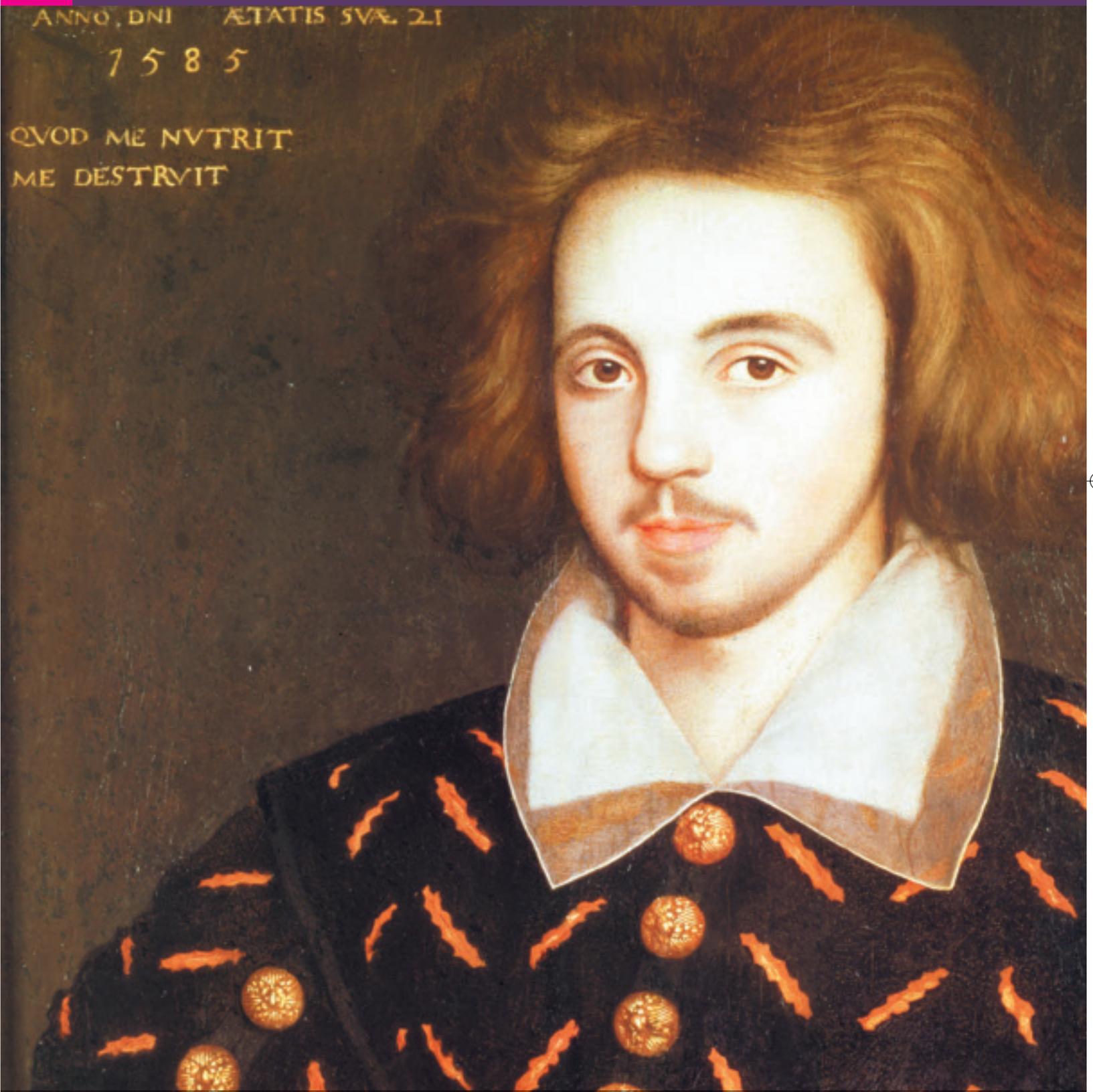




# pelican

The magazine of Corpus Christi College Cambridge



**Andrew Harvey:**  
Dynamic models for  
volatility  
Page 4

**Mara Kalnins**  
traces the ancient  
amber routes  
Page 12

**Tim Harvey-Samuel:**  
new bursar  
Page 16

**Peter Roberts**  
analyses the mystery  
of Christopher  
Marlowe at Corpus  
Page 22





## Contents

- 4 Professor Andrew Harvey**  
writes about his latest book on dynamic models for volatility and heavy tails.
- 8 Dr Pontus Rendahl**  
describes how he became an economist.
- 12 Dr Mara Kalnins**  
travels the ancient amber routes from Riga to Byzantium.
- 16 Tim Harvey-Samuel,**  
the new Bursar, is interviewed by Simon Heffer.
- 22 Dr Peter Roberts**  
explores the controversy of Christopher Marlowe's years at Corpus, and asks whether he was employed as a government agent.
- 32 Dr Michael Sutherland,**  
Tutor for Admissions, discusses plans for outreach in schools with little or no history of sending students to Cambridge and the challenges of getting the brightest students to apply, regardless of financial constraints.



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## Master's Introduction



I'm sure you will agree that Liz Winter and her colleagues in the Development Office have done a wonderful job in assembling and editing another outstanding issue of the *Pelican*. As many of you will know, this year we celebrate the 450<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of Christopher Marlowe, poet, playwright, (probably) intelligence agent, and Corpus alumnus. It is therefore fitting that we complement the events being held this year in College with a fascinating article by former Fellow, Peter Roberts, on Marlowe and the attribution of the famous portrait displayed in our Old Combination Room.

You will also find a feature on Tim Harvey-Samuel, who succeeded Paul Warren as Bursar at the start of this academic year – and our thanks go to Simon Heffer for again giving us his time and expertise in interviewing. Some of you will have seen and heard his excellent interview with Owen Patterson before last year's MacCurdy Dinner.

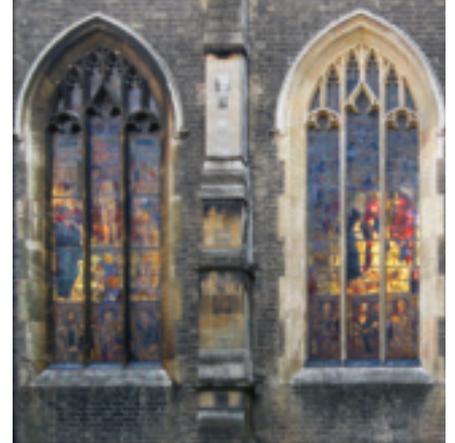
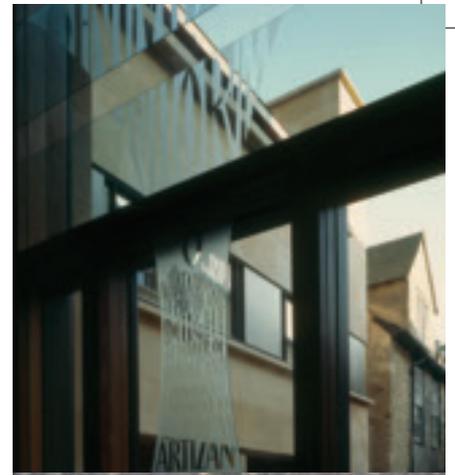
As is customary, this *Pelican* issue shines the spotlight on two of our Fellows. This time we have a focus on economics, with articles by Andrew Harvey and Pontus Rendahl. Economics is experiencing a welcome revival in Corpus, with the appointment this year of our first William Cook Fellow in Economics – named after the great-great-great-grandfather of a recent graduate, also called William Cook, and the result of a generous endowment by his father, Andrew Cook.

I am delighted that we have also an article by Michael Sutherland, Corpus's Admissions Tutor since the start of this academic year, on access and outreach. This is an important part of our admissions work, in which Michael is supported by Nikki Humphry-Baker, as we encourage applications to Corpus particularly from students in schools and areas who have not hitherto considered Cambridge as a university destination.

And I am sure you will be fascinated by Mara Kalnins's story of the trade in amber. Some of us heard her presentation in a Stephen Hales lecture at Leckhampton, and it's truly a fascinating tale.

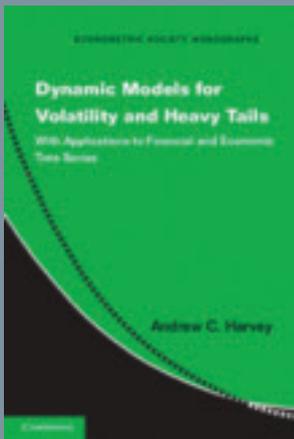
Once more this *Pelican* shows the richness and diversity of Corpus life. I am sure you will enjoy reading it.

Stuart Laing



# Professor Andrew Harvey

Fellow and Professor of Econometrics



ANDREW HARVEY IS PROFESSOR OF ECONOMETRICS IN THE FACULTY OF ECONOMICS. HIS NEW BOOK IS CALLED DYNAMIC MODELS FOR VOLATILITY AND HEAVY TAILS. HOW DID HE COME TO WRITE IT AND WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT? HE EXPLAINS BELOW.

In May 2010 I was sitting in an apartment in Madrid staring at a set of equations and contemplating a problem in econometric theory which, according to the literature of the last 20 years, was unsolvable. I'd recently made considerable progress in developing a new class of statistical time series models but all would be in vain unless I could make some kind of breakthrough. Inspiration was needed. I had an excellent bottle of Rioja on the desk in front of me. I poured a glass and reflected on the strangeness of life. How had I ended up here?

The main reason I studied economics at university was that I lacked enthusiasm (and talent) for physics and chemistry, the subjects I took at A-level along with mathematics. I didn't really know what economics was - but it sounded different and, because I was starting to become politically aware, it had a certain appeal. Fortunately my A-levels were not wasted because I found that it was the mathematical and statistical end of economics that most appealed to me. Having obtained my first degree from the University of York I went to the London School of Economics to do a Masters in Statistics. This was in 1968 to 1969, a year of student revolution. I didn't learn a great deal of statistics nor did I succeed in helping my comrades to topple capitalism.

After scraping through my masters examinations, I went to Nairobi on a two year contract with the Ministry of Overseas Development to work for the Kenyan Central Bureau of Statistics. This may sound very dull but in fact it was rather exciting. I was only twenty two and was being asked to design a survey for finding out about income and expenditure in rural households in Nyanza province (by Lake Victoria). The fieldwork was spread over a year and it required regular visits to the households in the sample by enumerators, whose task it was to record the required information. There were sixty enumerators, all recruited locally, and four statistical officers, again all local. I had to

drive down to the town of Kisumu once a month and then spend several days visiting my enumerators in small villages. This enabled me to get to know the country far better than most expatriates. When my two years ended I thought it might be interesting to be an academic for a few years. I never managed to escape.

My first academic post was at the University of Kent. The department offered me a job while I was in Nairobi and, unlike Cambridge University, who I discovered - several months later - had also offered me a post, Kent had the sense to send their offer by airmail. In retrospect going to Kent rather than Cambridge was probably best for me because there one of the senior lecturers, Garry Phillips, suggested that I might work with him by doing the computing to investigate the properties of a statistical test he had devised. I hadn't done a PhD and so collaboration with Garry was effectively my research training. The resulting paper was published in a top American journal. I was off!

I moved to the Statistics department at the LSE in 1979, after spending a year at the University of British Columbia. I was initially appointed to a Senior Lectureship but by 1984 I had a chair. Econometrics was a new and expanding subject (hence my elevation to a chair at a relatively early age of 37) and the LSE was the place to be. (When I came to Cambridge in 1996 there were econometricians in the Faculty, most notably Hashem Pesaran, but I was the first person appointed with the title Professor of Econometrics.) The time at the LSE was very productive and in 1989 I published a research monograph on an approach to time series modelling (known as Kalman filtering) which until then had been mainly confined to control engineering; it now plays an important role in the econometrics used in macroeconomics and finance.

