Lambeth Palace Library Research Guide

Library Records 1785-1952
Part B
1. The Library under Archbishop Longley, 1862-1868

During his primacy Charles Thomas Longley, Archbishop of Canterbury 1862-68, strove to set the Library on a new footing, led by a distinguished Librarian charged with opening the Library more fully for public use. His primacy saw the first real engagement of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners with the Library, and this was to be of fundamental importance for its future development. From 1863 onwards the Commissioners’ records are a major source for the history of Lambeth Palace Library. The years 1863-1964 are covered in Church Commissioners’ records, ECE/7/1/28973, parts 1-16.

Librarians:

Longley appointed as Librarian the historian William Stubbs, afterwards Bishop of Oxford. Stubbs served as Librarian from his appointment on 26 Nov. 1862 (Church Commissioners’ records, ECE/7/1/28973 part 1, letter of John Thomas 19 March 1863). He is recorded as Librarian in the Clergy List from 1863 onwards. He was appointed Regius Professor of Modern History at Oxford in August 1866, but continued active work at Lambeth, his last entries in the readers’ book (LR/C/2) being made in June 1867. Thereafter he appears to have continued in a more nominal role as Librarian, and later referred to himself as Librarian from 1862 to 1868. In an article on ‘Lambeth Library and its Librarians’, published in Notes and Queries, 18 January 1868, William J. Thomas paid tribute to Stubbs ‘who, to the regret of all who knew his peculiar fitness for the post, has recently vacated the librarianship’.

In a report to Archbishop Longley in 1863, Stubbs stated that ‘Being ordered to render the Library useful to persons who are qualified and anxious to use it I have attended two days in the week to receive readers’. He stated that readers averaged no more than four per week though
enquiries were more numerous and time-consuming. His report also described the work required in the Library especially in binding and cataloguing (MS 1680, ff. 40-42, an undated draft; copy, also undated, in MS 3563, ff. 29a-31. Two versions of Stubbs’ report, dated 9 June and 30 July 1863 are in Church Commissioners’ records (ECE/7/1/28973, part 1).

In 1899 Stubbs recalled his years as Librarian ‘when the office was very honorary indeed’ (F. Temple papers vol 24, ff. 54-55). Nevertheless, Stubbs’ active work may be seen in new registers of readers (LR/C/2) and loans (LR/B/2). A number of enquiries addressed to Stubbs as Librarian, 1863-7, are also preserved in Tait 163, ff. 168-186. Much later, while Bishop of Oxford, Stubbs was appointed Honorary Curator of the Library in 1899 (see below).
Hand of William Stubbs (MS 1680, f. 40r)

In July 1868 Longley appointed Samuel Wayland Kershaw to succeed Stubbs as Librarian (see below).

Keeper of Records:

Messrs Burden and Dunning who also served as the Archbishop’s Secretaries and legal advisors (see editions of the Clergy List 1863-68).
The Ecclesiastical Commissioners and the Library:

Upon the death of Archbishop Sumner in September 1862 the estates and revenues of the see of Canterbury became vested in the Ecclesiastical Commissioners in accordance with the Church Commissioners Act of 1860 (23 & 24 Victoria, cap. 124). This heralded a new and close relationship between the Commissioners and the Library which, from its outset in 1610, had been maintained by the Archbishops of Canterbury from the revenues of the see.

Archbishop Sumner, had been entitled, prior to the Act of 1860 and for the remainder of his lifetime, to draw £15,000 from the revenues of the see for his personal use, but was obliged to pay the ‘surplus’ to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. His practice was to deduct the annual maintenance cost of the Library (effectively the salary of the Librarian) from this ‘surplus’ so that the cost of the Library was charged to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners (see above). In 1863, however, the Commissioners concluded that they had no authority to pay for the costs of the Library. On 19 March 1863, when John Thomas wrote to the Commissioners to request payment of his salary as Librarian for the year up to the appointment of his successor in November 1862, he was informed that ‘the payment is not one for which the Ecclesiastical Commissioners conceive they can be liable’ (Church Commissioners’ records, ECE/7/1/28973 part 1, letter of John Thomas and copy reply). The question was taken up in 1863 by Archbishop Longley who submitted a memorandum from Stubbs and other evidence on the history, value and needs of the Library, its role as a public collection, and details of previous funding arrangements. Longley also wrote to Sir George Grey, Secretary of State, urging a Bill empowering the Commissioners to fund the Librarian’s salary and other costs of the Library (Church Commissioners’ records, ECE/7/1/28973 part 1). On 10 August 1866 an Act of Parliament (29 & 30 Victoria cap 111) empowered the Commissioners to defray the costs of maintaining the Library and the custody of the books (copies in LR/D/1 and in Tait 163, ff. 211-5).

The extent of the Commissioners funding for the Library remained, nevertheless, to be decided and the issue became more pressing following the appointment of, William Stubbs as Regius Professor of Modern History at Oxford in August 1866. Stubbs hoped to continue in office as Senior Librarian with a Junior Librarian (S.W. Kershaw) to do the day to day work at Lambeth. In July 1867 the Commissioners agreed to draft a scheme for an Order in Council making provision for the Library at an annual cost of £150. Archbishop Longley considered this to be wholly insufficient and in July 1867 he was driven to close the Library in protest (Church Commissioners’ records, ECE/7/1/28973 parts 1 and 2 contain extensive documentation, including the separate cases drawn up for legal opinions by the Archbishop and the Commissioners).

