

UNIV ONLINE CATALOGUES

UC:S13 Papers of John Browne (Fellow 1575-1612)

John Browne was elected to a Skirlaw Fellowship at University College on 15 Feb 1574/5, a post he held until his resignation on 22 July 1612. His early academic career remains uncertain: unfortunately Foster's entry on him in *Alumni Oxonienses* is confused. He links Browne with a John Browne, a student at Christ Church in 1572, who became a BA on 19 Feb 1573/4, and an MA on 22 May 1577. However this identification cannot be right: the Account Rolls of University College show that its John Browne, although still identified as a BA in 1575/6, was certainly an MA in 1576/7, whilst John Browne of Christ Church remained there until December 1586¹.

Two other Oxford men, however, can be linked with the Fellow of University College: one John Browne was admitted BA from St. Alban's Hall on 7 Apr 1571, and another, whose college is not given, was made a BA on 23 Feb 1571/2. One of these men—we do not know which—then became an MA on 2 Jul 1576, and this MA must be the Fellow of University College.

At least the later academic career of John Browne of University College is clear: he became a BD on 27 Jun 1594 and a DD on 30 Jun 1608.² The exercises he disputed in 1608 are listed on Vol. I p.205 of Clark's Register of the University for 1571–1622.

John Browne was not the only member of his family to come to University College: his brother Richard matriculated here on 1 December 1581 and was a Fellow from 1585–91 (later becoming vicar of Norbury, Derbs.), and Richard's own son, another Richard, matriculated at University College on 16 June 1610.

Browne played a prominent role within University College: he is known to have served as Bursar in 1580/1 and 1586/7, and may have done so again during periods for which no accounts survive. More importantly for the College he was able to muster benefactions for the College from two of his relations, namely his uncle, Thomas Browne and his cousin John Freeston. This relationship gave him certain privileges: he nominated the Browne exhibitioners for July 1597 and August 1598, and the Freeston scholars for August 1598, May 1603, June 1608 and April 1609. Aside from fighting to secure these benefactions, he also seems to have worked actively for to win some land in Montgomeryshire bequeathed in the vaguest of terms by Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester.

Evidence from the following papers shows that Browne entertained hopes becoming Master of the College in 1597 and 1609. In another period, he might have been successful, but at this period the Master was more or less the personal appointee of the then Chancellor of the University, who on each occasion already had a preferred candidate. Browne seems to have made his peace with George Abbot, Master from 1597, but some of the later letters in this collection suggest a slightly more difficult relationship with John Bancroft, who became Master in 1609.

¹ Information from Mrs. J. Curthoys, Archivist of Christ Church.

² Foster says that the Alban Hall Browne became a BD in 1580 and was licensed to preach in 1583, but these degrees were almost certainly taken by John Browne of Christ Church.

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Browne also lobbied hard for ecclesiastical preferment: a prebend at Ely was promised him, for example, but in the end his only benefice was at Stanford Rivers, Essex, where he was rector from 1611–13 (a living also held by John Crayford, Fellow from 1519–c.1526, and Master 1546–7).

He seems to have died with his affairs in some confusion. George Radcliffe, an undergraduate of the time, wrote to his mother on 11 May 1613 that “Dr. Browne died upon Saturday last [ie 8 May 1613], miserable and fearefullye upon a dead palsey; he is found to be worth 15s 2d and 600 pounce indebted to University College” (T. D. Whitaker, *The life and original correspondence of Sir George Radcliffe* (London, 1810), pp.93–4). The actual extent of Browne’s debts are not known: certainly the College did not see any of the benefactions promised in his will.

John Browne’s finances may explain why these papers came to the College: they would certainly be consistent with a miscellaneous collection left behind on his death. The reason for their survival is less clear: since William Smith seems to have found them with papers relating to the Freeston estates, it is possible that they were retained in case they provided useful material for the College’s claim. Although William Smith chose to list Browne’s papers with those relating to the Freeston lands, it was decided to list them separately, since they form a discrete unit.

Smith’s cataloguing of these papers catches him out in a rare error. Having, as he thought, sorted and arranged John Browne’s papers, he was then obliged to note at the end of his catalogue of the Freeston papers that he had “Some papers relating to Dr. Jo. Browne wh. came into my hands after the finishing of ye former Collections, viz. on ye 26 Sept 1705”. These “new” papers comprise **UC:S13/C1/4–9 & 11–12**, **UC:S13/C3/8**, and **UC:S13/W1/9**.

The papers form a remarkable collection, providing the only detailed evidence for the activities of a Fellow of University College from this time. Aside from correspondence and papers relating to his ecclesiastical career, the papers also include accounts for his pupils within the College, a piece of evidence rare enough from any College for this period.

The collection is arranged as follows:

- UC:S13/C1** - General Correspondence with members of University College
- UC:S13/C2** - Correspondence with others
- UC:S13/C3** - Correspondence and papers concerning Thomas Browne
- UC:S13/C4** - Correspondence and papers concerning John and William Burdet
- UC:S13/F1** - John Browne’s Account Book for his Pupils
- UC:S13/L1** - Papers relating to Browne’s ecclesiastical career
- UC:S13/MS1** - Papers relating to Browne’s campaigns for the Mastership
- UC:S13/MS2** - Papers concerning John Freeston’s estates
- UC:S13/W1** - John Browne’s will, and the administration of his estate

Catalogued in March 2002.

