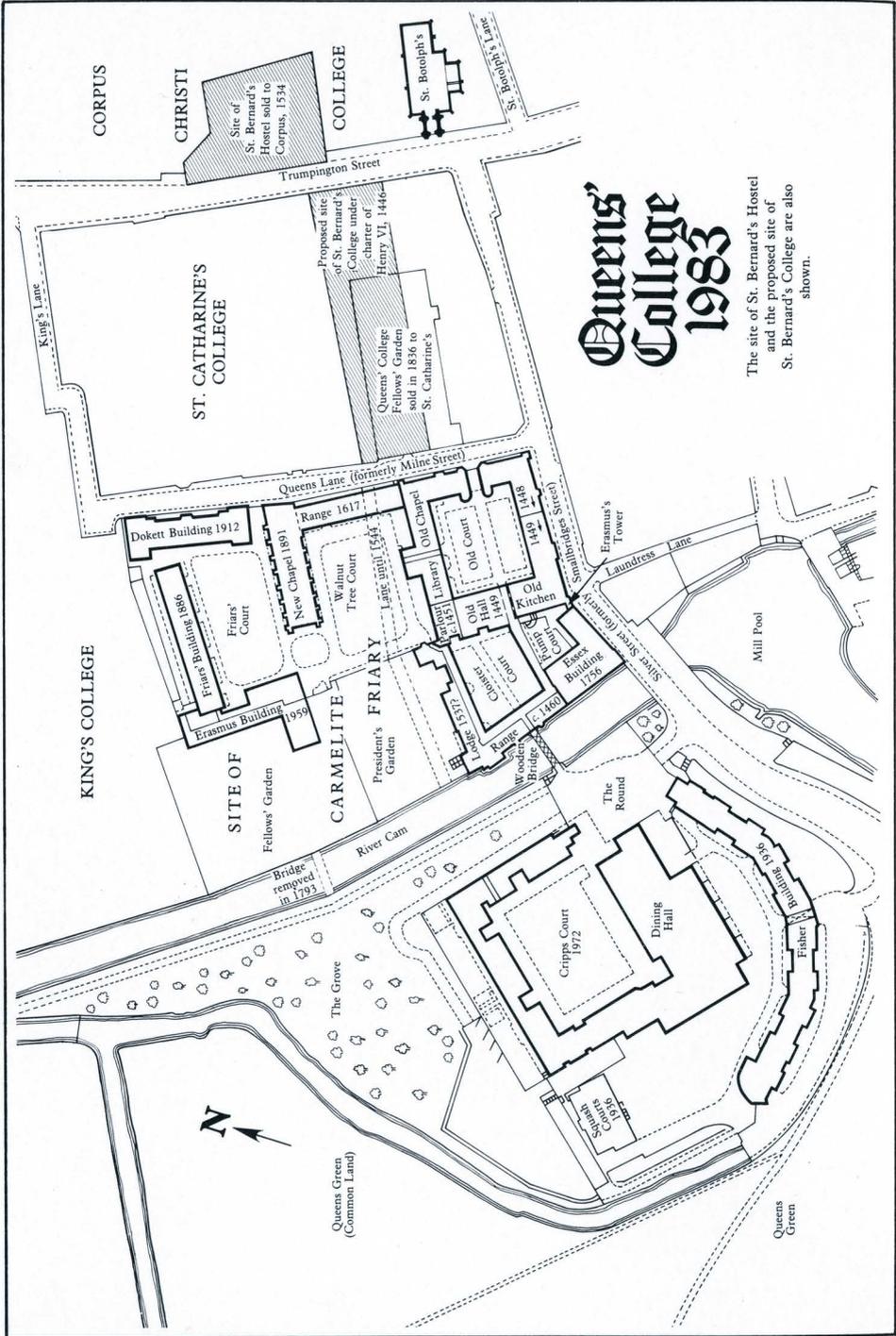


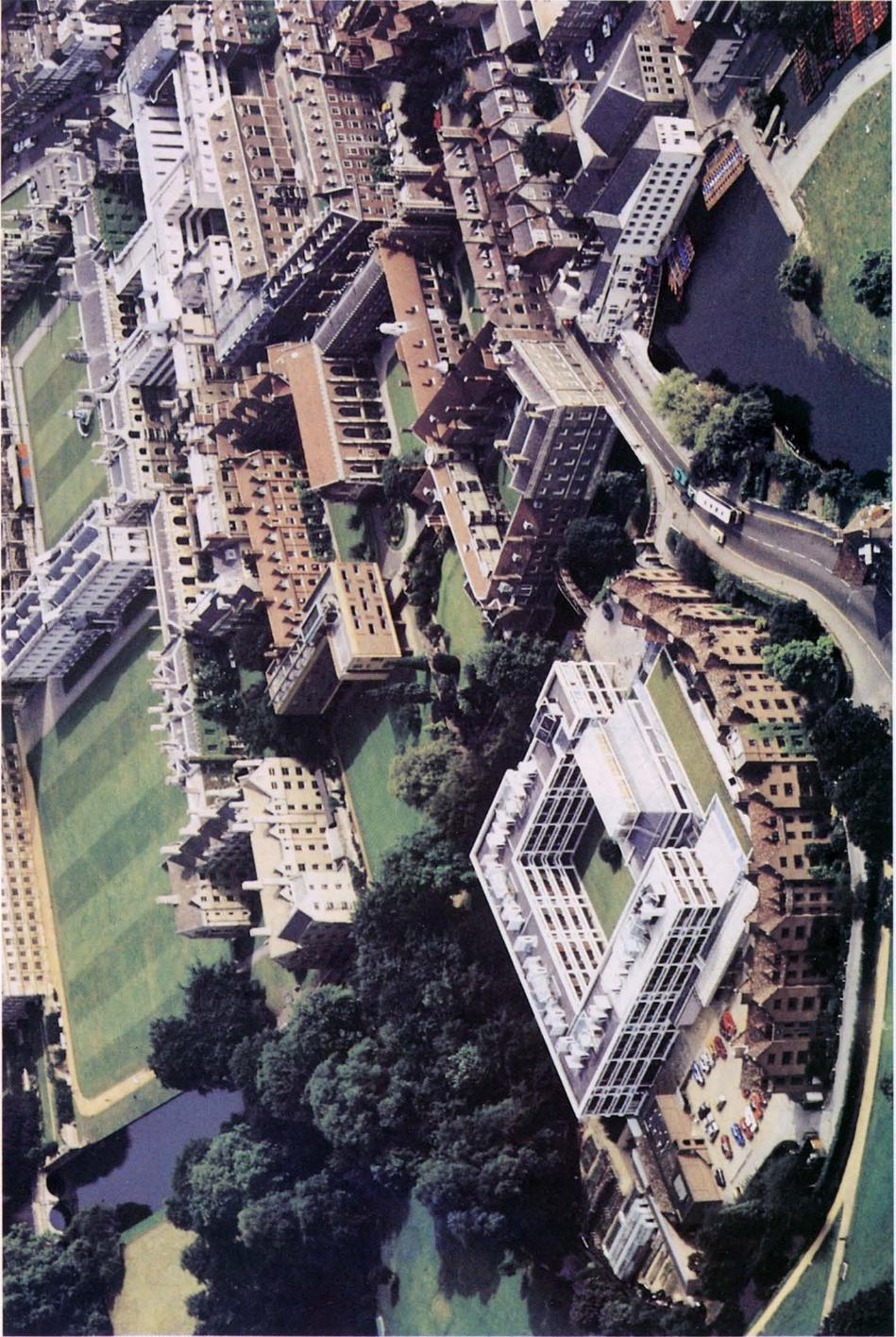
# Queens' College Cambridge





# Queens' College 1983

The site of St. Bernard's Hostel and the proposed site of St. Bernard's College are also shown.





