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A DESCRIPTION OF THE EAST ROOM OF THE UNIVERSITY  
LIBRARY, CAMBRIDGE, AS BUILT BY BISHOP  
ROTHERAM, WRITTEN BY WILLIAM COLE, M.A.,  
IN 1759.

COMMUNICATED BY J. W. CLARK, M.A.

THE history of the east side of the Schools Quadrangle has been narrated at length in *The Architectural History*<sup>1</sup>, and its appearance has been preserved for us in Loggan's print, taken about 1688 (fig. 1). It will therefore be sufficient to mention in this place that by the "east side" I mean the building which extended from the tower-staircase on the south, to the Divinity School on the north. This was begun in 1470 and completed in 1474 or 1475; the ground-floor at the charge of the University; but the gate of entrance and the library which occupied the whole of the first floor at that of Thomas Rotheram, then Chancellor of the University and Bishop of Lincoln. A Grace however, which passed the Senate 13 May, 1475, providing special recognition for Rotheram on account of his manifold benefactions to the University, says that he

has completed certain schools and a new library above them, built of dressed stone, costly, dignified, and of suitable design, and when it was fully provided with all suitable furniture, has enriched it with books neither few in number nor cheap in price<sup>2</sup>.

These words, written in the very year that the building was finished, when we may imagine the University exulting over the unexpected completion of its educational buildings, the tardy progress of which had extended over more than 70 years, are, I think, more likely to be accurate than the account given above, which, as explained in the *History*, rests in the main on the authority of Archbishop Parker.

<sup>1</sup> *Arch. Hist.* iii. 15.

<sup>2</sup> The original words, of which I have given a paraphrase rather than a translation, are: *scholas novamque superius librariam polito lapide sumptuosa pompa, ac dignis ædificiis, perfecerit; eamque omnibus ut decuit rebus exornatam non paucis vel vilibus libris opulentam reddidit.* *Commiss. Docts.* i. 414.