The closure of the Library became a cause celebre, with a leader in The Times on 16 September 1867 and a rejoinder by Longley under the pseudonym ‘Vindex’ on 19 September (for Longley’s authorship see his letter to his sister, MS 4549, ff. 177-82, 11 Oct. 1867).
further letter by Longley, 16 October 1867, was published in *Notes and Queries*, vol 12, 3rd series (304) 26 Oct 1867, p. 325. Longley argued that £150 was inadequate for the Librarian’s salary, the repair of books which was greatly in arrears, cleaning, heating and all other costs. Stubbs had served since 1862 on the old salary of £40 per annum, but his duties at Oxford made it impossible to continue as before. No competent person would serve for the sum available after the deduction of other costs of the Library, ‘a sum probably beneath the salary of the lowest menial at the British Museum’. Blame for the closure of the Library was laid squarely on the Ecclesiastical Commissioners by the historian John Richard Green (afterwards, from 1869, Honorary Librarian at Lambeth) in an article ‘The Ecclesiastical Commissioners and the Library’ published anonymously in the *Saturday Review* 14 September 1867 pp. 343-4 (copy in Tait 163, f. 217) and reprinted in John Richard Green, *Stray studies, second series* (London: Macmillan, 1903). Green wrote that ‘to close this Library to literature, and to break the learned tradition of more than three centuries, has been the last freak of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners’. The issue was also taken up by William J. Thoms in an article on ‘Lambeth Library and its Librarians’ which was written ‘at a moment when the whole world of letters is watching with anxiety the fate of this remarkable library’ (*Notes and Queries*, 4th series vol 1 (1), 4 Jan. 1868 pp. 9-10 and 18 Jan. 1868, pp. 48-51).

A settlement was agreed with the Commissioners in July 1868 whereby the Commissioners’ provided a substantial sum [£800] for a single programme of binding, the cost of which had been estimated at £1,200 by the Public Record Office (letter from F.H. Hood, foreman, to Thomas Duffus Hardy, Deputy Keeper, 27 March 1867, in Church Commissioners’ records, ECE/7/1/28973 part 1). The Commissioners remained firm, however, in providing only £150 per annum for the maintenance of the Library. In accepting the settlement in a letter to the Commissioners on 28 July 1868, Longley wrote a formal protest, to be put on record for the information of his successors, of his dissatisfaction with the provision for the Library, especially with regard to the Librarian’s salary: ‘... The Archbishop is consequently compelled by the scheme to choose between the equally invidious courses, of employing a Librarian not qualified to satisfy the requirements of the public, or, in the alternative, of relying upon the literary zeal of some competent scholar to supplement a salary insufficient to requite attainments of the high order necessary for the post’ (Church Commissioners’ records, ECE/7/1/28973 part 1; copy of the protest also in Tait 163, ff. 207-8).

In appointing Samuel Wayland Kershaw as Librarian in the same month, Longley considered that he had chosen the first invidious course.

The Library was reopened in 1868 on this basis, and the Commissioners’ scheme for the Library was carried forward in an Order in Council of 7 August 1869 (copy in LR/D/1). See below on the librarianship of Samuel Wayland Kershaw.

The Archbishops’ papers on the controversy concerning the Library 1863-69 are found in Tait 163, ff. 168-235, including papers of Archbishop Longley which had been passed on to Tait as his successor. Included is a letter from Henry Longley to Tait, 9 January 1869, explaining the stance of his father Archbishop Longley and the latter’s appointment of Kershaw as Librarian.
under protest (Tait 163, ff. 201-3). It is likely that further documentation may be found in *The Church Times* and *The Guardian*.

Longley papers and printed books:

In 1888 Sir Henry Longley, the Archbishop’s son, deposited nine packets of his father’s papers in Lambeth Palace Library and these were bound in 4 vols (Longley 3-6). Further papers (Longley 1-2, 7-8) were received from Bishop Wilfrid Parker, the Archbishop’s grandson, in 1956 (transferred by Claude Jenkins, formerly Lambeth Librarian, into whose care at Oxford they had been entrusted during the Second World War). Further papers (MSS 4545-4549) were received in 2004 in fulfilment of Bishop Wilfrid Parker’s intention. Other Longley papers were received from Gregory Rowcliffe & Co in 1964 (MSS 1838-1845) and from Viscount Bridgeman in 1969 (MSS 2323-2326).

Longley’s printed books were sold at Hodgson’s in December 1868 (see the Library’s *Annual Review*, 2012, p. 13). Nineteen volumes of pamphlets owned by Longley, on church reform and government 1832-68, were given to the Library in 1902 by Canon William Benham. They are listed in LR/F/54, ff. 149-182, versos only.
2. The Librarianship of Samuel Wayland Kershaw, 1868-1910

Samuel Wayland Kershaw was appointed by Archbishop Longley in July 1868. He was appointed because funds were lacking to employ a more qualified candidate (see above). When Archbishop Tait succeeded Longley later in 1868 it was assumed that the post of Librarian had fallen vacant on Longley’s death. John Richard Green applied for it, but Kershaw maintained that Longley had appointed him on a permanent basis and he succeeded in holding on to his post (Tait 163, ff. 168-235). From 1869 Archbishop Tait sought to make up for the perceived insufficiency of Kershaw by appointing a succession of Honorary Librarians and Honorary Curators of greater standing. The first two appointments (John Richard Green as Honorary Librarian and William Hale Hale as Honorary Curator) were announced in the press in March 1869 (eg. Morning Advertiser 6 March 1869). For a memorandum by Kershaw on the offices of Honorary Librarian and Honorary Curator, written for Archbishop Benson in December 1895, see MS 1973, f. 143.

Kershaw remained Librarian until manoeuvred into retirement by Archbishop Davidson as from 1 January 1910 (Davidson 157, ff. 19-155; 163, ff. 354-7). Kershaw lingered in the Library for a short time and his last annual report as Librarian is dated January 1910. A letter dated 20 April 1910 from Strickland Gibson, bibliographer, to Kershaw’s successor Claude Jenkins, recalled Kershaw’s ‘amusing despotism’ in the Library (MS 1973, f. 158). Kershaw had served five Archbishops (Longley, Tait, Benson, Frederick Temple and Davidson).
Kershaw began work in 1868. His early work as Librarian is recorded in his memoranda 1869-c.1874 (LR/D/2, ff. 110-1, 150-177), and in his reports to Archbishop Tait in 1874 (on the years 1868-74; Tait 209, ff. 103-111) and in 1876 (Tait 218, ff. 381-90). He was employed initially for only three days per week, the Library being open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. In 1879 Kershaw appealed to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners to augment their provision for the Library. R.C. Jenkins, afterwards Honorary Curator, wrote that this ‘would justify the Commissioners in making the position of Librarian such as would enable him to devote his whole time to this important work’ (Tait 249, ff. 31-2, 21 June 1879). In 1880 the Ecclesiastical Commissioners increased funding for the Library to £250 per annum, enabling the Library to be open for five days a week (see below on the Ecclesiastical Commissioners and public use).


