Robert Hegge, An Oxford Antiquary

By Philip Pattenden

In the early seventeenth century, Corpus Christi College, Oxford, was the home of several antiquaries; Brian Twyne, Miles Windsor and William Fulman were avid collectors of information who provided a large amount of material for Anthony Wood's works on the history of the University. They were not, however, the only antiquaries of the period in their college. One lesser light who is practically ignored, and about the details of whose life even Wood was uncertain, was Robert Hegge, who is famous less for his achievements in history and practical mathematics than for his possession of the *Ludus Coventriae*, a fifteenth century manuscript of a cycle of Mystery plays for Corpus Christi Day.1

Hegge was born in Durham, probably in the summer of 1597, though sources are in conflict about the precise date, apparently the eldest son of Stephen Hegge, notary public. His mother was Anne (née Swyft), who came from staunchly Protestant stock, though her son shows some, probably purely antiquarian, interest in the old faith. Robert was up at Corpus as Durham scholar on November 7th, 1614.2

His college career was normal. He proceeded to the B.A. on 13th February, 1617/8, and the M.A. on 17th March, 1620/1. On December 27th, 1624 he was admitted to a Probationary Fellowship of his College.3 It is known from his works that he gave lectures in theology, but the only college office which he is recorded as holding is that of Junior Dean, which he had become by 26th February 1627/8. He is last mentioned in this capacity on December 12th, 1628.4

The pervasive theme of Hegge’s writings is an effervescent enthusiasm, sometimes for subjects which inspire few others, now or then, with the same fervour. Thomas Allen, the celebrated collector and antiquary, held him in high esteem, as Wood records in speaking of him as “the best in the University for the Mathematical faculty, history and

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1 My thanks are due to the President and Fellows of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, for access to the College manuscripts and archives, to the staff of the Bodleian and British Libraries, and especially to Dr. A.I. Doyle, Keeper of Rare Books at the University Library, Durham for reading this piece and offering his valuable comments.


antiquities (and therefore much beloved by Tho. Allen of Gloucester Hall). He was active in five areas: (a) sundials, their theory and construction, (b) the history of the members of the College, (c) theological lectures in Latin given in the College hall, (d) poems, original Latin compositions, part of the exercises of the College at the period, but at which he was apparently thought adept by his tutors, and (e) the antiquities of his home county, with especial reference to the Saxon saint, St. Cuthbert of Lindisfarne. Some of his Latin verses were printed in his lifetime, and all but the work on sundials were published posthumously, the St. Cuthbert appearing in three different editions. There are also some letters and notices of his sermons, which as a Fellow of the College, and therefore required to be ordained, he must have given, and his *notae possessionis* in some books known to have belonged to him. Though his *St. Cuthbert* deals with the history of, as he puts it, "that country, where I had my cradle", the rest of his literary endeavour concerned Oxford, and more specifically his College. His intellectual pursuits included the theory and construction of sundials, a very popular subject in his age. Even one of his theological lectures is about a biblical sundial, the Dial of Ahaz, on which the shadow moved backwards by ten degrees ([IV] 2 Kings 20, 10-11). Still, his dialling interests were used for the service of his College, for whom he seems to have done the restoration of the massive pillar of dials erected by Turnbull in the Front Quadrangle, at the beginning of his Fellowship, in 1624 or 1625. He left a document of considerable value to posterity in the curious drawings which he made of it as it was in his day, before the alterations of the early eighteenth century were carried out. These illustrations, of a bizarre perspective which aims to achieve the best of all views, survive in the two autograph versions of his treatise on dials. Other quaint pictures in the author's own hand appear in one of the known extant manuscripts of the *St. Cuthbert*. But a College is its members, as Hegge no doubt reflected when he compiled his catalogue of the early members of Corpus, for which he is still a prime source. Even his poems were College poems. There were all written either in praise of the generous Visitor of his day, or as part of the Corpus contribution to the University's expressions of loyalty to the King.

Hegge was a master of the literary conceit. When speaking of a sundial, it is

The visible Map of Time, till whose invention the Sun seem'd to committ follie to play with a shadow. . .

At the beginning of his *St Cuthbert*, we learn that

Historie and Prophecie (set back to back) make up the true image of Janus:

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8 On the *St Cuthbert* see Pattenden, *St. Cuthbert*, passim, (the editions, pp.115-16).


10 On the subject of the Turnbull dial, and of Hegge's activities in relation to it, see P. Pattenden, *Sundials at an Oxford College* (Deddington 1979), esp. pp.32-36. (On the restoration of c.1706, see ibid., pp.41-44). The work is cited hence as Pattenden, *Sundials*.


In an early epigram on James Montague, he freely puns on the Bishop’s name in Latin (de Monte Acuto), and his office:

Aemula PARNASSI TIBI surgit MITRA bicornis; 
MONTÉque ab HOC, credo, NOMINIS OMEN, habes 
In TE, MOEONIDES, FACVNDI FLVMINA FONTIS, 
TEMPLAque, digna suo Numine, PRAESVLI, habent.14

His manuscript works are all characterised by his copious illustrations, many of which are decorated with bishops and by his idiosyncratic formal script. This, which is evident even in his informal hand, was an imitation of Roman type. It can be positively identified as his by the several signed examples. He seems to have had some influence in this sphere, since his brother or nephew has put a note of ownership into one of the books which came to him from Robert and has added further material in imitation of his style. At least two of his College contemporaries, James Holt and Henry Oxenden, wrote in a way only differing in details from that of Hegge.15 A specimen of both drawings and script can be seen in the frontispiece to Fowler’s history of Corpus.16 While neat and well-formed, the bookhand has tendencies to alter its slope and must have taken a long time to write. It appears already formed in the poetical writings of Hegge in 1617 when he was about nineteen, but there was a distinct deterioration in the year before his death as is shown by entries in his Catalogues and one of his letters. Perhaps he suffered from some disease or incapacity before his death.

He died prematurely, aged only 31 or 32, on June 11th, 1629,17 of “apoplexy”. He was buried in the antechapel of the College and was commemorated by a tablet inscribed ROB. HEGGE, A.M. Soc. Jun. 11, 1629. This was moved to the cloister later that century, during modifications to the Chapel in c.1675–6,18 and was subsequently lost, probably when the old cloister was pulled down and the new one built, at the period when Turner’s (now normally called The Fellows’) Building was erected, between 1706 and 1712.

