

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN
SOCIETY

(INCORPORATING THE CAMBS & HUNTS
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY)



VOLUME LXXI

1981

IMRAY LAURIE NORIE AND WILSON

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RECENT DISCOVERIES IN GONVILLE AND CAIUS COLLEGE

HUGH RICHMOND, CATHERINE HALL AND ALISON TAYLOR

It happened by chance that two discoveries were made in Gonville and Caius College in the early months of 1981. In January trenches were cut in Tree Court for hot water ducts, which revealed the base of John Caius' garden wall of 1565; between January and March preparations were made in the gallery in the College chapel to receive the new organ, and the opportunity was taken to strip and repair the plaster on the south wall adjacent to the gallery. This brought to light traces of the 15th-century oratory which was built at approximately the level of the present gallery as part of the Master's Lodge, between the Master's bedroom and the original Chapel. The second discovery has made possible both clarification and revision of the early history of the chapel; the first not only revealed an interesting piece of Caius' building work, but also some remarkable fragments of medieval masonry quarried (in all probability) from Ramsey Abbey. In the first part of this paper Catherine Hall describes the documentary evidence for the history of chapel and oratory, Hugh Richmond the architectural and archaeological discoveries in the chapel; in the second Alison Taylor reports on the excavation in Tree Court, and with the help of Colin Forbes, Jo Draper, June Johnstone, Marsha Levine and Hugh Richmond, the nature and significance of the finds. The investigations were made at the request (and with the help and encouragement) of Professor Christopher Brooke, acting on behalf of the Master and Fellows of the College, who gave permission for them and for the use of the College archives, and the Junior Bursar, Mr Christophe Grillet, under whose direction the trenches had been cut and the plaster stripped.

THE CHAPEL AND THE ORATORY

CATHERINE HALL AND HUGH RICHMOND

Prefatory

The two indispensable authorities, Willis and Clark's *Architectural History of the University and Colleges of Cambridge* and John Venn's *Biographical History of Gonville and Caius College*, are the products of the scholarship of the last century, and, excellent as they are, it is not in the nature of any work to be entirely exhaustive and without error. Moreover the references they give are not always in a form that leads today's searcher to the original documents they used. It is an unnerving experience to be faced with two equally reputable and substantially differing printed versions of what purports to be the same original document.

Defects of omission in Professor Willis' accounts of this and other colleges have usually arisen either from the unsatisfactory and confused state of the muniments of the college he was investigating (*not* the case in Gonville and Caius) or because subsequent transfers of property had left parts of the archive of one college in the custody of another. Hence the serious gaps in Willis' account of the site of Gonville Hall prior to the exchange with Corpus Christi College which will justify a fairly lengthy description on another occasion. In the work of John Venn we meet a man assiduous in his collection of biographical data and miscellaneous information about his college, but with only a limited understanding of medieval collegiate life and of the transactions producing the documents from which he quoted. The following summary of the documentary evidence relating to new constructions on the Gonville Hall site between the mid-14th century and the end of the 15th century attempts to disentangle first-hand documentary source material from the accretions of subsequent constructions put upon it.

Direct evidence for the funding, building and licensing of a College Chapel

Evidence for the establishment of a college chapel within the college site, a practice which in the mid-14th century began to replace the earlier one of using the neighbouring parish church, comes from several

types of written source. Most directly important are the licences from the diocesan bishop or the pope. Since permission had to be obtained from the appropriate ecclesiastical authorities for the performance of any kinds of divine service that might duplicate or rival those of the parish church, a series of such licences mark the stages by which a collegiate society attempted to become ecclesiastically self-sufficient. Such a licence was in the nature of permission obtained in advance, not the regularisation of an accomplished practice, and as the machinery for producing a permanent grant was both cumbersome and expensive, a limited or temporary licence from the lower authority might be taken out to cover the gap between intention and completion. Corroborating evidence from another type of source is needed to ascertain that a projected building was actually completed and in use by any given date.

The first licence obtained by Gonville Hall is a case in point. It was issued by the diocesan bishop on 3 April 1353 (see p. 99), when the incompletely-founded house of scholars was still in the buildings provided by Edmund Gonville in Lurteburne (present Free School) Lane. Its wording points to a possible development in the future, 'ut vos possitis capellam erigere'. With the exchange of properties with Corpus Christi College in the following July and the removal of Gonville's foundation to the new site, the permission obtained for this particular building ceased to be relevant. That the application was made at all must be seen in the general context of planning ahead on a generous scale, paralleled by the foundation licence for a house of up to twenty scholars, a total only a quarter achieved in the medieval period.

Current developments in other colleges are also relevant. The most important during the period of Gonville Hall's foundation and endowment (1348-1353) was the three-cornered contest for the parish church of St Botolph, simultaneously coveted by the rival new foundations of Pembroke Hall and Corpus Christi College. The initial victory of the Countess of Pembroke in securing the advowson made it unlikely that Gonville Hall (on its original site) would have the use of a parish church. Even when the Countess renounced St Botolph's (and the inconvenience to her scholars of using a church that lay the other side of the town ditch and gate is obvious) and adopted the plan of a chapel as an integral part of her new college buildings, it remained unlikely that Gonville Hall would succeed in wresting the church from Corpus Christi College, since Corpus had wealthy local support backed by the patronage of the Duke of Lancaster. The exchange of properties negotiated in 1353 between the two colleges was a businesslike affair, and support for the claims of Corpus Christi to St Botolph's against all other possible rivals was part of the price of the deal. On its new site, Gonville Hall did not immediately need a chapel. It could and did make use of the parish church of St Michael, recently rebuilt as chapel to Michaelhouse and parish church combined, initially for all purposes, to the end of the medieval period for all burials, and for some of these into the nineteenth century. Nevertheless the use of a portion of a church (the east end of the north aisle) compared very unfavourably with the facilities enjoyed by the better-endowed colleges. Pre-eminent in this respect was Peterhouse, whose totally-appropriated adjacent parish church had been demolished between 1350 and 1352 to make way for a new building on a lavish scale directly linked to the college and eminently suited to the needs of a college chapel, parishioners being relegated to the rear portions. That this building was used for the conduct of business beyond the immediate sphere of college interests is evidenced by a deed issued from it for Gonville Hall [G.&C.C. Muniments, VII 1b]. Across the road the Countess of Pembroke, having secured the requisite papal and episcopal licences in 1355 and 1356, was putting up her new buildings complete with chapel, ante-chapel and belfry-turret. These wealthier colleges were the creators of models emulated by the less wealthy, and a comparison between developments at Pembroke and in Gonville Hall shows that in the ensuing period, whatever Gonville Hall achieved, Pembroke Hall had already enjoyed for some decades. Even the basic plan and known architectural features of the two colleges present marked similarities.

Evidence supplied by Dr Caius

Earlier historians of the College tended to treat the account of the medieval period given by Dr Caius as if it carried the authenticity of an original source. Dr Caius was writing up to two centuries after the events he described, and the reliability of his source material, like that of all historians, was mixed. We are fortunate in that the greater part of the original material available to him still exists. Indeed there is additional matter in the College muniments which must have escaped his notice or not been deemed relevant. When Caius' transcriptions of medieval documents as given in the *Annals* are compared with their surviving originals, or early copies, it is clear that he has considerably amended and classicised the Latin. He dated the Bull of Boniface IX as 1384, though Boniface did not become Pope until November 1389. A similar check of the versions in the volume of 'Evidences' made under the mastership of Edmund

Sheriffe in 1472, a volume known to have been used by Caius, both from its marginalia and from his praise of it in the *Annals*, reveals a reassuring standard of accuracy. The copyist was near enough in time to his original to have few difficulties with the script. In the event of conflicting versions Sheriffe is to be preferred.