*St. Margaret*

The  
Queen's College  
of  
Saint Margaret  
and  
Saint Bernard



*St. Bernard*

commonly known as

# Queens' College

in the  
University of Cambridge

A brief illustrated history  
designed and edited by  
M. M. Scarr, G.M., M.A.

# Origin and Foundation

Riots and strife in Oxford at the beginning of the thirteenth century drove masters and students from that City to towns in which they could teach and study in peace. Cambridge University owes its origin to the arrival of some of these refugees in Cambridge. Many continued to live and work in the town instead of returning to Oxford when, later, it was safe to do so. They were sufficient in number to create an attractive centre of teaching and learning and to lay the foundation of the reputation for scholarship which has prevailed throughout the centuries and ensured recognition of Cambridge University as a renowned institution of research and learning.

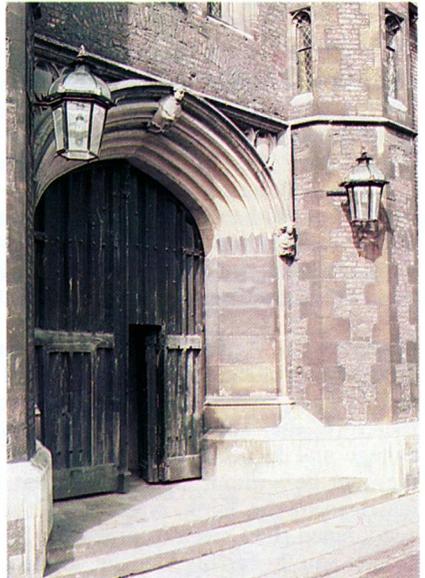
**The medieval university.** At first students were unattached. Indeed, the medieval university was basically a guild of teachers, bound together for the purpose of teaching and the preservation of their rights and privileges granted under licence. Admission to their ranks was by proof of ability shown in public disputation and the award of the degree conferred the licence to teach. Students made their own arrangements for residence in the university town and the university was only concerned with some superintendence of their lodging and a care for public morals.

**The collegiate system.** The need to house, maintain and support deserving students, who would otherwise be denied the benefits of university training through lack of means, was eventually recognised and met by the concept of a college. Following the foundation of the first college (Peterhouse, 1284) in Cambridge, the system quickly developed. Obviously a student, whose physical well-being was assured, had advantages over a student living on his own and often left to starve unsupervised in his lodgings. Gradually all students were housed in colleges though some hostels still existed in 1550. In time, in a way peculiar to Oxford and Cambridge, the University emerged as a federal superstructure of its colleges. Its officials are statutorily members of the colleges and the prerequisite of admission to the University is acceptance by a college.

**Queens' College founded 1448.** The example of Peterhouse was followed by the foundation of a further seven colleges in the next seventy years. There was then a lull for almost a century until interest and enthusiasm were revived in 1441 with the foundation of King's College by Henry VI. Within seven decades a second group of six new colleges came into being. Queens' College founded in 1448 was the second college in this group.

**Andrew Dokett.** The inspiration came from Andrew Dokett who is recognised as the true founder in the words of the Commemoration Service: 'First of all I must mention with most grateful memory Andrew Dokett, Rector of St. Botolph's, Principal of St. Bernard's Hostel and our first President, to whom is due the merit of the design of founding the College, and to whose zeal, ability, liberality and prudence the successful establishment of this Foundation is mainly to be attributed'. Little is known about

*The Old Main Gate from Queens Lane*



Dokett's early life beyond that he was appointed to the living of St. Botolph's Church some time before 1439. He emerged as Principal of St. Bernard's Hostel next door to St. Botolph's in Trumpington Street and was obviously a man of outstanding ability, greatly esteemed in Church circles. He held a number of other important ecclesiastical appointments, in some instances concurrently with his Rectorship of St. Botolph's, his post as Principal of St. Bernard's Hostel and his Presidentship of the College. He died in 1484 and was buried in the Old Chapel.

On the outer side of the main gate in Queens Lane is a carved keystone in the form of an ecclesiastic holding a scroll in his right hand. Clearly this is a portrayal of a dignitary closely identified with the College and can only represent Andrew Dokett holding his charter of incorporation. Support for this supposition comes from a sketch, made in the sixteenth century and still extant, of the monumental brass placed on Dokett's tomb in 1563 or so. Although the brass was not added until some eighty years after his death the sketch shows the same tonsured head, cassock, tippet and hood as depicted in the keystone: but the half-opened charter is held in both hands.



*Andrew Dokett—Keystone portrayal*

**Charters of foundation not implemented.** Henry VI granted Dokett, on 3 December 1446, a charter of incorporation for a college to be named the College of St. Bernard to be built on a strip of land, indicated on the plan on the inside of the front cover, between Queens Lane (then Milne Street) and Trumpington Street. The charter authorised a Society of a President and four Fellows which very soon decided that the proposed site was too small. Dokett then obtained (from John Morys of Trumpington and John Battsiford of Chesterton) the land now occupied by Old Court and Cloister Court and petitioned the King to revoke the original charter. The petition was granted, the new site approved and a second charter issued on 21 August 1447.

**Margaret of Anjou.** At this stage the interest of the Queen, Margaret of Anjou, was aroused or enlisted. She was able and ambitious and, though only eighteen years old, had already established herself as a leading personality at Court. It was not strange, therefore, that she should wish to emulate her husband's action in founding a new college and to accept encouragement to associate herself with Dokett's initiative. It may not be without significance that Cardinal Beaufort, who was instrumental in her marriage to the King, was one of the earliest benefactors of the College. Perhaps he encouraged the Queen to give the patronage which, no doubt, the astute and far-seeing Dokett sought for his College. Having regard to Henry's preoccupation with affairs of

state and the foundation of King's College and Eton College (Windsor), Dokett probably recognised that the Queen's patronage and advocacy would be of special value to his project.

Thus Margaret became the Patroness and petitioned her 'most sovereign lord' to allow her to found the Queen's College of St. Margaret and St. Bernard 'to laud and honneur of sexe feminine'. The second charter was revoked and on 30 March 1448 Margaret was given the necessary licence to issue her own charter for the foundation of the College. This she did in a document dated 15 April 1448. The original provisions in the previous charters were repeated in this third charter by which the College was actually founded. The President and Fellows were to be 'a corporation able to sue and be sued and authorised to hold property in mortmain to the amount of £200 a year'. Provision was made for the framing of statutes but there is no evidence that this was done in the reign of Henry VI.



*Margaret of Anjou*

**Preparation for building.** Dokett and his colleagues had not been inactive on the practical side. The necessary preparatory work for the new building had been completed in anticipation and, indeed, the first stone was laid by the Queen's Chamberlain, Sir John Wenlock, on the very day in 1448 on which the charter was issued. Margaret was unable to fulfil her intention to lay the stone herself, probably because of the plague prevalent in Cambridge at the time.



