

AN AUSTRALIAN HOLDING OF NORFOLK MANUSCRIPTS:
THE BACON-TOWNSHEND PAPERS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE

by Wilfrid Prest

Some time before July 1940 the University of Adelaide's Barr Smith Library acquired two parcels of English manuscript letters and other documents dating from the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries. A cursory and not wholly accurate type-written handlist which seems to have accompanied the parcels enumerates seventeen items under the heading 'Townshend and Stanhope Papers' and a further two as 'Bacon-Burghley Papers'. Their immediate provenance is unknown, but as the Barr Smith Library is primarily a research and teaching collection, with no sizeable holdings of non-printed material apart from items of largely local interest, it seems reasonable to suppose that both parcels were the gift of a benefactor whose identity, unfortunately and regrettably, cannot now be established.

Once acquired, the papers remained in the library's Special Collections vault until early 1976, when they were brought to notice by preparations for an exhibition of early manuscripts and printed books in connection with an historical conference. A number of items were selected for display and efforts made to establish their provenance. Subsequently Dr. Hassell Smith of the University of East Anglia's Centre for East Anglian Studies confirmed the supposition that the Barr Smith's manuscripts had almost certainly once formed part of the Townshend of Raynham collection, which was summarily listed in the *Eleventh Report* of the Historical Manuscripts Commission (1887), and later dispersed by sale at Sotheby's and elsewhere. While it has not in fact proved possible to identify the contents of the two Adelaide parcels among the various lots listed in the printed catalogues prepared for the Sotheby's sales of 1911 and 1924, these catalogues do not include all manuscripts sold from Raynham during the course of this century.

In addition to the Townshend family archives, the Raynham collection incorporated papers from the muniments room at Stiffkey, the manor which Sir Nathaniel Bacon bequeathed to his eldest daughter Anne, wife of Sir John Townshend of Raynham and mother of the first baronet, Sir Roger Townshend (1588-1637). Among the Adelaide papers which can be identified as originating from Stiffkey are two copies of letters sent to Lord William Burghley in July 1579 by his nephews Sir Nicholas and Nathaniel Bacon, concerning a dispute with their younger brother Anthony about the disposition of the estate left by their father, Lord Keeper Sir Nicholas Bacon, who died in February 1579. However, most of the Adelaide collection consists of letters written to members of the Townshend family in the later Elizabethan and early Stuart periods. One of the most interesting items, both for the local and the national historian, is a political report sent to Sir Roger Townshend (1588-1637) in London by his servant Martin Man. This vivid account of the Norfolk election of knights of the shire for the parliament of 1626 incidentally tends to qualify Dr. Hirst's recent contention that there was 'little effective check' on the qualifications of voters presenting themselves at the county hustings, 'especially in the larger communities'.¹

The Barr Smith Library: Bacon Townshend Paper, 6.

Right Worshipfull:

having so much leasure & vacation from busines, I might be iustly taxed for my Silence, And therefore thought fitt to advertise yow of some occurrents fallen out here, though the relation therof will be better made by others.

At the Election of the Knights, some few of your friends about Fakenham first toke up Mr. Gwyne² for yow. And though at the first yow had but few voices, yet when it came to the Poll, there were 600; And those, not the meanest, but the most substanciall freeholders; And amongst them, the Cleargie (in a manner) wholly; Of whom there were verie, many, by occasion of the Choice of their Clerk the next day.

Sir John Corbett³ stooode by the Clerk all the time, and divers gentlemen with him. And Sir hamon Strange⁴ stooode by [also: interpolated] to observe; whose presence caused many to shrink back, that came to give their names.

The Contrey expecteth, that Sir Edward Coke⁵ wilbe put by, And that your worship shall have a place: which if it fall out, yow maie take comfort in the love of the Countrey And in so free an election, being more honorable, then to obteyne it by Suite and Labour. Some Gentlemen and others of good sort, (in my hearing) shewed much discontent, for your aversnes and opposition; Some conceiving, as if you litle esteemed of the Countries Love.

Sir, this parte of the Country is at great inconvenience, by want of Justices to reside neere them, and therby feare some mischief by leude people, in Case anie offer of invasion be made by piratts. Their Eye is upon your worship. And it would much quiet and content them, yf yow would be pleased to take on yow a place in that service. It is hoped, yow will now undertake it; The Common good, your owne abilities. And the Contries desire, Calling and intreating yow thereunto. I crave pardon for my boldnes, yet I hope yow will take this by waie of advertisement and not of advice; which were folly and presumption in mee to offer.

The Countrey wisheth, that Mr Fermor⁶ might be again in Comission. Sir, I moved Sir John Corbett, and Mrs Corbett, to this effect: Acquainting them, that your worship intended to intertayne another Clerk, And understanding, that Sir John had a verie able Clerk besides my kinsman and so could spare him; his friends and I were mynded (with their good leave) to seeke the placing of the youth with your Worship. Their answer was, that thei had good liking to continue him still, yet for his better preferment, thei were verie willing to depart with him, And to commende him also to yow; onely Sir John desired some time, to get another before his departure. If upon your meeting now at London, yt please yow to have speeche with Sir John, I think he will presently satisfie yow.

