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Contemporary Documents

A. H. Lloyd
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Henry the Sixth

from the medieval glass in the College Chapel

Emery Walker Ltd. p. 6 v.

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THE EARLY HISTORY OF
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CAMBRIDGE

derived from contemporary documents

by

A. H. LLOYD

sometime Fellow-Commoner of
the College

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PRINTED IN GREAT BRITAIN

PREFACE

To the University generally, Christ's College is known as an institution founded by the Lady Margaret, and with very few exceptions members of the college themselves would be startled to learn that in 1505 it was almost seventy years old, though the formal title, given by its charter in 1505 at the request of the Lady Margaret, makes the actual position clear enough when it opens 'Christ's College by Henry the sixth King of England first begun'.

The history of the college from 1505 has been written by Dr John Peile (Master 1887 to 1910), but he gives the earlier period, prior to 1505, no more than eight pages, in the course of which he refers to 'The few documents concerning God's House which I have found in the Muniment Room'. It is the history of the college before 1505 that is here portrayed and it is drawn entirely from contemporary documents. In the main, the muniments of which use has been made have been discovered in the ownership of the college; they must be more numerous than Dr Peile has supposed, for I have examined at least 200, all of which are earlier than the charter of Henry the Seventh. In addition, the muniments of the University Registry, Trinity Hall, Clare, Corpus Christi, King's and Trinity Colleges have yielded information of greater or smaller importance, and the archives of the borough of Cambridge have been examined with some little success. Outside Cambridge, documents of value for the history of the college have been found in the Public Record Office, in the Diocesan Registries of Ely and Lincoln, in the Principal Probate Registry at Somerset House, and amongst the University Wills preserved in the District Probate Registry at Peterborough. The Bishop of London's Registers were examined with no result, but the records of the Dean and Chapter of St Paul's and the Court of Husting, Guildhall, each yielded something, as did the Cambridge documents found in the Bodleian Library. The manuscript collections of Baker and Cole in the British Museum, and of Baker and Adam Wall in the University Library, have been searched, but no use has been made of any statement of those writers

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PREFACE

unless it could be tested by examination of the contemporary document upon which it purported to be based. I have regarded as official and authoritative the three volumes of *Documents relating to the University and Colleges of Cambridge*, 1852, and, except in the case of the documents there published concerning Godshouse and Christ's College (of which I have read and transcribed the originals, both those preserved in the college and those only to be found in the national archives), I have not thought it necessary to trouble the caretakers of the documents to produce the parchments. I have drawn upon various printed sources in my endeavour to provide a suitable background, social, political and educational, against which the history of the college in the fifteenth century might be better seen and interpreted. Usually it has not been necessary to go behind such printed matter when it is commonly regarded as of high repute but, where confirmation seemed to be desirable, it has been sought in examination of original documents. In dealing with the history of other institutions, such as alien priories, and with persons not members of Godshouse I have here and there found reason to regard existing printed accounts as being incomplete or even inaccurate; in such cases I have gone in search of contemporary evidence and have presented a more complete, corrected or even an entirely new record. Certain explanations of medieval forms, words and procedure have been introduced in the hope that the book may so be made more widely useful to members of the college. The monumental volumes of Willis and Clark have been used with ever-increasing respect and appreciation, but their history of the two sites of Godshouse has been subjected to a close re-examination with the aid of the documents in the muniment rooms of Christ's and King's Colleges. This has enabled me to produce revised site-plans and to fill one or two lacunae whose existence J. W. Clark had recognised, and from those and similar discoveries to shew that parts of the present buildings of the college were erected in the fifteenth century.

The pleasure of writing this preface I find in the opportunity it presents of formal expression of thanks to those upon whose goodwill and knowledge I have drawn in the course of the research upon which the book is based, though I hope that my private expressions have

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already assured them of my sincere sense of gratitude. My thanks are due before all to the college for very special facilities given to me for that close study of the records without which this history could not have been written and, in particular, to the Master and to the bursar for their unfailing consideration. If I do not further elaborate my appreciation of indebtedness to the Master and fellows it is in the hope that they may discover its truest manifestation in the record of the society's earliest history now placed before them.