*Elizabeth Woodville*

**Elizabeth Woodville.** The building and development of the College proceeded in the troubled times leading up to, and during, the Wars of the Roses. Happily, Dokett continued to retain the favours of both Lancaster and York. When Edward IV, who deposed Henry VI in 1461, married Elizabeth Woodville in 1464, she was graciously pleased to follow Margaret (to whom she had been lady-in-waiting) as Patroness and took the College under her protection in 1465. Elizabeth gave the College its first statutes in 1475 in which she is named 'the true foundress by right of succession' —presumably not in any spirit of rivalry but rather as one following in the footsteps of the Queen whom she had known and served.

**Queen's or Queens'.** The interest and support of both Margaret and Elizabeth is now recognised by the position of the apostrophe after the 's': this was first apparent in the *University Calendar* of 1831. Since then the official title of the College has been 'The Queen's College of St. Margaret and St. Bernard, commonly known as Queens' College, in the University of Cambridge'.

**Richard III.** During his short reign, Richard III, whose name is for ever associated with the death of the young princes in the tower, showed open-handed generosity to the College. Queen Anne, his consort, also 'augmented and endowed the same College with great rents'. These benefactions were short-lived, for they had come out of the confiscated lands of the Earl of Oxford, and Henry VII, the victor of Bosworth Field, took them back from the College and restored them to the Earl. Only two of Richard's gifts remained to the College: vestments for use in the Chapel and the right to use his badge, the boar's head, which is still the basis of the College's second heraldic device.

# The Original Buildings

**Reginald Ely.** There are good stylistic reasons for thinking that the first architect of the College was Reginald Ely, master mason, citizen of Cambridge, parishioner of St. Botolph's and an intimate friend of Dokett. He is first mentioned in 1438 in connection with work at Peterhouse and then in 1441 as Chief Mason in charge of the building of the original court of King's College. He was, therefore, in a position to know of the successful use of the relatively cheap brick with stone dressings in the construction of Henry's other foundation—Eton College, Windsor—begun in 1442. This knowledge probably influenced the choice of the same building materials for Queens'.



*Old Court looking north-west*

**Old Court.** Dokett and Ely had no accepted model on which to base their plan for the College. Almost all the older foundations had used existing churches as college chapels and had incorporated existing buildings in their development. Old Court was a new concept designed to contain the essential elements of a college—gate tower, chapel, library, hall, kitchen, buttery and living rooms—within a single confined space on the pattern of a typical courtyard house such as Haddon Hall in Derbyshire. The Court remains a picturesque and almost untouched example of late medieval brickwork and an excellent illustration of the college concept. It was virtually completed in 1449 but a distinct vertical seam, discernible between the fourth and fifth windows on the inside south wall and also on the outer side in Silver Street, marks the point at which work ceased in the winter of 1448/1449. The cost of the building seems largely to have been met by an grant of £200 from Henry VI and a donation of £220 from Marmaduke Lumley, Bishop of Lincoln and, for a brief period, Chancellor of the University. The Senior Combination Room and the room which is now the President's Study were probably added a little later; until that time the north-west corner was probably open to the lane which then ran down to the river along the northern boundary of the College site.

**Cloister Court.** The College quickly became established and the amount of available living-accommodation soon proved inadequate. The erection, in 1460 or so, of the riverside building in Cloister Court provided extra living rooms and accommodation for the entertainment of visitors and guests. Again Ely was probably the architect. There is no actual evidence but he was alive until 1471 and the architecture is similar to that of Old Court. The cloister walk was an integral part of the design of the building which was longer than it now is. A length of twenty five feet was sacrificed to make way for the Essex Building three centuries later. The Court was not fully enclosed until about 1495 when the covered walks on the north and south sides were built.



*The Old Senior Combination Room*

*Cloister Court looking north-west*



**Land west of the river.** No further building work was undertaken in the fifteenth century but Dokett and his Fellows—possibly with Royal support—prudently enlarged the site of the College in 1475 by purchasing from the town the land (then an island) on the west side of the river where Fisher Building and Cripps Court now stand.

**St. Bernard's Hostel.** The accommodation problem in the early years was no doubt eased through Dokett's continued personal ownership of St. Bernard's Hostel, though its site was conveyed to the College by the 1447 Charter. It is more than probable that some Queensmen were housed there especially after the Fellowship was enlarged to twelve by Elizabeth's statutes in 1475. The Hostel, bequeathed to the College by Dokett, remained in College use until 1534 when it was sold to Corpus Christi who were still using it as late as 1624.

# Renaissance and Reformation

In the fifteenth century, when the College was founded, students were all prospective clergymen. Nevertheless the curriculum in the two English universities laid a heavy emphasis on Logic and Mathematics, and Theology was only studied by the small minority who went on to a higher degree. The dominant philosophy of the period was nominalism, embodying a very flexible, sceptical and empirical outlook, which led, amongst other things, to a spirit of scientific enquiry. However, in fifteenth-century Italy, a renewed interest in the Humanities was changing the direction of studies. An emphasis on Literature, History and Moral Philosophy, all treated with reference to classical antiquity, particularly Roman antiquity, came to be regarded as a more suitable educational programme. At the same time the invention of printing enabled the Latin and Greek literary texts to be much more freely available. The new classical literary emphasis of the Renaissance first affected Cambridge during the Chancellorship of Bishop John Fisher, President of Queens' from 1505 to 1508. As the sixteenth century progressed the emphasis on the Humanities gradually gained ground at the expense of Science which fell into neglect for over a century.

**John Fisher.** Fisher had a remarkable career. In 1497 he was appointed Master of Michael House (later absorbed in the foundation of Trinity College) and also became chaplain and confessor to the Lady Margaret, Countess of Richmond and mother of Henry VII. By her influence he became Chancellor of the University in 1504 and also, in the same year, Bishop of Rochester whereupon he resigned his Mastership of Michael House to reside mainly in Rochester. At a very early age this mercer's son had come to occupy a position of great authority which he used to the advantage of the University and it was not long before his success in enlisting the interest of the Lady Margaret in the foundation of St. John's and Christ's Colleges made it desirable for him to have a base in Cambridge once again. He accepted the Presidentship of Queens' made vacant for him in 1505, but resigned the appointment in 1508 to concentrate more of his attention on John's and Christ's. Nevertheless Queens' continued to enjoy Fisher's protection and kindly care to the end of his life. His ability, attainments and integrity had made him an outstanding Chancellor to be remembered with gratitude and pride. Erasmus ascribes to him the quiet acceptance of the teaching of Greek and the peace and progress of the University in the early sixteenth century.

**Erasmus.** Fisher had met Erasmus of Rotterdam, the great theologian, Greek scholar and powerful advocate of the new style of learning, when Erasmus visited London in 1497. In 1506 Erasmus visited Cambridge for some months during which his acquaintance with Fisher and association with Queens' presumably developed. In 1510 Fisher arranged for Erasmus to return to Cambridge to teach Greek and promote Greek scholarship. Erasmus's friend Richard Whitford and other men of mark and prominence in the great movement of the times were Fellows of Queens' which Erasmus chose as his headquarters for the next four years. Oral tradition maintains that he occupied apartments adjacent to what has



*Bishop John Fisher*

*Erasmus of Rotterdam*



popularly become known as Erasmus's Tower but the internal structure of that part of the College has since been changed so radically that it is impossible to associate Erasmus with any particular one of the modern sets. It was in Queens' that Erasmus prepared his famous edition of the New Testament in the original Greek, applying to the Bible itself the new methods of scholarship developed for classical literature.

