

## THE ANGUS LIBRARY

REGENT'S PARK COLLEGE, OXFORD

The Angus Library has for many years been the main storehouse of information about the Baptist heritage in Britain. The core of the library is a large collection of books and manuscripts by Baptist authors, left to the college in 1902 by Dr Joseph Angus, who served as Principal from 1849 to 1893. This collection was catalogued and enlarged by Dr George Gould, Principal 1896-1920; since then there has been further expansion by gift and purchases of books and manuscripts relevant to Baptist history or modern works by Baptist authors.

The collection includes many Baptist publications of the last four centuries and is especially rich in seventeenth and eighteenth century books. Among the manuscripts are Association Records from the seventeenth century onwards and collections of letters from such leaders as William Carey and Andrew Fuller.

In 1985 the Library of the Baptist Union of Great Britain and Ireland, which had earlier incorporated the Library of the Baptist Historical Society, and which contained, in addition to relatively modern books and pamphlets, a large number of early manuscript minute books of Baptist churches, was transferred to the college and considered an extension of the Angus Library. This collection was housed in the basement of the college, while the Old Angus Library remained in rooms leading off the general collection library.

The expiry of the lease of part of the college property in 1989 released further basement space, facilitating the amalgamation of these collections and their housing in the basement as one unified Angus Library. A research room was provided for research students, scholars and visitors. Also in 1989, the Baptist Missionary Society and the Baptist Union relocated to new offices in Didcot, resulting in a proposal to transfer the archives and part of the library of the Baptist Missionary Society to Regent's Park College as well, thus making one central repository of Baptist archives and source material for the study of Baptist history in the UK.