

**BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES ON
THE LIBRARIANS OF TRINITY
COLLEGE ON SIR EDWARD
STANHOPE'S FOUNDATION**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649427338

Biographical Notes on the Librarians of Trinity College on Sir Edward Stanhope's Foundation by
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Cover @ 2017

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BY
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LIBRARIAN OF TRINITY COLLEGE.



Cambridge:
PRINTED FOR THE CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY.
SOLD BY DEIGHTON, BELL, & CO.,
AND MACMILLAN & BOWES.
1897

HENRICO MONTAGU BUTLER S.T.P.
COLLEGII SS. ET INDIV. TRINITATIS MAGISTRO
LIBELLUM DICAT

R. S.

351822

PREFACE.

A GOOD many years ago I began filling up fragments of time by working out a complete list of my predecessors in the Librarianship of Trinity College, and adding any biographical details concerning them which came in my way. As time went on, the details grew considerably, and ultimately took form in a book, which the Cambridge Antiquarian Society is kind enough to think worth publishing. It is doubtless true that a majority of the Librarians spoken of in the following pages were little known beyond the bounds of their own College and University; still, carefully worked-out details of the past, however trifling, often have an importance indirectly to historical workers, and I am hopeful that some of the points established here may be not without their value.

Moreover, the special character of the Librarianship gives it, I think, an additional interest. It is, to the best of my belief, the only College Librarianship in either University, which forms an integral part of the foundation of its College; and further, the curious provision in the will of the founder, by which the Archbishop of Canterbury was empowered in certain cases to interpose, has more than once led to a curious history¹.

¹ Of course the College would necessarily require some official to take charge of the Library before the Stanhope foundation; but the Library-keeper of those earlier days was evidently merely a College servant, whose position relatively to others is amusingly shown by a Conclusion of 25 Feb. 1604, which rules concerning payments made at graduation to "the two chief Butlers and Tonsor, the Janitor, Chapel-Clerk, and Library-Keeper."

Looking back upon so long a line of predecessors, I have ventured upon the egotism of including the present Librarian. Remembering that now, save for one short break of a few weeks, I have been a member of the foundation of my College for nearly forty years, I could not but wish to link myself on to those who had been Librarians before me.

It was suggested to me that I should begin my book with a memoir of Sir Edward Stanhope. That I have not done so, is due to no lack of respect and gratitude to my "pious founder," but simply to the fact that I have not discovered anything more about him than is contained in the short life given in Cooper's *Athenæ Cantabrigienses*¹, with its accompanying references. It is mainly thence that I draw the following brief epitome of facts.

Edward Stanhope was the fourth, or fourth surviving son of Sir Michael Stanhope, Governor of Kingston-upon-Hull (who was beheaded, 26 Feb. 155½, as an accomplice of his brother-in-law, the Lord-Protector Somerset), by his wife Anne, daughter of Nich. Rawson, Esq., of Aveley in Essex. She died 20 Feb. 158½. He was educated at Trinity College, and was admitted Scholar in 1560 (the College records do not give the date more minutely), Minor Fellow 23 Sept. 1564, and Major Fellow 30 April, 1566. It may be noted that he discharged the following College offices. He was Lector Græcæ Grammaticæ in 1567, Sublector quartus in 1568, Lector Linguae Græcæ in 1570 and Thesaurarius Tertius in 1571-2. He took the degrees of B.A. 156½, M.A. 1566, LL.D. 1575. He supplicated for incorporation as M.A. at Oxford, 6 Sept. 1566², on the occasion of Elizabeth's visit, and as LL.D. on 1 Sept. 1578³.

He was Prebendary of Botevant in York Minster from 25 Nov. 1572 until 9 Aug. 1591⁴. Among those who had held this Prebend before him were John Colet, Dean of St Paul's, and Cuthbert Tunstall, Bishop of Durham. On 5 June, 1577,

¹ Vol. ii., p. 470 f.

² Boase, *Register of the University of Oxford*, vol. i., p. 264.

³ *Ibid.* vol. ii., part 1, p. 849.

⁴ Le Neve-Hardy, vol. iii., p. 177.

he was sworn a Master in Chancery; and not later than 1578, he was appointed Chancellor of the Diocese of London. He became Vicar-General of the province of Canterbury in 1583, was Member of Parliament for Marlborough in 1586, and became Rector of Terrington in 1589. On 31 May, 1591, he was collated to the Prebend of Kentish-Town (or Cantlers) in St Paul's Cathedral¹, and, at a date subsequent to 8 Dec. 1594, he became Chancellor of that Cathedral², in succession to the famous Dr John Dee, who had been one of the original fellows of Trinity College. He was knighted 23 July, 1603; and died 16 March, 1607. He was buried in St Paul's Cathedral, and an inscription drawn up by William Camden was set up to commemorate him on the eastern wall near the great north door³.

An extract of so much of his will as concerned his foundation at Trinity College is contained in the manuscript volume of "Wills and Charters" in the possession of Trinity College. There is also a transcript in the Baker MSS. in the British Museum⁴, and a copy therefrom in the University Library⁵.

Curiously enough, Sir Edward Stanhope had an elder brother, also a Sir Edward Stanhope, and the latter was one of the executors to the will of the former⁶.

I must confess that the combination of lay and clerical functions in the same man and at such a date, struck me as curious—at once a rector and prebendary, and also a knight and M.P. It might indeed be said that the case is one of a lay Rector, but even so the Prebend remains. I was almost

¹ Le Neve-Hardy, ii. 405.

² *Ibid.* ii. 361.

³ The inscription is given in Cooper's *Athens*, l.c.

⁴ Baker MSS., vol. xi., pp. 334 f. (MSS. Harl., 7038).

⁵ Baker MSS., D. 9, pp. 300 f. (*Cat. of MSS. in Lib. of Univ. of Camb.*, vol. v., p. 565).

⁶ This duplication of names must often have caused confusion, and Mr Foster (*Alumni Oxon.* sub nom.) must be in error in speaking of Dr George Stanhope as a son of the Sir Edward Stanhope we are now considering, who seems never to have married, and who devised his estate of Wellwood to the five sons successively of his brother, Sir Edward, George being the third.