



THE RECORD

THE NEWS BULLETIN OF THE OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS
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EDITORIAL

1956 has been an eventful year for the O.U.P. It has seen the retirement of Mr. Cumberlege and the appointment of Mr. Brown to succeed him as Publisher; the departure of Miss Peacock, Mr. F. Norton, and Mr. A. C. Ward; the near-completion of the new paper mill at Wolvercote; the remarkable transformation scene effected at the Oxford High Street Depot; the opening of Fair Lawn, the new warehouse for the New York business; new offices in Sydney and Onitsha, Nigeria; new men in charge in Pakistan and Nairobi; and a great deal of new print at Amen House. An eventful year; and a good year, therefore, in which to start a news-sheet whose aim will be to record the changes, developments, and major events in our world-wide business. No report from the Printer's staff is included, for the admirable 'Clarendonian' makes such a report redundant.

'The Record' will appear each December; and this first issue comes out in time for Christmas 1956. With it come greetings from Amen House to all who work for Oxford throughout the world. Happy Christmas!

AMEN HOUSE

On 14 June the Senior Editor, Mr. A. C. Ward, retired. He had been with the Press since 1941. He was succeeded by Mr. J. F. Bell, who had been in charge of the children's books since 1949; and Miss M. E. George succeeded him as Head of the Children's Books Department. On 1 June Mr. Huws-Davies was appointed Staff and Establishments Manager.

On 1 July Mr. R. A. Kent succeeded Mr. F. Norton as manager of the Neasden warehouse; and later in the year Mr. R. C. Land was appointed his deputy.

On 1 October, following Mr. Cumberlege's retirement, a number of changes took place in addition to Mr. Brown's appointment as Publisher. Mr. Parnwell was appointed Deputy Publisher, and was succeeded in the Overseas Editorial Department by Mr. D. M. Neale. Miss Peacock's work was divided between Mr. P. J. Chester, who on his return after some months as Manager of the Pakistan Branch was appointed Personal Assistant to the Publisher, and Mr. R. V. Bowditch, who has taken over the Publications Department. Miss Peacock retired on 28 September, after forty years with the Press.

Physically, Amen House has been transformed in the course of 1956. New paint glistens everywhere; the canteen flourishes in its new site, and new offices have sprung up where it used to be. The lift is now automatic, and less eccentric than most. The Medical Department, which moved to Amen House from Neasden on Mr. Hollis's retirement, is now installed on the third floor, with Dr. Gregory in charge. The Library was transformed into a theatre for the presentation of *Scholarship Triumphants*, in honour of Mr. Cumberlege (see back page) and, surprisingly, emerged as a Library again without any apparent ill effect. Eleanore Farjeon's *The Little Bookroom* carried off the two major awards for a children's book: the Library Association's Carnegie Medal for 'an outstanding book of 1955' and the first award of a new International Prize, the Hans Christian Andersen Medal. Mr. L. T. Farrer, Despatch Clerk, is in Melbourne as we write, Captain of the British Olympic Soccer team. Mr. G. N. S. Hunt appeared triumphantly in a Bible programme on the Tele-

Mr. Cumberlege retires



Official, none the less warm, appreciations of Mr. Cumberlege's career in the Press have appeared elsewhere. Perhaps a short note about him, more as he looked to those who worked professionally under his leadership, has its place here.

We remember first, I think, his perennial energy. This infected all those who came in touch with him. One sometimes felt indeed that his knowledge of and concern with every individual department seemed so urgent that he could hardly be sparing himself enough for overall direction. Would not his zeal for day-to-day tactics, for files of this and that, blur his appraisal of general policy? In fact one would find oneself repeatedly surprised how

this widely dispersed particularness did not interfere with, but rather perfected, the way to the final objective. One wonders how this characteristic boundless energy of his will now be deployed. Retirement is a word that seems to connote seclusion or sleep. And one recalls how antipathetic our late chief was to the deckchair kind of holiday. Does he translate 'retire' as *reculer—pour mieux sauter*? If so, what is to be the new great enterprise?

It might be almost anything. For we remember his extraordinary taste for life in all its aspects. No doubt this told greatly in his behalf as a publisher. And his many interests were more than casual, and backed by considerable knowledge. He was devoted to music, and Conduit Street benefited; he began the sub-department of Church Music. He always kept himself abreast of the latest techniques in paper- and book-production.

All these varied enthusiasms, and I have noted but two or three, were never allowed, however, to defeat his mercantile shrewdness as a publisher. The market-place was not forgotten in the ivory tower. Sales, the warehouse at home, and the branches abroad dominated the picture in his mind, and came fully during his régime into their rightful place as the spearhead of his publishing campaign.

Finally, there must be added, however haltingly, some mention of his personal relations with his staff. He always wanted to know the men and women behind the files. And for our part most of us wished we could have seen more of him. For we could rely on him as a steadfast friend in time of trouble: it was not only the understanding word of sympathy, but often some practical expression of his concern. The flats at Neasden embody and memorialize something of this side of his rule at Amen House.

H.M.P.

During the years we have known her Miss Peacock has appeared in many guises. When we were young she was a dragon scaring small boys who approached her. Later, knowing her better, we saw her as a sort of mother confessor. Her last phase, to use her own expression, was as a grandmother: not to us now, but to our young families, in which she took a very lively interest. We never expected her to appear, however, as a frightened faun! And yet that is just how we thought of her when a dinner was in preparation to be given in her honour. Many times she had asserted her wish to be allowed to slink off quietly down the back stairs when the time came, and it was necessary that all arrangements be made in an air of absolute secrecy.

20 September arrived, and Mr. Cumberlege took the lady in charge and conducted her to the Cock Tavern in Fleet Street. That there was a motorcycle escort surrounding the Publisher's car has since been refuted. At 7 p.m. we went in to dinner. Before we sat down Mr. Cumberlege told us that he would be speaking later about H.M.P. and, in order that she might enjoy her evening, he told her that she would not be expected to reply unless she wished to—a very kind gesture. Later, before making several presentations to her, the Publisher delivered a delightful speech extolling her virtues. First, he handed Miss Peacock a silver tray and inscribed silver milk jug and coffee pot. An electric record player and a case of records were then presented, together with a finely bound copy of the

Amen House (continued)
vision Children's Hour in October. The O.U.P. did even better than usual at the annual Book Design exhibition at the National Book League; eleven books out of the Hundred Best were Oxford. The Amen House Sales side, expanding and enthusiastic, had three Oxford window displays simultaneously in the Broad, Oxford, in October, at Blackwell's, Wood's, and the Children's Bookshop.

