

UNIV ONLINE CATALOGUES

UC:MA40 Papers of Frederick Charles Plumptre (Master 1836-70)

Frederick Charles Plumptre matriculated at University College in 1813, before being elected a Fellow in 1817. He served as Bursar and Dean, before being elected as Master in 1836, on the death of George Rowley. He was also Vice-Chancellor.

For all that Plumptre was not supportive of the university reforms of the 1850s, he nevertheless attracted some important reforming Fellows to the College, such as Arthur Stanley, John Conington and Goldwin Smith. Much building work took place during his Mastership, including the New Buildings, the Library, the Buttery, and the rebuilding of the Chapel.

UC:MA40/C2/1–14 were transferred to the Archives from the Estates Bursary in 1995, and **UC:MA40/N3/1–4** from there in August 2001 as part of Accession No. 275; all the other papers were found during the stocktaking of 1993: they mainly comprise some correspondence, some financial documents, some papers bearing witness to his interest in church building in the city of Oxford, and a circular on the dangers of undergraduate debt.

Plumptre was a generous benefactor to his College; papers in **UC:BE38** relate to gifts made under his will. For more on Plumptre's Mastership, see Robin Darwall-Smith, *A History of University College, Oxford* (Oxford, 2008), Chapters 15-16.

Recatalogued in September 2010.

UC:MA40/C1 - MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE

UC:MA40/C1/1

1 Jul 1831

Letter to F.C. Plumptre from R. Bowen (address, Smeathalls), containing advice on the administration of College estates.

UC:MA40/C1/2

13 Nov 1844–18 Aug 1847

Four letters to F. C. Plumptre concerning the sale of stock or the calculation of a College dividend.

UC:MA40/C2 - COLLECTION OF MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE

The following papers were found, along with papers on College buildings, together in a box titled "College Buildings", which was found in the Estates Bursary, and transferred to the archives in 1995. However, their contents have nothing to do with buildings, and everything to do with Master Plumptre. Their late date suggests that they were found at his death in 1870, and were eventually transferred to the Estates Bursary. **C2/10** below suggests that they had been there at least since 1897.

UC:MA40/C2/1

c.1850?

Table of fees for the Porter on the election of Fellows and Scholars, and the conferral of degrees, drawn up by F.C. Plumptre. In Oct 1878, C.J. Faulkner added a note that he thought this paper should be dated to about 1850).

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- UC:MA40/C2/2** **10 Jul 1856**
 Letter from F.G. Freston (address, Stroud) to F.C. Plumptre, concerning **C2/3** below. He has two sons, one of whom he wishes to make a clergyman, and he therefore claims the right of Founder's Kin for him, and a descendent of the original donor of the land.
- UC:MA40/C2/3** **26 Jul 1838**
 Copy (probably made c.1856) of a letter from F.C. Plumptre (address, University College) to Rev. Dr. Sisson (address Duntlesbourne Rectory, Cirencester), concerning the Freeston Fellowship and Scholarships, and in particular the question of whether Founder's Kin are still to receive preferential treatment in applying for one.
- UC:MA40/C2/4** **1864**
 Account by Plumptre of payments made to College servants and others from College funds.
- UC:MA40/C2/5** **after 1865**
 Account by Plumptre of the yearly proportion of receipts in dues for current expenses to the amount of College expenses for 1828-1865.
- UC:MA40/C2/6** **1866**
 Rough account by Plumptre of College revenue and expenditure for the year 1865/6.
- UC:MA40/C2/7** **after 1865**
 Note by Plumptre on the annual surplus and repair fabric moneys for each year from 1828 to 1865.
- UC:MA40/C2/8** **c.1865**
 Notes by Plumptre on present charges for fees etc. in the College accounts, and possible changes to be made in them.
- UC:MA40/C2/9** **after 1866**
 Table of annual College dues, bills and repairs compiled by Plumptre for the years 1828-1866.
- UC:MA40/C2/10** **1867**
 Note by Plumptre on College dues, which was used as a wrapper for the other papers in **UC:MA40/C2**. It bears the following note in an unknown hand: "These paper are of no particular value - but show the industry and care of Dr. Plumptre and one on the Freeston Estate is of some value. Feb 1897".

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UC:MA40/C2/11 **after 1867**

Note by Plumptre on totals of Fines paid to the College in 1858-1867.

UC:MA40/C2/12 **“11 days before the Calends of October” [i.e. 21 Sept] 1868**

Letter (in Latin) from G.N. Wilson to F.C. Plumptre asking for money to help pay for medical care for his sick child.

