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The ‘Gate of Virtue’, Gonville and Caius College; west side
Architecture in Cambridge

Examples of English architectural styles 
from Saxon to Modern times

by

THEODORE FYFE
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in the University of Cambridge

with an Introduction and fifty-four illustrations

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To the Memory of

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This book may enable the architecturally-minded visitor to Cambridge—who has more leisure than can be afforded in a brief inspection—to realise the value of the Town and University for illustrating the sequence of styles in English architecture; for which purpose, the series of thirty-one Plates and Descriptions of subjects from Cambridge has been augmented by an Introduction dealing with England as a whole. In this, again, subjects from Cambridge have been used for the most part, though no excuse should be required for the frequent reference to Ely Cathedral; and only by its inclusion with Cambridge can Gothic architecture, as a whole, be adequately explained.

The examples have been selected as typical of the more important aspects of architectural style, without consideration of the inclusion of all the Colleges; the only explanation that need be offered for the omission of Magdalene and Sidney Sussex. A more solid objection might be maintained to the omission of one of the timber-framed domestic buildings in the Town; but these buildings show rather a phase of construction than of style, belonging to a type which was widely prevalent and unvarying in essentials.

There have been so many books on Cambridge that I may, perhaps, be excused for not mentioning any of them except Willis and Clark’s great work, and the late J. W. Clark’s A Concise Guide to the Town and University of Cambridge, now in its eleventh edition; to these, and to the former in particular, I have been much indebted. The present work was begun many years ago and has been laid aside more than once, but it has been a labour of love and the illustrations,
with their many deficiencies, were all drawn on the spot by myself. I have inscribed it to the Memory of the late Sir Albert Seward, who, when he was Master of Downing, was actually responsible for its inception and general form. Shortly before his death, he accepted its dedication to himself. In the early stages of production, without his enthusiasm for its main purpose, the book might never have been realised.

I wish to thank Mr Hugh Easton for encouragement and advice about the illustrations; Dr Ellis Minns for information about Pembroke College; Mr W. Parker Dyson for reading through the Introduction; and my son-in-law, Captain Michael Gillilan, for reading through the Descriptions of the Plates. In addition, I wish to express my deep indebtedness to the Staff of the Cambridge University Press; particularly to Mr W. Lewis, the University Printer.

THEODORE FYFE

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