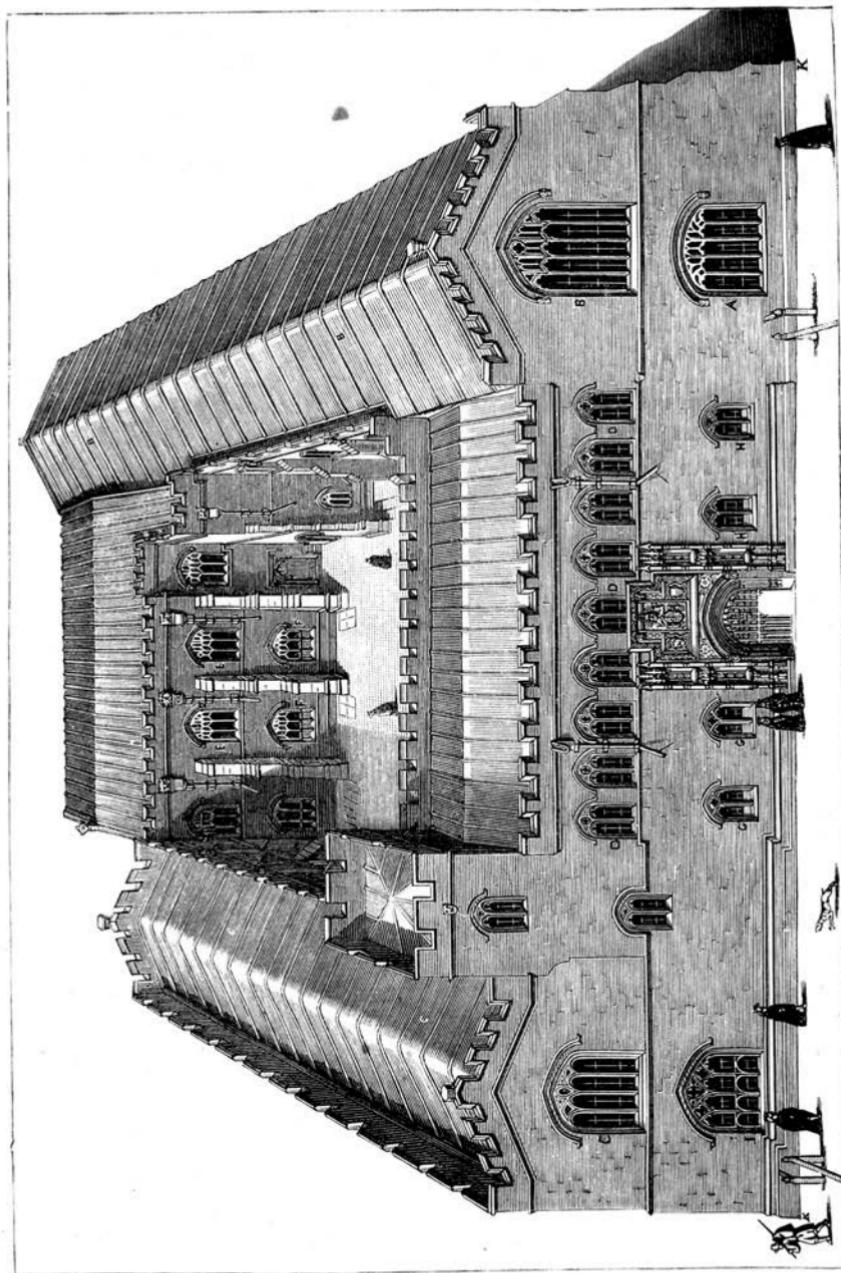


FIG. 1. The Schools Quadrangle, from Loggan's print, taken about 1688. A, Divinity School; B, Regent House; C, Library; D, Lesser Library; E, School of Medicine and Law; F, Bachelors School; G, Consistory; H, Court of the Proctors and

The library was a long, narrow room, about 57 feet long and 11 feet broad between walls, lighted by nine windows, each of two lights, in the east and west walls. Nothing is known of its fittings, but, as the distance between each pair of windows could not have been more than two feet or two feet and a half, it is probable that they may be referred to what I have called the lectern-system. The room was called at first the Chancellor's library (*libraria domini cancellarii*); but afterwards "the private library" or "the new library." Dr Caius, writing in 1574, tells us that the more valuable books were kept in it, and that only a few privileged persons were admitted<sup>1</sup>.

The description which I am about to lay before you was written by Cole in 1759<sup>2</sup>, five years after the building in question had been pulled down to make way for the existing east room and façade, begun in 1754. I regret that neither Professor Willis nor I discovered it before the history of the library was written, for it contains several interesting particulars which would have rendered our work more complete than it is at present.

While he [Thomas Rotheram] was Bishop of Lincoln and our Chancellor, at his own Expence, and that no inconsiderable one, except a small matter contributed by the University and King Ric. 3<sup>d</sup>, he finished that beautiful Gate and 2 Courts on the Sides of it, the one for the Vice-Chancellor, and the other for the Commissary of the University, to hold their Courts of Justice in: the one of them now used as an Entrance for the Vice-Chancellor and Doctors to their Gallery in the Divinity Schole.

Over all which Buildings runs a long Gallery, made use of as a Library, and making the East Front of the present Scholes, fronting St Mary's Tower in the Regent Walk. His Arms to this Day (I copy this Part of my Account from one wrote in my History of Kings College in 1746)<sup>3</sup> are on the said Portal in Stone; and in the old Library, as it is called, above, built by him, and furnished with 200 volumes, some of which remain there to this Time 1759, are to this Day [viz. 1746] in the Windows his Devise in almost every Pane of Glass, being a Buck trippant, in almost every Posture and Attitude you can conceive, being Part of his Arms; together,

<sup>1</sup> *Arch. Hist.* iii. 25.

<sup>2</sup> MSS. Cole xix. MSS. Add. Mus. Brit. 5820, pp. 177—193. My extract begins on p. 185. I have to thank the Rev. H. L. Bennett for my knowledge of this description. See his *Archbishop Rotherham*, 8o. Lincoln, 1901, p. 60.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.* Vol. xiii.—MSS. Add. Mus. Brit. 5814, pp. 20, 21.

with the white or York Rose, which shews his Affection to his great Patron King Edward the fourth. There has been some old Writing also mixed among them 2 or 3 Times in every Window, in curious Letters, whereof some are composed of Serpents, and is *Da te Deo*<sup>1</sup>. But in September 1748, during my Absence on some Occasion from the University, in the Vice-Chancellorship of Dr Paris<sup>2</sup>, the Front of these Scholes were thought to want Repair, at which Time all the old painted Windows were taken down to make Room for Crown Glass, and all those curious Paintings, tho' perfect and compléat, were taken away by the Glazier, to the no small Reproach of the University in thus defrauding the pious Benefactors and Founders amongst us of their just and grateful Memorials. There were also many other antient Coats in the open Work at the Tops of each Window; all which were taken away: and tho' I used all means I could think of to recover them, yet they were broken, dispersed or mislaid in a month after they were removed in such a Manner as I could not find them. One large Pane I had of the Gift of the Vice-Chancellor: Part of which composes 2 Gothic Windows I made in the Parsonage at Blecheley in Buckinghamshire<sup>3</sup>, one in the House itself, another in the Hermitage in the Garden: besides some which I put into the East Window of that Parish Church<sup>4</sup>. Since which Time the whole of Archbishop Rotheram's Building is pulled down, and about the year 1756 an elegant new Structure erected upon the same Spot under the Auspices of the Duke of Newcastle, the present Chancellor of the University<sup>5</sup>.