Kershaw’s five annual reports to Archbishop Frederick Temple for the years 1897-1901 are in the Frederick Temple papers (vol. 4, ff. 419-30; vol. 13, ff. 75-91; vol. 24, ff. 32-48; vol. 36, ff. 251-62; vol. 46, ff. 334-45).

Kershaw’s seven annual reports to Archbishop Davidson for the years 1903-9 are in the Davidson papers (vol. 95, ff. 260-72; vol. 105, ff. 177-90; vol. 117, ff. 1-15; vol. 130, ff. 328-43; vol. 145, ff. 304-17; vol. 157, ff. 1-10; vol. 164, ff. 137-49).

Kershaw’s briefings on the Library to Archbishops Elect Benson in 1883 and Temple in 1896 are in Benson vol. 5, ff. 194-7 and F. Temple vol. 4, ff. 404-7.

Honorary Librarians:


William Sparrow Simpson (1828-1897), Librarian of St. Paul’s. Served as Honorary Librarian at Lambeth from 1869 (see his letter accepting the position, Tait 163, ff. 231-2). Listed in editions of the Clergy List 1870-96 as Honorary Librarian of Lambeth Palace Library. A letter from Simpson to Archbishop Benson in 1889 resigning his office (Benson vol. 77, ff. 193-4) may not have carried into effect; Kershaw recorded Simpson as still Honorary Librarian in 1896 (F. Temple papers vol. 4, ff. 404-7).

Honorary Curators:
These were listed by Kershaw (LR/C/2, f. 1v) as:
William Hale Hale (1795-1870), Archdeacon of London [Honorary Curator 1869-70; his appointment announced in Notes and Queries, 1869, p. 232].
George Selwyn (1809-1878), Bishop of Lichfield [Honorary Curator from 1872]
William Selwyn (1806-1875), Canon of Ely. [Honorary Curator from 1872]
Dean of Wells [George Henry Sacheverell Johnson (1808-1881), Honorary Curator from 1872]
Richard Durnford (1802-1895), Bishop of Chichester [Honorary Curator from 1879]
Canon Robert Charles Jenkins (1815-1896), Vicar of Lyminge [Honorary Curator from 1881]
John Cave-Browne (1818-1898), Vicar of Detling [Honorary Curator from 1895; his letter accepting appointment, 9 Dec. 1895, is MS 1751, f. 188].


Editions of the Clergy List from 1873 to 1876 record the Honorary Curators as George and William Selwyn and George Johnson; from 1877 to 1878 as George Selwyn and George Johnson; from 1879 to 1882 as Richard Durnford and George Johnson; from 1883 to 1888 as Richard Durnford and R.C. Jenkins. No Honorary Curators are named in editions from 1889 to 1896 [although Jenkins’ entries in Crockford’s suggest that he continued to serve]. John Cave-Brown is recorded as Honorary Curator in editions of 1897 and 1898.

Keeper of the Records:

Editions of the Clergy List from 1870 to 1888 record J.B. Lee as Keeper of the Records. John Benjamin Lee (c.1811-1889) was also the Archbishop’s Secretary and legal advisor.

Printed Books:

Funds for the purchase of acquisitions were minimal. Kershaw pointed out frequently that the Ecclesiastical Commissioners did not provide funds for purchases (eg. F. Temple vol. 4, ff. 404-7) but the Archbishops sometimes accepted Kershaw’s request for purchases and gifts were received from authors, publishers, societies and institutions.

Books donated to Lambeth Palace Library 1868-75 are recorded in LR/B/1, ff. 51r-59r. Two substantial donations were also received, consisting almost entirely of theological and historical publications of the 19th century. The first comprised towards 100 works from the Library of Canon William Selwyn, an Honorary Curator of the Library, received in 1875 from Mrs. Selwyn (listed in LR/F/31, ff. 73-75; the books have presentation bookplates). The second comprised 580 volumes from the collection of Archbishop Tait, received from his family in 1883. With the family’s permission part of this collection was sold and other more desirable works purchased. See the list of the Tait bequest in LR/F/31, ff. 1-72 and Kershaw’s annual reports for the years 1883 and 1884 (see above). Many of the Tait books have bookplates, some with his arms as Bishop of London and others with his arms as Archbishop.
Archbishop Benson in his will directed his executors to present some valuable work or volumes from his library, to bear his arms and bookplate, to the Archbishop’s Library at Lambeth and similarly to the Church House (report in *The Times*, 8 Dec. 1896). A copy of Walton’s polyglot bible at E1 (1655)* is amongst books with Benson’s arms and bookplate. The Library also received 19 volumes of pamphlets on church reform and government from the Library of Archbishop Longley, given by Canon William Benham in 1901 (listed in LR/F/54, ff. 149-182, versos only). Further pamphlets and charges were given by Revd. Thomas Shipdem Frampton in 1905 (see LR/F/55). Fifty volumes on the Church of Ireland since its disestablishment in 1871
were given by Archbishop Davidson in 1906 (see Westminster Gazette 28 Nov 1906, copy pasted into LR/F/46b).

Bookplate of Archbishop Benson. *E1 (1655) Walton polyglot bible

In 1869 the subject of a new catalogue was discussed by the Honorary Curator (William Hale Hale), Librarian (S.W. Kershaw) and Honorary Librarian (J.R. Green). It was resolved that a copy of the printed catalogue of the Bodleian Library should be interleaved and used as the basis of the Lambeth catalogue. It was also resolved to assign new shelf marks to the books, in the form press, shelf, book; for example 1.a.1. The numbering of the presses was to begin at the lower fireplace, there being 123 presses in all (LR/D/2, ff. 173-4). Some 10,000 titles had been entered in the catalogue by 1874 with the assistance of Kershaw’s ‘colleague’ W. Sparrow Simpson [Honorary Librarian] and the work was expected to take a further year or two to
complete (Tait 209, ff. 103-111). This new catalogue, begun by Kershaw, remained in use until the next century and is still held by the Library. Kershaw estimated that the collection in 1874 consisted of nearly 30,000 volumes (S.W. Kershaw, ‘Lambeth Palace Library and its Kentish memoranda’, Archaeologia Cantiana, vol 9, 1874, pp. 176-188).

