbeat.

Phyllis Agbo (2004) came up from The Grey Coat Hospital, a girls' Comprehensive School in Westminster, and graduated in 2007 with a 2:2 in Natural Sciences. She was awarded university Blues in ten events and holds a number of Varsity match records, including the most events won by a single person in a single Varsity match. Since graduating she has moved to Birmingham in order to pursue a career in her chosen track and field event—the Heptathlon.

I arrived in Cambridge with a trunk, a bicycle and a distinctly limited grasp of what studying for a degree and student life would involve. I came from a worthy girls' grammar school which had encouraged me not to try for Trinity, but rather for one of the then three women's colleges, considered a much safer bet.

One of my first impressions was of how few of us female undergraduates there were in a college of the size and complexity of Trinity. Another was that I'd joined a community of intellects and hormones, not always in that order. As one of Trinity's few geographers, finding my way around was no problem, but there was a new vocabulary and culture to learn, part University, part College, immediately reinforced by the arrival of a new Master and one of those rare occasions when undergraduate feet were directed onto the grass of Great Court.

Great discoveries included the University Library, a treasure house and soon a favourite workspace; Chapel worship and music, a few of us occasionally joining the still male Choir to sing *Compline*; and the Cambridgeshire landscape, if one could manage to get out to it, that is. Those years also meant the excitement of geography in the aftermath of the fundamental changes brought by its "quantitative revolution" and of new subject areas at which school geography hadn't even hinted.

From a 21st century perspective, student life was astonishingly low tech., with a bag of 10p pieces for the telephones we queued to use and a state-of-the-art electric kettle which

turned itself off. The only computer I'd known previously (at Hatfield Polytechnic, now the University of Hertfordshire) had cabinets which filled a large room and required me to learn programming just to process my fieldwork data. Attitudes to student debt and student finance were also rather different. On the one occasion in my first year when my cash flow went awry, I received a letter from the bank informing me that my account was overdrawn by the sum of £0.37.

The years at Trinity prepared me for life in a number of ways, I'm grateful to have been taught to think, to have been changed by a close encounter with God and to have learned about friendship. I think the experience of being one of the first women in College helped to prepare me for the somewhat costly privilege of breaking into other male institutions and structures in the years which followed. I also learned to develop strategies for everyday life: for study, time management or simple survival. I needed such a strategy on the night of the Matriculation Dinner when, just before the Great Court Run, a male fresher picked me up and attempted to put me into the architectural feature which gives its name to this publication. He didn't succeed. I'm ashamed to say that, in desperation, I bit him.

Claire J Sladden (1978), geographer and assessment specialist

A N E L E V A T

By Joel Cabrera

July is winter in KwaZulu-Natal. The early morning is chilly as I make my way to *Ekuphakameni*, ‘the Elevated Place’, a religious settlement perched high amidst the sprawling shacks and luxuriant green hills of KwaMashu township, north of Durban. As my little car zooms down the winding township roads, I am flanked by clouds of white-clad pilgrims. They are barefoot—*Ekuphakameni* is sacred ground, and shoes may not be worn—and carry little grass mats to kneel on for their prayers. Men and women alike wear dazzlingly white starched surplices. They also display their dancing garb:



Dancing Ukusina, Ekuphakameni, 2006

men in heavy hide skirts, leopard tails and rattling seed-pod anklets; women in elaborate and colourful beadwork. Every so often, a heavily-laden minibus hurtles past me, stuffed with pilgrims and, more often than not, bearing a bumper stick which proclaims that ‘Shembe is the Way’.

Ekuphakameni was founded in 1914 by Zulu prophet Isaiah Shembe. My research asks how Shembe’s religious innovations engaged with the moral and pragmatic instability facing early twentieth-century Africans. Faced with the loss of their land, freedom, and family structures, Shembe’s largely

Zulu followers identified him as a redemptive figure. In the face of opposition from the white government, as well as white missionaries, Shembe bought a 40 acre piece of land onto which he moved his small band of followers. There they defined themselves as ‘Nazaretha’—believers who blended Christian Methodist liturgy, Hebrew legal observance and fidelity to Zulu ‘tradition’. Today, I am at *Ekuphakameni* to observe the ritual dancing—*ukusina*—that still takes place throughout the month of July.

