



The Pembrokekian



CELEBRATING 40 EEKELAAR YEARS

John Eekelaar retires as a Pembroke Tutor in Law

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News from The Development Office
Pembroke College, Oxford

Celebrating 40 Years of John Eekelaar and Law at Pembroke

John Eekelaar has just retired as a Tutorial Fellow in Law at Pembroke after 40 years. We intend to hold a dinner on 11 November to celebrate his contributions to the College, to the profession, and, most importantly, to his students. All 600 former Pembroke law students will receive an invitation to this dinner, which will also serve as a wider endorsement of the past and future importance of law at Pembroke.

John is a world-renowned authority on Family Law and has made a major contribution to the wider academic community during his time at Pembroke. He introduced Family Law into the Oxford law curriculum, and was one of the first academic lawyers to become actively engaged in empirical research in England. Over 25 years ago he was a founding member of the International Society of Family Law and has subsequently served as its President. The ISFL is the leading organisation in international and comparative family law. He is also the editor of the Oxford Journal of Legal Studies and the International Journal of Law Policy and the Family, and

Co-Director of the Oxford Centre for Family Law and Policy. In addition, John has served as the Chairman of the Board of the Oxford Faculty of Law and was the first co-ordinator of the Law Faculty's exchange programme with European Universities. In 2005 he was chosen to be the New Zealand Law Foundation's Distinguished Visiting Scholar. He was elected a Fellow of the British Academy in 2001 - the ultimate distinction in the UK for a scholar in the humanities.

John's standing as a scholar in the international community of academic lawyers and within Oxford is of the highest order. His inspiration, sensitivity and integrity as a tutor have been a significant force for Law at Pembroke (and Oxford).

Aided by a substantial contribution over the years made by Professor Dan Prentice and with the recent addition of a second Tutorial Fellowship in Competition Law held by Dr Ariel Ezrachi, the momentum has been established to maintain and enhance Pembroke's strong position in Law.

The Origins of Law at Pembroke

Douglas Macleane's History of Pembroke College describes how "from a very early period [the 12th century] a number of hostels for students of law, owned for the most part by religious houses, were clustered around St. Aldate's Church. The principal of these, whether called Segrym's or Broadgates Hall, was an appendage of St. Frideswyde's Priory, the original cradle of the University of Oxford." Broadgates Hall became Pembroke College in 1624. These first law students engaged in the early study of Roman law texts. Macleane writes: "The centre for the hostels for jurists outside the west gate of the Priory was a Law School in St. Aldate's Church". Parts of St. Aldate's Church, which housed a law library, were used as Pembroke's Library and Chapel until the 18th century.

The teaching of law in Oxford owes much to two

distinguished Pembrokeians. Sir William Blackstone had been a student at Pembroke before starting practice at the Middle Temple in 1741. He had always been of an academic turn of mind, and retained his connections with Oxford, where he was elected a Fellow of All Souls in 1743. His lectures on English law, which subsequently became the great Commentaries, were the first attempts at systematic exposition of the common law since Bracton, 500 years earlier. These lectures stimulated the founding of the Vinerian Chair of English Law (still attached to All Souls College), to which Blackstone was elected in 1758 as the first Vinerian Professor. Blackstone's eloquent advocacy for the academic study of English law still resonates today.

Despite the delivery of lectures in English law by the Vinerian Professor, which

were compulsory for Oxford law students, there were no set examinations in law. As late as 1846 it was stated that "our legal students generally pass through the usual forms of the university, that is, they proceed to their degrees in arts; they are not examined in any legal science, but the examination is the same that takes place for everyone else." The beginnings of the Oxford Law School can be traced to the reforms of 1850, which introduced examinations which had a legal element. These reforms owe a great deal to Dr. Francis Jeune, Master of Pembroke, who, although not a lawyer, is given very favourable mention by F.H. Lawson in his account of the origins of the Oxford Law School. When examinations were set on legal topics, the texts which candidates used were Justinian's Institutes and Blackstone's Commentaries.

Within Pembroke itself,

a benefactress, Sophia Sheppard, made a gift for the establishment of two Fellows, not bound to residence (and therefore to take holy orders), one to teach medicine and the other to teach law. John Eekelaar, who was appointed in 1965, succeeded R.F.V. Heuston, who had been elected in 1947. Heuston achieved distinction as the editor of *Salmond on Torts*, for some influential essays in *Constitutional Law*, and, latterly, for two volumes of the *Lives of the Lord Chancellors*. It is true to say that Heuston's quiet tutorial methods built up the quality of Pembroke's law teaching.

The current position

When John Eekelaar succeeded Heuston in 1965, the College was accepting approximately 8 undergraduate law students a year, plus 1-2 graduate students (BCL and M. Juris). Those numbers have

increased slightly over the years, and now the College accepts some 10-12 undergraduates a year and 3-4 graduates.

The teaching strength of Pembroke was substantially increased when, in 1973, the University associated a University Lecturership in Business Corporations with a Tutorial Fellowship in the College, and Dan Prentice was appointed to the position.

In 1990 this arrangement was changed. Allen & Overy funded a Professorship in Corporate Law in the University, to which Professor Prentice was elected. He is particularly concerned with the teaching and other needs of the Graduate students.

