

UNIV ONLINE CATALOGUES

UC:P300 Cartoons of College and University Life, 1880

These cartoons were given to the archives by George Cawkwell (F. 1949–87), who had been given them himself by an unknown donor, in May 2013 as Accession No. 1047.

They all come from the series of cartoons or caricatures published by the Oxford firm of Thomas Shrimpton & Son, based at 23–24 Broad Street. For the last three decades of the nineteenth century, Shrimpton's published a series of over 1200 cartoons on aspects of Oxford life. Most of the artists were undergraduates, and their audience seems largely to have been other undergraduates. Shrimpton's tended to sell photographs of the cartoons, and some such photographs have come to the archives of University College (e.g. in **UC:P45**); all but one of the items in this collection, however, appear to be original cartoons.

Most of the cartoons here relate to an incident on the night of 11 May 1880, when the door of Albert Chavasse (Fellow 1864–1902, and then Senior Proctor), was screwed up as an undergraduate prank. The Master, George Bradley, and Fellows demanded that the perpetrator own up. Unfortunately, the perpetrator, Samuel Sandbach (matr. 1876) had left early that morning for a yeomanry camp in Wales, and because the other students refused to sneak on him, the Master sent almost all of them down on the spot. Fortunately, a message reached Sandbach, and he agreed to own up, so that the College reconvened after a week's unexpected holiday. The story is told in more detail in Robin Darwall-Smith, *A History of University College, Oxford* (Oxford, 2008), pp. 402–5. Some of the cartoons, however, relate to Chavasse's Proctorial activities, in particular his presence at Encaenia in 1880.

The cartoons have been mounted onto four sheets of paper or card.

The Archivist is very grateful to Colin Harris of the Bodleian Library, who has catalogued the Shrimpton collection there, for his help in identifying some of the people and places depicted here. There are two sets of Shrimpton cartoons in the Bodleian, one in the John Johnson collection, the other in the G. A. Oxon. collection. References to these cartoons in both these sets are given below.

Rectalogued in September 2018.

UC:P300/P1/1

after May 1880

Card (evidently taken from an album) with two cartoons on it, relating to the sending down of 1880. Both are unsigned. On one side, from left to right, James Frank Bright (Fellow 1874–81 and Master 1881–1906), George Bradley (Master 1870–81), and Albert Chavasse (Fellow 1864–1902) stand in front of the main entrance to University College, with a clutch of undergraduates returning to the College after their expulsion (the John Johnson version of the cartoon has the caption "The welcome back again"). [John Johnson collection 668; G.A. Oxon. 4o 415, fol. 678]

On the other side, Master Bradley, with Bright in the background, waves off two undergraduates, in a coach. A caption was later added in pencil: "We are determined to treat the matter with the utmost clemency and therefore have decided to send the whole College down." This caption was used on the photographic version [John Johnson collection 664; G.A. Oxon. 4o 415, fol. 674]

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Size: 390 by 550 mm.

UC:P300/P1/2**after May 1880**

Card (taken from an album) with two cartoons on it, each showing Albert Chavasse trying to climb into his room up a ladder. They are drawn in pen and ink, and appear to be by the same artist, but both are unsigned. [John Johnson collection 661 and 663; G.A. Oxon. 4o 415, fols. 671 & 673]

Size: 310 by 370 mm.

UC:P300/P1/3**1880**

Card (taken from an album) with two cartoons on it, relating to Albert Chavasse's activities as Senior Proctor. On one side Chavasse is shown, cut throat razor in hand, with two bulldogs in hot pursuit of an undergraduate running into University College with the caption "Fee Fo Fum: I smell the blood of a Uxxv Man". [John Johnson collection 630; G.A. Oxon. 4o 415, fol. 630]

On the other side Chavasse is shown with his colleagues Robert Ewing and Frederick Warren (both Fellows of St. John's), using brooms inscribed "Rustication" or "fines" to clean up a dirty room full of cobwebs or items of rubbish with such labels as "Billiards after 9", "Immorality" and "Tandems". This cartoon is labelled "The University Scavengers", and is signed "EGC 1880" (Ernest George Coney of Keble College). On the photographic version "Scavengers" was deleted, and most of the letters replaced by blanks. [John Johnson collection 669; G.A. Oxon. 4o 415, fol. 679]

Size: 310 by 380 mm.

UC:P300/P1/4**Oct 1880**

Card (taken from an album) with three cartoons on it, mostly relating to the Encaenia of 1880. On one side is a cartoon captioned "The Sheldonian Show 1880", signed "R. P. P. Oct 1880". In the top-left hand corner is Bernhard Ringrose Wise of Queen's College, captioned "Queen's own Prodigy". In the front, from left to right, are Henry Fawcett, Henry Austin Bruce, Lord Aberdare (captioned "Lordship"), and John Millais (captioned "Brunswick Black", presumably an allusion to his painting "The Black Brunswicker"), all three of whom all received honorary degrees that year, Evan Evans, Master of Pembroke and then Vice-Chancellor, Albert Chavasse (captioned - inevitably - "Never screw'd but once", Thomas Francis Dallin (then Public Orator), and an unidentified figure. In front of Fawcett is a figure resembling Sir Frederick Leighton, captioned "An Absent Artist" (presumably the fact that Millais, and not Leighton, received an degree was a matter of comment at the time). [John Johnson collection 692; G.A. Oxon 4o 415, fol. 701]

On the other side of the card are two unsigned cartoons. One depicts an unnamed proctor (identified as Henry George Woods of Trinity College, Senior Proctor in 1877/8) calling out "No Popery", standing in front of the Church of St. Barnabas in Oxford. Attached is a newspaper cutting noting the "evangelical" nature of the proctors for that year. [John Johnson collection 494; G.A.Oxon 4o 414, fol. 505]

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The second cartoon (which uniquely in this collection is a photograph, rather than an original drawing) is another depiction of the Encaenia of 1880. In this one, Bernhard Ringrose Wise is again on the top row; below him are two posters, one depicting an unknown man, and the other John Millais. Below them, from left to right, are Frederick Warren (the other proctor for 1880/1), Evan Evans, Albert Chavasse, and Robert Ewing. On the ground is Thomas Dallin. [John Johnson collection 685; G.A. Oxon. 4o 415, fol. 694]

Size: 310 by 385 mm.

UC:P300/MS1/1

Memoir by Charles Harris (matr. 1879) of the sending down of 1880.

n.d.