As I enter the gates of *Ekuphakameni*, I head, on foot, to the grove



Married Women’s Dancing Dress, Ekuphakameni, 2006

of trees (planted by Isaiah Shembe in the 1920s) where Nazaretha pray. The atmosphere is electric: there are thousands and thousands of white-clad pilgrims, as far as the eye can see to the crest of the hill, all knelt in prayer beneath the trees. In perfect unison, they sing the stately and melancholic verses of the Nazaretha Sabbath Prayer. The present leader of the church—Isaiah’s grandson, Vumile Shembe—suddenly enters. He is dressed in a black top-hat, a sparkling silver cape and sun-glasses that shield most of his face. The Nazaretha virgins—young girls seated to his immediate right, completely draped in white sheets—ululate as he passes—



ED PLACE

'Uyingcwele'... 'He is Holy!' The sound is alive; it enfolds their leader 'UShembe' within the deafening praise of his faithful. All are gathered here for the Sabbath prayer's powerful communal performance of hope in present and future redemption, both earthly and heavenly.

After the prayers, the real business of the day starts: the dancing, or *ukusina*. Huge crescents of dancers sprawl out over a flat area several miles wide. To my right, dancing in small, shuffling steps, are the young virgin girls, dressed in small black skirts and wreaths of beads over their breasts. To my left are the married women, who hold war shields in their right hand—as the warriors of Jehovah—and umbrellas in their left, for they ally themselves to a God of fertility, represented in rainfall. There, ahead, are the vigorously kicking young boys, *iSkotch*; so-named after the tartan and black kilts they wear, accompanied by colonial pith helmets and heavy boots. A Nazaretha elder tells me that the kilt evokes the nineteenth-century Anglo-Zulu war, and the Zulu defeat at the hands of Scottish Highlanders. Young men pay tribute to the might of the Scottish warriors, and simultaneously re-appropriate the victor's garb in their own triumphant spiritual life. Behind the boys, the men dance, causing clouds of dust to rise as their bare feet pound the ground. They are dressed in full Zulu warrior regalia. Their movements are as deliberate as a coiled spring, moving to the tempo of piercing steel trumpets.

Finally, beyond is a low building where converts to the church are being



Joel Cabrita and Muzi Sithole, Nazaretha follower and translator, Mpophomeni, 2006

baptized. As I stoop down and enter, out of the sunlight, a wall of sound hits me. I see a long trench filled with water, and hundreds of singing young girls standing waist-deep in water, queuing to be immersed by the priests. The girls are radiant with joy, shouting out one of Isaiah's hymns:

'Come! Come!
Let us go to the elevated place;
Jehovah, do not abandon
Ekuphakameni.
Encircle it, Lord,
From all sides.'

For these young girls, entry into the church represents an alternative life to that offered by KwaMashu township—a region infamous for its high crime rates, HIV-AIDS prevalence, poverty and unemployment. Within the gates of *Ekuphakameni*, the Zulu Nazaretha define themselves as God's own people, a community characterized by virtue,

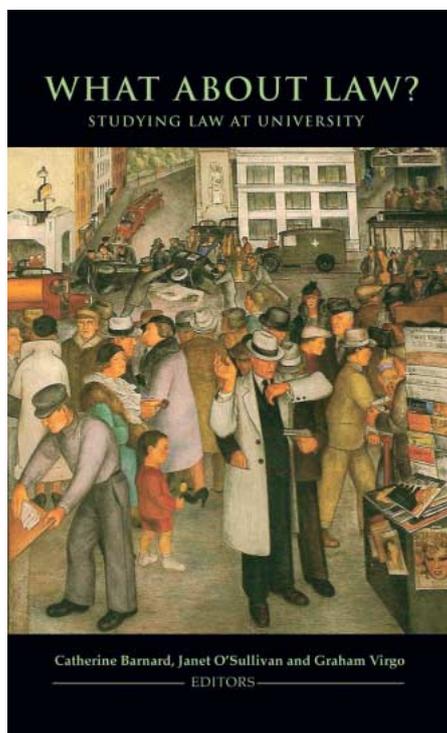
health and spiritual triumph. Truly, for these young girls, and all the Nazaretha dancers present today, *Ekuphakameni* is the 'elevated place' that promises uplift from despair, and redemption from all manner of sufferings. As the sun sets and I prepare to leave *Ekuphakameni*, I am struck by the extraordinary opportunities that a research fellowship at Trinity can offer. This extended period of field work in KwaZulu-Natal has allowed me a powerful insight into *Ekuphakameni*'s importance for the Nazaretha. No amount of library research, even in the Wren, could replace this first-hand experience of the holy village as a space of flourishing for its Nazaretha believers.