**Sizars.** The pavement in front of, and within, the College was laid in 1515 and the task of keeping it clean reflects an accepted custom of the age. A journal entry reads: 'four poor scholars paid 16 pence for two days work in cleaning the inner and outer courts'. It was usual to expect a scholar, too poor to pay cash for his lodging and tuition, to give any equivalent service required—in fact to act as an unpaid servant generally. Indeed some poor scholars were reduced to begging and, at one time, the practice became so prevalent that a form of licensing was introduced by the University. Scholars expected to perform menial tasks were called sizars.

**Reformation.** Before the University had properly assimilated the new Renaissance curriculum it was split wide open by the Reformation. Henry VIII nationalised the Church in England after the failure of Pope Clement VII to annul his marriage to Catherine of Aragon. Members of the University found themselves deeply divided by the issues involved. The Chancellor, Fisher, fearlessly denied the possibility of Royal supremacy over the Church, and supported the cause of Catherine of Aragon against the angry King, and met his consequent execution with courage and dignity. The closure of the monasteries, and the Royal seizure of their lands, which followed Henry's break with Rome, deprived Cambridge of a number of religious houses. The colleges, however, were not affected by the King's rapacity, some of them, including Queens', even benefited.

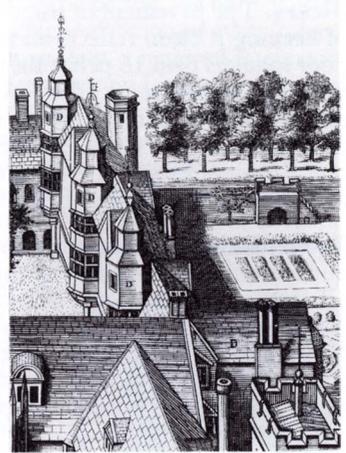
**The Carmelite site.** The College had already bought from the adjacent Carmelite Friary the ditch and wall, together with the lane running from Queens Lane to the river, which separated the two properties for £1 3s. 4d. in 1537, when in anticipation of the 1539 Act of Suppression, the Carmelites offered their site for sale in 1538. However the College was only able to purchase it from John Eyre of Bury for £36 in November 1544, after the King had had to sell most of the land that he had seized from the monasteries to pay for his aggressive foreign



*The Lodge—the Long Gallery is on the first floor*

policy. The Carmelite area provided the College with a great deal of space for later expansion. One quarter of their site is now the appropriately named Friars' Court, surrounded by the Dockett, Friars' and Erasmus Buildings and the nineteenth-century Chapel: a second quarter is Walnut Tree Court. The remainder of the site is occupied by the President's garden and by the Fellows' garden

**The Lodge and Long Gallery.** The need for more accommodation for the President became obvious in the sixteenth century especially after the 1533 decision to allow clergymen to marry. The exact date of building the Long Gallery is not known. Historians suggest 1537 as a possibility, probably because it is believed that much of the material used came from the Carmelite Friary next door. There is a record of the purchase of 'twelve waggon-loads of wood and one thousand tiles' for a sum of 22 pence from the Friars in 1537! However, the Gallery is built over a surviving dormer window, of apparently mid-sixteenth-century design, in the riverside range and the whole style of the architecture suggests a building date closer to 1600. This timber-framed building, resting on beams across the northern cloister erected towards the close of the fifteenth century, linked the President's lodgings directly with the public rooms on the river-front which then became part of the Lodge. The first storey is the Long Gallery itself containing fine panelling fitted at the beginning of the seventeenth century.



*Roof of the Lodge as depicted by Loggan in 1685*

It is a matter of conjecture whether the Long Gallery was initially half-timbered or plastered. The original timber framing is sawn straight and square only on its outside edges which could suggest that the carpenters intended it to be seen in the half-finished style. Its external appearance has, however, changed several times: Loggan's print of 1685 showed it as fully plastered—not half-timbered as now—with turrets and cupolas rising above roof level over the central oriel window and the two end bays. The turrets disappeared some time in the eighteenth century and the external plaster was removed in 1911 giving the building its present 'Tudor' look. The architect for this work, C. G. Hare, also altered many of the windows and inserted false diagonal bracing. In 1923 the same architect designed a very attractive new moulded plaster ceiling for the Gallery, using a ceiling at Haddon Hall as his model.



It should, perhaps, be noted that the imposing size of the Lodge has been to some extent determined by the need to offer suitable accommodation to Royal and other notable visitors from time to time throughout the centuries. Catherine of Aragon in 1519 and Cardinal Wolsey in 1520 are reputed to have stayed in the Lodge.

*The Long Gallery*

**The clunch buildings and Pump Court.** In 1564 a range of buildings in clunch was erected from the south-west corner of the original court along Silver (then Smallbridges) Street as far as the river, with a spur extending inwards to link with the south end of the river-front range. This created two more small courts: that nearest Old Court contained a pump from which the Court derived its name—a designation still retained for the present similar area. The second court opened on to the river. The clunch buildings were in a very bad state of repair by 1756 when they were pulled down to make way for the Essex Building.

**Change and growth of the University.** The sixteenth century was a critical period for the University. Not only was it deeply affected by religious changes and its curriculum radically altered, but it grew enormously in size. The nobility and gentry sent their sons in an increasing flood as they recognised how useful the new broad general education in the Humanities was as a preparation for public life and for service to the State as well as to the Church. New colleges were founded and the existing colleges greatly increased the number of their pensioners, as fee-paying students were called. After Fisher, two Queensmen had a vital rôle in the transformation of the University: Dr. Perne and Sir Thomas Smith.

**Andrew Perne.** Andrew Perne, a Fellow of Queens', Vice-Chancellor of the University and subsequently Master of Peterhouse, by astute and unscrupulous changes in his declared religious opinions managed to preserve not only his own position, but also that of many others in the University during the rapid changes which took place in the reigns of Edward VI and Mary. He was nicknamed 'Andrew Pernecoat'.