UC:MA40/C2/13 **1869-1870**

Folder labelled “Dr. Plumptre on Science Teaching”, containing the following:

(1) Two drafts of letters by Plumptre, one dated 14 Nov 1870, to two Oxford tradesmen, Messrs. Boffin and Davies, in which he refuses to pay what he considers excessive bills charged to an undergraduate called Brooks [i.e. Thomas Beedle Brooks, who matriculated in Oct 1868].

(2) Notes by Plumptre, made c.1869, on encouraging the study of Natural Science at Oxford, by increasing the number of scholarships created for this subject [5 pages].

The wrapper had been used by Plumptre to record the numbers of students passing science schools in 1861-1869.

UC:MA40/C2/14 **c.1870**

Statement compiled by Plumptre of College Debts in 1852, with yearly statements following until 1870. An unknown hand has continued the table to 1881.

UC:MA40/F1 - PLUMPTRE'S PRIVATE ACCOUNT BOOK

UC:MA40/F1/1 **1830s–1850s**

Volume on which C. J. Faulkner has written on the spine *1836 & late acc^{ts} of F. C. P. Magister*. Much of the book (fols. 1–99, 109–30, 140–9, 182–3, 202–10 and 214–22) are laid out as a typical Bursar's Book of the type found in **UC:BU3/F3** for 1836/7. Indeed, since there is no Bursar's Book for 1836/7 in the main sequence, this almost certainly began life as the Bursar's Book for that year.

After Plumptre's election as Master in 1836, he retained the book, and used it for other purposes, as follows:

Fols. 100–6, 150–63 and 167–78 : Plumptre's dealings with Bursars for the late 1830s, 1840s, and 1850s, mainly recording the payment of his stipends and dividends.

Fols. 107–8: the Newdigate Fund

Fols. 131–2, 164–6 and 211 contain some private accounts for the late 1830s and 1840s.

Fol. 179 records repair to Handley Park in 1843.

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Fols. 184–98 are building accounts. These include the New Building and the Library at University College, the Martyrs Memorial.

Fols. 199–201 seem to relate to the Library and furniture in the Master's Lodgings for 1840s and 1841.

Several loose papers were found in this book. They are listed at **UC:MA40/F2** below.

UC:MA40/F2 - PAPERS FOUND IN PLUMPTRE'S ACCOUNT BOOK**UC:MA40/F2/1–35****1830s–1850s**

Various loose items found in **UC:MA40/F1/1** above, as follows:

F2/1 (found in index under G/H): note of miscellaneous payments for furniture.

F2/2 (found in fol. 42): receipt of 1836 relating to a member of College called John Coles.

F2/3 (found in fol. 42): loose copy of the Porter's account, probably for 1836/7.

F2/4–5 (found in fol. 42): lists of sums received in room rents, investments, the Linton surplus, and general accounts for 1843–62.

F2/6 (found in fol. 42): bill for Edward Davies, a Montgomeryshire tenant of the College.

F2/7 (found in fol. 42): batells bill for a Mr. Roper, an undergraduate of St. Mary Hall for 1837, on the back of which is the ground plan of an unknown building (see **F2/26** below).

F2/8 (found in fol. 42): piece of Latin prose, on the back of which is a note of payments for an unspecified purpose made between 1842 and 1845.

F2/9 (found in fol. 42): receipt for the annuity from the Clothworkers Company of 1835 from Heron's Charity.

F2/10 (found in fol. 42): note on repairs, apparently to College properties.

F2/11 (found in fol. 42): receipt for Mr. Coles, dated 12 Dec 1836.

F2/12 (found in fol. 56): collection of totals.

F2/13 (found in fol. 57): note of payments to Fellows from Bennet funds. They were Claughton, Hansell, Boyd and Plumptre, so it probably dates from 1836.

F2/14 (found in fol. 63): list of names apparently of Fellows doing Chaplains' work.

F2/15 (found in fol. 102): sheet of miscellaneous calculations.

F2/16 (found in fol. 102): note, apparently concerning Plumptre's personal finances.

F2/17 (found in fol. 102): letter dated 4 July [year not given] from C. W. Eddy (address 1 Rue de la Fraternité, Champs Elysée, Paris) to Plumptre, asking about payment of his Fellowship stipend (Eddy was elected a Radcliffe Travelling Fellow in 1849).

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F2/18 (found in fol. 102): receipt dated 21 Apr 1849 for money given by Plumptre for the use of the Miss Marshalls.

F2/19 (found in fol. 102): letter dated 4 June 1848 from Harriet Thompson (address Bilbao, York) to Plumptre to acknowledge receipt of a gift from Plumptre.

