

## Original Documents.

EXTRACTS FROM THE ANCIENT ACCOUNTS OF METTINGHAM COLLEGE, SUFFOLK.  
COMMUNICATED BY THE REV. C. R. MANNING.

THE college of St. Mary, at Mettingham, was originally founded at Raveningham, in Norfolk, by Sir John de Norwich, in the year 1342, for a master and eight chaplains, to officiate in the church of that place. It was removed some years after to Norton Subcourse in the same county, where a new chapel was built; and in 1382, again removed to the chapel within the castle of Mettingham, in Suffolk, was endowed with the said castle, and the number of chaplains increased to thirteen. This translation was retarded, chiefly by the nuns of Bungay, who were appropriators of the parish church of Mettingham, and it was not effected until about 18th Richard II., 1394. It continued there until the dissolution. The last master was Thomas Manning, also prior of Butley, and suffragan bishop of Ipswich.

The accounts are well preserved, filling six folio volumes, extending from 4th Henry IV., 1402, to 5th Henry VIII., 1513. They formerly belonged to Thomas Martin, the antiquary, from whom they came to the late Thomas Manning, Esq., of Bungay. The following extracts are taken from the first volume, and from those parts only, in each year, which relate to the expenses of the capella, and the construction of the new chapel at Mettingham. The several heads of expenditure are,

Dona' Minute Expense, Custus domorum, Custus carectarum et carucarum, Blada et staura empta, Expense capelle, Forinsece expense, Expense Magistri, &c., with wages and annual pensions.

Accounts of Receipts and Expenditure by John Wylbeye, Master of the Chantry of Metyingham, 6 Hen. IV.<sup>1</sup>

Michaelmas 1405, to Michaelmas 1406, Expense capelle.—Item, solut' pro panno steynyd empto pro lectrin', 10*d.* Item, solut' pro Freston empt' pro capella, 3*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* Item, solut' pro 2 carectis conductis ad carriandum freston, 2*s.*—Item, solut' pro 12 pilliis oblongis emptis pro Capellanis, 3*s.* 10*d.* Item, solut' pro faccione co'i sigilli Cantarie de Metyingham, 20*s.* Item, solut' pro 2 tortys et 1 preket, ponder' 23*l.* di. 11*s.* 4*d.* Item, solut' pro 1 preket empto pro parva capella, 17*d.* (fol. 23.)

1406-1407.—Solut' Thome Browderer pro emendacione vestimentorum et pro Bokeram, lyowr et filo, 2*s.* 5*d.*—Item, solut' Thome Wrythe pro deposicione tecti cori de Nortone, 26*s.* 8*d.* Item, solut' pro 2 carectis conductis ad carriandum tectum cori a Nortone usque Metyingham, 2*s.*—Item, solut' pro pede crucis facienda et pingenda, et pro baculo ejusdem, 7*s.* 8*d.* Item, solut' pro cordis carect' emptis apud Nortone, et deposic' tecti cori ibidem, 6*d.*—Item, solut' Stephano kynnere, pro amusis furrandis, 8*s.*—

<sup>1</sup> Blomef. Hist. of Norfolk, vol. viii. p. 52. A list of masters is given, and reference made to the Chartulary of Mettingham.

Item, solut' pro illuminacione dimidii libri missalis, 14s. Item, solut' John Knyf capellano pro 1 quaterno scripto pro libro missali, 10*d.* Item, solut' domino Galfrido Rectori ecclesie de Bradwele pro uno cifo deaurato, et una cruce deaurata, et pro vestimentis et aliis ornamentis capelle 25*l.*—Item, solut' pro 2 candelabris pingendis, 40*d.*—Item, solut' pro pann' pict' empt' pro summo altari, 8s.—Item, solut' pro croc' empt' pro libro missal, 4*d.* (fol. 29, and 34, v<sup>o</sup>.)

1407-1408.—Item, solut' pro clavis argent' emptis pro parvo portiforio, 2*d.*—Item, solut' pro 2 pannis damasc', et aliis ornamentis emptis de executoribus magistri Johannis felbrygg', 23s. 4*d.*—Item, solut' pro libro missali ligando, et cooperando, et pro clausuris ejusdem, 5s. 1*d.* (fol. 40, v<sup>o</sup>.)