In 2003 a second Tutorial Fellowship in Law, sponsored by Slaughter and May, was created. Dr Ariel Ezrachi, a competition lawyer with a D.Phil from Oxford, was appointed. He runs the substantial

University course in Competition Law for the BCL and the M. Juris. He teaches contract, competition and company law in Pembroke.

Dr Rebecca Williams has been elected as the Fellow to succeed John Eekelaar. She read Law at Worcester College, Oxford, and obtained her doctorate at the University of Birmingham. She is presently Fellow at Robinson College, Cambridge. Her specialisation is Restitution in Public Law. At Pembroke she will teach constitutional, administrative and criminal law.

John Eekelaar has agreed to remain at Pembroke as Academic Director full-time. In this role he will act as Senior Tutor, Tutor for Admissions, Dean of Graduates and Dean of Visiting Students. This is a very good development for the College and for all the students who will benefit from his skills and his oversight of their pastoral care.

Endowing the Law Fellowship

As a tribute to John, the College wishes to fully endow his Fellowship. Hence, we are launching a specific appeal to raise £1.38 million. This will ensure that future generations of law students will benefit from the standards of scholarship, teaching and pastoral care set by John, Dan, Ariel and others, and will also enable Pembroke to develop further its distinctive strength in the subject.

An 11 November 2005 celebratory dinner will be part of our fundraising efforts, and we will report at that time on the progress of the appeal.

If you would like more information on the Law Appeal, or to register your interest in attending the dinner, please contact Angela Gustafsson in the Development Office: 01865 276501, angela.gustafsson@pmb.ox.ac.uk.



*A photograph of the Pembroke Fellows, taken November 1995
John Eekelaar is at the back, just right of the middle*

Cuppers Win for Pembroke Cricket Team

report by Nick Warrillow (2003)

Following on from the success of the college hockey side in Hilary term, it was the turn of the Pembroke cricket team to take Cuppers glory on a wonderful summer's afternoon at The Parks in June. Unbeaten in all forms of cricket up to that point, and confident of success in Cuppers following a close and dramatic victory against Balliol, the current holders, in the 1st round, Pembroke came up against a competent Teddy Hall side in the Final. With the Cuppers Final staged for the first time with a white ball and coloured clothing and stumps, the match was always going to be an enjoyable spectacle for the 150 odd supporters who were lapping up the glorious sunshine.

Pembroke won the toss and decided to bat first and both openers, Johnny Fennell and Geoff Baines, got off to a perfect start. With both batsmen looking untroubled and sustaining a healthy scoring rate Pembroke raced to 87-0 off 17 overs, before both fell in quick succession and a small middle-order collapse left us at 103-4, still with 14 overs remaining. However Pembroke's success this season has been a result of their remarkable strength in depth with all 11 players extremely competent batsmen, making

the selection of batting order a tricky dilemma. Thus Chris Owen, at number 6, provided a period of much-needed stability before some powerful hitting by the lower order helped push towards a healthy and competitive total. A wonderfully-struck straight six off the last ball by Tom Bullock gave Pembroke a final total of 197-7, 20 short of what they would have wanted, but still a formidable total for Teddy Hall to chase with the pressure on.

Like so many college cricket sides Teddy Hall appeared reliant on their Top order, and so when they were reduced to 49-4 following some fine, aggressive bowling by opener Tom Bullock, Pembroke knew victory was within their grasp. With Chris Owen chipping in a wicket from the other end, and with a restrictive and faultless display in the field, Pembroke were always on top. Bullock continued the outstanding form he had shown all season, bowling a tight line and using the conditions to move the ball around and trouble batsmen of the highest quality, and was rewarded with final figures of 3-31. A spell of wonderfully economic bowling from Adam Hunter meant Teddy Hall were losing wickets regularly whilst struggling to maintain the required run-rate, allowing Sudhir Krishnaswamy to polish off the tail, trapping 4 victims for 22 with his guileful leg-spin. Teddy Hall were finally dismissed for just 114, presenting Pembroke with a victory by 83 runs, and a well-earned Cuppers trophy to celebrate their dominant and successful season.



**PROUD SPONSOR OF
PEMBROKE ROWING**

Deloitte.

Eights 2005

This year, Pembroke had nine boats on the river during Eights, five Men's and four Women's. Having lost the Double Headship of 2003 last year, the Women's 1st VIII began in 2nd place and the Men's 1st VIII began in 3rd place. The Men's 1st almost caught Oriel on the Friday but ultimately remain in 3rd position, with Oriel second and Magdalen Head of the River. The Women's 1st VIII were bumped by S.E.H. on the Thursday and so are also now in 3rd position on the river, with S.E.H. 2nd and New College Head of the River. Of the other boats, three will start next year in lower positions, three in higher positions and one in the same place. With two 3rd positions on the river, Pembroke remains the top rowing College in Oxford.

by *Ellen Behrstock (1999)*

It was the desire to promote social change through educational reform that brought me to Pembroke to study Politics, Philosophy, and Economics as a Visiting

Student in 1999. Five years later, having returned to Oxford to pursue a DPhil in the Economics of Education, I am now beginning to work toward change in education and government through a new student organisation, Oxford Women in Politics (OxWiP). OxWiP seeks to advance the role of women in public life by **connecting** Oxford alumni, students and faculty with an interest in promoting the role of women in leadership; **developing** the leadership and professional skills necessary for women to succeed in the political world; and **inspiring** the next generation of women to aspire to positions of leadership in their respective careers.