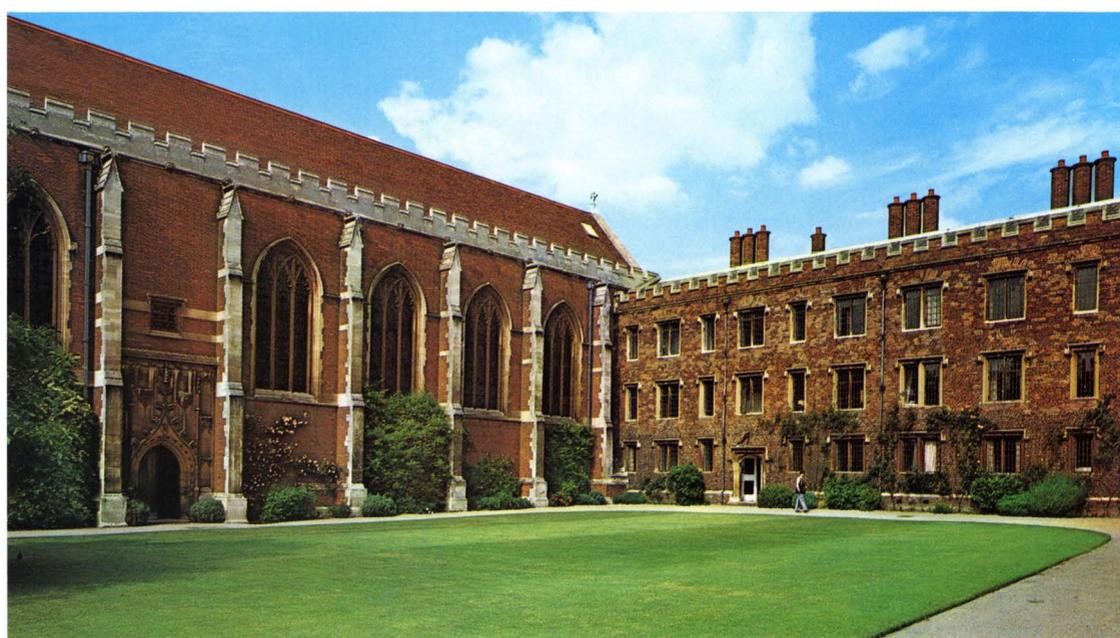
**Sir Thomas Smith.** The illustrious Sir Thomas Smith, who became a Fellow of Queens' in 1530 and remained a devoted Queensman all his life, was especially eminent in three capacities as a scholar, lawyer and statesman. He acquired combined titles to fame not often found in the same person. Within the University he was Professor of Greek; Public Orator; Regius Professor of Civil Law and Vice Chancellor of the University. All this was followed by a distinguished legal and diplomatic career, ending up as Secretary of State to Edward VI and Queen Elizabeth, then the key position in the government of the country. He was an outstanding Elizabethan even amongst the giants of those stirring times. It was said of him that: 'His oratory and learning intermixed was so admirable and beyond the common strain, that Queens' College carried away the glory for eloquence from all the colleges besides, and was rendered as famous by this her scholar, that it had liked to have changed her name from Queens' to Smith's College'. The enormous collection of books that he made and bequeathed to the College is now one of its greatest treasures.



*Sir Thomas Smith*

# King and Commonwealth

**Walnut Tree Court.** The College had prospered during the latter part of the sixteenth century and its membership had continued to increase. By the early seventeenth century it was one of the largest colleges in the University. To cope with the increasing numbers, the architects Gilbert Wigge and Henry Mason were commissioned to design and erect a building fronting Queens Lane as far as the site of the present New Chapel. Work started in 1617 and was completed in 1619. The original structure of two and a half storeys with garrets above cost £886 and contained twelve sets of rooms. It was partially destroyed by fire in 1777 and restored as the present three storey building between 1778 and 1782. The battlements were added in 1823. The position chosen for the building was within one of the four areas into which the Carmelite property had been subdivided by walls: the walnut tree within the area gave the name to the building and its court. Almost as soon as the new building was completed, the numbers in the College began, ironically, to drop startlingly from 230 in 1621 to 124 in 1641. Worse was to follow.



*Walnut Tree Court flanked by the New Chapel*

**Conflict and deprivation.** The wholehearted loyalty to Church and King brought suffering to Edward Martin, President 1631–1644 and 1660–1662, to many of the fellows and to the College itself during the Civil War and the Commonwealth. In spite of Cambridge being the headquarters of Parliamentaryism in East Anglia there was a great deal of loyalty to the King, and the President of Queens' and ten fellows, personally, responded generously to his call for loans towards the cost of his defence. The College plate was also despatched at the King's request on his promise to return it or its value when the troubles were ended. These and other expressions of Royalist sympathies resulted in Martin's imprisonment, loss of the Presidentship and then life in exile abroad until he was reinstated in 1660 following the restoration of the Monarchy.

From the end of February 1644, the Earl of Manchester, on the authority of Parliament, began purging the colleges of declared Royalists. Queens' was one of the colleges most radically affected. Martin, who had been a prisoner since September 1642, was formally deprived of the Presidentship on 13 March 1644 and the ejection of more than twenty other Queensmen followed. In fact a clean sweep was made of any semblance of Royalist sympathy. In April, Manchester intruded Herbert Palmer, a prominent Presbyterian and former Fellow, as President and, in June, began to replace the ejected fellows. The first nine new fellows to be appointed included seven from Emmanuel—the 'Puritan College'. By the following year the full complement of eighteen fellows had been reached. Despite the inauspicious method of their appointment the new master and fellows proved to be more distinguished men than those whom they had replaced. Indeed, John Smith, one of the newcomers from Emmanuel, lent almost as much distinction to the College in the seventeenth century as his namesake had done in the sixteenth.



*The existing walnut tree in 1975*

**John Smith.** Smith was Hebrew Lecturer and Dean 'renowned for his learning, exemplary conduct and singular sweetness of temper'. He was one of the Cambridge Platonists and the author of the famous *Select Discourses*, published posthumously and later regarded as much the most considerable work left by the Cambridge Platonists. As such he has a deservedly notable place in English intellectual history. He was also a great benefactor to the Library to which he left about six hundred volumes. All his contemporaries united in praising alike his great ability and charming personal qualities.

**Mandates.** The latter half of the seventeenth century was most remarkable for the increase, to an unacceptable level, in the amount of outside interference in the free election of heads of colleges and to fellowships. It was under Queen Elizabeth that the Royal custom of issuing letters of recommendation, which were in effect commands to elect, first began to be resented. Petition was made against the practice of Royal nomination which set aside claims of merit in favour of influence. In consequence the practice was checked for a time, but it had revived under Cromwell and increased greatly under Charles II and James II. On no less than three successive occasions, in 1662, 1667 and 1675 presidents of Queens' were elected by mandate from Charles II. However, the season of mandates was brought to an end with the overthrow of James II, and Dr. John Davies, the twenty-third President, was freely elected by the fellows in 1717.

# Under the Hanoverians

The size of the College, which had dwindled under the Stuarts, continued to do so under the Hanoverians. By 1753 the number of residents had fallen to sixty. In spite of this trend a great deal of structural work of importance was undertaken, beginning with progressive internal alterations in the Hall in 1732.

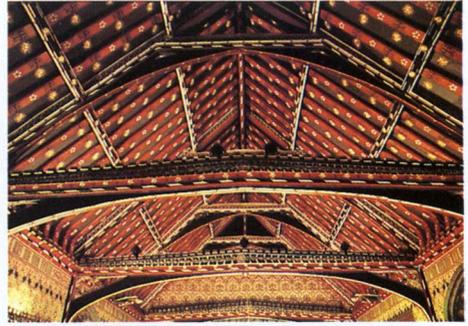
**The Old Hall.** When the Hall was first built it extended to the walls of the old buttery and the doors at the end of the present passage between Old Court and Cloister Court opened directly into it. The original Screens were not made until 1548 and the doors were not added until 1628. The Screens which now exist date from the years 1732 to 1734 when James Essex the Elder replaced the early sixteenth-century linen-fold panelling (which still survives in parts of the President's Lodge) with classical fielded panelling. The work was carried out under the direction of Sir James Burrough who also introduced a flat ceiling and a classical fireplace.

In 1846 the flat ceiling was removed; the roof was restored (possibly imaginatively for there had been garrets above the ceiling for over a century and it is doubtful if much of the original roof remained) and given an unwarranted central louvre; and the side windows were traceried. The oriel window was given its present tracery and new stained glass in 1854. The side windows were raised in height and given more tracery and stained glass in 1857/1858. On the east side the glass in three windows contains portrayals of the coats of arms of bishops who were Queensmen: on the west side the arms of College benefactors.