Joel Cabrita, 2005, is a historian, theologian, and ethnographer; newly elected Junior Research Fellow.

FELLOWS'

Trinity's *Annual Record* carries a full report of all our members' appointments and distinctions. We feel that alumni may welcome this less formal bulletin of recent achievements by Trinity's Fellows.

Catherine Barnard has written and edited, with two Cambridge colleagues, Graham Virgo and Janet O'Sullivan, and with chapters from two more of Trinity's lawyers Kevin Gray and Tony Weir, *Studying Law at University* (Hart Publishing, Oxford: www.hartpub.co.uk). In this short book done with plenty of teaching experience introduce law as a university subject and show that law can be fun as well as intellectually challenging.



Professor Simon Baron-Cohen's Autism Research Institute has made an animation film featuring trains, tractors, trams, and so on with faces—so that children with autism may be helped to learn about the world of emotions. Children with autism love vehicles because they are more predictable than people. This film, *The Transporters* (www.transporters.tv), was nominated for a BAFTA award and Jane Asher, President of the National Autistic Society, has said it will “make a huge difference to some very vulnerable children.”

In 1987 **Professor Patrick Collinson** published “The Monarchical Republic of Elizabeth I”, an article which argued that Elizabeth’s England was a republic that happened to be ruled by a monarch. To mark the twentieth anniversary of this influential idea, a volume of essays has been edited by John F. McDiarmid, with the title *The Monarchical Republic of Early Modern England: Essays in Response to Patrick Collinson* (Ashgate, 2007). The distinguished contributors include Quentin Skinner, Collinson’s successor as Regius Professor of Modern History.

Two Italian scholars, Vittorio Citti and Federico Boschetti, have collected and edited articles published over the past forty years by our retired Fellow, **Roger Dawe**, in a volume called *Corruption and Correction*. While this sounds like a tract for our times the articles are all on Greek authors and range over nearly two millennia,

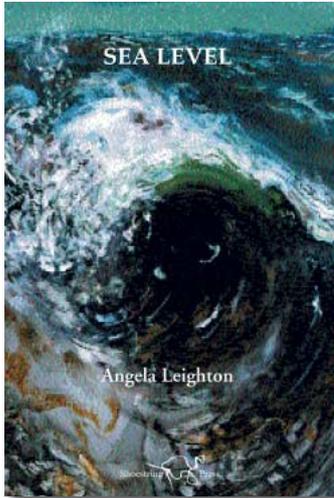
from Homer (700 BC) to Theodorus Prodomus (1150 AD). Scholars from eleven countries have participated and a conference will be held in Venice to celebrate Dawe’s research achievements, notably on Homer, Aeschylus and Sophocles. Trinity was glad to make a grant towards the organisation of this conference.



Ben Green, newly elected Hershel Smith Professor of Mathematics for his work in number theory, went to South India to receive the 2007 Srinivasa Ramanujan Prize, named after the great Trinity mathematician. Ramanujan is one of maths’ romantic figures, a true rags-to-riches story. In 1913 he wrote to G.H. Hardy, another great Trinity mathematician, in a letter held in the Wren, “Dear Sir, I beg to introduce myself to you as a clerk in the Port Trust Office at Madras on a salary of only 20 pounds per annum...”. By 1918 he was elected FRS! Eligibility for the prize is confined to those no older than 32, at which age Ramanujan died. Ben found Trinity still warmly remembered in Tamil Nadu, for helping Ramanujan’s genius to flower.