F2/20–1 (found in fol. 106): two sheets of rough calculations.

F2/22 (found in fol. 134): receipt for Poor Rate from Oxford St. Mary the Virgin, dated Jan 1849.

F2/23 (found in fol. 134): receipt for the Angel Hotel, dated Dec 1848.

F2/24 (found in fol. 135): letter, dated 12 Nov 1849, from the vicar of Witney asking for a contribution towards the building of a Chapel of Ease at Hailey.

F2/25 (found in fol. 140): part of a letter from Henry Dixon arranging a meeting, and appears to date from November 1837.

F2/26 (found in fol. 142): list of College tenants, apparently with the amount of rent they have paid. On the back is a perspective of a building. To the right appears is what strongly resembles the east end of the Chapel, and the east range of the Front Quad. If this is correct, then this seems to depict a very schematic proposal for a new Master's Lodgings which would have run along the south side of Radcliffe Quad. The building is in the Gothic style, with five bays, and a porch in the central one. It is unsigned. **F2/7** above could be a plan for this building (it has the right orientation), but has only four bays rather than five).

F2/27 (found in fol. 173): undated receipt for money given by Plumptre for the use of the Miss Marshalls.

F2/28–31 (found in fol. 174): four bills from Bellamy's the booksellers for 1848–9.

F2/32 (found in fol. 198): letter from the Literary Fund dated 7 Apr 1843, inviting Plumptre to a dinner. On the back of it, Plumptre has written some rough calculations.

F2/32 (found in fol. 200): apparently a note about articles of furniture owned by George Rowley (Plumptre's predecessor as Master), and which of them are to be given to his family, and which ones purchased by Plumptre. It is dated 1840.

F2/33 (found in fol. 200): draft letter from Plumptre (address University College), dated 15 Feb 1841, to an unnamed addressee in relation to raising money for the Martyrs' Memorial.

F2/34 (found in fol. 200): note of money spent on the Lodgings in the 1820s.

F2/35 (found in fol. 221): bill from 1834 for lamps and related equipment.

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UC:MA40 Papers of Frederick Charles Plumptre (Master 1836-70)**UC:MA40/L1 - PAPERS ON THE RESTORATION OF ST. MARY MAGDALEN**

The College archives yielded up several documents reflecting Master Plumptre's interest in building work on local churches. Papers were found concerning his dealings with four churches, namely St. Mary Magdalen (for restoration work) and St. Ebbe (for a replacement of the existing church), and the two new churches of Holy Trinity (now demolished) and Headington Quarry. These are all catalogued as **UC:MA40/L1-L4** below. **UC:MA40/F1-F2** above include references to his work for the Martyrs' Memorial, whose foundation Plumptre himself laid.

UC:MA40/L1/1 **12 Jun 1841**

Letter from George Gilbert Scott (address, 20 Spring Gardens), to F.C. Plumptre, concerning proposed designs for windows in an unnamed church (probably St. Mary Magdalen, Oxford). Scott drew several choices of window tracery in the margins of this letter.

UC:MA40/L1/2 **18 Nov 1841**

Letter from George Gilbert Scott (address 20 Spring Gardens) to F.C. Plumptre, concerning the raising of money for the erection of the Martyr's Memorial, and for the restoration of the church of St. Mary Magdalen, Oxford.

UC:MA40/L2 - PAPERS ON THE NEW CHURCH OF ST. EBBE, OXFORD

UC:MA40/L2/1 **1845/1846**

Bills, notes and accounts, related to Plumptre's involvement in the building of a new church at St. Ebbe's [7 items].

UC:MA40/L2/2 **c.1845-1847?**

Estimate from James Gardiner for costs for covering kneelers in an unnamed church (almost certainly St. Ebbe, Oxford - see below). On the back of this document are notes (in Plumptre's hand) for payments made to him.

UC:MA40/L2/3 **1846**

Bill from James Gardiner to Plumptre for covering kneelers, and for other carpentry work carried out in St. Ebbe's church, Oxford.

UC:MA40/L3 - PAPERS ON HOLY TRINITY CHURCH, OXFORD

UC:MA40/L3/1 **May 1845**

List of works ordered by the Master of University College for the church of Holy Trinity, Oxford.

UC:MA40/L3/2 **n.d. (c.1845?)**

Bill for additional work ordered by the Master of University College for work on the "New District Church" (i.e. Holy Trinity).

