### UC:MA34 Papers of Thomas Cockman (Master 1722–1745)

Thomas Cockman (1675–1745) came from Cowden, Kent. He signed the Admissions register at University College on 20 Dec 1690, and matriculated on 22 Jan 1690/1 aged 16. He became a BA in 1694, and an MA in 1697, and in 1701, was elected a Bennet Fellow. He resigned his Fellowship in 1712, married, and held two livings in Kent.

In 1722, on the death of Arthur Charlett, Cockman was put forward as a candidate to succeed him as Master of University College. What followed was one of the most bizarre episodes in the history of the College. Cockman was elected Master, but not with an overall majority. His opponents persuaded the Vice-Chancellor that the vote was invalid, and that the runner-up, William Denison, be elected Master instead. The Vice-Chancellor, invoking his right as Visitor of University College, ordered that Denison's election be recognised. Cockman's party, however, using of the legend linking the College with King Alfred, declared that, since the College was a Royal Foundation, the Crown should be the Visitor, and the dispute went to law. In 1727, the case was heard, and the verdict was that King Alfred was indeed the College's Founder, and that the Crown its Visitor. It took a further two years for a formal Visitation to take place, and for Cockman's election as Master to be confirmed (the story is told in more detail in R. H. Darwall-Smith 'The Great Mastership Dispute', in *UCR* Vol. XII no. 3 (1999), 58–85, and *A History of University College* (Oxford, 2008), Chapter 12).

Surprisingly once Cockman's position as Master had been upheld by the Visitors, his tenure appears to have been a very peaceful one, until his death in February 1744/5. The College Register shows that Fellows from both his and Denison's sides carried on in the College, performing their duties much as before (for example George Ward, who had been one of Denison's most outspoken supporters, remained as Senior Tutor), and Carr's history of the College shows that Cockman left behind him a good reputation for his concern for the welfare of his undergraduates, and for his determination to spend as much time as he could in residence. Cockman was buried in the College Chapel.

These papers were all found in the archives during the stocktaking of summer 1993. Unsurprisingly, Most of them refer to the dispute over his Mastership from 1722–1729. **UC:MA34/L1–L2** and **UC:MA34/MS1–MS2** comprise detailed narratives of events in the story, copies of documents submitted in the case, and many related papers. Of the papers dating from after 1729, **UC:MA34/L3** relate to the creation of new statutes, and **UC:MA34/C1** comprise some miscellaneous correspondence from the period 1729–1745.

Recatalogued in June 2004.

### UC:MA34/L1 - PAPERS ON THE UNIVERSITY'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE MASTERSHIP DISPUTE

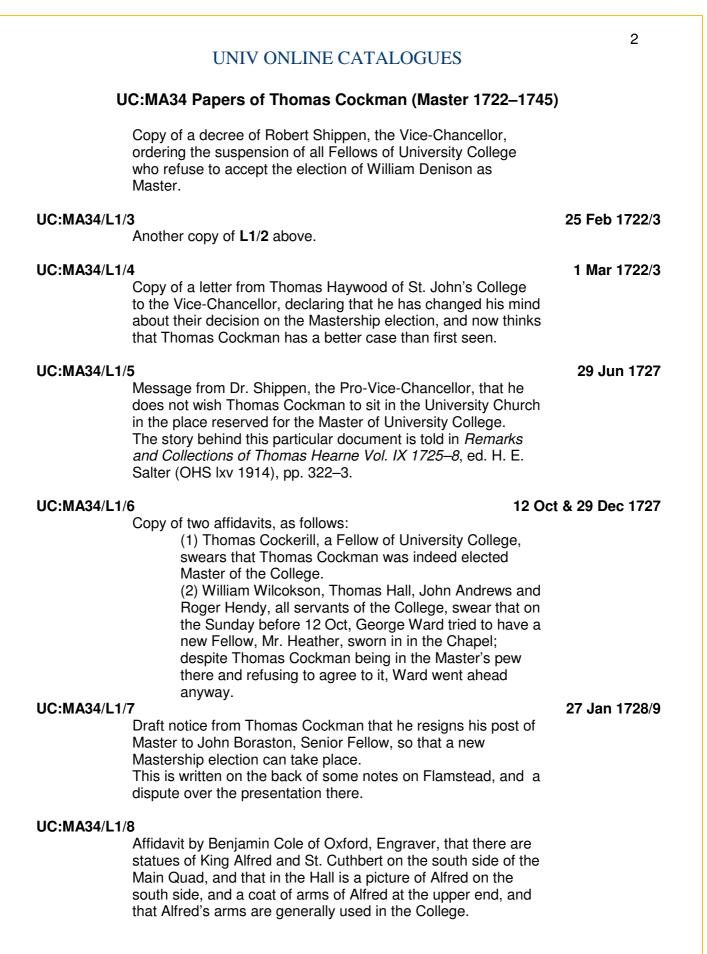
### UC:MA34/L1/1

n.d. (c.1722/3?)

