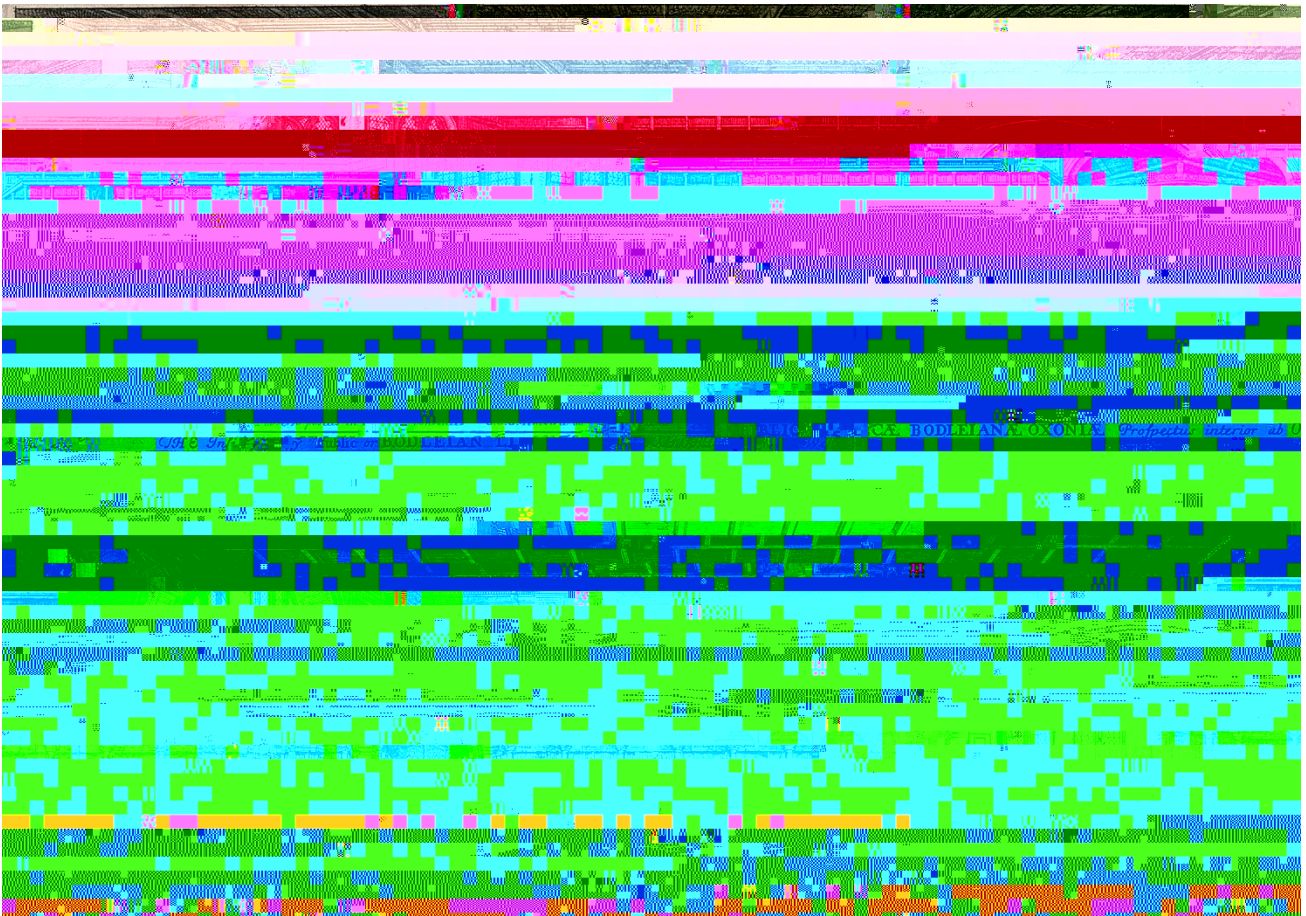


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Libraries and Museums

March 3rd: 5pm

Via Zoom

Sir, Mr Principal Hawley, hath sent me some part, of your Cambridge collections: which were worthy they copieng, for their age and antiquitie: though they giue but litle light, for any point that was in doubt, about the builders and building of our third erected Librarie. Howbeit it should appeere, by Mr Principals letter, that yow haue better stuffe behinde, to cleere many doubttes, that may concerne that whole fundation. This makes me long for your returne, though I would not yow should hasten, to leaue any thing vnobserued, that is there to be had of any worthe, ether touching our fundations, or the order, and statues, and regiment of their Libraries: which also I hope, they will impart, without any scruple.