At age 13, my interest in politics was sparked when I volunteered on my local state Congresswoman's campaign in Glencoe, Illinois. I subsequently held internships on the campaigns of California Senator Barbara Boxer and Illinois Representative Janice Schakowsky. Inspired by my mentors' high ethical standards and ambitions to change the world, but frustrated by the lack of resources available for their proposed policies, I decided to study Economics and Law at Cornell University.

The year I spent at Pembroke was certainly the highlight of my university experience. Rowing in Michaelmas, picnicking in the back quad in Trinity, and the engaging conversations with friendly Pembrokiens who seemed so passionate about their subjects were amongst the highlights. What I did not notice as a Visiting Student, but have come to recognise as a Postgraduate, is the degree to which a gender disparity persists in Oxford. For example, the year I was at Pembroke not one of my PPE tutors was female; currently only 9 of the academic faculty members in the Department of Economics are women. The gender disparity is manifest in other areas of Oxford

life as well. In Hilary 2004, for example, the venerable Oxford Union featured twenty-five male guest speakers but only one woman (Miss World). Among the more than thirty JCR Presidents this year, only 6 were female.

Thankfully, I was not the only student cognisant of this gender disparity; in February 2004 OxWiP was founded to bring greater awareness to the persisting gender inequalities in Oxford, and to work toward change. As Co-Chair of OxWiP's Outreach Committee, and now Vice-President for Programmes, I have been able to combine my interests in education and women's roles in political decision-making, as well as gain a practical dimension to my educational research.

The programmes I currently oversee include OxWiP's Outreach Programme (OxWiP members visit local schools to present an innovative curriculum that encourages young students to consider careers in public life), OxWiP's Leadership Development workshops (teaching skills such as networking, communication, and chairing meetings), OxWiP's Distinguished Women Speakers Series (recent guests have included alumni such as Baroness Susan Greenfield and Dame Ruth Deech); and OxWiP's Mentorship Scheme (established, professional Oxonian women in the government, business, academic and non-profit sectors mentor current Oxford students).

In just over one year, OxWiP has grown tremendously. OxWiP membership now includes over 500 male, female, undergraduate, graduate, faculty, and alumni members worldwide. In the coming year, we hope to attain charity status, to develop an online, interactive database to link Oxford alumni members in an ever-growing network, and to assemble an international Advisory Board of prominent individuals to guide OxWiP as it continues to develop into a dynamic and sustainable organisation.

If you would like to learn more about OxWiP, or to become involved, I invite you to contact me at: ellen.behrstock@queens.ox.ac.uk. More information about OxWiP may be found at our website: www.oxwip.org



Pictured on the left are the Master (Giles Henderson) and 2004-5 MCR President Chris Watkins, on the MCR Trinity Ramble. This culminated in a barbeque at the house of Tim Gunn (1969).

Congratulations to Pierre Purseigle (2003), MCR Member and DPhil candidate, who has just edited and contributed an essay to a recently published book on the history of warfare entitled "Warfare and Belligerence:

Perspectives in First World War Studies." The book, published by Brill (www.brill.nl), examines 'the relationship between the character of war and the nature of belligerent societies, and presents original research on the comparative history of the First World War.' Pierre, a Tutor in Modern History at Oxford, was also co-editor of "Uncovered Fields" (Brill 2004).

MCR

Gordon White Prize

Rachel Murphy, Pembroke Research Fellow in Oriental Studies (Japanese, Chinese) has been awarded this year's Gordon White Prize for the best article by a younger scholar published in The China Quarterly. This is in recognition of her essay in the March 2004 issue, "Turning Peasants into Modern Chinese Citizens".

Recent Development Events



1955 Golden Jubilee, Friday 1st April

Members from the class of 1955 and their wives gathered to celebrate 50 years since their matriculation at Pembroke. They were delighted to be able to

welcome back Emeritus Fellow Piers Mackesy, who taught history at Pembroke between 1954 and 1987, and who joined them at their Dinner.

The Dinner for 1956 will be held on Friday 4th August 2006.

Gaudy, Years 1991, 1992 & 1993, Friday 15th April

Ninety alumni and Fellows were able to attend this young Gaudy. Below is a photo of Peter Stark Toller (1993), who was able to meet up with his former tutor, now Emeritus Fellow, Ian Grant.



Media Reception, Thursday 28th April

Around twenty people attended this year's Media Reception, at which Godfrey Howard (1946) gave a short talk entitled "The Wonder of Creativity".

Pictured above are some of the members present at the end of the reception, when several stayed for dinner at the Arts Club.



Once again, over four hundred alumni, Fellows, staff, friends and family congregated at Pembroke for the annual Garden Party, held on the last day of Eights week. Attendees enjoyed strawberries and cream while listening to a jazz band featuring Tony

Garden Party, Saturday 28th May

Davis (1958), an organ recital by Tim Jones (2002) and Ben Williams (2003) on the harp. An exhibition of JCR Art was among the other attractions.