I have to thank also the governing bodies of Trinity Hall, Clare, Corpus, King's and Trinity Colleges for access to their records and permission to use them so far as they contributed to my results; especially do I thank the custodians in each instance for much kindness and patience. To the Registrar and his courteous staff I am indebted for convenient access to the ancient records in their care. Of friends who by the wealth of their experience have special knowledge of sources of information I must mention particularly Dr G. G. Coulton, F.B.A., Dr W. M. Palmer of Linton and Canon C. W. Foster of Lincoln, whom I have found ever ready to sweep difficulties out of my path. I am indebted to the Syndics of the Press for the use of the Loggan block, which indeed is but one further addition to many courtesies I have received from the officials and the staff. There is one whom I have left until the last. It is difficult for me to give adequate expression of my profound obligation to my daughter, whose deep interest in the progress of the work, delight in each discovery concerning the history of the college, and fertility of suggestion in regard to matters of obscurity have been matched only by her scholarly, efficient and unsparing help in the wearisome labour of reading and re-reading the MS. and the proof, checking of references and making of the index. In particular, I owe her much for her help in the extension of the charters.

A. H. LLOYD

Cambridge

July 1934

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

- Add. MSS.** Additional manuscripts in the British Museum.
- Annals* *Annals of Cambridge*, by Charles Henry Cooper, 5 vols. 1842–52, 1908.
- A. W.** Manuscript Collections of Adam Wall (Fellow of Christ's College 1756–98); preserved in the University Library, Mm. 5.40–54.
- Baker** Manuscript Collections of Thomas Baker (Fellow of St John's College), vols. 1 to 23, Harl. 7028–50, vols. 24 to 42, Univ. Lib.
- Bekynton** *Official Correspondence of Thomas Bekynton* (Chronicles and Memorials), edited by George Williams, 2 vols. 1872.
- Biog. Reg.* *The Biographical Register of Christ's College*, by John Peile, 2 vols. 1911–13.
- Bor. Arch.** The archives of the borough of Cambridge preserved in the Guildhall there.
- Bridges** *The History and Antiquities of Northamptonshire*, by John Bridges, 2 vols. 1791.
- C.C.R.** *Calendar of Close Rolls in the Public Record Office*, with reference to the volume and the page.
- Cal. Pap. Pet.* *Calendars of Papal Registers. Petitions to the Pope*, vol. i, 1342–1419.
- Camb. Plans** *Old Plans of Cambridge*, by John Willis Clark and Arthur Gray, 1921.
- Campbell** *Materials for a History of the Reign of Henry VII* (Chronicles and Memorials), ed. by William Campbell, 2 vols.
- C.A.S.** The Cambridge Antiquarian Society; Proceedings and Communications; Octavo Publications.
- Chr.** Documents preserved in the muniment room of Christ's College, Cambridge, with further reference to the particular drawer in which the document is preserved.
- Badg. = Badgeworth.
 Camb. = Cambridge and Brazen George.
 Fend. = Fendrayton.
 Gh. = Godshouse.
 Help. = Helpston.
 Mast. = Masters' half-yearly accounts.
 Misc. = Miscellaneous.
 Mon. = Monmouth.
 Nav. = Navenby.
 N. Hyk. = North Hykeham.
- Clare** The Master's Old Book, preserved in Clare College muniment room.
- Cole** Manuscript Collections of the Rev. William Cole (1714–82), preserved in the British Museum, Add. MSS. 5798–5887, 5952–5962, 5992–5994, 6034–6035, 6057, 6151, 6396–6402.
- Conf. Ch.** Confirmation Charters in the Public Record Office.
- Conf. Roll** Confirmation Rolls in the Public Record Office.

