

## Christ Church Library, Carroll Collection

Digitised image notes and captions by Edward Wakeling

### Dean Henry Liddell's doodles

#### Introductory notes:

Henry George Liddell (1811-1898) matriculated at Christ Church in May 1829. He was appointed a Student in 1830 which he held until 1846. He took his BA in 1833, MA 1835, and was ordained deacon 1836, priest 1838, and created BD and DD in 1855. While at Christ Church he was a tutor 1836-46, censor 1845, classical examiner 1844-5, select preacher 1842 and 1847, Whitehall preacher 1845, Whyte's professor of moral philosophy 1845-46, and proctor 1846. He was made domestic chaplain to the Prince Consort in 1845, and hon. chaplain to the Queen 1862-98. He took up the post of headmaster of Westminster school in 1846 and remained there until 1855 when he was offered the post of Dean of Christ Church, which he held until he retired in 1891. He was vice-chancellor of Oxford University 1870-4, hon. student 1892, hon. LL.D. Edinburgh 1884, and a trustee of the British Museum.

With the assistance of Robert Scott (1811-1887) MA Christ Church, he compiled the first Greek-English Lexicon (1843), and was the author of a History of Ancient Rome (1855, in two volumes).

Liddell married Lorina Hannah née Reeve (1826-1910), daughter of James Reeve of Lowestoft, in 1846. They had ten children: Edward Henry "Harry" (1847-1911), Lorina Charlotte (1849-1930), later Mrs. Skene, James Arthur Charles (1850-1853), Alice Pleasance (1852-1934), later Mrs. Hargreaves, Edith Mary (1854-1876), Albert Edward Arthur (1863, died aged 8 weeks), Rhoda Caroline Anne (1859-1949), Violet Constance (1864-1927), Frederick Francis (1865-1950), and Lionel Charles (1868-1942).

According to Henry Thompson's memoir, *Henry George Liddell* (Murray, 1899, pp. 194-5), Dean Liddell established a new Governing Body in 1867 and was "pre-eminently good as chairman. His personal dignity was itself a sufficient assertion of authority. He was fair to every one. He never spoke much, but never allowed debate to wander. He focussed opinion, and at the right moment elicited a decision, often drafting a resolution which happily embodied the gist of the conclusion at which the discussion pointed. He was very patient of tedious speakers, and would solace himself by taking out his gold pen, and after wiping it carefully on the sleeve of his gown (his invariable practice) would draw wondrous landscapes on the pink blotting paper which lay before him, while the stream of talk flowed on. Churches, castles, bridges, ruined keeps and ivy-clad walls, woodland and river scenes, in endless variety, were the outcome of dreary sessions of the innumerable committees which Oxford crowds into the afternoons of its all too brief Terms. Many hundred sketches from his pen are still treasured up by his friends; he would leave them on

the table at the end of a meeting, and some admirer would carry them off, and well worth preservation they were." Thompson gave four examples in his book, between pages 195 and 196. Christ Church Library has a number of other examples.

Carroll\_Liddell's-doodles\_01

This first doodle apparently shows a smoking bomb and a stone-framed window.

Carroll\_Liddell's-doodles\_02

Back view of a person

Carroll\_Liddell's-doodles\_03

Woodland scene

Carroll\_Liddell's-doodles\_04\_recto

This doodle appears in Thompson's book, opposite page 194; small stone window; man's face

Carroll\_Liddell's-doodles\_04\_verso

This doodle appears in Thompson's book, opposite page 195; trees

Carroll\_Liddell's-doodles\_05

River scene

Carroll\_Liddell's-doodles\_06

Doodle of what appears to be a smoking chimney behind a tree

Carroll\_Liddell's-doodles\_07

Tower scene

Carroll\_Liddell's-doodles\_08

Sketch of a man's face

Carroll\_Liddell's-doodles\_09

Man looking towards a small latticed window

Carroll\_Liddell's-doodles\_10

Cobweb between a wooden arch.