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978-1-108-00036-9 - *Athenae Cantabrigienses*, Volume 1: 1500-1585

Edited by Charles Henry Cooper and T. Cooper

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Athenae Cantabrigienses

The *Athenae Cantabrigienses* was the most ambitious of several large writing projects undertaken by Charles Henry Cooper, a keen historian, successful lawyer and town clerk of Cambridge in the mid-nineteenth century. He enlisted the help of his elder son, Thompson Cooper, for this book, a collection of carefully-researched biographies of distinguished figures with Cambridge connections, inspired by Anthony Wood's *Athenae Oxonienses* (1692). Two volumes were published during Cooper senior's lifetime, but only 60 pages of the third volume (ending in 1611) appeared in print, and he died leaving an enormous quantity of notes. Even in its incomplete state, the work contains about seven thousand biographies; their subjects include clergymen, military commanders, judges, artists, scholars and benefactors of the University. Volume 1, published in 1858, covers the period 1500-1585. This reissue also includes the original prospectus for the publishing project, which was financed by private subscription.

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Athenae Cantabrigienses

VOLUME 1: 1500-1585

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CAMBRIDGE, May, 1857.

*Preparing for Publication.***Athenae Cantabrigienses,**

BY C. H. COOPER, F.S.A.

(Author of The Annals of Cambridge)

AND

THOMPSON COOPER.

THIS work is intended to illustrate the Biography of the authors and other notable and eminent men who have been members of the University of Cambridge.

Such a work has long been felt to be a desideratum. Collections with a view to a publication on the subject were made by Henry Sampson, M.D., some time Fellow of Pembroke Hall, who died about 1705. He urged the task on Strype, who declined it on the supposition, which was unfortunately not realised, that it would be undertaken by the learned Thomas Baker, of St. John's College. About 1715 Morris Drake Morris, Esq., Fellow-commoner of Trinity College, began a work on the Biography of the University, under the above title. Similar collections were made by Dr. William Richardson, Master of Emmanuel College (1736-1775), and the Rev. William Cole, F.S.A., of King's College, who died 1782. The manuscripts of Mr. Morris, Dr. Richardson, and Mr. Cole are available, and many curious facts will be derived from them and from the extensive and valuable manuscripts of Mr. Baker. In addition to these and other similar sources of information, much use will be made of various printed books, some of which are but little known. Several distinguished members of the University, and other gentlemen especially conversant with biographical and historical literature, have also kindly promised their assistance.

A chronological arrangement, commencing with the year 1500, will be adopted.

The number of Lives will be about seven thousand. It is of course somewhat difficult to form a complete classification, but the following enumeration may serve to show the comprehensive character of the work. 1. Authors. 2. Cardinals,

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Archbishops, Bishops, Abbots and Heads of Religious Houses and other Church Dignitaries. 3. Statesmen, Diplomats, Military and Naval Commanders. 4. Judges and eminent Practitioners of the Civil or Common Law. 5. Sufferers for religious or political opinions. 6. Persons distinguished for success in Tuition. 7. Eminent Physicians and Medical Practitioners. 8. Artists, Musicians, and Heralds. 9. Heads of Colleges, Professors, and principal Officers of the University. 10. Special Benefactors to the University and Colleges, or to the Public at large.

Much attention will be paid to bibliography, especially as regards the works of the somewhat considerable number of persons whose lives have never been published at all, or of whom but scattered and imperfect notices have hitherto appeared. With respect to the more important persons whose lives have been published, either in a separate form or in well-known standard works, and as to whom no additional facts of importance can be supplied, brevity combined with perspicuity will be studied. Of some persons but brief notices can be given, and there are not a few of whom any lengthened account can hardly be required. To every life, however, will be appended the authorities on which it is grounded, so that the accuracy of the work may be tested, and those readers who require additional information may be guided in the attainment of the same.

It is intended to publish in octavo volumes, closely but clearly printed in columns, each volume containing about 600 pages. The price of each volume will be eighteen shillings. Every volume will form a complete work and have an Index. No subscriber therefore need be under obligation to take more than one volume.

The First Volume will be ready in October, 1857.

Gentlemen wishing to subscribe are desired forthwith to communicate either directly or through their booksellers to the Publishers.

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* * * *Subscribers sending their names direct and paying 16s. in advance, will receive a volume as soon as published, free of carriage.*

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ATHENAE CANTABRIGIENSES.

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Athenae Cantabrigienses.

BY

CHARLES HENRY COOPER, F.S.A.

AND

THOMPSON COOPER.

VOLUME I.

1500—1585.