Kershaw also compiled a catalogue of ‘modern books’ (primarily books of the 19th century), begun after receipt of the Tait bequest in 1883 and continued until 1909 (LR/F/31). This recorded (separately) the collections received from Archbishop Tait and Canon William Selwyn as well as other additions to the Library. These books were not entered in the Library’s main

Bodleian Library catalogue, interleaved and annotated to serve as the catalogue of Lambeth Palace Library from 1869 (vol 1 A-BZ, p. 271)
catalogue (ie. the interleaved Bodleian catalogue) and the catalogue of ‘modern books’ was described by Kershaw as ‘supplementary’ in his annual report dated 1 Jan 1885 (LR/E).

Library stamp, probably 18th century, still in use in 1874 (*Archaeologia Cantiana*. KA 670.K2 [R])

Kershaw also compiled a catalogue of pamphlets (LR/F/54-55). This was begun in 1886-7 and was supplementary to the catalogues of pamphlets compiled by Kershaw’s predecessors. It recorded the contents of 163 volumes of pamphlets given by Archbishop Howley, probably presented in 1844, as well as other smaller acquisitions. Kershaw continued to add to this catalogue, adding, for instance, 19 volumes of pamphlets from the collection of Archbishop Longley, given in 1902.
In 1875 Kershaw initiated a Kentish Collection of books and prints relating to the local history of the county of Kent and diocese of Canterbury, and solicited gifts for its enhancement. The first surviving catalogue (LR/F/35), undated but on paper watermarked 1888, includes (ff. 3v-4r) a list of donors 1875-91. A more elaborate catalogue was compiled in 1903 (LR/F/36). Kershaw also initiated a collection of books and pamphlets concerning monastic orders and buildings in England and Wales. A circular was printed in 1881, listing the Library’s holdings and calling for donations (copy in LR/D/6, file 13) and a catalogue was compiled by Kershaw in 1884 (MS 1706).

New Library stamp, in use by 1883 (Benson 5, f. 191r, Letter from Kershaw to Archbishop Benson 24 Aug 1883)
Wire mesh was added for security to the presses for early printed books in 1870 (LR/D/2, f. 173). These were presumably the presses for special early printed books in the Librarian's office at the south west corner of the Hall.

From the late nineteenth century use of the Great Hall for the Lambeth Conferences and Canterbury Diocesan conferences necessitated the temporary removal of bookcases projecting from the east and west walls of the Hall. On the Lambeth Conference of 1908 Henry Hutchinson Montgomery recorded that: ‘The Conference had far outgrown the Guard Room and now filled the Lambeth Library. A special (and extra) door had been made into it by taking out a window temporarily. How the Librarian groaned! Great bookcases had to be removed and great was the discomfort for the guardian of the books’ (MS 4541 f. 48). The ‘extra’ door was probably the present door at the south east of the Hall; it was not present in 1898 when a plan of the Library by A.M. Watson was published in *The Builder* (see Prints 015/120-121). A photograph of the 1908 Conference in session shows the projecting bookcases detached and moved to the far end of the Hall (MS 4541, f. 8).

Manuscripts and Archives:

Exceptionally, a 13th century manuscript of the commentaries of Stephen Langton on the Pentateuch (MS 1415) was purchased for the Library by Archbishop Benson in 1886 from the fund arising from marriage licences. No other purchases are discernible. Gifts were also few, but did include papers concerning Marshal August Marmont, given via Archbishop Tait (MS 2687), the plans and drawings of Edward Blore for Lambeth Palace, given by Revd. E.W. Blore in 1880 (MSS 3104-3105) and the records of Wye Book Club, given via Revd. E.J. Selwyn in 1889 (MSS 1694-1700). Nine packets of papers of Archbishop Longley were given by his son Sir Henry Longley in 1888. They were arranged haphazardly and bound in four volumes (now Longley vols 3-6).

The repair and re-binding of manuscripts and early printed books was undertaken from 1871 (subsequent to the Order in Council of 1869 on the maintenance of the Library by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners), including the Carew, Gibson, Shrewsbury and Lambeth papers (see Kershaw’s report on their condition in LR/D/2, ff. 163-4, 171-3). The £800 granted for binding and repair by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners was expended by 1875 (Tait 209, ff. 103-111 has statistics on the work, and see the bookbinding accounts 1869-89 in LR/A/4). A limited amount of bookbinding was carried out subsequently throughout Kershaw’s librarianship (accounts in LR/A/4-5).
Compilations by Kershaw included indexes to MS 1124, the minutes of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel 1758-66, compiled 1886-90 (LR/F/45a); an index to the Commonwealth records (augmentation of livings) 1647-58, formerly MSS 966-1021, compiled in 1888 (LR/F/46b); a brief list of some Convocation records, compiled in 1895 (Conv XII/4/7); indexes to types of document in the Archbishops’ registers (LR/F/63, compiled in 1898); an index to licences in the Archbishops’ registers 1576-1716 (LR/F/64, compiled in 1904); indexes
to visitations in the Archbishops’ registers (LR/F/65); and an index to the Cartae Miscellaneae (LR/F/53, compiled in 1909).

An inspection of 50 bags of ancient documents ‘the nature and contents of these bags not being known’ was carried out by A.J. Horwood on behalf of the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts in 1876. See Tait 218, ff. 402-14 and Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts Sixth Report (London, 1877), pp. 522-4. The documents proved to be court rolls. In 1880 a fuller catalogue of the court rolls and other estate documents was compiled by Stuart A. Moore and R.E.G. Kirk at the request of Archbishop Tait (LR/F/61). An index to it was compiled by Kershaw in 1896 (LR/F/61a).
The Carew manuscripts were calendared by scholars unconnected with the Library: *Calendar of the Carew manuscripts, preserved in the Archiepiscopal Library at Lambeth … edited by J.S. Brewer … and William Bullen*, 6 vols (London, 1867-1873).