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UC:S13 Papers of John Browne (Fellow 1575-1612)**UC:S13/C1 - GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE WITH MEMBERS OF UNIVERSITY COLLEGE**

- UC:S13/C1/1** **n.d. (late 16th cent)**
 List of deeds concerning the Crown Inn, Oxford, and other adjoining properties [document torn; top right-hand corner lost].
 [Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 2 no 1(a)]
- UC:S13/C1/2** **6 Feb 1599**
 Letter to Dr. Browne from Lancelot Gryme (matr. Univ. 12 Nov 1592; Lodger 1595/6–1596/7; Freeston Scholar 1597; Fellow, 1597– 1603) concerning sending Browne a jerkin. He has just been to Dr. Case's funeral, of which he provides a description. [document torn in the middle; some letters and words missing]
 [Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 2 no 1a]
- UC:S13/C1/3** **n.d. (dated 1611 or 1612 by Smith)**
 Letter (so badly damaged that the bottom quarter is now missing) to John Browne from his brother Richard. Smith says that the letter is about getting a Leicester Scholarship for Richard Browne's son Richard.
 [Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 2 no 5]
- UC:S13/C1/4** **15 Feb 1612 [sic]**
 Letter from John Bancroft (address, University College) to John Browne (address Stanford Rivers, Essex), inviting him to visit Oxford as soon as possible, preferably before the annual accounts are drawn up.
 The letter is dated "1612", which ought to imply it was written in 1612/3. However, Brown resigned his Fellowship in July 1612, which makes a date of 1612 more likely.
 Smith (UC:AR2/MS1/4 p. 354) writes (correctly) "Dr. Bancroft's is a pritty legible hand."
 [Original Reference Pyx . fasc. 8 no. 3]
- UC:S13/C1/5** **22 May 1612**
 Letter (address, Norbury) from Richard Browne to his brother (address University College). Not only is the writing hard to read, but it appears to have been torn when it was opened, and some of the text on the right margin is missing. Browne appears to be writing to his brother about the next Leicester Exhibition (although in fact the College Register suggests that the next Leicester Exhibitions were not awarded until 1617). The letter also mentions Richard's "cosin" Henry Routh.
 [Original Reference Pyx . fasc. 8 no. 4]
- UC:S13/C1/6** **n.d. (Jun/Jul 1612?)**
 Copy of a letter from the Archbishop of Canterbury (then

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George Abbot, former Master) to University College noting that John Browne plans to resign his Fellowship in favour of Robert Dickson, and that the Countess of Leicester had agreed to give him the first vacancy in the Leicester Exhibitions to arise.

Abbott now asks that the College give him this Exhibition (the letter seems to imply that he would receive the Exhibition himself, rather than the right of nomination), but still give him right of seniority within the College.

The letter is undated, but Browne resigned his Fellowship on 22 July 1612, and Dickson was elected on 28 July.

[Original Reference Pyx . fasc. 8 no. 5]

UC:S13/C1/7

1 May 1612

Letter from Jonas Radcliffe (address, University College) to John Browne, concerning general estates business, and the payment of rents from various tenants. He reports that the Master is currently in London.

Smith (UC:AR2/MS1/4 p. 355) writes: "This of Mr. Radcliffe's is a small but fair hand." He also writes (UC:AR2/MS1/4 p. 356) that he deduces from this letter that Browne was Bursar for 1611/12.

[Original Reference Pyx . fasc. 8 no. 6]

UC:S13/C1/8

24 Aug 1612

Letter from Jonas Radcliffe (address, University College) to John Browne, concerning College matters (including the quarrying of stone), with references to the Master, John Rayner (Fellow), and Cornelius Duffield (butler).

[Original Reference Pyx . fasc. 8 no. 7]

UC:S13/C1/9

26 Oct 1612

Letter from Jonas Radcliffe (address, University College) to John Browne, concerning the financial affairs of various college members, including Thomas Denison (BA Univ. 6 Jul 1611), Philip Jackson (matr. Univ. 18 Jun 1610), Richard Browne (John's nephew, matr. Univ. 16 Jun 1610) and Henry Routh (BA Univ. 17 Jan 1610/11).

[Original Reference Pyx . fasc. 8 no. 8]

UC:S13/C1/10

Nov 1612

Letter from Thomas Denison (who took his BA from Univ. 6 Jul 1611) to John Browne, from University College, requesting payment of his allowance, and mentioning that Mr. Wilson is still in the country, and therefore in danger of being expelled for a term's absence. Browne has written (almost illegible) notes on the paper, mainly about the Freeston estates.

[Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 2 no 6]

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UC:S13 Papers of John Browne (Fellow 1575-1612)**UC:S13/C1/11****16 & 20 Dec 1612**

Letter from Henry Routh (address London) to Jonas Radcliffe, on which Radcliffe has written a reply from University College, addressing it to Mr. Adames shoppe at the sign of the Bell in St. Paul's Churchyard. Routh is paying off some of his debts, and asked Radcliffe to send him a receipt. Radcliffe obliges in his reply, enclosing an account for John Browne (**C1/12** below) which he asks Routh to send on to him.

