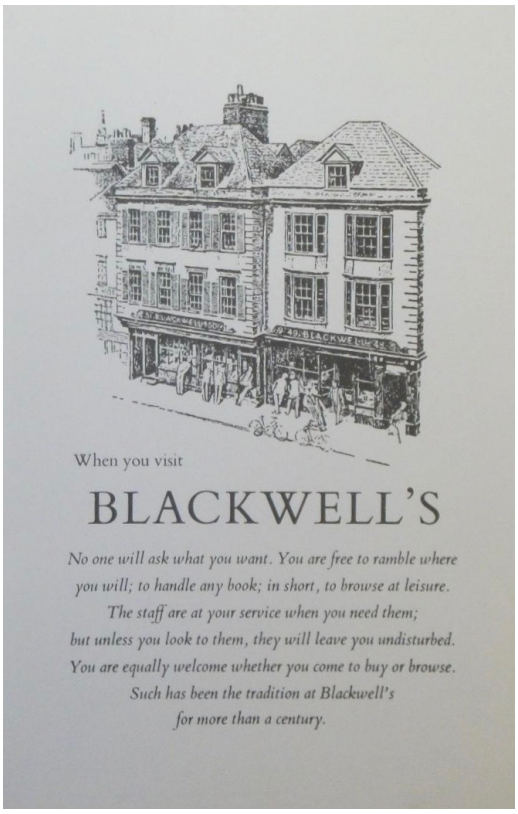
15. Blackwell's



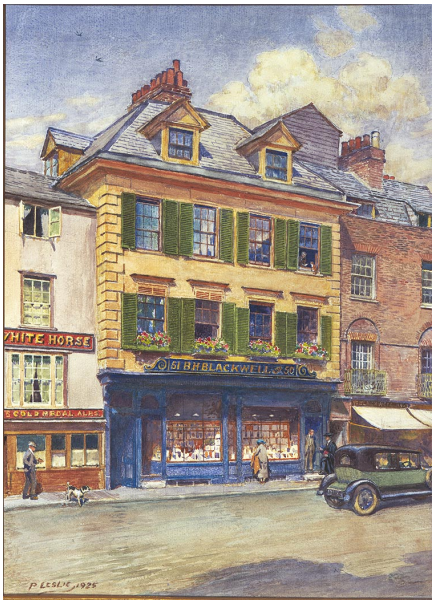
To gain a sense of what Blackwell's was and still is look at the picture above. I took it in 2019 from the second floor of the shop through a bay window overlooking Broad Street. The small group of Greek models - a trireme, a helmet and a fallen warrior - set against the backdrop of the Sheldonian Theater (see Button 6). They were placed there to promote some book about Greek history. The simplicity, the aesthetic and the understatement all fuse to reinforce Blackwell's as *the* Oxford bookshop. In addition to the world famous Norrington Room, with its three miles of shelving, there is a vibrant second hand department. I have



Blackwell's map of Oxford

found many old friends on its shelves. The spirit of the shop is captured in the paragraph on the cover of Blackwell's map of Oxford.

Whilst we were in Oxford Nancy and I had a friend, Roger, who made his living buying books in several of Oxford's second hand book stores and then selling them on to Blackwell's at a profit. He had, of course, a good eye. He was a picker. I remember he invited us to dinner one evening at his flat on the Banbury Road. I think we were about ten people. He had bought a chicken and had asked Alice Liddell's granddaughter to do the cooking. I think she contemplated going to the Natural History Museum (see Button 13) and swiping the mummified head of the dodo to supplement the meagre rations. Nevertheless a fine time was had by all.



Next door to Blackwell's is one of Nancy and my favorite pubs - The White Horse. Dating from the 16th century it is sandwiched between Blackwell's main shop and its music shop. It is small and intimate and serves excellent pub food. It warms our heart because it was also frequented by Inspector Morse and features in many of the television series. Here are Nancy and I beneath Morse's watchful eye.