Back to Madrid. Half a bottle of Rioja later I thought I'd solved the problem and went for a walk round the old town. As an academic, there are a number of reasons for spending time away from one's home base. The obvious one is to be



'Half a bottle of Rioja  
later I thought I'd  
solved the problem.'





'Wrestling with seemingly intractable problems in mathematics is a sure route to madness.'

based in a different department, to meet new colleagues, interact with them and become exposed to new ideas. The University of Carlos III is a good location for me because it is excellent in both economics and statistics and in 2010 the University had a very attractive scheme for visiting professors. In addition, being in a different place and having to cope with a different culture and language is also important to one's sanity because wrestling with seemingly intractable problems in mathematics is a sure route to madness. Trying to get one's head round the intricacies of the subjunctive in a foreign language provides a healthy diversion.

When I looked at my Rioja-inspired effort in the morning, I realised it wasn't quite the work of genius I had thought it was the previous evening. However I'd had an important insight. Over the next few months I was able to develop it further. After a while it became apparent that the work could not be contained within a single article and I decided the best solution was to write a monograph. This is a risky course

of action in economics, where research work is evaluated primarily on the basis of articles. Had I been at the beginning of my career it might not have been a sensible option.

The book is about an important aspect of time series econometrics that tries to model changes in scale. For example the return to a stock, that is the increase in its value plus dividends divided by the original value, is very difficult to predict and is, to all intents and purposes, random. On the other hand the volatility of returns, that is the variation in their values, tends to vary over time and it does so in a way that is predictable. Understanding the dynamics of these movements in volatility is important not only to the financial sector, but also to financial economists and regulators who are trying to understand the workings of the market. Dynamic models of volatility have been studied for more than thirty years, but the contribution of the book is to provide a coherent and comprehensive framework for the statistical theory. In doing so it solves many of the outstanding problems and simplifies much of the previous material.





Dealing with heavy tailed distributions is a key aspect of the work. The normal distribution, the bell shaped curve, will be familiar to many people because it is one of the fundamental building blocks of statistics. However financial variables, such as returns, often have heavy tails, which means that the probabilities of extreme events are higher than would be predicted by a normal distribution. This has important practical implications for risk management. For the econometrician, heavy tailed distributions present a challenge on model construction, particularly when combined with the statistical issues arising from changing volatility.

The methods described in the book have wider relevance than just volatility modelling. For example, regression and correlation are basic statistical methods, but they assume that the relationship between variables does not change over time. This need not be the case and techniques for dealing with the statistical challenge posed by changing relationships are an active area of research. Changing correlation can be modelled along the same lines as changing volatility. In fact

they can be combined in a single model. Again there are issues of heavy-tailed distributions to be addressed. More generally the concept of correlation itself needs to be challenged because in statistics - as opposed to real life - the term has a very restrictive meaning. In recent years the statisticians, especially those working in financial econometrics, have devoted considerable attention to capturing association by a device called the copula. Association is a broader concept than correlation but again it may change over time and the methods in the book offer a possible solution to modelling this evolution.

It's now January 2014 and I'm sitting in my office in Corpus, looking out on the roofs of Botolph Lane and contemplating what avenue of research to pursue next. No bottle of Rioja sits on the desk. But high table awaits. Excellent wine there and maybe I'll find inspiration from the conversation on nuclear physics, the Cretan landscape, postmodernism in contemporary philosophy and West Ham's perennial battle to avoid relegation from the Premiership.





# Dr Pontus Rendahl

Fellow and Lecturer in Economics

WITH ALL DUE RESPECT TO OUR EDITOR, THIS ISSUE OF THE PELICAN MAGAZINE IS NOT THE PRODUCT OF A SINGLE PERSON. IN FACT, I WOULD BE SO BOLD AS TO CLAIM THAT IT COULD NOT HAVE BEEN, AND THAT IT NEVER WILL BE. DO NOT GET ME WRONG; THIS IS NOT JUDGEMENT PASSED ON OUR EDITOR'S APTITUDE OR AMBITION. NOR IS IT SOME DISGUISED PRAISE FOR THE, ADMITTEDLY EXTRAORDINARY QUALITY OF THE OUTPUT. RATHER, IT IS SIMPLY AN OBSERVATION OF HOW THE WORLD ACTUALLY WORKS, SEEN THROUGH THE CALLOUS LENS OF ECONOMICS.

Tell me: who has the skill-set to whip out a sequence of engaging literary portraits and illustrate them with colourful and interesting photographs; to harvest - and, please, replant - trees; to convert them into wood-pulp and let dry until something that hopefully resembles paper appears? To extract linseed oil, collect dye or pigment, and mix it all into ink. Roll steel and mould plastic in order to ultimately assemble a printer (makes IKEA instructions sound simple, doesn't it?). Oh, and I almost forgot: to gather the materials and the know-how necessary to create microchips, connect the necessary circuits and ultimately get a computer up and running. And why don't you code-up that editorial software while you're at it?

No. The magazine you're holding is not the product of one person. It is the final product of a staggering chain of events, of a phenomenal team effort involving tens, maybe even hundreds of thousands of individuals. Individuals who are using their skills and the collective wisdom accumulated over centuries. But it is a team without a captain. A myriad of firms and individuals, engaged in an intricate game of wits, negotiations, deals and trades - and no one with the specific concern to satisfy your faiblesse for alumni magazines. Yet here you are. Magazine in hand.

Economics is the study of such systems. How they emerge, how they can grow, and ultimately how they can fail. Macroeconomics, my own field of expertise, is no exception, although the viewpoint is a bit different. Put a bit bluntly, macroeconomics is the study of the entire network of systems that comprises a market economy - the system of systems. The economy of Sweden, the United Kingdom, or even the entire world if you wish. Most commonly, we try to understand why such networks of systems sometimes appear to run fast and seamlessly, and why they sometimes - as in the recent financial crisis - come to an abrupt halt. And perhaps most importantly: we try to understand what types of institutions, collective actions, or economic policies may improve their performance in good times, and what can be done to mitigate their most disastrous consequences in the bad.

In 1999 I was working at a call centre at Volvo in my home town of Gothenburg, Sweden (before that I was flipping burgers at McDonald's, but that's another story). I was literally answering the phone day in and day out. I thought it was brilliant: Once in a while I would help someone to extend the overdraft on their Volvo credit card, but most of the time I would actually read novels (held discreetly under the desk, hidden from the manager's eyes). Life was pretty cushy, but it is fair to say that it lacked a bit of direction.

Come Christmas and I felt I had had enough. I quit my job, packed a bag and in early January I got on a train to the city of Lund. This was not quite as haphazard as it might seem: Lund is home to the oldest university in Sweden and my brother was studying law there at the time. But I was not enrolled at the university, nor had I even submitted an application. Despite this, I walked in to the department of theoretical philosophy and asked the administrator if they perhaps had a seat available in the upcoming one-semester introductory course. (There is also "practical philosophy" as a distinct academic discipline in Sweden, but the practical implications are, as far as I can tell, nonexistent. Let's just say they are not running around doing good deeds all day). Due to a last minute cancellation, in fact they did, and a few bent rules later and - hey presto - I was in. The beginning of a, relatively speaking, long academic career had just taken off.

Of course, I did not know that at the time. I was still quite a lost boy. But at least I was a student. And as a student I quickly learnt two things: First, life as a student is amazing. Amazing. I do not think I can emphasise this enough. But the joy of freely disposing my own time, and spending the days grasping the thoughts and ideas of the geniuses of history (and the nights at the bars), was overwhelming. And secondly, I also learnt something about me as a person: I had quite a knack for academic studies, and philosophy came quite easily to me.

Despite this, two almost entirely unrelated events came to have a pivotal impact on my life. Firstly, I began to realise that





'It is simply an observation  
of how the world works,  
seen through the callous  
lens of economics.'





job prospects for theoretical philosophers, much like those of blacksmiths, had been on a secular decline for the past two millennia. Secondly, I encountered the written work of the philosopher and economist John Stuart Mill. Work that still has an influence on my current research.

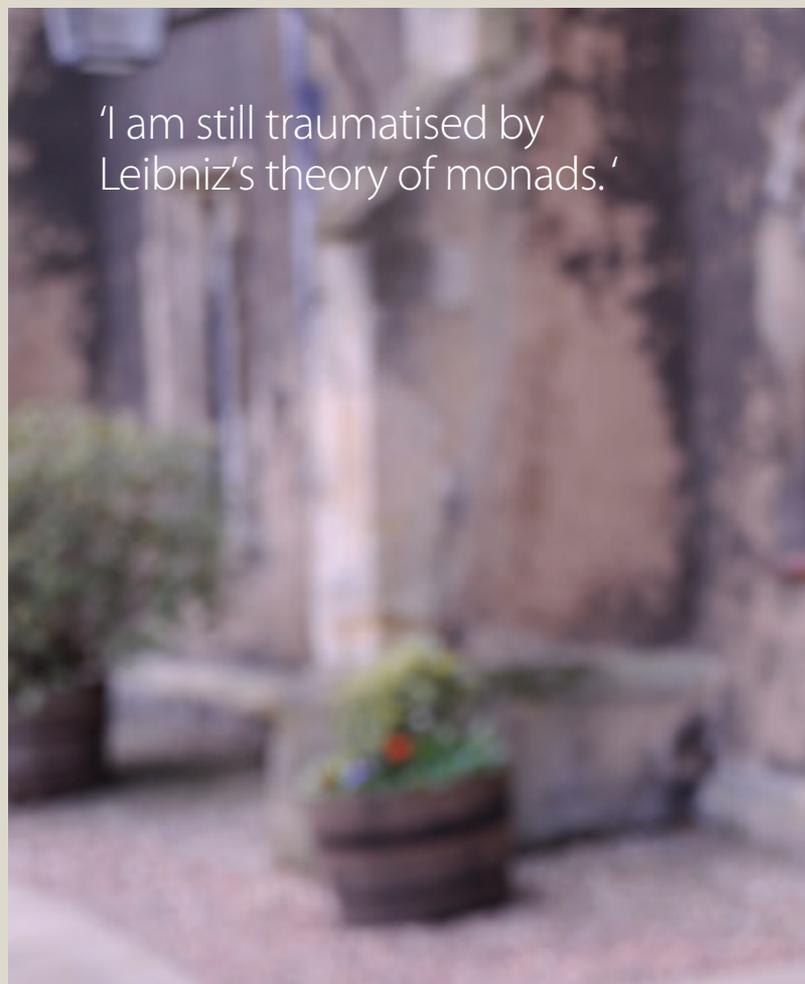
I bet you already see where this is heading. I eventually dropped theoretical philosophy in favour of economics, and I never looked back. Not only did economics appear infinitely more marketable than philosophy, it also felt more in tune with my own observations of the world: I am still, for instance, traumatised by Leibniz's theory of monads, which I cannot help but to think of as some kind of sick joke (although his contributions to calculus are indisputable; I even teach Leibniz's rule to many of my undergraduate students).

Economics, on the other hand, I found mesmerising. As the initial passage suggests, the economy is comprised by a system of smaller or larger entities that jointly form an incredibly complicated system. A system in which the goods and services that we consume, invest, or perhaps export, are produced by an almost infinite number of decentralised actions. To a large extent, the precise nature of this system is determined quite spontaneously, but little has been left to chance. There is a surprising amount of order in the chaos.