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- C.P.R.** *Calendar of Patent Rolls* in the Public Record Office, with reference to the volume and the page.
- Crosby** Names of Incumbents in the parishes of the diocese of Ely, extracted from the episcopal registers by Canon Crosby, preserved in the University Library, Cambridge, Add. MS. 6380.
- D.N.B.** *Dictionary of National Biography*.
- Documents** *Documents relating to the University and Colleges of Cambridge*, 3 vols. 1852.
- E.Ch.P.** *Early Chancery Proceedings*, in the Public Record Office, Lists and Indexes, XII.
- E.H.R.** *English Historical Review*.
- Ely** Episcopal Registers of the Diocese of Ely.
- GB.** *Grace Books*, A and B (in two parts), containing the proctors' accounts and other records of the University of Cambridge (C.A.S. Luard Mem. 1897; 1903; 1905); T 1908 and Δ 1910, Cambridge University Press.
- Godfrey** *Notes on the Churches of Nottinghamshire, Hundred of Bingham*, by J. T. Godfrey, 1907.
- Harl.** Harleian manuscripts in the British Museum.
- Harl. Soc.** Publications of the Harleian Society.
- Hennessy** *Novum Repertorium ecclesiasticum parochiale Londinense*, by George Hennessy, 1898.
- Hist. Reg.** *The Historical Register of the University of Cambridge*, ed. by J. R. Tanner, 1917.
- Hostels** *The Mediaeval Hostels of the University of Cambridge*, by the Rev. H. P. Stokes, LL.D., etc. (C.A.S. oct. publ. No. XLIX, 1924).
- King's** Muniments of King's College, Cambridge.
- Lady Margaret** *The Lady Margaret*, by Charles Henry Cooper, 1874.
- Lamb** *A Collection of Letters, etc. from the MS. Library of Corpus Christi College*, by John Lamb, D.D., 1838.
- Linc.** Episcopal Registers of the Diocese of Lincoln.
- Lloyd** Notes upon some Fifteenth Century Masters and Fellows of the College of Clare Hall, by A. H. Lloyd, preserved in the Library of Clare College.
- Lon. Chron.** *A London Chronicle, 1446-50* (Hatfield MSS.), in *E.H.R.*, vol. xxix.
- Masters** *The History of the College of Corpus Christi, Cambridge*, by Robert Masters, 1753.
- Maxwell-Lyte** *Historical Notes on the use of The Great Seal of England*, by Sir Henry Maxwell-Lyte, 1926.
- Memorials** *Memorials of Cambridge*, ed. by Charles Henry Cooper, 3 vols. 1860-6.
- Monasticon** *Monasticon Anglicanum*, by Sir William Dugdale, ed. Caley, Ellis and Bandinell, 6 vols. in 8, 1846.
- Mullinger** *The University of Cambridge, from the earliest times*, by James Bass Mullinger, 2 vols. 1873-84.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

- Muskett *Suffolk Manorial Families*, by Joseph James Muskett, 1900.
- N.E.D. *The New English Dictionary*.
- Newcourt *Repertorium Ecclesiasticum*, by Richard Newcourt, 2 vols. 1708–10.
- Nichols *A Collection of all the Wills... of the Kings, etc. of England*, by John Nichols, 1780.
- Not. Mon. *Notitia Monastica*, by Thomas Tanner, 1744.
- Old Cambridge Plate *An Illustrated Catalogue of the Loan Collection of Plate*, ed. J. E. Foster and T. D. Atkinson, 1896.
- Otryngham The register book of John Otryngham, Master of Michaelhouse, preserved in the muniment room of Trinity College.
- Palmer *Cambridge Borough Documents*, vol. i, ed. by W. M. Palmer, 1931.
- Parker *The History and Antiquities of the University and Colleges of Cambridge*, by Richard Parker, 1721.
- Paston *The Paston Letters*, ed. by James Gairdner, Lib. edn. 1904.
- P.C.C. Prerogative Court of Canterbury, wills, or their transcripts, and administrations, proved or granted therein now preserved in the Principal Probate Registry, Somerset House, London.
- Peile *Christ's College*, by John Peile, Litt.D., 1900.
- Philpott *Documents relating to St Catharine's College*, by Henry Philpott, 1861.
- P.R. Patent Rolls, with reference to regnal year, part (as i, ii, etc.) and membrane (m.).
- Priv. Counc. *Proceedings and Ordinances of the Privy Council of England*, ed. by Sir Nicholas Harris Nicolas, 6 vols.
- P.R.O. Public Record Office.
- Proc. Ind. Proctors' Indentures, being annual audits of the University chest and other chests, cautions, etc., preserved in the University Registry.
- Proc. Soc. Ant. *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of London*.
- Rackham *Early Statutes of Christ's College, Cambridge*, by Harris Rackham, M.A., priv. printed, Cambridge, 1927.
- Rashdall *The Universities of Europe in the Middle Ages*, by Hastings Rashdall, 2 vols. 1895.
- Reg. Reg. *Registrum Regale*. A list of the Provosts of Eton, the Provosts of King's College, etc. Eton, 1847.
- R.H.C. Rolls of the Court of Husting, preserved in Guildhall, London.
- Rot. Parl. *Rotuli Parliamentorum*.
- Sharpe *Calendar of Wills, Court of Husting*, ed. Reginald R. Sharpe, 2 vols. 1889–90.
- St Paul's Muniments of the Dean and Chapter of St Paul's, Chapter Library.
- Stow *Stow's Survey of London*, ed. C. L. Kingsford, 2 vols. 1908.
- Taxatio *Taxatio Ecclesiastica P. Nicolai IV, circa 1291*, printed 1802.
- Test. Ebor. Surtees Society, *Testamenta Eboracensia*, or wills registered at York, ed. J. Raine, 1836.
- Test. Vet. *Testamenta Vetusta*, by Sir Nicholas H. Nicolas, 1826.

