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978-1-108-00237-0 - Archives of the University of Cambridge: An Historical Introduction

Heather E. Peek and Catherine P. Hall

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THE
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AN HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION

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PREFACE

It is now nearly fifty years since the Oxford University Press published *A Lecture on the History of the University Archives*, based on one which R. L. Poole, at that time keeper of the archives in the university of Oxford, had given in the Ashmolean Museum. No corresponding account of the archives of Cambridge university has hitherto been published, and this volume is in part an attempt to supply that deficiency. An account of the growth of, and vicissitudes of fortune suffered by, the university muniments in the six centuries of their recorded history, given as a lecture to the Cambridge Antiquarian Society in 1951 by Mrs C. P. Hall, forms the genesis of Part I.

Part II has its origin in a summary guide to the university archives, planned by Miss H. E. Peek, which should set each of the main groups of records within its context of the ancient practice, policies, and traditional ceremonies of the university. The present survey attempts to show the development of the more important classes of archives and their place in the workings of the administration which produced them. It is supplemented by a brief conspectus of the classes mentioned and their covering dates and by a list of muniments of title to landed property, arranged topographically. Finally, a bibliography indicates which records have already been printed *in extenso* or in calendar form, and gives a selection, mainly of modern works, which have drawn upon them for source material.

We wish to thank Professor B. Dickins, Professor M. D. Knowles, Mr W. A. Pantin, Sir Sydney Roberts, and Mr John Saltmarsh for their kindness in reading the whole of the text, and for suggesting various improvements, and Professor Dickins for reading the proofs. To Dr J. P. C. Roach we owe a special debt of gratitude. He has given unsparingly both of his time and of his wide knowledge of the history of the university, and his helpful suggestions have saved us from many pitfalls. We are most grateful to Mr H. C. Whalley-Tooker for reading the chapters on the Records of the University Courts and the Records of University Jurisdiction in the Town of Cambridge; to Dr D. F. McKenzie for help with the chapter on the Press; to Mr C. K. Phillips, deputy treasurer, and Mr A. D. Austin,

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the treasurer's clerk, for their kindness in reading the chapter on the financial records; to Mr L. C. Hector of the Public Record Office, London, who has given ready assistance over one or two problems connected with the presentation of the illustrations, and to Mr W. G. Rawlings, of the University Library, who has handled the photography with his customary care and skill. We are grateful also to Miss M. E. Raven, assistant to the keeper, for her patience and help with much detailed checking, and to Miss J. M. Lipscombe of the University Registry, and the staff of the General Board for much help with the typing. Two members of our respective families, Mrs Veronica D. Hughes and Mr P. G. Hall, deserve our gratitude for their encouragement and forbearance over the long period of the book's preparation. We wish also to express our gratitude to the publishers for all the trouble and care which they have taken while the book has been going through the press.

1 December 1961

H. E. P.

C. P. H.