



# Is your family named in the Ancient Library?

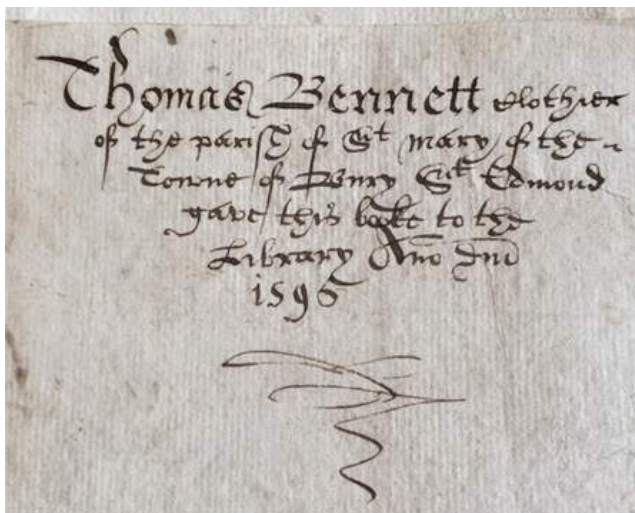


One of the delights of the Cathedral Ancient Library, founded as the Parish Library of St James' Church in 1595, is that we have so much information about the donors.

Miles Mosse, the preacher, and Thomas Bright and William Brewer, the wardens at the time, organised donor's plates which often give the name, occupation and status of local people who gave books.



**Henry Blagge** from Horringer was the son of a courtier of Henry VIII and the brother-in-law of Sir Robert Jermyn of Rushbrooke. This woodcut illustration comes from Lonicer's *Chronicorum Turcicorum* (Frankfurt-am-Main, 1578), one of the twelve books he gave.



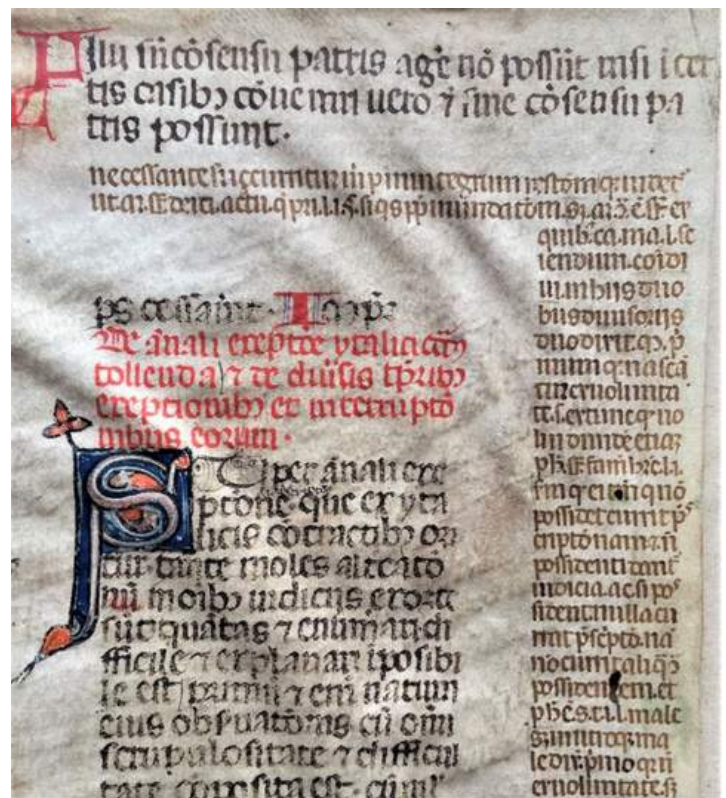
**Thomas Bennett** was a clothier who lived in St Mary's parish. He gave a copy of Martin Bucer's *Metaphrasis et enarratio in Epist. D. Pauli Apostoli ad Romanos* (Basle, 1562) This is the printer's mark of Peter Pernam from its title page.

Thomas Baist de Thetford Grocer dono  
 dedit bibliotheca in Ecclesia D = .  
 Jacobi in villa Wilham Bavia  
 Sti Edmundi Anno  
 Domini 1596.



