

**CAMBRIDGE HISTORICAL  
ESSAYS, NO VII; THOMAS  
OF LONDON BEFORE HIS  
CONSECRATION**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649286447

Cambridge Historical Essays, No VII; Thomas of London before his consecration by Lewis B. Radford

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**LEWIS B. RADFORD**

**CAMBRIDGE HISTORICAL  
ESSAYS, NO VII; THOMAS  
OF LONDON BEFORE HIS  
CONSECRATION**



THOMAS OF LONDON

BEFORE

HIS CONSECRATION.

London: C. J. CLAY AND SONS,  
CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS WAREHOUSE,  
AVE MARIA LANE.

Glasgow: 203, ARGYLE STREET.



Cambridge: DEIGHTON, BELL, AND CO.

Leipzig: F. A. BROCKHAUS.

New York: MACMILLAN AND CO.

HEALE B  
B

Cambridge Historical Essays. No. VII.

---

THOMAS OF LONDON

*Thomas a Becket.*

BEFORE

HIS CONSECRATION.

BY

LEWIS B. RADFORD, M.A.

LATE SCHOLAR OF ST JOHN'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE;  
SECOND MASTER OF WARRINGTON GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

*PRINCE CONSORT DISSERTATION, 1894.*

98447  
22/9/09

Cambridge:

AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS.

1894

[All Rights reserved.]

Cambridge:  
PRINTED BY C. J. CLAY, M.A. AND SONS,  
AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS.



EXTRACT FROM THE REGULATIONS FOR  
THE PRINCE CONSORT PRIZE.

“There shall be established in the University a prize, called the ‘Prince Consort Prize,’ to be awarded for dissertations involving original historical research.”

“The prize shall be open to members of the University who, at the time when their dissertations are sent in, have been admitted to a degree, and are of not more than four years’ standing from admission to their first degree.”

“Those dissertations which the adjudicators declare to be deserving of publication shall be published by the University, singly or in combination, in an uniform series, at the expense of the fund, under such conditions as the Syndics of the University Press shall from time to time determine.”

## INTRODUCTION.

AN attempt has been made in this Essay to present in detail and in order all the valuable information extant as to the life and work of Thomas of London up to his consecration. It is a period of his career which has not received as thorough a treatment as it deserves at the hands of the modern historian. The archbishop has robbed the chancellor of his due. The interest taken in the life of Thomas has centred naturally in the conflict between the primate and the king, and the story of his earlier services in Church and state has been sketched in brief outline, except where the contemporary biographers expatiate on a signal instance of his grandeur, or else it has been viewed too exclusively in the light of a sympathy or antipathy arising from a prior estimate of his subsequent position. It is only sixteen years since the late Regius Professor of Modern History at Oxford in his controversy with Mr Froude appealed in the pages of the *Contemporary Review* for justice to the chancellor, and claimed a fuller investigation for his chancellorship. Much has been done since then in that direction, by Miss Norgate, for instance, in her *England under the*

*Angevin Kings*, in which the figure of Thomas the chancellor stands out boldly in the historical foreground of Henry II.'s reign. But no monograph has yet appeared in response to Prof. Freeman's appeal. A second call has now come from the sister University in the list of optional subjects for the Prince Consort Dissertation of 1894; and this Essay is an answer to the call. It is an attempt to rescue the earlier half of the career of Thomas of London from its position of secondary importance and give it a chance of speaking for itself.

It is difficult to be original in places where much of the ground has been covered so often already, but the attempt has been made, and, it is hoped, not without success. The subject-matter has been increased by the addition, from various sources, of fresh facts which are not found collected together in any existing account of Thomas' life. They will no doubt be recognised as they occur, e.g., in the details of Thomas' education, his ecclesiastical services as clerk to Theobald, and his judicial and financial work as chancellor. There was an obvious opening for originality in the method of arrangement, and it has been utilised, especially in the history of Thomas' chancellorship. This epoch in his life seemed to fall most conveniently under the different heads of military and diplomatic affairs abroad and judicial and financial administration at home, the question of his ecclesiastical policy coming last as an appropriate introduction to the climax,—his promotion to the primacy. This arrangement of course has its defects. The line cannot always be drawn sharply.