Brussels Reception, Saturday 11th June



Picture includes Sir Peter, British Ambassador to Nato, (left); John Church (right)

Bursar, John Church and Professor of Armenian Studies, Theo van Lint, travelled to Brussels to represent the College at this splendid event, kindly hosted once again by Pembrokian Sir Peter Ricketts (1971) and his wife Suzanne. Last year was the first such event and we hope that their success will mean the Brussels Reception will now be a permanent fixture in the Pembroke Calendar of events.



Pictured: Emma Brining, Clare Rorison, Carol Bishop and Emma Lewis (all 1987)

Gaudy, Years 1985, 1986 & 1986, Friday 24th June

The partying following this lively Gaudy, so we are told, continued well into the early hours of the morning - with some attendees arriving at breakfast in their Dinner Jackets, having failed to make it to bed at all! We hope that all those who were able to attend have now fully recovered and will return to the College again in the very near future.

Please see over for the London Dinner, 19th May



Pembroke's Inaugural Annual London Dinner

Thursday, 19th May 2005

Much fun was had by everyone attending Pembroke's first annual London Dinner. We were extremely pleased to greet over 165 alumni at the gates of Clothworkers Hall, in the City of London. Guests had the opportunity to mingle with old friends and acquaintances amongst grand surroundings, perhaps occasionally pausing to marvel at rare 17th Century Tapestries on show and to soak up their glamorous surroundings. A lively drinks reception was enhanced by wonderful piano playing, provided by Pembroke Finalist Amy De Sybel.

The dinner itself was a gastronomic feast; an exotic papaya and Thai beef salad starter was followed by succulent quail, and topped off with a delicate passion fruit soufflé. Ambassador Philip Lader (former U.S. Ambassador to the U.K.) entertained the crowd with a witty and erudite after-dinner speech, spanning subjects of time-travel - back to his early years at Pembroke and in the U.K. - and some shaggy dog tales of his own. At the end of the evening we rescued the Pembroke Flag from the balcony over which it had been draped to offer a little Oxford flavour, and squeezed past some revellers, who by now had commandeered the piano to play their own tunes.

7 We hope to schedule a date for the 2006 London Dinner very soon, and would welcome any suggestions regarding possible venues.

Celebrating Johnson

Your Invitation to:

A Gala Dinner

27th August 2005

- Champagne Reception •
- 18th Century String Quartet •
 - 5-course Dinner •
 - After-dinner Speaker •

Pembroke, as Dr Johnson's undergraduate College, is hosting a three-day celebration of the 250th anniversary of the publication of his dictionary. We are now pleased to announce the opportunity to join in the celebrations by attending the Gala dinner on Saturday 27th August.

Commencing with a champagne reception and eighteenth-century string quartet in Chapel Quad, this five course Gala Dinner will be held at Pembroke College, and culminates with an entertaining after-dinner speech by Ned Sherrin.

Tickets for the Gala dinner are £60 (all-inclusive)

For booking information, please contact Jane Richmond at Pembroke College
(01865) 276422 jane.richmond@pmb.ox.ac.uk

For full information on the event please go to
www.pmb.ox.ac.uk/johnson

Annual Fund Success

As of 1 July, the Annual Fund has raised just over £150,000 for Pembroke! Sincere thanks to all of you who have made a gift. Your help is already making a difference. In January you will receive an Annual Report detailing how we have put your gifts to work.

We are particularly grateful to high participation years:

- 1st place **1948** and **1949**
- 2nd place **1968**, **1969** and **1973**
- 3rd place **1982**, **1994** and **Parents**

By subject group:

- 16% of all gifts to the Annual Fund have come from **Lawyers**
- **Historians** have contributed the greatest total amount to the Annual Fund.
- Former **PPE** students have the third highest participation rate

For those of you who have not yet contributed to the Annual Fund, please remember that your participation is just as important as the size of your gift. Major donors are often encouraged by a high level of Alumni support when considering proposals from the College. At the time of the launch of the Annual Fund, only 3% of our alumni were regular contributors to the College. Please help us increase our percentage - **every gift makes a difference.**

Historians!

Announcing the 'Adrian Gregory Annual Fund Challenge'

Historians have been very supportive of the Annual Fund but Fellow Adrian Gregory is challenging all of his former students, who have not yet contributed, to consider an annual donation.

Adrian writes: "It is vitally important that the Pembroke Annual Fund is supported by the maximum level of participation. Some of the younger Alumni might be reluctant to get involved in regular giving at this stage, but even small annual donations can quickly mount up if enough people participate. A gift of £50 represents an immediate income equivalent to nearly £2000 as a capital gift. I take the view that I wouldn't ask my students to do something I am not willing to do myself".

The Challenge: For each of you who makes a new donation to the Annual Fund between now and the end of the year, Adrian will donate £5.00 to the Fund. If Historians sign a standing order, he will continue to match it as long as he is at Pembroke.

Please would interested Alumni send in their donation forms by 31 December 2005 which is the end date for the challenge. If you need a new form please contact the Development Office.

Editor's note: we are grateful to Adrian for risking the odds; we calculate that Adrian has over 80 former students. Get him back for those tricky tutorials and dodgy essay marks - via his wallet!

The Only Way to Travel Hugh Arnold (1945)

The only way to travel is – or sadly, one must now say, was – by the Royal Yacht Britannia. I speak with the authority of experience. 1982 was the fortieth anniversary of the 1942 raid on St Nazaire, which the members of the St Nazaire wished to commemorate by returning to the scene of the action. It would not be our first return – we had gone back in 1947 as passengers on the vessel H. M. S. Sirius where accommodation was, to say the least, primitive, but we were still young enough then to survive it. This time at least we hoped to travel in reasonable comfort.