Where Caius is making a statement that cannot be verified by reference to existing documentary sources, it is sometimes possible to deduce what his source must have been. It is likely that he had a current calendar of obits of benefactors containing a date and indicating the nature of their good works. But since such a list is only summary and can seldom give more than one date, it cannot be taken as total evidence about a building work which must have taken a considerable time to complete. The date given is likely to have been that of the completion of the main structure, and the name that of the principal benefactor(s). Corroborating or amplifying evidence from other sources, such as accounts, must be sought where possible. Statements about what Caius actually saw, such as the number of chapel windows and the legends in their glass, can be accepted as completely authentic. What he believed to have been the case long before his memory or that of the older fellows with whom he might have talked, should be treated with the reserve given to all oral evidence and hearsay. When the *Annals* is dealing with Caius' own time and in particular with his own building works or benefactions, the record can be taken as entirely accurate.

Of more value than the summarised and edited account of the development of the earlier College buildings as given in the *Annals* is the leaf of rough notes about the chapel windows found by Venn and incorporated into the volume of miscellanea that forms Library MS. 714 (Venn (1901), p. 156, n. 3). This paper describes the position and glazing of the five windows of the chapel proper as they were prior to the alterations made by Caius. That of the east window had the inscription, 'Orate pro anima Wⁱ de Rougham (medicine professoris) qui fecit istam capellam fieri'. The other four, with the 'orate pro anima' had the names of Rougham again (first window on left), Henry le Despenser (first on right), Nicholas de Bottesham (second on left) and John de Ufford (second on right). Venn translated the genitive case as 'by' and assumed that the glass in each was inserted in the lifetime of the donor it commemorated. In the case of John de Ufford, who died in 1375, this would mean that a glass window existed nearly two decades before the building into which it was inserted came into use. A more reasonable assumption would be that the glazing in the windows was a final embellishment, conceived as a set, to commemorate the principal donors to the building fund and giving special place to William Rougham as prime mover and benefactor of the project. We have no means of telling when they were put in and it could have been as late as when the glass windows, also commemorating donors, were put into the hall. It could hardly have been before their deaths. The significance of the name of John Ufford is that a donation from him, either in the form of cash or as the 'precium' raised by pledging the valuable book(s) of his bequest, was used towards a projected building that took about twenty years to materialise. The position of Henry le Despenser's window, in the first place opposite that of Rougham, who is believed to have acted as his physician, suggests that this forthright Bishop of Norwich was the ultimate source of the greatest part of the funds. The latest known deed to which Rougham was a party is dated from Bury on 20 July 1392 [G.&C.C. Muniments IX.11]; the last recorded of Pulham, his colleague of forty years previously, is dated from Cambridge on 24 February 1394 [G.&C.C. Muniments VIII.12a]. The building of the chapel in its first state may be dated between c. 1354 and 1394.

Evidence from the Accounts

The extant account-books of Gonville Hall, originally in loose paper notebooks but bound together (with some misplaced leaves) from at least the late 18th century, were until recently in too fragile a state to be safely consulted. With thorough restoration in 1980 it is now possible to use them. The misplaced pages have been returned to the order indicated by their original foliation. The main account commences so abruptly in the middle of the year 1423 that we must postulate a previous notebook long since lost.

A very literal translation of some items from the opening pages is quoted by Venn ((1901), p. 16) and gives the earliest reference to some of the fixtures in the chapel, namely two stalls and four 'standards'. The building of a farm- or garden-type of wall (clay bats covered with straw) 'towards the chapel' suggests that the chapel was sufficiently free-standing for the college precinct to be otherwise incompletely enclosed. But whether this wall was to the east, west or south we shall never know.

Venn also prints what he calls an 'undated building account', now on the dorse of the first folio ((1901), p. 17), and he rightly suggested that it may refer to the works undertaken under Atwood's mastership. But as to dating he has been led astray by his literal following of Caius' 'in 1441'. The hand is one used in the

main series of accounts between 1430 and 1436 but not thereafter. On p. 24 of the Computus book we find the following:

| | |
|---|------------------------|
| ‘Extractum post festum michaelis in vigilia etheldrede. | |
| Anno domini 1431 | |
| In primis furbisshon | xl s. |
| Item eidem | ij li. |
| Item - | - |
| Item m. furbysshon | v li. ijs. viij d.ob’. |

The total works out at £10.2s.8½, exactly the sum allocated to Mr Furbishon for commons in the last item of the ‘undated’ building account. From this we conclude that the building was going ahead in the summer of 1431. Furbishon, then one of the fellows, would naturally claim commons for the days when he was supervising the workmen.

On the following page we find in the expenses account for the half year after Easter 1432

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| ‘Item expenses pro pensionibus subsidiis reparacionibus et aliis diversis. | xxvij li. ijs. ix d. |
| Item pro diversis expensis circa novum opus | vj li. xvijs. jd.’ |
| And again p. 38 [1440] | |
| ‘Item pro meremio ad novum edificium empto | vi li. ijs. vd.’ |

Again a building project is found on closer examination to have taken longer and to have cost more than the account of either Caius or Venn would have led us to suppose. The work covered at least the years 1431-1440 and the date in Caius’ *Annals* of 1441 was very likely the correct date of completion.

An item-by-item examination of the whole volume might yield further details, but unless a work is specifically designated as ‘new’ or itemised in more than ordinary detail it is impossible to distinguish improvements from repairs. An unfortunate gap in the accounts recorded in the Computus Book between 1455 and 1488, except for the year 1465, leaves the documentary sources for the later medieval period rather thin.

Further developments in the later 15th century

The grant of the Bishop of Ely in 1476 is our only evidence for the further development of the chapel. The original licence in the College muniments is endorsed, ‘Licencia episcopi Eliensis pro divinis celebrandis in oratorio iuxta cameram magistri’. Venn’s transcript is reasonably accurate, but the heading he has given it, and the construction put upon it in his general account of the chapel (Venn (1901), 157) show that he has mistaken the licensing of an additional, self-contained smaller chapel or oratory for one for the extensions of the functions of the chapel proper. It may be noted that as early as 1398 Pembroke College had similarly created a second oratory by the conversion of its former ante-chapel or vestry at the ‘ecclesiastical west end’ of their original chapel. Their development likewise featured an entry at the first floor from chambers beyond, a spiral or turret stair on the S. side, and a probable squint. Further broadening of the functions of the chapel at Gonville Hall were provided for by the consecration of 1493, as described by Venn ((1901), pp. 333-4), and the Bull of 1500 of Pope Alexander VI. This last, extending the right of worshipping in chapel to residents of Fyshewick Hall and conceding the much-coveted privilege of burials, completed the self-sufficiency of the chapel for all services needed for present and past members. But they involved no necessary structural changes to the existing buildings and we have no evidence of further alterations or additions until those of John Caius.