The Farewell Dinner

On the evening of Thursday, 13 September, 357 members of the London Business staff sat down to dine with Mr. Cumberlege at the Connaught Rooms. During the very pleasant evening our new Publisher rose to wish Mr. Cumberlege many years of happy retirement; and before presenting to him, on behalf of the staff both at home and overseas, a cine-camera and a supply of colour films, Mr. Brown told of the growth of the Press, especially overseas, during the difficult post-war years. Mr. Parnwell then proposed the toast of the Publisher, and recalled some personal memories.

In thanking the staff for their gift, which, he said, he would be using during his forthcoming trip to India and Pakistan, the Publisher told us how pleased he was to see so many of the staff gathered together, and went on to delight us all with a sparkling and characteristic farewell speech; and Mr. Hopkins rounded off the evening, on behalf of us all, with a brief and happily worded expression of gratitude and farewell.

OXFORD

THE CLARENDON PRESS

A new recruit for general editorial duties on the C.P. publishing staff is Mr. P. H. Sutcliffe, who comes to us from Pitman's in New York. He is a Cambridge man (St. John's), where he got Firsts in History (Tripos Part I) and in English (Part II). He succeeds Mr. A. E. Firth, who left us in June to take up a Research Fellowship in History at University College here.

We have had one other eminent recruit in recent weeks: Mr. E. A. Barber, the distinguished classical scholar who was until September Rector of Exeter College, Oxford, retired at the end of that month and joined us as editor of a new Supplement to the Liddell and Scott *Greek Lexicon*. He is working in a room in the New Bodleian, next to the D.N.B. sub-editor, Miss Palmer, and the staff of the new *Latin Dictionary*.

Other recent staff changes have taken place in connexion with *O.E.D.* Mr. Goffin has been working since October 1955 on material for a new Supplement; he was joined in October 1956 by Mr. E. A. Horsman, previously Lecturer in English at Durham University, and author of an Amen House book with the unforgettable title of *Dobson's Drie Bobbes*. Mr. Horsman is a New Zealander by birth; and we have recently learnt with sadness that he is to leave us soon to take up the chair of English in the University of Otago, Dunedin. The scene of his present labours and those of Mr. Goffin is that unbecomingly but homely dwelling house, which serves as an annex to the main C.P. Building, No. 40 Walton Crescent. Also to be found there are Miss Lucy Hutchinson (*Oxford Companion to Art* and *O.H.E.A.*) and Miss Janet Lloyd (secretary to the New Translation of the Bible).

I am asked to speak about buildings; perhaps I may quote the words of a visiting Branch Manager:

H.M.P. (continued)

Commission Strip containing the names of all who had subscribed.

Mr. Hopkins, in his happiest vein, followed Mr. Cumberlege; and in spite of Mr. Cumberlege's suggestion that she need not make a speech, Miss Peacock was on her feet immediately Mr. Hopkins sat down and proceeded to dress everybody down in no uncertain terms, whereupon we all felt at ease immediately. In fact, she made such a good speech that nobody could understand why she tried to avoid this sort of occasion.

It was a happy evening; but there was not a soul there, or in the entire Press, who was not sad at the thought of her departure. May she have a long and happy retirement.

The Publisher was informed during the evening, incidentally, that the Cock Tavern would be known in future as the Peacock Tavern.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Oxford first published sheet music in 1921, when Hubert Foss joined the Press. By 1932 the department was installed at 36 Soho Square, now the headquarters of Rupert Hart-Davis, and in 1951 the department, now fifty strong, moved into splendid new quarters in Conduit Street. There the business has continued to prosper and has placed Oxford firmly among the leading music publishers; the sole publishers, for example, of Dr. Vaughan Williams, O.M., Sir William Walton, and Alan Rawsthorne.

Conduit Street is an almost entirely self-contained establishment. Mr. Alan Frank is in charge and under him the department handles all aspects of music publishing: editorial, sales, publicity, stock, and accounts. The assistant editor is Mr. P. A. Mulgan, and Mr. G. O. May looks after the production. Mr. D. B. Bell assists with sales matters and also looks after certain publicity and

'Oxford looks exactly the same: not a brick different.' Some Oxford colleges have recently accomplished an astonishing transformation in their appearance by the more or less simple expedient of applying a spray of water to their exterior surfaces for several weeks on end: maybe this technique will in time seem suitable for the Press also. Internally we get a little grubbier every day, and a visit to Amen House, where the corridors are gleaming with new paint, makes one uncomfortably aware of the contrast.

CARTOGRAPHIC DEPARTMENT

The work of the Cartographic Department in 37A St. Giles divides into 'Editorial' and 'Production', and the staff of about twenty is similarly divided.

Mr. Knight (with Mr. J. Williams as his deputy) is in charge of the Production side, which includes the Cartographic Drawing Office, the Camera Studio (under Mr. P. Matthews), a new Printing Down/Proving Unit, and the Modelling/Vacuum Forming Unit (under Mr. B. Prestidge).

The Editorial side is to some extent divided between those engaged on 'Topographical' mapping: e.g. the construction of *Oxford Atlas* type maps—and on 'Geographical' mapping: e.g. work on the *Atlas of Britain*. Miss M. A. Shaw, the senior cartographic editor, is in charge of the geographical mapping. A graduate of the Cambridge School of Geography, she is assisted at the moment by two other Cambridge geographers—Miss Chadwick and Miss Lowe. On the topographical side, Mr. E. W. T. Kaye, who joined the Department in September, is working with Lt.-Col. D. A. Hall-Dare. Gazetteers and all matters relating to them are looked after by Mrs. Denniston.

staff matters; and Mr. C. J. Morris is assistant music editor. There are stock rooms on the premises; the accounts department includes the handling of royalties; four travellers are at work, two visiting schools, two visiting music shops; and in addition a hire library is maintained.

There is also an additional warehouse at Highbury; and Oxford holds the L.C.C. concession for running the Festival Hall bookshop.

