

**CATALOGUE OF THE  
MANUSCRIPTS AND MUNIMENTS  
OF ALLEYN'S COLLEGE OF  
GOD'S GIFT AT DULWICH.  
SECOND SERIES**

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Catalogue of the Manuscripts and Muniments of Alleyn's College of God's Gift at Dulwich.  
Second Series by Francis B. Bickley

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**FRANCIS B. BICKLEY**

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*Alleyn's College of God's Gift*  
AT  
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SECOND SERIES

BY  
FRANCIS B. BICKLEY

OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MANUSCRIPTS, BRITISH MUSEUM



PUBLISHED BY THE GOVERNORS

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## INTRODUCTION.

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IN accordance with a resolution of the Board of Governors of Dulwich College this catalogue of Manuscripts and Muniments (2nd series) has been prepared. It was necessitated by the discovery of a number of manuscript books and papers in 1888, several years after the publication of Mr. George F. Warner's *Catalogue of the Manuscripts and Muniments of Alieyn's College of God's Gift at Dulwich*, and the further discovery, last year, of a series of upwards of three hundred deeds, mostly leases of College property, extending from the days of the Founder to the beginning of the last century.

The first find came to light in time to be utilised by Mr. William Young for his *History of Dulwich College*; the discovery was really due to him, and the information he derived from the Register, Exeat, and Private Sittings Books added greatly to the interest and completeness of his work. Many of the newly discovered deeds supplement those calendared by Mr. Warner.

As Mr. Young made great use of the books and papers calendared here, no new light will be found in these pages on the history of the College and its founder; and it is merely left for the present editor to give a brief *résumé* of the contents of the books and papers now catalogued.

MS. 12 July 1935.

They differ very widely in value and importance. Certain of them are essential to a proper understanding and appreciation of the organisation and development of Edward Alleyn's College of God's Gift, while others, worthy of preservation as part of the muniments of the College, have but little interest to-day.

The most important of the records calendared here are : (1) the series of weekly account books kept by the Wardens, which extend, with one break between August 1642 and February 1645[6], from November 1627 to February 1775. This system of keeping strict weekly accounts was inaugurated by Edward Alleyn, who, on September 29, 1617, commenced a Diary and Account Book,<sup>1</sup> which terminated on October 1, 1622. If he continued this custom (as may be reasonably supposed) the next volume is not forthcoming. The day after the founder's death (*i.e.* November 26, 1626) Matthias Alleyn, the then Warden, started a new weekly account book, which came down to November 10, 1627. This volume is included in Mr. Warner's Catalogue (Appendix XXI. p. 343). The first one calendared here bore the inscription '2nd book' on the original cover. In these accounts the Wardens entered every item of expenditure; and, as all payments connected with the College were made by them, these volumes serve not only as a record of prices during a period of 150 years, but, interspersed as the accounts are with memoranda of College business, afford an insight into the management of a corporation that provided for a master, warden, four fellows, twelve poor brethren and sisters, and twelve poor scholars.

(2) The Register Books of Accounts, extending from

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<sup>1</sup> Printed *in extenso* by Mr. Young in his history, and largely quoted by Mr. Warner.



1626 to 1857. These contain the half-yearly statement or balance sheet of the Warden's receipts and expenditure, submitted to the Court of Assistants for audit on March 4 and September 4. The Court of Assistants consisted of the Master and Fellows, with whom were associated the Churchwardens of St. Botolph's Without, Bishopsgate, St. Saviour's, Southwark, and St. Giles's, Cripplegate. At the audit much College business was transacted, and the minutes were recorded in these books.

(3) Private Sittings books, extending from 1729 to 1857. These are the registers of the meetings of the Master, Warden, and Fellows for the transaction of business at other times than the half-yearly audit. At these meetings the churchwardens had no place.

(4) Exeat books, from 1697 to 1820, or notices of intended absences on the part of the Master, Warden, or Fellows. These notices had to be signed by the others before such absences could be taken. Occasional entries of College business are found.