Within this fortnight, I trust, I shall haue ended with my carpenters, ioners, caruers, glasiars, and all that idle rabble: and then I goe in hand, with making vp my barres, lockes, haspes, grates, cheines, and other gimmoes of iron, belonging to the fastning and riueting of the bookes: which I thinke I shall haue finished, within two or three monethes. But of this and other maters, we shall heereafter conferre, at very good leasure. In the meane while, I can not but enione yow, to be carefull of your health, and not to be more lauishe, then yow must of mere necessitie, in wearing out your eies, with the transcriptes of those dustie, and rustie parchement manuscripts. Your trewe affected frind,

Tho. Bodley [From Aino Dec. 24]

Yow must by no meanes omitte, to take good notice of their orders, in placing and disposing their librarie bookes: whether they doe it, by the Alphabet, or according to the Faculties.

SIR, If yow could signifie vnto me, where and howe those places should be framed, for the custody of the Manuscriptes, I would willingly put it in present execution: but your closets are for lesser bookes, whiche will be rowme litle enough, and the grated places will suffice but for a fewe, that of force all your manuscriptes must be cheined with the rest, vnles yow reserue some of the rarer, and most esteemed, to be within the grates, or the closets. And as for your proposal, to haue them cheined vpon shelues by them selues, that will come to one purpose, as if they were cheined mixtly with the rest. For the opportunitie of embezeling, will be in a maner as ready that way as the other. As withall I hold opinion, that among the printed, there will be very many, not muche lesse to be respected, then som of your rarer manuscriptes. And therfor my opinion is still, that they should be cheined as the rest, reseruing onely the most singular and rare for your closets or the grates, and committing all the rest, to the trust which we must repose in mens othes, and consciences. Astouching the figuring of the bookes with great letters, asit is not so needefull to be presently done, so at my comming to Oxon, I will impart vnto yow, what inconuenience I conceaue may ensue, for whiche I desire, it may be better digested.

... The breeding of wormes in your deskes, we can not preuent: but for the mouldring of the bookes, it may soone be remedied, if the cleanser of the Librarie doe his duty. For I doe expect at his handes, that for my 4 markes stipend, he should not onely sweepe the Libr. but at the lest twice a quarter, with cleane clothes strike away the dust and mouldring of the bookes: which I am of opinion, will not then continue long, sith nowe it proceedeth chiefly of the newnes of the forrels, which in time will be lesse and lesse dankishe. As touching the casements, I will take some order, at my comming to Oxon, which shall be, God willing, within this fortnight, commending yow the while to Gods blessed protection.

your affectionat euer
Tho. Bodley

And therefore I shall ever think it extremely necessary, to collect for this purpose all sorts of Books, (under such precautions, yet, as I shall establish) seeing a Library which is erected for the publick benefit ought to be universal, but which it can never be, unless it comprehend all the principal Authors that have written upon the great diversity of particular Subjects, and chiefly upon all the Arts and Sciences; of which, if one had but considered the vast numbers which are in the *Panepistemon* of *Angelus Politianus*, or in any other exact Catalogue lately compiled: I do not at all doubt, but that you will be ready to judge by the huge quantity of Books which we ordinarily meet with in Libraries) in ten or twelve of them, what number you ought to provide, to satisfy the curiosity of the Readers upon all that remains.
 ny ipal Authors wyes remain intent
 [...]

For certainly there is nothing which renders a Library more recommendable, then when every man findes in it that which he is in search of, and could no where else encounter; this being a perfect Maxime, That there is no Book whatsoever, be it never so bad or decried, but may in time be sought for by some person or other.

... The second Maxime... is directly contrary to the opinion of those who esteem of Books onely as they are in price and bulk; and who are much pleased, and think themselves greatly honoured, to have *Tostatus* in their Libraries, because it is in fourteen Volumes; or a *Salmeron*, because there are eight; neglecting in the mean time, to procure and furnish themselves with an infinity of little Books, amongst which there are often found some of them so rarely and learnedly composed, that there is more profit and contentment to be found in reading them, than in many others of those rude, heavy, indigested and ill polished masses, for the most part... it is almost impossible, that the witt should always remain intent these great works, and that the heaps and grand

subjects so extravagant and wide, that a man should never imagine to find them in such Companies.