Architectural Evidence

The stripping of the plaster near the gallery made it possible to examine the wall around a piscina which could be seen high on the south wall of the chapel between the front of the gallery and the adjacent window. When plaster was removed two features were uncovered: a blocked doorway west of the piscina and a blocked rectangular area to the east. It was clear that both these features and the piscina had been inserted into the chapel wall at the same time. The doorway had a four-centred head and plain splayed arris. It was .76 m. wide, 2.03 m. high and its east jamb was .33 m. west of the piscina. Also the threshold was .83 m. below the level of the bowl of the piscina. The rectangular feature was .09 m. east of the piscina and had a sill level with its bowl. It was .78 m. wide and had plain rectangular jambs which ran up to the top of the wall which was disturbed by later work. As it was impracticable to remove the blocking material

it was not possible to establish whether this feature was a recess or a small window, but the latter is probable. None of the three features can be closely dated but the door is of late medieval character. The style of the piscina suggests that it may be of somewhat earlier date but the detail of the construction of the wall shows that it was built in at the same time as the door. The wall has been replastered and only the piscina now remains visible. The three features indicate that in the late medieval period there was an upper floor over the west part of the chapel which extended at least as far as the west side of the tall windows adjacent to the present gallery. This floor was presumably over an ante-chapel. The piscina also shows that there was an altar on the upper floor. The doorway is more difficult to interpret but it will be seen that documentary evidence indicates that it gave access to a stair turret built against the south wall of the chapel. (Fig. 1, p. 105)

The original 14th-century building was rectangular in plan, about 60 feet long and 20 feet wide, and extended from the present south east corner of Gonville Court to the east side of the later passageway which now connects Gonville Court with Caius Court. A piscina in the south wall, now concealed by panelling, which is 10 m. west of the present east wall presumably served the main altar of this chapel. The west side of Gonville Court and the remainder of the south side were probably completed by 1441. It is clear that the new buildings abutted the chapel on the west and the adjacent part was occupied by the Master's Lodge as the Hall and Library were in the west range of Gonville Court. This is confirmed by Loggan's engraving of 1688 which shows a range of buildings of domestic character meeting the higher west gable wall of the chapel (Fig. 2). A diagonal buttress is shown at the south-west corner of the chapel which indicates that the west wall was probably originally free-standing. The west end of the chapel has two storeys and attics and windows similar in character to those of the Master's Lodge. Also shown is a stair turret attached to the south wall of the chapel just west of the middle window. It does not appear to have had an external door. There is no record of this turret before the time of Dr Caius but it must have been built earlier as it was heightened between 1573 and 1575, the money being provided by Dr Caius (*Annals*, ed. Venn (1904), p. 187). It has been shown that a licence of 1476 refers to the altar in the first-floor oratory at the west end of the chapel and that the stair turret was used to connect the oratory with the chapel.

Examination of the upper room of the Master's Lodge which abuts the west wall of the chapel shows that the floor level of this room was approximately 1.10 m. below the estimated level of the floor of the oratory, based on the threshold of the doorway to the stair turret. However, there is, at the north end of the wall between Lodge and chapel, a blocked doorway with a threshold which corresponds with the level of the oratory floor and this doorway is reached by a short flight of stairs from the first floor of the Lodge. Also at the south end of the same wall .20 m. from the corner of the room within a cupboard .65 m. deep is a splayed masonry jamb which formed the south side of an opening. The jamb is vertical and rises from the floor and is cut by the soffit of the cupboard at about 2 m. None of these features can be dated with any certainty but it appears that the oratory was connected to the Master's bedroom by a doorway and a squint and both are therefore probably of the 15th century. It is clear that the oratory was used by the Master from the Lodge and perhaps by the Fellows from the chapel. The stair turret might also have served as a convenient access to the chapel, for the Master, from the first floor of the Lodge.

Appendix - List of Documents

Licences

1. Licence of Thomas de L'Isle, Bishop of Ely, to the Master and College of Scholars of the Hall of the Annunciation for the building of a chapel on their site. Dated from Downham 1 April 1353. Approved by Prior and Convent of the same. 3 April 1353. With seals of both in red wax. Original in College Treasury I.25. Text, Venn (1901), p. 228.
2. Licence of the Bishop of Ely, issued from Downham, 22 Nov. 1384, to the Master and Scholars (Fellows) of the College of the Annunciation of Blessed Mary at Cambridge, to have divine service celebrated by themselves or by their chaplain in a chapel or oratory within the College, 'si ad hoc decens fuerit et honestum', and provided that it is not to the prejudice of the rights of the parish church. To be valid for three years only. Register of Bishop Fordham, transcr. Baker. Text printed Venn (1901), p. 331.
3. Licence of the Bishop of Ely to Simon Neylond, issued 24 December 1392. Licence to celebrate and hear divine service in the College of the Annunciation for two years. [Neylond, ex-Warden of King's Hall and beneficed at Elsworth, Cambs, with leave of non-residence for three years from 1389, was probably living at Gonville Hall at this time and was believed by Venn to have acted as chaplain.] Summarised from the Baker transcripts, Venn (1901), p. 3. *E.D.R. G1/2. fo. 49v.*

4. Bull of Pope Boniface IX, issued from St Peter's Rome, 13 November 1393. Licence to the Master and Scholars (Fellows) of the College of the Annunciation in Cambridge permitting them and others residing with them there in priests' or holy orders to celebrate mass and other divine offices 'in capella Collegii vestri ... fundata et constructa', 'etiam cum nota et alta voce'. Original lost. Earliest text in Sheriffe, *Evidences* (MS. 706/692 in College Library), p. 26. Printed Venn (1901), p. 332. The version in the *Annals* is corrupt.

5. Licence of William Gray, Bishop of Ely, dated from Dodyngton 5 September 1476. For the celebration of divine service in an oratory next the chamber of the master, if it is suitably disposed and furnished, and not to the prejudice of the parish church. Seal of bishop in red wax. Original in College Treasury I.32. Text, Venn (1901), p. 332.

Documents Issued from the Chapel of the College

The College still possesses four original documents issued from the College chapel in December 1393. All four are notarially attested 'public instruments' drawn up by Robert de Foxton, public and apostolic notary. They relate to the livings of Mattishall and Wilton in Norfolk which the College was appropriating. The earliest, dated 1 December, was issued in the presence of Robert Pulham, Master, and additionally carries the College seal. The other three, of 12 December, were simply notarially attested before the two necessary clerical witnesses. It might be regarded as an indication that the College chapel was not in use, even for business purposes, early in 1388, since a similar public instrument, authenticated by the same notary and relating to the same business of Wilton, was on 22 January 1388 issued from the church of St Mary-the-Less (used by Peterhouse as their college chapel).

| | | |
|--------------------|----------|----------------------------|
| College Muniments, | Box VII | Nos. 1b, d, e, (Wilton); |
| | Box VIII | Nos. 10, 11, (Mattishall). |

The text of these documents is given in Sheriffe, pp. 47-8, 73-5.

Other Documentary Sources

Computus Book, Sheriffe's *Evidences*, described in the notes to Willis and Clark, Vol. I, pp. 166-7. MS. 714 in Library, described Venn (1901), p. 156n.

A SIXTEENTH-CENTURY WALL CONTAINING MEDIEVAL MASONRY

ALISON TAYLOR

Summary

In January 1981, trenches for hot water ducts in Tree Court, Gonville and Caius College, cut through a stone wall and layers of gravel and cinders that had been garden paths (Fig. 3). The site had been orchards and gardens from early medieval times and the wall is recorded as being built by Dr John Caius in 1565 and demolished by Alfred Waterhouse in 1868-9 (Willis & Clark, I, pp. 189-90). The interest of the wall lies in the re-use of 13th-century decorative capitals and bases from Ramsey Abbey and the extremely good documentation of all the building materials and the site itself.

Historical Background

Although Gonville Hall was settled on part of its present site in 1353, initially using existing tenements in Trinity Lane, and the chapel was in use by 1393 (see above), the earlier college buildings did not expand beyond the area of the present Gonville Court until the 16th century. Dr Caius, the co-founder and Master from 1559 to 1573, enlarged the site of the College, built Caius Court and designed the three gates of Humility (moved in 1868, and now in the Master's Garden), Virtue and Honour. Dr Caius bought the northern portion of the site of the present Tree Court and the rest of the Court was acquired piecemeal up to 1782. In the 1860's and 1870's the present buildings were erected. The complex history of the small piece of land that is now the southern part of Tree Court is an interesting example of the slow transfer of ownership from religious holdings to townsmen's land and then to colleges.