1408-1409.—Item, solut' pro illuminacione 1 gradal', 11s. Item, solut' pro ligacione et pro custod' ejusdem, 2s. 4*d.* Item, solut' Ricardo Wodeward, de Norwic', pro 26 Treyys de calce, 37s. 6*d.* Item, solut' servienti Johannis lokere, pro calce miscend' per 3 dies, 8*d.* Item, solut' pro expensis Ricardi Yate et sociorum ejus eunt' Norwic', pro calce per divers' vic' 13*d.* (fol. 46, v<sup>o</sup>.)

1409-1410.—Item, solut' Willelmo plomer, et suo servienti, pro plumbo deponendo capelle, 12*d.*—Item, solut' Johanni Bonde, et Thome Bonde, pro tecto capelle deponendo, per 6 dies, 12*d.* Item, solut' Johanni Masun et hominibus suis operantibus super capellam per 99 dies, 27s. 6*d.* Item, solut' Johanni lokere et sociis suis et eorum servientibus operantibus super capellam, per 95 dies, et *di.* 23s. 5*d.* Item, solut' pro cirotecis emptis pro Johanne Masun et hominibus suis, Johanne lokere et hominibus suis, et aliis hominibus operantibus super capellam, 2s. 5*d.* Item, solut' pro 12 fraxinis emptis de vicario de Metyngham, 13*d.* Item, solut' Nicholao de Metyngham pro hespys et haldrys,<sup>2</sup> 21*d.* ob. Item, solut' pro 100 sparrys de fyr, et 6 Trowys, 9s. 9*d.* Item, solut' pro 1 calice, 17s. 4*d.* Item, solut' pro 20 Treyys calcis, et pro petris nigris emptis apud Norwic' 31s. 4*d.* (fol. 52, v<sup>o</sup>.)

1410-1411.—Item, solut' Johanni Knyf, capellano pro 18 quaternis scribendis unius antefenar, 12s. Item, solut' pro 80 literis aur', 30*d.* Item, solut' pro expensis Johannis Masun equitantis usque Comitatum lincolnienc' pro freston, 5s. Item, solut' pro freston carriand' a Jernemuta usque Beclys, 21s. 4*d.* Item, solut' pro carectis conductis ad carriandum freston a Beclys usque Metyngham, 15s. 6*d.* Item, solut' pro freston tronizando apud Jernemutam cum expensis ibidem et Beclys, 4s. 10*d.* ob. Item, solut' pro 30 Tunnettyth' de Freston, 10*l.* 10s.—Item, solut' Waltero Calwere pro chal' emendand', et tabulis scabulandis et planandis per 5 dies, 15*d.* (fol. 58, v<sup>o</sup>.)<sup>3</sup>

1411-1412.—Item, solut' Rogero latener, de Beclys, pro c. libris metalli emptis pro campan', 20s.<sup>4</sup>—Item, solut' pro auro, argento, bisso, lacys et filo, 16s. 10*d.* ob. (fol. 64, v<sup>o</sup>.)

1412-1413.—Item, solut' Joh<sup>l</sup> Browdere, pro 3 imaginibus, 6s. 4*d.*—

<sup>2</sup> Asp-trees and alders. "Aldyrs," *ib.*

<sup>3</sup> In this year John Masun and William Holtone were occupied forty-eight days, John Lokere and his companions seventy days and a half, on the works of the chapel,

which were continued in the years succeeding.

<sup>4</sup> A payment occurs again in the ensuing year for 120 lb. of metal for the bell.

Item, solut' Johanni Bonde et Thome Bonde operantibus super vesteriam, 3s. 8*d.*—Item, solut' pro Gall', Coperose, et Gummys, 8*d.*—Item, solut' pro capellis emptis pro carpentariis, 6*d.*—Item, solut' pro carectis conductis ad carriandum freston, tegulas et calyun, per 8 dies, 7s. 6*d.* (fol. 70, v<sup>o</sup>.)