... However, since it were unreasonable to profane that indiscreetly which should be managed with judgement, we ought to observe; that seeing all Libraries cannot continually be so open as the *Ambrosian*; it were yet at least wise permitted, that whoever had occasion for it, should have free access to the *Bibliothecary*, who should introduce him with the least delay or difficulty; secondly, that those which were altogether strangers, and all others that had use onely of some passages, might search and extract out of all printed Books, whatever they stood in need of: thirdly, that persons of merit and knowledge might be indulged to carry some few ordinary Books to their own Lodgings, nevertheless yet with these cautions, that it should not be for above a fortnight or three weeks at most, and that the

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I hope, it shall not be thought strange, that a Library writes; Libraries being the best Masters of Mankind, to write, speak, and perform great Actions; for tho many have perform'd all these well by Nature only, yet none hath, without Learning, in Perfection, and to Admiration practis'd them. All that I would set down and say, is, That which is so oft reiterated in my Volumes, that Ingratitude is that Height of all Vice; and to be forgetful of those who have been beneficial to me, were the Height of all Ingratitude. Tho' great Spirits love rather to do well, than to have their Actions proclaimed abroad; and learn to forget what they bounteously bestow (knowing that Virtue in it self, without any vulgar Approbation, is a sufficient Reward; and tho; good Actions be contemned, yea, often scorned upon Earth, yet they are not only remembered, but approved with Rewards in Heaven), the Fame of those who have founded, support, and enlarge me daily, shall, by me, in all Times be refounded, whilst any Records or my Volumes shall endure, which I hope, shall be long. For Books have that strange Quality, that being of the frailest and tenderest Matter, they out-last Brass, Iron, and Marble; and tho' their Habitations and Walls, by uncivil Hands, be many Times overthrown; and they themselves, by foreign Force, be turned Prisoners, yet do they often, as their Authors, keep their Givers Names; seeming rather to change Places and Masters, than to suffer a full Ruine and total Wrack. So, many of the Books of *Constantinople* changed *Greece* for *France* and *Italy*; and in our Time, that famous Library in the *Palatinate*, changed *Heidleberg* for the *Vatican*. And this, I think no small Duty, nor meaner Gift and Retribution, which I render back again to my Benefactors honest Fame, being a greater Matter than Riches; Riches being momentary and evanishing, scarce possess'd by the Third Heir; Fame, immortal, and almost everlasting; by Fame Riches is often acquired, seldom Fame by Riches; except when it is their good Hap, to fall in the Possession of some generous minded Man: And tho' a Philosopher said of famous Men, disdainfully, that they died two Deaths, one in their Bodies, another, long after, in their Names; he must confess, that where other Men live but one Life, famous Men live Two.

[...]

There are, who to acquire some Piece of Fame, would lately have adorn'd me with Pourtraits, Statues, Medals, Maps, Books of all Sciences, Languages, Characters, (which they had collected from the Liberality of others, to this use) but at so high a Rate to my Founders, and with such blown Ambition, that the want of such Stuff, was a great deal more tolerable, than the enjoying could either bring Profit or Ornament. Such a Bargain, is even as if some Stationers who had sold dearly their Books, would desire to be enrolled amongst my Benefactors, having perpetual Panegyricks, solemn Remembrances and Anniversaries offered to their Names, for their great and boundless Liberality. Let such men go to the *Americans*, and there barter with Glasses, Feathers, Whistles and Puppets, with Gold and precious Stones, make a *Glaucius and Diomedes* exchange with some others; for I had rather attend Time and Providence, than remain thus obliged.

In the mean Time, live ye ever generous Spirits, who, out of your own, have been beneficial to me, who love Virtue for her self; having no other Aims than those which your own Worth, and

As we find Republicks to have flourished in Power and Glory, so do we find them to have been eminent and come to the Height in Knowledge and Letters; and as they builded Arsenalns and Store-Houses for Arms to serve in Time of War, so did they Libraries, furnished with Books for Peace and War. Wits, howsoever pregnant and great, without Books, are but as valiant Soldiers, without Arms, and Artizans destitute of Tools. Of these did arise the many Schools in the World, and mostly in Europe, which by the Bounty of so many renowned Princes have been so amply privileged: And these Great Men were not so much beholden to Arms and their Conquests, whilst they lived, as after their Deaths to Letters; for neither their Monuments of Marble, nor Brass, nor Gold, no not the Diamond it self, are able so to preserve the Glory of their Actions, as are some few sheets of Paper. Estates and Republicks owe much to those, who like Torches waste themselves to shine and give Light to others; but without these Fathers of their Countries, who endeavour to preserve and communicate to Posterity what these ingeniously have done, their Works should be little better than Spiders Webs: For what availeth the writing of Books, if they be not preserved; and how many excellent Pieces, by the Barbarity and Negligence of Ages, have perished? To omit Ancient Times, as *Ptolemæus-Philadelpus*, who erected that famous Library in *Alexandria*, the *Ulpian* Library of *Trajan*, and that of *Pisistratus* in

