

**A REGISTER OF THE MEMBERS OF ST.
MARY MAGDALEN COLLEGE,
OXFORD. FROM THE FOUNDATION
OF THE COLLEGE, NEW SERIES. VOL.
I. FELLOWS; TO THE YEAR 1520**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649061709

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

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WILLIAM DUNN MACRAY

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*A Register of the Members
of St. Mary Magdalen
College, Oxford*

From the Foundation of the College

NEW SERIES

VOL. I

FELLOWS; TO THE YEAR 1520

BY

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FELLOW

RECTOR OF DUCKLINGTON, OXON

London

HENRY FROWDE

OXFORD UNIVERSITY PRESS WAREHOUSE

AMEN CORNER, E.C.

1894

Oxford

HORACE HART, PRINTER TO THE UNIVERSITY

J 3-24-05

PREFACE

IN 1853 the first volume appeared of the *Register of the . . . Members of Saint Mary Magdalen College*, by John Rouse Bloxam, D.D., Fellow and Librarian. This volume contains the Choristers. Vols. II and III, published in 1857 and 1863, contain the Clerks, Chaplains, Organists, Schoolmasters, and Ushers, the second volume having also, by way of introduction, a very full and accurate history of the Chapel and the choral service, with an appendix of extracts from the Bursars' accounts relating to the same. In 1881 appeared the seventh volume of this series, being the fourth and last volume of the *Register of Demies*. A complete index of names in the seven volumes, compiled under the direction of the present writer, was published by the College two years afterwards. The book was the first of its kind; the materials were sought for in records hitherto neglected, or, at any rate, neglected since the time when Chandler wrote his careful and accurate *Life of Waynesflete*; and the spirit which animated the author's researches was that of a true Oxford antiquary, united with an 'amor loci' which could not be exceeded. And while the greater part was in progress many sources of information which have since been laid open, through Catalogues and Calendars and the publications of societies, were unknown or inaccessible.

The seventh volume saw the conclusion of Dr. Bloxam's

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work so far as its appearance in print was concerned. It was work done in a spirit of the most unselfish devotion to the College which he loved, and with patience and perseverance which never flagged. He had removed in 1862 to the College living of Upper Beeding in Sussex, and there for nearly twenty years he pursued his task, rising at 5.30 o'clock in the morning¹, and lighting his fire himself, to sit in his study among his books. But at the age of seventy-four he felt, in 1881, that when his Register of the Demies was complete he could not take up the roll of Fellows. During a friendship of many years I had known the whole course of his work; of all the later volumes, the proof-sheets were sent to me before they were passed for press; and in answer to my suggestion that he should not abandon the work, he said that he looked to me to take up its continuation. But a lighter task he did undertake. He had gathered together a mass of notes and extracts relative to the struggle of the College against James II; these he enlarged and arranged for the Oxford Historical Society, and they appeared in a volume in 1886, with an historical introduction by the Rev. H. R. Bramley, Fellow, of which he justly wrote to me that it was 'very good.' He passed away on January 21, 1891, when wanting little more than two months to complete his eighty-fourth year. When his own biography is written for this *Register* there will be much to say about his intimacy with Cardinal Newman, to whom he had been for a short time Curate at Littlemore, Dr. Pusey, and others of note in the ecclesiastical world.

¹ In a letter to me, dated Feb. 28, 1887, he said: 'My early rising gives me time to add something to my memorial volumes of Cardinal Newman, Pusey, Keble, and others, and also to Magdalen College Collections. *E.g.* this morning, rising as usual at 5.30, I was able after dressing, office, &c., to copy out into the Pusey volume a letter from Dr. Pusey to Lord Ashley in 1841, from the *Life of the Earl of Shaftesbury*.' But May morning always saw him up earlier still. On May 1, 1886, he wrote to me: 'This morning saw me in my study before five o'clock, watching the sun-rise, and joining in the *Te Deum Patrum*.'