The Ecclesiastical Commissioners and Public Use of the Library:

In 1866 an Act of Parliament (29 and 30 Victoria cap. 111, copy in LR/D/1) empowered the Ecclesiastical Commissioners to defray the costs of maintaining the Library and the custody of the books. In pursuance of this Act an Order in Council of 7 August 1869 approved a scheme for the Library prepared by the Commissioners (copy in LR/D/1). This authorised the Commissioners to repair the fabric of the Library, conserve the books and manuscripts, and to make provision of £150 per annum for the Library’s running costs, on the understanding that the Library would be open for public access for at least three days per week for at least nine months of the year. Regulations for the Library, in pursuance of this Order in Council, were drawn up in 1872 and printed (copy in LR/D/6, file 13). These stated that the Library was open to the public on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10a.m. to 3p.m., with breaks at Easter and Christmas and for six weeks in the Autumn. The regulations also dealt with loans of manuscripts and the making of transcripts, tracings and drawings.

In June 1879 Kershaw addressed a petition to the Commissioners with the support of Richard Durnford, Bishop of Chichester, Honorary Curator of the Library. He outlined the achievements of the Library and further work needed. He called for the introduction of loans to readers and an extension of opening hours, pledging himself to devote his whole time to the Library’s service. Archbishop Tait added his support in a letter in December 1879 (Church Commissioners; records ECE/7/1/28973, part 4).

In response, by an Order in Council of 28 June 1880 the Ecclesiastical Commissioners increased their provision for the Library to £250 per annum (Benson 5, ff. 181-90; copy of the Order also in LR/D/1). New regulations were made in pursuance of this Order and printed (copy in LR/D/6, file 13). These stated that the Library was open on Mondays and from Wednesday to Friday from 10am to 4 p.m. (and from April to July until 5 p.m.) and on Tuesdays until noon, with breaks at Easter and Christmas and for six weeks in the Autumn. The regulations continued to deal with loans of manuscripts and the making of transcripts, tracings and drawings. Rules for lending books to residents in the Diocese of Canterbury, Lambeth, Southwark and Westminster were introduced.

Kershaw initiated a register of visitors in 1870 (LR/D/4) and continued it throughout his librarianship. He also continued the series, begun by his predecessor William Stubbs, of registers of readers (LR/C/2-3, 1864-1921) and loans, especially of manuscripts (LR/B/2-3, 1862-1909, and LR/B/6, 1865-1910).
The acquisition of a display case for illuminated manuscripts and illustrated books was approved in 1871 (LR/D/2, f. 171) and its presence is referred to in Kershaw’s report for 1874 (Tait 209, ff. 103-111).

Conditions in the Great Hall for readers were improved by the replacement of Blore’s underfloor heating system which had long been defunct. In 1869 the architect Ewan Christian recommended the installation of two Gurney stoves, one in each of the fireplaces at the ends of the Hall; they were in place by March 1870 (Church Commissioners’ records ECE/7/1/28973, part 3). In June 1876 Kershaw stated somewhat inaccurately that they ‘have been in use eight years’ (Tait 218, ff. 381-90). Nevertheless readers suffered from cold and draughts and in 1883 Archbishop Benson lamented that for two winters it had not been possible to use both stoves on grounds of expense and only one stove had been lit (Benson vol. 5, f. 190). In 1890 Ewan Christian reported that the stoves were in bad condition and they were replaced; the new stoves were reported as installed in January 1891 (Church Commissioners’ records ECE/7/1/28973, part 7).

In December 1902 the architect W.D. Caroe reported that the stoves were ineffective and recommended a return to a hot water circulation system, with a larger boiler than that installed by Blore (Church Commissioners’ records ECE/7/1/28973, part 9). Kershaw reported that ‘the entire re-warming of the Library by hot water … took place in the Autumn of 1903’ (Davidson vol. 95, ff. 260-72). The Library remained closed from 1 September 1903 to 1 January 1904 ‘for putting in new warming hot water apparatus’ (LR/C/3, f. 52). The new system included radiators above ground and these may be seen in subsequent photographs of the Hall, for example in a photograph of the Great Hall after bombing in 1941 (MS 3583, f. 56).
The Library (Great Hall) in 1897 (MS 4728, f. 164)

Bibliography:

*Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* articles on Archbishops Tait, Benson, Temple and Davidson, with further bibliography.

3. The Librarianship of Claude Jenkins, 1910-1952

Claude Jenkins (1877-1959) was appointed Librarian by Archbishop Davidson in 1909, took office as from 1 January 1910 (Davidson 157, ff. 19-155), and began work in mid-January 1910 after a short interlude while his predecessor, Samuel Wayland Kershaw, lingered in the Library (LR/J/11/3). He was also appointed Chaplain to Archbishop Davidson in 1911. A clergyman and scholar, Jenkins was celebrated both for his learning and his eccentricity. He served as Librarian during the primacies of Archbishops Davidson, Lang, William Temple and Fisher.

In 1913 the Ecclesiastical Commissioners increased their annual provision for the maintenance of the Library to £550 per annum, on condition that the Librarian should serve full time in the post. Jenkins consequently resigned in June 1913 as Curate at St. Martin-in-the-Fields (LR/D/1, file 5).

On Jenkins’ appointment in 1918 as Professor of Ecclesiastical History at King’s College London he was required to provide, at his own cost, an Assistant for the work of the Library (LR/J/11/3). He appointed Irene Josephine Churchill, (1887-1961), herself a distinguished scholar. In a draft obituary of Jenkins, Irene Churchill stated that ten years after her appointment, when Jenkins was made a canon of Canterbury [in 1929], she was given the title of Assistant Lambeth Librarian; from this time ‘Dr. Jenkins held the Librarianship in an honorary capacity’ (LR/J/11/8). From 1929 Jenkins drew no salary (W. Temple papers vol 32, ff. 168-70) and by June 1939, in a memorandum on war precautions, Jenkins was describing himself as ‘Honorary Lambeth Librarian’ (LR/J/10/1), although Irene Churchill continued to describe herself as ‘Assistant Librarian’.

Irene Churchill was aided in the Library by the services of a boy to fetch and carry; nevertheless Jenkins complained in 1929 that funding for the Library was so inadequate that the Library could not afford a boy of sufficient age to carry the heavier books (LR/J/11/3).

Jenkins’ commitments away from Lambeth increased after his appointment as Professor of Ecclesiastical History in London University in 1931 and as Regius Professor of Ecclesiastical History, Oxford (and Canon of Christ Church Oxford) in 1934.
Jenkins and Churchill both retired at 31 December 1952. On their retirement and the competition for his successor, see Fisher papers vol 103, especially ff. 325-386. Jenkins was permitted to retain the title of Honorary Librarian and was appointed to the new Library Advisory Committee.