CAMBRIDGE :

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TO

THE RIGHT HON. THOMAS BABINGTON LORD MACAULAY

This Volume is

(BY PERMISSION)

MOST RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED.

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WE cannot submit this volume to the public without tendering our thanks to the Syndicate of the University library for unrestrained access to the noble collections there deposited. We must also express our sense of the courtesy of the Rev. Joseph Power, M.A., and Henry Bradshaw, esq., M.A. librarians. The latter gentleman has rendered us essential assistance with respect to various matters connected with Irish history and literature.

Our thanks are also due to the Reverend the Master and Fellows of S. John's college for the loan of their copy of Mr. Baker's MS. History of that society.

From the Rev. Joseph Romilly, M.A., registry of the university, we have received much valuable information, communicated with such alacrity and urbanity as greatly to enhance our obligations.

The Rev. John Eyton Bickersteth Mayor, M.A. fellow of S. John's college, has favoured us with the use of many rare books, and of his own extensive collections relative to the literature of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. He has moreover obliged us with valuable suggestions and numerous useful and curious references.

We beg to thank the Rev. George Elwes Corrie, D.D. master of Jesus college, and the Rev. William George Searle, M.A. fellow of Queens' college, for the loan of MS. Lists of the fellows of their respective societies.

W. Munk, esq., M.D. has furnished us with copious extracts from his MS. Roll of the College of Physicians, and has

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cheerfully and promptly responded to various enquiries respecting members of the medical profession.

For other assistance in the compilation of this volume and of those which are to follow, we are under obligations to the Rev. Gilbert Ainslie, D.D. master of Pembroke college; Charles Cardale Babington, esq., M.A. of S. John's college; the Rev. Churchill Babington, B.D. fellow of S. John's college; the Rev. Samuel Banks, M.A. rector of Cottenham; the Rev. William Henry Bateson, D.D. master of S. John's college; the Rev. John Rouse Bloxam, D.D. fellow and librarian of Magdalen college Oxford; John Nurse Chadwick, esq. of King's Lynn; the Rev. Henry Wilkinson Cookson, D.D. master of S. Peter's college; William Durrant Cooper, esq. F.S.A.; George Richard Corner, esq. F.S.A.; the Rev. George Henry Dashwood, M.A., F.S.A. vicar of Stow Bardolph; the Rev. Joseph Edleston, M.A. one of the senior fellows of Trinity college; Edward Foss, esq. F.S.A.; the Rev. John Glover, M.A. of Trinity college; James Orchard Halliwell, esq. F.S.A.; William Hannay, esq. acting town-clerk of Warwick; the Rev. W. B. Hopkins, M.A. vicar of Wisbech S. Peter; Thomas William King, esq., F.S.A. York herald; John Halsey Law, esq., M.A. fellow of King's college; the Rev. Henry Richards Luard, M.A. fellow and tutor of Trinity college; Thomas C. Mossom Meekins, esq.; Mr. serjeant Merrewether town-clerk of London; John Gough Nichols, esq. F.S.A.; the Rev. George Oliver, D.D. of Exeter; the Rev. Henry Philpott, D.D. master of S. Catharine's college; the Rev. John Birch Reynardson, M.A.; the Rev. Charles Best Robinson, B.A.; the Rev. Hastings Robinson, D.D., F.S.A. rector of Great Warley; the Rev. Adam Sedgwick, M.A. Woodwardian professor; the Rev. Edward Ventris, M.A.; and the Rev. John Ward, M.A. rector of Wath.

CAMBRIDGE,

1st October, 1858.

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INTRODUCTION.

NOTWITHSTANDING the somewhat narrow views, the inveterate prejudices, and the peculiar and occasionally uncouth language of Anthony a Wood, it cannot, we think, be denied that his *Athenæ Oxonienses* was felicitously designed, and executed with no mean ability. As this book reflected great lustre on the university of Oxford, it was naturally expected that a work of a similar character, devoted especially to the university of Cambridge, would follow in due course; indeed, the author of the Introduction to the second volume threw down a generous challenge “to some good Antiquary of the other University.”

Henry Sampson, ejected from a fellowship at Pembroke hall for nonconformity 1662 and who subsequently for many years practised physic with reputation and success, appears to have made some collections for a history of the eminent men of this university.