Overseas, the New York and Toronto offices act as representatives for the music books and sheet music issued from Conduit Street. The department has its own representation in Australia, South Africa, France, Belgium, Germany, Holland, Italy, Switzerland, and the Scandinavian countries. The main overseas markets are the U.S.A., Australia, Canada, France, and Germany.

The outstanding event of 1956 was the launching of R. Vaughan Williams's new Symphony, his Eighth. The world premiere was in Manchester on 2 May and it was repeated in London at the Festival Hall on 14 May. Since then there have been numerous performances here, and performances have also taken place, or will shortly do so, in Australia, France, Italy, Sweden, Canada, and the U.S.A. In the United States no fewer than four American conductors are expected to perform it. The score was published by us in October.

The Italian production of Sir William Walton's opera *Troilus and Cressida* at La Scala, Milan, in January 1956, was an important event in the history of English music. It was, in fact, only the second English opera to have been presented at La Scala since the foundation of that unique opera house at the end of the eighteenth century. In the spring of 1956 revivals were given in New York and at Covent Garden, London.

Oxford was well represented during the 1956 Proms. The programmes included nine Oxford works by six different composers. The publisher with the next highest total of modern British works was Boosey & Hawkes, with four.

Early in 1956 we issued the Senior Series of the *Oxford School Music Books*. The Junior Series, published in 1954, had by 1 October 1956 sold 325,000 copies.

NEASDEN

Mr. Frank Norton, Warehouse Manager, retired on 30 June and was in his fiftieth year with the Press. He joined the Clarendon Press Department as a boy in May 1907 when it functioned as a completely separate entity, and when the First World War broke out he was a checking and invoice clerk. At that time seven people dealt with everything connected with the Clarendon Press.

After war service he returned to take care of the periodicals which we were then publishing, and subsequently relinquished this position for management of the Clarendon Press Department until 1943. From then on he managed Neasden, at first under Mr. W. B. Cannon and then, on W.B.C.'s retirement, on his own.

He can remember Volume VI being published of the original edition of the *O.E.D.* and also one memorable occasion when one of the sections published quarterly was stopped in the Dispatch Department as the final 'e' had been dropped from the last word. Much to the packers' disgust all the parcels had to be unpacked, the missing letter stamped in, and the parcels repacked.

His place has been taken at Neasden by Mr. R. A. Kent, with Mr. R. C. Land as deputy.

Mr. D. (Jock) Harris retired on 31 August, also after almost 50 years with us. He joined in 1907 as cashier in the Clarendon Press Department, and in the following year he was transferred to the Trade Counter, where he remained until the outbreak of the First World War.

On his return from the forces (with the Military Medal) he took the Clarendon Press Department to Old Street. After five years there Mr. Harris and his Department came back to Amen House, and he then took over the C.P. Export Department and the periodicals. By then the number of periodicals was increasing and in 1930 the Subscription Department started on its own at Neasden, with Mr. Harris in charge, and here he remained until his retirement. He had handled 58 periodicals since 1930, of which 35 still survive with us.

Mr. Waters is replacing Mr. Harris. On the same day, 31 August, Mrs. Hodges retired from the Wrapping Department, after 12 years with the O.U.P.

Miss Slyeh also retired on that day and she had been with us almost 40 years. Ill health unfortunately prevented her from completing her full 40 years.

GLASGOW

The life of the Depot in Glasgow runs its course for the most part uneventfully, and visitors from other departments of the Press are consequently very welcome indeed. This year we have had the pleasure of seeing a greater number than in any previous year we can recall.

In February Mr. Cumberlege came North for the last time as Publisher. In his reign, and under his wise guidance, we have shared in the increasing prosperity of the O.U.P. At the dinner held in his honour at the Cavanaugh Rooms three members of the Depot's staff represented Scotland: Hugh Carmichael, Willie McCartney, and David Trimble.

Mr. J. G. N. Brown was with Mr. Cumberlege when he visited us in February, and we look forward to greeting him as our new Publisher the next time he comes to Scotland. Since 1949, when he became Sales Manager, his advice, sound judgement, and sympathy have meant much to us. Now that he assumes the highest office in London we are confident that the business of the O.U.P. will continue to go from strength to strength.

We have had two visitors from Oxford. It gave us great pleasure to receive a call from the Assistant Secretary, Mr. D. M. Davin. Mr. Michael Wood spent a couple of days in Glasgow.

While mentioning visitors from Oxford we would like to express our appreciation of the good work done in the past year in Scottish schools by two of the English educational representatives, Messrs. R. W. Pugsley and S. H. Mason, who have been augmenting Gerard Bell's own efforts here. This assistance from Oxford is proving of great value.

Reverting to visitors from Amen House, we were delighted to have Mr. Haws-Davies here for the first time in May. His shrewd counsel was most helpful.

CANADA

The Canadian branch was founded in Toronto in 1904, and is now under the Management of Mr. Charles Johnson.

During the year Metropolitan Toronto completed the change-over from coal gas to natural gas, which is at present piped in from Texas. The effect on Amen House was small since we use gas only to fire the oil in the furnace, and while we burned over 14,000 gallons of oil last winter our gas bill was only \$8.00.

This conversion took ten minutes and cost us nothing, but the changeover from 25 to 60 cycle electric supply was more complicated. A tireless Englishman, Sir Adam Beck, originally put Toronto on to a 25 cycle supply from Niagara and it is only in the last year or two that the vast task of changing the city to the standard 60 cycles has been undertaken.

Prior to 'cut over' day for our building, every piece of frequency-sensitive electrical equipment had been listed and tagged. On the day itself trucks drew up outside and as the clock struck eight teams of men swarmed in and tackled predetermined tasks. Considering, among other things, that every single fluorescent light fixture had to be converted, it was really rather impressive that the job was completed in three hours (apart from some obsolescent equipment and the elevators which took ten days).

The main diversion was caused by the sprinkler system. This is connected electrically to a central downtown watch office. After the Hydro men had made the necessary changes they asked us to test things out. This, in the heat of the moment, we did without first warning the watch office. As the pressure in the system fell off and the fire bell rang, we remembered and leapt to the phone. But it was too late and two minutes later we met a quantity of helmeted men waving axes at the back

door. We apologized somewhat perfunctorily to them and to an elderly non-helmeted man, who we discovered later was Toronto's Fire Chief, and explained the circumstances. It was not till a few minutes later when we went up to the roof to see how the elevator men were getting on that we found them unpacking their tools again. Hearing the sirens, they had looked over the parapet and been somewhat worried to see that our building was the centre of interest. It was from them that we discovered to our horror that not just a small fire truck had arrived but seven full-size fire reefs.