Thus I humbly take my leave, and rest

Stewky 2 Febr.
1625

Yor worships Servant
Martin Man

[Endorsed:] 'To his honored Maister/Sr Roger Tounshend/Baronett:
at his/house in Barbican/at London'.

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¹Derek Hirst, *The Representative of the People? Voters and Voting in Early Stuart England* (Cambridge University Press, 1975), p. 254, n. 25.

²Rice or Richard Gwynn Esq. (1554-1629), of Fakenham and Little Snoring: born in Anglesey, barrister of the Inner Temple 1591, bought Baron's Hall, Fakenham, 1593; Recorder of Yarmouth 1610, Norwich & Thetford 1612, MP Norwich 1614; JP Norfolk 1608-1629: R. J. Lloyd, 'Welsh Masters of the Bench of the Inner Temple', *Trans. Hon. Soc. of Cymmrodorion*, 1937, pp. 153-57; G. L. Owens, 'Norfolk 1620-1640; Local Government and Central Authority in an East Anglian County', Ph.D. thesis, University of Wisconsin, 1970, p. 566.

³Sir John Corbet, Bt. (1591-1628), of Sprowston. JP Norfolk 1617-28. One of the 'five knights' imprisoned for resisting the forced loan of 1626: Owens, p. 564; J. H. Gleason, *The Justices of the Peace in England 1558 to 1640* (Oxford, 1969), pp. 76-8.

⁴Sir Hamon L'Estrange (1583-1654), of Hunstanton. M.P. Norfolk 1614, 1621, Castle Rising 1626; JP Norfolk 1608-54: Owens, p. 567; R. W. Ketton-Cremer, *Norfolk in the Civil War* (London, 1969), pp. 40-42.

⁵A reference to the 'pricking' of Coke as sheriff for Buckinghamshire in order to disable him from election to parliament in 1626 (*DNB*). Townshend was not in fact returned at this poll, although he sat for Norfolk in the parliament of 1627-8. See Harold Hulme, *Journal of Modern History* I (1929), pp. 368-70.

⁶Presumably Thomas Fermor Esq., of East Barsham, JP Norfolk 1614-21, but not subsequently of the commission (Owens, p. 565).

APPENDIX:

Summary list of The Barr Smith Library's Collection: (i) Townshend and Stanhope Papers.

1. Receipt from Michael Stanhope to Lady Jane Townshend for £10, 31 March 1593.
2. (i) Receipt from same to same for £20, 26 March 1592.
(ii) Receipt from same to same for £10, 25 March 1592.
3. Holograph letter: Sir John Stanhope to Mr. Roger Townshend, dated Greenwich, 3 July, [no year].
4. Letter: same to same, dated Shelford, 3 March 1584/5.
5. Copy, seemingly in same hand as No. 6 below, of portion of the will of Sir Francis Wyndham, JCP (d. 1592), endorsed 'Copie of Justice Wyndms will conc. ye copiehold in Baber and Draiton.' [Bawburgh and Drayton].
6. Holograph letter: Martin Man to Sir Roger Townshend, dated Stewky, 2 February 1625/6.
7. Holograph letter: Sir Austen Palgrave to Sir Roger Townshend, dated Barningham, 12 April 1629. Endorsed in same hand as No. 6, 'Sir Austen Palgrave 12 April 1629. Touching yr. L. sutes[?].'
8. Holograph letter: — Rivers to Sir Roger Townshend, n.p., n.d.
9. Holograph letter: Edm[ond] Gurney to Sir Roger Townshend, n.p., n.d.
10. Holograph letter: Henry Woodhouse to Roger Townshend, dated Waxham, 13 October 1548.
11. Holograph letter: Stephen Drury to Roger Townshend, dated Norwich, 21 February 1580/1 (with post-script dated 14 March 1580/1).
12. Late sixteenth-early seventeenth century copy of 'Indenture of exchange', dated 27 August, 34 Henry VIII (1542). 1. King Henry VIII 2. Sir Thomas Audley. Recites grants by 1 and 2 of late monastery of Tytley, Essex and appurtenances (including Manor of Tytley). 1 page.
13. Letter: Thomas Neale to Nathaniel Bacon, dated London, 2 July 1579.
14. Letter: Sir John Stanhope to John Oules, dated Boodhall, 1 February (no year).
15. Holograph letter: Henry Woodhouse to Roger Townshend, dated Norwich, 28 March 1586.
(ii) Bacon-Burghley Papers
 1. Contemporary holograph copy of letter: Sir Nicholas Bacon to William Cecil, Lord Burghley, dated Redgrave, Suffolk, 9 July 1579. Endorsed (same hand) 'A Copie of my lres. sent to the Lord Treasurer with his order therein dated the ixth of July 1579.'
 2. Contemporary copy of letter: Nathaniel Bacton to William Cecil, Lord Burghley, dated Stiffkey, Norfolk, 13 July 1579. Endorsed 'Ye Copie of my lre. to my Lo: Treasurer 13 Iulii: 1579.'

AN EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY MAP PIRACY

By David Stoker

Thomas Chubb, when writing an account of James Corbridge's map of Norfolk and Suffolk, noted that there appeared to have been a grievance between this surveyor and the bookseller William Chase in 1735.¹ The reasons for this grievance are apparent from an exchange of open letters in the Norwich press which was not noted by Chubb and which provides interesting information relating to map publishing in the eighteenth century.