I can't help adding, that besides the Ingratitude of taking away painted Arms or other Memorials of Benefactors out of Windows, it is very injudicious in such Buildings as Churches and other Gothic Edifices; where the Largeness and Number of Windows would occasion too much Light, was it not obfuscated and obscured by the grateful Gloom of painted Glass: this was remarkably the Case of the old library of Archbp. Rotheram, before it was pulled down; and is as obvious in the magnificent

<sup>1</sup> After the description of Rotheram's arms in vol. xiii, which ends at "trippant," Cole proceeds as follows: "He also opened the Walks on each side of this School and library: and this he did between the years 1470 and 1476. That he also contributed handsomely towards the rebuilding of Great S. Mary's Church in this University is plain from his Arms being carved in Stone on the West Front of the fine Tower. The Arms of the See of York are carved also on the same Steeple which makes me conclude he contributed to that work while Archbishop of that Province." For the motto see Bennett's *Rotherham*, p. 60, note.

<sup>2</sup> Fra. Sawyer Parris, B.D., Master of Sidney Sussex College 1746—60. Proto-bibliothecarius, 1750. Vice-Chancellor 1747—48.

<sup>3</sup> Cole was rector of Bletchley from 1753 to 1767.

<sup>4</sup> The Rector of Bletchley writes (7 Oct. 1902) that he is "unable to give any information respecting the old glass of which you make mention."

<sup>5</sup> *Arch. Hist.* iii. pp. 62—69, 96.

Chapel of King's College, where, was it not for the beautiful Windows of painted Glass, too much Light would be uneasy to the Eye.

In 1484, I suppose, it was, that he furnished the Library with Books; for on 3 noble Volumes, still there, on the large folio Covers of *Speculum Historiale* by Vincentius, printed in 1473, is fixed a Peice of Vellum with this Note on each, wrote in the Hand of that Time: *Prima Pars [or Secunda and Tertia] Vincentii in Speculo naturali ex Dono reverendissimi in Christo Patris ac Dñi Dñi Thomæ Dei Gratia Ebor: Archiepi, Anno Dñi 1484.*

\* \* \*

I have nothing to add further relating to this Prelate...except mentioning his Arms, which are thus blasoned on the Tower of St Mary's Church and on the Schole Doors at Cambridge, *viz.*: Vert, 3 Roe Bucks trippant Argent, attired, Or<sup>1</sup>.

This story is repeated, with a few fresh particulars, in a description of "Arms and Painted Glass in the Windows of my House at Milton, near Cambridge, 1778."

I remember Dr Paris suffered all the painted Glass in the old library of the University to be taken away, and white Glass to be put in the Place of it. He gave me one whole light composed of Abp. Rotheram's Device, a Buck, in a hundred different Attitudes, with the White Rose of Lancaster [York]. I have them in many of my Windows at Milton: but some in Blecheley Chancel, and one in Burnham<sup>2</sup> Chancel, for a Memorial<sup>3</sup>.

In the same volume<sup>4</sup>, but in a different description, written in 1765, of the fragments of stained glass and other curiosities in his house, Cole gives coloured sketches of some of the quarries from Rotheram's library, with the following notes:

13. On a Pane of white Glass, a neat white Rose, seeded Or, with leaves and Stalk Or. This I had by Order of Dr' Paris, Master of Sidney College, when he was Vice-Chancellor, when I begged a whole Window of the Old painted Glass in the Old Scholes fronting the Regent Walk, every Pane of which was White Roses and Bucks in all the various Postures and Attitudes that can be conceived, and were put there by Abp. Rotheram, in memory of his Patron Edward 4th of the Houses of York, whose Device was the white Rose, together with Part of his own Arms, being 3 Bucks trippant...I have still by me unused a great Part of this old Window of

<sup>1</sup> This paragraph occurs at the end of Cole's account of Rotheram, p. 291.

<sup>2</sup> Cole became vicar of Burnham, on the presentation of Eton College, in 1774.

<sup>3</sup> MSS. Cole xxxiii.=MSS. Add. Mus. Brit. 5834, p. 199.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid. p. 355.

Archbp. Rotheram, which I keep out of Respect to his Memory, tho' so little regarded in a Place that owes so much to him.

14, 15, 16, 17 are Panes of white Glass, already mentioned, representing Bucks in various Postures, painted in brown Colour with their short double Horns all gilt.

The noble Stone Door going into the Scholes and fronting the Regent Walk, on which were painted Archbp. Rotheram's Arms, with those of all the several Colleges in the University, in several Niches and other Parts, when it was pulled down about 10 Years ago to make way for the new library which now stands in its place, was carried to Madingley, the Seat of Sir John Cotton, where I saw it rebuilt, and makes a very handsome Gateway near the principal Part of the House, in 1763.