The offer of transport by the Royal Yacht came as the result of one of the Society's committee members finding himself sitting next to the Duke of Edinburgh at a dinner at Buckingham Palace. In the course of conversation he mentioned the projected trip to St. Nazaire and the transport involved, as many of the survivors were pensioners with limited resources. "Have you considered using the Royal Yacht?" said Prince Philip. "Should be just the job – I'll have a word with Her Indoors and see what can be done". No doubt that his uncle, Earl Mountbatten, had been Chief of Combined Operations at the time of the raid and that Prince Philip himself was patron of the Society helped our cause; and I believe the Foreign Office was in favour of the visit as a means of brushing up the 'entente cordiale' which for reasons I forget was a bit tarnished at that time.

As even Britannia could not cope with 145 passengers, it was arranged that half of us would sail on the outward passage and the remainder on the return trip. I was amongst the former group which was convenient as at the time I was conducting a course at the Fort which is a stone's throw away from the Royal Dockyard where the Britannia was berthed. I was given a warm if ribald send off from the Fort which did not fully prepare me for being piped aboard the Royal Yacht – something I had never experienced in my lowly naval career. It was an indication of how we were going to be treated throughout the trip.

We sailed in the afternoon with the Royal Marine band playing the appropriate music. Once out in the Channel we went below to settle into our accommodation. I had been allocated the stateroom of the Queen's Second Lady-in-Waiting and had been told that I would be sharing it – not, I was disappointed to find, with the lady in question but with an ex-Commando (I should have said that the Queen and Prince Philip were not travelling with us.) We tossed for who should have the very comfortable bunk and who the camp bed on the floor and I lost, but this was the only discomfort, and a very minor

one, of the whole trip. Otherwise we had the run of the state apartments barring only the Royal Suite itself, and we ate in luxury in the magnificent dining room. The crew, and particularly the cabin stewards, treated us like royal guests – which indeed we were. I remember I found a vital button missing from my trousers and my jacket was a bit creased and crumpled. Both articles were taken away and returned repaired and beautifully pressed half-an-hour later. All the crew wore gym shoes so there was none of the usual clatter of boots up and down companion ways and indeed the whole atmosphere was calm and soothing. At the bar in one of the sitting rooms spirits were served at 9p a tot – and I may say a Navy tot is at least a pub double. So we were very happy – but any form of rowdiness on Britannia would have been unthinkable.

The next morning the weather was fine and we explored the ship in more detail. The biggest eye-opener was the engine room. I could honestly say that you could have eaten your dinner off any flat surface, including the deck. I've heard it said that in army barracks if it moves you salute it and if it doesn't you paint it. There was very little saluting on Britannia but anything that didn't move got polished. But the atmosphere was not starchy, whether we were being entertained by the seamen in what was known as the Unwinding Room or by the Rear Admiral and his officers in the Wardroom; and in the early evening the band gave us a concert on deck as we glided along at 10 knots on a gentle sea, less of a swell than on our first passage in 1942 – and we were rather more relaxed than on that occasion.

We moved slowly up the Loire estuary into the port of St Nazaire soon after dawn the next morning, berthing within sight of the great Normandy dry dock which had been our target. As journalists came aboard for a press conference we noticed intense activity by the crew on deck, the result of which was revealed when, at the sound of a bosun's pipe, what seemed like miles of bunting was hauled aloft in a matter of seconds as the ship was "dressed overall" to greet the arrival of the Duke of Edinburgh. This marked the beginning of two days of impressive ceremonies of one kind and another, of which the main feature was the extraordinary kindness of the people of St. Nazaire. But for me nothing quite matched that moment when I was piped aboard at Portsmouth.



Frank Johnson

Pembroke student 1928-1931

I am probably one of Pembroke's oldest Alumni; I will be ninety-six in December 2005 (dv). I learnt with great regret that my fellow Manxman, William T Kermode, had died just before attaining that age. I knew him well at College, but have never seen him since.

I came to Pembroke in October 1928, exactly two hundred years after my illustrious namesake, 'Dictionary Sam Johnson,' but I was a year younger. I was only able to come because I had been awarded the senior open history scholarship, and I had to try to live within the very limited finances available, which just covered the basic battels with very little to spare.

I was encouraged to apply for the Johnson Rooms by my headmaster, Canon E.C. Owen. I did so and was granted them immediately, no doubt to the relief of the College. The Johnson Rooms had certain disadvantages.

They were very noisy – in those days, after dinner, some twenty or more undergraduates would congregate in or around the Porter's Lodge, probably the warmest place in the college. The head porter, Millin, and the assistant porter, Ponsford, were popular personalities in the college and knew all about everything, and incidentally, were very helpful. The talk was very noisy (possibly rather bibulous) and the circulating crowd would remain there an hour or two. I sometimes joined in, but if one wanted to work, the noise coming up the stairs was quite something.

The nearby church, St Ebbes, I think, had

“The Hilary Term 1929 was hard frost throughout. Any water in the basin froze solid and there would be an inch of ice on the water in the ewer.”

a bell tower about twenty yards from my window and on Wednesday and Friday nights they had bell ringing practice. This literally used to rock the room and made not only conversation but comprehension almost impossible from about 9pm onwards.