But how come almost all market economies are organised as an orderly chaotic system of a million little pieces? The answer can be found back in the writing of Adam Smith: The division of labour; the gains of specialisation; and ultimately the gains from trade. Why hunt and gather, when you can hunt and I can gather? By doing so we can both specialise, learn our trades, improve our skills, and eventually trade. And why stop at you and I? And why stop at, the quite artificial, country borders? The division of labour applies almost universally, and its expansion is one of the main reasons behind the staggering rise in the standard of living observed in the developed world during the past two centuries.

But the same organisation that has led to tremendous growth, improved health, and a fall in poverty, is also fragile. When no man is an island, my spending is your income and your spending is my income. What happens, for instance, if you decide not to buy what I have gathered? And in anticipation of your reluctance, what is the point of me gathering? And how could I ever pay for what you have hunted? Intricate systems of trade are vulnerable to these types of coordination failures.

Coordination failures are normally thought of as situations in which individual actions are optimal if carried out in isolation, but suboptimal if carried out on a large scale (i.e. "if we all do it"). Unfortunately, market economies are plagued by them. Take for instance Northern Rock. Fearing bankruptcy, many depositors decided to withdraw their funds. And rightly so: Everybody else was, and no one wanted to be the last person to leave the burning building. But as depositors queued up to demand what was rightly theirs, Northern Rock – which held a lot of illiquid long-term assets – could not deliver on its short-term promises. Bankruptcy became a self-fulfilling prophecy.



'I am still traumatised by Leibniz's theory of monads.'

Few depositors managed to get their savings back, and the bank was eventually nationalised.

But while the economy is extraordinarily complicated, its parts are extraordinarily simple. In similarity to biology, complexity derives instead from the aggregation of simplicity. And it was with the same awe I learnt about the functioning of the market economy that I as a teenager learnt about the theory of natural selection.

I eventually received a BA in Economics and was midway through my MA when I started toying with the idea of applying for a PhD. I never really intended to actually finish the PhD, but I thought there was a lot more to learn in economics, and a few more years as a student wouldn't really hurt either. I was admitted to Stockholm School of Economics, but had a last minute change of heart: During the application process I, almost by chance, stumbled upon a beautiful little institute on the Tuscan hills outside of Florence, called the European University Institute (EUI). And the choice between spending a few years in sunny Italy instead of a grey Stockholm became an easy one.

Italy was lovely. Not only did I remain a student, with all those joys it brings, but I was actually paid to be one. Paid to be in Italy and to study economics. Who would have thought? It was there I met my research advisor, Giancarlo Corsetti, who





is now a Professor at the Faculty of Economics here at Cambridge (and a Fellow of Clare College); and my supervisor, Professor Morten Ravn, who is currently the chairman of the economics department at UCL.

Being a PhD student was even more inspiring than I initially had thought. Not only did I complete my PhD, I also decided to set out on a career in academia. I spent a year as a post-doc at the University of Amsterdam, and landed my first job as an Assistant Professor at UC Davis, in the United States. While I appreciated my time spent in America, and in particular my colleagues and new-found friends, I never really felt at home. Home was Europe, and homesickness brought me back. After almost a year as a visiting professor at the Paris School of Economics in 2010, I was offered a lectureship in economics at Cambridge. And after a collegeless first year, I became a Fellow at Corpus Christi in January 2013.

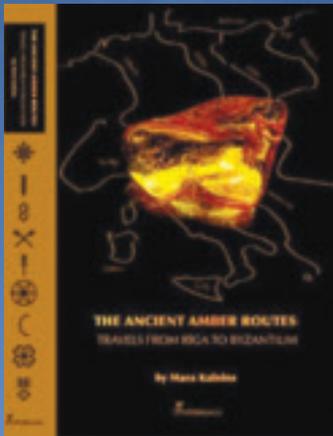
My research here still lies within the area of coordination failures and their associated policy implications. I have recently been trying to deepen my understanding of money, and in particular how the use of money in society may actually contribute to, or even cause, economic slowdowns by its ability to disturb coordination. Before it's time to round this up, let me give you a brief idea of the lines of thought developed in this area.

Money is, as you may know, often thought of a (decent) store of value: by spending less than you earn today you save some, and in exchange you may spend more than you earn at some future date. But if everybody decided to save, money would actually lose this storable property. The reason is -- and I've touched upon this before -- that my spending is your income, and your spending is my income. It is therefore, by definition, impossible for economy as a whole to spend any more or any less than what it earns. A coordinated attempt to save will therefore depress economic activity, erode income, and increase the unemployment rate, until our desire to save is nullified. So by saving more and spending less, the economy may end up in a recession in the present, and with no additional purchasing power in the future. A paradox of thrift, indeed.

There are many possible ways out of such a mess. Government spending is one obvious candidate, albeit risky -- bond vigilantes have recently proven themselves merciless when spotting a weak economy with high indebtedness. Instead, the flavour of the month is what is called "forward guidance": A commitment by the central bank to keep inflation high for an extended period of time, even after the crisis has blown over. The underlying reason is simple: By committing to erode the future value of money, savings become relatively less attractive and the aforementioned recession can be mitigated. Both the Chairman of the Fed and the Governor of the Bank of England are currently communicating their intentions to commit to such policies.

England has so far been treating me very well. After having lived in six different countries in the past ten years, I finally feel at home. To a large extent this is due to Cambridge -- the city as well as the University -- but it is to Corpus and its members that I primarily owe my gratitude.





# The Ancient Amber Routes - Travels from Rīga to Byzantium



## Dr Mara Kalnins

Life Fellow



I HAVE OFTEN BEEN ASKED HOW A SPECIALIST IN ENGLISH LITERATURE CAME TO BE ABSORBED BY THE SUBJECT OF AMBER AND THE TRADE ROUTES THAT ONCE LINKED THE CULTURES OF THE BALTIC TO THE CLASSICAL AND PRE-CLASSICAL CIVILISATIONS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN.





My interest dates back to early childhood when my family had to flee Latvia in the Second World War. Among the few objects we were able to take with us from the homeland was a large piece of glowing orange amber which my mother, as a child, had found washed up on the sands of Jūrmala, near Rīga, and I remember being fascinated that one could generate static electricity by rubbing the amber with a piece of cloth to pick up bits of fluff and paper. Then a few years later my father gave me a copy of Arnold Spekke's classic text *The Ancient Amber Routes* and the *Geographical Discovery of the Eastern Baltic*, and these two objects fired my imagination and I firmly announced that when I grew up I would return to the Baltic lands, travel the ancient amber roads across Europe and write a book about it! (I was at the time ten years old.)



*Two-Handled Amber Bowl, c. 1650, Königsberg*  
photo © Victoria and Albert Museum

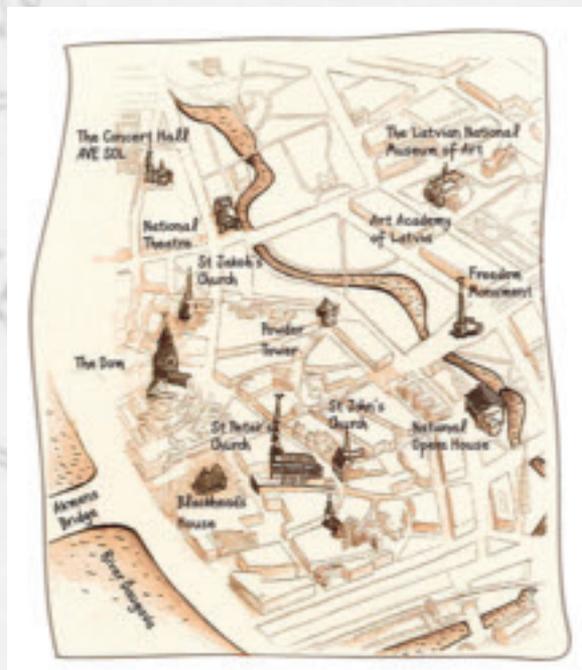
offers us a glimpse into the nature and thought of our distant ancestors. Baltic amber beads have been discovered in the ancient settlements of Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Palestine and Egypt dating back to the third, fourth and fifth millennia BC.

By the Bronze Age there is a veritable flood of amber reaching every area bordering the Mediterranean: Heinrich Schliemann unearthed tens of thousands of amber beads in Troy, Mycenae and Tiryns; Carter found amber in the tomb of Tutankhamon, though he did not recognise it for what it was; by the time of Rome and the Roman Empire the trade routes were so well established that the Emperor Nero was able to send an expedition to the northern seas to bring back sufficient amber to stud the nets of his newly built Circus. Centuries later the great amber carving guilds of Königsberg, Danzig, Bruges and Lübeck created magnificent artefacts for both church and state and the 18th century witnessed the creation of 'The Eighth Wonder of the World' – the fabulous Amber Room of Peter the Great.

The journey begins in Rīga where the narrative explores the city's 800-year old history, its architectural splendours and its vibrant artistic life. It continues through each of Latvia's four regions, first in search of my father's house in Vidzeme ('The Middle Land'), then to the coast to find the street in Liepāja ('City of Linden Trees') where my mother's family lived. I explore the heart of the country, the Gauja river valley with its pristine landscape and its history of human habitation since the end of the last Ice Age. In the south and west I discover more about the remarkable story of the Duchy of Courland which was once an independent kingdom and a significant maritime power. Crossing the border into Lithuania I make a pilgrimage to the Hill of Crosses, travel to the magnificent Amber Museum at Palanga, and end at the Curonian Spit, which marks the limit of the amber lands.

Of course it was not until the dissolution of the Soviet Union, when the Baltic nations regained their freedom, that that ambition could be realised. By then it had taken on the nature of an odyssey, a quest to learn more about the culture, history and origins of the Baltic peoples. The quest was focused by the defining symbol of the Balts – amber, the sun-stone – and the journey was shaped by the two principal long-distance amber trade routes which had linked the Baltic with the continent, the Mediterranean and the Near East since Mesolithic times, and perhaps even earlier. As I explored the amber lands and travelled south and east across the changing face of Europe I also journeyed back in time to make some remarkable discoveries about amber's role as a cultural currency and about the people who preserved their ancient heritage and languages and brought them into the twenty-first century.

Amber is a fossilised tree resin and is found in many parts of the world but it is only Baltic amber that has a high percentage of succinic acid with a distinctive chemical signature, different from that of any other amber, and this makes it intensely interesting to archaeologists and historians. If Baltic amber is found in an excavation or on a site it proves trading contact – it's a kind of geological or historical DNA. Baltic amber artefacts have been found throughout Europe in Mesolithic and Neolithic grave sites, so amber also links us to the dawn of human culture and



Map of Riga





In Part Two I leave the amber coast to follow one of the principal trade routes which carried amber throughout Europe and learn more about the importance of this precious substance in western history. From Gdansk and the great castle of the Teutonic Knights at Malbork, the journey of discovery continues along the river systems that fanned out across the continent, bringing the sun-stone to the courts of princes and emperors. Part Three charts the second great amber route – the eastern way – over a thousand kilometres along the Daugava river through Latvia’s eastern region Latgale, the Land of Blue Lakes, to Russia and then down the mighty Dniepr to the Black Sea and Byzantium. In historical times this was the famed ‘Viking Road to Mikelgard’, but in fact the route had flourished for millennia, carrying amber to the eastern kingdoms of antiquity. The journey ends in Byzantium – the crossroads between east and west – where the narrative evaluates the mosaic of experiences and memories, the encounters with other voices and other stories, and reflects on how the sun-stone, landscape and language have defined the cultural map of Europe and created the distinctive identity of the Baltic peoples.