Copy of Thomas Cockman's Petition to the Vice-Chancellor, asking to be given a hearing on his right to be elected Master of University College.

UC:MA34/L1/2 25 Feb 1722/3 Archivist: Dr Robin Darwall-Smith E: Robin.Darwall-Smith@univ.ox.ac.uk T: +44 (0)1865 276 952







### UC:MA34 Papers of Thomas Cockman (Master 1722–1745)

# UC:MA34/MS1 - COPIES OF DOCUMENTS USED AS EVIDENCE IN THE MASTERSHIP DISPUTE

cla Er en [co	anslation of one of the "French Petitions" to Richard II, aiming that University College was founded by King Alfred. Inclosed in this document is a transcription of the indorsement on this petition, with Richard II's reply contemporary copies of two of these petitions may be found at C:E2/6/3L/9-10].	3 Apr 1723
	e anslation of another of the so-called "French Petitions" to chard II.	11 Apr 1723
fro dis	ktract from a Register of Letters of the University of Oxford om 1508–1597 (then in the Bodleian Library), relating to a spute over Master Selvayne of University College in 1552, ad how the University authorities were called on to intervene.	4 May 1723
ard	ktract from an unspecified document in the University chives concerning the above dispute, showing again that the nancellor was asked to intervene.	4 May 1723
ard 15 Fe	tract from the Senior Proctor's book from the University chives, concerning a dispute in University College in Nov 12 between Master Ralph Hamsterley and some of the ellows, in which the Chancellor of the University intervened to bitrate.	13 May 1723
ele wa	tract from the Register of University College concerning the ection of George Ellison as Master in 1551, in which there as a dispute with the University authorities, who wished the ollege to elect Thomas Key instead.	n.d. (c.1723)
16 ele by be	, Atract from an unspecified document concerning a dispute in 555 over the Mastership of University College, in which the ection of Thomas Thornton as Master was declared invalid the University authorities (Thornton was claimed to have een elected by an inquorate assembly of the Fellows). See to <b>MS1/15</b> below.	n.d. (c.1723)



UC	:MA34 Papers of Thomas Cockman (Master 1722–1745)	
	<b>8</b> Affidavit of John Brooke of Oxford, Gent., that he has examined certain (specified) papers relating to the dispute.	17 May 1723
	9 Dath of John Brooks that he copied out various documents ound in the Treasury of University College accurately.	12 Jun 1723
"	7 <b>10</b> Affidavit from J. Brooks of Oxford that he found in the Treasury" of University College several deeds relating to the College relating to the Visitor of the same.	24 Jul 1723
tl	( <b>11</b> Extract from the College Register showing that in the 1630s he College addressed William Laud, then Chancellor of the Jniversity, as its Visitor.	15 Oct 1723
e	1 <b>2</b> Extract from the Register of University College concerning the election of Thomas Key as Master in 1561, in which the Jniversity was much involved.	15 Oct 1723
e	( <b>13</b> Extract from the Register of University College concerning the election of James Dugdale as Master in 1558, which had to be approved by the University.	15 Oct 1723
e	<b>'14</b> Extract from the Register of University College concerning the election of Anthony Salveyn as Master, which included his presentation before the University authorities.	15 Oct 1723
C	<b>15</b> Extract from the Register of Convocation for 1647–1659, concerning the disputed election of Thomas Thornton as Master in 1654 (see <b>MS1/7</b> above).	n.d. (c.1723)
p	<b>n.d.</b> (Extract from the Patent Rolls of 1 Hen IV, containing a Letter batent to University College, which alludes to its royal connections.	(c.1722–1727)
1	7 <b>17</b> Extract from the Register of the Vice-Chancellor's Court for 561–1566, concerning the deposing of James Dugdale from he Mastership in 1561, in which the University was involved.	n.d. (c.1723)