*The Old Hall—High Table*

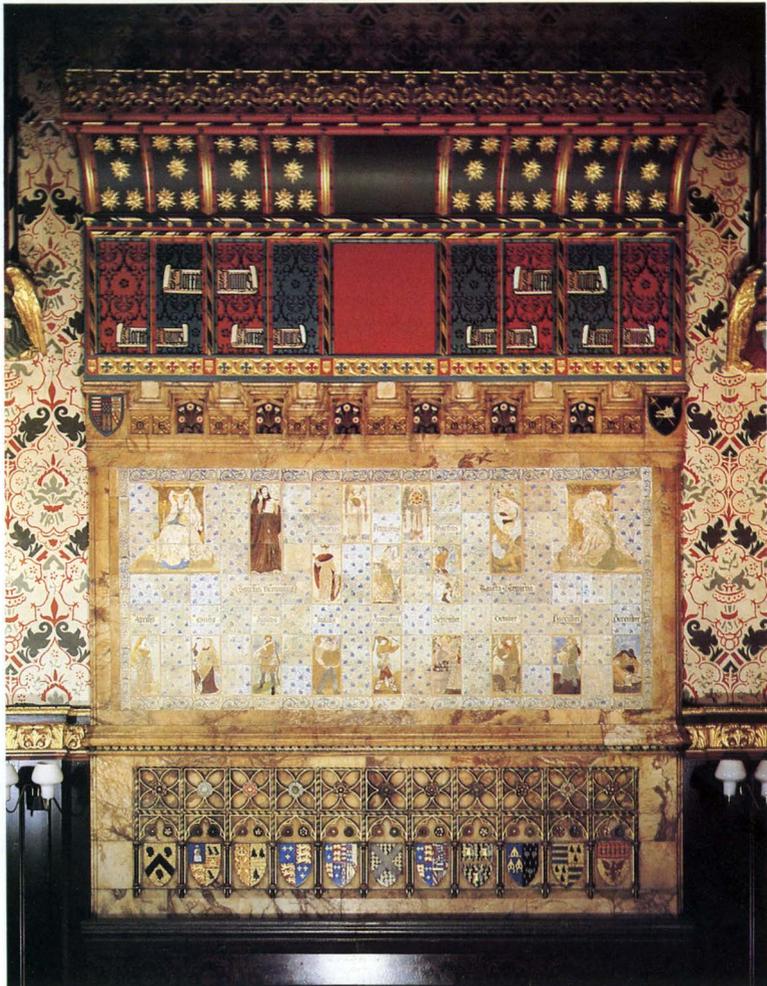


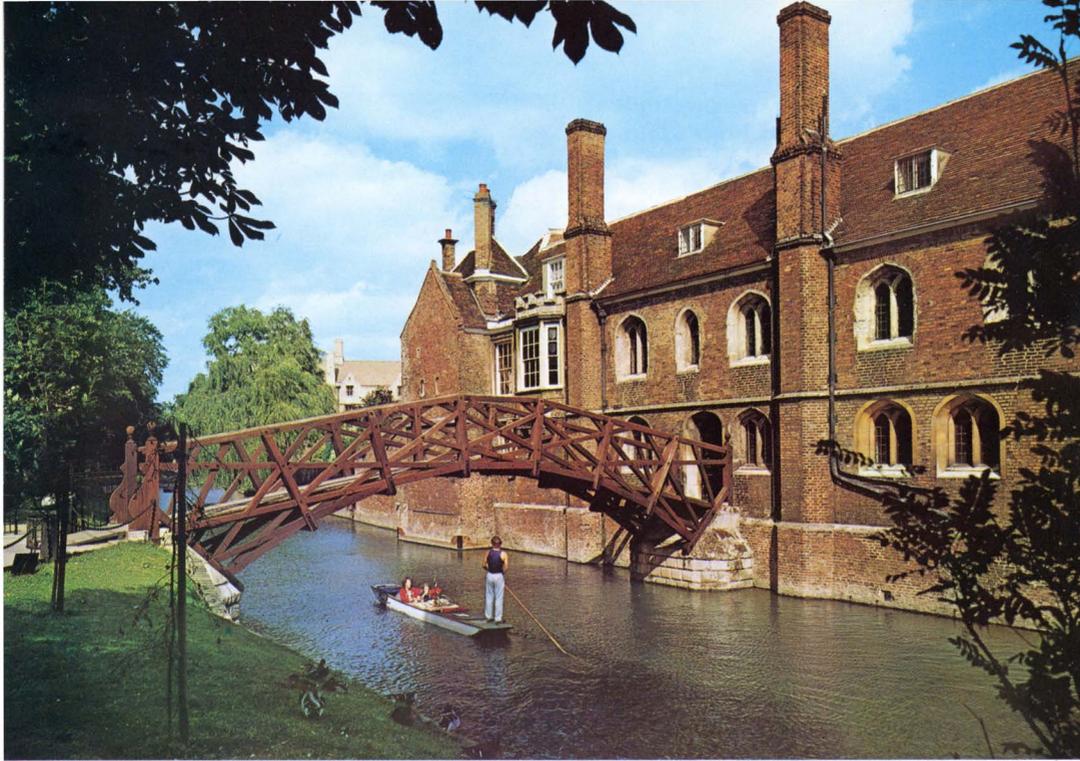
The classical fireplace was removed in 1861. G. F. Bodley gave the Hall its tiled floor in 1863/1864 and installed the existing fireplace to his own design. The mantel tiles are attributable to William Morris and his Pre-Raphaelite associates—Madox Brown, Burne-Jones and Rossetti. In 1875 Bodley designed the present wall and ceiling decorations (involving the casting of nearly nine hundred gilded lead stars) and the carved wooden moulding above the mantel. The central louvre was removed from the roof in 1951.



*The Old Hall—Ceiling*

*The Old Hall—Fireplace Mantel. The alabaster and encaustic tiles are the work of William Morris, Madox Brown, Burne-Jones and Rossetti*





*The Wooden Bridge*

**The Wooden Bridge.** James Essex the Younger was responsible for the other significant eighteenth-century developments. There is no evidence of the date when the first bridge from Cloister Court was built or of the materials used but the accounts show that a bridge 'to ye Cloysters' was paved in 1582 and that this bridge was replaced by a wooden bridge in 1700. The first bridge to the present pattern was designed by William Etheridge and erected by Essex in 1749–1750. The design was popular at that period, the most famous example being the bridge built by Etheridge in 1750 over the Thames at Walton. Queens' wooden bridge was rebuilt to the identical design in 1867 and again in 1904. The College still possesses what is believed to be Etheridge's original model for which he was paid £21 in 1748. There is no foundation for the popular legend that Newton, who had died in 1728, was connected with the design. Moreover, contrary to popular belief, the bridge has always had iron screws or bolts at its main joints. There used to be a second bridge across the river between the Grove and the Fellows' garden. Its exact position appears to have changed from one rebuilding to another. The abutments of the last version, which was removed in 1793, were visible when the river was lowered in 1980 to repair the river bank.