Amber has also had a significant political dimension in addition to its cultural importance, for it has chronicled the long journey of the Baltic people through nearly eight hundred years of helotry in their own domains to achieve a place as sovereign nation-states in the European Union. During the Soviet era, when it seemed that their fortunes could sink no lower, when their populations were decimated, their traditions, histories and their very languages threatened with extinction, amber remained a powerful and unifying symbol informing the struggle to preserve national identity. So it is especially appropriate that the sun-stone should have been chosen as the symbol for Rīga which is the Cultural Capital of Europe this year.



*Amber Goddess, 2nd Millennium BC, by kind permission of The Amber Museum, Palanga, Lithuania*



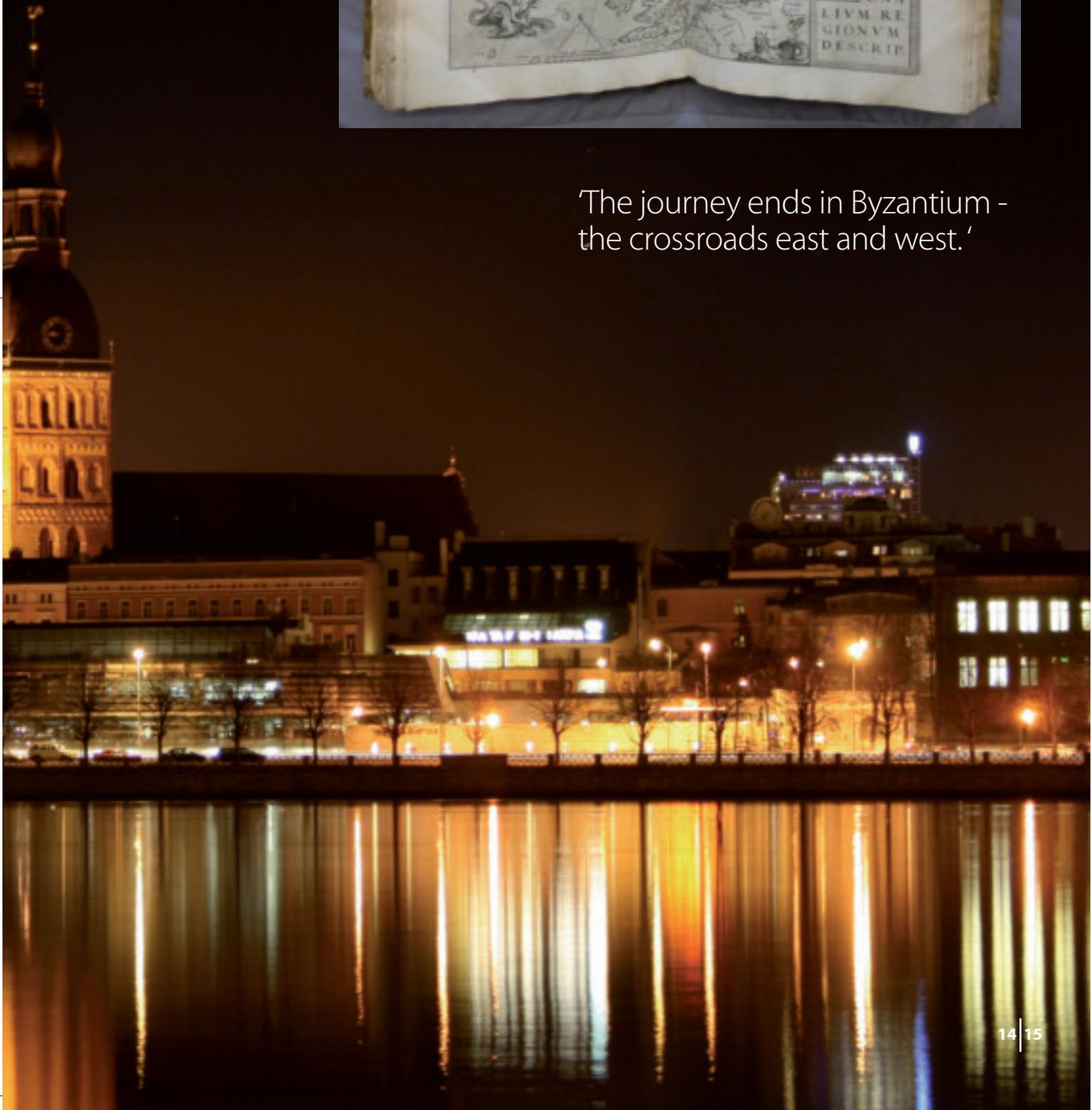
[Copies of the book are available from Heffer’s in Cambridge, from the author, or from the websites of Pētergailis Press, The Baltic Shop and Amazon.co.uk]

Mara Kalnins has also written *Latvia: A Short History* (forthcoming, Hurst, October 2014) and is preparing a new edition of *D.H. Lawrence: Selected Poems* (forthcoming, Anthem Press).





'The journey ends in Byzantium -  
the crossroads east and west.'





'It rapidly became very clear to me that acting was not going to be my professional life.'



# Tim Harvey-Samuel

by Dr Simon Heffer (m1979)

TIM HARVEY-SAMUEL MOVED INTO THE BURSAR'S OFFICE ON A STAIRCASE IN NEW COURT LAST SEPTEMBER. HE HAD BEEN APPOINTED AFTER AN INTENSE THREE-STAGE INTERVIEW PROCESS, AND AFTER 26 YEARS IN THE WORLD OF INVESTMENT BANKING.

At the age of 47, and with a young family of which he was seeing too little, he decided the time had come for a change of career – and one in which he could apply the skills and experience learned in the City to husbanding the resources of a college.

Tim is a Cambridge man, having been an undergraduate at Queens' from 1984 to 1987, so he well understands the environment in which he now works. "I read English, I did a lot of sport and a fair bit of acting, I participated very broadly in the life of the college and the life of the University, and the friends that I made there have been with me and my family ever since," he says of his time at Queens'.

He read English because "I'd always had a passion for literature. There was a professor at Queens' called Tony Spearing – a great Chaucerian and he was a big attraction." He had previously thought briefly of becoming a professional actor, but says: "Cambridge cured me of that desire very effectively, partly because of the considerable talent of some of my contemporaries – Sam Mendes was one of those – and it rapidly became very clear to me that acting was not going to be my professional life."

Geography played no small part in his choice of career. "I grew up in Essex and I worked in the vacations. It was just after Big Bang in the City. There was an enormous amount of temporary work available half an hour down the railway line. I did that in three or four vacations and I enjoyed it. Then the people I'd worked for in one of the vacations made me a job offer for when I graduated and I took it."

His education was invaluable to him in his eventual progress to Citigroup, where he ended up as Chairman of European equity capital markets. "By and large, financial sector employers are less restrictive in the subjects they demand that their graduates have studied in the UK than is the case in France or Italy. Many employers here like a diversity of skills, so long as appropriate economic and arithmetical talent is there, and the humanities have an important part to play in helping people judge how to formulate and present arguments."

With capitalism having come into question since the financial crisis of 2008, I ask him whether he has any doubts about the way in which he earned his living for so many years. "I still believe capitalism is the ideology that generates greatest prosperity for societies. However, in the years running up to 2008 there were examples of a hollowing out of certain values that had provided checks and balances to the way business was done in the financial sector. There were also flaws in the regulatory framework. I think too many people thought someone else was attending to the overall integration of the regulatory framework."

*'I still believe capitalism is the ideology that generates greatest prosperity for societies.'*

Like countless others, he found himself working after the crash in an industry whose reputation had taken an almost mortal blow. "The banking world should not, and I actually think does not, underestimate the damage caused by what happened."

I put it to him that some aspects of the City before 2008 resembled a bookmaking operation. "I think there was no question that in 2006-07 there was excess liquidity looking for a home, and that transactions or instruments were being designed that had little purpose other than to find a home for that liquidity – and globally that created an environment in which perception of risk was distorted and great damage was caused", he says.

He was not shocked that Lehman Brothers was allowed to fail: but it was nonetheless a deeply challenging period when it happened. "We realised immediately that the consequences were going to be extremely difficult to predict, and that we were going to be in an exceptionally serious situation for a long time. The shockwaves from Lehman's collapse – a sizeable institutional bank but far from the largest – were catastrophic for the system." For that reason he believes it was right for the Government of the time to use taxpayers' money to rescue



some of our banks. "If you try to imagine what the consequences would have been, economically and socially, had a large high street retail bank been allowed to fail in the same way, I think you'll see the shockwaves would have been absolutely catastrophic."

Leaving the City was a substantial step for Tim. "I was at Citigroup or predecessor companies including Schroders for 22 years. Moving on was a natural evolution after 26 years in the business – but it was a wrench to leave an institution and a number of people to whom one felt pretty close."

## 'Moving on was a natural evolution after 26 years in the business.'

"But I also felt close to my family," he says. He and his wife, Penny, have two girls six and seven and a boy of ten, all at school locally. "We had moved out here [to Cambridgeshire] three years earlier, and it was becoming harder to work and travel globally with the necessary perpetual intensity, and be a good husband and father as well. It was becoming an unsustainable situation."

That, though, was not the only reason he sought a change. "I also think that if you've done something for 26 years, it's logical to think it might be time to consider doing something else," he says.

Having decided to make the break, and to find a job in or around Cambridge, Tim's initial thought had been to find a business to work in. "I'm relatively young, I've got a lot of gas in the tank. I thought I had three options. The first was to work in a college or in the University in a role to be defined. The second was to find a business or several companies in the Cambridge region and help them find capital; and the third was to continue to work in London, but not five days a week and not in investment banking."

The first option presented something of a learning curve. "I knew nothing about the job of bursar – but friends raised the prospect of such a job with me when I told them I was looking for a more local job. And I sought to educate myself in what the role entailed, and the more I understood what it meant to work within the Collegiate University, an institution that I cared very much about, the more it appealed. It was a way in which I could use the skills I have acquired and broaden them within an institution that serves individuals and society in an extraordinary manner. It was a more fulfilling proposition."

"I talked in broad terms at interview about the pillars of the job – operations, finances, investments and strategy, trying to think about the college five, ten, twenty years down the line."

He specified what he thought made Corpus special. "I feel this is a College that has extraordinary and specific characteristics that make it unusual in a Cambridge context – such as size, and the intimacy of the environment here, which means that there is a differentiating factor in the amount of support students receive, giving people a network that is both real and personal," he says. "And, given what an intimidating place this can be on arrival, that can be very valuable. The College has really impressed me in that regard."

He was also struck by the importance of graduate students at Corpus. "The more time I spend here the more unique I see that Leckhampton is, and how our ability to integrate the graduate students into the College while having a separate campus with its own identity is really unusual. Having the scope and tradition to be able to support that from our own resources is an extraordinary attribute, and very distinctive in the life of this College," he says.

"Another such attribute is the Parker library. How we continue to use that to make us a centre for study, conservation and access is a wonderful opportunity but also a big responsibility for us."

"While the outside world might perceive many of the colleges similarly, the colleges regard themselves as having very distinctive characteristics, and I wanted to show I was aware of that."

He also brought with him a strong background in finance. "I tried to convey that if I was chosen they were going to get someone with considerable financial and also management experience, having run a department through the banking and eurozone crises and built it back up again each time."

## 'The colleges regard themselves as having very distinctive characteristics.'

"I also had a background involving both investment and project management – there is a considerable element of project work in the job of a bursar, whenever there is a new building to be considered, or a big refurbishment..."

Tim was aware of the position of the College finances before he took over – the accounts are in the public domain. "There were no shocks or surprises on day one."