The portion of the College with which this site is concerned belonged in the medieval period to the Priory of Angelsey. The stone house of the Prior stood on Trinity Street in the south-east corner and its

orchards stretched westwards, meeting the garden (formerly the property of Sir John de Cambridge) within the present Caius Court. At the Dissolution the Prior's stone house passed to William Atkinson, Citizen and Alderman of Lincoln, who sold it to Robert Lane, a Cambridge baker. When Dr Caius planned to build Caius Court he bought a piece of ground to the east from Robert Lane, part of which was used for the east wing of Caius Court, the remainder becoming the President's garden. The wall he built in 1565 to bound this garden on the east was the one that was found in 1981. Its substantial proportions are therefore explained, for it divided the College from the properties occupied by townspeople until 1782.

The land to the east of the wall is not mentioned in records again until 1675 when it belonged to Thomas and Richard Prior. They sold the western part to William Morden in 1675; it passed to Conyers Middleton in 1738, to Charles Finch in 1761 and to the College in 1782. Meanwhile, the eastern part of the site (once the Prior's stone house) contained two houses, one of which was held by Trinity Hall, who passed it to Gonville and Caius in 1782, and the other of which was owned successively by John Richardson, Mary Heath, Mary Collet and Charles Finch. Charles Finch conveyed it to the College with the rest of the garden in 1782. The houses were in part leased for trading purposes and later used for College rooms down to 1868, when they were demolished by Alfred Waterhouse to make room for the range containing the present entrance tower built in 1870.

The land on either side of the 1565 wall was therefore used only for orchards and gardens from the time it was held by the Priory of Anglesey onwards. The fate of the Prior's stone house is not known: the houses demolished in 1868 look like good 18th-century town houses from their frontages as seen in photographs (e.g. Venn, 1901, pp. 140, 147) but might in part have incorporated some earlier work. Nothing of these survived the rebuilding by Waterhouse, whose contract was based on the complete demolition of existing structures.

Documentation of Dr Caius' building work is extremely interesting, for it contains accounts of all the materials used, their cost, their carriage (by land and water) and, most importantly, their origin. It appears that freestone found in the garden wall came from the Northamptonshire quarries at King's Cliffe and Weldon. Stone from nearby Barnwell Priory had already been robbed, for example for Trinity College, but it was still available for use into the 19th century and it is not clear why Caius should go approximately 25 miles to buy stone at Ramsey. The Abbey there, one of the leading religious houses in medieval England, was obviously already in a sorry state just 25 years after the Dissolution. It had fallen to the ownership of Henry Cromwell (grandfather of Oliver Cromwell) and an Indenture, dated May 1st 1564, between Henry Cromwell and Dr Caius relates the sale of some of the ruins. It also gives evidence for one part of the Abbey that was used for Caius' buildings, although the following Indenture for materials worth £10. can only be concerned with a small amount of the stone purchased: "Witnesseth that the said Henry, for the summe of ten poundes of good and lawful money of England to hym payd the day of the date thereof hath bargayned and sold ...all that his hepe of stone... which lyeth in the cross Ile of the church of the late abbey of Ramsey, between the body of the church there, and the late quere or chancel of the same, in the place of the belfre or steple otherwise called the lantern.

Which said hepe of stone was sumtyme parcell of the said steple or lantern before the fall thereof". (Gonville & Caius College Muniments I, 49).

The Abbey was also used as a quarry for the builders of the Hall of King's College in 1562 (Willis & Clark I, 1886, 536), Trinity Chapel, 1555-67 (RCHM, 1959, p. 218) and the upper part of the tower of Great St Mary's, 1594 (RCHM, 1959, p. 275).

The materials and labour for Dr Caius' buildings between 1564 and 1573 (excluding the Gate of Honour and the Master's Staircase) are given in his Annals as follows:

"A table summarie of all the expenses of our Founders Mr Doctor Caius buyldings from the feste of Ester 1564, untill the nativitie of St John Baptist 1573."

| | li. | s. | d. |
|---|-----|----|-----|
| In primis for trees bought of Sr Henrie Cromwell |) | | |
| |) | | |
| out of Warboys and Ramsey woods in number 510 |) | 66 | 5 0 |
| Item for vewing marking felling lopping squaring |) | | |
| |) | | |
| drawing and carriage by land and water from thens |) | | |
| |) | | |
| to Cambridge |) | 46 | 4 8 |

| | | | | |
|--|---|------|----|----|
| Item to Thorne Raynsforth and Rothery for the fyrst |) | | | |
| and Weste frame part by greate parte by daye |) | 84 | 10 | 9 |
| Item to Rotherey and his men for their worke by |) | | | |
| daye from Midsomer 1566, untill Midsomer 1573 |) | 123 | 6 | 3 |
| Items for bourdes bought and brought into the |) | | | |
| College |) | 29 | 15 | 10 |
| Item for staging tymber, hardles, lathes, lyne, |) | | | |
| cordes and nayles |) | 31 | 16 | 6 |
| *Item for Ramsey stone free and ragge, |) | | | |
| cutting and carriage by land and water |) | 254 | 19 | 8 |
| *Item for free stone from Kyngs Clyffe and Welden, |) | | | |
| digging and carryage parte by land, parte by water |) | 101. | 19 | 2 |
| *Item for whyte stone from Haslingfield and |) | | | |
| Barrington digging and carriage |) | 91. | 3 | 5 |
| Item for stone from Barnewell digging and carriage |) | 6 | 5 | 2 |
| *Item for lyme for Reche, Hinton and otherwise |) | 54 | 10 | 1 |
| Item for Sande and Claye by Barnes, Thompson & others |) | 11 | 6 | 6 |
| Item for Iron worke for wyndowes dores etc |) | 24 | 8 | 10 |
| Item for Leade and to the plommer for casting and |) | | | |
| laying it |) | 46 | 15 | 7 |
| Item to free Masons from Michaelmas 1564 |) | | | |
| untill Midsomer 1573 |) | 337 | 11 | 7 |
| Item to the Carver |) | 7 | 4 | 11 |
| Item to roughe Masons |) | 97 | 8 | 2 |
| Item to Laborers |) | 219 | 8 | 5 |
| Item to Slatters for Slatte, tyle and the workemanshippe |) | 161 | 8 | 6 |
| Item for charges extraordinarie |) | 37 | 15 | 2 |
| The hole summe of theis expenses |) | | | |
| ordinarie and extraordinarie |) | 1834 | 4 | 2 |

Besides the expences omytted by negligence and expences also yet to come for the perfection of the building of the college and paving of the Courts of the same". (Venn 1904, 186-7)

Items marked * were included in the garden wall.

Site Description

The trenches (Fig. 3) for hot water ducts were one metre wide and had been cut to a depth of 60 cm before they were investigated archaeologically. Only about two hours were available before the site was to be filled with concrete and therefore it was only possible to clean the bottom and sides of the trench containing the wall and to excavate the west side of the wall. The trenches (Fig. 4a) were filled fairly uniformly with garden soil, containing lenses of mortar but no distinguishable layers apart from garden paths of gravel or cinders.

Excavations on the west side of the wall showed that the soil below about 60 cm was darker, with flecks of charcoal. It is not known whether this was an uniform layer at the greater depth, or the result of this part of the garden being used as a flower bed.

The garden soil continued to a depth of 1.05 m below the lawn before a stony surface at the base of the wall was reached. It was not possible to investigate further.