1413-1414.—Solut' Roberto Ocle pro tabula facienda et pingenda pro summo altari, in parte solucionis, 66s. 8*d.*—Item, solut' pro expensis magistri Johannis Waryn capellani, et Ricardi Buk, equitand' Lineam et Castelacre, ad videnda stalla ibidem, 6s. 11*d.* ob.—Item, solut' pro expensis Johannis Boteler, equitand' versus Hesylberwe ad loquendum et ordinandum pro freston, 5s. Item, solut' pro 12 edificiis faciendis pro 12 apostolis, 6*l.* 40*d.* Item, solut' hominibus sarrantibus meremius pro stallis, per 24 dies, 6s. 1*d.* Item, solut' pro cruce cum 1 fane, 3s. Item, solut' Ricardo Buk et ejus servienti, operantibus super stall', per 26 septimanas, 44s. (fol. 76, v<sup>o</sup>.)

1414-1415.—Solut' Ricardo Buk, et ejus servienti operantibus super stall', per 18 septimanas, 27s. 2*d.* Item, dat' Rogero Gyryng et fratri suo, pro vitro carriando, 8*d.*—Item, solut' hugoni Dunston pro scripcione 1 processonar', 5s. 4*d.*—Item, solut' Johanni Holgate, pro ymaginibus 12 apostolorum faciendis, 40s. in parte solucionis.—Item, solut' pro libro facto de stacionibus in ecclesia faciendis, 40*d.*—Item, solut' pro expensis factis pro organ' carriand' a Boston usque Liniam, et a Linia usque Metyngham, 9s. 1*d.* ob. Item, solut' Ricardo Buk pro stallis ecclesie faciendis 4*l.* 10s. per 1 tall' in parte solucionis, 26*l.* 13s. 4*d.* (fol. 82, v<sup>o</sup>.)

1415-1416.—Item, solut' Johanni Thornedone, facienti crestis pro cimator' Ecclesie, 5s. Item, solut' domino Episcopo Norwicensi pro dedicatione Ecclesie Collegiate de Metyngham, 40s. Item, solut' 3 servientibus ejusdem Episcopi, 3s. 4*d.* Item, dat' Rectori de Beltone, 20*d.* Item, solut' Willelmo lominowr pro diversis libris illuminandis, 8s. Item, solut' pro pari cirotecarum empto pro Episcopo, 1*d.* ob. Item, solut' Thome de Jernomuta pro 12 apostolis faciendis, 66s. 8*d.* Item, solut' eidem pro 1 wodwyse faciend', 40*d.*—Item, solut' pro 1 vestimento et pro 15 virgis de Bortalizaundyr, 21s. Item, solut' pro 1 cilicio empto pro altari, 16*d.*—Item, solut' Thome Bonde facienti framys pro vestimentis, per 9 dies, 23*d.* Item, solut' Thome Barsham de Jernomuta pro 2 ymaginibus, cum tabernaculis earundem, faciendis pro summo altari, 40s. in parte solucionis (fol. 88 v<sup>o</sup>.)

1416-1417.—Solut' executoribus domini Johannis Waryn, nuper Rectoris de Schypmedwe, pro 1 manuali, et 1 vestimento, 24s. Item, solut' eisdem executoribus pro 1 antiphonario, et di' gradal' notat', 26s. Item, solut' Johanni lokere et ejus servienti pro pavimento ponendo in ecclesia, per 7 dies, 19*d.*—Item, solut' pro m<sup>l</sup> m<sup>l</sup>. de pathyng tyyl, 11s. 4*d.* Item, solut' pro calice novo mutato cum calice veteri, 4s. 4*d.* Item, solut' 2 servientibus Willelmi Argentein militis, pro meremio carriando pro ymagine Sancte Marie, 8*d.* Item, solut' Roberto Ocle pro tabula facienda pro summo altari, 6s. 8*d.* Item, solut' Thome de Jernomuta, 3*d.* nomine arre pro tabul' pingend'.—Item, solut' Ricardo Buk', pro 1 pari de stallis et 1 pulpyt fac', in grosso, per 1 tall', 7*l.* 10s. in parte. Item, solut' Thome de Jern' pro 2 Imag' faciendis et pictandis, per 1 tall', 6*l.* 10s. in parte. (fol. 94, v<sup>o</sup>.)