[Original Reference Pyx . fasc. 8 no. 9 (a)]

UC:S13/C1/12**20 Dec 1612**

Account by Jonas Radcliffe of money received from John Browne, and spent on his behalf.

[Original Reference Pyx . fasc. 8 no. 9 (b)]

UC:S13/C2 - CORRESPONDENCE WITH OTHERS**UC:S13/C2/1****6 Apr 1605**

Letter from Edward Tolbot (identity unknown) to Dr. Browne concerning the purchase of Atwold Park, and asking for news of how it is progressing.

[Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 2 no 2]

UC:S13/C2/2**7 Jul 1609**

A Latin letter from John Bramhall (who is recorded as beginning tutorials with Browne in 1609, aged 16) to Browne, thanking Browne for his help, and apologising for his poor Latin (which is actually quite good). The latter has been used by Browne to make rough notes (almost illegible) both for a draft reply, for notes on Browne's interest in succeeding George Abbot as Master in 1609, and for notes (according to Smith) on the Earl of Shrewsbury.

John Bramhall (1594–1663), later Archbishop of Armagh, was born at Pontefract, and matriculated at Sidney Sussex, Cambridge in February 1609; He became Wentworth's chaplain in Ireland in the 1630s. He also knew Sir George Radcliffe (matr. Univ. 1609). One assumes that Bramhall came into contact with Browne through the Pontefract link.

[Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 2 no 3b]

UC:S13/C2/3**n.d. (c.1600?)**

Letter to John Browne, writer unnamed, concerning debts owing to Browne. Browne has written two draft replies on the back.

[Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 2 no 3b]

UC:S13/C2/4**n.d. (dated c.1612 by Smith)**

Letter to Browne from William Shelton (identity uncertain) about the sending to Browne of quittances.

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This, and **C2/5–10** below, may be related to Browne's incumbency at Stanford Rivers (see **UC:S13/L1/11–18**).

[Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 2 no 4a]

UC:S13/C2/5 **25 Mar 1602**

Quittance signed by William Tabor for receipt of 30 shillings in lieu of tithes due at High Ongar from William Shelton.

[Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 2 no 4b]

UC:S13/C2/6 **25 Mar 1609**

Quittance signed by Richard Mulcaster (Browne's predecessor as rector of Stanford Rivers; also Headmaster of Merchant Taylors' School from 1561–86 and of St. Paul's School from 1596–1608) for receipt for 40 shillings in lieu of tithes due at Ongar from William Shelton.

[Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 2 no 4c]

UC:S13/C2/7 **30 Oct 1612**

Draft of **C2/8** below.

[Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 2 no 4d]

UC:S13/C2/8 **4 Nov 1612**

Receipt signed by John Browne for £6 from William Shelton, paid in lieu of tithes for a year and a half at Ongar.

[Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 2 no 4e]

UC:S13/C2/9 **12 Nov 1612**

Letter from William Shelton to John Browne. Shelton sends Browne an apricot, and offers to lend him money.

[Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 2 no 5a]

UC:S13/C2/10 **"This Friday morninge 1612"**

Letter from William Shelton to John Browne concerning an argument he has had with Browne's curate, and a visit from one of Browne's nephews.

[Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 2 no 5b]

UC:S13/C3 - CORRESPONDENCE AND PAPERS CONCERNING THOMAS BROWNE

Thomas Browne (d. 1587) was the uncle of John Brown and his brother Richard. He seems to have been a Fellow of Balliol College, before becoming vicar of Kingsclere and of Basingstoke, both in Hampshire. John and his brother persuaded his uncle to be a not inconsiderable benefactor to their own College: Thomas gave books, and also a rent charge on lands in Rotherwick, Hants., to support two scholars in the College (see **UC:E9**). He also gave money for charitable purposes in Hampshire, as set out in more detail below.

UC:S13/C3/1 **2 May 1571**

Inventory and valuation of the books owned by Thomas Browne. The list is a long one, containing several dozen

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volumes. Estimates of the value of each book are given.

[Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 4 no. 1]

UC:S13/C3/2 **n.d. (c.1587?)**

List of books "att one time sent from Kingsclere att the death of Mr. Tho: Browne."

[Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 4 no. 2]

UC:S13/C3/3 **1587**

List of legacies made by Thomas Browne. They include a bequest of £10 made "for bookes to Uniuersitie Colledg". A list of the books bought with this money may be found in **UC:BE1/MS1/3** (the Library benefactors' book), fol. 2v.

[Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 4 no. 3]

UC:S13/C3/4 **29 Jul 1587**

Certificate that the vicarage of Kingsclere was found in a good enough condition for the new vicar to inhabit.

[Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 4 no. 4]

UC:S13/C3/5 **n.d. (c. 7 Jul 1587?)**

List of repairs carried out at the vicarage at Basingstoke.

[Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 4 no. 5a]

UC:S13/C3/6 **7 Jul 1587**

Valuation of repairs needed for the vicarage of Basingstoke.

[Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 4 no. 5b]

UC:S13/C3/7 **29 Jul 1587**

Certificate that the vicarage of Basingstoke is now in good enough condition for the new vicar to inhabit.

[Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 4 no. 5c]

UC:S13/C3/8 **25 Jun 1589**

Draft letter of attorney from John and Richard Browne as the executors of their uncle Thomas. Richard Cross alias Stevens has assigned his lease on properties (specified) in Estrope, to Thomas Browne. His nephews appoint Henry Leech, servant to Richard Whithead, Esq., to take possession of these lands on their behalf.

