

**UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD;
COLLEGE HISTORIES:
NEW COLLEGE**

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University of Oxford; College Histories: New College by Hastings Rashdall & Robert S. Rait

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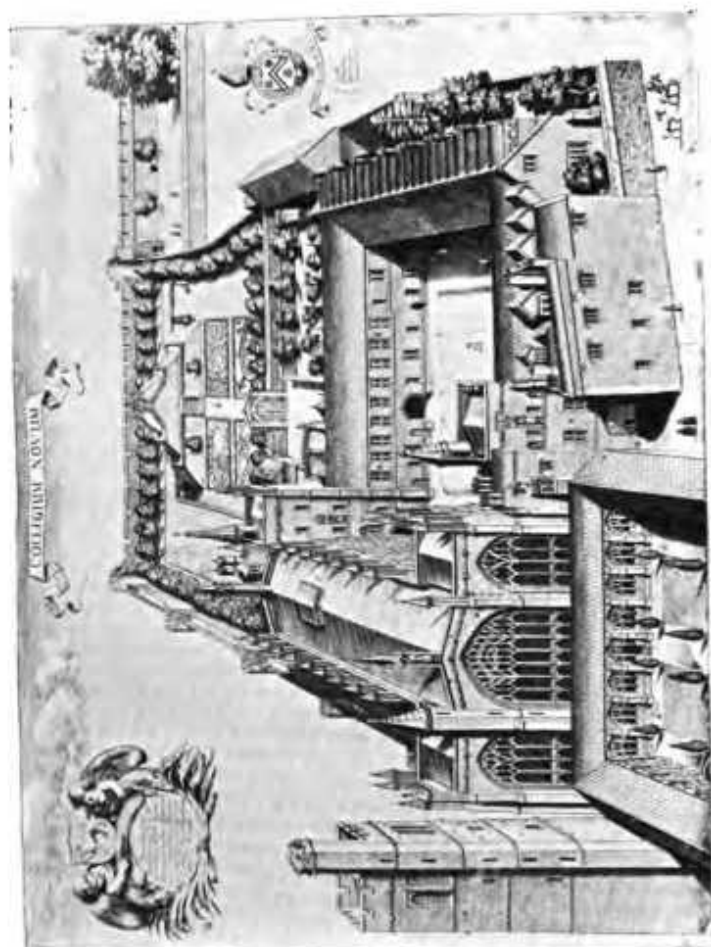
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HASTINGS RASHDALL & ROBERT S. RAIT

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VIEW BY LOGGAN (c. 1675)

University of Oxford

COLLEGE HISTORIES

NEW COLLEGE

BY

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PREFACE

THIS book was originally undertaken by Mr. Rashdall. Being at the time occupied with other literary work, he was unable to begin it till the series was approaching completion. To expedite the fulfilment of his task, Mr. Rait consented to assist in the work. The chapter on the College buildings and that on the 'Age of Reform' have been for the most part written by Mr. Rait, the rest by Mr. Rashdall; but Mr. Rait's collaboration has extended to the whole of the work.

It may be convenient here to give a short account of the materials at our disposal. It must be confessed that, considering the long life and importance of the College, the amount of interesting matter available is disappointingly small.

The original sources for the life of the founder are a short account written in a copy of Pope Nicholas' Taxation for Adam of Orilton, Bishop of Winchester from 1388 to 1445, and another prefixed to the Register of Winchester College, written by Robert Heete, a Fellow of that College, and dated 'the twentieth year after the death of the said father'—*i.e.*, 1424. The MS. Life in the possession of New College, attributed

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to Warden Chandler, but in all probability only corrected by him, adds little but rhetoric to the information contained in these two sources. It contains, however, some interesting pictures, one of which is reproduced in the present volume. The first printed Life is Martin's '*Historica Descriptio Complectens vitam ac res gestas Guillelmi Wicami*,' Londini, 1597. There are two scholarly biographies by Bishop Lowth (London, 1758), a work of much research, and G. H. Moberly (Winchester, 1887). But the most valuable authorities for Wykeham's life are now Mr. Tait's article in the '*Dictionary of National Biography*,' and the '*History of Winchester College*,' by Mr. Arthur F. Leach (New York, 1899), to both of which we are much indebted.