He says of his new job: "It's been full-on – as broad as I hoped it would be, but deeper than I expected – and that is great, because it helps you to learn quicker. What is important is to learn from that engagement with all the College operations without getting sucked in completely, because it's very important for the bursar to retain a strategic perspective and to trust the Heads of Department with detailed





'The more I understood what it meant to work in the collegiate University, the more it appealed.'





implementation– but the challenge is, if this doesn't sound too saccharine, it's so enjoyable that you want to be drawn into everything."

Does he think, given how complex investment can be these days, that a financial background is essential for the modern bursar? "Not necessarily" he replies. "The diversity of the role means the character of the individual is just as important as the career from which they have come. This is not a job for a narrow specialist."

He does concede that things are not so simple as they used to be. "Different colleges manage their investments differently, and the character of the investments varies from college to college. We have a nice balance of physical property and securities. Some colleges have much more property, and need someone with very deep property expertise, others delegate investment management and asset allocation completely to consultants or wealth managers, so there are other ways to do this job. But you're right, it's become more complex, so the need for more expertise is crucial. If you are running an investment portfolio in perpetuity the greatest long term risk is inflation, so it's advisable to have a high proportion of real assets that are likely to grow in value, as a protection – and that's reflected in our portfolio," he says.

His own priorities are clear. "First, we must maintain the level of operating discipline that has been instilled the last five years, because we've gone from a situation where we were running sizeable deficits to one where we are now running a modest surplus. If we can continue on a trajectory where we are investing for the future and not borrowing from it, then we are going to be in decent shape."

The College has sharpened its operating efficiency over recent years. "My job has been immeasurably helped by the increased awareness of the need to run ourselves tightly from a financial perspective," he says. "Then we have to consider where we invest across our main priorities– in facilities, the estate, and the provision of more teaching expertise."

He says that we have improved at making the most of the College's facilities. "We've got much better at maximising the use of the estate for conferences, and we have doubled the revenue from that in recent years.

"We also have one of the most successful development operations of any college, and the impact that has, particularly in a small college, is difficult to overstate. Working with the Development Director to continue that momentum is an absolutely essential part of my job."





He is keen to stress to Old Members the importance of their continued engagement with the College.

“The support that they provide changes people’s lives. This place is about broadening opportunity and enabling talented students to have access to the teaching and facilities we provide; the contribution Old Members provide makes an enormous difference in allowing us to do that. He regrets, though, that the level of participation by alumni in fund-raising is lower here than in America. “While we excel in a Cambridge context in our development, we always need to be doing more, to underpin this place for the next 600 years,” he says.

‘The support they provide changes people’s lives.’

“There is no question that the ability of the College and the University to continue to provide global excellence as a place of learning is hugely dependent on the generosity of donors and particularly of Old Members.

This is a globally significant University – and if we fall behind it will be to the detriment of Corpus, to the detriment of the University, and to the detriment of the country. There is no question that the bar is set ever higher, and notwithstanding the great success of the development operation here, people need to be asking themselves ‘what did this place do for me, and what I can do to help it carry on that work in the future’?

For the immediate future his agenda is full. He is looking at accommodation projects to enable growth in capacity – “one of the great strengths the College has, with our portfolio of property, is that we can add a great deal of value to our own estate as we did with the Kho Building; we are also currently improving and extending properties we own in Barton Road.” The kitchens are also nearing the end of their useful life, in Old House and at Leckhampton where our numbers have grown significantly.”

It is that sense of securing a strong, independent future for Corpus that seems to be Tim’s guiding principle. “The really important thing is robust self-determination. So everything is about managing and growing our resources in a way that enables us to fulfil our purpose and be ourselves.”





# Christopher Marlowe at Corpus, 1580-87

by Dr Peter R. Roberts (m1962)

THIS YEAR MARKS THE 450TH ANNIVERSARY OF MARLOWE'S BIRTH, WHICH ACCORDING TO THE JULIAN CALENDAR THEN IN USE, FELL IN 1563, NOT 1564.

We do not know on which precise day he was born, but his baptism at St George's church, Canterbury, is recorded as 26 February 1563, which in accordance with the custom of the time would have been within a few days of his birth. The Julian calendar was then in use, so that the new year began on 25 March, for the Gregorian calendar, introduced in Catholic countries in 1582, was not adopted in England until 1752. Had this matter of the calendar been noticed, the sitter in the by now famous portrait of the young man that hangs in the Old Combination Room of Corpus would not have been identified with such confidence as 'Christopher Marlowe' by modern writers on his life and work. The portrait bears this inscription: ANNO D[OMI]NI 1585 Æ TATIS SUÆ 21, WHICH TRANSLATES AS 'IN THE 1585TH YEAR OF [Our] Lord [and] the 21st of his age'. This was the convention observed in contemporary portraiture: the subject is described as in the Nth year of his age, and not N years old. Marlowe was a graduate still in possession of his scholarship in 1585, and he has been regarded as a plausible candidate for the sitter, on the grounds that he was taken to be of the same age, twenty-one, at the time. But the information given is that the man was in his 21st year, and therefore not yet twenty-one, in 1585. According to the chronology of the Julian calendar ('old style'), anyone born in February would have been christened in the year 1563 and attained his 21st birthday in 1584. There is no overlap between Marlowe's 21st year and AD 1585. The conclusion reached, solely on the basis of the specified date and age, that the portrait is of Marlowe does not stand up to scrutiny.

This is not the place to discuss the circumstances in which the picture, painted on a wooden panel and not on canvas, was found in fragments during building work in 1952, but a corrective to the identification must precede any discussion of the significance of the Cambridge years for his subsequent career. The portrait has never been officially accepted by Corpus as Marlowe's likeness: it is displayed in the College without any attribution as to sitter or artist. Nonetheless, an uncritical acceptance of 'the putative Marlowe portrait' as an authentic likeness of the poet and playwright has influenced much of the literature published on him since the discovery. The *impresa* inscribed on it, 'Quod me nutrit me destruit' ['What nourishes me destroys me'] has been read by the

credulous to endorse the attribution. They see it as reflecting the melancholy self-knowledge of an ambitious youth who was destined to create, in 'high-astounding terms', the ground-breaking dramatic character of 'overreacher' in the protagonists of his plays. Art historians, on the other hand, have interpreted the many similar *impresa* from this period as usually denoting no more than a frustrated lover's self-pity.

'The conclusion reached, solely on the basis of the specified date and age, that the portrait is of Marlowe does not stand up to scrutiny.'

Marlowe had been a pupil at what was then known as the Queen's school at Canterbury, and he arrived at Corpus as a 'pensioner': the first notice of him in the records dates from late in the Michaelmas Term 1580. It has been assumed that he was already nominated for a scholarship before admission, but he was not elected to a vacancy until the following May. Matthew Parker, Queen Elizabeth's first Archbishop of Canterbury, who had been Master of the College in Edward VI's reign, is properly remembered in Corpus as one of its greatest benefactors for bequeathing his marvellous library to his old College. His endowment of several foundations to provide scholarships for pupils from his old school at Norwich and the 'free school' at Canterbury was equally beneficent: one of these awards brought to Cambridge a Canterbury shoemaker's son who would not otherwise have afforded a university education.

His almost exact contemporary, William Shakespeare, was baptised on 26 April, 1564, over a month into the new year, and on that score if no other could be said to rank among the hundreds of candidates who did fit the age and date inscribed on the portrait. Marlowe came to be recognised as Shakespeare's main rival as poet and playwright among a







'Plan of the College circa 1576. The room Marlowe later shared with two other Parker scholars was the converted 'stoare house' in the northwest corner of what is now the Old Court.' (top right).

remarkable galaxy of men and women of letters in the Elizabethan cultural renaissance. He met a violent death at the age of 29, not at a tavern but an 'ordinary' or victualling house at Deptford, belonging to Eleanor Bull, a respectable widow with court connections. He was at the height of his powers at a time when Shakespeare's star was hardly discernible in the firmament. In the view of many, Marlowe ranks as Corpus's most famous son, and yet he has been somewhat neglected by his alma mater. Until the twentieth century the heterodox Marlowe was hardly ever mentioned in the histories of the College. His name does not appear in the text or the index of the otherwise magisterial *History of Corpus* by Robert Masters (1751), though there is an isolated entry for 'Marlin', one of the many variants of the spellings of Marlowe's name in the College records, under the year 1580 in a supplementary list of matriculants. This institutional amnesia may well have had something to do with his posthumous reputation as an anti-authoritarian maverick, an image embellished by a long succession of biographers. The notoriety he attracted to himself after he left Cambridge, and especially at his death, overshadowed his fame as a poet and branded him as the Caravaggio of English letters. His depiction in popular legend as a romantic adventurer, one of the denizens of the Elizabethan underworld of espionage and an anti-religious 'School of Night', has not endeared him to the more sober chroniclers of the English protestant tradition. He belonged to the first generation of post-reformation graduates, later called 'the university wits', who instead of taking holy orders in the established Church pursued secular careers as play-makers for the burgeoning commercial stage; and to be a member of the new theatrical profession did not confer respectability. There is a recurring theme of homoeroticism in his plays and poetry, denoting an interest that appears to have been foreshadowed

in his indiscreet table talk among his companions in London, conversations that were reported to the Privy Council by his detractors before his death in 1593 and represented as seditious. He was said to have mocked the Scriptures in scabrous language, questioning the divinity of Christ and imputing that the Saviour of mankind had sexual knowledge of his favourite disciple, St John the Evangelist. He did not live to answer the charges of blasphemy and atheism, which may have been *braggadocio* to provoke his listeners rather than a settled unbelief. On the other hand, even if the sexual comments were not confessions of his own inclinations, they may serve as keys to our understanding of the sympathetic sensibility he brought to his treatment of erotic themes in his verse and drama. Whatever the case, his posthumous reputation did not suggest a role model to be held up by authority for admiration and emulation by other students.

'There is a recurring theme of homoeroticism in his plays and poetry.'

In fact, many of the conclusions about his alleged transgressions are provisional or open to dispute. The surviving documents give us only the bare outline of his career and tell us little about the conditions in which he worked. Even the chronological sequence of his plays and poetry is conjectural, though there does seem to be a consensus among scholars of literature that *Dido, Queen of Carthage* and the first part of *Tamburlaine the Great* are his earliest plays. The former is often described as student work but there is no definite proof





that he had started on any of his compositions before he left Cambridge. Since the trajectory of his career left few traces in official records or informal accounts, a full biographical treatment is scarcely possible, so that both specialists and popular writers have felt free to speculate about his movements, actions and motives from a narrow base of circumstantial evidence. The intriguing but fragmentary details of his life and death have been a happy hunting ground for conspiracy theorists and fantasists. The 'Marlovians' who regard him as the true author of Shakespeare's plays maintain that he was not killed at Deptford in 1593, but that a suppositious body was produced to fool the coroner and jury at the inquest, while he was spirited away to the Continent to continue writing his canon of works under another name. Other modern biographers assert that he was assassinated on the orders of the Earl of Essex and his followers as a dangerous member of the rival court faction of the alleged atheist, Sir Walter Raleigh.

