

MS. 690, on deposit as Oxford: Ashmolean Museum, Heberden Coin Archive, Arch. Coll. 10

Catalogue of the coins in Christ Church Library

Oxford, 1686

STRUCTURE

Material: Thin paper, folded in quarto (two watermarks visible, the most frequent is a coat-of-arms on the field of which there is an oval above a fleur-de-lys, the arms surmounted by a coronet, with below the initials in italics 'AJ'; interspersed in some quires, pages with the initials in monumental capitals 'MC'), 190 × 150mm. Folios: i + 64; front flyleaf conjoint with pastedown (the conjoint of the back pastedown a stub). Pencil foliation (added April 2018) at top right: 1-65, including flyleaf. Intermittent pagination provided by the scribe at top right, beginning at fol. 4, and running 1-103, but with '97' appearing twice, and the last page numbered being fol. 56^r.

Collation: Tightly bound so quire structure unclear but appears to be: i¹⁶ wanting one (a blank) after fol. 8, ii¹⁶ iii¹⁸ iv¹⁶ wanting one (presumably a blank) after fol. 62.

Layout: Unruled, the pages creased to create an offset column to the left of the text, 20/24mm from the spine on the recto. The column is reserved for the identification of the metal of the coin and a number. The description then extends across the recto, nearly to the fore-edge. Though the volume is paginated, it is designed so that only the recto of each folio was originally occupied, with the verso reserved for revisions and additions. Number of long lines on the recto varies between 30 and 36.

Script: Written in one italic script with some secretary letter-forms (variant double-bowled **e**, z-shaped **r**). For the identification of the scribe, see HISTORY.

Binding: Leather over pasteboards, sewn on four thongs, with a simple pattern of fillets forming a rectangle with a fleuron at each corner. End-bands in orange and green. Marks of a chain staple on upper board towards lower part of fore-edge (space between holes: 22mm; length to fore-edge, from the outermost point of the v-end: 45mm). Front board adrift (March 2018). No bookplate.

CONTENTS

Fol. 1: blank

Fol. 2: 'Ædis Christi Numismata. | Quorum Duo sunt Aurea: Unum, plumbeum: 136, Ænea: 366, Argentea. Ex Argenteis Romanis, 27 sunt victoriati; 3 sestertij; Cæteri autem, Denarij.'

Title-page to the following catalogue.

Fol. 2^v-3: blank, except for a two-line addition to the entries at the following recto, in the scribe's hand, at fol. 3^v.

Fol. 4-56: '[to left:] Abacus I | [centred:] Nummi Græci. | [placed above the column of numbers:] Loculus | AR. I. Adversa. Caput Philippi, patris Alex. M. ...

The catalogue of coins owned by Christ Church, divided into sections: Greek coins occupy only fol. 4 [p. 1]; Roman republican coins fol. 5-8 [pp. 3-9]; Roman imperial coins, arranged chronologically by emperor (from Julius Caesar to Honorius) fol. 9-53 [pp.11-97bis], followed by two blank leaves, fol. 54-55; ‘nummi incerti’ fol. 56-57 [pp. 103-{105}].

Fol. 58-62: blank

Fol. 63: index to the preceding catalogue, giving the order of the emperors.

Fol. 64-65: all originally blank with additional entries now at fol. 65^r.

HISTORY

Though this manuscript is unsigned and undated, its author and the year of its production can be reconstructed. First, it is possible to provide a *terminus ad quo*, as there are two pairs of added entries at fol. 65, each pair by a different scribe:

D:D: Ornatissimus Iuvenis Gualterus Moyle e coll: Exon' Socio commensalis numisma Antonini Pij.

D.D. Ornatissimus Iuvenis Carolus Poole Hujusce Ædis quoddam numisma cum inscripcione Gordiani Jun:

D.D. Reverendus Vir Jonathan Colley Hujusce Eccl. Capellanus quoddam Numisma æreum Caput Laureat: Port: Figura tenens Sinistra Cornucopiam; Dext. {effundere} Pateram super Aram effundere videtur Stans.

D.D. Ornatissimus Iuvenis Edvardus Stradling Armig: hujusce Ædis Superioris Ordinis Commensalis, quoddam Numisma Plumbeum inscript. Hebr:

All the men mentioned can be identified. The first pair of entries refer to Walter Moyle who was at Exeter College from 16 March 1688/9 but was at Middle Temple by 1690 (he was to be an MP 1695-98 and died 1721) [AO]; and to Charles Poole matriculated at ChCh 8 July 1687 but graduated from St Mary's Hall 1691 [AO]. In the second pair of entries, there is a third person described as *iuvenis*, the last name mentioned: Edward Stradling matriculated at ChCh 18 July 1684, aged 12 (he also was later to be an MP, from 1698) [AO]. The preceding entry, however, is a chronological outlier: Jonathan Colley, a Brasenose undergraduate from 1694, was appointed a chaplain at the cathedral in March 1708 [AO; CCED; ChCh Archives, DP.i.a.3, fol. 48^v]. As, by that date, it would have been inappropriate to consider Stradling still a youth, that entry presumably records an earlier gift, left unrecorded in the catalogue at the time it occurred. The biographical information available suggests that the first two gifts had arrived at the very end of the 1680s.