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U	C:MA34 Papers of Thomas Cockman (Master 1722–1745)	
	I/18 MS with extracts from the Registers of St. John's College, Exeter College and Pembroke College, concerning the election of their Heads.	16 Oct 1723
	I/19 Extract from the Register of Exeter College concerning the election of a Rector, with an oath by John Conybeare, Sub- Rector there, that this is a true copy.	4 Apr 1724
	I/20 Extract from the Register of St. John's College concerning the election of a President, with an oath by Winch Holdsworth, one of the Fellows there, that this is a true copy.	6 Apr 1724
	I/21 Extract from the Register of Pembroke College concerning the election of a Master, with an oath by John Lockton, Bursar there, that this is a true copy.	8 Apr 1724
	1/22 Note on the election procedures for the Principal of Jesus, the Master of Pembroke, and the President of Trinity.	n.d. (c.1724?)
	I/23 Collection of documents copied from the Register of the University of Oxford relating to the disputed election, with an oath by John Slade that they are correct.	26 Apr 1725
	1/24 Commentary on the article in the 1475 statutes on the election of a Master, with reference to the dispute, and reporting the arguments put forward by Thomas Cockman and Denison for and against King Alfred's links with the College.	n.d. (c.1727)
	1/25 Note on the dispute over the election of Ralph Hamsterley in 1509. Although Hamsterley received a clear majority of Fellows, he had never been a member of the College, and his election therefore needed special approval, and the case had to be heard by the Chancellor of the University.	n.d. (c.1727?)
	I/26 Copy of the form for the election of Fellows of University College.	n.d. (c.1727?)
	I/27 Notes on the early history of University College, with reference to relations between the College and the University. Robin Darwall-Smith E: Robin.Darwall-Smith@univ.ox.ac.uk T: +44 (0)18 UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OXFORD	<b>n.d. (c.1727)</b> 65 276 952

### UC:MA34 Papers of Thomas Cockman (Master 1722–1745)

UC:MA34/MS <sup>·</sup>	1/28 Note (in Latin) on the early benefactors of University College.	n.d. (c.1727?)
UC:MA34/MS <sup>-</sup>	1/29 Notes on why the University of Oxford has no right to be considered the Visitor of University College.	n.d. (c.1722–1727)
UC:MA34/MS	<b>1/30</b> Notes on the election of Charles Usher as a Fellow in 1698, which was overruled by Arthur Charlett, and his subsequent appeal to the Visitors, with hostile comments added by Thomas Bouchier.	n.d. (c.1723?)
UC:MA	34/MS2 - NARRATIVE ACCOUNTS OF THE MASTERSHIP	DISPUTE
It will be seen	that almost all of these accounts support Thomas Cockman's of	claim.
UC:MA34/MS	<b>2/1</b> Draft narrative relating to the Mastership dispute, mostly relating to the legal arguments about it.	n.d. (c.1727)
UC:MA34/MS	<b>2/2</b> MS titled "A Narrative of the dispute occasioned by the late Election of a New master at University Coll., Oxon." This supplies a very detailed account of the dispute, with a full account of the legal arguments. It is not clear who wrote it, bu it is clearly written by a supporter of Cockman, and although undated, was clearly written after Cockman's party had won ir the High Court, and Denison's were preparing an appeal.	
UC:MA34/MS	<b>2/3</b> An earlier draft of <b>MS2/2</b> above, not told in quite as much detail.	n.d. (c.1727)
UC:MA34/MS	<b>2/4–5</b> Two further copies of <b>MS2/2</b> above.	n.d. (c.1727)
UC:MA34/MS	<b>2/6</b> Draft paper titled "A Short View of the Case of Univ. Coll. Oxford", comprising a summary of events, and a petition from Thomas Cockman to the Crown to intervene, following the unwillingness of WD's party to accept the court's verdict. The document also expresses concern about vacant Fellowships and Scholarships and leases not being renewed, and also about debts not being collected.	n.d. (c.1727)