The wall was 60 cm (2 ft) wide. Five courses of regular blocks of Cornbrash survived, joined with mortar and filled with rubble containing clunch, fragments of Cornbrash and a piece from a re-used column. The foundation of the wall, however, included a capital and bases from late 13th-century arcading, made of Purbeck Marble (Plate 1). Clearly, these were part of the ruins of Ramsey Abbey mentioned in the above accounts and Indenture. Four of the stones were taken out of the wall and are discussed in detail below (p. 104). The wall extended into both sides of the trench and no doubt more medieval stones are preserved along its base. The east side of the wall, the "town-side", was not investigated at this time.

In July the same year another trench, 2 m long and 1 m wide, was cut by hand 50 cm north of the previous trench, and was excavated on both sides of the wall (Fig. 4b). In this trench the wall was visible as a layer of rubble 25 cm below the turf. Below the rubble there were six layers of regular Cornbrash blocks, well morticed together and set on large protruding Cornbrash blocks that were fairly symmetrical on both sides of the wall, equivalent in position to the Purbeck Marble fragments described above. No architectural fragments were noted in this trench.

Chalky marl with rubble was reached at a depth of just over one metre, sloping away slightly from the wall, especially on the east side. This layer extended over most of this small trench, except the extreme eastern edge where garden soil continued to slope down. The garden soil on the western (College) side was uniform, with no distinctive layers and scarcely any finds. On the eastern (town) side it contained soot, tiles and much rubble from a depth of about 50 cm down to the base of the wall. This layer also contained a great quantity of animal bones and sherds of middle to late 18th-century pottery. Apparently kitchen refuse and other debris were piled against the wall while the lowest levels were visible. No foundation trench was noted and all the datable finds were later than the construction of the wall. Therefore it seems that all the excavated stone-work, standing on wide rubble foundations, stood above the old ground surface, but rubbish tipping and gardening covered the lower levels during the next two centuries.

Apart from animal bones, finds from the trench were scarce and of little archaeological interest. There were pieces of pipe-stem, tile and wine bottle, oyster shells, nails and 18th and 19th-century pottery. Two earlier pot sherds and a wine glass fragment are discussed below.

Conclusion

The wall was built by Dr Caius as a boundary to his new President's Garden and to separate his college from the town properties to the east. It was a substantial and well-built structure, probably similar in appearance to the present walls of Caius Court. Virtually all the stone of this wall was almost certainly brought from Ramsey Abbey.

Geological report on the Architectural stones – Colin Forbes, Ph.D

- (a) The carved stones at the base of the wall are confirmed to be *Purbeck Marble*.
- (b) Fragments of stone from the facing stones of the wall and rubble fill proves upon cutting and thin sectioning to be *Cornbrash*. Cornbrash was much used as ragstone for walling in early days at

Cambridge and this sample can be matched in the Free School Lane wall of Corpus Old Court (14th-15th century), St Benet's Tower (11th century) and in the lower courses of the Master's Garden wall at Caius, outside Trinity Hall. It may be seen with several other types of stone of various provenance in the Senate House Passage wall of Gonville and Caius College.

A writ of Henry I (*Regesta Regum Anglo-Normannorum*, II ed. C. Johnson and H. A. Cronne, Oxford 1956, No. 1410) confirmed the rights Ramsey Abbey claimed from Saxon times to obtain stone from Barnack and Peterborough. The rights were extended in 1185 when Gervase de Berneche offered forty perches of land in his quarry. (*Cart. monasterii de Rameseia*, ed. W. H. Hart & P. A. Lyons (3 vols., London, Rolls Series, 1884-93) i 188-91). A writ of Edward the Confessor of doubtful authenticity but representing 11th or 12th-century tradition, mentions "Wercestan at Bernace and Walston at Burh in return for 4000 eels" (F. E. Harmer *Anglo-Saxon Writs*, Manchester, 1952, pp. 262-5, No. 62 cf pp. 248-56) 'Wercstan' presumably refers to Barnack freestone, which was capable of being worked, i.e. squared or carved, and 'Walston' to a ragstone suitable for rough use such as rubble.

There is a large area of Cornbrash outcrop just west of Peterborough and therefore it is likely that these fragments, together with blocks of Barnack freestone and architectural fragments of Purbeck Marble were first used in Ramsey Abbey and were subsequently brought to Cambridge.

Post-Medieval Pottery – Jo Draper

- (a) Body sherd of local coarse-ware with a hard, sandy-grey fabric, glazed overall apple green with tiny streaks of dark brown.
- (b) Body sherd of Westerwald stoneware. Very hard, fine, grey fabric. There are externally five surviving impressed circles 6mm in diameter enclosing five heavy lines; the lines are in a different direction for each circle. The circles are grey and the rest of the external surface is bright dark blue. It is difficult to be sure whether this sherd is from a jug or mug. Similar, but rougher looking, decoration is found on a mug with a 'GR' cartouche of the early to mid-eighteenth century (*Steizung* 1976, No. 594a, P334). If from a jug the date is mid-17th century, if a mug, late 17th to mid-18th century.

Glass fragment – June Johnstone

Fragment of vessel, comprising part of the stem and the base of the bowl. It is blown with a hollow baluster stem between two collars, the inner base of the bowl having a low raised 'kick'. It is made in colourless glass, now showing iridescent weathering on all surfaces. The outer surface of the lower part of the bowl section has many fine, closely spaced scratches, possibly acquired during manufacture. The fragment comes from a wine glass probably originating in the Netherlands and dates to approximately the mid-17th century.

Animal Bones – Marsha Levine, Ph.D

The collection comprises 67 bones, of which 25 are certainly or probably sheep bones, 39 cow bones and one pig. Most of the anatomical elements are the same as those found in cuts of meat today. Many show cut marks, suggesting that butchery practices were similar to those employed today. In contrast to most prehistoric deposits there are very few non meat-bearing bones.

The minimum number of individuals for each species is as follows: 1 pig, 2 cows, 1 sheep, and one probable foetus. Most of the material is immature, the epiphyses are unfused and the teeth are deciduous and scarcely worn. One of the cows is less than one year old and probably considerably less; the other is older than 2 years. The sheep is possibly 3-3½ years old. There were also a considerable number of oyster shells.

The assemblage is too small for serious conclusions to be drawn but it is interesting to see how closely this 18th-century deposit of kitchen waste resembles modern remains in its choice of joints, butchery practices and preference for young animals.

Architectural Fragments – Hugh Richmond

The capital and bases of Purbeck marble are of late 13th-century date and uniform in style (Plate 1). They are small, well carved and finished to a high standard. Each is cut from a single block and is circular in plan with a spur, along the sides of which mouldings are returned. Enough of the bases remain to show

that they carried a circular shaft with a diameter of 90mm. The capital is less complete but it was established that it carried a shaft of similar diameter.

It is therefore suggested that these fragments originally formed a part of a small wall arcade with freestanding circular shafts and that the capital and bases were tied to the inner wall surface by means of the spurs. The height of the shafts was probably something in excess of 1 metre (Fig. 5).

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Note by Prof. C. N. L. Brooke

On behalf of the Master and Fellows of Gonville and Caius College, I should like to express our very warm appreciation to the authors of this paper for the time and scholarship they have generously given to reconstructing and preserving these elements in the history of the College.