As none of these gifts is included in the catalogue, it must have been produced before their arrival of any of them; moreover, it is a reasonable assumption, corroborated by the aspect of the script, that it was compiled in the immediately preceding years. Indeed, we can pinpoint its creation because of an entry in the Library Donors' Book under the year 1686 (MS. LR 1, p.197b):

Ornatissimus juvenis Eduardus Hannes A.B. et hujus Aedis Alumnus
D.D.

Libr. Ms. a se ipso compositum, in quo omnia numismata quae in hac bibliotheca extant, recensentur et explicantur, secundum Seriem Abacorum in quibus reponuntur.

Edward Hannes had come up to the House in December 1682, aged 18, and took his BA in the year that he produced this catalogue. He presumably offered it as a gift in lieu of the expected financial donation to the library (on this practice, see Rundle & Hanna, p. 54). In the same period, he was also making a reputation for himself as one of ChCh's Latin poets. He received his MA in 1689; the following year he was professor of chemistry, but his later career was as a medic: he took a BMed in January 1691/2 and DMed in 1695, and moved to London where he set up a practice. He became physician to Queen Anne, was knighted in 1705, but died in 1710 [AO; J. Curthoys in *ODNB*; E. Haan, 'Twin Augustans: Addison, Hannes, and Horatian Intertexts', *Notes and Queries*, lii (2005), pp. 338-46].

This manuscript, then, is evidence for the presence of a coin collection in Christ Church's library. It was a tradition that had begun early in the seventeenth century: the Donors' Book lists under 1619 the gift of a Houseman, Francis Godwin (1562-1633), bishop of Hereford, that included 'Antiqua numismata varia tam aurea quam argentea aerea' (p. 55a; on Godwin, see D. R. Woolf in *ODNB*). No other gift is recorded before Hannes's catalogue, in which the core of what is recorded is presumably, therefore, from Godwin's gift.

The catalogue gives evidence of the changing shape of the collection, both with the small donations mentioned on the last leaf, and in annotations to the main listing. Some of the notes inserted at the versos were provided by Hannes at the time of production (eg fol. 5^v, 6^v) but others are later additions, mainly by Charles Brent, often recording 'deest' against an entry (eg fol. 4^v, 6^v, 7^v etc; for Brent, see MS. 691) — a reminder that coins are so portable they are also pilferable. More happily, Brent's notes sometimes provide additions (eg fol. 8^v). Rare interventions are by another contemporary hand in pencil (eg fol. 12^v, 29^v). The marks of a chain-staple visible on the upper board inform us that the catalogue was stored in the library, where the coins themselves were then kept.

In 1940, the coin collection was placed on deposit with the Ashmolean Museum and the papers relating to the collection, including this catalogue (like MS. 691), migrated with it. It was given its present shelfmark in April 2018.

Dr David Rundle, 4th June 2018

[Draft]

BIBLIOGRAPHY

For the context of coin collecting in seventeenth-century Oxford, see D. Berry and H. Kim, 'A Great Ornament to the University: the development of numismatics in Oxford during the seventeenth century' in C. Dekesel and T. Stäcker ed., *Europäische numismatische Literatur im 17. Jahrhundert* (Wiesbaden, 2005), pp. 125-139. C. H. V. Sutherland, 'The Coin Collection of Christ Church, Oxford', *Oxoniensia*, v (1940), pp. 140-145 overlooks this catalogue.

On the eighteenth-century, see Poole, *Journal of the History of Collections*.

IE 505 coins in all.

Antoninus Pius – in Arch. Coll. 10, sixteen silver coins and one bronze; in Arch. Coll. 9, sixteen silver and four bronze, with one of the additions presumably being from Moyle.

Gordianus Pius – in Arch. Coll. 10, nine coins in all in one list; in Brent's catalogue, Arch. Coll. 9, ten in all (pp. 43-44, 67) so presumably including the gift from Poole.

Arch. Coll. 10 records 35 Roman republican coins (numbered 11-45), but Brent notes five as missing. He records in Arch. Coll. 9 a total of 44 coins (35 with the rest as 'addenda'); the order of the entries begins the same as Arch. Coll. 10 but soon changes.

Only one signature of Edward Hannes survives in the Disbursement Books, for Trinity 1688 (ChCh Archives, xii.c.131, with thanks to Judith Curthoys for this reference). The script is more deliberate than here but shares letter-forms. In contrast, the two letters signed by him and sent to Sir Hans Sloane (BL, MS. Sloane 4059, fol. 117 and 119), written later in his career, display a current hand which has only a few common features with our manuscript but, again, there is no element that would require us to reject the identification.

If MS. Rawl. C.494 is his (the spine says 'Physick Cases by Dr Hany'), it shows him writing a secretary cursive, which includes those forms found in the italic of Arch. Coll. 10 but which does not provide a direct parallel.

Hannes took his BA in 1686 and the production of the coin catalogue was presumably in place of paying for a volume for the library.

**CHECK CUL Dd.v.77 – school exercises by Hannes.

Jonathan Colley – chaplain, appointed 12th March 1707 [Lady Day Style, ie 1708]: see ChCh Archive, DP.i.a.3, fol. 48^v.

Second pair of entries do not appear to be by Christopher Hobson, the Library Keeper for the relevant years (and certainly not Henry Cooper, his successor). Nor, by comparison to the xeroxes which are MS. 396, can it be Charles Aldrich.