The Hydro nicely said it was their fault, so we escaped a severe fine. And we got—for free, except for a very indignant lecture from the watch office—a first-class practical test of our fire-protection arrangements.

In the rather wider world of the book trade Mr. Johnson, previously chairman of one of the Divisions of the Canadian Book Publishers' Association, is this year serving as Co-ordinating Chairman of the Association. He is also serving as a Director and Secretary of the Co-operative Book Centre of Canada Limited. Mr. Owen, as Chairman of the Publishers' Public Relations committee, was responsible for an extremely successful book display at the 1956 Stratford Shakespeare Festival, at which, among other things, fine copies of all the four Folios were on view. Mr. Gandy did not succeed in keeping the golf trophy at Oxford. Mr. Berry is setting new sales records in Ontario. Among our visitors recently has been Mr. Bickmore and we soon expect Mr. Wood.

Nicest blurb we have seen recently is in London's Fall list. It begins: 'Although this book, which comes from Canada, is not one of the *Oxford Myths and Legends* series, it will be of interest . . .'

Next time we do a Bible campaign we think perhaps we should follow head office's lead: 'Although these Bibles are produced by craftsmen and are always more expensive and often not . . . It sure should pull!

U.S.A.

The American branch was founded in New York in 1896, and became Oxford University Press, Inc., in 1950. The President is Mr. H. Z. Walck.

This has been a normal year at Oxford New York, which means a good many things have happened and quite a few changes have taken place.

On 24 April we had an informal 'official opening' of the new Fair Lawn, New Jersey, building into which the Shipping Department first moved in August 1955 and the Accounting Department at the end of September. We never did get an exact count, but nearly a thousand guests attended the housewarming. Everyone who came had an opportunity to watch the whole plant in operation and then to take refreshments. We were pleased to have as guest of honour one of the Delegates, Professor K. C. Wheare, and especially glad that his wife and children could also be with us.

In March there took place a reorganization which emphasized the growing importance of our college textbooks and related publications. An Educational Books Department was established to encompass the area previously served by the College and Medical Departments. Mr. William M. Oman, vice-president, is in charge of this operation and the publication of textbooks and medical and scientific books is expanding.

About the first of the year Mr. John R. B. Brett-Smith, formerly of the Amen House staff, came over to join Oxford New York as a vice-president. He is in charge of what are, to us, 'the imports', i.e., Clarendon Press and Amen House books. He also performs the same general functions for our new subsidiary, Essential Books, Inc.

This new organization recently completed its first year of operation and the first year of publication of the magazine *Essential Books*. It has already become a leading publisher in the United States of important non-fiction books of various British publishers. The magazine, although successful in many respects, has been discontinued with the end of the first volume. A questionnaire survey showed clearly that while many librarians and academic persons bought books as a result of reading about them in *Essential Books*, too few of them ordered from EB, Inc., to assist us in the heavy cost of printing and mailing the magazine, which had a circulation of nearly 100,000. A study is now being made of some substitute for the magazine.

One of the highlights of Oxford's 1956 Spring



U.S.A. (continued)

season was a book published back in October 1955. This was Edmund Wilson's *The Scrolls from the Dead Sea*, which remained on the best-seller list for over six months. The new Spring book which attracted the most attention—and also good immediate sales—was *The Power Elite*, by C. Wright Mills. In August we brought out the new edition of *The Oxford Companion to American Literature*, and have been pleased not only with the sales but in the amount and kind of review attention given it, as this is not often true of a new edition of a reference work.

Starting off the Fall season was Arnold Toynbee's *An Historian's Approach to Religion*, which is getting some controversial reviews but has gone on to the best-seller list almost at once.

As this is written we have high hopes especially for three October books: *Atomic Quest*, by Arthur Holly Compton; *The Story of Jazz*, by Marshall

Stearns; and *I Chose a Parson*, by Phyllis Stark.

On 4 October we are going to have a rather different kind of party. Instead of a party for one author, or several parties for several different authors, this season we are going to hold one big affair for all of our authors of new trade and religious books. There are seventeen of them and we expect about a dozen of them to be present as guests of honour.

The biggest honour to come the way of an Oxford New York book this year was the awarding of the Pulitzer Prize in Biography to Talbot Hamlin for *Benjamin Henry Latrobe*. This was well-deserved recognition of a fine book.

In September we began sponsorship for the sixth consecutive season of the Gilbert Highet radio talks on books. Oxford sponsors the broadcasts on WQXR in New York and about eighty other stations around the country also carry them.

INDIA

The Indian branch began in Bombay in 1912. The present Manager is Mr. R. E. Hawkins, whose command, as the following account shows, is a large one.

The second reorganization of States in India is now nearly complete, and will mean that the country is divided into fewer and larger (and normally monolingual) units of administration. The princely states, of which there were more than 500 in 1947, now disappear completely, though one of them (Mysore) survives as a name. To ensure closer co-ordination, the twenty states are to be grouped in five zones (Northern, Southern, Eastern, Western, and Central), and it may be useful to record what they will be, and how the Indian branches of the Press will serve them.

Northern Zone (Bombay Branch)

Punjab, Delhi*, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh*, Jammu and Kashmir.

Southern Zone (Madras Branch)

Andhra Pradesh, Madras, Kerala.

Eastern Zone (Calcutta Branch)

Bihar, West Bengal, Orissa, Assam, Manipur*, Tripura*.

Western Zone

Bombay (Bombay Branch), Mysore (Madras Branch).

Central Zone

Uttar Pradesh (Calcutta Branch), Madhya Pradesh (Bombay Branch).

Hyderabad disappears from the map, and Travancore and Cochin are included in Kerala. The four asterisked areas, together with the Laccadive and Andaman Islands, are to be centrally administered. The remaining fourteen states will all be

larger than Belgium or Vermont, with the population varying from 14 to 60 million. The giant in area will be Bombay, approaching the size of Texas, and the most populous will be Uttar Pradesh with over 60 million inhabitants. Only four states will be Hindi-speaking, so it seems likely that the English language will remain an important link between the states of the Union for many years to come.

