

'A SIXTEENTH-CENTURY ENGLISH BINDING IN THE STATE LIBRARY OF VICTORIA' (BULLETIN, v.4, 1980) : A FURTHER NOTE

IN A PREVIOUS ISSUE of this *Bulletin* I gave an account of the binding — English, early sixteenth-century — on the State Library of Victoria's copy of Aeneas Silvius Piccolomini (Pope Pius II), *Commentariorum . . . de Concilio Basileae celebrato libri II* (c.1521).¹ I said then² that I was unable to identify from printed sources either of the two early owners, Cuthbert Sherbroke 'de Rocklande infra decanatum de Broke infra Norwicensem diocesem, cleric[us]' and Cuthbert Jermyn of nearby Hellington, who have left their names on the title-page. For the record, a little information can now be given.

A mandate for the induction of Cuthbert Shirbroke 'cl[er]ic[us]' as Rector of Blundeston (in Suffolk, but in the diocese of Norwich), on the presentation of Edward Blomville Esq., was given in the Archdeaconry of Suffolk on 5 January 1527.³ He remained Rector there till 1530, when he was succeeded by John Dawes.⁴ After 1530 he does not reappear as an incumbent in Suffolk.⁵ Many years later, on 3 April 1570, a Mr. Sherbrook, S.T.B., preached at Thetford in Norfolk, and was paid out of an endowment held in trust by St. Benet (later Corpus Christi) College, Cambridge, for the purpose of providing an annual visiting preacher in that town;⁶ but there is no evidence to suggest this is the same man.

Since Sherbroke's name appears not only on the title-page but also on the rear pastedown, which seems to be contemporary with the binding (datable by the Catherine of Aragon emblems as probably before 1529), it is clear either that he was an absentee Rector or else that he was at Rockland St. Mary before he was at Blundeston. Even if he did own the book before 1527, he is unlikely to have been its first owner, since on the title-page his signature appears above the deleted name of Cuthbert Jermyn, who presumably therefore had it before him.

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NOTES

¹ *BSANZ Bulletin*, v.4(1980), p.234-9. ² p.239, n.21.

³ 'Archdeaconry of Suffolk. Mandates for induction 1526-1629', *East Anglian*, n.s., v.6(1895-6), p.75.

⁴ Alfred Suckling, *History and antiquities of the county of Suffolk* (London, 1846-8), i, 321.

⁵ Only his Blundeston rectory is noted by Claude Morley, 'Catalogue of beneficed clergy of Suffolk, 1086-1550', *Suffolk Institute of Archaeology. Proceedings*, v.22(1934/6), p.29-85.

⁶ Francis Blomefield, *An essay towards a topographical history of the county of Norfolk* (London, 1805-10), iii, 313.

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