Jenkins’ work in the Library is apparent in his letter books (LR/J/1-8), containing carbon copies of his out letters, as well as half-yearly Library accounts and other documents, 1910-39. Included is a report by Jenkins to Archbishop Davidson on the Library from Jan. 1910 to June 1914 (LR/J/5, another copy in LR/J/11/3). The letter books are especially valuable for the years 1910-19; thereafter they contain little but half-yearly Library accounts. A memorandum by Jenkins on the Library, dated 13 Feb 1929, is in LR/J/11/3. It records the Library’s needs and
inadequate funding, with a table of annual expenditure 1910-28 showing that substantial additional costs (beyond those met by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners) were being met by the Archbishop and the Librarian himself. Further documentation is found in the correspondence between Jenkins and Churchill 1918-1959 (LR/J/11/8).

Hand of Irene Churchill (LR/J/11/8, letter to Claude Jenkins 8 Oct. 1929)

Reginald Dodwell, Jenkins’ successor as Librarian, remembered him in 1992 as follows: ‘… And in some ways he was legendary in the sense Don Quixote was: perpetually unshaven: suddenly drawing crusts of bread from his pocket in the middle of a conversation: over many years refusing the Dixie Professor of Ecclesiastical History at Cambridge access to a manuscript in case one day, one year, he might wish to use it himself: refusing to resign as Lambeth librarian when I was appointed so that there were two of us … He was rightly considered to be an amusing eccentric … The only pity was that he had decided to run a library.'
When I arrived, the Library had not been cleaned since the war. The crypt was chock-full of books which had been stacked there after the bombing and not touched since: books charred by the fire: books damaged by the water from the hoses trying to stem it: books broken by brutal action on someone’s part. The manuscripts in a damp and unheated strong-room were all covered in fungus, and these included the most precious of them … Some months later when Jenkins happened to come in and see that I had cleaned up and even painted parts of the library, he told me that I was becoming more and more bourgeois every week …’. (Letter from Reginald Dodwell to Richard Palmer, Librarian and Archivist, 10 May 1992, in uncatalogued Library records, Acc. 2010-25, box 7).

The Ecclesiastical Commissioners and the Library:

In March 1910 the Ecclesiastical Commissioners increased their annual provision for the Library from £250 to £350, to include a pension for S.W. Kershaw (copy of the Order in Council of 15 March 1910 in LR/D/1, file 4). By a subsequent Order in Council of 9 May 1913 (copy in LR/D/1 file 5) the Commissioners were empowered to increase provision for the Library at their own discretion. In June 1913 the Commissioners increased their annual provision to £550, comprising £400 for the Librarian’s salary, £100 for Kershaw’s pension and £50 for the Library’s running costs [other than maintenance of the fabric of the Library which was provided separately] (LR/D/1, file 5). In 1914 the Commissioners agreed to continue to provide £550 per annum for the Library notwithstanding the death of S.W. Kershaw and the cessation of his pension (LR/D/1, file 6). Provision remained at the same level in 1942 (William Temple papers vol 32, ff. 168-170).

The Library continued to compile half-yearly accounts of expenditure for submission to the Commissioners. For Library accounts see the series LR/A and the half-yearly accounts, 1910-1939, in LR/J/1-7 and LR/J/11/1.

Printed Books:

Despite the lack of funds for purchases, the collection of printed books was augmented substantially by gifts. Jenkins estimated that at least 5,000 volumes were given between 1910 and 1929 (LR/J/11/3).

Significant accessions included theological books from Lincoln’s Inn, given in 1910 (catalogue: LR/J/12; a special presentation stamp is found in the books); the collection of John Wordsworth (1843-1911), Bishop of Salisbury, relating to the Church in Sweden, given in 1911 (LR/J/11/6); books from the library of William Edward Collins, Bishop of Gibraltar, given in 1911 (LR/J/2); J. Pierpont Morgan’s gift in 1938 of Archbishop Cranmer’s copy of Henry VIII’s Assertio septem sacramentorum; books owned by G. Horsley Palmer, given by his nephew Bishop E.J. Palmer in 1943 (list in LR/J/11/6); books selected from the library of Archbishop William Temple, 1945 (list in LR/J/11/6); and the collection of Athelstan Riley on Orthodox affairs, given in 1952 by his son Christopher Riley (list in LR/J/11/6).
Arms of Archbishop Davidson. Binding of *E164, *Codex Sinaiticus Petropolitanus*
(Oxford, 1922)

Archbishop Davidson possessed an extensive library (catalogue in LR/F/32-34), and donated a large number of volumes to the Library in 1929. These were shelved in the Laudian room to the north west of the Great Hall, which became known for a time as the Davidson library (LR/J/11/6 and Lang papers vol 100, ff. 228-31). Many had been previously in the ownership of his father-in-law Archbishop Tait (or other members of the Tait family) and have Tait bookplates as well as special Davidson presentation bookplates.
A large collection of pamphlets, some or all from the library of Arthur Penrhyn Stanley, Dean of Westminster, was transferred to the Library from Church House around 1946 (catalogue in LR/J/13).
Jenkins does not appear to have recorded new accessions in the annotated and interleaved copy of the Bodleian catalogue brought into use by Kershaw from 1869, or in the catalogue of modern books initiated by Kershaw around 1885. On taking up his appointment in 1910, 'with a temerity which now surprises me', Jenkins began to re-arrange the collection by subjects, and dedicated two and a half years to the task (LR/J/11/3, report dated 15 June 1914). It is not clear, however, that he produced a new general catalogue; he does not appear to have added new shelf marks to the books. He did produce a catalogue of pamphlets. In a memorandum in 1929 Jenkins stated that in the preceding ten years the whole of the Library’s pamphlet collection had been catalogued, with additional help, on some 20,000 cards (LR/J/11/3). No trace remains, however, of Jenkins’ cataloguing and it is possible that his work was lost in the bombing of the Library in 1941. A report to the Pilgrim Trust in 1952 stated that the lack of a comprehensive catalogue was a significant obstacle in the Lambeth Library. The nearest approach to a general catalogue in the Library was an interleaved copy of the Bodleian catalogue of 1853, but the entry of books in this had ceased some time ago and recent books, generally speaking, had not been catalogued (Fisher papers, vol 103, ff. 281-297).
Since the late 19th century use of the Great Hall of the Library for large conferences had necessitated the temporary removal of projecting bookcases in the centre of the Hall. In 1911 four bookcases were shortened by two bays and fixed permanently to the walls to make their removal unnecessary. To compensate for loss of shelving and to provide for expansion, fourteen new low bookcases of oak were installed (report on the Library 1910-14 in LR/J/11/3). See also the shelf plans of the Great Hall, c.1929-c.1939, in LR/D/3. These plans show that the shelves in the tall bookcases were numbered 1-841, and that shelves in the low bookcases were numbered 1-279. The four shortened bookcases may be seen in photographs of the Lambeth Conference in session in the Hall in 1930 (LC 171/3-4, images accessible in the Library’s online image system). The same photographs show, however, that by 1930 further large projecting bookcases needed to be removed to increase the capacity of the room for conferences; these bookcases may be seen stored at the south end of the Hall.
The alcove at the south west of the Great Hall continued in use as the Librarian’s office. Here the more important early printed books were formerly kept (probably from the librarianship of S.R. Maitland). At some point, however, the collection appears to have been moved to the muniment room [later known as the Blore strongroom], possibly after new shelving was installed during the renovation of the room in 1910. The collection was still there at the time of the evacuations in the Second World War.