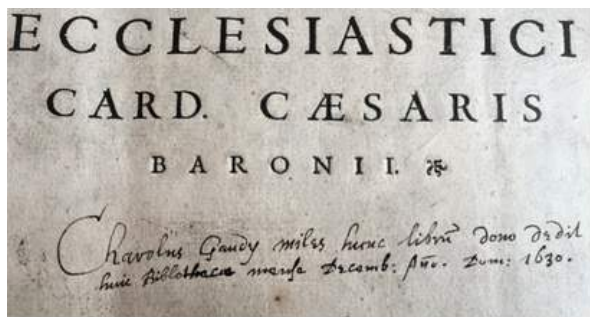
**Thomas Baist**, a grocer, councillor and, later, Burgess of Thetford, signed his own name on the title page of Nicéphore Grécus' *Ecclesiasticae historiae* (Frankfurt-am-Main, 1588). He also wrote 'Thetford' beneath his surname.

Thomas Croftes Armiger,  
 et hoc anno huius comitalus Suffoloniae  
 Vice comes dono dedit huic Bibliotheca  
 Octobris. 2.  
 1595



**Thomas Croftes**, gentleman, from Little Saxham, was Sheriff of Suffolk when he gave this volume of St John Chrysostom's *Opera* (Basle, 1539) in 1595. It is one of about 100 books in the library that have their binding strengthened with pieces of medieval manuscript. The illustration shows part of a page from the *Corpus Juris Civilis* of the Emperor Justinian. It was written in the thirteenth century by an Italian scribe who probably lived in Bologna.

This pattern was continued when 85 books were given by 35 men and women on 1 January 1631. These included twelve local gentlemen, led by Sir Charles Gaudy, and members of families that had been influential in local government and had acted as JPs and MPs for years. Many were governors of King Edward VI Grammar School and feoffees who administered the charity funds of what is now known as the Guildhall Feoffement. Seventeen were members of the town corporation which had been established in the reign of James I.

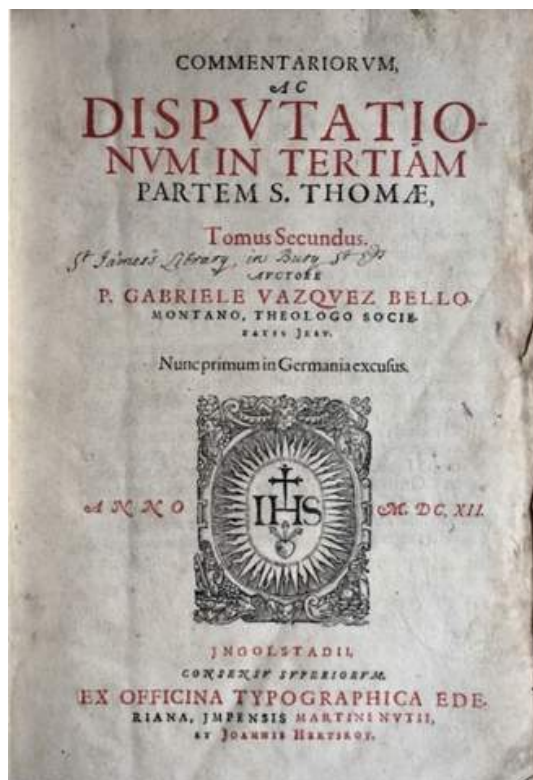


**Sir Charles Gaudy** (1612-50) of Crow's Hall, Debenham, was a member of Charles I's household. He was 'a zealous professor of the reformed religion' yet donated the ten volumes of Cardinal Baronius' *Annales ecclesiastici* (Cologne, 1624).

Baronius (1538-1607) studied at Naples and Rome and entered the Congregation of the Oratory in Rome. The *Annales* were written to counteract the Protestant version of church history given in the *Magdeburg Centuriators*. The task took him twenty-five years. He was appointed the Librarian of the Vatican by Pope Clement VIII.

This engraving depicts Baronius at work aged sixty-five and shows his writing materials, reference books, hourglass and even the view from his window.

