

The 1588 Donations to New College Library of Thomas Martin, Lawyer and Recusant

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Gardiner (1495x8-1555), Bishop of Winchester and one of the leading statesmen of the Tudor age, publication is all but confirmed by the rejoinder to the book, published by John Ponet in his *An apologie fully aunsweringe... a blasphemose book gathered by D. Steph. Gardiner ... and other papists ... under the name of Thomas Martin ... against the godly mariadge of priests* ([Strasburg: Heirs of W. Köpfel?], 1556).² A very interesting copy of this Martin or rather

too and added the same monogram, both in the same place. The binding is reversed
English, with the
on which see below.

Titi Livij Decades Gall:

Livy, *Les Grans Decades de Tyt Liuius translatees de latin en francoys
nouuellement corrigees & amendees*, 3 vols. (Paris: Jehan Petit, 1530), BT 1.38.5.
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Joannes Trithemius Abbas de Scriptoribus Ecclesiasticis

Joannes Trithemius, *De scriptoribus ecclesiasticis* (Cologne: Petrus Quentel, 1546),
BT 3.3.6. Title-page signed by Martin
used as end-papers is in Italian, from nology (see below), and there is
what looks like a continental price-code.
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Thomas Chalonerus de repub. Anglorum instauranda.

Thomas Chaloner, *De rep[ublica] Anglorum instauranda libri decem* (London:
Thomas Vautrollerius, 1579), BT 1.131.14. This was probably a presentation copy to
Martin; a cropped inscription at the top of the title-page has been rescribed probably

Naucleri Chronica.

Joannes Nauclerus, *Memorabilium omnis aetatis et omnium gentium chronici commentarii*, 2 vols. (Tübingen: Cunradi Breuning, Kiliani Veszler, & Ioannis Zuyfel, 1516), BT 1.14.7. This b^r emptus

Aristotle, the same as in previous items, and the binding is reversed calf, rebacked. There are some annotations throughout and a neat page of running notes in the final endpapers, probably in

Ambrosij Expositio super Apocalypsin.

3.180.2(2). Martin has signed the Peckham title-
Lib^r on label. The de Roias text is unmarked by
Martin. There are two further texts in the volume, being Helisaeus Roeslin, *Theoria
Nova coelestium meteoron* (Strasburg: Bernhardus Jobinus, 1578), and Abdias
Wicknerus, *Tabula ascensionum obliquarum* (Tübingen, 1561), and there is no
contextual evidence these books came from Martin.

Paulus Aemilius de rebus gestis Francorum.

Paulus Aemilius, *De rebus gestis Francorum* (Paris: Michael Vascosan, 1544), BT
1.85.3. Martin has signed the title-page Thomae Martini Lib^r

This volume has lovely strap-work binding and medieval MS pastedowns (not in Ker
and presumably not an Oxford binding). Someone has drawn in pencil profile
portraits of Aemilius and -page.¹³

Pij Pontificis Decadum Blondi Epitome.

Pius II, *Pii Pont. Max. Decadum Blondi epitome* (Basel: Joannes Bebelius, 1533), BT
1.42.3(1). Martin has signed the title-
sports fine strap-work.

**Petrus Martyr ab Angleria de rebus Oceanicis et orbe novo, cum eiusdem legatione
Babylonica.**

Peter Martyr, *De rebus oceanicis & Orbe nouo decades tres* (Basel: Joannes Bebelius,
1533), BT 1.42.3(3).¹⁴ This is in the same volume as the immediately former text; the
middle item is seemingly not frseeming

Rerum Belgicarum Annales siue historiae a diuersis conscriptae Franc: 1580.

auctoribus ... conscriptae deductaeque & in duos tomos distinctae, 2 vols. aFrankfurt:
Sigmundus Feyrabendius, 1580), BT 1.105.7. The binding is vellum, and there is

motto of the Oxonian and then Cantabrigian scholar John Field, many of whose books

University of Essex, at:

http://www.essex.ac.uk/history/research/research_pdfs/RT3_Galligan_2012.pdf

The New Testament English M^{ss}.

= New College MS 67, a fourteenth-century English manuscript, described by Coxe

The books of the New Testament according to the early version of John Wycliffe;
with corrections by the Rubricator and a third hand. This miS. has the prefatory verses
to St. s gospel written as a second prologue, which are only found in one other
MS., beg. Fo

= New College MS 65, a thirteenth-century Anglo-Norman illuminated Apocalypse of very great beauty.

Joannis Gower de confessione amantis.

= New College MS 266, a fifteenth-century illustrated manuscript, owned before Martin^r Johannes Cutt, filius Johannes Cutt, millitis, nuper de Schenley in com. Hertford¹⁵ These Cutts lived there in the mid-sixteenth century.¹⁶ The binding, including rolls, some bosses, and the remains of clasps, has been stamped on both sides with the initials W D, and surmounted by a double-
of miniatures, illustrating it throughout. In this respect it is unique, so far as I know,¹⁷ Alas several of the illuminations have been cut out.

Galfridi Monumetensis Historia Bruti primi Regis Britanniae M^{ss}.

= New College MS 276, a fifteenth-century MS now in the usual reversed calf with^r and the earlier marking bellep on fol. 1r, i.e. the Abbey of Belleperche, the Cistercian foundation in Cordes-Tolosannes, Tarn-et-Garonne.