Shelf plan of Lambeth Palace Library, c.1929-39 (LR/D/3)

Manuscripts:

In 1910 Jenkins organised extensive work on the muniment room (later known as the Blore strongroom) to render it fireproof. The work involved a new roof and new floor (LR/J/11/3 includes a report by Jenkinson and plans of the new shelving). In 1911 the strongroom on the
staircase below (later known as the Mortuary strongroom) was also shelved (LR/J/11/3). On these works, see also Church Commissioners’ records ECE/7/1/28973, part 10.

The acquisition of manuscripts increased during Jenkins’ librarianship although they appear to have remained uncatalogued until the librarianship of Geoffrey Bill. Acquisitions included most of the manuscripts in the series from MS 1371 to MS 1499. Gifts included papers of John Wordsworth, Bishop of Salisbury, given in 1911 (MSS 1397-1401), papers of Robert Mylne, Surveyor to St. Paul’s, given in 1917 (MSS 1489, 2027, 2552-3), papers of Baroness Burdett-Coutts, given in 1923 (MSS 1374-1388), the W.E. Gladstone diaries and papers, given in 1928 and 1938 (MSS 1416-55, 2758-74), and papers of F.A. White concerning Pere Hyacinthe, given in 1931 (MSS 1472-82). Purchases were few but included papers of Sir Roger Twysden, bought in 1933 (MSS 1389-94).

A new catalogue of the medieval manuscripts by Montague Rhodes James, was published in 1932 with the title A descriptive catalogue of the manuscripts in the Library of Lambeth Palace: the mediaeval manuscripts (Cambridge University Press, 1932). For correspondence between James and Jenkins on the catalogue see MS 3215; accounts with C.U.P. are in LR/J/11/7). Work on a new catalogue of the post-medieval manuscripts, intended to replace the catalogue by H.J. Todd published in 1812, was carried out by Claude Jenkins and Irene Churchill (for their draft catalogue entries see LR/G/1-2). From 1938 Catherine Jamison was employed, with funding from the Carnegie Trust, to work on the catalogue (Lang papers vol 162, ff. 220-2). The work appears to have been abandoned after the outbreak of war.

Archives:

Papers of the each Archbishop of Canterbury from Archbishop Longley onwards have entered the Library by transfer from Lambeth Palace or by gift from executors or members of the Archbishop’s family. Particularly notable was the deposit in the Library in 1938 of papers of Archbishop Davidson, deposited by Mary Mills (Lang 162, ff. 223-30, and cf. LR/K/2/8).

Writing to Harry Wilmot Lee, the Archbishop’s legal secretary, in 1911, and to Lee, Bolton and Lee in 1912, Jenkins pressed for the transfer to the Library of additional Commonwealth records which had been found in Morton’s Tower, and of further Act Books of the Archbishops (additional to the Act Books to 1828 which Jenkins stated were already in the Library). Jenkins also pressed for the transfer of visitation returns, subscription books and other records of the Vicar General (LR/J/2, ff. 52-3; LR/J/3, ff. 53-5).

his letterbooks (LR/J/4-6). The Commission also inspected records in Morton’s Tower of the Faculty Office, Vicar General and Court of Arches (Second report … vol II part I (London, 1914), appendices, pp. 167-168. These records came into the care of the Library later, as part of the restructuring of the Library from 1953.


Public Use of the Library:

Use of the Library is reflected in registers of readers 1897-1961 (LR/C/3-4), a register of visitors 1870-1940 (LR/D/4), and registers of loans of manuscripts and printed books for photography, publication, exhibition and the use of scholars elsewhere 1891-1952 (LR/ B/3-5). Library correspondence 1910-50 (mainly enquiries from readers) is found in LR/J/11/4-5.

In 1929 Jenkins reported complaints that the Library was draughty and bitterly cold. The sum available for heating was so small that the furnace had to be let out on Friday and re-lit on Monday; by that time the temperature had dropped to 40-50 degrees and took two days to regain a normal level (LR/J/11/3).

The Library in Wartime:

During the First World War, in 1918, a selection of manuscripts and printed books was transferred via the British Museum for safekeeping at the National Library of Wales at Aberystwyth (for lists see LR/J/7, ff. 17-18 and LR/J/8, f. 13). Reporting their arrival at Aberystwyth, A. R. Drysdale, Assistant Secretary of the British Museum, wrote to Jenkins: ‘Strange times in which the Museum and Lambeth Palace have, it is thought, ceased to be towers of strength for the treasures they contained! And these air dangers of today arise ultimately, I suppose, from the invention of these internal explosive engines which introduced the use of motor-cars and are leading to the disappearance of horse traction…’. (LR/J/11/3, 16 March 1918).