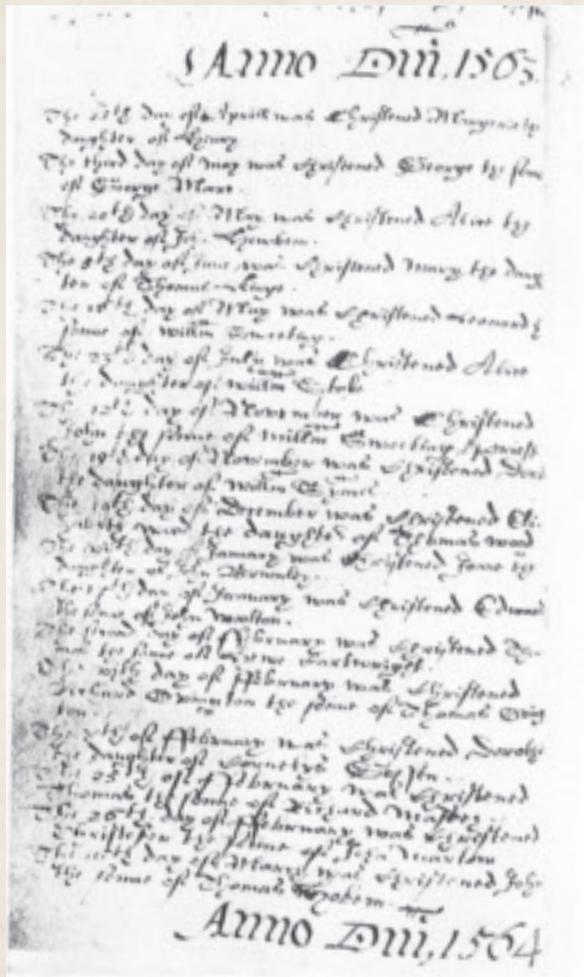
Any revisionist profile of Marlowe must include an appraisal of what the records tell us of his time at Cambridge. Modern literary critics and biographers have scoured the College accounts and the buttery books for the 1580s for evidence

of Marlowe's residence in Corpus. Most of the entries for 'Marlin', 'Marlen', 'Marly' or 'Marley' (the spellings of his name that most commonly appear in the records) were scrupulously extracted from these sources over a century ago, and the data have been reproduced and analysed in most of the lives of the playwright written since then. The audits show that Marlowe's stipend as a scholar was not fully paid for certain weeks in various terms, and the incidence of reduced payments has been taken to indicate prolonged periods of absence without official leave.

## 'Any revisionist profile of Marlowe must include an appraisal of what the records tell us of his time at Cambridge.'

Under the terms of the Parker awards and the College statutes a scholar was not allowed to be away from Cambridge for more than a month in an academic year, and then not without good reason shown. Students were occasionally excused attendance on account of illness and family emergencies, but Marlowe's comings and goings during his tenure of the Parker scholarship are thought to have had a less mundane explanation. He is supposed to have been employed as a government agent or 'intelligencer' in the Elizabethan secret service while he was still studying for his first degree.

That Marlowe was recruited at Cambridge into the espionage network of Sir Francis Walsingham, Queen Elizabeth I's spymaster, has been accepted without question in Marlowe studies. It has been plausibly suggested that his 'contact' in the underworld of surveillance was Nicholas Faunt, member of an old Canterbury family who had been one of the first holders of a Parker scholarship at Corpus. As confidential clerk to Walsingham who travelled on missions for him on the Continent, Faunt was well placed to be a recruiter, but in the absence of clinching evidence of a connection, this like so much else about Marlowe's career, remains speculation. To test the validity of these theories, it is important to consider the other extraordinary factors that could account for the non-attendance of students in the 1580s. First, there was the financial crisis which came to a head in Corpus in 1580, just before Marlowe's admission, and which reverberated throughout his time there. Another exceptional factor came into play in the case of graduates: the relaxation of the residential qualifications previously imposed on candidates for higher degrees under the terms laid down in the reformed University Statutes of 1570. As is the case with Marlowe's name, the fiscal crisis is hardly mentioned in the older College histories; there is a passing reference to the complaint in *Masters's History*, but no serious discussion of its significance for the fortunes of the institution or its members. In 1580-1, during Marlowe's freshman year, the accountancy



'Extract from the church register of St George the Martyr, Canterbury. The last but one entry for 1563 reads: 'The 26th day of February was christened Christopher the sonne of John Marlow.'





of the Master, Dr Robert Norgate, was called into question. One of the Fellows, Philip Nichols, complained on behalf of the whole fellowship to the Chancellor of the University, William Cecil, Lord Burghley, that the mismanagement of the revenues had impoverished both senior and junior members. This challenge to the Master's authority is virtually a hidden chapter in the history of the College. Modern biographers have also overlooked the significance of this internal dysfunction in interpreting the evidence for Marlowe's presence and absences as a Parker scholar in the years 1581-1587. The sources which indicate his movements outside Cambridge before he graduated BA in 1583, and as a graduate preparing for his MA, have to be re-evaluated in the light of the irregularities in the keeping of both the College accounts and the buttery books. A closer examination of these records than has been attempted in the past reveals that there is no safe foundation for the common assumption that he was employed on government service as an undergraduate.

## 'The fiscal crisis is hardly mentioned in the older College histories.'

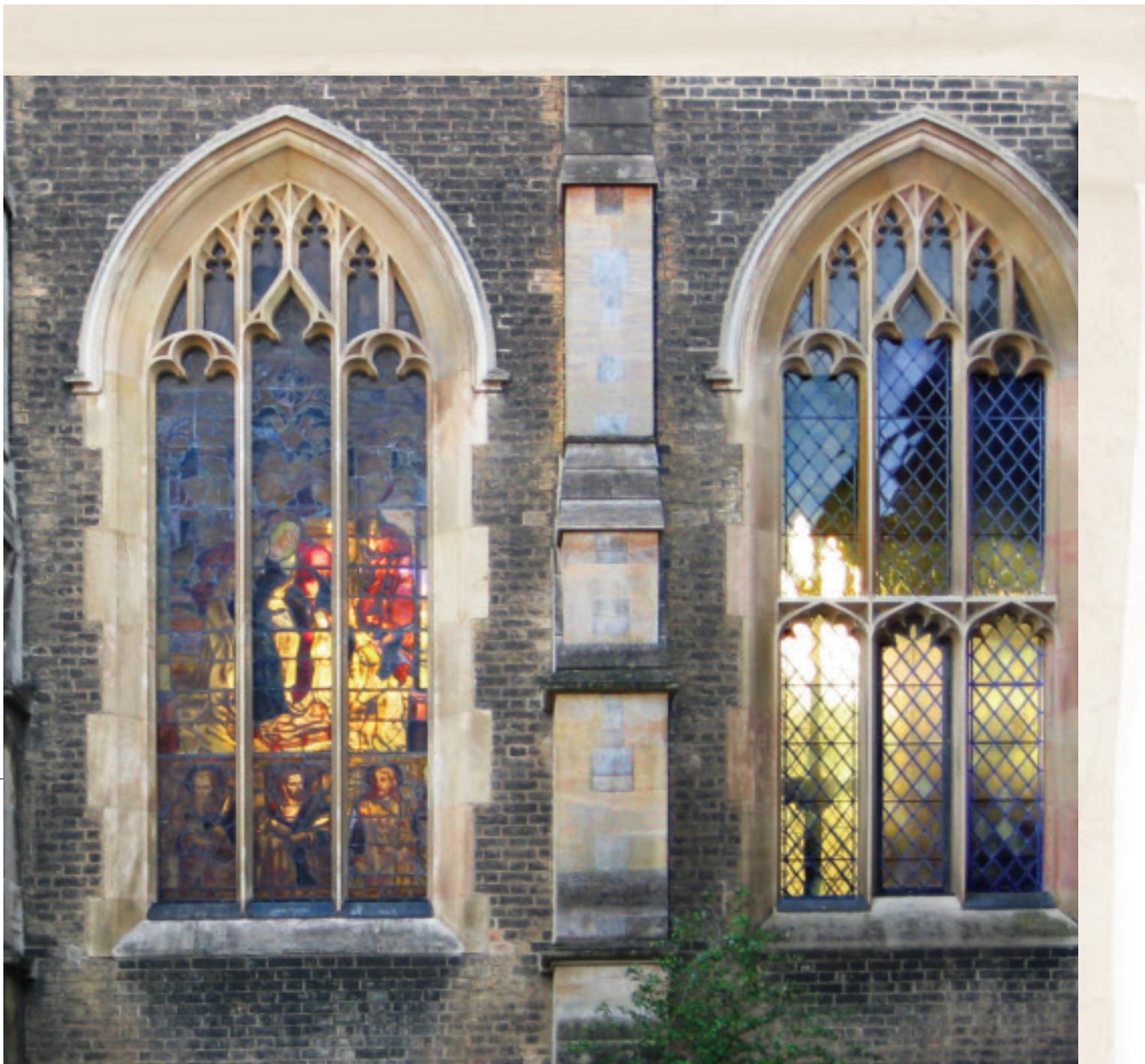
The College was in turmoil when Marlowe arrived. The Master was accused by Nichols of having reduced it to a state of near bankruptcy and dissolution through extravagant expenditure on the building of a new College chapel. Under the previous Master, Dr Aldrich, Corpus had been a religiously divided society with a strong puritan presence, and Nichols may have been of this persuasion: he thought it superfluous to have a chapel when St Bene't's church sufficed for the needs of the College. Nichols claimed that, if the deficit continued, the provision of commons, the ration of food for all members, would dry up; as it was, 'many of our pupils forsook the college, & be at point of breaking up the college, & every man go his way for a year or two'. The coffers were depleted, the creditors could not be paid, and Norgate had had to resort to borrowing money from the University on the security of the College collection of silver plate, much of it part of Parker's legacy, which had been placed in hock in the Schools. The lack of ready money meant that the stipends of the Fellows and scholars could not be paid in full when they were due. As a result, Nichols continued, 'sundry of their pupils... went from the college to the discredit thereof'. These defectors are not named, but the burden of the complaints can be substantiated by checking the extant accounts, which indicate a shortfall in revenue and a reduction in the payments to the scholars, though not in those to the Fellows. The deficit was already apparent in the Christmas quarter of 1580, when Marlowe was admitted, and on another occasion an error in calculating the scholars' stipends for a particular term was noted in the audits. Norgate blamed the situation on the tutors who, having received money from their pupils' friends to discharge their allowances, failed to do so. Instead, they had prevailed on the



butler and the cook to supply them with provisions when the Master was absent on College business, thus increasing the debt against his will. This, and not the building work, was the reason for the cumulative arrears, the Master insisted. He had also had to cope with an inherited debt from his predecessor, the 'troubulous precisian' Aldrich, who before his dismissal had turned on his benefactor, Archbishop Parker, and traduced him as 'the Pope of Lambeth and Bene't College'.

The Chancellor appointed Dr Andrew Perne, the Vice-Chancellor and Master of Peterhouse, with two senior doctors, the Masters of Caius and Trinity Hall, to investigate the complaint, and their deliberations lasted throughout Marlowe's freshman year. The report they submitted later in 1581 did not address all the grievances and was something of





a whitewash. Despite the extenuating factors, which evidently impressed the arbiters of the dispute, Norgate's rebuttal did not contain a convincing answer to the charge that students had been forced by poverty to abandon their studies. The heads of houses seemed to have closed ranks to rescue the unfortunate Norgate from the attack on his integrity, and he was exonerated of the more serious accusations. With his name cleared, he took his turn as Vice-Chancellor in 1583-84. Nichols was fined for slander in accusing him of having falsified the College accounts, though he did not resign his fellowship until he got married two years later.