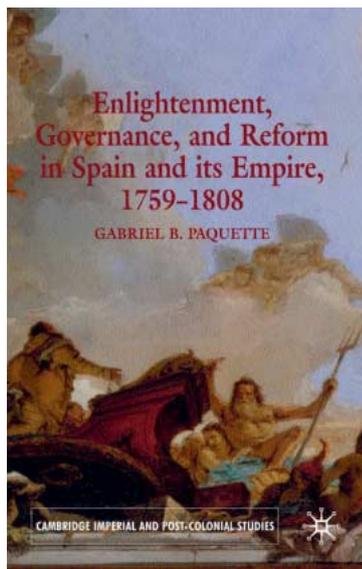
NEWS



Professor Angela Leighton, Senior Research Fellow in English, has published two rather different books this year. One is a critical book: *On Form: Poetry, Aestheticism, and the Legacy of a Word* (Oxford University Press, 2007), and the other, a volume of poems, mostly about Yorkshire and the East Riding, called *Sea Level* (Shoestring, 2007).

Erica Segre's interdisciplinary book *Intersected Identities: Strategies of Visualization in Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Mexican Culture* was published in May (New York and Oxford: Berghahn Books, 2007). See www.berghahnbooks.com. In a book that deals with visual anthropology, the history and theory of photography and film, as well as with Mexican culture, Dr Segre argues that the study of interdisciplinary slippages and borrowings between different representational media helps us to understand how Mexicans use visual discourse in arguments about their identity.

Gabriel Paquette, elected Junior Research Fellow in 2006, has published his first book, *Enlightenment, Governance and Reform in Spain and its Empire 1759–1808* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2008), maintaining a Trinity interest in Spanish imperial history pioneered with such distinction by Sir John Elliott (1949), whom many will remember as their director of studies in the 1950s and '60s.



Tarik O'Regan, Trinity's current Fellow Commoner in the Creative Arts, has won his second British Composer Award for his choral work *Threshold of Night*. Commissioned by St John's College, it was first performed by its choir under David Hill. O'Regan intends this Advent work to illuminate how all societies, at times of need, yearn for guidance from beyond their community. He commutes between Trinity and New York, where he has Fellowships in Music Composition at

Columbia University and at Harvard. He is now composing, with the artist Tom Phillips, an operatic version of Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*, under the aegis of *American Opera Projects* in New York and *OperaGenesis* at the Royal Opera House, London.

Dr. Suchitra Sebastian won the Lee Osheroff Richardson North American Science Prize for 2007. This recognized her outstanding contributions to understanding Bose condensation phenomena in quantum magnets in her doctoral research at Stanford University. Dr. Sebastian is continuing this work as a Junior Research Fellow—or Title 'A' Fellow—at Trinity. Her most interesting discovery is the existence of two-dimensional criticality in a bulk system. This greatly clarifies the question of what goes on near a quantum critical point, one of the unresolved problems in condensed matter physics.



NEW TRINITY

New Junior Research Fellows

Joel Cabrita is a historian, theologian, and ethnographer. She has illuminated the history of African Christianity with her study of the life and thoughts of the Zulu prophet Isaiah Shembe, as remembered and re-enacted by his one-million strong church, the Nazaretha. She studied texts in the church's archive, talked to elderly Zulu who remembered Shembe, and took part herself in Nazaretha church life—as you can see in her article published in this issue.

Anson Cheung is a physicist and has advanced our understanding of a new state of matter—known as polariton condensates. He also proposes a novel and creative scheme for manipulating nuclei in ultra-small semiconductor devices called quantum wires. Both these projects extend our prospects of controlling material at the quantum level. Anson has also helped in physics education through the schools' Physics Olympiad.

Matthew Dal Santo is another theological historian. He has reanalysed a seventh-century text by Pope Gregory the Great. Gregory was exercised by the question whether petitionary prayers to saints—disembodied souls—could be effective. From Syriac materials derived from the Eastern Churches Dal Santo shows, contrary to previously accepted views, that the veneration of saints was controversial rather than conventional in the sixth, seventh and eighth centuries.