Staff. We were sorry to have to say good-bye to Christopher Cooper at the beginning of the year. After only one tour as manager of the branch in Madras he decided he must join the family business. His place has been taken by John Elkin, from Calcutta. After a short time in Amen House and Bombay, Roger Boulton was appointed to assist R. L. Sen in Calcutta.

Another well-known Indian Branch personality, Barbara Smith, left Bombay towards the end of 1955 to settle in England. The people in India with whom other branches of the Press are likely to have dealings are:

Bombay: Anthony Toyne (manager), B. M. Adur (accounts), Sanjiva Rao (stock), Aloo Vimadlal (publicity).

Calcutta: R. L. Sen (manager), Roger Boulton (assistant), S. K. Bosh (stock).

Madras: John Elkin (manager), Ernest D'Bras (assistant), Ganesh Rao (stock), N. Padmanabhan (publicity).

Last year we started to award badges in recognition of long service, and a high proportion of the staff received them. The details split branchwise are as follows:

	Total staff	10-year	25-year	35-year
Bombay	75	21	4	-
Calcutta	62	20	6	1
Madras	51	24	3	2

AUSTRALIA

The Australian branch was founded in Melbourne in 1908. The present Manager is Mr. Frank Eyre, who writes as follows:

From 31 March this year our Sydney office was opened permanently instead of being used only as a base for the travellers during their regular visits to New South Wales. It is staffed by Mr. H. B. Griffiths, who joined us at that time, and he has a secretary to help him with the work and look after things while he is away, since he has to cover the New South Wales country areas, Brisbane, and the rest of Queensland in addition to Sydney. New South Wales is becoming increasingly important to us, and we believe that the existence of a permanent Sydney office should bring about a great increase in sales there. Another important change made at the same time was to give free freight on all Australian publications in order to prevent the surcharge which was being imposed on our books in distant states like Queensland and West Australia.

There have been a number of staff changes, the most important of which is that at the beginning of this year Mr. Webb, who had been with us for twenty-one years, resigned, in order to start a business of his own as a bookseller. We all wish him well, and in fact he seems to be doing well, though we notice during the brief time we see him when he comes dashing in to buy books that he looks a good deal more harassed than he used to. We also notice a pronounced change in attitude! Obviously this business of bookseller and publisher is rather like motorists and pedestrians: one's attitude varies according to what one is at any given moment.

As people at Amen House will know, we were joined at the same time by Mr. W. D. A. MacKenzie from Amen House, and he has taken over the running of the General Office.

Sales in Australia continue to improve, and we should consider ourselves very fortunate here if it were not for the continual and increasing difficulties introduced by the Customs Department. The most important of these, at the moment, is the total prohibition of the imports of atlases, which has resulted in our being unable to get any Oxford atlases in Australia at all for the past few months, and will prevent our doing so for at least another nine months. (We have the magnificent quota of £50 a year.) The import difficulties are not only confined to atlases, but affect everything coming into the country for us, except (at present) books

printed in England. So we have had to explore Amen House and Oxford to send nothing without first writing to us to find out whether or not an import licence is necessary. We have had so much trouble over this sort of thing recently that the Customs Department now regards us as darkest criminals.

Australia itself is at present suffering from severe inflation, but it is surprising how little effect this seems to have on trade. At present everyone still seems prosperous, and there is no sign of any slackening in sales or in the speed, alas, with which staffs change. For this reason there is hardly anyone here on the junior staff who was mentioned in *The Listener* article four years ago, except my own secretary, Miss Grice, and our invoice typist, Miss McMaster. The remainder are all new, but most of them have been with us a year or so now and seem to be settling in well.

NEW ZEALAND

Mr. R. C. Gooderidge opened up the New Zealand office of the O.U.P. early in 1947, and writes as follows:

We started the year with our move to new premises completed. We have now settled down and arranged everything to our satisfaction. The staff consists of Mrs. Anne Burnard, who has been with us about 7 years, Mr. R. G. Anderson (now the proud father of a son, Jonathan), with some 5 years' service, and myself. Mrs. Burnard's great-grandfather was the first Surveyor-General to be sent out (in 1840) by the New Zealand Company. We plan to increase the staff by two by the end of this year.

We had a visit from Professor and Mrs. Toynbee during their tour of this part of the world. We were very pleased with the reception they received from the local press, and the interest shown in the *Study*.

In this office we live in the future to a great extent—by this I mean that we plan well ahead; so far, in fact, that last week I was planning next year's main journey, which will take from January to July to complete. It seems like wishing one's life away to keep looking so far ahead. But looking back, for a change, some of the older members of the staff, who remember my wife and me, may be interested to know that our daughter, Shirley, was married last Saturday. (continued in next column)

PAKISTAN

The Pakistan office was opened in Karachi in 1952.

Pakistan is one of the world's oldest centres of civilization. About 200 miles north of Karachi the site of a well-laid-out town has been uncovered which is said to go back 5,000 years. As a modern state, however, Pakistan is one of the world's newest. It came into existence on 15 August 1947 and on 23 March 1956 it changed its status from a British Dominion to the 'Islamic Republic of Pakistan'.

Politically it is a federation of two provinces—West Pakistan, with Lahore as its capital, and East Pakistan, with Dacca as its capital. Karachi is the site of the Federal Government; and the magnitude of the difficulties which that Government has had to face can be shown by one example. What was a city of only 300,000 inhabitants nine years ago has had to expand to provide for its present population of nearly 2 million. Houses, power, water, food, and transport all need to be increased fifty times.

East and West Pakistan are 1,200 miles apart by air and nearly 2,900 miles apart by sea. Moving stock from one side of the country to the other is either a very slow or very expensive business.

The three capital cities are all interesting. Karachi is an oasis on the edge of the Sind desert. Irrigation is rapidly pushing the desert back but occasional dust storms and the widespread use of camels as transport are reminders that it is still quite close.

Lahore is full of Mogul buildings, notably the Fort, started by Akbar, with a special staircase (and adequate stabling) for elephants. Akbar's grandson, Shah Jahan (builder of the Taj Mahal), enlarged and beautified the Fort and also laid out the typically Mogul Shalimar Gardens. Lahore is also, of course, where Kipling worked as a reporter on the *Civil and Military Gazette* (whose antiquated building still exists). Outside the Lahore Museum still stands the famous cannon Zam-Zammah on which Kimball O'Hara played.