His collections for the history of the Fellows and Presidents and non-foundation members were left by him to the College, together with much of his correspondence; and on these collections the present continuation of his *Register* is based. He had drawn out a chronological list, with dates of admission, degrees, &c., and with a few biographical notes interspersed; and my task has been to verify these particulars, and add all that I have been able to find for the filling up of his outline. For this purpose I have gone through all the existing records for the period embraced in this volume, most of which Dr. Bloxam had himself examined, of which I subjoin a list to this preface, no description of them having been given in the former volumes.

The introductory extracts from the bursarial accounts will be found to contain many interesting particulars, while the reports of the Visitations in 1506 and 1520 furnish an unique record, so far I believe as has yet been brought to light with regard to a college, of abuses and of proceedings for their remedy. The spirited action of the Visitor in the former year in suspending a co-bishop from office as President and annulling certain of his latest acts must have come as a very unlooked-for vindication of the Statutes and of his own authority; but a vindication more than justified by the flagrant disorder which seems to have resulted from Mayew's non-residence. The strange charge against Stokesley (afterwards Bishop of London) of baptizing a cat at Collyweston in Northamptonshire, his native place, in the year 1506, is one which from the particularity with which it is brought against him, would seem to have had some foundation, notwithstanding his clearing himself by the oaths of six compurgators; perhaps, as a charge of conjuring is linked with this, he may have done something by way of incantation or charm which suggested a kind of baptism. The manor of Collyweston

was part of the possessions of the Countess Margaret Tudor of Richmond, the mother of Henry VII, and as it is alleged that the charge had been brought against Stokesley before her Council, it is possible that if the records of the proceedings of her officers or of her manorial courts are anywhere preserved, some notice of the case may be discoverable. But the Register of the Bishop of Lincoln contains nothing relating to the case, although one of the informers against Stokesley asserts that he was 'super facto detectus coram domino Lincolnensi episcopo'¹.

The period embraced within the present volume is but a brief one, comparatively few of the Fellows having been previously Demies, and having consequently been already commemorated by Dr. Bloxam. The Statutes made no provision for the election of the higher class of 'Scholares' from the lower. And the unstatutable practice of admitting demies to fellowships by regular succession appears to have sprung up about the commencement of Queen Elizabeth's reign, and to have gradually grown into a claim of right, until discontinued in 1854 by order of the Visitor upon an appeal from the College. As, therefore, the publication of this *Register* proceeds, it will be gradually found from about the year 1560 that fewer persons need extended notice as making their first entrance into the College on their election to fellowships; the exceptions being found in the cases chiefly of the two fellowships from the ancient dioceses of York and Durham, founded by Thomas Ingledew, the fellowship for the county of York founded by John Forman, and those thrown open from want of candidates within the walls². The second volume will probably

¹ I am indebted to my old friend and brother-Fellow, Prebendary Bramley, for examining the Index to Bishop Smith's Register for 1496-1509, and for specially searching the year 1506, with this negative result.

² A comparative table of the number of Fellowships filled up from the Demies and otherwise, is given by Dr. Bloxam at p. xiii of his preface to Vol. IV of the *Register of Demies*.

reach to the year 1600; and a third and fourth possibly to the date of Dr. Bloxam's conclusion of his printed list of Demies, viz. the year 1857. These will include the Presidents. There will then remain the further chronicling of all the subsequent foundation-members up to the time then present; and the chronicling of all the non-foundation members *ab initio*. This will remain as a task for others upon whom Dr. Bloxam's mantle may fall. For myself, I cannot expect to live to complete even the contemplated four volumes of the present series. But it is a great happiness still in advancing years to be able to work for the noble College with which my earliest years were associated, and to carry on the labour of love so well begun by my predecessor with a love equal to his own, although, by pressure of other employment, with far less of leisure to do it, and therefore with little hope to do it as thoroughly. And with both of us (as with many another) it has been the Chapel and its services which made the College especially dear. His place received him there morning and evening, coming, a striking figure, spare and erect, with reverent dignity; to me it was my delight as a Clerk to take part in its inspiring services, my honour as a Chaplain to lead them. And they who love the Chapel love every stone of the College which that Chapel hallows.

W. D. MACRAY.

Sept. 1894.