Hegge’s achievements were promising and he would doubtless have done more had he lived longer. No list or discussion of his works has hitherto been published: the following is a summary of them apart from the SI. Cuthbert in the order of completion of the earliest specimen of each type. Most of the manuscripts have, because of the exigencies of space, been only briefly noticed, with comments (usually only of ownership) pertinent to the argument which follows.

VERSSES

Three epigrams in elegiac couplets by Hegge are in a manuscript collection of original poems composed by Corpus men for presentation to James Montague (1568–1618), Bishop of Winchester and Visitor of the College, on the occasion of its centenary,19 March 5th, 1616/7. Montague was a major benefactor of the College and arranged for the

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14 Bodl. MS. Top.Oxon.e. 68, f.9; Bodl. MS. Rawl. Poetry 171, f.104v.; see below p. 287.
15 Cf. Gardiner, Oxinden Letters, p. xxxvi; and see below, p. 295.
16 Fowler, History, esp. opposite p. 85; Pattenden, Sundials, Figs. 3, 5.
19 Fowler, History, p. 182.
allowance known as the “Montague Vest”\(^{20}\) for its members. The verses are entitled
\[
AC\langle \text{ADEMIAE} \rangle \text{OX}\langle \text{ONIENSI} \rangle \text{S} / \text{CORPORIS CHRISTI COLLEGII} / \text{EYXAPISTIA} / \text{Reverendo in CHRISTO PATRI} / \text{IACOBO WINTON Episcopo} / \text{ac huius COLLEGII} / \text{PATRONO}
\]

Two manuscripts exist, both in the Bodleian Library, both in Hegge’s own characteristic hand.

(i) **MS Top. Oxon e 68 (Summary Catalogue 31705)**

This was the presentation copy. The first owner was presumably Montague, but no more is known of it until the Bodleian acquired it, except for a note on the inside front board: \textit{Ex dono praestantissimi amici Edordi Smith Armigeri} (unknown) of the eighteenth century. It was bought from Ellis and Elvey of New Bond Street in 1894.\(^{21}\)

The manuscript contains only this work. The title page is decorated by two Corinthian columns with spiral tops in coloured inks and gold: a pelican and an owl perch in the architrave (cf. the owls in the arms of the chief benefactor of the College, Hugh Oldham): above are the arms of the University. On f.5v. Hegge has drawn the arms of James Montague impaled with the See of Winchester,\(^{22}\) and on f.6 is a typical scroll to contain the dedication. Hegge’s own compositions occur on ff.6 and 9.

(ii) **MS Rawlinson poetry 171 (Summary Catalogue 14663)**

Nothing is known of the ownership of this volume beyond Richard Rawlinson (1689/90-1755), whose manuscripts came to the Bodleian in 1756.\(^{23}\) The volume is a compendium of which our manuscript is one part (ff.100-106v.). Hegge seems to have written it out as a first draft of the \textit{EYXAPISTIA} and it has been corrected by a second person. The script is not as careful as usual and a few details have been altered. There are no illustrations. Hegge’s own poems are at ff.102v. and 104v.

The twenty one youthful poets (MS [i] f.1, \textit{NOS tenuior, IVVENTAE SUBOLES}), who make plays on the Bishop’s Latinised name (Jacobus de Monte Acuto) all write in Latin except for Edmund Reade, whose epigrams (f.5) are in Greek. For this collection Hegge wrote 3 Latin poems in elegiac couplets of 8, 4 and 4 lines respectively.

Hegge’s merit as a poet was thought sufficient for some of his other Latin verse to be included in collections addressed to the King by the University. To the volume entitled \textit{IACOBI ARA} . . . (Oxford, 1617), commemorating the return of James I from a short visit to Scotland that year, Hegge, still a very junior member of the University, made three contributions.\(^{24}\)

(i) a poem, of three elegiac couplets;
(ii) an Anagramma (\textit{IACOBUS STEWART Monarcha} / \textit{Hic rura, ac Suos Autumno beat});
(iii) an epigram of two couplets.

In another collection of commemorative poems on the death of King James, \textit{OXONIENSIS ACADEMIAE PARENTALIA} . . . (Oxford, 1625) he only had one piece,\(^{25}\) though at twenty-five hexameters it was more substantial.

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\(^{20}\) Ibid. pp. 181, 338-41.

\(^{21}\) Ellis and Elvey, Catalogue no. 76.

\(^{22}\) Curiously, the impaled arms of the See of Winchester are drawn in the wrong sense, as formerly on the Turnbull sundial: see Pattenden, \textit{Sundials}, p. x. A piece of paper stuck into this page conceals an error by Hegge.

\(^{23}\) \textit{Summary Catalogue of Western MSS. in the Bodleian Library}, III, pp.177-8.


\(^{25}\) Ibid., p.102, No.331 (29).
Hegge’s fine illustrated treatise in English on the construction of sundials is not remarkably different from many other 16th and 17th-century treatises on this subject. One such is the *Horologiographia*, *The Art of Dialling* by Thomas Fale, the Cambridge diallist (London, 1593). Like Hegge’s work it covers the construction of dials on a variety of surfaces. Both books are about the same size, but Hegge gives more space to dials on convex and concave surfaces, no doubt influenced by the number of those awkward types found on the pillar of dials made by Turnbull for his College.27

Hegge used his elaborate bookhand for the dialling work, and this inevitably poses the question of intention: did Hegge mean to publish his little books or were they considered finished in the very limited edition of the handwritten forms? There may have been an element of both, but certainly those manuscripts which survive (there must have been rough copies, cf. above MS Rawlinson Poetry 171) have every appearance of being meant to be finished even if sometimes they were not perfect. It is quite possible that they were intended as actual or potential presentation copies.

The contents of the dialling treatise are best appreciated from the description of the first, fuller manuscript copy of it, given below. A second version of the work is contained in a manuscript to which Hegge has added three very minor essays, which will be noticed briefly later. Both of these autograph manuscripts now belong to Corpus Christi College, Oxford. Only the second version gives the work a title.