### 7 UNIV ONLINE CATALOGUES UC:MA34 Papers of Thomas Cockman (Master 1722–1745) UC:MA34/MS2/7 n.d. (c.1727) A neater version of MS2/6 above, with a postscript warning against the meddling conduct of an (unnamed) head of another College, who is intervening on Denison's behalf. UC:MA34/MS2/8-9 n.d. (c.1727) 2 drafts of MS2/10 below. UC:MA34/MS2/10 26 Mar 1728 MS titled "Vindication of the Proceeding of Mr. C...n & his friends, signed by "R.B.". This sets out Thomas Cockman's position, and goes over much the same arguments as before. He ends with some observations on William Smith's book on the case (The Annals of University College), which had just reached him. The author discounts Smith's work, called it "the private opinion of a partial disgusted old man, who was always famous for opposition and confounding things", and protests against his treatment of Dr. Charlett. UC:MA34/MS2/11 26 Mar 1728 Another copy of MS2/10 above. UC:MA34/MS2/12 n.d. (c.1728/9) MS titled "Electio Canonica, or an Account of the Dispute at University College, Oxon., upon occasion of the late election of a new Master of that College". This is another discussion of the debate, in favour of Thomas Cockman. It must have been written after the publication of William Smith's book, to which it refers. MS2/13 below was used to make some notes for this document. UC:MA34/MS2/13 31 Dec 1728 Letter from John Sharpe to Thomas Cockman (address, East Malling, Kent), concerning his efforts to get the Crown to approve Thomas Cockman's election as Master. This was later used to make notes as part of MS2/12 above. UC:MA34/MS2/14 n.d. (c.1728/9?) MS titled "A State of the Question as it appeared upon the Hearing held in the K[ing's] B[ench] Westminster Jan [1728/9?]". This sets out the usual arguments for Thomas Cockman's side. UC:MA34/L2 - LEGAL PAPERS RELATING TO THE 1727 COURT CASE UC:MA34/L2/1 22 Mar 1722/3 Notice from the Attorney-General appointing 5 Apr next to hear the case about the disputed election.



UC:MA34 Papers of Thomas Cockman (Master 1722–1745)		
UC:MA34/L2/2	2 Thursda Copy of the writ from Thomas Cockman and his party to the Crown.	ay 20 April [1723]
UC:MA34/L2/3	3 "Satur Another copy of L2/2 above.	day 20th Instant"
UC:MA34/L2/4	<b>1</b> Copy of Thomas Cockman's formal submission to the Attorney and Solicitor General by way of reply to William Denison's evidence.	4 May 1724
UC:MA34/L2/5	5 Copy of evidence offered by William Denison before the Attorney and Solicitor General.	20 May 1724
UC:MA34/L2/6	<b>5</b> Plea (in Latin) of Denison's party for the court case.	25 Mar 1725
UC:MA34/L2/7	7 Copy of the petition to be submitted in court by Thomas Cockman, sent to him (at East Malling, Maidstone, Kent) for his comments.	7 Apr 1726
UC:MA34/L2/8	<b>3</b> Draft petition to the Crown from Thomas Cockman and his supporters, setting out their case in the dispute.	n.d. (c.1727)
UC:MA34/L2/§	<b>9</b> Draft Petition to the Crown from Thomas Cockman on his case, reporting on his reception in College in Jun 1727, and asking for a visitation of the College.	Sep 1727
UC:MA34/L2/1	<b>IO</b> Draft of a submission from Thomas Cockman's side, on the same claims as before.	n.d. (c.1727?)
	<b>I1</b> Brief for Thomas Cockman's party in the case, quoting from documents in the College archives and elsewhere. Alongside these extracts are extensive marginal comments, in several hands.	n.d. (c. 1727)
	2 Document titled "A State of the Evidences offered before the Attorney and Solicitor General On the part and behalfe of the Rev. Mr. Thomas Cockman" This assembled all relevant pieces of evidence to support Cockman's case, with marginal comments. Robin Darwall-Smith E: Robin.Darwall-Smith@univ.ox.ac.uk T: +44 (0)	<b>n.d. (c.1727)</b> 1865 276 952



