

**EIKON BASILIKE;  
OR, THE  
KING'S BOOK**

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Eikon basilike; or, The king's book by Edward Almack

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**EDWARD ALMACK**

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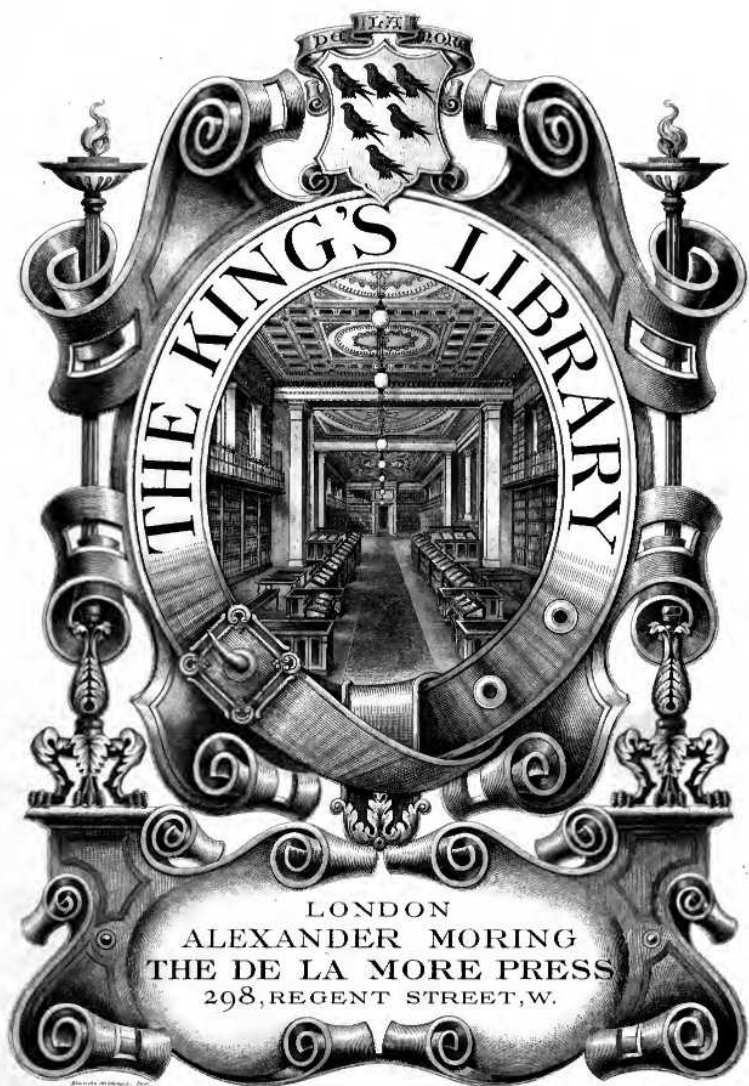
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II. EIKON BASILIKE: OR THE KING'S BOOK



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THE EIKON BASILIKE, from its very first appearance, awakened much sympathy for the King, and the question of its authorship was, of course, disputed; and has been often discussed. A claim to the authorship of the book was set up by Dr. Gauden. In a "Bibliography of the King's Book" (Blades, East & Blades, London, 1896), I expressed my views, and gave the main evidence on both sides.

For comparison with the style of "Eikon Basilike," passages from a book known to have been actually written by Gauden, in 1648, are given on page 13 of the "Bibliography," where they will be found, together with Dr. Christopher's reference to them.

The following are the authorities chiefly quoted in the "Bibliography" (pp. 88-117); they are here mentioned chronologically, as far as possible:—

#### CONTEMPORARY EVIDENCE IN FAVOUR OF THE KING'S AUTHORSHIP:

- 1645.—Dr. Rhodes, Incumbent of Haughton and Thorpe, near Newark (quoted by his widow and son).—HOLLINGWORTH and WAGSTAFFE.  
Captain Wade, of the Parliamentary Army.—HOLLINGWORTH'S *Defence*, p. 22, and WAGSTAFFE'S *Vindication*, p. 98.  
Mr. Reading, in attendance on the King.—WAGSTAFFE.  
Bishop Juxon and Sir John Brattle.—HOLLINGWORTH.  
Colonel Hammond (of Carisbrooke Castle).—WAGSTAFFE'S *Vindication*, p. 100.  
(Also a Letter from DR. MEW, Bishop of Winchester, preserved at Lambeth).
- 1648.—CLARENDON'S *Full Answer to the Parliament Declaration of No More Addresses*, p. 150.  
MILTON, in his *Eikonoklastes*, over and over again refers to "Eikon Basilike" as being written by Charles the First.
- 1649.—*The Princely Pelican* (B.M., 599, c. 21).—Author unknown.  
W. Dugard, the printer's, statement (preserved in the Record Office).—*Bibliography*, p. 6.