The inquiry certainly did not settle the problem of the failure to balance the books, and the creditors among the tradesmen of the town continued to sue the College in the Vice-

Chancellor's court. Corpus remained heavily in debt long after Marlowe's departure in 1587 and the death of Dr Norgate later in the same year, and was not declared solvent again until the end of the century. The debts and the defective accountancy throw doubt on the reliability of the entries relating to the scholarships in the audited accounts, and these cannot always be reconciled with the payments for food and drink noted in the buttery books to give a consistent picture of Marlowe's pattern of attendance. The sources give contradictory information: in Michaelmas 1584 the accounts show that he withdrew only three shillings, suggesting an absence of nine weeks, and yet his name is entered in the buttery book for six separate weeks of that term. The discrepancies continued after Norgate had been officially acquitted of maladministration. The sums paid to individual students in the way of stipend or





doled out as commons cannot therefore be trusted as an infallible index to measure residence or absence. The statistics gleaned from these sources by the early researchers, and repeated uncritically by modern commentators, cannot safely be cited to support the claim that Marlowe was engaged for an extended period of service as a government agent while he was an undergraduate. His record of non-attendance before he graduated BA in 1584 was not exceptional when compared with that of his contemporaries. Insofar as the sources can be made to yield satisfactory results, they show that, while minority of students were absent because they could not maintain themselves even when supported by a scholarship, this was not true of Marlowe. The causes of absenteeism at this time were more diverse than has been recognized in the traditional histories and biographies. This is a caveat to be heeded in analysing the references to Marlowe in the audited accounts. An acceptance of the imperfections in the record should temper some of the wilder speculations about his movements before he finally left Cambridge on obtaining his MA.

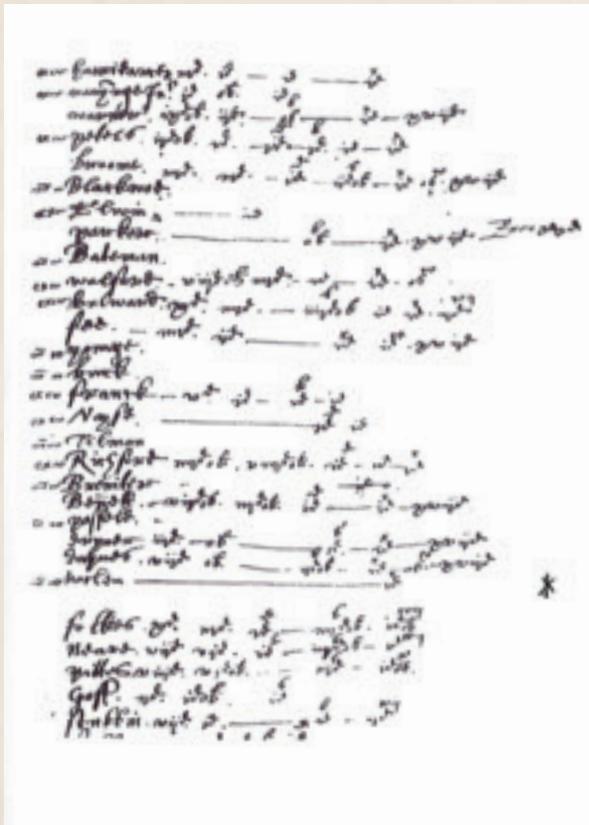
He was more frequently absent for parts of the terms after he graduated in 1584, when he was studying for his MA, and this was evidently the period when he was engaged in government service. To have done so he need not have formally abandoned his studies, or been absent without leave.

The provision in the Statutes that stipulated residence in the University to be a prerequisite for a degree came to be waived in this decade in the case of candidates studying *in absentia*. It now became customary for graduates to be permitted to study extramurally, supporting themselves as curates and schoolmasters, as long as they provided a certificate of good conduct from their superiors on returning into residence to prepare for their inception as MA.

The only documented proof that Marlowe was employed as a government agent is a letter sent by the Privy Council to the University authorities in 1587, with an injunction to suppress a malicious canard then circulating that 'Christopher Morley' had quit the realm and abjured his allegiance to the Queen and Church in order to join the English Catholic exiles in the seminary at Rheims. He should not be deprived of his degree because of this unwarranted calumny, but rather be rewarded for his faithful dealing and stalwart service.

*Their Lordship request that the rumour thereof should be allayed by all possible means, and that he should be furthered in the degree he was to take this next Commencement, because it was not her Majesty's pleasure that any one employed as he had been in matters touching the benefit of his country should be defamed by those that are ignorant in the affairs he went about.*

There can be no doubt of the identity of this 'Christopher Morley': he was Marlowe of Corpus and not his namesake at Trinity, who had taken his MA in the previous year. The exact nature of the service rendered is not specified, and the extent of his role as a government agent has remained speculative and controversial. The most likely scenario is that it had happened in the recent past, and news of it reached Cambridge after he supplicated for his MA at the end of March 1587. Marlowe may also have incurred suspicion of apostasy by declining to take holy orders, as was expected of the scholars who held the Parker award for the full tenure of six years. The copy of the letter preserved in the Privy Council register does not say whether the original was sent to the University or the College authorities. Norgate as Master and the praelector had already signed the candidate's supplicat, so the objection must have been raised at a later stage in the procedure, at University level, with the withholding of a grace for the degree. The Council's intervention, possibly taken at the initiative of Marlowe himself or of a patron, had to be heeded: he duly obtained his master's degree at the Congregation held in July 1587. To have been commended by the privy councillors in such fulsome terms, Marlowe's employment as an agent must have been important, but it need not have involved more than a single assignment. What is denied is that he had intended to defect to the enemy, not that he had been on a foreign mission, though that again is not explicitly admitted in the rebuttal. The phrasing may be deliberately ambiguous, perhaps a necessary tactic adopted in the circumstances, when the scotching of the false report entailed further publicity that was hardly conducive to Marlowe's

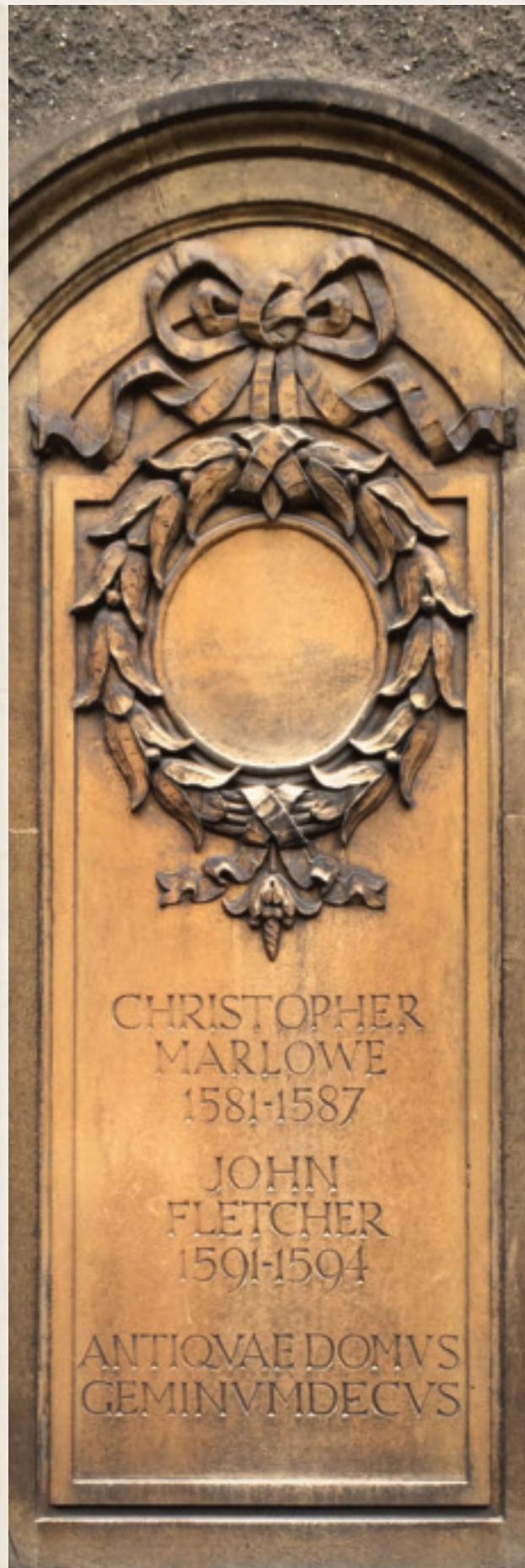


An extract from the buttery book for late December 1580, when 'Marlen' (indicated by an asterisk) spent 1d for food or drink in the buttery, the first reference to his presence in the College.



continued employment as a secret agent. He had been unjustly suspected of abandoning his studies and defecting to the enemy, and so in his case the Council letter was the equivalent of the certificate of good conduct issued to other candidates who, after a period of non-residence, proceeded unhindered to take the MA degree. That these certificates had become common currency by this time indicates that absence from the University could be accounted for in licensed extra-mural study on the part of incipient MAs. It is conceivable that, in that capacity, Marlowe had served as an informer on the activities of secret Catholics, not abroad but in England. The Canterbury school was known to be unreliably Protestant, and the regime was also concerned about crypto-Catholics in Cambridge. Walsingham retained agents to report on prisoners suspected of religious disaffection in London and elsewhere, and some of them acted as private tutors in recusant households: Marlowe may indeed have been one of these; service as a tutor to the children of a Catholic family could well have been misinterpreted as suspicious conduct by those uninformed in the arcana of government - 'those that are ignorant in the affairs he went about' - and putting the record straight called for the issuing of an official testimonial at a higher level than usual.

The MA degree was evidently greatly valued by Marlowe, and he is on record as vaunting his status as a 'scholar' when in a tight spot. His scholarship informs his literary output. The 'humanist' reform of the curriculum introduced in the University Statutes of 1570 did not have the immediate impact that is sometimes claimed for it, for academic courses continued to be taught on somewhat traditional lines. The humanist principles that imbue his work did not emanate exclusively, or even primarily, from his University studies, though the contentious theological debates that disturbed the calm of Cambridge in the 1580s are echoed in the academic lucubrations rehearsed in *Dr Faustus*. Marlowe's direct engagement with the University syllabus is in fact less well documented even than his residence in the College. In this context, a few points of revision may be offered to correct the misconceptions and anachronisms that often mar modern writings on his life at Cambridge. We know from a list dated 29 October 1581 that he attended lectures in dialectic or logic, and it is only the accident of survival that renders this the only piece of evidence for his presence at university lectures. As for the teaching in the College, it is safe to assume that in common with other Corpus students he followed the daily 'exercises of learning', an exhaustive syllabus laid down by Dr Norgate in the early 1570s to occupy the students for every daylight hour except on Sundays, from six in the morning to seven at night. Although the College records do not yield specific information about Marlowe's academic progress, they reveal that the Fellows who taught him were not specialists in the separate disciplines, but took it in turns in almost annual rotation to teach students in the elements of the *trivium* and *quadrivium*. The scholarship



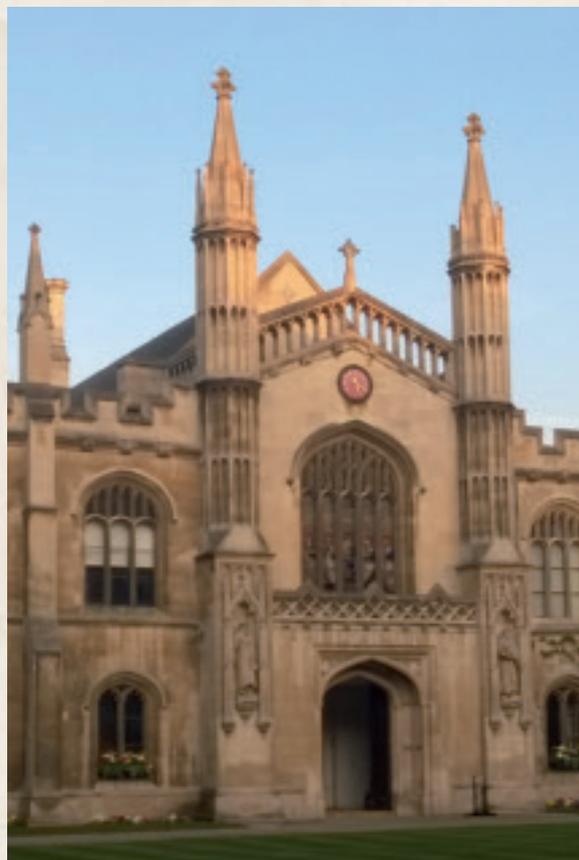


lists tell us little about the form of instruction, except for specifying the books they were supposed to read, and none of the sources state unequivocally how students attained distinction in their studies. Marlowe's name appears rather low down (199 out of 231) in the *Ordo Senioritatis* of the BAs who graduated in 1584. Many biographers have taken this to imply that he was a mediocre student, which may well do him an injustice. After the 88th name in the *Ordo* of that year the grouping is by colleges, and 'Dominus Marlyn' is entered in the grace-book as the second in the list of twelve Corpus graduands. The ranking in the grace-books was more likely to have been according to seniority since matriculation rather than merit, and recent historians of the University agree that it was somehow haphazard at best. In drawing up the lists for each college, the praelectors, tutors and examiners perhaps put the names of the high flyers at the top, though in assessing

performance in the disputations they may have differentiated the foundation scholars from other students. Classified lists of honours degrees divided according to merit were introduced in a much later, more competitive age. Little therefore can be learned of the academic accomplishments of Marlowe or any other student from the University grace-books beyond the fact that they satisfied the examiners.