*M<sup>ra</sup> Margaretha Boldero vid: hunc librum dono  
bibliothecae. Jan: 1. An: Dom: 1630.*



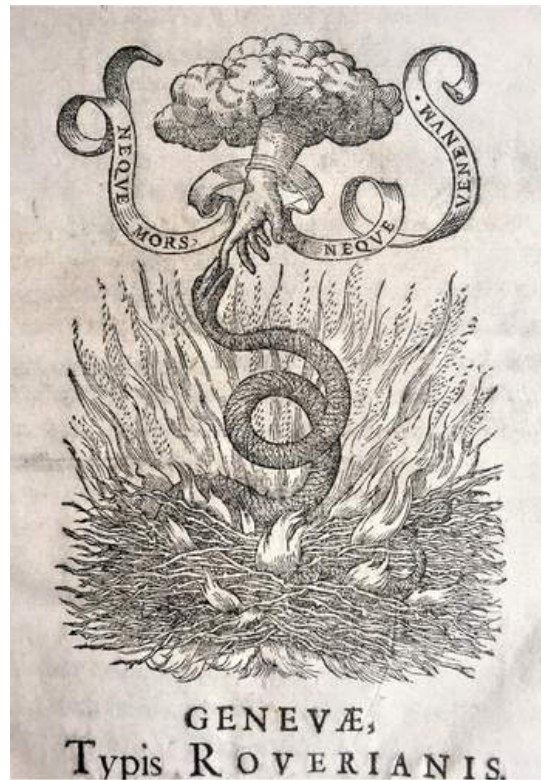
**Margaretta Boldero** was possibly the widow of George Boldero, who had given a book to the library in the 1590s. The family were members of the corporation, governors of King Edward VI Grammar School and owned Fornham Priory, now the site of the Priory Hotel. She gave this volume by Gabriel Vasquez.

*Magister Robertus Jovis } E Cornu hinc oppido concilio hunc librum  
Magister Thomas Chaplin } dono dederunt hinc bibliothecae 1<sup>o</sup> Jan: An: 1630.*



**Robert lynes**, a goldsmith in Abbeigate Street, and **Thomas Chaplin**, who was to be Alderman, Comptroller of the Grammar School Governors and a JP, joined together to give the four volumes of Saint Bonaventure's *Opera* (Mainz, 1609).

*Johannes Godbold formosior huic oppidi à memoria dedit huic  
 libræ huic Bibliothecæ Jan. 1. An. 1630.*



**John Godbold** became MP for Bury in 1640. In 1645 he presided over the commission into Matthew Hopkins's methods to get confessions from witches and outlawed the practice of 'swimming' (the guilty would float and the innocent sink). This printer's mark in Daniel Chamier's *Panstratiæ Catholicæ* (Geneva, 1626) has the motto 'Neither death nor poison'.

*Edmundus Bright donator huic libræ  
 dono dedit huic Bibliothecæ  
 Jan. 1. An. Dom. 1630*



**Edmund Bright**, gentleman, was the son of Thomas Bright, one of the churchwardens when the library was founded in 1595. Edmund gave Cornelius a Lapide's *Commentaria in Pentateuchum Mosis* (Antwerp, 1623). This section of the title page includes images of the Creation and Moses parting the Red Sea. You can see 'St James's Library in Bury St Eds' handwritten on this page. This was written in all our books in the early eighteenth century.

Some of the books were secondhand when they were given and the signatures of previous owners give us more insight into the people of Bury and the surrounding area.



**Sir Charles Crofte Reade** of Bardwell was the previous owner of the four volumes of Moses Pitt's *The English Atlas* (Oxford, 1680-83). He is listed as a subscriber in Volume 1, as were the Duke of Grafton and Sir Thomas Cullum of Horstead Place. Other subscribers include members of the royal family and Samuel Pepys.



The signature of **Fraunces Clopton** is in our copy of Euclid's *Elementa geometriæ* (Vicenza, 1491). He is a member of the family which included John Clopton (1423-97), the major benefactor of Long Melford Church, and Dr. Poley Clopton (d. 1730), who left money to build the Clopton Hospital, now the Deanery, in the Great Churchyard.

Some inscriptions, like this in Rembert Dodoen's *A nieuwe herbal* (London, 1578), show that books were borrowed.

*This Book belongeth to  
the Librarie found in  
Mr Gol's studdie & brought  
in again by F.P.*



The initials suggest that it was written by **Francis Pinner** (d. 1639), a grocer and innkeeper who lived in College Street and was a feoffee and councillor. It reads 'This book belonged to the librarie found in Mr Gol's studdie & brought in again by F.P.' Mr Gol may be Mr Golding who lived at 3 Chequer Square. The illustration shows cabbages.

**Robert Catchpole's** *A choice collection of church music* was printed in Bury in 1761. This has a list of subscribers from Suffolk and indeed from across the country.



It may be that ancestors of your family, friends or neighbours are among the 200 or so donors and signatories in the library or were subscribers to the Catchpole.