What Dacca may lack in historical association it makes up for in tropical luxuriance.

Mr. John Rendall is now in charge of the whole Pakistan business. His headquarters are in the Federal Capital where his right-hand man and manager of the Karachi Office is Mr. Mir Wajid Ali, who has worked for the Pakistan Branch since it was started. Altogether the staff in the West totals 15, including our travelling representative in Lahore, Mr. Talat Mahmud, appointed this year after the Lahore Office was closed in July.

In Dacca we have another stock-carrying Branch managed by Mr. Riazul Islam who joined us in 1953. In November this year he and his staff of six assistants moved into new offices in an entirely new part of the city—for Dacca, with the largest university in Pakistan, is also growing rapidly. On this side of the country it is not the desert but the jungle that has to be tamed.

New Zealand (continued)

Here is Mr. Anderson's imaginary diary of a typical trip:

Friday. Packed sample cases (ordinary suitcases carrying some 30-40 lbs. of books each—usually 9 cases in all). Drew money from Bank to cover expenses—drew money for wife. Had car greased and oiled. Sent telegram to have sample-room key left at — Hotel, Gisborne, for Sunday night.

Saturday. Mowed lawns and weeded garden frantically in anticipation of spill away from home.

Sunday. Loaded sample bags in car 7.30 a.m.—filled up with petrol. Drove to Gisborne—some 390 miles on indifferent roads, much of it unsealed. At hotel in time for late dinner. Set up sample-room afterwards, after first locating key which should have been left at hotel but wasn't, and then cleaning out and dusting down after previous occupant. Retired exhausted.

Monday. Called on customers in morning and made appointments for them to visit sample-room. Explained to Mr. X that I couldn't wait to see him next week as I would be in Waipukurau by then. Spent afternoon in making almost indecipherable but nevertheless important notes in an order book. Spent evening deciphering afternoon's notes.

New Zealand (continued)

Tuesday. As for Monday afternoon. Town rather full owing to influx of farmers and their families for weekly stock sale. Girl on hotel desk insisted I was not booked for the night—triumphantly pulled their letter of confirmation from my pocket. Mr. So-and-so (invited) and his wife (not invited) to dinner and session in sample-room later. Packed up sample-room, loaded car, and in bed by midnight.

Wednesday. Drove to Wairoa and called on two customers with a couple of cases of selected titles—sample-room visit not justified here. Kicked heels and twiddled thumbs for an hour while Mr. Y got in contact with local school librarian who has just received his annual library grant. Drove on to Napier—held up by washout on road. (It has been raining for three days now.) Set up sample-room after dinner.

Thursday. Made appointments and then full day in sample-room. Still raining.

Friday. Quiet day. Most customers reluctant to leave their shops on a Friday. This is late shopping night in New Zealand (opens until 9 p.m.) and many shops do almost as much business on a Friday as they do on all the rest of the days of the week combined. Visited inspectors at local Education Board and also Public Librarian.

Saturday. Mr. and Mrs. Blank and their family of little blanks at sample-room in morning. Family discussion at some length on the relative merits of each book. Asked their children how they liked our Juveniles—unsuccessful; they only read Enid Blyton, Biggles, and horror comics. Negligible order. Spent afternoon with a friend surfcasting and presented our catch to the hotel kitchen—one kawai, and not a very big one at that.

As you will gather from the foregoing, book-selling is a very personal business here, and it is essential to keep in regular personal contact with one's customers. They expect it.

NIGERIA

Mr. Solaru is in charge at Ibadan, and sends us the following report:

The most significant event in 1956 for us and for all Nigerians has been the visit of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh. It certainly gave us reasonable excuse for redecorating our magnificent premises on the third anniversary of their life as the West African headquarters of the Oxford University Press. It is a matter of pride that not only does the Oxford University Press lead other publishers in establishing a branch in West Africa, but the architectural design of our building has inspired the new look adopted for their offices and residences by commercial firms and government bodies as well as other private enterprises.

Our expansion has not been limited to our premises. The increase in staff from 1 in 1949 to 12 in 1956 is a reflection of the extension of our activities and the growing scope of our work. If the outstanding event of 1955 was the establishment of the Gold Coast Office of the West African Branch with an experienced educationalist in charge, assisted by a staff of four, 1956 is distinguished by the establishment of a new O.U.P. office at Onitsha as the base of our travelling representative in the Eastern Region of Nigeria. The rapid expansion of education in all its ramifications and the coming of universal Primary education in that Region early in 1957, will necessitate closer contact with Government Mission and Local Education Authorities than can be adequately maintained from Ibadan. Mr. O. P. Jack, who for 18 months had been my personal assistant, has been selected for this important work.

On the Western side, another senior member of staff who has been in charge of the general office and show-room for the last three years, Mr. Sosike, is already proving his worth in travelling duties in the Western Region of Nigeria.

Two new members of staff joined us in 1956. Mr. M. A. Williams on 16 February as shorthand-typist, and Mr. M. O. Akinleye on 1 August as Office Clerk in charge of the general office. Unfortunately Mr. Williams left us at the end of September, and a new applicant is being considered to fill the gap. Mr. Akinleye is making steady progress in his new job.

SINGAPORE

Mr. R. E. Brammah writes from Singapore, newest of O.U.P. offices abroad:

This office was opened in June 1955. The area it takes care of is an extensive one, stretching from Indonesia in the south to Japan and the Republic of Korea in the north. Much of the Representative's time is spent on tour and at least seven months of every year will be spent away from Singapore. During the present year visits will have been made to Thailand, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Japan, and the Federation of Malaya. Mainly this has been a year of 'feeling one's way': there have been many countries to see and many viewpoints to attempt to appreciate.

The office maintains a showroom. A bulletin is produced for distribution to schools and education officials in Malaya and the neighbouring countries. The staff, apart from myself, consists of Mohammed bin Yusuff; and, until recently Mr. David Gan. Mr. Gan was responsible for general office administration and also made periodic visits to

the schools and booksellers in Singapore. He was in charge of the office during the Representative's absences on tour. Yusuff is employed as messenger.

During the year book exhibitions have been held in Thailand, Indonesia, and Japan, and a representative selection of some one thousand titles has been shown. Displays of educational books have been organized at many secondary schools and training colleges in Singapore and the Federation of Malaya, and at two exhibitions open to the general public at Kuala Lumpur.