In the Second World War partial evacuations of the Library were carried out as a precaution, with the assistance of the British Museum and Public Record Office, in 1939 and 1941. Much of the material was stored outside London, at Aberystwyth, Belvoir Castle and H.M. Prison, Shepton Mallet.

Seven boxes of selected manuscripts and rare printed books were sent to the British Museum on 23 August 1939. A further 69 containers were sent to the Public Record Office between 24
August and 1 September 1939. Of these, 49 containers held Archbishops’ registers and act books, Convocation books and other manuscript volumes of a record nature; a few rare printed books were also fitted in; the remaining 20 containers held early printed books. For packing lists, see LR/F/37.

Incendiary and other bombs fell on the Library on the nights of 16-17 April and 10-11 May 1941, destroying or damaging large quantities of printed books (for lists see LR/J/10). Fortunately the muniment room (later known as the Blore strongroom), where the bulk of the manuscript collection remained in situ, remained unscathed, as did Morton’s Tower where various record series were housed.

Following the bombing, the historian Neil R. Ker took a personal initiative on 20 May 1941 in carrying off from Lambeth a suitcase full of 17 important manuscripts to the custody of Claude Jenkins (whom he described as ‘nice but old and inert’) at Christ Church Oxford. He did so without the knowledge of Irene Churchill who was ‘rather annoyed’ (LR/J/10, file 3).

Between 30 May 1941 and 14 July 1941 a further 81 cases (including almost all of the manuscripts remaining in the Muniment Room, the Cartae miscellaneae, the remaining court rolls and some printed books) were evacuated to the Public Record Office.
Further damage from flying bombs occurred in June 1944 and later.

In a letter to Archbishop Fisher on 29 Aug 1947 Irene Churchill reported the return of the 150 cases of Lambeth material from the Public Record Office; the cases stored by the British Museum had been returned around Christmas 1946 (Fisher papers vol 30, f. 208).

On the Library in wartime see the correspondence and papers in LR/J/10 (including LR/J/10/9, a narrative on the Library from September 1938 to October 1945 by Irene Churchill), and the Jenkinson-Churchill correspondence in LR/J/11/8 (including, in a letter dated 5 Aug 1940, a list of manuscripts and early printed books evacuated from Lambeth in August 1939). Further papers on Lambeth Palace and Lambeth Palace Library in wartime are in the Archbishops’ papers series (Lang, William Temple, Fisher). The National Archives also holds a file on the transfer of Lambeth material for safe custody (PRO 1/289). For photographs of the war damage and subsequent restoration, see below.
Post-War Reconstruction:

On the initiative of Archbishop Fisher the rehabilitation of the Library began with the restoration of the Great Hall between 1946 and 1948. It was the venue for the Lambeth Conference of 1948, after which bookcases were installed around the walls; the projecting bookcases were not re-instated. Between 1950 and 1951 a new reading room and strongroom were constructed to the north of the Hall and the floor below the Guard Room was shelved as a bookstack. On the restoration of Lambeth Palace, including the Library, 1946-52, see Fisher papers vol. 104. Papers of the Church Commissioners on the restoration are found in ECE/7/1/28973, part 16, 1941-64.

A note by Jenkins on the architect’s proposals in Dec. 1948 for the Library is in LR/J/11/3. An account of the restoration of Lambeth Palace 1945-55, by Lady Fisher, is in MS 1726, ff. 64-78.

Original plans by the architects Seely and Paget for the reconstruction of the parts of Lambeth Palace occupied by the Library, 1949-55, are in Prints 015/130-137. They include plans drawn in March 1949 showing the Great Hall, the new reading room and adjacent ‘muniment room’ [strongroom], the lower floor of the Guard Room labelled ‘Library’, and the ‘Archives Room’ [later known as the Blore strongroom] (Prints 015/130, 132). Later plans include shelving of the lower floor of the Guard Room [later known as the Stack], Oct. 1950 (Prints 015/134), shelving of the ‘muniment room’ [strongroom], Nov. 1950 (Prints 015/135) and plans for shelving and a bindery in Morton’s Tower, March 1955 (Prints 015/131).

The rehabilitation of the Library was supported by the Pilgrim Trust which played a crucial role in determining policy for the Library and its future development. The Trust commissioned a report from a small committee chaired by F.C. Francis (afterwards Sir Frank Francis) of the British Museum Library. Its recommendations, which were accepted early in 1952, provided a new basis for the policy, management, staffing and funding of the Library. The Library’s role was redefined as the main special library in London for the history and affairs of the Church of England, with an enlarged responsibility as an archive repository and research centre for the archiepiscopal records of Canterbury (other than those which were purely diocesan) and records of a similar nature. The report laid down an acquisitions policy and provided for the recataloguing of the Library and the repair of war-damaged books. Management was entrusted to a new Library Committee, of which the first Chairman was R.B. Mynors. A new Librarian (C.R. Dodwell) was also appointed in 1952. On the Pilgrim Trust and Lambeth Palace Library 1950-52, see Fisher papers, vol 103, ff. 261-388 (copy of the report itself at ff. 281-297). The papers also refer to the expected payment of £10,000 in War Damages for the Library (Fisher 103, ff. 299-300).

The implementation of the report followed in 1953 when C.R. Dodwell took up his post as Librarian-Archivist and the new Library Committee began its work.
For photographs of the Great Hall of the Library and other buildings at Lambeth Palace before and after restoration, see MSS 3100-2, 3583, 4876-7, 4948.

Bibliography:

*Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* articles on Claude Jenkins and on Archbishops Davidson, Lang, William Temple and Fisher, with further bibliography.

Jenkins’ personal papers and collections (MSS 1590-1679), including general correspondence (MS 1634) and notebooks and compilations based on the Commonwealth records at Lambeth, including an index of parochial clergy c.1620-63 and an index of intruded clergy 1654-9 (MSS 1643-1677).

For a photograph of Jenkins in 1911, see Douglas papers 79, f. 158. A later photograph is MS 3100, ff. 58-9. A pencil or charcoal portrait sketch of Jenkins, by H.A. Freeth, is MS 4822.


Irene Josephine Churchill, *A handbook of East Kent records* (London, 1914). Includes (pp. 120-126) a section by Claude Jenkins on Lambeth Palace Library, access to it, services and contents.