(i) MS CCC 40

- Contents: f(i): at the beginning and f(i) at the end are thicker and contain folding three-dimensional diagrams to illustrate the situation of planes on which dials might be drawn.

f(i): title page decorated with two carved pillars with a globe suspended between and below the letters *R.H.* by Hegge. The title was omitted but a note has been supplied by another hand: *Author huius Libri fuit Robertus Hegg Artium Magister et Collegii Corpus Christi apud Oxonienses quondam Socius. The Treatise, inc. I. PROPOSITION The Globe of the Earth compar’d to the Sphier of the Sunne hath no sensible magnitude,* followed by fourteen other basic premises of dialling. The work proper begins on p.5: Cap. I. *The Prayse of a Dial. When in the infanee of Arts, two hours measur’d a Roman day.* The treatise is divided into four books (the first unlabelled). They describe the use of geometrical, trigonometrical and empirical methods for the construction of dials.

pp.1-137: (Book 1) the construction of dials on vertical, reclining and inclining, and horizontal plane surfaces. Chapter 2 of this part deals rhetorically with the block of dials made by Nicolaus Kratzer for the Orchard of Corpus28 and the dials described are the individual ones found there.

pp.30-68: (Book 2) the construction of declining dials.

pp.69-120: (Book 3) the construction of the lines to show the date, position of the sun, time in other localities and planetary hours on the dial, preceded by an explanation of the theory of conic sections necessary to understand this part of dialling.

pp.121-137: (Book 4) the construction of dials on concave and convex surfaces including the statement (p.135) But more artificial is the description of a Cylindrical dial at right angles to the horizon; such as is to be seen in Æ Collossus of Art in Area Quadrată C.X.C., referring to the complex upright cylindrical dial on the Turnbull Dial at Corpus which is illustrated on this same page. There follows on pp.138-139 a set of diagrams of the eclipses of the sun and moon for 1625-1646. This is not part of the treatise, but dates the work to 1624 or 1625 and is prime evidence for Hegge's restoration of the Turnbull Dial at that time.29

There are copious illustrations of all the sundials mentioned, which are decorated with heraldry and bishops as are the initials p.312. (ii) MS CCC 430

- Scribes: 1 = R. Hegge ff. 2v.-4v., 16-34, 49-54, 81v.
2 = mid-seventeenth century, ff.5-6v.
3 = mid-seventeenth century, (probably Stephen Hegge, the younger — see below), f.16 The Author M. Robert Hegge, Sometimes Fellow of Corpus Ch:Coll: Oxon;

29 Ibid. pp. 35-36.
30 Reproduced in Fowler, History, opposite p. 85 and frontispiece resp. Kratzer's Dial from this ms. is also given in Pattenden, Sundials, Fig. 3.
31 In a footnote, Spector, in The Library, 6th ser. ii(1), p. 29 says that "a copy of <Hegge's> treatise on sundials" was in Thomas Allen's collection. This remark goes back to an entry in Watson, op.cit. (above, n.7), p.312. Here, in a catalogue of the manuscripts of Thomas Allen based on the manuscript catalogue in Bodl. MS. Wood F 26, Watson notes, with a query, MS CCC 40 as perhaps that corresponding with number 80 in the section devoted to quarto manuscripts in this list, which is dated 1622. The description in the latter reads A compendious introduction to Dyallinge. Most of Allen's manuscripts are in the Digby collection in the Bodleian Library, but this one is not among them, nor is it known to be elsewhere. Gerard Langbaine, when in the mid 17th century he made annotations of numbers in the Digby collection corresponding with Allen's manuscripts in the 1622 catalogue (See Watson, op.cit., p.282.), could not make the description of Quarto MS. 80 tie up with any known manuscript. Watson thought that MS. CCC 40 might be the missing treatise since five manuscripts once in Allen's possession found their way to Corpus, MS CCC 40 was apparently written in 1624-5 when Hegge drew in the table of eclipse diagrams at the end (pp.138-9). If the body of the work was not done then, it was evidently in the author's (and scribe's) hands at that time for him to copy in this table. If the whole work dates to 1624-5 the manuscript had not been composed when the 1622 catalogue was written: if the table was added to an already complete work, it was very probably not in Allen's possession in 1624-5 and most unlikely to have been earlier. There seems no reason to doubt, especially from its low number in the series of the Corpus manuscripts, that it passed to Hegge's College on his death and remained there. Perhaps the other dialling manuscript connected with Corpus, now MS CCC 152, the notebook of Nicolaus Kratzer, once owned by Dee and used by Twyne (see Bodl. MS. Selden Supra 79, p.189) may have been in Allen's hands and gone thence to Twyne (cf. Pattenden, Sundials, p.98, n.15). The description of Quarto 80 in the 1622 Allen catalogue fits this manuscript far better than it does MS CCC 40.
also below items (e), (f), (g), (k).
4 = late seventeenth / early eighteenth century, rather shaky: only f.142
(which has been pasted in).
- Ownership: inside front board: Stephanus Hegg Cantabrigiensis > C<ollegii> S<anci>
I<ohannis> 1630.
   f.(i), in another hand: Fundit R. Hegge/W. 1707, in a third
   hand: Margaret Pratt 1719.
   f.2, in a fourth hand: James Atkinson Surgeon Task.
- Contents: (written out by R. Hegge unless otherwise stated)
   (a) f.1
   a multiplication table or ready reckoner (incomplete: scribe?).
   (b) f.2v.-6v.  De MINVTIIIS seu integrorum PARTIBVS (see below) — completed by
   scribe 2 (ff.5-6v.)
   (c) ff.16-34  HELIOTROPIVM SCIOTERICVM in gratiam speciosissimi Horoscopi in
   Pomario C.X.Collegii CONSCRIPTVM: the treatise on sundials in
   a revised version.
   (d) ff.49-54  De AREIS Superficiern PLANARVM (see below).
   (e) ff.57-59 (scribe 3) Funerall Monuments in the City of Coventry (the title occurs on
   f.59).
   (f) ff.60-63v., 66,71 (both works are copies of inscriptions).
   (g) f.72 (probably scribe 3) Funerall Monuments in the City of Yorke — only the
   title and In Eccia Cathedra: & Metropol: Beati Petri.
   (h) f.81v.  (by R. Hegge) De Iride: inc.: Maurolycus et Iohannes Baptista Porta
   probat tantam esse distantiam — one side of a folium only with a
diagram (see below).
   (i) f.107v.  (?) a scribble of a building on fire (cf. MS. Oxford, Museum of the
   History of Science, Museum 169, p.24).32
   (j) f.142 (scribe 4) — Vota Amico facta
   (k) ff.143-145 (scribe 3) Epitaphia et Inscriptiones exterae — foreign funerary
   inscriptions.