1417-1418.—Item, solut' pro clospis emptis pro organ', 2s. 8*d.* Item, solut' Rogero latener, pro c. libris metalli emptis pro campan', 20s. Item, solut' eidem pro Wyyr empto pro orilog', 6*d.*—Item, solut' pro 2 pellibus vitulinis et 1 pelli ovina, emptis pro organ', 15*d.*—Item, solut' pro panno nigro empto pro anniversariis, 6s. 8*d.*—Item, solut' Johanni Smythe, pro 48 Jemewys emptis pro stallis ecclesie, 20s. Item, solut' Thome Barsham, de Jernomut', pro soundys pissium, 17*d.* Item, solut' Roberto masun pro catermews, et basis faciendis, pro stallis ecclesie, 43s.—Item, solut' pro 2 libris de hornnglu, 8*d.*—Item, solut' Johanni Waryn capellano pro libris capelle ligandis, clausuris et coopertoriis emptis pro eisdem, 10s. 10*d.* Item, solut' Waltero Webstere et Johanni Bute, laborantibus pro fundament' claustr' capiend' per 3 dies, 6s.—Item, solut' Johanni helyngtone, pro hostio occidentali ecclesie faciend', 10s. Item, solut' Ricardo Buk' pro 1 pari stallorum et 1 pulpyt factis, in grosso, per 1 tall', 9*l.* Item, solut' Thome de Jern', pro 2 Imaginibus, cum earum tabernaculis et tabula altaris, faciendis et pictandis, in parte solucionis, ultra denar' annorum precedentium sibi solut'. 8*l.* 10s. (fol. 100, v<sup>o</sup>.)

1418-1419.—Solut' Ricardo Buk, pro 2 altaribus faciendis in ecclesia, et pro 1 tabula faciend' pro summo altari, 13s. 4*d.* Item, solut' pro 1 vestimento integro de novo orferend', et 1 capa de novo orferend', 8*l.* 2s. 8*d.* Item, solut' pro 40 tabulis de Estryche, 16s. 9*d.* Item, solut' Johanni lokere pro altaribus ecclesie pinyng, 4*d.* Item, solut' pro petris nigris carriandis a keseynglond usque Metyngham, 16*d.* Item, solut' suffraganio Episcopi Norwic', pro 2 altaribus Ecclesie dedicandis, 6s. 2*d.*—Item, solut' Johanni Smythe de Barsham, pro henglys faciendis, 6s. 2*d.*—Item, solut' magistro Willelmo Barnham, pro 2 capis de rubeo cerico, cum rayys de auro, 26s. 8*d.* Item, solut' Johanni Smythe, pro seris, clavibus, clopsys et hokys emptis pro hostiis Ecclesie, 13*d.* Item, solut' pro campana empta pro altari Ecclesie, 3*d.*—Item, solut' Thome de Jernomuta, pro 2 ymaginibus, cum earum tabernaculis, et tabula summi altaris, faciend' et pingend', 100s. (fol. 106, v<sup>o</sup>.)

1419-1420.—Solut' pro 1 boos, 1 ryngyl, et 2 jemewys, emptis pro hostio pulpiti, 6*d.* Item, solut' pro 1 turribulo deaurato, empto de magistro Willelmo Bernham, 14*l.* 14s.—Item, solut' Thome Kyrkeby, pro libro organic', 26s. 8*d.* (fol. 112, v<sup>o</sup>.)

1420-1421.—Item, solut' Edmundo Bradwelle, pro pann' pingend' pro pulpito, 10s. Item, solut' Johanni Glaswryth pro 16 pedibus vitri emptis pro fenestris botar' et pantar', 6s. 8*d.*—Item, solut' pro 34 Virgatis panni linei emptis pro tabernaculis ecclesie, 11s. 2*d.* Item, solut' Johanni Sporyere, de Bungaye, pro Boltys ferr', et bylys ferr', emptis pro altaribus et tabernaculis ecclesie, 6s. 11*d.*—Item, solut' pro 1 pelvi de latun, empto pro lampade, 6s. 8*d.* (fol. 118, v<sup>o</sup>.)<sup>5</sup>

1422-1423.—Solut' Johanni Masun, de Bungaye, pro 2 lavatoriis faciendis de petr' libr', 12s. Item, solut' pro lacys et frenge, et 11 garderys sancti Georgii, 7s. 1*d.*—Item, solut' pro lacys et hemlacys, emptis pro vestimentis, 8s. Item, solut' pro collobio de Baudekyn, et 1 dobelet de auro, 20s. 1*d.* Item, solut' pro 13 piliis nigris emptis pro magistro et fratribus suis, 4s. 7*d.* (fol. 130, v<sup>o</sup>.)