UC:MA34 Papers of Thomas Cockman (Master 1722–1745)		
UC:MA34/L2/	<b>13</b> Copy of the Attorney and Solicitor General's Report on the case.	n.d. (c. 1727)
UC:MA34/L2/	<b>14</b> Copy of "Additional Evidence Given by Mr. Denison".	n.d. (c.1727?)
UC:MA34/L2/	<b>15</b> Fragment of a memorandum from Charles, Earl of Arran, Chancellor of the University of Oxford, petitioning that the University be considered the true Visitor of University College.	n.d. (c.1727)
UC:MA34/L2/	16	3 Aug 1727
	Copy of the proceedings in the High Court sent to Thomas Cockman (addressed to University College), in Latin.	• g <u>_</u> .
UC:MA34/L2/	<b>17</b> Petition of Thomas Cockman to the Crown for his case to be heard. This notes that Thomas Cockman had petitioned the Crown early on to hear his case, but that the King was advised to defer this until it had been tested in the courts whether he had the right to do this. Thomas Cockman here protests that after the case had been heard, he returned to Univ., only to find George Ward, the Senior Fellow, refusing to allow him to take up his duties. A note is added, dated 1 Sep 1727, in which the King allows the petition to be examined by the Attorney and Solicitor General.	1727
UC:MA34/L2/	<b>18–21</b> 4 drafts of <b>L2/17</b> above.	1727
UC:MA34/L2/	<b>22</b> Fragment of a note concerning Thomas Cockman's dispute with George Ward on his abortive return to University College in Jun 1727.	n.d. (late 1727)
UC:MA34/L2/	<b>23</b> Report by P. York and C. Talbot to the Crown on the disputed election, and agreeing that a proper Visitation of the College take place to see what is going on.	4 Jun 1728
	MC:MA34/N1 - PAMPHLET	
UC:MA34/N1/	<b>1</b> Printed pamphlet <i>The Proceedings of the Visitors of University</i> <i>College with regard to the late disputed Election of a Master</i> <i>vindicated</i> (Oxford). This pamphlet is written in support of Denison's side against Cockman's, analysing in detail two	1723

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	10	
UNIV ONLINE CATALOGUES		
UC:MA34 Papers of Thomas Cockman (Master 1722–	1745)	
passages from the 1311 and 1475 statutes which discuss th election of a Master and Fellows.	e	
UC:MA34/L3 - PAPERS RELATING TO THE CREATION OF NEW	STATUTES	
UC:MA34/L3/1 Copy of a report on the proposed new statutes of University College submitted to the Privy Council.	1 Nov 1732	
UC:MA34/L3/2 Draft petition from Thomas Cockman and the Fellows of University College to the Crown asking that a draft set of statutes be approved.	n.d. (c.1729–1736?)	
UC:MA34/L3/3	n.d. (c.1729–1733?)	
Copy or draft of a Letter Patent from George II designed to explain obscure passages in the old (pre-1736) College Statutes. Undated, but after the judgement of 1727, and (sir it is in Latin) before 1733.	ice	
UC:MA34/L3/4–6 Three further copies or drafts of L3/3 above.	n.d. (c.1729–1733?)	
UC:MA34/C1 - CORRESPONDENCE OF THOMAS COCKMAN, 1726–1744		
These letters to and from Cockman and (possibly) his family almost all date from the years after 1729, when his position as Master was at last confirmed.		
UC:MA34/C1/1	[] Oct [172?]6	
Letter to "Dear Aunt" from E. Hatton, containing family news This letter is written on the back of some notes on Flamstea and the paper with the date as been damaged, so that the d of the month, and three numbers of the year, are lost, althou a fragment of the penultimate digit suggests it was a "2". The identity of the "Aunt" is unknown; the date suggests that it could be Cockman's wife.	d, ate ıgh	
UC:MA34/C1/2	6 Jul 1729	
Letter from David James (address, Woughton near Fenny Stratford, Bucks.) to Thomas Cockman congratulating him o his successful installation as Master of University College, a mentioning that his brother-in-law Robert Keck (matr. 1702; former pupil of William Denison) had left £500 to the College In 1720, the money had been offered to Arthur Charlett, who	nd a e.	

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had suggested that it be invested, and the interest paid to the College. Now James suggests that the principal be paid as

well.

### UC:MA34 Papers of Thomas Cockman (Master 1722–1745)

### UC:MA34/C1/3

Letter from David James (address as above) to an unnamed addressee (almost certainly Thomas Cockman) with more details concerning Robert Keck's bequest, including an extract from his will. This shows that in a will dated 6 Dec 1718 (Keck died at Paris on 16 Sept 1719 aged 34), he bequeathed the £500 to University College for the benefit of the Master. James had married Keck's sister, who was made executrix of his brother's will. James also hints that he would like to put his son's name down for University College, in the hopes of getting him a Bennet Scholarship.