'Sir,

When out of Curiosity this last Week I had entred these large and spacious Galleries, in which the Fair of St. *Germain's* is kept, and had viewed the diverse Merchandize and Wares of the Nations at that Mart; above the rest I was much taken with the Daintiness of the many Pourtraits there to be seen. The Devices, Posies, Ideas, Shapes, and Draughts of the Artificers were various, nice, and pleasant. Scarce could the wandring Thought light upon any Story, Fable, or Gayety, which was not represented to the View. If *Cebes*, the *Theban* Philosopher, made a Table hung in the Temple of *Saturn*, the Argument of his rare Moralities; and *Jovius* and *Marini*, the Pourtraicts in their *Galleries* and *Libraries* the Subject of some Books; I was brought to think I should not commit a great Fault, if I sent you for a Token, form this Mart, a Scantling of this Ware, which affordeth a like Contentment to the Beholder and Possessor.

The Pictures of the *Roman* Emperors appeared in One Plate, those of the Bishops with the Triple Crowns in another, with those of all the Kings and great Princes in *Europe*. *Lucretia* was showing her bleeding Breast; on this Table *Flora* her bewitching Twins, on that not far from these *Mars* is surprized by the *Lemnian*, and the Senate of the Gods are all laughing; near by *Jupiter* is coming down in a golden Shower in his *Danae's* Lap. One would have wished *Argos* his Eyes to gaze on *Helen* in the Prime of her Beauty, as when the *Phrygian* Youth stole her away, or *Theseus*, in one Place on the Table; and see her distilling Tears for the Ruin of *Troy* in another. The *Agamemnon* of *Timantes* at the Sacrifice of *Hermoine* was here to be seen. And what did surpass that in Invention, a Painter had hidden the Imperfection of the Work of his Work, who having painted a Lady which had but one Eye, he had set her Face so cunningly that her one Side appearing only to the View, left a Desire in the Beholder, to wish for the other, which one could not imagine but beautiful, at which she seemed to smile. The Father of our Fictions Meonides himself, was here represented, with closed Eyes, and a long Beard of the Colour of the Night; to whom was the Honour of *Mantua* adjoined, his Head wreathed with Bayes, his Face was somewhat long, his Cheeks fearce with a small Down descrying his Sex; that they might be known after so many Years, the Crafts-man had set down, *They were thus standing in the Roman Capitol*. The *Cyprian* Goddess was in diverse Shapes represented. The First was naked as she appeared on the Hills of *Ida*, or when she arose from her foamy Mother, but that she should not blush, the Painter had limmed her Entring a green Arbour, and looking over her Shoulder; so that there were only seen her Back and Face. Another had drawn her naked, her Face, Breasts, and Belly to the View exposed, her blind Child by her, but to cover that which delighted *Mars* so much, he made her Arm descend to take hold of *Cupid*, who did embrace her. The Third had drawn her lying on a Bed with stretched out Arms, in her Hand she presented to a young Man (who was adoring her, and at whom little Love was directing a Dart) a fair Face, which with much Ceremony he was receiving, but on the other Side, which should have been the hinder Part of that Head, was the Image of Death; by which *Mortality* he surpassed the others, more than they did him by *Art*. It were to be wished this Picture were still before the Eyes of doating Lovers

the Cares of this World, which could not have

The divers bookes of my late library, printed and anciently written, bownd and unbound, were in all neere 4000: the fourth part of which were the written bookes. The vallue of all which bookes, by the estimation of men skillfull in the arts, whereof the bookes did and doe intreat, and that in divers languages, was well £2000. And, to make this valuacion probably unto your Honour, behold yet here these foure written bookes, one in Greeke, this great volume; two in French; and this in High Dutch. They cost me and my friends for me £533, as may appeare by the writings and remembrances here written on them. What is then to be thought of the value of some one hundred of the best of all the other written bookes, of which some were the *autographia* of excellent and seldome heard-of authors? The furniture of the said library was of my getting together in above forty yeares tyme from divers places beyond the seas, and some by my great search and labour gotten here in England.