Much of the interest in this area lies in its diversity. One deals impartially in the day's work with Chinese, Japanese, Thai, Koreans, Malays, Indonesians, and Indians, and visits, as a matter of course, such places as Penang, Bangkok, Hong Kong, Bandung, Macau, and Tokyo. In spite of these exotic names the actual work follows a familiar pattern, and except that fluent English may be lacking, there is often little to suggest that one is not in one's own country.

SOUTH AFRICA

The O.U.P. was first represented in South Africa in 1912. Mr. F. Cannon (Trade) and Mr. Marquard (Editorial) are the present joint Managers of the Cape Town Branch. Our report comes from Mr. Cannon.

Though the O.U.P. has long been represented in Southern Africa it is, as a Branch, just ten years old. Until 1953 the two Departments, Trade and Editorial, occupied separate groups of offices in the centre of Cape Town; in that year we moved to Star Building in Waterkant Street, half a mile or so from the main shopping area. Next year we shall be making another move, this time to Thibault House, a completely new building on the foreshore, the stretch of land reclaimed from the sea in Table Bay to provide space for the growing city centre. As Thibault House is at the 'Town' end of the foreshore, we shall still have quick access to the present established centre while being ideally placed for the future when the 'centre of gravity' is almost certain to move seawards towards us. One important innovation is that we shall be part owners of the building.

The work of the Trade Department is largely to act as liaison between South African booksellers on the one hand and the O.U.P. (together with the other English firms represented by us) on the other. South African Branch publications are produced by the Editorial Department. During the past ten years we have published books in English and

Afrikaans (the two official languages of the Union of South Africa) and in Xhosa, Shona, and Bamba, all vernacular Bantu languages of Southern Africa. This Department also maintains close contact with schools, training colleges, education departments, and universities. These are visited whenever possible and postal publicity is undertaken on a large scale.

The South African Branch is responsible for the following areas: the Union of South Africa, the High Commission Territories of Basutoland, Swaziland, and Bechuanaland, the Central African Federation (which comprises Southern Rhodesia, Northern Rhodesia, and Nyassaland) and, finally, South-west Africa. The total area is about 1,540,000 square miles, or more than seventeen times the size of England, Scotland, and Wales. In the area there are hundreds of languages though officially only about thirty are recognized.

The present strength of the Branch is thirteen. Mr. Marquard controls the activities of the Editorial and Educational Departments and is assisted by Mr. D. Philip and Miss O. Williams. Mr. Cannon looks after the Trade and General side of things, his assistants being Mr. H. Blagden, Miss D. Cammings, Mrs. M. Lintern, Mrs. J. Cannon, and the stock-keeper, Mr. C. L. Wilson. There are four non-European packers and messengers—Mr. John Cooke, Mr. Gordon Mkoze, Mr. Sidney Jacobs, and Mr. William Engel.

EAST AFRICA

The Nairobi office was opened in 1955. Mr. G. R. Collings, only recently arrived to take charge, writes below:

On the third floor of a stunted skyscraper built in the contemporary style are two little cells; in one sits Miss Linton, secretary and general factotum, and in the other cell I brood. Round the walls are shelves in and on which rest a selection, and at the moment not an altogether comprehensive selection, of Oxford books. An African boy comes several times a week to polish the floor and remove the dust. The office windows overlook a car park, where for the last year or so a burnt-out wreck of a car has rusted and mouldered.

Until March of this year Mr. Rendall was the Publisher's representative in East Africa, and before him was Mr. Mason. They blazed the trail, cleared the undergrowth, tilled and dunged the soil, and planted the seed; they were the intrepid pioneers. I am fortunate in having their example to follow.

Nairobi is a boom town; new buildings rise from the rubble of the old almost overnight, the shops are full of English goods, and the streets and hotels filled with men and women of all races and colours. Prices are exorbitant: a 6d. bar of chocolate costs 1s., a furnished room with breakfast and dinner £30 to £33 a month, a 3r. paper-back costs 3r. 6d. But I can get yesterday's *Times* for a shilling, and this makes life bearable.

Nigeria (continued)

In May and June this year Mr. C. O. Boschway, the O.U.P. Representative in the Accra Office, and myself paid a visit to Amen House. Our six weeks' stay provided not only an opportunity for consultation with the Overseas Editorial Department and the planning of future programmes, but gave us personal contact with the various heads of departments of the Press. We gained fresh, and in some cases new, insight into the organization and workings of the Press. It was a valuable experience and privilege to meet the Delegates of the Press at Oxford, at the end of a full programme of visits to the Clarendon Press and the Education Department. It is significant that towards the close of our visit we were able to say 'Goodbye' to the outgoing Publisher Mr. Cumberlege, and to make the acquaintance of the new Publisher Mr. Brown. Under Mr. Cumberlege's régime the West African Branch was established. With Mr. Brown's coming into office begins the expansion of our travelling activities and the establishment of the Onitsha Office in the Eastern Region. It must be a happy feeling for Mr. Farnwell, now Deputy Publisher, to see the fruits of his labours.

Although more and more U.K. publishers are increasingly interested in West Africa, and several have appointed their own representatives, the West African Offices of the Oxford University Press are confident that they can hold their own in serving the expanding educational requirements of West Africa.

East Africa (continued)

The country, what I have seen of it, is strange and sometimes very beautiful. In the hot weather it is incredibly dusty, a red volcanic dust that seeps into everything. There is a constant battle against white ants. On the borders of Nairobi, in the game park, one can watch lion, giraffe, and other animals from within a few feet. The warthog is the jolliest thing that I have seen so far.

Mau Mau is slowly dying, and the African is slowly advancing towards greater prosperity and increased political rights and responsibilities. More and more schools are being opened throughout the whole territory.

I have not yet seen Uganda, Tanganyika, or Zanzibar, which together with Kenya form my area, but in Kenya itself heresy is rampant, and the great need is for orthodox missionaries and teachers.

In the towns there are large mixed Asian populations who own and run many of the shops. On the whole they are a wealthy community, but as the British still look to Britain for their culture so do the Asians look to the Indian sub-continent.