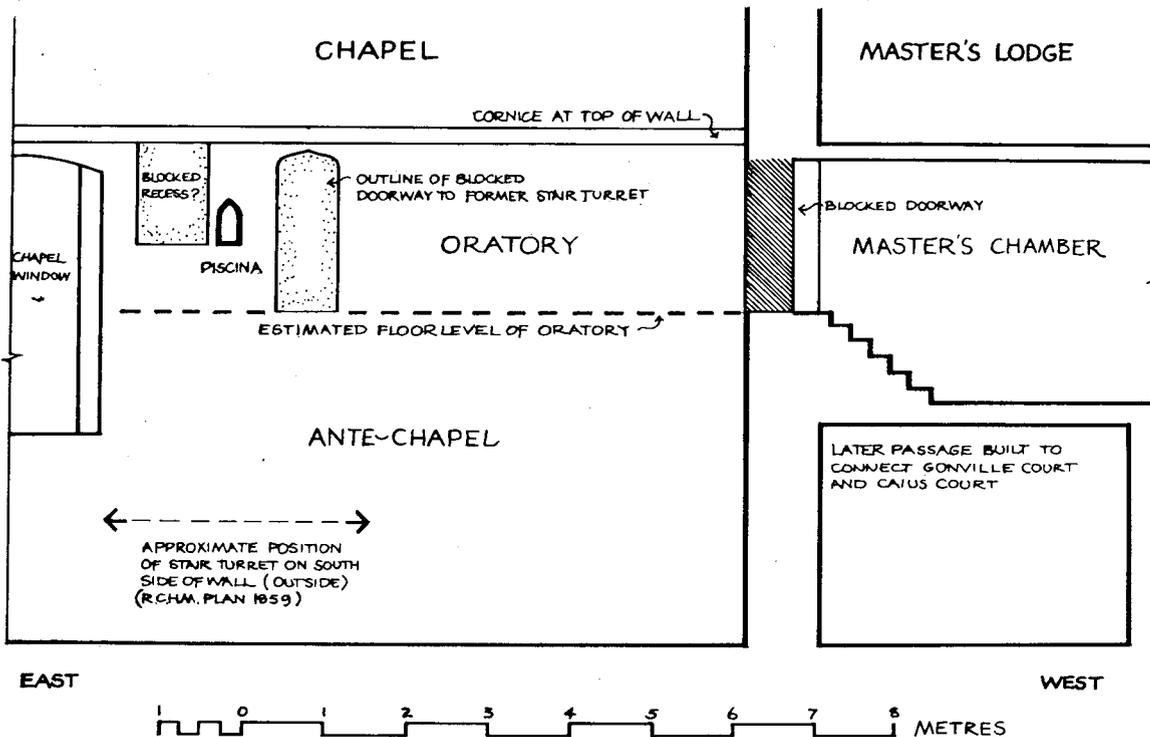


Fig. 1. Section through west end of Gonville and Caius College chapel, showing connecting door at first floor level and details of 15th-century oratory.

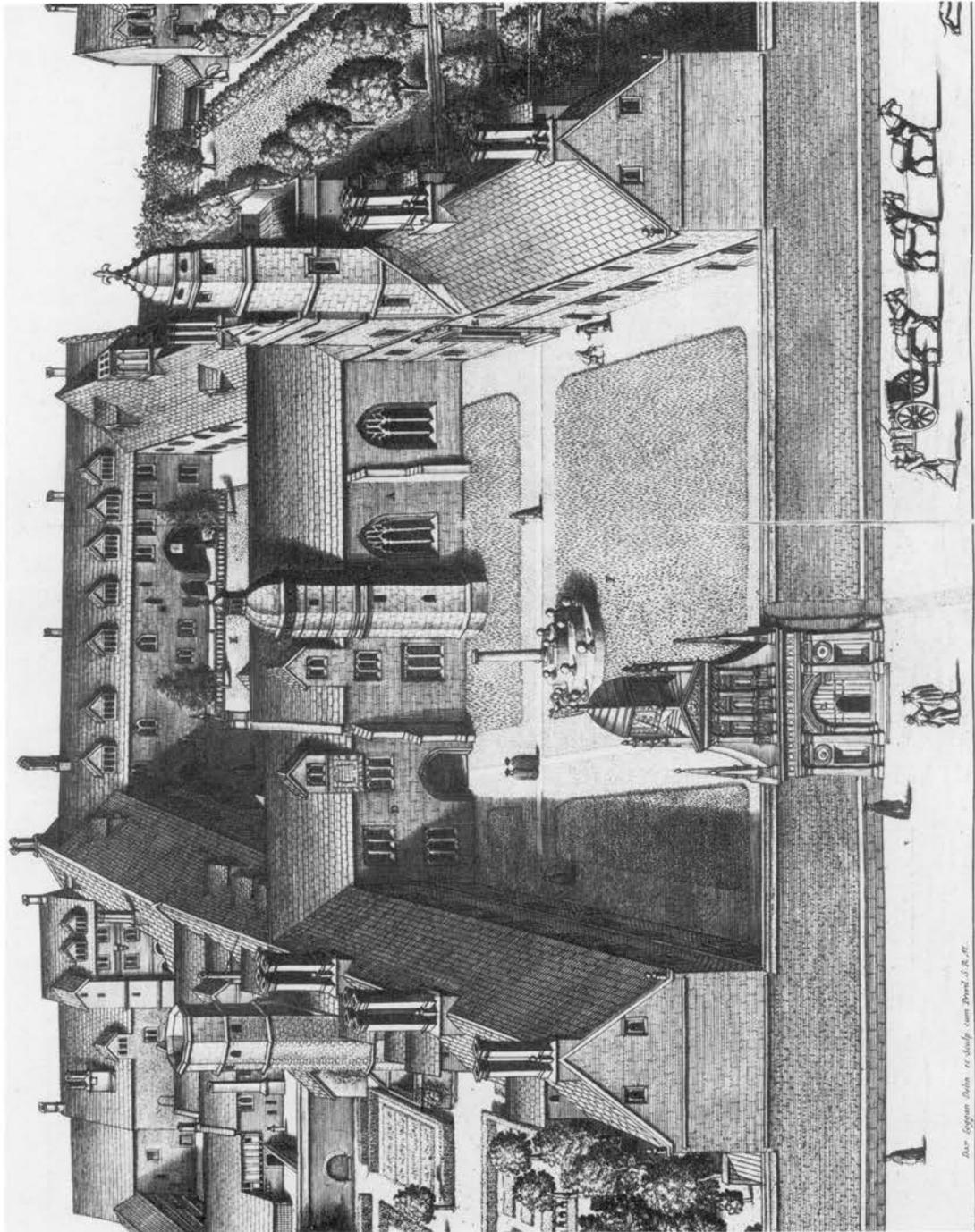


Fig. 2. Loggan's view of Gonville and Caius College c. 1685 from *Cantabrigia Illustrata*. The Chapel is marked A and the Master's Lodge D. By kind permission of the Syndics of the University Library.