To my library were also apperteyning, certaine rare and exquisitely made instruments mathematicall. Among which was one excellent, strong, and faire quadrant (first made by that famous Richard Chancellor), of five foote semidiameter: wherewith he and I made sundry observations meridian of the sun's height...

There was also an excellent *radius Astronomicus* of ten foot longe, having the staff and cross very curiously divided into parts equall, after Richard Chancellour's Quadrante-manner. The great instrument was in such a frame placed and layd, that it might most easily be wielded of any man to any position for practise in heavenly observations or mensurations on earth.

Two globes of Gerardus Mercators best making; on which were my divers reformations, both geographicall and celestiall: and on the celestiall with my hand were set downe divers cornettes, their places, and motions, as of me they had been observed.

There were also divers other instrumentes, as the theorick of the eighth spheare, the nyynth and tenth, with an horizon and meridian of copper, of Gerhardus Mercator his owne making for me purposely.

There were sea-compasses of divers sorts and for variation. And there was a magnes-stone, commonly called a load stone, of great vertue, which was sold out of the library but for v shill. And for it afterwards (yea peece-meal divided) was more than xx *lib.* given in money and value.

There was also an excellent watch-clock made by one Dibbley, a noteable workman, long since dead, by which clock the tyme might sensibly be measured in the seconds of an houre, that is, not to faile the 360th part of an houre. The use of this clock was very great, more then vulgar.

To my library likewayes was a very necessary appendix, which was a great case or frame of boxes, wherein some hundreds of very rare evidences of divers Irelandish territories, provinces, and lands were layd up. Which territories, provinces, and lands were therein notified to have been in the hands of some of the ancient Irish Princes. Then, their submissions and tributes agreed upon, with seales appendant to the litle writings thereof in parchment: and after by some of those evidences did it appeare, how some of those lands came to be the Lascies, the Mortuomars, the Burghes, the Clares, &c.

There were also divers evidences antient of some Welsh princes and noblemen, their great giftes of lands to the foundations or enrichings of sundry houses of religions men. Some also were

8. A Fragment of *Pythæas* that ancient Traveller of *Marseille*; which we suspect not to be spurious, because, in the description of the Northern Countries, we find that passage of *Pythæas* mentioned by *Strabo*, that all the Air beyond *Thule* is thick, condensed and gellied, looking just like Sea Lungs.
9. A *Sub Marine* Herbal, describing the several Vegetables found on the Rocks, Hills, Valleys, Meadows at the bottom of the Sea, with many sorts of *Alga*, *Fucus*, *Quercus*, *Polygonum*, *Gramens* and others not yet described.
10. Some Manuscripts and Rarities brought from the Libraries of *Æthiopia*, by *Zaga Zaba*, and afterward transported to *Rome*, and scattered by the Souldiers of the Duke of *Bourbon*, when they barbarously sacked that City.
11. Some pieces of *Julius Scaliger*, which he complains to have been stoln from him, sold to the Bishop of *Mende* in *Languedock*, and afterward taken away and sold in the Civil Wars under the Duke of *Rohan*.
12. A Comment of *Dioscorides* upon *Hypocrates*, procured from *Constantinople* by *Amatus Lusitanus*, and left in the hands of a Jew of *Ragusa*.
13. *Marcus Tullius Cicero* his Geography; as also a part of that magnified Piece of his *De Republica*, very little answering the great expectation of it, and short of Pieces under the same name by *Bodinus* and *Tholosanus*.
14. King *Mithridates* his *Oneirocritica*.
Aristotle de Precationibus.
Democritus de his quæ fiunt apud Orcum, & Oceani circumnavigatio.
 [A defence of *Arnoldus de Villa Nova*, whom the learned *Postellus* conceived to be the author of *De Tribus Impostoribus*.]
Epicurus de Pietate.
 A Tragedy of *Thyestes*, and another of *Medea*, writ by *Diogenes* the Cynick.
 King *Alfred* upon *Aristotle de Plantis*.
Seneca's E pistles to *S. Paul*.
 King *Solomon de Umbris Idæarum*, which *Chicus Asculanus*, in his Comment upon *Johannes de Sacrobosco*, would make us believe he saw in the Library of the Duke of **Bavaria**.
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