The bedroom was about the size of a large cupboard, just room for a truckle bed and a wash stand, with ewer and basin and bucket below. Frank, my scout, brought me a small jug of tepid water at 7am and raked out the ashes in the study fire grate and got a new fire going. The Hilary Term 1929 was hard frost throughout. Any water in the basin froze solid and there would be an inch of ice on the water in the ewer. The bogs and baths were about a quarter of a mile away – a dash through the icy air. Rugby ceased and Port Meadow was frozen over. A large skating rink was formed in the Parks. I learnt to skate and, in fact, acquired by some means, some ice hockey skates



Dr Samuel Johnson, whose rooms Frank Johnson occupied during his first year

Pembroke College 1929



and took part in impromptu ice hockey matches, dangerous but great fun. The skating star was a white Russian, whose name, I believe was Svetlana Siliovitch, aka ‘silly bitch’. She was surrounded by admirers.

Opposite my bedroom window were the splendiferous rooms of John Spencer Churchill, who, from about 1am onwards, would be piano playing, by ear, I think, because the versions varied, the ‘Libestod’ music from Tristan and Isolde (Liszt arrangement) over and over and over again. I couldn’t avoid listening to it and grew to like it. With that and the icy temperature, sleep was very difficult. There were other night noises – a trio – Hanbury, Gaunt, and Griswold, used regularly to smash up their rooms in the small hours, a sport which they indulged in quite frequently. This indeed made quite a noise!

Another aspect of occupying the Johnson Rooms was the number of visitors (mainly American) who found their way there. I only occupied the Rooms for one year, but I recorded in the summer term of 1929, (depression or no depression) fourteen visits by tourists (possibly all American). There had been others before and doubtless people visiting during the day when I would not have been there. Some would be man, wife and child, but others would be groups of up to a dozen. I would hear them tramping up the wooden stairs, knocking and then entering. They would stand spellbound in my rather shabby room. “Is that the door he used to come in and out of?” “Is that the cute little bedroom where he slept, a great big guy like him?” and “Did he throw the shoes down those very risers?” It was always the shoe episode that seemed to

bring them. I used to regard their invasion as a nuisance. But later I thought, ‘Why didn’t I make some sort of cash business out of it? Offer to show them the highlights of the university etc.....?’

Early in my first term I was invited to have breakfast with the Master at Broadgates Hall. This was a regular feature of life in those days. It caused me to do some lateral thinking as to what likely conversation would take place. I did not want to be a ‘dumb cluck’. Ultimately I thought that the bi-centenary was very likely to be touched on, and that I ought to have something to say about it. I spent a morning at the Radcliffe with about a dozen books, and I got to know about Hodge, the cat and Frank, the Negro servant (and ultimate beneficiary) and the days at Pemmy and the visits later, and the whole Johnson circle.

At the breakfast, the ‘Magger’ sat at one end and the ‘Maggerine’ at the other, the two nieces sat together opposite to myself and my fellow Pembrokian, who was, I think, the senior scholar, a year ahead of me. The Magger muttered a few words of grace and made formal introductions. He then looked expectantly around. At once my fellow Pembrokian made a lengthy remark, introducing the name of Grinling Gibbons and his attempts to find examples of his work in Oxford. Obviously Mr Gibbons was high up in the estimation of both Magger and Maggerine and an animated conversation began and continued. I have to admit that at that time I had never heard of Mr. Gibbons and had no idea of who he was or what he did. The two nieces appeared equally uninformed about Mr. Gibbons, but listened intently. My remarks during the meal were confined to “yes please” and “no thank you” and “can I pass you the marmalade?” It was an excellent breakfast but conversationally it was an utter failure. If I had broken in with a remark about old Johnson it would have been like throwing a big flat stone into a babbling brook.

There was an interesting mixture of persons at Pembroke. There was Monty Garland Wells, the everlasting undergraduate, who played cricket for Surrey (I think) and people said he had been at the College since it was founded and had never taken an exam! We also had Bernard Miles, later Sir Bernard, founder of the Mermaid Theatre, and latterly, I think, Lord Bernard of Puddle Dock. Also, I think, Sir Geoffrey Willets, Chairman of the Arts Council after Lord Goodman. They were both members of a play reading group to which I belonged. We also had Count Tarnovski and Baron Skoda, who had a most impressive Vicuna coat, and there were many other colourful personalities. But the majority of Pembrokiens worked hard, got degrees and

“He sent me a case of eight quarter bottles of champagne, one to be taken before each paper as a stimulus. What a man to have for a tutor!”

established themselves in life.

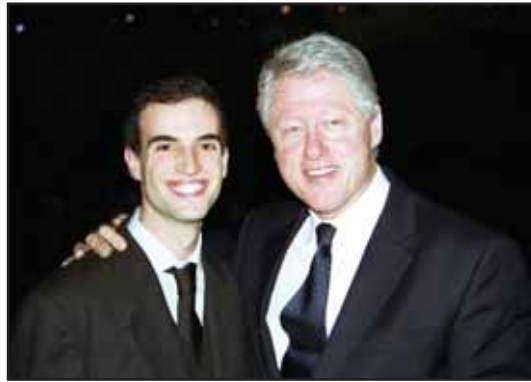
I was talking earlier about night noise – I ought to mention the blood curdling screams of an American undergraduate. I think his name was Pennell, who was to be heard from time to time as multi-coloured beasts chased him through the quads and to his rooms!

