

Hooper 1777 Samuel Hooper (publ.), *A catalogue of the manuscripts in the Cottonian Library* (London, 1777).

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A
CATALOGUE
OF THE
MANUSCRIPTS
IN THE
COTTONIAN LIBRARY.

To which are added,
Many Emendations and Additions.

WITH
AN APPENDIX,
CONTAINING
An Account of the Damage sustained by the Fire in 1731;

And also a Catalogue of the
CHARTERS
Preserved in the same Library.

LONDON:
Printed for S. Hooper, No 25, Ludgate Hill.
MDCCLXXVII.

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TO
THOMAS ASTLE, Esq;

TO WHOM I AM INDEBTED FOR THE MANUSCRIPTS
FROM WHICH THE FOLLOWING WORK IS PRINTED,
THIS PUBLICATION
IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED
BY HIS MOST OBEDIENT
HUMBLE SERVANT

SAM. HOOPER.

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PREFACE.

THE many defects in the Catalogue of the Cottonian Library published by Dr. Smith in the year 1696, the very injudicious manner in which that Catalogue is compiled, will sufficiently evince the necessity of the present publication. To this there is an additional motive from the desire expressed by many of the Learned and Ingenious, whose spirit of Historical enquiry distinguishes the present age, and who have long wished for a remedy to the inconveniences they have hitherto met with whenever they had occasion to consult this Library.

To gratify those wishes is the object of the present publication, which will be found, as to arrangement and contents, so far superior to Dr. Smith's, as to leave no room for similar Complaints.

Each Subject is so disposed, that the reader may without difficulty have recourse to the object of his enquiry. As for Example, all the books any way relating to History will

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be found classed under the title of Libri Historici (p. 1.) such Manuscripts as treat of the affairs of France, Spain, Italy, &c. are arranged under the heads Gallica, Hispanica, Italica, &c. as well as every other Subject are referred to by the table of Contents. The Appendix, containing many Emendations and Additions to Dr. Smith's Catalogue, is taken from Mr. Casley's Catalogue of the Royal Library, a book now very scarce.

The Alphabetical Catalogue of the Charters preserved in this Library is now first published from the original Manuscript of the Reverend Mr. Widmore, who had for many years the care of this invaluable Collection. The advantages that must accrue to Literature in facilitating the researches of the Curious, are too obvious to be farther descanted upon.

This inestimable Collection has at several

periods justly engaged the attention of the Legislature, as may be seen in the Acts of Parliament passed in the 12th and 13th of William III. c. 7. in the 5th of Ann, c. 30. the 26th of George II. c. 22. §. 9. and by these Acts is now happily preserved for the use of the Public, and deposited in the British Museum under the immediate direction of forty-two Trustees, composed of twenty-one great Officers of State for the time

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being, six representing the Sloane, Cotton, and Oxford Families, and fifteen chosen by the former twenty-one, whose excellent and judicious regulations, and very laudable management, have rendered this invaluable treasure of Learning of much greater utility to the Public than it has ever been at any former period.

The annexed Documents relative to this Library will not, we apprehend, be unacceptable to the Public.

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A
CATALOGUE
OF THE
CHARTERS
IN THE
COTTONIAN LIBRARY.

(Never before published)

From a MS. in the Library of
THOMAS ASTLE, Esq.

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A
CATALOGUE OF THE CHARTERS
BELONGING TO THE
COTTONIAN LIBRARY.

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Æthebrihtus Rex donat ecclesiæ Roffensi Eardulpho,
tunc episcopo, 6 sulungas. Apographum Saxonice. viii. 20.

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Bromley – Ethelredus Rex donat terram 10 aratorum
ministro suo Ethelsige, apud Bromley, anno 987 – Apogra-
phum. viii. 14.

Bromley – Ethelbert Rex Occidentalium Saxonum, vel
Cantariis, donat Drythwaldo terram 10 aratorum apud
Bromley, anno 862 – Autographum an apographum. viii. 32.

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Frekeham – Aluredus Rex donat Burrico episcopo Rof-
fensi, Frekeham, et Yselham, anno 895. Apographum non
invenitur in textu Roffensi. viii. 19.

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Rochester, Bishoprick – A letter from the chamber-
lain of the pope (Boniface IX.) to the bishop of London to
take care of the revenues of the Bishoprick of Rochester, of
which the pope had provided Richard Yong, bishop of
Bangor, anno 1440. iv. 22.

Rochester, Church – King Henry II. confirms to the

Church of Rochester all their lands and privileges. Seal melted; the instrument somewhat contracted by the heat.
vii. 7.

Rochester – Ethelbertus Rex Occidentalium Saxonum, seu Cantuariorum, dat Waermundo episcopo 20 acras et dimid. viculum civitatis Hirobi & mariscum, anno 790. Apographum. N. B. Sub hac apparet alia scriptura vel ætate vel spongia oblitterata. Legitur in textu Roffensi, p. 90. viii. 29.

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Rochester – A particular of improvements by Dr. Goodman of the estate of the church of Rochester. Signed by John Somer or Somner, steward and chapter clera of the church. v. 25.

Rochester – Egberthus Rex donat Beormodo episcopo terram 4 aratorum in Snoddingeland & Holandebearge, anno 834. Autographum, ut videtur. Carta in textu Roffensi, p. 99. viii. 30.

Rochester – Cornwulf Rex Merciorum donat Beornmodo episcopo terram 3 aratorum ad meridiem civitatis Hrofcester, anno 811. Autographum, ut videtur. Carta in textu Roffensi, p. 96. viii. 31.

Rochester – Eadgarus Rex dat Ælfstano episcopo Roffensis 10 mansas apud Bromleah. In textu Roffensi, p. 120. viii. 33.

Rochester – Egberthus Rex Cantuariæ donat Dioran episcopo Roffensi dimidium unius aratris apud Bromley (in Kanciæ) anno 778. Textu Roffensi, p. 82. viii. 34.

Rochester – An agreement between prior Richard and the convent of Rochester and William S. to Ralph de Wye, concerning lands at Eltham, May 1st, 28 Henry II. ii. 3.

Rochester – Ethelbert king of West Saxons and Kent grants to Deoran bishop of Rochester some lands in the city of Rochester, anno 781. A copy (I think) not in textu Roffensi. vi. 4. <Hearne 1720:85–6>

Rochester – Ethelbaldus Rex donat Aldwulfo episcopo Roffensi una navis. Apographum maculatum. In textu Roffensi, p. 66. viii. 10. <now xvii 1>

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<This is the first published catalogue of the Cotton Charters, which by this time were part of the collections of the British Museum. (But "catalogue" is hardly the right word for it. It is an index of the sparsest possible kind, with one keyword per document.)

The author, Richard Widmore, was the librarian of the dean and chapter of Westminster; as far as I can tell, he never had any official status with respect to the Cottonian Library, but did, unofficially, spend much time working on that collection. He retired from active duty in 1760 and died in 1764. It is very unlikely that he had any thought of letting his catalogue be published; but the manuscript was somehow got hold of by Thomas Astle – "annexed by Mr Astle", as Gough (1780:666) chose to put it – and made available to Samuel Hooper, who put it into print. (I do not know whether the manuscript survives.) By this time, it will be seen, the charters had been bound and given the numbers which (by and large) they retain. There is little to be learned from this list as far as the Rochester charters are concerned. The only significant point, I think, is Widmore's suggestion that Cotton Ch viii 29 is palimpsest: "Sub hac apparet alia scriptura vel ætate vel spongia oblitterata", "Beneath this there appears other writing obliterated by age or with a sponge".>