UC:MA34/C1/		29 Jul 1729
	Letter from Thomas Isted (address, Ecton, Northants.), to Thomas Cockman (address, University College, Oxford), about giving the College £300 towards purchasing an advowson (unnamed) in Northamptonshire (it seems that Isted would have preferred Denison to have been elected Master, but was prepared to welcome Cockman in the post). Isted (who had matriculated from University College in 1695) had set aside £300 to be spent for the benefit of the Master of the College in Arthur Charlett's time, and even paid Charlett annual interest in this sum as a mark of his personal respect. After Charlett's death, the interest ceased to be paid, but the principal was endlessly promised to the College.	
UC:MA34/C1/5 Letter from Thomas Isted (address, London) to Thomas		11 Nov 1729
	Cockman (address, University College), apologising that he cannot deal with his affairs at present due to illness.	
UC:MA34/C1/6		26 Mar 1730
	Letter from Thomas Isted (address, London) to Thomas Cockman (address, University College, Oxford), concerning some money promised by him to the College.	
UC:MA34/C1/	7 n.d. (	(c.1729–1730?)
	Letter from Thomas Isted (no address given) to an unnamed addressee (Thomas Cockman?), concerning an annual payment of £9 which he had made to the College.	
UC:MA34/C1/8		30 May 1730
	Letter from William Smith (address, Melsonby) to Thomas Cockman. Some money is owed by Smith to the College, dating from his time as Bursar, and there some worry about a gift of £40 given to the College, which cannot now be found.	

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27 Jul 1729

### UC:MA34 Papers of Thomas Cockman (Master 1722–1745)

UC:MA34/C1/9 Letter from William Greenwood (address, Darfield) to Thomas Cockman, concerning a sum of £65 which was owing him at the end of his tenure as Bursar in 1705/6, and which has never been repaid to him. Greenwood had matriculated at the College in 1695, and was a Fellow in 1700–7.	3 Oct 1730
UC:MA34/C1/10 Opinion by H. Brooks on the following incident: "A.B.", Fellow and Bursar of University College, has "abused" some of the Fellows, and not appeared at any meetings of the Master and Fellows to explain himself. He also crossed the names of two Fellows out for not paying small sums due in Batells. The College wish to know what authority they can have in this matter; Brooks says that they have the right to expel him if he refuses to attend meetings. The College Register for this period shows that the Bursar was Francis Taylor, and the Fellows Thomas Kay and Henry Tennant.	17 Nov 1730
UC:MA34/C1/11 Letter from William Greenwood (address, Darfield) to Thomas Cockman (address, University College), concerning the same matters as C1/9 above. He also remembers some perquisites which he received during his Bursarship.	10 Feb 1730/1
UC:MA34/C1/12 Note in Thomas Cockman's hand concerning the financial affairs of Mr. Hodgson, (matr. 1696; Fellow 1706–21), who was Bursar in 1717, and died in 1721. It appears that he died in some debt, and that the College were now being asked to help settle his affairs.	n.d. (1730s?)
UC:MA34/C1/13 Letter from Nicholas Toke (address, Essex Street) to Thomas Cockman (address, University College), concerning arrangements to send him some legal papers from London, and a payment of £20 to Mrs. Cockman. Nicholas Toke matriculated from University College in 1721, and married Cockman's niece.	13 Jul 1738
UC:MA34/C1/14 Letter from Thomas Nelson (address, Loxley) to Thomas Cockman (address, University College), concerning attempts to get back some money lent on a mortgage by the College. Nelson matriculated at University College in 1726, and was a Fellow in 1737–60.	17 Nov 1744



### UC:MA34 Papers of Thomas Cockman (Master 1722–1745)

#### UC:MA34/C1/15

Document containing drafts of two letters from Thomas Cockman (address, University College), to Thomas Isted's son and Mr. James (James was the brother-in-law of Robert Keck, and promised to give an additional contribution to the sum bequeathed by him). Thomas Cockman writes to both men, asking whether they can fulfil their promises because there is the possibility of buying a sinecure or a College Lease, either of which might benefit the Master.

These drafts are written on the back of an essay by G. Powell on Chapter 18 of Andronicus (Gervase Powell, younger son of Rees Powell of Lanharan, Glamorgan, Gent., signed the Admissions Register on 18 June 1743, having migrated from Hertford College).

#### UC:MA34/C1/16

Letter from David James (address Woughton) to Thomas Cockman (address, University College), agreeing to contribute towards the purchase of an advowson for the Master of the College.

#### UC:MA34/C1/17

Letter from A. Isted (address, Ecton, near Castle Ashby), son of Thomas, to Thomas Cockman (address, University College), concerning the £300. Thomas Isted has died, still not having paid the £300, and his son is very unwilling to pay this, since there was nothing in his will about it, and his father would have preferred Denison to have been elected Master. However, he agrees, grudgingly, that he might hand it over if a suitable occasion arose.

13 Jan 1744/5

#### 22 Jan 1744/5

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30 Dec 1744