This is, I am afraid, rather a patchwork; but as I have been here for only six weeks my knowledge of the place is still slight. There is one other thing, though, that is worth recording. The office owns a gun and a motor car, a big Citroën 15. The car, and the thought of driving it, terrified me at first, but it is a splendid machine, and the terror is gradually going now. One minor catastrophe, however, did occur on the second day I had it. Unused to its size, I backed into another car in the hotel car-park and dented its bumper—the car had been lent to its user by Mr. W. B. Cannon, late of O.U.P. I almost bought a one-way ticket home straight away.

A happy Christmas and prosperous New Year from Box 6552 Nairobi.

THE GOLD COAST

Mr. C. O. Botchway, in charge of the new Gold Coast office of the O.U.P., sends this report:

The Gold Coast Branch Office of the Press with its staff of five was formally opened on 7 February 1955 in a fairly large and neatly painted room in Horse Road about 200 yards from the General Post Office which stands right in the heart of Accra. A press announcement concerning the new establishment appeared in the popular newspapers, and the opening coincided with the visit of Mr. D. M. Neale, who had arrived from Nigeria the previous day to inspire us with the blessings of Amen House.

The experience gained in the days of my apprenticeship in Ibadan had made the planning of bookshelves and other equipment for our showroom and office quite an easy proposition. Thus by the middle of 1955 we had succeeded in organizing a respectable office together with a showroom which has since that time attracted not only teachers and



'Scholarship Triumphant'

A Solers Masque in honour of Mr. Geoffrey Cambridge on the occasion of his retirement was performed in the Library of Accra House before an enthusiastic audience on the afternoon of 28 September.

The Masque was written and produced by Mr. John Bell, whose witty script delighted his audience, most of whom were connected with the O.U.P. The attractive music was written by Mr. Gaudin Poole, and this reviewer was astonished and impressed to find how many members of the Accra House staff could and would sing.

Starting with the earliest days when the learned clerks of Oxenford copied manuscripts by hand, the Masque illustrated the singular development of the Press through the centuries. The conquest of the continents by books, the bringing of

literacy to Africa and Cathay, to Russia and to a most realistic wild-west America (see above), was all achieved by the Press's hardworking, steady, and, in one case, nearly-eaten ambassador.

Noable performances were given by Miss Lingard as the Goddess of Learning; her satirical acting and charming voice gave great pleasure. Mr. Neale was a noble ambassador; he sang with great verve and kept a stiff upper lip even when stoking is a cannibal's cooking-pot. Mr. Lynton Lamb as the Emperor of Cathay made us realize that he should have been born to royal station.

The highest praise is due to the organizers of the Masque. Nobody can think how they managed to provide so many quick changes of scene and costume. Perhaps the Goddess of Learning showed them a magic way of doing it?

school children but also men and women from all walks of life including, of course, booksellers and visitors to Accra.

After we had got the office and showroom running, no time was lost in drawing up a comprehensive programme for visits to schools, colleges, Higher Institutions, and to booksellers. This very important side of our assignment was pursued with all seriousness, thus making it possible for teachers, students, and interested persons in areas visited to know more about books published by the Press.

We started 1956, the second year of the establishment of our Branch Office, much more confi-

dently after a very interesting year of trial and error. There were a few changes in staffing occasioned by the unexpected resignation of our very energetic clerk, and it was not for some months that a competent substitute was found to fill the vacancy created.

My assistants having proved sufficiently capable of holding their own in the office and showroom after a year's experience, I decided to concentrate more on visits to schools. The visits, by the way, were not confined only to schools and colleges in the Gold Coast but also to similar institutions in Sierra Leone.

My first visit to Sierra Leone was planned to cover only the most important educational and political centres in order to give me an opportunity of knowing at first hand what the country was like and what preparation would be necessary when planning future visits. The few days I spent there could not have been more fascinating and worthwhile, and the co-operation given me by the Education Department and heads of the various schools visited was most encouraging.

Following the Sierra Leone tour, I flew to Lagos at the request of my counterpart in Ibadan and we both left for London early in May. Our visit, which lasted seven weeks, proved in every way interesting and very beneficial to us.

Backed by the experience and inspiration gathered from London, I resumed my visits to schools with renewed energy in August and have since seen schools in the Akim-Oda area and in Tamale, not to mention the successful book exhibition we organized for some 300 teachers and students at Wesley College in Kumasi.

One good thing we have had the privilege to enjoy throughout our visits to educational centres is the warm and kindly reception accorded us by heads of schools, for which we are ever grateful. The growing interest shown in our books by students, teachers, and the general public through letters reaching us daily and through visits made to our showroom has always proved a source of great inspiration to us.

WOLVERCOTE PAPER MILL

The main and almost only topic of conversation at Wolvercote during the past year has been 'The New Mill'.

We have seen it grow from a forest of steel stanchions and girders (700 tons of them) into an L-shaped building of very pleasing design, 430 feet long by 55 feet wide and 52 feet from the ground floor to the apex of the roof along one leg, and 135 feet by 52 feet by 45 feet along the other. The larger of the two sections is to house the paper machine and other ancillary equipment, and in the smaller the preparatory plant will be installed.

The two-story building is now nearing completion. Something like 200,000 bricks and 12,356 tons of concrete have been used in its construction and it now dominates the skyline.

A new basement-type Fourdrinier paper-making machine (approximately 2,500 tons of steel) is being installed and will occupy about 200 feet of floor space. It is designed to make paper at speeds up to 800 feet per minute, compared to the existing machine's 300 feet per minute.

In June the Delegates purchased the freshhold of neighbouring properties and have now extended the mill site to the whole length of Mill Road.

In the meantime the old mill has continued to make paper, often under very difficult conditions. At times walls and roofs have been dismantled around and above mill workers and existing plant, in order that the erection of the new building could proceed. The modernization of the mill's existing machine was completed during the year (after four years' work) and although originally installed in 1896 the machine now compares well with post-war equipment.

Production has been maintained continuously at 168 hours per week throughout the year and a record output running at 3,250 net tons of paper per annum has been achieved.

The total number of employees at Wolvercote is now 162. Of this figure twenty have been engaged in preparation for the new mill start-up. It has been necessary to recruit skilled labour from paper-making districts to man the new high-speed machinery, but other grades have been readily available locally since the depression in the motor industry.

Twenty-one employees are occupying houses and flats on the Jordan Hill estate built beside the sports field.