The glass of which Cole has given this summary description was evidently not library-glass; I mean it did not represent a series of subjects, or figures, or inscriptions, having reference to the books which reposed on the neighbouring shelves. It was what may be called commemorative glass, a type not uncommon in libraries, where it sometimes took the form of portraits, sometimes of coat-armour<sup>1</sup>. Rotheram seems to have commemorated himself and his patron King Edward IV. by the quarries in the lights, while the arms of other benefactors adorned the quatrefoils in the heads of the windows.

Cole's account of the gateway adds an important fact to our knowledge of the details of its ornamentation. Loggan's print shews 18 blank shields; three at the back of each of the four canopied niches; two flanking each side of the upper part of the central panel; and one under each corbel of the weather-molding of the door. It is obviously impossible to determine what colleges were represented, or how the eighteen shields were filled; but we now know that at least Rotheram's own arms and those of the colleges were tinctured. This mode of treatment may have been employed more generally than we imagine; and increased study of college account-books will probably reveal important particulars. For instance at S. John's College also some of the heraldic achievements on the great gate were gilt<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> *The Care of Books*, ed. ii. p. 238.

<sup>2</sup> *Arch. Hist.* ii. 317, 772.

P.S. Since writing this paper I have met with another fact respecting the use to which Rotheram's Library was put in after years. In the deed drawn up in 1574 respecting Archbishop Parker's gift of University Street and other matters, it is provided that the Master and Fellows of Corpus Christi College shall, among other things,

from tyme to tyme repaire and mayneteyne all such books as the said most reverende father hath alreadie given or shall hereafter give to the Universitie Librarie there, with clapses and byndinge necessarie and convenient, whiche saide bookeſ are or be to be placed at the north ende of the said Universitie Librarie in certen lockers appointed for the same And shall also maynteyne and repaire the chaines of so many of the same bookeſ as be alreadie chained there<sup>1</sup>.

No room in the library at that day had a "north end" except that built by Archbishop Rotheram. To it therefore, the books given by Archbishop Parker must have been consigned; and it is possibly to these that Dr Caius is alluding when he records, in the very same year, that only the more valuable books were placed in that room.

Dr M. R. JAMES remarked that during the process of re-leading windows in King's College Chapel a good many fragments of glass used to patch the windows by the glaziers of the eighteenth century have turned up. Some of these bear names of benefactors of colleges and one set in particular seems to have come from the windows in the Chapel or Hall of Gonville and Caius College. As yet no fragment of Rotheram's glass has been detected: but it is quite possible that some may be discovered in the course of future restoration.

Mr F. JENKINSON said that in examining the titles of books presented by the Archbishop to the College at Rotherham, the list of which is in Dr James' *Descriptive Catalogue* of the MSS in the Library of Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, he had been curious to enquire which, if any, related to printed books rather than to manuscripts. He had found that a considerable number were printed books. It is always of interest to note how soon printed books arrived in this country from abroad.

<sup>1</sup> *Endowments of the University*, ed. 1904, p. 23.

The Rev. Dr H. P. STOKES referred to the long period during which Rotheram's gifts of books extended. That such donations commenced sometime before May 1475, when the University enrolled his name among its benefactors, is shewn by the fact that the book-plate long used by the University Library had on it the Rotheram arms impaled with those of the see of Rochester<sup>1</sup>. The prelate had in 1472 been translated to Lincoln from the bishopric of Rochester (to which he had been consecrated in 1468). *Grace Book A* contains several references to Rotheram's donations of books to the University. Such gifts continued after he had been made Archbishop of York (1480); see, for instance, entries under date 1483-4. *Grace Book B* would also show that the Archbishop continued his gifts at least as late as the year 1492-3.

### APOSTLE SPOONS.

BY H. D. CATLING, B.A.

ALL authorities are agreed that apostle spoons were initially designed as christening presents, though it is impossible to say exactly how and when the custom originated. But certain it is that the practice extended over a period of nearly two hundred years, a fact proved by existing specimens, the oldest of which bears the hall-mark of 1493, while the most modern dates from the year 1665. Opulent sponsors seem to have given a complete set; those of more moderate circumstances, four spoons, while the poorer sort contented themselves with the gift of one, bearing the figure of their own patron saint, or of the saint after whom the child was named, or to whom the child was dedicated.

It was, no doubt, with this custom in mind that Shakespeare wrote the following passage in *King Henry VIII*, v. 2:

"King Henry. My lord of Canterbury,

I have a suit which you must not deny me;

This is a fair young maid that yet wants baptism,

You must be godfather, and answer for her.

<sup>1</sup> The Rotheram book-plate was only discontinued in the middle of the nineteenth century.

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