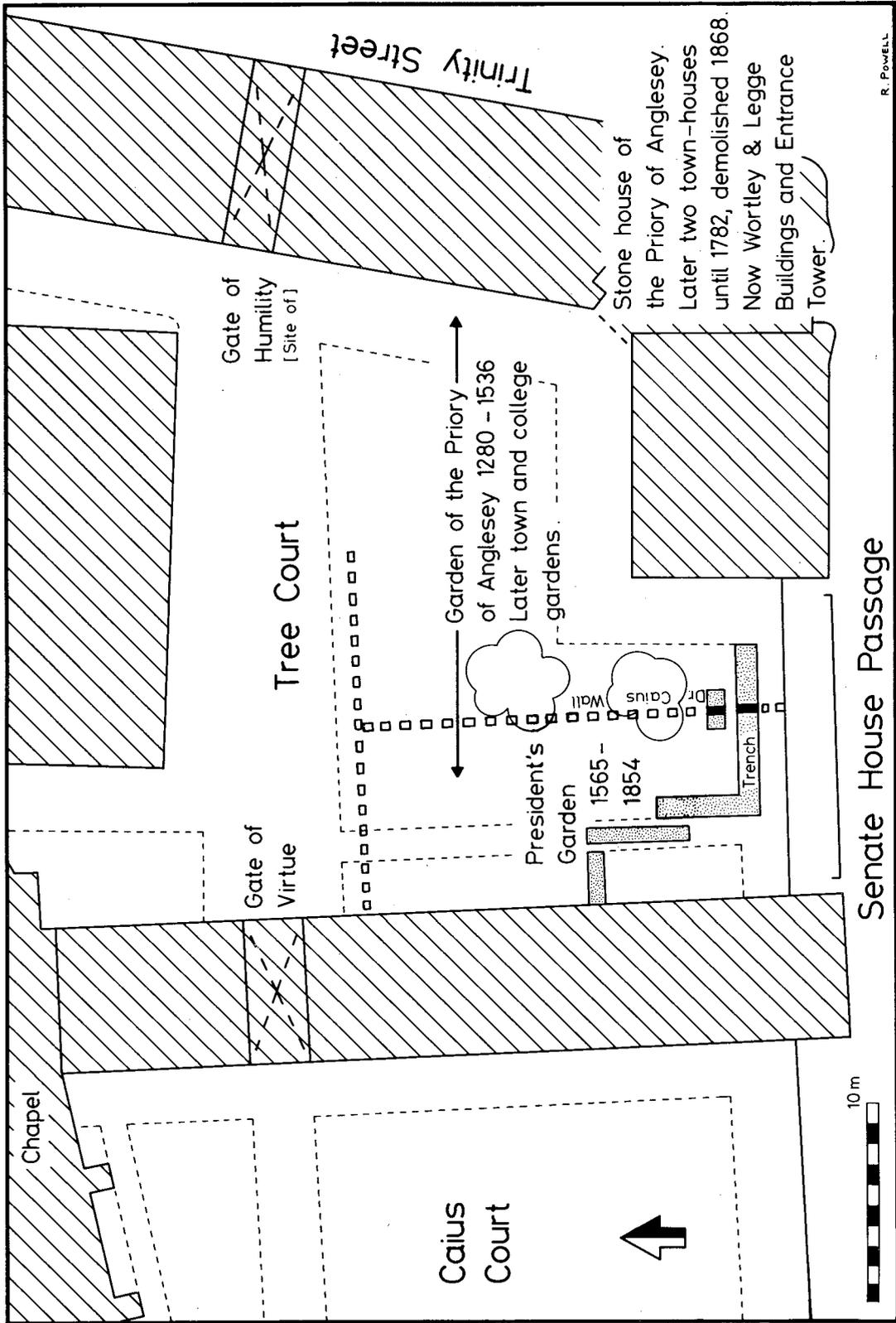


Fig. 3. Plan of trenches in Tree Court, Gonville and Caius College.

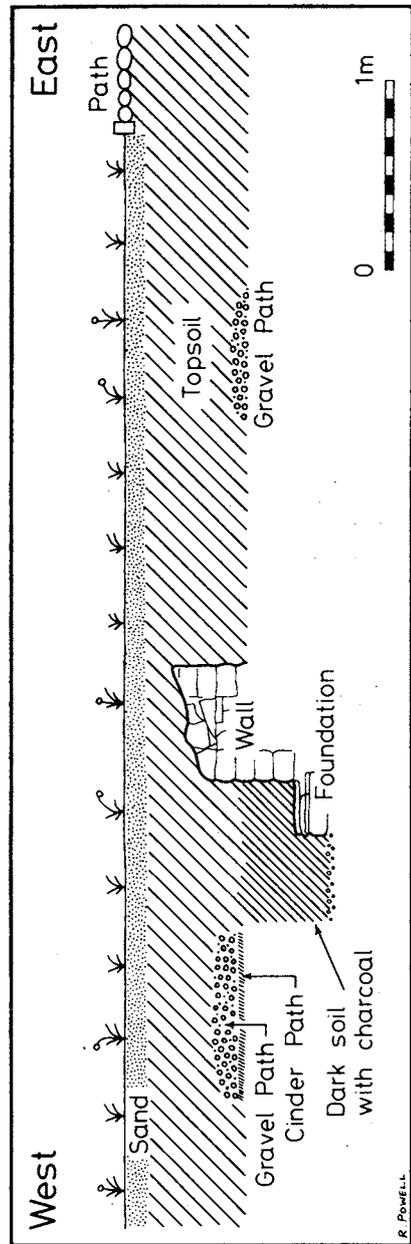
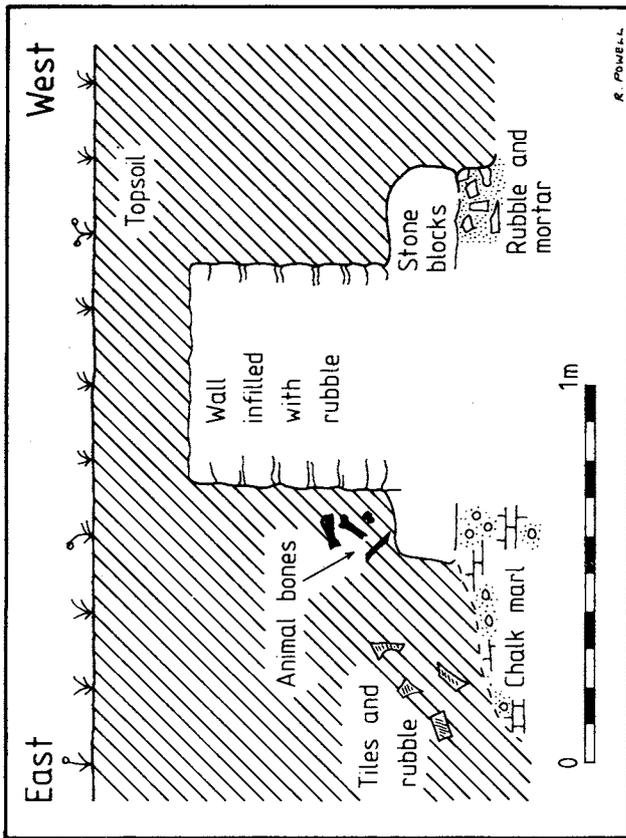


Fig. 4. Sections showing 16th-century wall, Gonville and Caius College.