Mbou Eyole-Monono, by contrast, is a computer scientist, focused on energy-efficient computing. We all know that our laptops get hot; but he's looking ahead to the time when thousands of tiny environment-sensing computers are used in our homes, clothing and even inside our bodies. Pioneer of an exciting technology, he has designed not only a new processor but also energy-efficient systems that will allow lots of microprocessors to interact with each other.

Eleanor Newbiggin, the first of three new Indian historians to be elected this year, has explored the consequences of a piece of 1950's legislation, the Hindu Code Bill. This ostensibly promoted women's rights. But Eleanor argues that it was actually designed to strengthen wealthy younger Hindu men in their conflicts with their elders. Her findings help to explain the distributions of power and patterns of under-development in today's India.

Julian Sonner, our second physicist, works on M-theory, a grandiose concept that—if it pans out—will unify Einstein's vision of space-time with quantum theory, and the other forces of nature. His particular achievement has been to suggest why empty space might exert new force, undetectably weak in the lab, which nonetheless overwhelms gravity on the cosmic scale and causes the universe to expand faster and faster—towards an ever colder and ever emptier future. But that's billions of years hence.

Finally, two biologists make up our total of eight new Junior Research Fellows. **Henning Tidow** works at the Medical Research Council's Centre for Protein Engineering. He studies the molecular architecture of the protein p53, recently voted as *Science* magazine's 'molecule of the year'. Mutations in p53 are the most common anomalies associated with cancer tumours. Henning has used advanced techniques to study this protein and how it functions—a world-class project. **Kaihang Wang**, finally, has collaborated with another new Fellow, Jason Chin, and is a pioneer in what's called 'synthetic biology'. He has shown that bacteria with altered cellular machinery can be used to make proteins that are completely different from those found in nature, rather a scary idea.

Fellow Commoner in the Creative Arts

Our new artist in residence, the prize-winning **Tarik O'Regan** also holds fellowships at both Columbia and Harvard. His compositions include sacred and secular choral works, a violin concerto, and much else—a further stimulus to Trinity's vibrant musical life.

Visiting Fellow Commoners

Trinity always hosts internationally distinguished scholars for a year or less, typically on their sabbatical leaves, and normally to work in collaboration with one of our Fellows. This year we



Y FELLOWS

have with us: **Paul Hammond**, already a member of the College who works on a still more distinguished Trinity man, John Dryden, the Restoration poet and playwright; **Joel Trussel**, an electrical engineer from North Carolina, working with Nick Kingsbury on signal processing; and **Michael Shadlen**, from Seattle, who is writing a book on how the brain interprets what our eyes tell us and then comes to a decision, work of the kind in which Horace Barlow and Daniel Wolpert are prominent.

New Teaching Fellows

Joya Chatterji, historian, returns to Trinity from the LSE, where she had just been promoted to a Readership. Her first book was on Indian nationalism in Bengal; she has a second in press, *The Spoils of Partition*, on the division of Bengal, and is now investigating the Bengali diaspora in India and the United Kingdom.

Jason Chin works at the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology, on a new kind of genetic code—no less! He is creating new ribosomes which can control gene expression; modifying proteins by inserting unnatural amino acids into them.

Malte Grosche, physicist, is also returning, this time from his native Germany and then from Royal Holloway College where he was a Reader. He works among the mysteries of low temperature physics—the superconductivity exhibited by some complex compounds, and how this

effect is triggered by pressure and magnetism.

Our second new physics lecturer, **Zoran Hadzibabic** is yet another returnee, this time from MIT and Paris. He works on simple chemistry—lithium. But assemblages of this simple atom display complex long-range correlations: a so-called Bose Condensate, predicted 50 years ago; but only recently created after very challenging experiment.

Rick Livesey, our second new lecturer in biology, is senior lecturer in the biochemistry department, and a group leader at the Gurdon Institute—a world centre for stem cell biology. He works on what's surely one of the most challenging subjects of all—the development of the brain.

Karen Margerithe Nielson, lecturer in philosophy, will, sadly, be with us for only one year. A specialist in ethics, she is Norwegian by birth, and both Canadian and American in training.

