

**UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE**

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University college by William Carr

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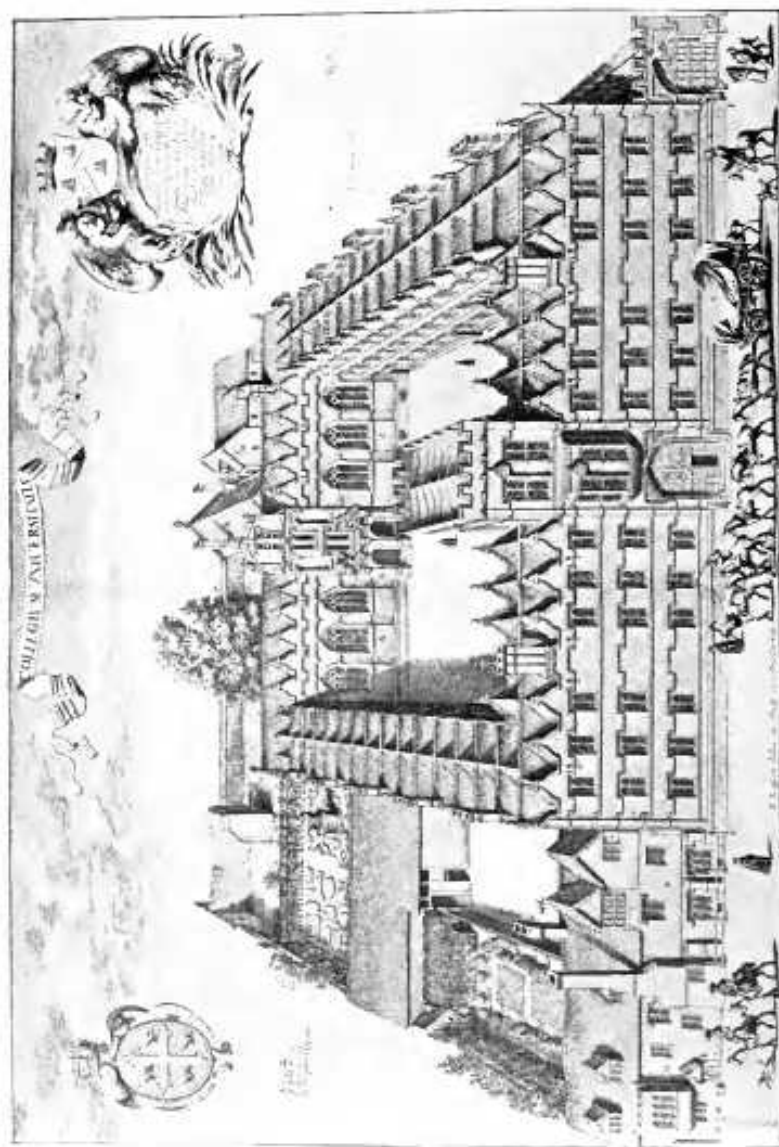
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**WILLIAM CARR**

**UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE**





VIEW BY LOGGAN (c. 1675)

University of Oxford

COLLEGE HISTORIES

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

BY

WILLIAM CARR, M.A.

OF UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, OXFORD

UNIVERSITY OF  
OXFORD

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## PREFACE

SOME apology or explanation for the late appearance of this small book is due to all who are interested in the history of the College. The volume, which might well have been expected as the foremost, is nearly the last to be published in Mr. Robinson's Oxford series. The delay has been occasioned through the fact that the series was already well advanced when the privilege of attempting to deal with a not altogether easy task was accorded to the present writer. My first desire, now that my work is finished, is to confess its many shortcomings and to lament that it is so little worthy of the subject. I have, however, some good reason for expressing the hope that in the not distant future a much more complete history of the College is likely to be produced, free from the restrictions which are necessary to the volumes of a popular series.

The history of University College as I have read it, except during one short period during its long course, is chiefly confined to an account of the slow growth of an institution and the gradual development of its activities, and I have chosen to stick close to this subject, even, I fear, at the risk of wearying the general reader. I have

abstained from attempting to link the history of the College with the history of affairs external to it, for already a skilful use has been made by many of the writers in this series of most of the historical incidents arising out of Oxford academic life. The biographical portion of the book is especially insufficient, and in many cases I have only attempted to call to mind the mere names of distinguished members of the College.

Through the courtesy of the Master and Fellows I have been allowed a very complete access to the College muniment-room. In the muniment-room are eleven thick quarto volumes, containing transcripts of the college documents made by W. Smith. These have proved of the greatest service to me, and though in almost all cases when I quote or make use of any document I have referred to the document itself, I have preferred, for the sake of simplicity in the reference, to refer to the volume of transcripts in which it is contained. The documents in the possession of the College, considering its great antiquity, are somewhat disappointing.

The Bursars' accounts, with the exception of a few years, are complete from 1381 to 1597, and form the main authority for a considerable portion of the earlier history. The register begins in the year 1509, and very useful ledgers containing copies of leases and notes of compositions have been kept from 1588 onwards; only partially complete lists of Fellows and members of the College are in existence before 1660.

In stating dates, I have in all cases followed the modern method of reckoning, and have avoided giving the alternate years in cases where otherwise it would have been necessary.