And in addition to the Hakluyt volume noted above, we can add to this list several further Martin books still in the library, detected by chance,
Lib^r

Jacobus Philippus Bergomensis, *Novissime historiarum omnium repercussiones* (Venice: Georgius de Rusconibus [Giorgio Ruscone], 1506), BT 1.11.6. This is signed^r

Gregory of Tours, *Historiarum praecipue Gallicarum libri X* (Paris: Jodocus Badius & Joannes Parvus, 1522), BT 3.34.9.^r
with the original boards with fine strap-work with dragon-motifs. There is the remains of a paper title-
some probably slightly later annotations in pencil.

Dio Cassius et al., *Dion Cassius Nicaeus. Aelius Spartianus. Iulius Capitolinus. Aelius Lampridius. Vulcatius Gallicanus* [i.e. the *Scriptores Historiae Augustae*] (Paris: Robert Stephanus, 1544), BT 1.43.1(1).

Martini liber emptus A copy of the second item in this volume was donated by George Husey in 1610 (Benefactors Book, p. 48), being the second part of the 1544 Parisian Stephanus *Scriptores historiae Augustae* but both the imprints in this volume look as if they have been together since publication, so I suspect at some point sold as a duplicate, and that both the parts in this volume came from Martin.

Florus, *De gestis Romanorum libri IIII* (Paris: Thomas Richard, 1551), BT 3.197.20(3).

four texts, of which the first two are named in the Benefactors book, being Fenestella and

¹⁵ This provenance is mentioned in S. J. Ogilvie-Thompson, *The Index of Middle English Prose: Handlist VIII: Manuscripts Containing Middle English Prose in Oxford College Libraries* (Cambridge: D. S. Brewer, 1991), as the manuscript contains jottings on distances in the park at Shenley, Herts.

¹⁶ *Letters and Papers, Foreign and Domestic, Henry VIII, Volume 21 Part 2: September 1546-January 1547* (1910), pp. 313-348, Sir John Cutt of Shenley mentioned in a grant (no. 46) of December 1546 (consulted through British History Online).

¹⁷ For this MS, see G. C. Macauley, *The Complete Works of John Gower: The English Works*, vol. 1 (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1901), pp. clx-derive, perhaps indirectly, from MS Fairfax 3 in the Bodleian.

Mela, as noted above. (The fourth text is the *Chronica sive Historiae Polonicae compendiosa* (Basel: Officina Oporiniana, 1571) and is probably not connected in provenance.) Neither the Fenestella or the Mela are marked, but the co-incidence of three Parisian imprints – Thomas Richard, 1548; Mauricius à Porta, 1550; Thomas Richard, 1551 – surely suggests that Martin owned all three, and purchased them in Paris, where he bought books in 1550 and 1556 (see below).

donations, it is possible that the entry (or the list on which it depended) was compiled from the inscriptions on the books themselves, and that these final books were in fact part of the 1588 gift. If this is so, then a few more Martin books may turn up in time. But the only Martin book traced so far that must have come to the library later than his 1588 shipment was the one on which we opened – the 1589 Hakluyt.

This is an exceptional booklist in many ways, for it points both backwards to its purposes of such a gift. For this seems very much a select collection designed to expand the intellectual horizons of the college and its library. The chronological range of printed books stretches from the incunabular period (Aristotle in French, the geographer Pomponius Mela, and the historian

1588 *Batavia*). Librarianship itself is supported by the inclusion of the two standard universal bibliographies, those of Trithemius and Gesner. There are a number of perhaps unsurprising texts in theology and church history (Ambrose, Eusebius, Bede). But everywhere else, the list sparkles with rarities, specialist texts, and modernist slants. The entry in the Benefactors Book is headed by translations into modern languages, a rather early entrance into a college library of these kinds of books, and Martin is therefore a significant figure in the early history of the reading of modern languages in the college – here French, Italian, and Spanish (Castilian). It is significant therefore that Martin chose translations of well-known works (Aristotle, Livy, Thucydides) likely to be held in their original languages too, as it is of course easier to learn to read a language when one is already familiar with the work being translated, or has easy access to it in another language. New College had a significant interest in Hebrew scholarship in the period, and Martin perhaps responds to this with his presentation of the cosmographical text of Abraham bar Hiyya Savasorda, although the only actual Hebrew in the book is on the title-page.¹⁸ But it is in the progressive and technical subjects of modern history and geography (Paulus Aemilius, Pius II, Peter Martyr, Ortelius, Junius), chronology (Ryd, Nauclerus, Lucidus, Stoeffler), and optics/mathematics (Peckham, de Roias) that the list of printed books excels. Some of these works are bibliographical treasures, for instance the volume of Ortelius maps, which are all hand-coloured. Martin presumably thought that the study of modern languages and modern geography went hand-in-hand; and in this connection we might recall the New College poet

forrein 19 long didactic Neo-Latin poem of some eight thousand hexameters
miscellaneous verse in Neo-Latin, was presented to Martin by William Malim, who was in fact the editor of the work. This is perhaps
as the work was sponsored by and dedicated to Lord Burleigh, and was therefore hardly

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and the King James Translators (1586-
Contexts, ed. Mordechai Feingold (Leiden: Brill, forthcoming).

The King James Bible: Scholarly

¹⁹ Richard Willes, *History of Travayle in the West and East Indies* (London: Richard Jugge, 1577), fp. 236v.

College. It seems highly unlikely that any of the books got to New College, however, probably because Cole and Harpsfield, both Catholics, were arrested early in s reign. Writing to Matthew Parker on 30 July 1560, Bale o

Finally, some remarks on the copies themselves. It might be hoped that the binding of

imprints Thomas Richard, 1548; Mauricius à Porta, 1550; Thomas Richard again, 1551