Harvey Reall will teach mathematics for natural scientists and is himself both physicist and mathematician—a string theorist supervised by Stephen Hawking. We understand black holes and are fairly sure they exist in our actual cosmos. But Harvey has shown that in a five dimensional space, objects called 'black rings' would exist.

Finally, among our new lecturers, **David Spring**, organic chemist, comes to us from Oxford, Harvard, and previous Cambridge experience. He

discovered a molecule that affected the way zebrafish develop—but only when in a particular isomeric form—and has identified other molecules potentially important for pharmaceuticals.

Professorial Fellow

Nick Thomas is the new director of the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. With more than 20 books to his name, he specialises in the anthropology, art, and history of the Pacific region. He comes to us from chairs in his native Australia and London, and will doubtless find Trinity as perplexing as any Polynesian community.

Senior Research Fellows

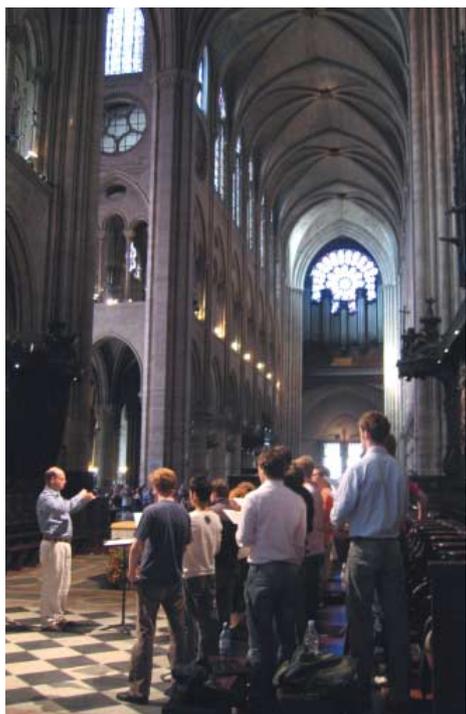
Trinity has a tradition of supporting senior scholars of proven distinction. We elected three this year: **Philip Hardie** from Oxford, who has deepened our understanding of Ovid and Virgil; **Angela Leighton** from Hull, who brings nineteenth-century poets, Shelley especially, to a modern audience and is a poet herself; and **David Washbrook**, our final returned exile, and another man poached from Oxford, who with Joya Chatterji and Eleanor Newbigin will revive Trinity's great tradition of Indian history, a good way to mark the centenary of Mohamed Iqbal's graduation and Jawaharlal's matriculation (for which see Amartya Sen's article in *The Fountain* 5, Autumn 2007).

TRINITY CHOIR

ENHANCING ALUMNI EVENTS AROUND THE WORLD

Most recently, in September 2007, the Choir sang Vierne's *Messe Solennelle* at the main Sunday mass in Notre Dame, Paris. This was attended by some 100 Trinity Alumni from all over Europe and was extremely well received by the packed cathedral—indeed the priests even instigated an unprecedented round of applause for the Choir at the end of the service! The previous evening, the Choir sang lighter repertoire at an Alumni dinner in the Lutetia Hotel.

As part of Trinity's Alumni programme, we now plan to hold events for local Alumni wherever the Choir tours. Plans for 2008 include a tour to Canada in July, with performances near Toronto at the Elora Festival and at the Festival of the Sound, Parry Sound. Full details will be circulated to local Alumni nearer



The Choir rehearsing in Notre Dame, Paris



The Choir performing at dinner, Paris

the time and will be available on the College website.

We hope that the Choir will become a focus for Alumni activities around the world, with ambitious plans taking shape for a tour of the West Coast of the USA in 2009, and Australia in 2010. For 2009, we are delighted that the Choir has been invited to perform in venues such as Grace Cathedral, San Francisco, the Memorial Church in Stanford University, and the concert halls of the universities of Southern California and California State. We hope to extend the tour to include performances in other nearby states, such as Texas, New Mexico or Washington State.