Christopher Marlowe may be said to have had only a walk-on part in the drama of Dr Norgate's tribulations. The Master's good name was not entirely vindicated in the sad story of the financial plight of Corpus that happened on his watch. But on the credit side it should be remembered that he was instrumental in organising the reception of the Parker Library in the College from 1576 onwards. One reason for the over-expenditure in building the new chapel was his decision to





add an extra storey to the structure to accommodate Parker's books. That contribution deserves to be celebrated with gratitude. His time of trial merits a full appraisal by historians of the academy, while the financial crisis during his mastership, and the impact it had on the student body, should also be noticed in future studies of Marlowe that need no longer be haunted by the persistence of a false image.

*Dr Roberts is Reader Emeritus in History, University of Kent, Canterbury, and a former Fellow of Corpus. He was recently awarded the Hoffman Prize 'for distinguished research on the life and works of Christopher Marlowe' for a study of 'Marlowe at Cambridge.'*

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# Dr Michael Sutherland

Fellow and Admissions Tutor

IN MICHAELMAS 2013 I BEGAN MY NEW ROLE AT CORPUS AS TUTOR FOR ADMISSIONS, WITH RESPONSIBILITY FOR RUNNING THE UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS OFFICE IN CONJUNCTION WITH MY RESEARCH ACTIVITIES.

I first came to Corpus as a Fellow in 2006, after receiving a Royal Society Research Fellowship in condensed matter physics. Since then I've grown to appreciate the strong sense of community and the rich academic and social life of the College. Over the past 7 years I've had the privilege of directing studies in Natural Sciences for some of our remarkably talented physicists, I've travelled to Ethiopia and Italy on memorable College trips, and even 'survived' a May Ball or two.

Corpus to me represents an eclectic mix of the traditional and modern. Our students and Fellows are at the forefront of international research and contemporary scholarship, yet we learn and study in remarkable historic surroundings. I find it particularly humbling to work from an office with a clear view

of the old Cavendish building, where the electron was discovered and the structure of DNA decoded. As a Canadian this is doubly impressive as my office occupies a building older than my country!

In my role as the new Admissions Tutor I am acutely aware that higher education in Britain is in the midst of one of the most sweeping periods of reform in modern history. While students will always apply in great numbers to Cambridge, I think that it is important for us to get the message out that higher fees should never be a barrier to talented and ambitious students from less well-off backgrounds. The opportunity to obtain a high quality undergraduate education like that offered at Corpus can quite literally be a life changing experience. It creates opportunities that can





define a career, and many of our alumni tell me that the years they spent at Corpus provided a depth of knowledge and experience they still draw upon decades later. My goal then is to attract the most academically talented and promising students to the College, regardless of their circumstances. To achieve this I hope to spend the coming years continuing to grow our recruitment and outreach activities.

A key part of realizing this objective is through building upon our links with teachers and with schools across the country. Corpus alumni have already provided valuable help in this area and I expect will continue to play an important role. Readers of this magazine who are teachers themselves, or have contacts with a teacher, are encouraged to get in touch with us to arrange either a visit for their students to Cambridge, or a taster lecture from one of our Fellows. This year we ran subject based 'Masterclasses' across seven subjects in March, which brought hundreds of year 12 students to the College to be taught by leading academics. These one-day workshops organized around a theme, featured lectures designed to stimulate and inspire prospective applicants, such as "The Curious Chemistry of Water" by Dr Ben Pilgrim, or "Sentence First – Verdict Afterwards: A Right to Privacy in the Court of Public Opinion" by former PhD law student Dr David Foster.

We also plan a new series of residential summer schools in late August that will take the brightest year 12 students and bring them to Cambridge for three days to live and work in Corpus. These will also be organized around a subject, and the emphasis will be on intellectual engagement beyond the school curriculum, allowing students to explore a deeper interest in a topic of their choosing ahead of applying to university. The schools will also feature tours and talks about the College, as well as sessions run by the admissions office on preparing competitive applications to Cambridge. I feel that direct engagement with students through such events is important in attracting the best and brightest to the College. There is only so much you can get from a website, and I'm confident that experiencing firsthand the strong sense of community at Corpus will be a deciding factor for many potential applicants.

There are challenges however in ensuring that applying to Cambridge is an aspirational goal for students from a diverse range of backgrounds. The University has a strong commitment to widening participation in higher education, and here Corpus has been very active historically. My predecessor Dr Melanie Taylor, and former Schools Liaison Officer Dr Juliet Foster, have pioneered a number of programs of engagement with schools in areas with low participation in university education, such as the borough of Newham in London. An example of such an event was recently held at West Ham stadium, bringing together 200 gifted and talented year 10 pupils from across East London for an afternoon of lectures. Former Corpus Fellow Dr Andrew Spencer hosted a stimulating discussion on the role of the monarchy in modern Britain, while our new Schools Liaison Officer Dr Nicki





Humphry-Baker (see side bar) guided them through the remarkable aerodynamic properties of sycamore seeds. Our approach in these boroughs involves engagement at a young age. Getting students excited about the prospect of higher education from year 10 can improve GCSE performance and inform the important choice of A-levels in later years.



My own experience so far in working with students from such areas is that preconceptions about the University and its members are one of the greatest obstacles to overcome. It remains a widespread myth for instance that Cambridge is more expensive to attend than other British universities, while in reality fees are the same for all of the Russell group institutions. In fact I would argue that through the support of the College in providing subsidized accommodation, food and by giving bursaries, studying at Corpus is probably less expensive than say studying in London, where student accommodation is not guaranteed and many find themselves at the mercy of the London rental market. It also sadly remains a myth that the student body in the University does not reflect the diversity of modern Britain. With 61% of our home students coming from maintained sector schools this year, and students with Nigerian, Chinese, Singaporean, Thai and Mauritian heritages studying at Corpus, this is far from the truth.

Engaging with students is important, but perhaps engaging with teachers is even more so. Teachers are role models for students, and can guide the brightest towards higher education, and for the most able, Cambridge. Here again

Corpus is something of a leader in the University. For the past twenty-five years we have been one of the few Colleges to run a Teacher Fellowship program. This allows a teacher from the maintained sector to spend a term living in the College and participating in life at Corpus while working on a research project of their choosing. Past teachers have used this opportunity to research material for textbooks, to develop extension lessons for their students, or gather information on the admissions process. The Teacher Fellowship program offers an opportunity to make lasting links with schools and demystify Cambridge life and the admissions process. The links we make through this program are in some cases very strong – we have even had former teachers return to be married in the Corpus chapel! This is one area that I am hoping to expand upon in the coming years, by increasing the profile of the program and by seeking funding to allow us to pay schools for teaching cover while their staff are on leave.

Looking beyond the UK, Cambridge and the College have been actively seeking to increase the number of international applicants. In my view this is a key activity if the University is to maintain its reputation as a world leader in education and research as global intellectual talent becomes increasingly mobile. Through the Cambridge Admissions Office I have joined a small group of University academics who visit Pakistan each year to select scholars. For the past three years I have travelled to Lahore, conducting admissions interviews in mathematics, engineering and the sciences on behalf of all the Colleges. Last year we interviewed close to 100 applicants, who competed for a handful of fully funded international scholarships provided by the Cambridge University 800th anniversary fund. We have had several Pakistani applications to Corpus through this initiative, and our first recruit, Suhail Idris, joined us to read Engineering last year.

I am also excited about new opportunities in China, as this year we are about to launch a scholarship to fully support a student from Hong Kong studying at Corpus. I hope to travel to Hong Kong later in the year with colleagues in the University to publicize this new link amongst schools, and to promote Cambridge in the region.

Closer to home, I'm pleased to be joined in this new role by recently appointed Schools Liaison Officer, Dr Nicki Humphry-Baker (see side bar). Nicki also trained as a physicist and has a strong record of engagement with school children through her work at the Cavendish laboratory. Through the transition I've also been very fortunate to work with Janet Rogers, who has almost a decade of experience in the admissions office and has provided invaluable assistance.

I view the job of Admissions Tutor as an important one for the College – not only do they help Fellows in selecting the next generation of Corpus students, they also act as an ambassador for the College by engaging with schools and teachers across the UK and internationally. I very much look forward to this opportunity, and with it the chance to work with alumni to achieve our outreach and recruitment goals.





### Dr Nicki Humphry-Baker: Schools Liaison Officer

*I started at Corpus Christi College as the new Schools Liaison Officer in October. Despite the College not being that big, I still managed to get lost my second day when I came in through the back way. Nevertheless, I settled in and quickly filled up November with school visits. I travelled to Northern Ireland to speak to GCSE students about university and choosing A-levels. I also visited two schools in Kent to give a taster lecture on the Physics of Colour to A-level students and followed it up with a talk on making a successful application to the University. Talking to school-age children can be really rewarding. Seeing their interest during the taster lecture is always great and some of their questions are very interesting and definitely make you view things from different angles. My favourite question so far was when I was asked why it was not possible to imagine a completely brand new colour. Trying to imagine a brand new colour was definitely something I had never done before! Any thoughts? It is questions like these that I enjoy the most about meeting students.*

*Outreach was not where I thought I would end up when I started my degree. I studied physics at the University of Victoria*

*in Canada and was always happiest doing experiments; I was going to be a scientist. Having done internships in different areas of physics during my summer holidays, one of which was in the Physics Department here in Cambridge, I decided to apply to University of Cambridge to do a PhD. I researched the use of polymers in converting sunlight into electricity using ultrafast spectroscopy. It allowed me to get a better idea of where the losses in the devices were, and ideally try and do something about it. During my PhD, I supervised first year undergraduates and helped with a few outreach events, which I really enjoyed. So, instead of continuing with research, I decided to try to enter the world of teaching or outreach. When I found out about the opportunity to work as a Schools Liaison Officer for Corpus and on the Rutherford School physics Project with Professor Mark Warner, I jumped on it. This project aims to bridge the gap between A-level and University-level Physics by teaching the students problem solving skills. It is currently in the early stages of development but we now have a working prototype, which is very exciting. Both of my roles as a content creator for the RSP and a Schools Liaison Officer have so far been great fun and I look forward to the next couple of years.*



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