<sup>5</sup> The erection of the cloisters appears to have advanced this year; payment occurs "pro petris coligendis pro claustro," bars of

iron "pro fenestris claustr'," &c. In the following year it was covered in with lead.

1423-1424.—Solut' pro 4 pypys auri de Cipris, 6s.—Item, solut' Ricardo Buc, pro tecto vestar' celando, et 3 fenestris faciendis, 35s. in plenam solutionem. Item, solut' Radulfo vestmentmakere pro 2 pectoral' et 2 amitt', 20s. Item, solut' pro 1 capa de worsted rubeo, et pro 1 corperascas, 21s. 8d. Item, solut' Johanni Smythe pro marmore empto pro Ecclesia, 9l. 6s. (fol. 136, v<sup>o</sup>).

The foregoing extracts may serve to give a notion of the curious particulars occurring in these accounts; the general expenses of the establishment are not less deserving of notice, for information on matters of domestic economy and statistics, at the commencement of the fifteenth century. The accounts of 1405—6 give the price of the common-seal of the chantry of Mettingham, for making which a payment of 20s. appears; this entry deserves mention, as fixing the date of this seal,<sup>6</sup> of which an impression exists, appended to a deed, dated 22 Hen. VIII. It is a good example of workmanship of its age. The central device is the Virgin enthroned, and holding the Infant Saviour. On the dexter side is the bearing of the Founder (Party per pale Az. and G. a lion rampant Erm). de Norwich. On the sinister side the coats of Ufford and Vescy, quarterly, (a cross engrailed, quartering a cross molines,) being the arms, apparently, of Robert de Ufford, who espoused Margaret, sister and heiress of Sir Thomas de Norwich, through which alliance it seems probable, that the Uffords, Earls of Suffolk, had a share in the establishment of the college at Mettingham. The master of the college appears also to have had his own official seal, as a charge occurs amongst the "Minute Expense," in 1408—9, "Solut' pro corect' sigilli magistri de Metyngham, 12d." *Correctio* is a term frequently used in these documents, to express the repair of various objects.<sup>7</sup> The number and costly variety of sacred ornaments and vestments purchased for the services of so small an establishment is remarkable, as also the frequent expenditure for vellum and writing service-books. These last appear to have been mostly produced in the establishment, but the scribes received payment for their labours. Frequent items occur of disbursements to Hugh Dunstone and John Knyf, *capellanis*, for writing and illumination. The decoration of this kind bestowed upon a missal cost 25s.; but as *croc'* (*crocus*) only was provided, it does not appear to have been very elaborate; possibly, the term may only apply to rubrication. A Legend of Saints cost 21s. 8d.; the writing of an Antiphoner, 53s. 4d.; the payment for each quire (pro scripcione 1 quaterni) was from 10d. to 14d. A pound of vermilion cost 18d. Copperas, gum and galls, for ink, frequently occur, and 80 letters of gold, apparently in the Antiphoner, cost 30d. A quire of paper cost only 4d.; three quires of vellum cost 14d. John Melton, chaplain, received 15s. 8d. for writing a book of the Gospels. Occasionally, persons not of the establishment were employed: William Lominowr, or the illuminator, is named repeatedly. But the most interesting feature of these church accounts is the information which they supply regarding the sculptured and painted decorations, of which so many valuable examples still remain in the eastern counties. The elaborate and richly ornamented screens, ceilings, and tabernacle work, in the churches of Norfolk and

<sup>6</sup> See cut of seal, page 68.

<sup>7</sup> For example,—“pro coreccione labe, 2d.” “Solut' Galfrida cloemakere pro orologio corrigendo.”