- 1649.—EIKΩN 'H ΠΙΣΤΗ, pp. 4 and 8.—Author unknown.
- 1656.—A non-conforming Minister (quoting Major Huntington).—  
HOLLINGWORTH'S *Defence*, p. 21.
- Dr. Robert Hall (quoting Major Huntington),  
and  
Richard Duke, Esq., J.P. } Both corroborated by Sir William  
Courtney (quoted by Dr. Walker), in DR. WORDSWORTH'S *Who  
Wrote Eikon Basilike?* p. 89.
- 1658.—WM. SANDERSON, in the *Life and Reign of King Charles I.*, p. 524.
- 1663.—HEATH'S *Chronicle*.—(Describing Cornet Joyce's seizure of the King at Holdenby).
- 1690.—October 26th.—Statement by Wm. Levet, the King's Page.—  
HOLLINGWORTH, p. 8.
- 1691.—April 29th.—Letter from Wm. Levet to Seymour Bourman, Esq.
- 1692.—July 19th.—Statement of Wm. Read, Archdeacon of Sarum, in THOS. LONG'S *Dr. Walker's True Account*.
- 1693.—Rev. Wm. Cave Beck, in LONG'S *True Account*, p. 36, quoted in HOLLINGWORTH'S *Character of King Charles I.*, p. 27.
- 1699.—May 22nd.—Statement of John Holme, apothecary, reporting Levet, in WAGSTAFFE, p. 87.
- May 12th.—Statement of Sir P. Whichcott, in WAGSTAFFE'S *Vindication*.
- Statement of J. Clifford to Dr. Hollingworth.
- Statement of Robert Hearne, Sir P. Warwick's amanuensis, in HOLLINGWORTH'S *Character of King Charles I.*, p. 9.

#### EVIDENCE IN FAVOUR OF GAUDEN'S AUTHORSHIP.

- 1660.—January 21st (*i.e.*, 1660-1).—Letter from Gauden (Bishop of Exeter) to Clarendon, claiming to have written every word of the book.
- Mrs. Gauden's Narrative, stating that Gauden wrote all except two chapters.
- DR. WALKER'S *True Account of the Author of a Book, entitled, EIKΩN ΒΑΣΙΛΙΚΗ*.
- January 21st.—Letter from the Bishop of Exeter to the Lord Chancellor.
- January 25th.—Letter from the Bishop of Exeter to the Lord Chancellor.

- 1660.—February 20th.—Letter from the Bishop of Exeter to the Lord Chancellor.
- March 6th.—Letter from Gauden (Bishop of Exeter), to the Lord Chancellor.
- St. Thomas's Day.—Letter from the Bishop of Exeter to the Lord Chancellor.—Extract from State papers, CLARENDON, Vol. III., app. (This and the following letters bear on Gauden's preferments).
- Morrow after Xmas Day.—Letter from the Bishop of Exeter to the Lord Chancellor.
- 1661.—December 28th.—Letter from Gauden (Bishop of Exeter), to the Lord Chancellor.
- 1661-2.—March 20th.—Letter from Gauden (Bishop of Exeter), to the Earl of Bristol.
- 1662.—March 26th.—Letter from Gauden (Bishop of Exeter), to the Earl of Bristol.
- March 27th.—Letter from Gauden (Bishop of Exeter), to the Earl of Bristol.
- April 1st.—Letter from Gauden (Bishop of Exeter), to the Earl of Bristol.
- May 1st.—Letter from Gauden (Bishop of Exeter), to the Earl of Bristol.
- July 9th.—Letter from Gauden (Bishop of Worcester), to the Earl of Bristol.
- July 9th.—Letter from Gauden (Bishop of Worcester), to the Earl of Bristol.

According to my view, Charles the First's own Book, "Eikon Basilike: the Pourtraicture of his Sacred Majestie in His Solitudes and Sufferings," was probably handed by the King to the Rev. Edward Symmons, by whom it was taken to Richard Royston, who had it printed by William Dugard. The very first issue bore no printer's or publisher's name, because a rumour of its intended publication had spread; and soldiers were sent to search for and seize it.

The first issue appeared almost before the King's body was cold. Copies were eagerly bought and carefully treasured. Forty-six editions of it were issued in English during the first twelve months of its sale, as well as three editions of it in