[Original Reference Pyx . fasc. 8 no. 1]

UC:S13/C3/9 **10 Jun 34 Eliz I (1592)**

Deed of Trust

Parties:

1. (a) John Browne.
(b) Richard Browne, both Fellows of the greate halle in the universitie of Oxford, commonly called Universitie College.
2. (a)–(m) Peter Fawkner, Gent., John Smith, Gent., John Hynwood, Stephin

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Knight, John Chamberleyn, James Knight, John Atfield, William Hunt, William Spencer, John Camber, Robert Bachelor, Walter Butler and John Curteys, described as “thirtene of the most substantial men” of Kingscleare, Hants.

3. (a)–(b) Stephen Knight and John Lawrence, Constables of Kingsclere.
(c)–(d) John Wayte and Walter Spencer, Churchwardens of the same.

Comments: Thomas Browne, late vicar of Kingsclere, bequeathed £20 to the constables and churchwardens there to be available as loans for four poor clothiers of the parish, and two poor artificers. 1, Browne’s executors, offered this sum to the constables and churchwardens, who refused to accept it. Instead, therefore, 1 made 2 trustees of an annual rent of 20s chargeable on a property at Rotherwick, Hants., called Wyboldes, to be divided among the poor of the parish. 2 are also to build up a stock of money to be lent out.

[Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 4 no. 6]

UC:S13/C3/10**31 May 35 Eliz I (1594)**

Deed of Trust

Parties:

1. (a)–(b) John Greneway and William Moore, bailiffs of Basingstoke, Hants.
(c)–(d) William Cowdrye and William Hearne *alias* Oliver, Constables of the same.
(e)–(h) William Arnold, John Govinge, William Hearne *alias* Oliver and Richard Westwrey, churchwardens of the same.
2. John Browne, Fellow of University College, executor and nephew of Thomas Browne, late vicar of Basingstoke.

Comments: 1 agree that they have received from 2, and also from Richard Browne, the same of £20 bequeathed them by Thomas Browne in trust for the purposes set out in his will, namely to be lent out to three poor clothiers or to two poor clothiers and one artificer.

[Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 4 no. 7]

UC:S13/C4 - CORRESPONDENCE AND PAPERS CONCERNING JOHN AND WILLIAM BURDET, 1607–12

John and William Burdett both matriculated at Univ. on 5 November 1591 aged 19 and 17 respectively. William took his BA on 15 November 1593, and is recorded as a barrister-at-law in the Middle Temple in 1603, as the second son of Humphrey, late of Sunning, Berks., Esq.

It seems that the Burdetts’ uncle Ethelbert had been an oversee of his father’s will, and had an account of the money due to John Burdett, the elder brother, when he became 21 years old, but when John attained his majority, he found the lands were in a poor state, and lacking livestock—just household stuff and plate to be divided between him and his brother, which led to a dispute between them both. Browne was financially implicated in this imbroglio, and also became one of John Burdett’s executors.

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- UC:S13/C4/1** **n.d. (dated c.1607 by Smith)**
 List of small debts due before a meeting at Newbury owed by John Burdett.
[Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 3 no 1]
- UC:S13/C4/2** **23 Nov 1607**
 Letter from John Burdett (address, London at the sign of the Lion in the Strand), to unnamed addressee (Browne), concerning the efforts of the addressee and Sir William Eyre to help arbitrate on the dispute between Burdett and his brother, which seems to have taken a particularly bitter turn. Barely legible notes for Browne's draft reply are on one of the unused pages.
[Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 3 no 2]
- UC:S13/C4/3** **n.d. (c.1607?)**
 Notes titled "The Apology concernynge my [John Burdett's] present estate and the proceedings with them whom it concerneth", giving details of his situation. He also has problems with his living at Swyndlersham [*sic*]. He lists the money which he is currently supposed to owe.
[Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 3 no 3]
- UC:S13/C4/4** **18 Jul 1608**
 John Burdett of Sunning, Gent., agrees that the £20 which his brother William Burdett (now deceased) owes by bond to John Browne DD was payable on his own property, and himself borrowed £30 of Browne. He promises to repay Browne.
[Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 3 no 4]
- UC:S13/C4/5** **14 Oct 1608**
 Bond
Parties:
 1. a) John Burdett of Sonning, Berks., Gent.
 b) John Stutvile, Citizen and Skinner of London.
 2. Henry Webb, Citizen and Merchant Tailor of London.
Consideration: £10.
Comments: 1 agree to pay 2 £5 by the 14 November next.
[Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 3 no 5]
- UC:S13/C4/6** **14 Oct 1608**
 Bond
Parties:
 1. John Burdett of Sonning, Berks., Gent.
 2. John Stutvile, Citizen and Skinner of London.
Consideration: £20.
Comments: In the light of the above bond, by which 1 and 2 are bound to Henry Webb for £10, 1 is hereby bound to 2 to

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pay Webb the agreed sum at the agreed date.

[Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 3 no 6]

UC:S13/C4/7

12 July 7 Ja I (1609)

Declaration by John Burdett concerning certain lands at Sonning owned by Burdett which yielded annuities of £60 to Burdett himself and £40 to Elizabeth his wife. On 27 Jun 1607 he made over his annuity to Dr. Wright and John Browne. He now agrees that he will not sell or let this annuity without Browne's consent, and that he will pay him £25 quarterly until a debt of £20 is satisfied.

[Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 3 no 7]

UC:S13/C4/8

22 Jul 1609

Copy of the will of John Burdett, signed by him. He asked that he be buried either in Englefield Church, or St. Dunstan;s in London, or Chandfield [?], Essex, or at University College. John Browne is made one of his executors.

[Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 3 no 8]

UC:S13/C4/9

24 May 1610

Memorandum from John Wolveridge concerning £15, which is owed to Dr. Browne by John Burdett. He will pay £11 to Dr. Browne, but will keep £4 because of a debt for that sum owed to Wolveridge by Burdett.

[Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 3 no 9]

UC:S13/C4/10

1 Jul 8 Ja I (1610)

Draft of account between John Wolveridge and John Browne, concerning money owed to Browne by John Burdett. An annuity of £15 from Mr. Lydall's lands is to be divided up as £8 to Mrs. Burdet, £5 to Browne, and 40s to Wolveridge for two years. After that the whole sum is to go to Mrs. Burdet until her son is 12 years old. The money paid to Browne is to settle a debt of £20.

[Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 3 no 10]

UC:S13/C4/11

1 Jul 8 Ja I (1610)

Another draft of the above document.

[Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 3 no 10a]

UC:S13/C4/12

n.d. (dated 1611–1612 by Smith)

Draft of a petition to the Lord Chancellor by Bartholomew Fowke, one of the clerks of the Court of Chancery and Elizabeth his wife (late wife of John Burdett, late of Sonning, Berks., esq.), and Humfrey Burdett, son of John, concerning a property called the Farm of Sonning, in Hassell Park, which Burdett had held on long leasehold. This property had been assigned to Elizabeth's father John Phipps, to hold upon trust

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that out of this property an annuity of £100 a year be paid to Elizabeth on Burdett's death. Burdett then fell into debt and sold off the lease to help. One of the people receiving an income from this property was John Browne. Fowke and his wife now wish to alter this state of affairs, and recover her annuity.

[Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 3 no 11]

UC:S13/C4/13**n.d. (dated 1611–1612 by Smith)**

Draft of Dr. Browne's answer to the preceding petition, in which he explains why he should continue to draw his annuity from the disputed property. As an executor of Burdett, he also claims expenses for this.

[Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 3 no 12]

UC:S13/F1 - JOHN BROWNE'S ACCOUNT BOOK FOR HIS PUPILS**UC:S13/F1/1****1584–1611**

Book with parchment covers containing detailed accounts for his pupils kept by Dr. Browne during the above years. The accounts record money received by Browne from his pupils' parents, and payments made by Browne with this money on his pupils' behalf upon such matters as tutorial expenses, books, clothing, food, candles, barbers' fees, etc.

The following pupils are mentioned in this book. It is noteworthy that the few pupils in the book who are not recorded as matriculating at, or taking a degree from, University College do not appear anywhere in Foster's *Alumni Oxonienses*.

Ashton, Samuel (matr. Univ. 23 Oct 1601): pp.46–8, 49
 Baker, William (matr. Univ. 29 Jul 1603); pp.2, 59
 Baldwin, John (matr. Univ. 31 Oct 1595): p. 49
 Browne, Richard (John Browne's nephew; matr. 16 Jun 1610): p.55
 Burdett, John and William (matr. Univ. 1591): pp.20–21, 35–42
 Cheney, Walter (matr. Univ. 1583): p.31
 Duckett, Lionel (unidentified; came to Univ. Aug 1598): p.44
 Eyre, Robert (BA Univ. 4 Jul 1611): pp.51–4
 Fitzherbert, Francis (unidentified; came to Univ. 1609/10), pp.59–60
 Flecher, John (unidentified; came to Univ. Jun 1586): p.29
 Fradisham, Edward (matr. Univ. 1591): pp.11–12
 Frank, Richard (unidentified; came to Univ. Aug 1610): pp.69–70
 Gale or Gate, Thomas (matr. Univ. 1588): p.14
 Gryme, Lancelot (matr. Univ. 1592; Fellow 1507–1603); pp.4–6

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Harrison, James (matr. Univ. 1592; Fellow 1598–1616):
pp.1–2, 3
Hartwell, Robert (matr. Univ. 1587): pp.32–33
Holland, Timothy (matr. Univ. 1610): pp.18–19
“Mr. Hopkins” (unidentified; came to Univ. c.1598): p.10
Jephson, John (unidentified; came to Univ. Oct 1589):
p.17
Leiber, *Rodolphus* (unidentified; at Univ. 1584): p.13
Leicester, Ralph (unidentified; at Univ. 1580s - this might
be the same man as Leiber above): p.15
Leigh, William (matr. Univ. 1603): pp.9, 51
Osborne, Walter (unidentified; came to Univ. Jul 1607):
p.49–50
Martyr, Christopher (matr. Univ. 1584): pp.23, 25–27
Palmer, Francis (matr. Univ. 1591): pp.8–9
Routh, Henry (BA from Univ. 1611): p.22
Smith, John (matr. Univ. 18 Jul 1600): pp.44–5
Smith, Thomas (unidentified; came to Univ. 1599): p.2
Spicer, John (unidentified; at Univ. 1593): p.6
Stokes, Matthew (unidentified; came to Univ. 1590/1): p.19
Walter, Charles (matr. Univ. 1598): p.11, 43
Wentworth, Thomas and Walter (both matr. Univ. 1584):
pp.7
Wilson, John (BA from Univ. 1607): p.16
Wilbee, Thomas (matr. Univ. 1603): p.4

[Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 2 no 14 *bis*]

UC:S13/L1 - PAPERS RELATING TO BROWNE’S ECCLESIASTICAL CAREER

Browne seems to have lobbied hard for ecclesiastical preferment, obtaining at least the promise of receiving the next prebend at Ely Cathedral for which the Crown had the right of presentation. However, he never received his prebend, and instead had to rest satisfied with the living of Stanford Rivers in Essex.

This collection includes some papers concerning the collection of money from local Essex churches towards a Protestant College in Prague. Other material possibly relating to Stanford Rivers may be at **C2/4–10** above.

UC:S13/L1/1**13 Sep 35 Eliz I (1593)**

Letter patent (with great seal in good condition) of Elizabeth I announcing the award of a prebend at Ely Cathedral to John Browne at the next vacancy which the Crown has a right to present.

Language: Latin.

[Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 1 no. 1]

UC:S13/L1/2**13 Sep 35 Eliz I (1593)**

Letter patent (with fragment only of great seal preserved) from Elizabeth I to the Dean and Chapter of Ely recommending the

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elevation of John Brown to a prebend there at the next vacancy to which she has the right of presentation. The seal seems to have been fragmentary in Smith's day (UC:AR2/MS1/4 p. 282).

[Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 1 no. 2]

UC:S13/L1/3

n.d. (1590s?)

Copy of both preceding documents, probably done soon after their creation.

[Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 1 no. "1 et 2b"]

UC:S13/L1/4

25 Jun 42 Eliz I (1600)

Letter patent (with fine example of his seal attached) from Martin Heron, Bishop of Ely, granting to Thomas Wentworth of Lincoln's Inn, Esq., the right of nomination to the next vacant canonry or prebend in Ely, which means that John Browne will get it.

[Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 1 no. 6]

UC:S13/L1/5

1600

Copy of the preceding.

[Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 1 no. 6a]

UC:S13/L1/6

c.1600?

Note concerning the promise of a prebend for John Browne at the next vacancy.

[Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 1 no. 6b]

UC:S13/L1/7

c.1600

Notes on the regulations for the right of appointment to a canonry or prebend.

[Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 1 no. 6c]

UC:S13/L1/8

29 Aug 1 Ja I (1603)

Letter patent (with the privy seal of the Duchy of Lancaster) from James I granting the right of presentation at the next vacancy to the living of Stanford Rivers, Essex, to John Carvile, Esq., on the understanding that John Browne is the preferred candidate.

[Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 1 no. 8]

UC:S13/L1/9

21 Jun 1604

Grant by John Carvile, Esq., to John Browne, BD, and Fellow of University College, of his right to the next presentation of the living of Stanford Rivers, Essex.

[Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 1 no. 9]

UC:S13/L1/10

27 Jun 2 Jan I (1604)

Letters patent (with the great seal of James I) bearing a

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general pardon for Brown.

[Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 1 no. 11]

UC:S13/L1/11

16 Apr 1611

[This document has been damaged, and the middle section of the first few lines is now lost]

John Browne's formal institution to the living of Stanford Rivers.

[Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 1 no. 16]

UC:S13/L1/12

19 Apr 1611

Order for the induction of John Browne as Rector of Stanford Rivers.

[Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 1 no. 17]

UC:S13/L1/13

21 May 1611

Articles of Agreement

Parties:

1. John Browne, DD, parson of Stanford Rivers, Essex.
1. Peter Mulcaster of the same town, Gent.

Comments: 2 is administrator of the goods of Richard Mulcaster his father, late parson of Stanford Rivers, and seeks compensation from 1 for the wainscotting and glass in the rectory which his father had paid for, and also for the work of racking a meadow of the parsonage land, and for the digging of marl there, and for other (specified) agricultural activity. On the other hand, the Chancel of Stanford Rivers church was in decay under 2's father, and 1 wanted money from 2 to repair it.

The parties therefore agree to a compromise: 2 drops his demands about the wainscotting and glass in the rectory, and the other agricultural improvements, and 1 agrees not to ask 2 for help in repairing the chancel, and to pay him £4, and to let him take away his (2's) household chattels from the house.

Pys , fasc. 1 no. 18]

UC:S13/L1/14

17 Dec 1612

Letter from John King, Bishop of London (address London House) to John Browne, of Stanford Rivers, Mr. Pemberton of High Ongar, Mr. Wimmisse of Lamborne, and Mr. Linch of Northwilde Bassett, soliciting contributions towards a Protestant College in Prague.

[Original Reference Pyx , fasc 2 no. 7]

UC:S13/L1/15

c.1612

List of places with names below, presumably of those who contributed towards the College at Prague.

[Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 2 no. 8]

UC:S13/L1/16

c.1612

List of names of donors from the Deanery of Ongar towards

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the erecting of a College at Prague. John Browne gave 13s 4d.
[Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 2 no. 9]

UC:S13/L1/17 **c.1612**

List of names of donors from Navestocke, Essex, for the same purpose.
[Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 2 no. 10]

UC:S13/L1/18 **16 Apr 1613**

Letter from Godfrey Goodman (no address) to Dr. Browne enclosing the money (8s 6d) collected from his parish towards the College in Prague. Smith notes on the back that he was vicar of Stapleton Abbot.
[Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 2 no. 11]

[One document which might have been related to the above papers is now lost. An item catalogued by Smith as Pyx . fasc. 8 no. 2 is missing (UC:AR2/MS1/4 p. 352) is described by him as a copy of a letter from Queen Elizabeth, dated 13 Jan 1592/3, to the Archbishop of York encouraging an enquiry into the learning of the clergy in his diocese.]

UC:S13/MS1 - PAPERS RELATING TO BROWNE'S CAMPAIGNS FOR THE MASTERSHIP

As explained in the Introduction, John Browne twice lobbied hard—but unsuccessfully—to become the Master of University College, in 1597 and 1609.

UC:S13/MS1/1 **n.d. (1597)**

Draft letter from the widow of Anthony Gate, Master of University College 1584–97, to an unnamed addressee (identified by Smith as Lady Walsingham), asking for assistance for her young children, and urging that John Browne become the next Master of the College. It would seem that this draft was written by Mrs. Gate herself, and given to Brown along with the sent version.
This letter appears to be the earliest known document written by the wife or widow of a Master of University College.
[Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 1 no. 4]

UC:S13/MS1/2 **n.d. (1597?)**

List of the benefits done by John Browne to University College, which forms a draft of part of **MS1/5** below.
[Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 1 no. 3a]

UC:S13/MS1/3 **n.d. (1597?)**

Another copy of the above, written in the same hand.
[Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 1 no. 3b]

UC:S13/MS1/4 **c.1597**

Document titled "Reasons inducing the Fellows of unyuersitie

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College in Oxford to make choyce of Jo. Br bachelor of dyuynitie to succede in place of their late Master deceased." The unknown writer bases his arguments on Browne's benefactions to the College (which included soliciting benefactions from uncle Thomas Browne, securing the bequest of the Earl of Leicester, and securing a benefaction from his cousin John Freeston), and the tradition that the Master should be elected from the Fellowship.

MS1/2-3 above form drafts of part of this document

William Smith comments on these lists of Browne's benefactions: "These preceding charities are attributed by Mr. Browne to himselfe; which yet are not rigorously to be strained. As tho' he were the chief or onely mover; for certainly it would not have availed him much with the College, to have given no new to it and so much from it, had he had the intire disposall of all the charities here mentioned. Besides are severall things mentioned which were really never effected - and some not so much as designed - and as for the 12 scholars maintained by him - I scarce can tell how in any good sense to compleat this number. But I conceive his two Fellows and 4 scholars in University and Emanuel College are six of the 12; the schoolmaster and usher at Normanton make eight; favor paid to the schoolmaster at Wakefield ten; a temporary scholar out of a lease at [blank] eleven" (UC:AR2/MS1/4 pp. 283-4). Smith also notes that the Leicester benefaction was not finally secured until some years after Browne's death (*loc. cit.*).

[Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 1 no. 5]

UC:S13/MS1/5**c.1610**

Draft letter from some of the Fellows of University College to the Archbishop of Canterbury asking that John Brown be elected Fellow to replace George Abbot. The right hand margin is torn in places, and some of the text is hard to read.

[Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 1 no. 13]

UC:S13/MS1/6**c. 1609/10**

A more detailed list of the benefits University College has received from John Brown, with especial reference to the money he has raised and spent towards completely rebuilding the College. Smith (UC:AR2/MS1/4 p. 299) thinks that this was written after the Mastership had gone to John Bancroft, since references are made to George Abbot as Archbishop of Canterbury, which he only became after Bancroft's election as Master.

[Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 1 no. 14]

[Smith's transcripts theoretically leave a space for a "Pyx , fasc. 1 no. 15". However, no document with this reference was found in the archives, and nor does one seem to appear in his transcripts. However, there is then a second "no. 15" in Pyx , fasc 2 which might refer to

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this. Smith's entry for this document (UC:AR2/MS1/4 p. 318) shows that this was a notebook, similar to **UC:S13/F1/1** below, but in which "scarce any thing was writt", except for another list of the services which he had to the College, and a list of disbursements to the poor. This document is now lost.]

UC:S13/MS2 - PAPERS CONCERNING JOHN FREESTON'S ESTATES

As explained in the Introduction. John Freeston was Browne's cousin, and bequeathed University College a substantial estate at Pontefract. The main body of papers about the Freeston lands, which includes many documents and letters written to and from Browne, is catalogued as **UC:E12**.

UC:S13/MS2/1**19 Feb 1601/2**

List of payments and receipts between Dr. Browne and Ingram Marton, apparently relating to the Freeston property. Browne lists his version of what moneys have passed between them, and Marton writes (often bluntly) in the margins his own comments, not least on why he thinks he is owed more money.

[Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 2 no 1b]

UC:S13/MS2/2**n.d. (dated c.1602 by Smith)**

List of complaints by Ingram Marten against Dr. Brown, concerning money which he claims is owed him, with Browne's full answer to the charges.

[Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 2 no 1c]

UC:S13/MS2/3**n.d. (c.1600?)**

Notes in Dr. Browne's hand concerning an inspection of part of the Trinity estate (at Pontefract; part of the Freeston benefaction) which is to be let. Details supplied on tenants, rentals, the condition of buildings, length of leases, etc.

[Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 2 no 3]

UC:S13/MS2/4**29 Nov 1602**

Court roll from the Duchy of Lancaster concerning lands to be made over to John Browne as part of the Freeston estate.

[Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 1 no. 7]

UC:S13/MS2/5**25 Sep 3 Ja I (1605)**

Draft Lease for 30 Years

Parties:

1. James I
2. (a) John Browne, BD, and executor of John Freeston.
(b) John Wakefield, now Mayor of Pontefract.
(c) Oswald Laburne, one of the feoffees of the free school of Wakefield.

Property: A moiety of the Manor of Lounde, Notts.; the coal rights in the manor of Colne, Lancs. and from the forest of Trowden, Lancs.

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Consideration: £19 13s and an annual rent of £6 11s.

Comments: This property is designed to help bolster John Freeston's bequests.

[Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 1 no. 12]

UC:S13/W1 - JOHN BROWNE'S WILL, AND THE ADMINISTRATION OF HIS ESTATE**UC:S13/W1/1****9 Sep 1 Ja I (1603) & 1 Sep 1613**

Office copy, and note of probate, of the will of John Browne.

His bequests include:

5s each to eight of the poorest scholars in the College;
gifts to the poor of Wakefield, Pontefract, Basingstoke, Alton,
Holyborne, and Kingsclere;

a rent charge of 52s a year from his lands called Winolds and
Newcrofts in Rotherwick to the Master and Fellows of
University College for the exhibition of one poor scholar, the
first choice to come from Basingstoke, the second from Alton,
and so in succession, or else from Wakefield if no one suitable
can be found.

To Henry Savill, Warden of Merton College, "sometime my
reader", 40s to buy himself a ring.

To his cousin James Harrison, Fellows of University College.
20s and his Scapula, his greek lexicon, and "twoe other good
divinity bookes in folio" as his brother can spare.

To Lancelot Gryme, former Fellow, 20s and four books of
divinity in the same way.

To Dr. Abbot, Master of Univ., "my ever worshipful and equall
kynde friend" 40s to buy him a gold ring; and 5s each of the
other Fellows to make themselves silver seals.

To four poorest scholars in Univ. 6s 8d each, and to the "rest
of the poore scholars only and not commoners" 3s 4d each.
Four of his parchment books, and some forfeit books of his to
be put into the College library.

His Greek parchment copy of the five books of Moses to be
found up "and putt into the Universities' Common Librarie".

10s to Mr. Rookes to buy a book.

He makes his brother Richard (now vicar of Norbury,
Derbs.) his executor, and his overseers Dr Ayre, Provost of
Queen's College, and Thomas Wintworth, councillor at law
now living in Oxford.

[Original Reference Pyx , fasc 1 nos. 10 and 19: Smith numbered the will as 10, and the notice of probate as 19]

UC:S13/W1/2**n.d. (c.1613?)**

Rough notes, which seem to be connected with money owed
to Dr. Browne.

[No original reference, but clearly from Pyx .]

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- UC:S13/W1/3** **26 May 1613**
Inventory of Dr. Browne' household goods at Stanford Rivers,
Essex.
[Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 2 no 12]
- UC:S13/W1/4** **20 Aug 1613**
Another inventory of Dr. Browne's household goods at
Stanford Rivers.
[Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 2 no 13]
- UC:S13/W1/5** **Sep 1613**
A third inventory of Dr. Browne's household goods at Stanford
Rivers.
[Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 2 no 14]
- UC:S13/W1/6** **n.d. (1613?)**
List of possessions of Dr. Browne at the parsonage (at
Stanford Rivers) which were to be sold.
[Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 2 no 15]
- UC:S13/W1/7** **4 Sep 1613**
Note of corn and other goods sold by the administrators of Dr.
Browne to Thomas Eliot, Esq.
[Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 2 no 16a]
- UC:S13/W1/8** **1613**
Notes of oats sold by Dr. Browne's administrators.
[Original Reference Pyx , fasc. 2 no 16b]
- UC:S13/W1/9** **22 Sep 1613**
Letter of attorney from Henry Tilson, Fellow of University
College and administrator of John Browne, decd., appointing
Edmund Bancroft of Oxford, Gent., and William Allott of
London, woollen draper, to act on his behalf in this case.
It is possible that both men were relating to members of
the College, the Master being John Bancroft and one of the
Fellows Francis Allott.
[Original Reference Pyx . fasc. 8 no. 10]

APPENDIX

In addition to the preceding papers, William Smith also found two other documents relating to John Browne, which now appear to be lost, namely:

Pyx KK2 fasc. 1 no. 1, described by Smith as a bond, dated 30 Aug 1592, between the Master and Fellows of University College, and John Browne, Fellow of the College. Following the gift of the Welsh lands to the College, Brown had spent £13 14s 8d of his own money in trying to settle problems concerning the land, and the College agree to pay this

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debt.

Pyx KK2 fasc. 1 no. 1b, described by Smith as a schedule of Brown's debts from the College.

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