4a 4b

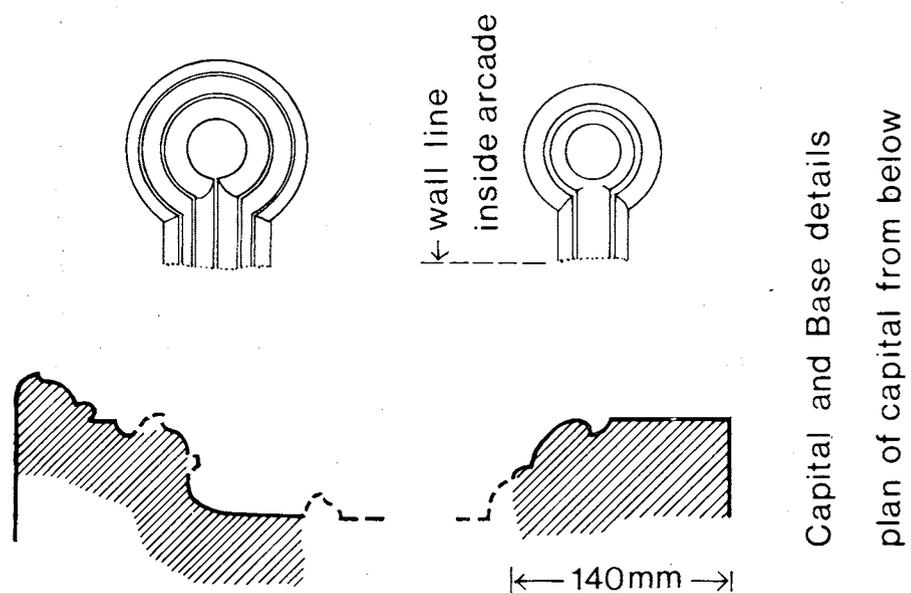
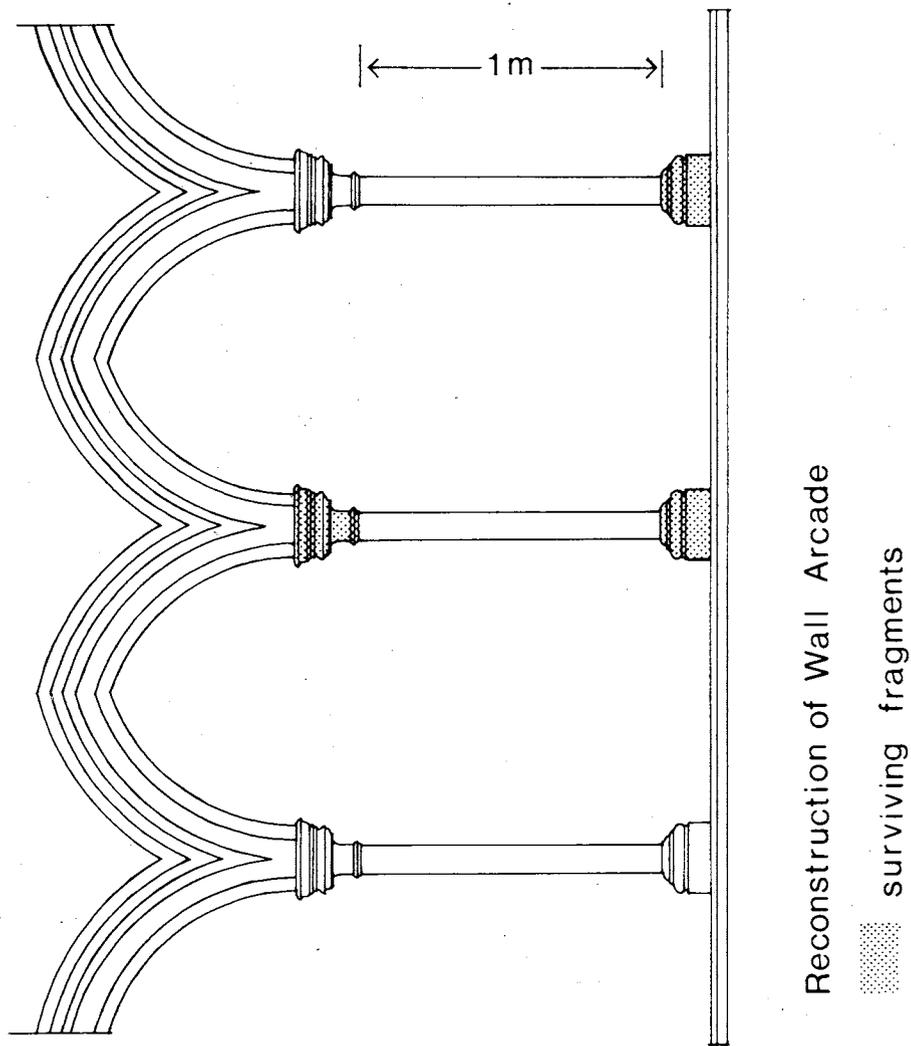


Fig. 5. Fragments of 13th-century arcading.

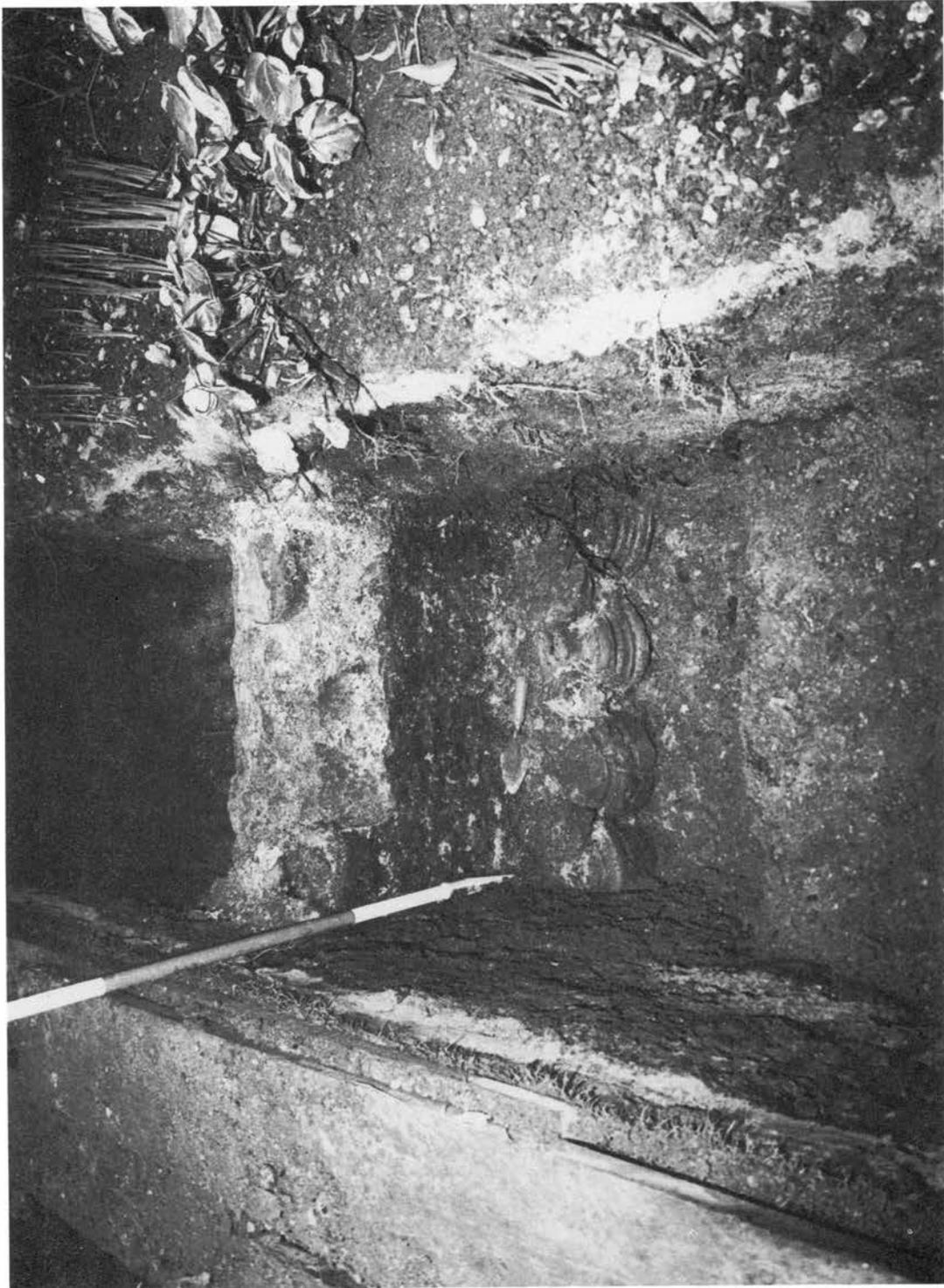


Plate 1. The 16th-century wall in Tree Court, Gonville and Caius College, with re-used 13th-century architectural fragments.

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