Mr. Strype, in a letter to Ralph Thoresby, dated 4th August, 1709, remarks:—

I perceive you have had the use of some of the manuscripts of Dr. Sampson. While he was alive he would have put me upon a task to write the history of the eminent men, and especially writers, of the University of Cambridge, and told me he had made great collections that would be serviceable that way. There is one of Cambridge now, an able man, that had been making collections divers years for that purpose. I wish he had the perusal of those papers. He is now in London, and, if I knew in whose hands Dr. Sampson's manuscripts were, I would endeavour to procure those collections for him to use. (1)

The able man to whom Strype refers was, no doubt, the Rev. Thomas Baker, of St. John's college. Drake, in his *Eboracum*, (1) says

(1) Thoresby's Letters, ii. 191.

(2) p. 378.

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that a history of the Cambridge writers was much expected from Mr. Baker, whom he with justice designates as “that great antiquary.” It may be doubted however whether Mr. Baker ever purposed such a work. Certain it is that in a letter from him to Mr. Rawlins, of Pophill, dated 23rd August, 1735, the following passage occurs :

To your inquiry concerning *Athenæ Cantabrigienses* I can give you no sure account, only it is certain Mr. Richardson is making collections towards such a work, and I have furnished him with somewhat towards this college. (1)

Mr. Baker’s valuable MSS. contain many important materials for an *Athenæ Cantabrigienses*; but the want of arrangement in these collections and the unfortunate circumstance that some of the volumes are at Cambridge and others in the British Museum greatly augment the labour connected with their use.

Mr. Morris Drake Morris, a fellow-commoner of Trinity college, compiled lives of the most illustrious men educated in the university from the foundation thereof unto the year 1715, collected from Bale, Pits, Fuller, Lloyd, Wood, Calamy, Walker, &c., in two volumes. The first volume, containing 534 pages, comprises the lives of the archbishops and bishops educated at Cambridge, with a complete index of names and a very large number of engraved portraits; the second volume contains the lives of learned men in general, and is entitled *Athenæ Cantabrigienses*. Only 319 pages are filled. There are a few portraits, and it has an index containing the names of those intended to be mentioned, as well as of those whose lives are given. These manuscripts he gave to Lord Harley, afterwards earl of Oxford, and they are now in the Harleian collection. (2)

Dr. William Richardson, master of Emmanuel college (1736—1775), the learned editor of *Godwin De Præsulibus* (and the gentleman mentioned by Mr. Baker), made collections for *Athenæ Cantabrigienses* in a folio volume without an index, preserved in the university library. (3) The number of persons noticed by Dr. Richardson is only about 350. The general utility of this volume is diminished by the use of short-hand and of symbols not easily interpreted. Cole used Dr. Richardson’s collections, but could not master the stenography. Dr. Richardson made other collections on the subject, which have been lost.

(1) *Masters’ Life of Baker*, 31.

(2) No. 7176, 7177.

(3) Ff. 3. 32.

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To Dr. Richardson also we owe the compilation of a Catalogue of the graduates of the university from 1500 to 1735, with certain additions extending to 1745. This is a work of vast labour and no slight utility. Unfortunately however it cannot always be depended upon, as it is clear that Dr. Richardson read old writing but imperfectly, which circumstance has led him into many errors.

A notice of the first edition of *Graduati Cantabrigienses* in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for March 1787 thus commences :

The University of Cambridge have *at last* exerted themselves to bring to light a Catalogue of their Graduates * * * * Whether the indolence of her members will ever be so far surmounted as to give us anything like "*Athenae Cantabrigienses*" time must shew. There are not wanting materials in Mr. Baker's excellent volumes; and perhaps, by the time Mr. Cole's collections are unlocked some antiquary now in infancy may attempt the Herculean task. (1)

Mr. Cole, to whose collections allusion is thus made, was the Rev. William Cole, of Milton near Cambridge, who was originally of Clare hall but removed to King's college. He died in 1782, bequeathing his vast and multifarious manuscript collections to the British Museum, with an injunction that they should not be opened till twenty years after his death. One of his great objects was the compilation of an *Athenae Cantabrigienses*.

After thirty years' labour he thus records his bitter disappointment :

In good truth, whoever undertakes the drudgery of an *Athenae Cantabrigienses*, must be contented with no prospect of credit or reputation to himself; and with the mortifying reflection, that after all his pains and study through life, he must be looked upon in an humble light, and only as a journeyman to Anthony Wood, whose excellent book of the same sort will ever preclude any other, who shall follow him in the same track, from all hopes of fame; and will only represent him as an imitator of so original a pattern. For at this time of day, all great characters, both Cantabrigians and Oxonians, are already published to the world, either in his books, or various others: so that the collection, unless the same characters are re-printed here, must be made up of second rate persons, and the refuse of authorship. However, as I have begun, and made so large a progress in this undertaking, it is death to think of leaving it off, though from the former considerations so little credit is to be expected from it.