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UC:MA40 Papers of Frederick Charles Plumptre (Master 1836-70)**UC:MA40/L4 - PAPERS ON THE NEW CHURCH OF HEADINGTON QUARRY****UC:MA40/L4/1****10 Aug 1848**

Memorandum of Agreement

Parties:

1. Frederick Charles Plumptre, D.D., Master of University College, Oxford, on behalf of the Committee for building the new Church at Headington Quarry.
2. Margaret Wyatt of Oxford, Builder.

Comments: 2 agrees to build a church at Headington Quarry according to the designs of George Gilbert Scott, at a cost of £1214 10s, paid her by the Committee, and complete the task by 1 May 1849.

UC:MA40/L4/2**24 Sep 1848**

Receipt from Margaret Wyatt for money towards building Headington Quarry church.

UC:MA40/L4/3**n.d. (c.1848)**

Letter from Margaret Wyatt (no address) to unnamed addressees (probably the Committee to build Headington Quarry church) undertaking to complete the work for the sum raised.

UC:MA40/MS1 - NOTES ON MEMBERS OF THE COLLEGE**UC:MA40/MS1/1****n.d. (c. 1837/8)**

Book containing a list of Masters, Fellows, and Scholars of University College (the latter two groups arranged by title of award) compiled by Frederick Plumptre, presumably not long after he was elected Master.

UC:MA40/N1 - CIRCULAR**UC:MA40/N1/1****n.d. (1840s?)**

Printed circular written by Plumptre to the parents of undergraduates warning against allowing their charges to fall into debt. This document is undated, but might be related to a circular of 1848 by the Oxford Tradesmen's Association with a similar warning (**UC:P42/N/1**).

MC:MA40/N2 - PAMPHLETS ON SUBSCRIPTION

These documents were found in a bundle with a wrapper inscribed "Papers relating to Subscription to 39 Articles". They were evidently collected by Frederick Plumptre, and relate to debates taking place in the 1830s on whether the rules which restricted access to Oxford to those willing to subscribe to the 39 Articles of the Church of England should be relaxed or not.

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- UC:MA40/N2/1–2** **n.d. (First half of 18th cent.?)**
Two copies of a printed leaflet titled "Origin of Subscription to the 39 Articles at Matriculation in the University of Oxford", which quotes the relevant decrees from 1581 and 1617 on the subject.
- UC:MA40/N2/3** **21 Apr 1834**
Copy of a Bill "to remove certain disabilities which prevent some Classes of His Majesty's Subjects from resorting to the Universities of England, and proceeding to Degrees therein."
- UC:MA40/N2/4** **28 Mar 1835**
Printed proclamation, bearing the names of several members of the University, expressing opposition to the proposed abolition of subscription. Peter Hansell is the only signatory from University College.
- UC:MA40/N2/5** **11 Jun 1835**
Copy of a Bill "prohibiting subscription to the Thirty-nine Articles in certain Cases" (which included the universities of Oxford and Cambridge).
- UC:MA40/N2/6** **10 Mar 1836**
Declaration expressing opposition to the beliefs of Renn Hampden, newly appointed Regius Professor of Divinity.
- UC:MA40/N2/7** **30 Apr 1836**
Manuscript notes on the possibility of altering the University's Laudian statutes, of 1636.
- UC:MA40/N2/8** **n.d. (1836?)**
Notes taken from the judgement of the University on 19 August 1690 against the opinions expressed by Arthur Bury, Rector of Exeter College, in his book "The Naked Gospel".
- UC:MA40/N2/9** **n.d. (Mar/Apr 1836?)**
Printed list of oaths, copies of which are required for the Houses of Parliament.
- UC:MA40/N2/10–13** **9 May 1836**
Four copies of a printed list of copies and translations of all oaths required to be taken by the university statutes of Oxford and Cambridge and submitted to the Houses of Parliament.
- UC:MA40/N2/14** **n.d. (1836?)**
Printed copy of a pamphlet "Club Laws", a satire on planned revisions to the University Statutes.

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UC:MA40/N2/15 **n.d. (early 19th cent.?)**
 Printed sheet listing how resident members of Convocation
 voted on an unspecified motion.

UC:MA40/N3 - DOCUMENTS CONCERNING THE COMMISSIONS OF THE 1850s

UC:MA40/N3/1 **1857**
 Printed copy of an act to continue the powers of the
 Commissioners under the act of 1854.

UC:MA40/N3/2-3 **1858**
 Two printed copies of the Universities and College Estates Act of 1858.

UC:MA40/N3/4 **1860**
 Printed copy of an Act to extend the provisions of the
 Universities and College Estates Act of 1858.

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