Those folios which are not cited above are blank.

Stephen Hegge, the author’s younger brother (1599-1661) seems to have obtained
the manuscript on Robert’s death, and someone, probably his son also called Stephen
(1645-1668), added to it the collections of funerary inscriptions. The hand of these
additions is not formally identified from other signed work but sometimes, as noticed
above, becomes an imitation of Robert Hegge’s bookhand — notably on ff.61v. and 66
where the whole page is written thus.33 It is evidently not the hand of the elder Stephen,
unless that changed greatly later in his life, since we have his signature, characterised by
its use of the Greek e, in the admissions book of St John’s College, Cambridge on 4th
November, 1617.34 The same, much more flamboyant, hand that of the epitaphs wrote
in the note about the author of the sundial treatise on f.16. Some of the epitaphs (above,
item (f)) are from Cambridge where both Stephens, father and son, went up in succession
to St John’s College.35 The date when the inscriptions were copied into the volume is not

32 See Pattenden, Sundials, pp.76-77.
33 ff.58, 59, 59(bis), 60, 61, 62, 62v., 63v., 72, 143v. contain parts of the text in imitation of R. Hegge’s hand.
35 On the two Stephens see J. and J.A. Venn, Alumni Cantabrigienses Part I, II. (Cambridge, 1922-7), 351
entirely clear, and was probably a period rather than a single occasion. The latest dated epitaph is of 1662 (f.59(bis) — for Ann(a) Boun of Coventry) and this offers a *terminus post quem*. Since the father died in 1661 the collection (as the script suggests) must be his son’s. While either father or son may have visited Coventry, and both must have been to York (see item (g)) — where the father was ordained deacon in March 1626 — it is not known if either travelled abroad to the Low Countries, Switzerland and Rome — to be able to collect the foreign inscriptions. There are, of course, other ways of obtaining these. All that can be deduced from this extra material is that an interest in antiquities evidently remained in the family.

The note of ownership of Stephen Hegge is written in a weak imitation of the distinctive style of Robert. The word *Cant* in this note was added at a later time. It is a little odd that Stephen Hegge should accompany his name with initials for his College and the date 1630, two years after he had taken up the perpetual curacy of Whitworth, Durham. Either he was keen to record himself as a Johnian, or he wrote the note later in life, forgetting the inconsistency, or it was his son who put in the note and not he, the son being unsure of the date. Whoever wrote it must have been aware when the volume passed out of the hands of its original owner. Of these three explanations, the second seems the most probable.

On the same board perhaps the author himself has written *Rob: Hegg* slantwise in the same place in the formal style. In the note on f.(i) the significance of *Fundit* is unclear (possibly a mistake for *fundauit?* — "started" — but this is still not very good). The William Pratt mentioned just after must be the one who married, in November 1670 at Bishop Auckland, Ann (née Colpits), widow of the Rev. Stephen Hegge of Auckland. This Stephen seems to have been none other than the son of Stephen, Robert’s brother. It is very likely that J. Pratt and Margaret Pratt were beneficiaries of the estate of Mrs Ann Pratt (Hegge) via her second husband. This manuscript thus passed from Robert to his posthumous nephew Stephen and thence ultimately to Margaret Pratt. The subsequent history of its ownership is unclear (*Atkinson* is unidentified). It returned to the College by purchase in an unidentified sale ("lot 88") on April 29th, 1859 at a price of £1.5.0. The description for the sale catalogue has been stuck into the inside front board, where there remain traces of a three-dimensional folding figure as in MS CCC 40, and a torn bookplate showing tassellated drapery beneath a vertical trumpet.

The treatise on dials in MS CCC 430 is incomplete, and ends (f.34) *Cap. 40. Of a Convex Cylindrical dial*, for which there is no text but only a drawing of the Turnbull Dial at Corpus, larger than the drawing of this subject in the previous manuscript, but without

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36 Venn gives the date of death of the elder Stephen as September 28th, 1662. The register of his parish, Whitworth, however, records his burial thus: *Stephanus Hegge, A.M., Rector Whitworth, sepultus fuit (sic) vexecimo octavo die Septembr. 1661* (information of the present incumbent). Unless there are errors of transcription in the record of the Coventry inscription (dated XII Cal: Febr. A.S. 1662 = January 21st, presumably 1662/3 rather than 1661/2), this inscription, in the same hand as those around it, cannot be by the elder Stephen. An extra hint is given on f.59, where against an inscription of latest date 1637 in Holy Trinity, Coventry, another hand has added in the right-hand margin, *These were taken after ye fall of the Steeple, by which many other monuments were broken & defaced.* Holy Trinity’s first Vestry Minute Book (now Warks. County Record Office, DR 581/64) at f.143 (sic) gives the date when the steeple was blown on to the body of the church as January 24th, 1665/6 (cf. F.C.H. Warwickshire, VIII (London, 1969), p.327). If the note in MS CCC 430 is true, the younger Stephen is to be suspected as the compiler.


38 C.C.C. Library Accounts, *sub anno*.

39 Reproduced in Pattenden, *Sundials*, Fig. 5.
the Quad and its buildings for background. Kratzer's dial at Corpus, the object in thanks of which the work is allegedly written, is depicted at f.7. The contents of the work are basically the same as those of the previous manuscript, but this is obviously a second edition rather than a second copy. The scheme of four books has been replaced by one of forty consecutively numbered chapters, and the initial proportions and the explanation of conic sections has been omitted as has the section dealing with the lines on dials which show the date, etc. (Book 3 of MS CCC 40), though Hegge may have intended to put these at the end. Some other sections have been expanded. Further discussion of the manuscripts on dialling and another related imitation by a different writer (Oxford, Museum of the History of Science, MS. Museum 169) will be found in Pattenden, *Sundials Appendix* II and pp. 76-77.

Manuscript CCC 430 also contains three minor works by Robert Hegge:

item (b) *De MINVTTS seu integrorum PARTIBVS* — a simple arithmetical handbook on fractional numbers in Latin.

item (d) *De AREIS Superficierum PLANARUM* — an essay on finding the areas of plane surfaces and solid objects, in Latin.

item (h) *De Iride* — probably unfinished — a single page in Latin on the formation of the rainbow, with a diagram.

