

The Appeal of Eros to Apollo: A New Manuscript for New College, Oxford

Born the fourth of five children into a rich family in Waltham, Massachusetts, art collector and writer Edward 'Ned' Perry Warren (1860–1928) was schooled in Boston, Massachusetts, and subsequently graduated from Harvard in 1883. Thereafter he determined to live abroad, and he came to New College to study Classics, matriculating in 1883 and graduating five years later. In 1883–4 he was living—he records—in 'Grove Cottage, Holywell'; and in 1887 he was at 31 Holywell Street, just across the road from college.¹ It was during his second year at Oxford that Ned Warren met Liverpoolian and fellow New College student John Marshall (1862–1928), who had been intending to train for the Anglican priesthood. John Marshall abandoned those plans, and he and Ned Warren became lifetime romantic partners—and business partners too. They settled in Lewes House, a Georgian residence in East Sussex—living among a brotherhood of like-minded men devoted to art and antiquities—and Warren and Marshall began amassing a fabulous collection of antiquities. From his collection, Warren is perhaps best known for the so-called 'Warren Cup', a silver Roman drinking cup (15 BC–15 AD) now held in the British Museum, and which depicts two scenes of male homosexual love-making.² He would also accrue an important collection of books and manuscripts over the course of his life. A catalogue for a Sotheby's sale of his books after his death suggests that Classics predominated, but his collection also contained works by such writers as J. A. Symonds (1840–1893), Walt Whitman (1819–1892), and Oscar Wilde (1854–1900)—as well as a first edition copy of *The Inn of Tranquillity* (1912) by Nobel literature laureate John Galsworthy, who was a student at New College while Warren was there.³

In 1907 John Marshall married Ned Warren's cousin Mary Emma Bliss (1856–1925), though the close association between the two men would continue. Three years after Mary's death in 1925, Warren and Marshall also died; all three were eventually interred together in the English Cemetery at Bagni di Lucca in Tuscany. While he is best remembered today for his collecting of Greek and Roman antiquities, Warren was also an author of works exalting same-sex love (i.e. on 'Uranian' themes), writing under the pen-name of Arthur Lyon Raile. His most famous—and notorious—work was his apologia *The Defence of Uranian Love* (1928–30),⁴ but he wrote poetry and

¹ Osbert Burdett and E. H. Goddard, *Edward Perry Warren: The Biography of a Connoisseur* (London: Christophers, 1941), p. 54; David Sox,

title page as 'E. P. Warren, M.A. Honorary Fellow of Corpus Christi College, Oxford'. Warren had originally considered both Corpus— and Balliol—

New College Library, Oxford, MS 379, f. 1r [detail]
Title page, showing calligraphy and inks

the architectural practice of Imrie and Angell. Perhaps Angell had been connected to the Lewes Brotherhood, in which case this manuscript may have been created as a gift for Warren himself. It has the added distinction of coming from the library of celebrated Australian comedian Barry Humphries (*b.* 1934)—