However, in order to make these tours possible, we need additional support to help cover the costs of travel and accommodation. There are a number of ways Trinity Members can help with this. For example, if you know of individuals or local companies who might be able to support tours by the Choir, either through sponsorship or by helping with accommodation or transport, we would be very grateful to hear from you. Please contact the Alumni Relations Office in the first instance.

Choir Concerts and Tours

27 February 2008, 1.15pm

Trinity College Chapel

Howells – Requiem – Admission Free

Saturday, 15 March 2008, 7.30pm

Trinity College Chapel

College Concert – Stephen Layton conducts Trinity College Choir, Trinity Singers and Trinity Players in a concert of choral music to mark the end of term. Including works by Stanford, Parry, Finzi and current Fellow Commoner in the Creative Arts, Tarik O'Regan.

Tickets available from the Corn Exchange Box Office (01223 357851).

Sunday 8 June 2008, 12.00pm and 8.45pm

Singing from the Towers and Singing on the River

Choir of Trinity College Cambridge
Cambridge University Brass Ensemble
– Admission Free

Friday 27 June 2008, 7.30pm

St John's Smith Square, London

Handel – Chandos Anthems

Choir of Trinity College Cambridge
Academy of Ancient Music – Tickets on sale from 1 April 2008 from the St John's Smith Square Box Office (020 7222 1061)

Saturday 28 June 2008, 7.30pm

Trinity College Chapel

Programme as 27 June – Tickets on sale from 1 April 2008 from the Corn Exchange Box Office (01223 357851)

23-30 July – Tour to Canada

Elora Festival, Ontario

Festival of the Sound, Parry Sound, Ontario



SINGING AT TRINITY

by Zoë Brown

It is now 26 years since Dr Richard Marlow founded a mixed-voice choir at Trinity, shortly after the admission of women undergraduates. Since then the Choir has established itself as one of the leading mixed-voice choirs in the UK

At the age of seventeen, having sung with my local parish church choir in Nottingham and the National Youth Choirs from the age of 12, I was unsure whether to try to pursue singing at music college, or to apply to university. I was advised by friends, who were in both the National Youth Choir and at Trinity, that if I wanted to combine academic excellence with a comparable standard of singing, Cambridge was the way forward, and Trinity the best option for girls. Being fairly clueless about the Cambridge choir scene and Oxbridge in general, this advice was invaluable to me, as has been my experience of singing in the Choir.

Being a Choral Scholar has not only given me superb musical and vocal training, but also the opportunity to contribute to College life on an almost daily basis. On top of this, the fantastic tours, concerts and recordings are far beyond what I ever imagined they would be. I can honestly say my time in Trinity College Choir has been one of the most life-enhancing experiences of my life so far.



Zoë Brown is a third year Choral Scholar at Trinity, reading Theology.

FIRST AND THIRD TRINITY BOAT CLUB

by Erica Thompson

The history of our Boat Club is an illustrious one, with many Henley wins and Head of the River too, including the current year. However, there have been changes in the nature of the Club since our last Henley win in 1967. In particular the admission of women students to the College 30 years ago and the introduction of top-up fees more recently have changed what it means to say “I rowed at Trinity”.

First, the women’s club, initially rather under-achieving at this most competitive of Colleges, has finally risen to one of the Club’s most spectacular achievements to date: a Double Headship of both men’s and women’s Lent Eights in 2007. This follows a steady increase in the proportion of women undergraduates in recent years. Not only has this resulted in a better standard of women’s rowing, it has not damaged the standard of our men. In fact, the quality of each half of the club serves to stimulate recruitment in both! As I write, both crews are preparing to defend their Headships. If either is successful, they will become the first crew from First and Third to retain a Headship over two consecutive years. A retained Double Headship would be yet more to celebrate, but we shall have to wait until 1st March to find out.

Secondly, changes in Higher Education funding mean that



Photo courtesy of Martin Peck

students now pay for their time at Trinity. They have become more focused on academic commitments and less tempted to skip them. Directors of Studies who disapprove of boaties should know more about the effort that goes into ensuring that a busy rowing schedule can fit around their studies. Moreover, since we are now so concerned with value-for-money, it is these “transferable skills” of time management, teamwork, commitment, and willingness to learn that are crucial to rowing and that make First and Third graduates so successful, whether in academia or in the Real World.