*East end of Fisher Building seen across the Round*

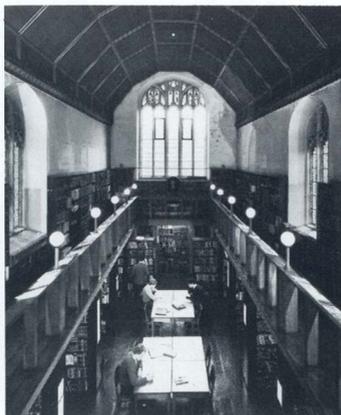
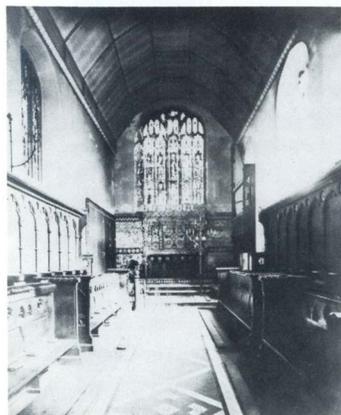
**The Essex Building.** In 1756 the decayed clunch building, erected in 1564, and twenty-five feet of the riverfront building were pulled down to make way for the Essex Building, which was completed in 1760. There is no record of cost but it is only one wing of an extensive plan designed by Essex and much admired at the time. The plan, which was not fully implemented owing to lack of funds, involved the replacement of the whole of the beautiful river-front including the Lodge.



*Corner of Essex Building seen from the University Centre. The iron bridge in Silver Street was built in 1841*

**The Library.** The Old Library was extended by Essex on its existing first floor in 1772. However, the main body remains as it was in the seventeenth century. It is possibly the best preserved library of this period in any Oxford or Cambridge college. The original medieval reading desks are still visible and the original catalogue, in Dokett's notebook, also still survives. In 1951, the library provision was considerably increased when the disused Old Chapel, with its three large traceried windows on the right of the sundial, was converted into a library as a memorial to the Queensmen who fell in the 1939–1945 war. The rooms below the Old Library, which had been in use as additional library space since 1837, became the Munro Room—an extension to the old Senior Combination Room—in 1964/1965.

**The Old Chapel.** The Old Chapel, at one corner of which the foundation stone of the College had been laid in 1448, was licensed for divine worship in 1454. It suffered internally during the Reformation and again in 1643 when the notorious William Dowling 'beat down a 110 superstitious pictures besides Cherubims and Ingravings . . . and digged up the Steps for three hours'. In 1773 Essex remodelled the Chapel and gave it a flat ceiling that required the East Window to be lowered. In 1845 the flat ceiling was removed, and a new roof constructed in imitation of the old. This was followed in 1846–1848 by the restoration of the East Window to its full height. The architect G. F. Bodley reconstructed the interior in 1858–1861, but none of his work now remains. The Old Chapel was closed in 1891 when the new Chapel was built.



**The Coat of Arms.** The eighteenth-century changes in the Hall, Library and Chapel did not, of course, affect the outside appearance of Old Court. The coat of arms above the entrance to the Screens dates from 1575 when the College was re-granted the use of the original arms of Margaret of Anjou with the addition of the eagle crest and 'gules doubled silver' mantling.

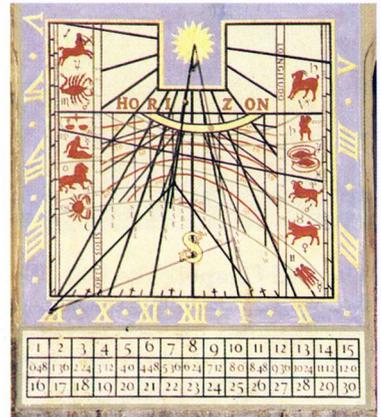
*Old Chapel interior (left) now the Memorial Library (right)*

**Clock towers.** What has most affected the appearance of Old Court within the last two centuries has been the provision of a series of clock towers on the northern roof. A rectangular bell tower, of uncertain age (though there is a record of the provision of a sundial on its southern face in 1538) was found to be in a dangerous state in 1804 and pulled down together with the northward projection (replaced by the present projecting building containing the Old Library staircase) on which it stood. In its place a succession of clock towers, with faces on all four sides, appeared on the ridge of the Library roof; the first in 1804, then the Brandon tower of disproportionate size in 1846, and finally the present tower erected in 1910. Battlements, added early in the nineteenth century, were finally removed in 1925 to restore the Court to its original appearance.

**The Dial.** The existing sundial, which is also a moondial, was put up in 1733 to replace another dial erected in the same position in 1642.

**Isaac Milner.** Dr. Isaac Milner was President when the nineteenth century arrived. He was a truly able and remarkable man who had earned his living as a weaver from the age of ten until he was eighteen. He had had to leave Leeds Grammar School when his father died but continued to educate himself as he worked and was already well versed in Classics and Mathematics when he left the Mill to join his brother who had become Head of Hull Grammar School. After two more years of study there he walked to Cambridge from Hull in 1770 to be admitted as a sizar at Queens'. Although he had expressed himself as dissatisfied with his work in the Tripos examination and was despondent about the result, he was Senior Wrangler in 1774. In fact, his performance was so brilliant that the moderators wrote 'Incomparabilis' after his name. He became a Fellow of the College at 28, a Fellow of the Royal Society at 30, Jacksonian Professor of Natural Philosophy at 33, President of the College at 38, Dean of Carlisle at 41 and Lucasian Professor of Mathematics at 48. The University, perhaps, never produced a man of such eminent and varied quality. His abilities were 'of the highest order; his acquirements most extraordinary; and the versatility of his talents quite wonderful'. He was a big man, physically, too. In his later years the piece of furniture, now in the Lodge and known as Milner's Chair, was specifically made for him. Two men of ordinary girth could sit in it!

**Changes in social habits.** Changes in traditional social habits came with the nineteenth century. It is not generally realised that dinner was served in Hall at 3.00 p.m. until 1831 when it was set back to 4.00 p.m. Riding and walking were then the only relaxations available to undergraduates. The introduction of modern athletic pursuits about that time helped gradually to postpone the hour of dinner in Hall still further towards present-day practice.



*The Sundial*

*Dr. Isaac Milner*



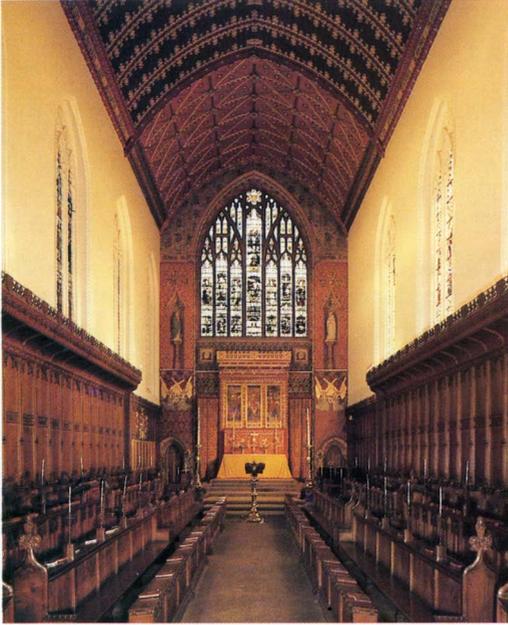
# Victorian Times

**Friars' Building.** In the nineteenth century the College began at last to grow in numbers once again. At the same time the expansion of the Library and extension of the Old Chapel encroached on living accommodation. The consequent shortage of space prompted the erection of Friars' Building in 1886 under the direction of W. M. Fawcett. It cost £8,200 and originally contained thirty-two sets of rooms.