It will be obvious how redolent of the life led in the College these volumes must be. From the precise details of expenditure we learn how the inmates fared ;—that they had pancakes and fritters on Shrove Tuesday (pp. 3, 35), salt fish in Lent (p. 18); that Easter and Christmas were times of feasting (pp. 25, 27); that the Warden regaled himself with a chicken when he was sick (p. 36); that 'piggs petty toves' (p. 39) and tripe and cow-heel (p. 40) varied the beef and mutton; that the making of 'minced' pies required a skilled cook (p. 42); and that Jacob, the regular cook, had to have lessons in making raised paste, at a cost to the College of ten shillings. The election of a Warden was made the occasion of a right royal banquet, at which the old people and poor boys were not forgotten

(pp. 53, 59). Cod, mackerel, pilchards, salmon, and sturgeon were among the edibles provided for the table, washed down with sack, claret, port, and canary.

The career of the twelve poor scholars may be very closely followed. The numerous entries for books show that Homer, Cicero, Virgil, Phædrus, Terence and Ovid formed part of the curriculum, the way being paved by a study of Lily's grammar, Farnaby's Epigrams,<sup>1</sup> Cordier's Colloquies, and Ray's Nomenclator. The entries of a Galtrusius<sup>2</sup> and Wingate's arithmetic indicate another side of the education, while twelve catechisms (p. 4) prove a religious training. Singing was apparently an important feature, if we may judge by the entries respecting the music school, which had its own organ (p. 6); and the singing of the boys in chapel was evidently strengthened by the engagement of one Richard Crane, who was paid five shillings a quarter for his services there (p. 7). The Warden's accounts show us that the boys had brass buttons on their coats (p. 32), and wore flat caps with bands (p. 35).

As the boys became old enough they were generally apprenticed or sent to the University. The apprenticeship indentures preserved (p. 110) only go back to the middle of the eighteenth century, but in 1633 James Palmer was apprenticed to a merchant tailor for a fee of 2*l.*, the College providing the boy with an outfit of two suits of clothes, and thirty years later John Walton was put with a box maker for seven years at the same fee; in 1694 Joseph Wood, who was intended for the University but declined to go, was allowed his choice in the matter, and the Assistants voted thirty pounds for a premium (p. 75).

<sup>1</sup> T. Farnaby, *Florilegium Epigrammatum Græcorum*.

<sup>2</sup> P. Gautruche, *Mathematicæ totius . . . Institutio*.

There are numerous entries of payments for boys who proceeded to the Universities. In 1651 John Brookes, on going to Cambridge, was provided with a gown, clothes, both woollen and linen, books, &c., at a cost of 10*l.* 13*s.* 11*d.* Fifteen years later John Small and William Waitt cost the College between 17*l.* and 18*l.* each for their outfit.

The usual allowance to a student at the University was 4*l.* 10*s.* per quarter, but in 1690 the Court of Assistants allowed Dismaritts 20*l.* a year, and on his declaring a year or two later that he could not subsist on that sum it was increased to 25*l.* (p. 75), and 10*l.* was allowed him for taking his Bachelor's degree, and 17*l.* on taking his M.A.

The care of the College for the boys did not end on their apprenticeship, or at the end of their University career. Some of the latter came back as Fellows, not always, however, with credit; *e.g.* Mr. Benjamin Byres, who was admitted as Fellow preacher, and ultimately expelled the Society. The apprentices received at one time 10*l.*, increased to 25*l.*, 30*l.*, 35*l.*, and 40*l.*, on the satisfactory completion of their indentures; and the cases of James Edwin (p. 94) and Thomas Butcher (p. 96) afford evidence that the College was ever ready to hold out a helping hand to the 'old boys.'

Of the poor brethren and sisters, the old people as they are called, the information is not so full; and what there is is generally to their discredit. In 1655 Dorothy Jenks was expelled for slander (p. 68); old Gifford was fined for being drunk, his second offence, and a few years later was expelled for being married (pp. 86, 87). In 1758 a pair of stocks was ordered to be provided for the use of the poor brethren and sisters, and a year later Elizabeth Carpenter, a poor sister, was fined for being disobedient to the Master; while another, Dorothy Miller, was fined 2*s.* for being drunk on two several occasions, and on a third conviction was put in the