

LIBRARY NEWSLETTER

COLLECTIONS

The library has been able to continue to expand its printed monograph collections, with many [new books](#), and reference copies of the Greek *OCT*, *Teubner*, and *Budé* texts in the Black Classicists Room in spite of a Harvard-wide reduction in funding. A few exquisite manuscript facsimiles have also been added such as *Masterpieces of the Medieval World of Stars* and *The Book of the Wisdom of Astrology* resulting in a [blogpost](#) with an article on Indo-Mediterranean astrology by former (2025) CHS fellow Tejas S. Aralere.

Some journal titles have been canceled because of high cost, open access alternatives, or because their focus is not Hellenic studies, and some online journals have been reduced from an unlimited number of users to 1 IP address, all in an effort to lower expenses. Dumbarton Oaks' Byzantine Studies library is undertaking similar measures.

This summer, the library has been fortunate in being gifted a number of books, many of which are out of print, by former fellows, Smithsonian library staff, even U.S. navy personnel.

Some open access digital resources have been added to

the [Collection Areas and Databases](#) page such as [Museion](#), an exciting new Greek philosophy/philology database created by Haoran Pei, a CHS summer library reader.

The library is preparing another shipment of duplicate books after donations went to the embassies of Ukraine and Burkina Faso last year for distribution to schools in respective countries.

PEOPLE

Also, this summer the CHS said a tearful farewell to its outgoing director Mark Schiefsky and a cheerful welcome to its new director, Naomi Weiss, the former Chair of the Harvard Classics Department. Her research centers on Greek drama. She and her family, a husband, two children, and a dog, will be living at the CHS full-time. Her stated goals for the CHS include expanded public outreach and a closer relationship to the main campus in Cambridge and the Classics Department.

The library has continued to assist our many residential fellows also during the summer, and other users such as instructors and participants in CHS summer programs, and library readers, both regulars and scholars new to

the CHS.

During the summer, the library has hosted an intern from St. John's College in Annapolis, Ben G. Shelsby, who has been scanning a number of rare books which will be made available through [CHS Digital](#) and curated an exhibit on Plato's metaphysical writings and their reception.

FACILITIES

New additions to the library space have included an Epigraphy Reading Room, a Papyrology Reading Room, and a Digital Humanities Lab. The Rare Book Room which few knew the existence of since the books were hidden away in a large closet space has been outfitted with a window for discovery and "distance browsing."

An updated physical Library Guide will be published shortly. In the meantime, the [CHS website](#) under "Library" will have the most updated information about library hours, access, spaces, and acquisitions.

The CHS library staff wishes all a happy fall semester!



CHS LIBRARY PHOTO ALBUM



The Mosaic/Loeb Room.



"The Preservation and Legacy of Plato's Metaphysics," exhibit by Ben Shelsby, CHS Intern, Summer 2026.



The Papyrology Reading Room.



Greek astrology exhibit featuring famous images from medieval illuminated manuscripts.



The Rare Book Room features many rare text editions from the 16th through the 19th centuries.



A display on Euripides features two of CHS Director Weiss' books, *The Music of Tragedy: Performance and Imagination in Euripidean Theater* and *Seeing Theater: The Phenomenology of Classical Greek Drama* as well as *Trojan Women: A Comic* by Rosanna Bruno and Anne Carson, the subject of a recent [podcast](#) hosted by Professor Weiss.



Readers' carrel with a view on the upstairs floor.



Readers' carrels with comfortable chairs and cozy lamps on the downstairs floor.



One of this summer's residential fellows, Robert Mills McArthur, examining inscriptions in the Epigraphy Reading Room.



A "Book of Hours" in miniature. Many medieval and early Renaissance BoHs have splendid illuminations. And these illustrations by Boccardino the Elder, Stefano di Tommaso, and Boccardino the Younger were painted in Florence ca. 1518 in a tiny size. Facsimile.



The Greek *OCT*, *Budé*, and *Teubner* “reference” editions in the Black Classicists Room. Due to budget constraints, this collection will be expanded only gradually beginning with “major” authors. Circulating copies of all the texts are available in the stacks.



The Digital Humanities Lab with a high-resolution scanner, presently reserved for in-house digital projects, and CD and DVD players for the library’s audiovisual collection. The library’s microform collections have been converted to digital form and will become available in [*CHS Digital*](#).