**SCRIPTURAL EXEGESES**

*In Aliquot Sacrae Paginae Loca Lectiones*. In Latin, this was a collection of seven set themes on cryptic scriptural passages originally read out as lectures by Hegge in the College hall. The themes are

(i) *De Poculo Iosephi, Gen.44.5. Lectio ja,*
(ii) *NABUCHODONOSOR Dan. 4.33,*
(iii) *Uxor Loth. Gen. 19.26,*
(iv) *Vrim & Thummim 1 Sam. 28.6,*
(v) *Templum Herodis Ioh. 2.20,*
(vi) *Solarium Achaz.[IV]2.Reg.20,*
(vii) *CITHARA DAVIDIS. 1 Sam.16.23.*

An explanation of the lectures is given on page one of the autograph (MS CCC 408): *April. 4. 1627. Lectiones Theol<ogiae> in Aulâ C.C.C. Oxon. vicibus pralectae.* There are two known manuscripts; the first, the autograph in Hegge’s usual bookhand, is now at his College.

(i) **MS CCC 408**

— 7.5 ins × 5.7 ins. Paper. 1627, pp. x + 104 (pp. (ii)-(ix), 49-104 blank: pages torn out between (viii)-(ix) and 90-91).
— Binding: contemporary rough brown leather, traces of ties.
— Watermark: Heawood 3502 (“1623”).
— Ownership: inside front board: (beneath various Corpus shelfmarks) *Richard Povah* [Robert Hegge (in the author’s hand), and copied directly beneath, a later note *Discip. C.C.C. Dunelm/A.D. 1614; f.(i)x E.p.B. Dext. C.3/L.23* (i.e. E plaga (uel parte) Boreali Dextra, Classe 3, figura 2, Loco 23).
— Contents: pp.(x)-48 *In Aliquot*, etc., only.

The earlier history of this manuscript is curious. On the last folium (p.104) is a note, almost obliterated, appearing to give the date 1657 below a Latin doxology: inside the front cover is the name *Richard Povah*. He entered Corpus, Cambridge in 1793 and later became first a Methodist preacher and then Perpetual Curate of St. James’s, Duke’s Place, London, dying in 1842.\(^{40}\) His curious signature in the manuscript can be verified.

against the one in the matriculation register of the University of Cambridge. In the light of the mark at the top right of f.(i), which is of the distinctive format and in the hand of 17th-century shelfmarks in the library of Peterhouse, Cambridge, it is possible that Povah acquired the manuscript at Cambridge.

We may well ask how a book by Hegge came to bear the shelfmark, and hence have been housed in the library of a Cambridge college with which neither he nor his family had any known connection. A very plausible answer is provided by John Cosin. This most generous benefactor of Peterhouse was Prebendary of Durham from 1624 until he was elected Master of Peterhouse in 1634. While in Durham he had, in his own hand, written out a copy of Hegge’s short historical work, the St Cuthbert. Evidently he was a friend either of Robert Hegge, or the family or both, and the present manuscript, the autograph of the Lectiones, perhaps passed, on Robert’s death, maybe via his brother (who acquired MS CCC 430) to Cosin, in or after 1629.

In 1634 Cosin came to Peterhouse as Master, but in 1644 he was ejected, and went to the continent. His books remained in the library of Peterhouse only a short time, for in the year of his expulsion they were seized by various agents of Parliamentary sequestrating Ordinances. The College authorities of the day managed, with the assistance of the Earl of Manchester, to secure the return of most but not all of the books. We must presume that this volume did not return. Cosin himself returned as Master in 1660 for a few months before being elevated to the See of Durham. He presented many of his books to the College library but this one had already been, it seems, in other hands since at least 1657. Books presented to Peterhouse by him, and in his own library, the Cosin Library (now in the University Library of Durham), bear the Peterhouse press-mark in the style of this specimen.

41 The identity of this shelfmark was kindly pointed out to me by Dr. I.A. Doyle. Printed books still in the Pembroke Library of this College still bear this mark, usually on the inside front board, but in some cases on the title page. The Pembroke Library is oriented roughly east and west, and the marks fall into partes or plagae according to the points of the compass (Or., Aust., Occid., Bor.). Lists of such marks in printed books can be found in catalogues of the library from the early seventeenth to the eighteenth century. Borrowing registers also have specimens of some of the shelfmarks. (See, for catalogues, MSS Coll. S. Petri 404-c.1655, 405-c.1640; for borrowings, 401-into the 1650’s; 403-from 1645 to 1651). In MS 400 - a catalogue of the late sixteenth century - p. is given as parte, in MS 405 as plagus. A random check on the shelves of the library reveals several volumes marked in this way, e.g. E.P.Ocrid.4 F.9.L.10 (now A.3.20) is N. Sanderus, De Visitabilis Monarchia Ecclesiae Libri VIII, (Wurzburg, 1592). Not all marks have the indication of compass point, and some begin with the c. for classe/-is. The format of the mark in the Hegge manuscript is exactly paralleled in P.F.J. Mantelius, Speculum Pectorum . . . (Antwerp, 1637), now I.10.31, formerly E.P.B.Dext.C.3.f.2.L.15 which was apparently separated from the Hegge manuscript by only a few volumes. A similar, but slightly different mark comes in J. Leunclavius, LX Librorum Varcolicuri, (Paris, 1579), now L.6.37, formerly E.P. A<ustralior> Dext.L.15.c.3. Sinis<tra> also occurs elsewhere. The Dext. is not found in most books, but some have inf. or sup. instead. This mark (Dext/Sinis) might have some connection with the extension of the library, with its extra provision of space for books, in 1633, the date borne on the outside of its eastern end. This type of classification does not appear in College manuscripts, so Hegge’s Lectiones, apparently thus reckoned into the printed books, was quite understandably, mistaken for one of the latter. On the Pembroke Library, see J.W. Clark in M.R. James, A Descriptive Catalogue of the Manuscripts in the Library of Peterhouse (Cambridge, 1899), pp. xxx-xxxii.