The Friday before my finals I developed a high temperature and unusable throat. I was in digs but managed to get word to my tutor, Mr McCallum, who sent the College doctor, Dr Raymond Greene (one of the three famous brothers – Graham, the author and Roger or Robert, director of the BBC). Raymond, the doctor, who was later knighted, became a leading medical practitioner. So, I had good attention. He thought I had dyptheria, took swabs and said the Radcliffe would give him the results on Sunday. My tutor said “Don’t go for an aegrotat, they are absolutely useless. Make yourself do the papers in bed. I will get an invigilator.” Not only did he do that, but he sent me a case of eight quarter bottles of champagne, one to be taken before each paper as a stimulus. What a man to have for a tutor!

The swabs proved negative. I had acute tonsillitis. The invigilator turned up with the papers and required to be paid twenty-five shillings per day. He wanted to receive it each day. I had a bank account with the Midland at Carfax, and the manager had told me I could overdraw to £30, but if I wanted to go beyond that amount, I must speak to him first. I was already overdrawn to £30, and I couldn’t speak, so I fully expected my cheques would bounce – but they didn’t – so thank you, thank you, Mr Manager! I did the last two weeks of the finals in the Schools, rather worse for wear, but was very pleased to get a Second (Alpha), which was better than I expected and much better than an aegrotat.

I visited the college in the seventies and looked at the old rooms. There was no furniture. There were two sleeping bags side by side in the middle of the floor. The bedroom was filled to the ceiling with empty wine and spirit cases. The last time I visited Pemmy, about six years ago, I was told that the rooms had become offices. Sic transit.

From Pembroke to Photography Frederic Aranda (1998)



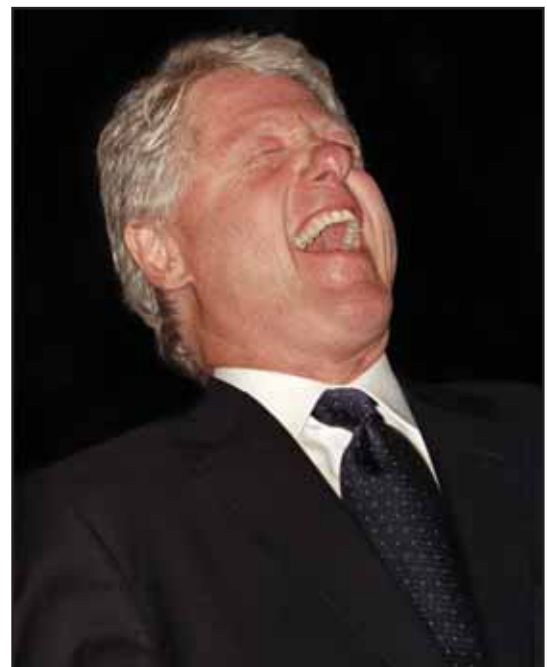
Fred Aranda with Bill Clinton

didn't care if my only assets were a camera, a light portfolio, and a degree in Japanese from Oxford, of all things.

Now, I can safely say that my studies at Pembroke gave me the possibility to become a photographer, by giving me access to fashion and media circles in various countries, notably Japan.

I was born in Geneva, and lived there all my life before coming to Oxford. I viewed a BA in Japanese as an opportunity to finally learn a language which I had dreamt of speaking as a child, at a time when most of my friends at the International School were Japanese. I certainly didn't want to use Japanese for going into business or banking - I simply wanted to learn it, and I knew that it could become an extremely useful tool in the future. When I applied and got called over for an interview, I wanted to demonstrate to my future tutor, Dr James McMullen, that I was motivated to learn the language, but that I also had a creative side. I had already dabbled at photography (although the fulfilment of becoming a photographer was still a long way off), and brought with me a couple of clumsy art shots taken in high school. One of these was a close-up of a bee perching over a blistered foot, and to this day I am still mortified at how I dared to sit there and impose this horror on poor Dr McMullen, who met the scene with polite silence and shock. I do hope I did not scare him too much, but judging by the course of things, he had swiftly recovered.

Learning Japanese was hard, and I was in good hands. The first year was spent trying to master the most basic grammatical rules and the most basic Chinese characters of the Japanese language. One day, I discovered that Pembroke had a photographic darkroom, and signed up to the photographic society, which I eventually ran for a year. I would rope some of my closest friends into coming into a studio and posing for me. I also got involved in student newspapers, and in an attempt to make all those long hours spent in the darkroom more productive, I would record myself reading out sentences from my Japanese textbook, which I could then listen to over and over again whilst developing my pictures in the dark. The drill worked - my Japanese was improving,



Photograph of Bill Clinton by Fred Aranda

*“In March of this year
I was shortlisted
by The Times as the
‘Young Photographer
of the Year’.”*

and so was my photography.