On the College itself, the only considerable book is Mackenzie Walcott's '*William of Wykeham and his Colleges*' (London, 1852), which contains much valuable information, but cannot be said to be based on a real study of the MS. materials for the history of the College, and leaves out much that is important. Two short notices have been published by Mr. Rashdall in his work on '*The Universities of Europe in the Middle Ages*' (Oxford, 1895) and '*The Colleges of Oxford*' (ed. Andrew Clark, 1891). Mr. Kirby's '*Winchester Scholars*' (London, 1888), a full list with some notices of their subsequent careers, has been of great value.

Among the general authorities for the history of the University it will be enough to mention Antony Wood's '*History and Antiquities of the University of Oxford*' (ed. Gutch, 1792), '*History of the Colleges of Oxford*' (ed. Gutch, 1776), and '*Athenæ Oxonienses*' (ed. Bliss,

1813-20), and Ingram's 'Memorials of Oxford' (Oxford, 1837). Wood's 'Athenæ' being our chief authority for the lives of the older worthies, we have occasionally quoted him without express reference.* Hearne's 'Collections' (ed. by Doble and Rannie for the Oxford Historical Society) have been diligently searched, but they contain fewer allusions to the College than might have been hoped. The portion of Hearne's MSS. still remaining unpublished and the Ballard papers (both in the Bodleian Library) have also been employed.

Much use has been made of the State Papers, especially for the reign of Henry VIII., and of the 'Register of the Visitors of the University of Oxford from A.D. 1647 to 1658,' edited by Professor Montagu Burrows for the Camden Society. Most of the information which we have derived from the first-mentioned source has escaped the notice of previous writers about the College. It is needless to say that the 'Dictionary of National Biography' has been constantly referred to.

The MS. authorities in the possession of the College include an enormous mass of documents relating to its property and finances, but very little besides. The deeds relating to the foundation of the College (including Papal Bulls the originals of which are mostly preserved), and the title-deeds of the various properties, were in the time of Warden Woodward carefully copied out in seven folio volumes of 'Evidences' which are kept in

* 'Wood' with the number of a volume indicates Wood's 'Annals'; 'Wood' as the authority for a statement about an individual may be taken to refer to the notice of that individual in the 'Athenæ.'

the Bursary. The immense collection of court rolls of manors, farmers' accounts, and the like, are very valuable materials for history, of which much use has already been made by the late Professor Thorold Rogers in his monumental 'History of Prices,' but they throw no light on the internal history of the College. Besides these, the following classes of documents may be noticed :

1. The Steward of Hall's books from 1387 to 1544, containing (with considerable gaps) the names of all members of the foundation who were receiving commons during each week, with occasional entries relating to guests.

2. The Bursars' rolls from the foundation to 1638, and the 'Long Books' which succeeded them from 1651 to 1881, since which time they have been supplanted by ledgers and balance-sheets of a more modern type.

3. The 'White Book,' containing the admission of Wardens, scholars, and Fellows from the foundation to 1456, with the notarial attestations and a few other formal documents, such as the list of books presented to the College by the founder (printed by A. F. Leach in the 'Collectanea,' vol. iii., of the Oxford Historical Society). There are also MS. lists of Fellows in Rawlinson MSS., D. 130 (Bodleian Library), and in the possession of the Warden of Winchester.

4. Registers of College meetings or meetings of the Warden and Thirteen from 1764 (the earlier part very meagre).

5. Visitation injunctions (referred to in various notes).

6. MS. notes by Wardens Pincke and Woodward.

7. Of the original statutes there exist the following

copies: One in the College library, one in the custody of the Warden, one in that of the Visitor, one in the British Museum (Harl. MSS., No. 1,843), from which last they were printed for the University of Oxford Commissioners in 1853.

Another most valuable MS. source is to be found in the registers of the Bishops of Winchester, especially the register containing a full record of the Visitations of Bishop Horne, of which only a very slight account has hitherto been given. We are much indebted to the kindness of our present Visitor in allowing us to use this volume in the Bodleian Library.

Reference to the original authorities for the names and dates of Fellows has been rendered unnecessary by the labours of our present venerable Warden, who has compiled an elaborate register of past members of the Society,* and collected an immense amount of information relating to their subsequent careers. The use which he has kindly allowed us to make of this precious volume is so great that we feel almost entitled to claim him as a joint-author of the present work. In many other ways we have been indebted to his knowledge of the College documents and the extracts which he has made from them. We must also express gratitude to the Rev. Hereford B. George, now senior Fellow of the College, for much useful information about the recent history of the College, and for his kindness in reading over our proof-sheets.

Though we trust that we have put together a fuller and more systematic history of the foundation than has

* 'F.' with a date after a name means that the person became a 'true and perpetual Fellow' in that year.