

they might confirm friendships, forge common identities, secure patronage and political support or care for the certain periods of the year were associated with giving and receiving presents. The Tudors New Year was typically when courtiers competed for royal attention by sending tokens of their affection and the monarch was expected to repay in kind.

Though Erasmus offered a number of his writings to English patrons in the period, the physical dedication copies are rare; notes from the author rarer still. Two volumes bestowed on Henry VIII are now at Cambridge and Charlecote<sup>6</sup> Park. The two volume New College edition of those are inscribed by their author. That New College should have the Jerome edition however is no great surprise. Warham had been fellow of the college from 1475 to 1488 and was a great benefactor of the library. These and others arrived in at least four instalments in 1508, 1523 and 1532 though the exact details of these gifts are sometimes frustratingly vague. Moreover, that it was a gift to New College from the Duke of Norfolk is also likely.

It is not the gift itself but the mechanics of giving that are the focus of this Note. Thanks to the Jerome edition came to England and the European network of printers, couriers, booksellers, binders and friends required to present a volume at the beginning of the sixteenth century. Such processes are often hidden from view shed light on the early book trade and the practice of giving more generally. In turn, an understanding of these processes can help us to understand how the books may have originally been presented and how they arrived at New College.

I

Strictly speaking, Warham received the dedication edition of Jerome in two instalments the first in June 1516 and the second sometime after November 1516. 1516 was a busy year for Erasmus.



before sending them to Warham. This later edition, the scholar boasted was not only printed  
¶ E H W W H U S D S H U D Q G Z L W K ¶ P E R L D H K W O H J O O W E R X S I G <sup>22</sup> E D X V G Z I D  
The whereabouts of this second Jerome gift are unknown and Erasmus himself was uncertain as  
to whether they had been delivered. It would have been a prized object in England since it was  
only at the end of the 1510s that English humanists began to impress their patrons with such gilt  
bindings.<sup>23</sup> ¶ 7 K H F R X O W I D E R V e x p e r i m e n t e d w i t h t h e t e c h n i q u e i n t h e f o l l o w i n g d e c a d e  
but English collectors usually relied on foreign centres for this finer craft.

The arrival of a second full H G L W L R Q R I - H U R P H · V a r o z u r u 1 5 2 7 m a y U R P ( U D  
also have provided the stimulus for giving away the earlier, less elaborate ones, the  
exact date of arrival for 1.74.913 at New College is hard to pin down. Warham ¶ J L I W R I  
theological manuscripts is evidently too early, unknown quantity of books he provided in 1516  
can presumably be discounted since the earliest Warham could have received the final Jerome  
volumes was at the end of the year. In 1526 the college wrote a letter of thanks to the archbishop  
I R U D J L I W I C H E S T W H O I S i n ¶ m a n y d i s c i p l i n e z K L F K P D \ Z H O O K D Y H L Q F O  
writings<sup>25</sup> ¶ 7 K H O D V W N Q R Z Q E H T X H V W R I E R R N V F D P H D I W H U  
D U F K E L V K R S · V Z L O O V W L S X O D D O L R I J K W K D I W L Y H L Z 8 D R O O O F I D I O R  
F K D L Q H G L Q u e s t i o n a b l y t h e E n g l i s h l i b r a r y w h i c h h a d b e e n e r e c t e d i n K D P · V W L P H L  
Oxford, D O R Q J Z L W K V R P H ¶ S U L F N H V R Q J E R R N H V I R U W K H X Y  
W K H V D P ¶ : K R O O W J W · K L V P D N H V Q R P H Q W L R Q F R I O D O W H K V Q  
% H Q H I D F W R U V t h a t t h e d a t e m i g h t b e p l a u s i b l e w r o n g l y l i s t s a J e r o m e e d i t i o n  
¶ Z L W K W K H D Q Q R W D W L R Q V R I b u t i t d r o p s t h a t e n t i r e l y w i t h a s e r i e s o f G D W I  
legal texts like those described in the college document known as Liber Albus no  
more enlightening. A sixteenth century annotator has added a number of names to an earlier  
record of donations but lists neither the items nor the date on which they were given, simply  
V W D W L Q J W K D W W K H D U F K E L V K R S 7 W I · L Y H Q W K H F R O O H J H