42 See DNB XII, pp. 264-71.

43 See Pattenden, St. Cuthbert, p.110-11.

44 On the fate of Cosin’s library see T.A. Walker, Peterhouse, (Cambridge, 1935), Appendix VII, pp.132-5. There exists, in the Treasury of Peterhouse, a document of the mid seventeenth century, headed The Catalogue of Doctor Cosin’s Bookes, which refers to printed books and is apparently an inventory and valuation. Hegge’s Lectiones does not appear in it. If it had been in Cosin’s collection it had gone by whenever this list was made. No shelfmarks are given. In MS. Pet. 403 (see above, n. 41) various books are noted as Cosin’s, but borrowed as if the College’s own.
The history of MS CCC 408 between 1657 and Povah's acquisition of it is not known. It came to Corpus some time between the compilation of Coxe's catalogue (published in 1852), where the last Corpus manuscript is CCC 393, and 1887, when the Continuatio of Coxe by Plummer appeared. It is not clear whether new accessions were numbered in rote on arrival or not until Plummer published. If the former, however, this manuscript must have entered the library by 1859, when MS CCC 430, bearing a later number in the series, was obtained. From Povah it probably passed to his eldest son, Richard Worgan Povah, scholar and fellow of St. John's College, Oxford (1813-1883), who died in 1883. It is very likely that the son presented it to Corpus, perhaps on examining its contents. If no number was given to the new manuscripts at Corpus until Plummer's work, we might see this as a bequest.

(ii) British Library Add. MS. 27423

- Written in 1625 or 1628:
- Unidentified watermark: In the Lectiones, an inverted capital T with a trifolium at the top of the upright and the letters A and S at the ends of the arms, left and right. The details of this manuscript and its history will be found in Pattenden, St. Cuthbert, pp. 108-9.
- Contents: This is a seventeenth century compendium of works on the antiquities of several northern families. There are two works by Hegge, the St. Cuthbert and the Lectiones. The remainder of the contents is listed in the British Museum catalogue. The work under discussion appears as
  ff.229-250v. Robertus Hegge (followed by a table of contents of the studies as above entitled) April 4. .1627 Lectiones Theol. in Aulâ C.C.C. Oxon vicibus praelectae.

The main scribe was John Calverley. There were two men of this name of Eryholme near Darlington at this period: the elder died in 1660, the younger was born in 1640. The father must have been the scribe, and must surely be the John Calverley who married Robert Hegge's sister Isabella in 1622/3. It is thus easy to see how he came to make a copy of the St. Cuthbert, a work of special local interest written by his brother-in-law, at the beginning of this volume, and how (perhaps on separate sheets of paper bound in with the rest subsequently) he also wrote out the Lectiones. This is presumably taken directly from the autograph, MS CCC 408.

The Lectiones was printed in 1647 at London by the poet and pamphleteer, John Hall of Conset Hall, Co. Durham (1627-1656) using the autograph manuscript with the minor omission of a prayer and the note April 4 etc. opposite the beginning of the text

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49 Alumni Oxonienses (1715-1896), III, p.1136, col.1.
50 The Library accounts for 1830 to 1855 (archives D/8/4) do not specifically mention any purchase of this manuscript.
51 Surtees Society, xxxvi, p.61.
52 See Pattenden, St. Cuthbert, p.109.
53 DNB, XXIV, pp.71-72; Wood, Athenae Oxonienses (1691) I, coll. 455-6; J.B. Taylor in R. Hegge, St. Cuthbert (Sunderland, 1816), pp. ix-x. Hall, son of Michael Hall, and perhaps (according to Brough) allied to Hegge, was a Protestant and Cromwellian: on another member of his family, but with recusant sympathies see A.I.D.[oyle], "Origo Episcopatus Dunelmensis", The Durham Philobiblon, II (May, 1969), p.69.
ROBERT HEGGE, AN OXFORD ANTIQUARY

(MS. CCC 408, f.(ix)v). Hall promised to publish more of Hegge’s works — the mathematical (i.e. on sundials) and historical (i.e. the St. Cuthbert) — if the *Lectiones* were well-received. Since nothing followed, either they were not, or the times were simply not auspicious for an author of Hegge’s type.

**HEGGE’S CATALOGUE**

— 10.8 ins × 7.0 ins. Paper: first compiled 1627-1629.
— Binding: brown leather, original.
— Watermark: unidentified, two posts with trefoils at the top and double snaking curves across them with the letters PB above each other between the posts.
— Scribes: 1 = R. Hegge, and many continuators.
— Ownership: Corpus Christi College, since at least 1629.

The manuscript is entitled *CATALOGVS ADMISSORVM IN COLLEGIVM CORPORIS CHRISTI vel Apum Examina quotquot proderunt ex Alseario Rev<er> endi in Christo patris Richardi Fox Winton: Episcopi, written in red and black within a pair of “sculpted” pillars like those in MS CCC 40 and the 1816 edition of the *St. Cuthbert*. A pelican vulning herself stands on the lintel of the design. The title mentions the bees, to which Richard Foze likened his College in the founding Statutes. This list is kept in the custody of the President of the College and was published in an appendix by the twenty-third president, Thomas Fowler, in his history of the College, with additions up to his own day. It was originally compiled probably in part from a list of names arranged alphabetically in MS CCC 280, ff.221r to 233r, but probably also from other sources now lost. The latest original entry in MS 280 is of 1607, but there are several additions up to 1609. The last entry in Hegge’s *Catalogus* definitely by him is in the main list (there are subsidiary ones of presidents and chaplains) and is Mar 15 1627 Johannis Barlow Hampi. An imitator of Hegge’s script continued the list in a similar style from Oct 4 1628 Thomas Samon Oxon until <1634> Oct 8 Johan. Hackwell Oxon (= pp.39-40). The imitator may have been James Holt, a younger contemporary of Hegge (1606-1645, B.A. 1624/5), the script of whose surviving letters is remarkably similar to Hegge’s own, yet has slight differences, particularly in the use of the serif/bar across the top of the letter h. If the theory that Holt continued the list is correct, the break at 1634 is well explained by his appointment to the rectorate of Cranleigh in Surrey in 1633, and his incorporation at Cambridge in 1634, and subsequent absence from the College. A second imitator wrote up the list from 4 July 1648 until 16 September 1660. The list was kept up to date, with varying zeal, until Michaelmas 1925. After 1882 new members wrote in their own names, but now only the Presidents and some Fellows appear. There is a seventeenth-century copy of the *Catalogus*