**The New Chapel and the Triptych.** This work was scarcely finished when the Old Chapel became patently too small for the increased numbers in the College. Enlargement was impossible without reducing the Library which itself was overcrowded. There was no other alternative than to build a new chapel. The work, which began in 1889 and cost £14,000, was entrusted to G. F. Bodley who designed the building in the late English Gothic style to harmonise with the older College buildings. The Chapel was consecrated in 1891. Three windows on the south side were taken from the Old Chapel, as were the brasses in the ante-chapel. The three painted panels which were incorporated in the reredos over the altar had been for many years in the President's Lodge. They date from the early days of the College and are among its greatest treasures. They are from a much larger altarpiece painted in Brussels towards the end of the fifteenth century and are all that survived the Reformation and the destruction of the College's religious paintings in the seventeenth century.

*Friars' Building*





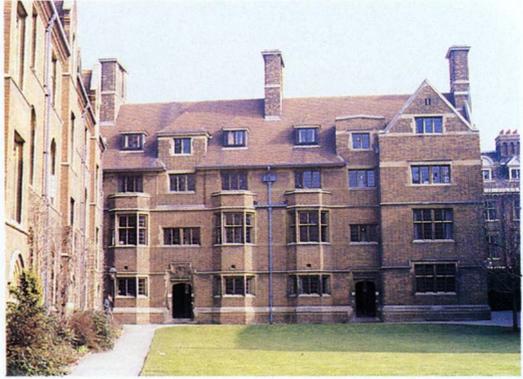
*The New Chapel*

*The Triptych*



# The Twentieth Century

**Dokett Building.** The spate of building at the end of the nineteenth century has continued into the twentieth century. The Dokett Building, erected in 1912 at a cost of £14,250 on the site formerly occupied by the Dokett Almshouses on Queens Lane, originally provided amongst other things accommodation for twenty-six students as well as a guest room, apartments for the Bursar and a College Office. The architect was C. G. Hare, who had been in partnership with Bodley. For the first time in the history of the College the provision of bathrooms and lavatories appeared in the schedule of accommodation, although modestly confined to the basement!



*Dokett Building*

**Fisher Building.** In the early nineteen thirties about half the undergraduate membership of about 220 students was housed in College. The remainder lived in licensed lodgings. To meet the evident preference for living in the College, Fisher Building was erected in 1936 under the direction of the architect G. C. Drinkwater. It contained a further eighty-one sets of rooms for undergraduates. The curved site overlies the old river bed and the building necessarily rests on a reinforced concrete raft supported on 120 reinforced piles. It cost £50,000. The foundations of an ancient bridge, across a stream which once joined the two branches of the Cam, were discovered during the preparation of the groundwork.

*Fisher Building seen from Queens Green*





*Erasmus Building*

**Erasmus Building.** After the 1939–1945 war the steady decline in the availability of suitable licensed lodgings for non-resident students became a matter for concern and, with a growing membership to house, the College decided to provide still more residential accommodation. The Erasmus Building designed by Sir Basil Spence was erected and furnished in 1959/1960 at a cost of £102,000 and completed the west side of Walnut Tree Court. It has accommodation for forty-four undergraduates and two fellows and has been recognised as one of the most pleasing modern buildings in Cambridge. It was opened officially in 1961 by Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, who resumed the title of Patroness following her visit in 1948 to commemorate the quincentennial anniversary of the foundation of the College.

**Cripps Court.** The final step towards residential self-sufficiency was made possible through the great generosity of the Cripps Foundation. Cripps Court is by far the largest development ever undertaken by the College and includes most of the features originally provided in Old Court in 1448. Work began in 1972 to a design by Powell, Moya and Partners and the first two stages were completed between 1974 and 1981. The buildings, erected mainly on what had been a Fellows' garden, contain a large dining hall with the associated kitchen and ancillary accommodation, common rooms for fellows and students, a sick bay and rooms for more than 170 students. All undergraduates and many graduate students can now be housed in College. These new facilities have added greatly to the attraction of the College as a conference centre: a development which has become important to the economic health of many colleges, including Queens'.



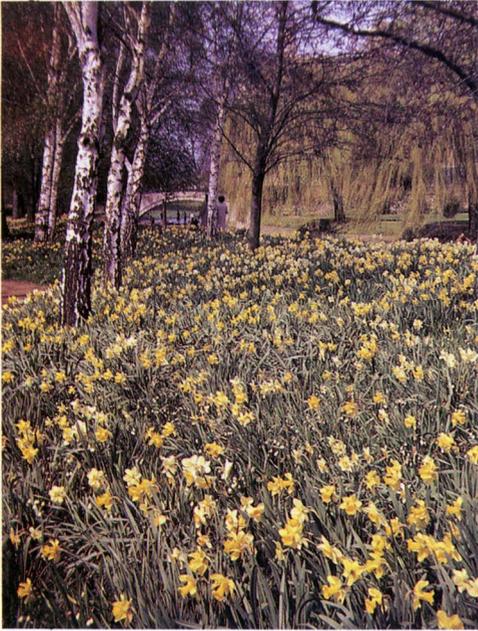
*Cripps Court*

Inevitably the buildings of any foundation which has survived and expanded over several centuries can be associated with particular personalities and periods in history and this is especially true of Queens'. No more perfect fifteenth-century buildings still exist than the first court, a reminder of the Wars of the Roses and the days of Lancaster and York. It is impossible to enter the President's study without thinking of Andrew Docket and Bishop John Fisher. Erasmus's Tower calls to mind the new classical learning of which Erasmus was so great a champion. The Church in England moved through the phases of the Reformation during the time the Gallery passed through the various building stages to completion. The Walnut Tree Building belongs to the days of the first James. The taste of the eighteenth century is reflected in the Essex Building. The splendid proportions of the New Chapel belong to Victorian times and, together with the Friars' and Docket Buildings, introduce the twentieth century. Fisher Building belongs to the years between the two world wars, and, finally, the Erasmus Building and Cripps' Court reflect the architecture, and building techniques, and choice of materials which will be associated with the latter half of the twentieth century for as long as the College continues to exist.



*Interior of New Hall in Cripps Court*

## **Floreat Domus**



*The Grove in Spring*

*The President's Lodge seen from the Grove*



## Acknowledgements

A great deal of the material from which this short history has been compiled was drawn from the published works of two much respected former Vice-Presidents of the College: Mr. J. H. Gray in 1899 (Reprinted 1926) and Mr. A. D. Browne jointly with Mr. C. T. Seltman, a former Fellow, in 1951. They in their turn acknowledged the sources of reference for their scholarship: notably the nineteenth-century authors C. H. Cooper, J. B. Mullinger, W. G. Searle and Messrs. Willis and Clarke. They further acknowledged the work of Thomas Fuller, the seventeenth-century historian, who was a member of the College from 1622 until 1629.

The booklet owes much to several present senior members of the College. I am grateful to them for encouragement and for advice about aspects of the historical background of the College on which more recent research has shed new light. I am indebted, also, to the photographers on whose work the illustrations are based.

April 1983.

M.M.S.

Front cover: *Old Court*

Back cover: *Cripps Building seen across the Bridge*

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