My course lasted five years, and this included about one year living in Japan. All I can say is that it was too short. I remember talking with Dan Snow, who in 2000 was the captain of the OU Rowing team. He explained that his intensive involvement in sport, which was focussed around the build-up towards the Oxford-Cambridge boat race, took up all of his extra time and energy in Oxford. This left him with little time to experience typical Oxford life - late night trips to the kebab van, student club nights etc..., but that he never regretted these sacrifices and would do it all again if he could. Although my self-training as a photographer was not subject to such discipline and rigour, I can say that I also created a life for myself which only allowed extra space for my closest friends and only the most important activities. I am proud of that - I feel like I made the most of Oxford.

In my fourth year I was sent to Tokyo on a year out. I got a scholarship and enrolled at a university, treating my Japanese studies there very seriously and with sustained passion. But this is when everything I had learnt in the previous years at Oxford really came together: using my Japanese,

I toured the various magazine editorials in Tokyo, showing my photos to hundreds of picture editors. I developed friendships with some of them which only a knowledge of Japanese could bring, and within a month of my year out in Tokyo, I got a part time job at VOGUE Magazine Japan.

During that year, I learnt more than I could ever have learnt on a photography course, whilst bringing my Japanese to a new level. Everything was in perfect harmony, and I happily graduated from Pembroke the next year with a First in Japanese, before moving to London to set up my own photographic studio. The work that I had done in Japan, which consisted of magazine editorials, advertising, fashion, portraiture, and reportage, forms such a strong foundation to my current work that I would never have been able to move to London after graduation and find such high profile work without it. Within months of living in London I was photographing such politicians as Bill Clinton and superstars as Beyonce, and I was travelling back and forth to New York and Tokyo for regular assignments. I have been doing this for the last two years, and in March of this year was shortlisted by The Times as the ‘Young Photographer of the Year’. In the future, I plan to do more advertising work and to continue with portraiture and editorial work.

This fluke of a career, I directly attribute it to circumstances which were brought about by the unique environment I found at Pembroke over five years, and for which I will always be thankful.

Frederic Aranda is on show in early July at the City Hall of London, and from 11th July to 15th September 2005 at The Maria Louisa Gallery, The Albert Dock, Liverpool.

www.fredericaranda.com



Photograph of the Oxford Union taken by Fred Aranda

Diary Dates

All dates correct as of July 2005 but may be subject to change

2005

26th-28th Aug.	Dr Johnson Event
Sat. 27th Aug.	Gala Dinner
Fri. 9th Sept.	1959 Dinner
Fri. 16th Sept.	Gaudy, Years 1994-6
Fri. 23rd Sept.	Pembroke Society Dinner <i>(also afternoon golf meeting at Southfield)</i>
Sat. 24th Sept.	Pembroke Activity Day
Thurs. 27th Oct.	Business Reception
Fri. 11th Nov.	John Eekelaar Dinner
Date TBC	Dr Pelczynski Dinner

2006

Fri. 7th April	Gaudy, Years 1997-8
Thurs. 18th April	InterCollegiate Golf Tournament <i>(Hosted by Pembroke, with Dinner in Hall)</i>
Date TBC	London Dinner
Sat. 27th May	Garden Party
Fri. 23rd June	Gaudy, Years 1982-4
Fri. 4th August	1956 Jubilee Dinner
Fri. 2nd Sept.	'40 years on' Reunion <i>(for 1965, 1966 and 1967)</i>

Dr Pelczynski Turns 80!

Dr. Zbigniew Pelczynski, former Fellow and Tutor in Politics, turns 80 this year. Zbig, Zbyszek, or ZAP, as he is variously known by his students, retired from Pembroke in 1993 after 35 years of positive impact upon the lives of students who are now making their mark upon the world. In December Pembroke is planning to host a birthday party for him in London to which all his former students will be invited.

In order to honour Dr. Pelczynski's contributions to Pembroke and the wider world, to keep his values alive for future student generations, and to guarantee the continuation of Pembroke's long and distinguished tradition in Politics, the College is seeking to raise £1.52M to name and permanently endow the Pelczynski Politics Fellowship.

The Pelczynski Politics Fellowship Appeal got off to a strong start in April with fundraising dinners in New York hosted by Geroge Soros, at the British Ambassador's residence in Washington DC, and in Cambridge and Williamstown, MA. We are extremely grateful to all the members of the Pembroke Foundation of North America for making these events possible.

If you would like more information on the 80th Birthday Party in London, or would like to learn more about the Appeal, please contact Angela Gustafsson in the Development Office: 01865 276501, angela.gustafsson@pmb.ox.ac.uk.



John, Bea, Joanne and Angela

Contacting The Development Office

Beatrice Hearne

Director of Development

Tel: (01865) 276417

Beatrice.Hearne@pmb.ox.ac.uk

Angela Gustafsson (Koester) (2001)

Director of Alumni Relations

Tel: (01865) 276501

Angela.Gustafsson@pmb.ox.ac.uk

Joanne Bowley

Development Office Manager

Tel: (01865) 276478

Fax: (01865) 276482

Joanne.Bowley@pmb.ox.ac.uk

John Barlow (1952)

Tel: (01865) 276473

John.Barlow@pmb.ox.ac.uk

Liz Hancock (2001)

Development Assistant

Elizabeth.Hancock@pmb.ox.ac.uk

Write to us at:

The Development Office

Pembroke College

Oxford, OX1 1DW

Pembroke website:

www.pmb.ox.ac.uk