Do visit the Club’s excellent website: www.firstandthird.org, for details of the many annual alumni events, including the traditional gathering on the bank during the Lent and May Bumps (26 February–1 March and 11–14 June 2008).

Erica Thompson, 2003, studied Natural Sciences and then Part III Maths. Captain of the boat club from 2006–2007. Erica is studying for a PhD at Imperial College, London (and still rowing).

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

18 April 2008

2nd Trinity Dinner in Edinburgh.

Sir Michael Atiyah will be hosting this dinner at the Royal Society of Edinburgh. Tickets are available from the Alumni Relations Office.

17 May 2008

A celebration of the 30th anniversary of the admission of Trinity women as undergraduates. A day conference, led by Trinity Women Fellows, starting with a luncheon in the Old Kitchens and closing with an evening champagne reception in the Master's Garden. This event is open to all interested members but, unfortunately, it will not be possible to accommodate guests.

31 May 2008

The Great Court Circle inaugural luncheon. Drinks in the Master's Garden followed by lunch in the Old Kitchens. Two different afternoon activities will be available. This event will be by invitation only.

19 June 2008

Trinity Dinner in the House of Commons. This event has been made possible by the kind assistance of Peter Bottomley MP and is open to all Trinity members. Tickets are priced at £50 and will be allocated on a first-come first-served basis.

26 June 2008

'Trinity in the City' Association Dinner at the Royal Society hosted by the Master and President of the Royal Society, Lord Rees of Ludlow. This event is for TCA members and those interested in the association.

27 June 2008

St John's Smith Square, London. The Choir of Trinity and the Academy of Ancient Music will be performing Handel's Chandos Anthems. Tickets available from the St. John's Smith Square Box Office (020 722 1061). There will be a pre-concert reception in the crypt.

20 July 2008

Benefactors Garden Party. Invitations will be sent to all those members who have generously contributed to the College's campaign.

28 September 2008

Members' Buffet Luncheon in Neville's Court. Please note that members on the waiting list for last year's luncheon will be given first refusal for tickets for this event. Open to all members and their partners. Tickets will be priced at £20 each.

If you are interested in registering for any of the above events, please contact the Alumni Relations Office by e-mailing alumni@trin.cam.ac.uk or by telephoning +44 01223 761527.

ANNUAL GATHERINGS

1 July 2008—(1948–51 & 1953)

Choral Evensong at 6.30 pm
Dinner at 8.00 pm

25 July 2008—(1965–67)

Choral Evensong at 6.30 pm
Dinner at 8.00 pm

19 September 2008—(1982–83)

Choral Evensong at 6.30 pm
Dinner at 8.00 pm

Invitations for Annual Gatherings are usually sent out two months in advance and further information can also be found on <https://alumni.trin.cam.ac.uk/home>

Please contact Ms Samantha Pinner, the Annual Gatherings Secretary for further details at records@trin.cam.ac.uk or on tel: 01223 765748

THE TRINITY FIELD CLUB ASSOCIATION



The Trinity Field Club Association has been formed as part of the Master's important initiative to establish a stronger relationship between the College and its members. Under the guidance of previous Field Club Members, the Association will provide an opportunity for past team mates to keep in contact, renew old friendships and continue playing together. Sport at Trinity is the source of many happy memories and we would like to continue this spirit long after graduation. Amongst other objectives, our wish is to hold an annual day of matches between Association and current Trinity Clubs, followed by a dinner in College. The date of the next annual day is Saturday 26th April 2008. Membership will be automatic for all Trinity alumni that played for one or more of the Rugby, Football, Hockey, Cricket, Tennis, Athletics, Badminton, Lacrosse, Swimming, Water Polo, Cross Country, Volleyball, Netball, Table Tennis, Basketball and Squash Clubs. Spectators are, of course, very welcome. We invite everyone interested to register with the alumni relations office by post or to alumni@trin.cam.ac.uk.

Edward Gardiner
Chairman, TFCA

Front cover: Portrait of Katherine Parr, in the hall of the Masters' Lodge, Trinity College