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|---------------|---|
| Thoroton | <i>History of Nottinghamshire, Thoroton's</i> , ed. J. Throsby, 3 vols. 1797. |
| Univ. Cal. | <i>The Cambridge University Calendar</i> . |
| Valor Eccles. | <i>Valor Ecclesiasticus temp. Henry VIII</i> . |
| Venn | <i>Alumni Cantabrigienses</i> , by John and J. A. Venn. Part I, 4 vols. 1924–7. |
| Vetus Liber | <i>Vetus Liber Archidiaconi Eliensis</i> , ed. C. L. Feltoe and E. H. Minns (C.A.S. oct. publ. No. XLVIII, 1917). |
| V.C.H. | <i>The Victoria County History</i> . |
| Walker | <i>Biographical Register of Peterhouse, 1284–1616</i> . |
| W. and C. | <i>The Architectural History of the University of Cambridge</i> , by R. Willis and J. W. Clark, 4 vols. 1886. |
| York | The archiepiscopal registers of the diocese of York. |

The volume of a work referred to is indicated by a Roman numeral and the page by arabic figures.

Dates are expressed in terms of the year beginning 1 January.

CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY

1423	June 23	Bynham instituted to the rectory of Carlton Curliou.
1424	May 25	Bynham instituted to the rectory of St John Zachary, London.
1436	August 8	Sara Becket's bond in favour of Godshouse when it shall have been erected. Tyled hostel acquired from Barnwell priory.
1437	July 25	Cat hostel bought.
[1437]		John Langton's petition against Bynham.
[1438]		The mansion of Godshouse built in Milne Street.
[1439]		Bynham's petition for licence to give Godshouse to Clare Hall.
1439	July 13	Licence of the king accordingly.
1442	February 9	Licence to found a completely independent college.
	March 1	Licence in mortmain for its specific endowments.
	June 10	Licence confirming and correcting that of March 1.
1444	August 27	Helpston rectory and land acquired for the use of Godshouse.
1446	June 18	Acquisition of the Tiltey abbey property.
	August 26	Licence to found the college in <i>le Prechour strete</i> .
1447	September 3	The advowson of Fendrayton granted by the king.
1448	March 28	Acquisition of the Denney abbey property.
	April 16	Foundation charter of Godshouse.
1449	January 26	The advowson of Navenby and the hospital of St James of Magna Thurlow granted by the king.
1451	November 17	Bynham's death in London.
1451		John Hurte elected second Proctor.
1456	December 2	Acquisition of the Sempringham property.
1458	October 8	Acquisition of the Herrys tenement.
1458		John Hurte's retirement and William Fallan's succession as third Proctor.
1462	November 4	Confirmation charter of Edward IV.
1464		Fallan's retirement and Basset's succession as fourth Proctor.
1468	August 27	Acquisition of the Fishwick property.
	December 6	Second confirmation charter of Edward IV.
1477		Basset's retirement and Barton's succession as fifth Proctor.
1484	February 9	Confirmation charter of Richard III.
1486	October 25	Confirmation charter of Henry VII.

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CHRONOLOGICAL SUMMARY xvii

- | | |
|------|--|
| 1490 | Syclyng's succession to Barton as sixth Proctor. |
| 1496 | Sealing of the statutes of Godshouse. |
| 1504 | [between March 25 and August 22] Terms of agreement reached between the Lady Margaret and Godshouse. |
| 1505 | May 1 Licence of Henry VII for the continuance and extension of the college. |
| 1506 | October 3 Acceptance of the statutes of the Lady Margaret by the Proctor and fellows of the college. |
| | <i>circa</i> December 1 Death of Syclyng and succession of Wyatt as second Master of Christ's College. |
| 1507 | January 28 Lease of the 'great orchard' from Jesus College. |
| | August 28 Acquisition of the messuage lying between the college and Walls Lane. |
| 1508 | May Wyatt's retirement and his succession by Thompson as third Master of Christ's College. |

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IN
PIAM MEMORIAM
COLLEGII CHRISTI FUNDATORUM TRIUM
MARGARETAE
COMITISSAE RICHMONDIAE ET DERBIAE
HENRICI
REGIS ANGLIAE POST CONQUESTUM SEXTI
WILLELMI BYNGHAM
PERSONAE ECCLESIAE SANCTI JOHANNIS ZACHARIAE LONDINII