51 Both references from the preface to Hall’s edition, *ad finem*.
52 See also Pattenden, *St. Cuthbert*, p.111 (MS.F).
55 The watermark is no help in dating the manuscript: *Hamp* = Hampshire scholar.
56 *Alumni Oxonienses* (1500-1715) II, 737, (*Holt* no. 7). His script developed in 1626-27, see British Library Add. MS. 27999 Nos. 43, 44, 52, 80 (text of 43 and 52 = Gardiner, *Oxinden Letters*, nos. XXI and XXVIII).
in the College archives which was partly brought up to date to the period of President Mather (1714-1748).\textsuperscript{57}

LOST WORKS

Fulman mentions other works by Hegge (apart from "Loose Papers, Verses, etc.") as being four sermons in English,\textsuperscript{58} now apparently lost:

1. at S. Peters <in the East> on 1. Cor. 1. 20.
2. in CCC Chapell on <e> Whitsund <ay> Psal. 34.8.
3. on Gen. 44. 5 MS. (place of delivery not stated, begins) "The proper employment —"
4. at S. Maries, on 2. Pet. 2. 3.

LETTERS

Three letters in Hegge's hand are known. These are to the Oxendens of Maydekin, near Barham, Kent, and survive in a compendium of that family's correspondence, now British Library MS. Add. 27999. They were published in D. Gardiner, The Oxenden Letters 1607-1642 (London, 1933). Henry Oxenden 1608/9-1670) the Restoration poet, was Hegge's pupil at Corpus (he matriculated 1626, B.A. 1626/7).\textsuperscript{59}

1. f. 24 (Letter X)
   From C.X.C. in Oxon. Sept. 5th. 1624, to Sir Richard Oxenden (1588-1629) regarding his son Henry.
2. f. 34 (Letter XVI)
   From Sherburne Castle in Oxfordshire Novemb. 5th. 1625, to Lady Katherine Oxenden, Henry's mother, inter alia thanking her for an elaborately embroidered New Testament which she had sent to Hegge.
3. f. 80 (Letter XXXIII)
   [no place, but presumably from Oxford] Jun. 3rd. 1629, to Henry Oxenden. The handwriting of the letter is most irregular, though in the usual formal script Hegge used, it lapses into an unsure and variable scrawl. This was written only a week before Hegge's death.

HEGGE'S LIBRARY

One book owned by Hegge, an embroidered New Testament given him by Lady Katharine Oxenden, is mentioned above. He is also known to have possessed certain manuscripts and one other printed book.\textsuperscript{60}

\textsuperscript{57} A register of the Presidents, Fellows, \& Scholars, of Corpus-Christi College, Oxford, from ye first Foundation of the College to 1657 (archives B/3/1). The last entry in the main hand is Aug 21:<1657> Joh: Ewer (= Fowler, History, p.400), but other names were added; the Presidents' names are up to date as far as Bridges (1823-1843).
\textsuperscript{58} MS CCC 304, f.102c.
\textsuperscript{59} Alumni Oxonienses (1500-1715), III, p.1103; DNB, XLIII, pp.11-12 and Gardiner, op.cit., introduction.
\textsuperscript{60} On the manuscripts and books owned by Hegge, see S. Spector, "The Provenance of the N-Town Codex", The Library, 6th series, 1,1 (March, 1979), pp.25-33. Spector (p.29) sees the acquisition of this Testament ("one valuable book") by Hegge as "through the judicious application of flattery". It is not clear how the present of a hand-embroidered and common (probably) printed book, evidently the gift of a mother to her son's diligent tutor, could be thought of as having been the reward of flattery (or by implication, covetousness). Hegge merely writes to thank Lady Oxenden in his usual hyperbolic style.
(1) Manuscripts

(i) British Library MS. Cotton Vespasian D.VIII (saec. xv)

It is one of the curiosities of Middle English textual scholarship that Hegge came to possess this important manuscript of Mystery Plays for Corpus Christi Day.60 His typeface note of ownership <Liber> Roberti Hegge Dunelmensis was almost cut off from the top margin of f.10 in a rebinding. A second note on f.164 reads: In <n>o</n>e DEI Amen / ego R H. Dunelmensis / possideo / oυ κτησις αλλα χρησις. This last part (probably meaning “not possession but a loan”) has been corrected from οικησις etc. (“dwelling ...”), which makes no sense, but suggests that the phrase was copied from somewhere.61

(ii) British Library MS Cotton Vitellius D.XX (saec.xiii)

This manuscript, damaged in the fire of 1731, contains medieval liturgical works, especially related to Durham.62 The note of ownership of Hegge is now gone, but in the catalogue of the collection of 1696, is recorded Liber olim erat Roberti Hegge Dunelmensis,63 which presumably, at least partially reflects the inscription which Hegge himself put into the volume.

(iii) British Library MS Cotton Titus D.V. (saec.xv)

A tract in English on transubstantiation. Hegge’s formal hand has recorded ownership at f.3: Liber Roberti Hegge Dunelm. Robert received this manuscript from his father, Stephen Hegge, as the marks of ownership shew.

(iv) MS CCC 28 (saec.xiv)

Hegge gave his College64 this manuscript of St. Augustine’s De Civitate Dei which bears the note of ownership on f.1, upper margin, in Hegge’s type-hand: Sum Liber R. Hegge Dunhelm<ensis>; right margin, similarly: Robert Hegge Dunelm/1614; lower margin, in another hand: Sum Liber Johannis Pilkington Dunhelmensis emptus in anno domini 1593; in a third hand: Liber Collegii Corporis X Oxon ex dono Mr Roberti Hegg ejusdem socii, qui in Don obit MDXXIX. At f.272v., lower margin, the note about Pilkington65 is repeated in the same hand except that its ending is: empt 1593. On both of these notes, the word Dunhelmensis (the h is omitted at f.272v) has been added, or emended by another hand, possibly Robert Hegge’s. A further note, probably an autograph, on f.272v. states, Ex dono eius sum Liber Stephani Hegg (Robert’s father).