Suffolk, have attracted frequent notice of late; and many members of the Institute will call to mind the beautiful series of drawings by Mrs. Gunn, exhibited at the Norwich meeting by the kindness of Mr. Dawson Turner. These interesting examples of medieval art have usually been regarded as of Flemish execution, partaking much of the character of design displayed in the works of that country. By the Mettingham accounts, it appears that considerable works of reconstruction or renovation were in progress in the collegiate chapel towards the close of the reign of Henry IV.: the roof of the choir, at the chapel previously used before removal from Norton, was taken down, and transported to Mettingham. The tower (*campanile*) was sold to the Vicar of Norton, who paid by instalments. The fabric expenses ran over several successive years; amongst them appear new stalls, the painting of the roof, and interior decorations: for the construction of the former, it was thought expedient to despatch one of the chaplains, accompanied by the principal carpenter, to visit Lynn and Castleacre in quest of a good model—"ad videndum stalla ibidem:" they were constructed accordingly in 1413—14. At the same time, various images were provided. Thomas of Yarmouth received 66s. 8d. for making those of the twelve Apostles, for which twelve "edificia"<sup>8</sup> had been prepared, at a cost of more than six pounds. The same artificer at Yarmouth, who appears to have been a carver and painter, an *imagier*, received also forty pence for making a "wodwyse," a figure of a woodwose or savage man, sometimes written woodhouse. The cause of placing such a figure in a chapel is not explained; they were very frequently introduced in decorations of houses, furniture, or costume, at the same age. About this time an image of the Virgin was sculptured, for which the wood appears to have been provided by Sir William Argentain; and Thomas Barsham, of Yarmouth, before named, called also "Thomas de Jernemuta,"<sup>9</sup> received in several payments for making and painting two images with tabernacles, and a "*tabula*" for the high altar, not less than 37l. 4s. 8d. In 1416-17, the works having advanced slowly, apparently according to the funds which might be rendered available in so small an establishment, the collegiate church was dedicated by the Bishop of Norwich, (John Wakefynge,) who received 40s., and the prelate's three attendants (*servientes*) received 4s. 4d. Two new altars were made and dedicated in the following year by the suffragan of the bishop, who received 6s. 2d. on the occasion; and the roof of the church was decorated with painting, on account of which Edmund of Bradwelle, "peyntour," received 13l. 6s. 6d. These works completed, the construction of a cloister was undertaken.

The productions of Thomas of Yarmouth, which served to decorate the church of Mettingham, have unfortunately perished; but there can be little doubt that some of the interesting specimens of ancient art in Norfolk and the neighbourhood of Yarmouth, of which Mr. Dawson Turner has collected so rich an assemblage of representations, were the work of this Thomas Barsham "de Jernomuta."

The most burdensome expense in the erection of churches or other works,

<sup>8</sup> This term seems to be equivalent to "housing," used in the same sense in the Beauchamp Contract, t. Hen. VI. The term of more frequent use is tabernacle.

<sup>9</sup> Thomas Barsham supplied sounds of fish.

These were sometimes used for joining wood-work, or here possibly for painting. Reginald Wythe received, in 1418-19, "pro 50 soundys pissium, 2d.

in former times, must have been caused by the cost and difficulties in transport of materials. In these accounts we find frequent payments for collecting stone, probably flints, which abound in the eastern parts of England, and were largely employed in the building of churches. Materials were often supplied from Norwich, and from the sea-port of Yarmouth, being transported thence by the river Waveney, as far as Beccles, and by carts from that place to Mettingham, a distance of about four miles. In 1409-10 John Masun, who had a large share in the work, was sent into Lincolnshire on horseback, to arrange for a supply of freestone: the expense of his ride was only five shillings. "Borwelle stone" is also named, and several purchases of black stones and marble stones occur, possibly for pavements, (*pro petris nigris—petris nigris emptis pro claustro—pro lapidibus marmor'—pro marmore empto pro ecclesia*), &c.<sup>1</sup>

"Roger latener," that is, the worker in latten metal, of Beccles, is frequently named as supplying metal for bells. Richard Baxter, of Norwich, probably a bell-founder, appears to have furnished the bells. It deserves notice that an artificer of this class should be found established in such a town as Beccles at that early period; the conjecture may be admissible that his workshop supplied some of the numerous sepulchral brasses of his time, still to be seen in the neighbouring counties.

<sup>1</sup> The stone is frequently estimated by the term *tunnetythe*, or *tuntythe*, a word of frequent occurrence in old accounts of building expenses, the precise meaning of derivation of which is obscure. Lime is invariably

reckoned by "*treys*," *tray* being a word of provincial use for a mason's hod. A "*treye de colys*," however, occurs, costing 3s., whilst the "*childyr de colys*" cost from 6s. to 8s.



SEAL OF THE CHANTRY OF METTINGHAM.