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THE kindness of the Master and Fellows of Jesus College enables me to lay before the public for the first time a Catalogue of the Manuscripts belonging to the College. The only previous attempt is a list of seven volumes in Thomas James's *Ecloga Oxonio-Cantabrigiensis* (1600, p. 137): reprinted by Bernard in 1697: there is also a brief note in Halliwell's *Manuscript Rarities of the University of Cambridge* (1841, p. 173). Uffenbach (*Merkwürdige Reisen*, iii. 75) was unable to obtain access to the manuscripts.

The collection is mainly the gift of one donor, Thomas Man (B.A. 1674, M.A. 1678, M.D. 1687), Fellow of the College, and Vicar of Northallerton (see no. 8). More than fifty manuscripts were given by him, and a majority of these came from Durham Priory. Other northern monasteries, e.g. Hexham, Rievaulx, and Kirkstall, are also represented. Though not containing anything of surpassing importance, the collection is an interesting one enough. There is little good illuminated work, save in one Bible (no. 11). The Medical MSS. are fairly numerous. Probably the most attractive items in the Library are the early fragments in no. 5, the English passages in no. 13, the palimpsest Anglo-Saxon Homilies in no. 15, the Bury *Formulae* (no. 18), a French hymn (no. 21), the Psalter (no. 23), the Priscian (no. 28), the Rievaulx Catalogue (no. 34), the French *Lapidaire* (no. 44), the Story of the Death of Judas (no. 46), the Wycliffite Gospels and New Testament (nos. 30, 47), the Obituary Roll in no. 55, Lydgate and

1 This *Lapidaire* does not correspond with any of the texts printed by M. L. Panier in the *Bibliothèque des Hautes Études*. 
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PREFACE.

Cato (no. 56), a list of books in no. 57, and the Chronicles (no. 58). As a specimen of writing, the volume by the scribe Emylton (no. 70) is very noteworthy.

On the remarkable and beautiful room in which the manuscripts are preserved, the reader should consult Willis and Clark’s *Architectural History of the University of Cambridge* (ii. 165, iii. 460).

I should like, in conclusion, to express my particular obligations to the Librarian of the College, the Rev. F. J. Foakes-Jackson, who has been most kind in affording me access to the manuscripts under his charge.

M. R. JAMES.