(v) Cambridge University Library, MS Kk.5.32 (saec. xi-xii)

This manuscript66 is a collection of six ecclesiastical kalendars, including one which perhaps has some connection with the use of Glastonbury67 and another, a table of the Solar Cycle, which was written partly in Anglo-Saxon; it has at the end (f.76v.), after a

61 This manuscript is discussed in extenso by Spector, op.cit., (Hegge’s ownership of it, pp.28-33; the marks of ownership, p.32). His idea that the last word of the Greek means use, is possible, but opposed to possession, perhaps loan is a more likely reading. Note especially Spector’s comment on the manner of writing the signature, ibid., p.32.
64 An early accession note is in CCC archive D/3/3 (a catalogue of c.1650-c.1660), f.11.
65 John Pilkington (? 1529-1603) brother of James, P., Bishop of Durham (1561-1575/6) was Archdeacon of Durham, 1562-1603 (DNB, XLV, p.295). In the ms. 1593 underlies 1593 both times.
66 Cf. A Catalogue of the Manuscripts preserved in the Library of the University of Cambridge, III (Cambridge, 1858), pp.701-702. This manuscript, and its note of possession was brought to my attention by Dr. Doyle.
note on the contents, the words *explicit liber quod Robertum* (sic) *Heg* *Amen* in an unknown, early seventeenth-century hand. Next to it, in another hand, is an apparently incomplete scribble which may read *johne coll*. The first hand is most unlikely to be Robert Hegge's, since his script, from the age of about nineteen, is known elsewhere and the hand in this manuscript is probably that of an older person. The other hand might possibly be that of his brother or brother's son, both at St. John's College, Cambridge, though one would not assert this with any certainty. The first note may have been written for Robert at an early age or another Robert Hegge may have been involved. Our Heghe was closely concerned with the Turnbull Dial at Corpus, which contained the same kind of calendrical information as this manuscript: it is quite plausible that he could have owned a volume like this one with its added antiquarian interest.

(vi) According to a notice68 by Anthony Wood dated 24th July, 1660,69 the Calendarium missarum pro animabus benefactorum Oxon was transcribed apparently by him, in the imitation of Roman script, on ff. 190-191 of the manuscript: "I writ this out of a book which belonged to John Longford, Vicar of Cumnore. He had it from Robert Hegg of C.C.C.", Longford's book is now also in the Bodleian, as 8° Rawl.662,70 and the Calendarium appears in the sixteenth-century manuscript section on pp.11-14. It bears no mark of ownership to connect it with Heghe. The poor imitation of Roman script appears on ff.42v.-45 of this volume and the hand is not Heghe's.

(vii) A reference71 by Bodley's first librarian, Thomas James, published in 1625,72 appears to indicate that Heghe owned, not surprisingly, a manuscript of Symeon of Durham's *Historia Ecclesiae Dunelmensis*. James refers to "MS. Dunelm. de visione Bosonis, extant in Master Hegge (sic) hands, Master of Arts of C.C.C.", The threefold vision of Boso, a Norman knight, concerning the state of the church and faithful, occurs in Liber IV, cap.ix of the history of Symeon.71 Since the work was not published until 165274 this is a natural way for James to refer to it, in Hegge's manuscript. Three of the known manuscripts75 are possible candidates for Heghe's ownership: British Library MS. Cotton Titus A.II,76 and Bodleian Library, MSS. Laud. misc. 70077 and Fairfax 6.78 Of these the first is the best bet in view of the other manuscripts known once to have been owned by Hegge which later found their way into the Cotton collection. It is, however, perhaps significant, in view of the list which Hegge attached to his *St Cuthbert* in its original form.

69 Bodleian Libr. MS. Bodl. 504, f.190.
70 *Summary Catalogue* 15411.
71 The existence of this reference and the suggestions as to which work and manuscripts it refers were very kindly supplied by Dr. Doyle.
75 The manuscripts are listed in T. Arnold, op.cit., 1, pp.xvi-xviii.
76 On f.162v are notes recording the births of Christopher Watson, 1543; Christopher Watson, 1574, Esther Watson, 1576; Bezaele Watson, 1577; Ruth Watson, 1579.
that Fairfax 6 contains (f.(iv)) a list of bishops of the same type, being completed by a
seventeenth century hand up to Bishop Morton of Durham (1632-1659). One of the
manuscripts of this work by Hegge was allegedly in the library of General Fairfax at one
time. None of the above manuscripts has any indication that it may once have belonged
to Hegge, though the same Heggian style of imitative script occurs in both the Oxford
manuscripts. Comparison with other specimens, does not, however, suggest that it is by
Hegge himself.

(2) Printed Book
A volume of astronomical treatises of the sixteenth century, now in Corpus
library, containing: Iohannis Fernelii Ambianatis de proportionibus Libri duo (Paris, 1528),
Iohannis Baptiste Benedicti Speculationum liber (Venice, 1599), Petrus Nonius De Erratis
Orontii Finai (n.p., n.d.), Petrus Nonius De Crepusculis (with Allacen, De Causis
Crepuscularum) (Basle, 1592).
At the front and back, leaves have been added to the binding, which dates from the
mid sixteenth century. The watermark probably indicates that Hegge added these
sheets, and the last leaf has a seventeenth-century College wine bill, which most probably
antedates the binding in of the paper. On the front flyleaf verso are the words Liber Roberti
Hegg. C.X.C. and a list of the works in the volume: on the end flyleaf an index has been
begun. All this, except the wine bill, is in Hegge's own formal hand. There are several
annotations by him in the text. On the title page of the first work is a note indicating that
the college acquired the book from Brian Twyne's library, and he must have obtained it
on Hegge's death. Hegge refers to this volume, to the second, rare work (containing
Benedetti's Epistolae) in MS CCC 40 on dials (p.137). Benedetti is there describing
(p.328) how to put the hour lines on an upright cylinder dial like the one in Corpus Quad
which Hegge restored in 1624-5. Hegge probably acquired this book in the early 1620's.

The discussion above will, one hopes, serve as a basis for further work on this little-
known antiquary and diallist, as and when more information on him comes to light. We
might fittingly close with a thought from Hegge himself: "Only it is Ingenuity in the
Historian, and Satisfaction to the Reader, to confesse from whom he took his Storie upon
Trust".

The Society is grateful to Corpus Christi College for a grant towards the publication of this article.

79 See Summary Catalogue, pp.774-5.
80 See Pattenden, St. Cuthbert, pp.108 and 119.
81 Heawood 3579 ("Eng. 1619").
82 R. Hegge, St Cuthbert, p.iii.