W. COLE, May 17, 1777.

A year later, after quoting Dr. Johnson's striking reflections(2) on the tendency of antiquaries to forget the brevity of human life, he proceeds to remark :

However reasonable the observation may be there may be many palliatives in

(1) *Gent. Mag.* lvii. part. i. p. 247.

(2) *Rambler*, No. 71.

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favour of the dilatory Antiquary. It is to be presumed he would make his work as perfect as he could; collect all the materials necessary for that purpose: in the mean time years slide from under us, and we leave our collections to others to piece together, who have not had the drudgery to collect, but have all ready to their hands. This is exactly my own case in respect to this Work, and the history of the County. I hope my industry will fall into the hands of a judicious brother Antiquary, who will make a proper use of them, when I am no more.

W. COLE, May 28, 1778.

Whilst we freely admit that Mr. Cole's voluminous collections have in many instances been very serviceable, we cannot but think that he was disposed rather to overrate the value of his materials. He certainly fell into the error pointed out by Dr. Johnson. He amassed more than he could digest.

Mr. Cole had the industry of Wood without his common sense. He affected Wood's prejudices, but the prejudices of Wood are to a great extent respectable; those of Cole are simply ridiculous.

Mr. Bruce in his introduction(1) to Sir John Hayward's *Annals* of the first four years of the reign of Queen Elizabeth adverts to the non-existence of an Athenæ Cantabrigienses as being daily more and more deplored. A similar sentiment is expressed by the editors of the *Churches of Cambridgeshire*.(2)

The publication of an Athenæ Cantabrigienses was one of the projects of the Ecclesiastical History Society, upon the dissolution of which Mr. Halliwell sent a communication to the Cambridge Antiquarian Society (3 May, 1852), in which he stated that he despaired, for the present, of the production of such a work, and suggested the publication of a limited impression of Cole's manuscript Athenæ.(3) This occasioned another communication to the Society (18 April, 1853), by the Rev. J. J. Smith, M.A. of Caius college.(4) Mr. Smith considered Mr. Halliwell took too desponding a view of the matter; and, after pointing out the most palpable sources of information, strongly pressed the resident members of the university to turn their attention to the subject, and, by the publication of the work, raise an enduring memorial to the honour of their Alma Mater.

Upon consideration of all the circumstances it appeared to us that the difficulties of the undertaking although not slight were not insuperable, and we therefore determined to attempt a work which

(1) Dated 31 Oct. 1839.

(3) Communication to Camb. Antiq. Soc. i. 49.

(2) p. 84.

(4) Ibid. 65.

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should comprehend notices of: 1. Authors. 2. Cardinals, archbishops, bishops, abbats, heads of religious houses and other church dignitaries. 3. Statesmen, diplomatists, military and naval commanders. 4. Judges and eminent practitioners of the civil or common Law. 5. Sufferers for religious or political opinions. 6. Persons distinguished for success in tuition. 7. Eminent physicians and medical practitioners. 8. Artists, musicians, and heralds. 9. Heads of colleges, professors, and principal officers of the university. 10. Benefactors to the university and colleges, or to the public at large.

This scheme is more comprehensive than Wood's. It must however be observed that although he avowedly gives only the lives of eminent writers and of bishops; yet in his *Fasti*, the interest and utility of which seem to be generally acknowledged, he notices many persons who do not come within either of the specified classes.

For various reasons which it can hardly be necessary to particularise it appeared to us that the year 1500 was convenient as a point of commencement.

Three modes of arrangement suggested themselves:

- (i) Alphabetically. The most convenient undoubtedly for reference, but nearly useless for any other purpose, and unpleasant and repulsive to the general reader.
- (ii) By colleges. But in many, especially the earlier cases, the colleges are unknown or uncertain, and even in comparatively recent times degrees have been conferred on persons who are not recorded as of any particular college. In several cases also the same individual has been of two, three, and even four colleges.
- (iii) Chronologically, the date of death when known or capable of calculation being adopted, and in the remaining cases the latest date at which the party is known to have been living. There are obvious advantages attending this mode of arrangement. The work is better adapted for continuous perusal. If, from any cause its progress should be suspended, the portion actually executed will possess a certain extent of completeness. Lastly, it may be continued from time to time as occasion may require.

Upon the whole the advantages of a chronological arrangement appeared so decisive that we resolved upon its adoption.

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The copious references which we have given will enable the accuracy of the work to be tested, and guide those readers who require additional information to the attainment of the same.

We trust that it may be considered that we have diligently used all available sources of information, and performed our task without regard to personal or party considerations.