

Edward HERBERT ?1582–1648

Herbert was born in Eyton-on-Severn, Shropshire to Richard and Magdalen Herbert. After studying formally at Oxford and privately at London and Montgomeryshire, Herbert travelled extensively in Europe. As a soldier, Herbert went to France, Germany, Belgium and the Low Countries, as well as travelling through the Palatine, Italy and Switzerland. He served as ambassador to France and acted as a magistrate in Montgomeryshire.

Herbert was also an author of several works, including the historical *The Life and Raigne of King Henry the Eight* and his philosophical masterpiece *De veritate*. As a writer and courtier, he developed friendships with Isaac Casaubon, Ben Jonson, John Donne, Thomas Carew and John Selden, among others.

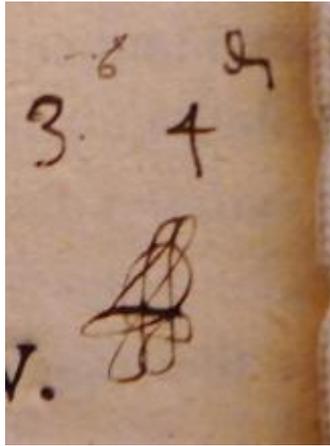
Books

Herbert's collection could claim to be 'one of the largest collections outside institutional hands in early 17th-century England' (Roberts, 2013). It was also clearly valuable to him: when Herbert's castle at Montgomeryshire came under attack in the Civil War, he surrendered with the proviso that the troops were forbidden to 'enter into the library or study of the said Edward Lord Herbert'. More than 900 volumes are listed in Principal Mansell's 1649 inventory as being received by Jesus College, Oxford, the result of Herbert's wish to donate his printed books in Latin and Greek to the college. The inventory reveals the broad range of Herbert's book ownership: theological and classical matter, magic and metaphysics, medicine and military strategy, history and mathematics, astronomy, music and architecture are all represented. Notable works include presentation copies by Descartes and Liceti. The vernacular printed books and manuscripts were left to his grandson, Edward. A small proportion of the remaining books are at Powis Castle, but many were sold in the 1950s and 1960s.

Characteristic Markings

Herbert's books are most commonly identified by the 'EH' cipher he wrote on the title-pages of works, together with their price. Herbert also wrote '*vol. post*', '*v. pt.*' Or '*v. postea*' on title-pages where other works are in the same volume, possibly as an instruction to a binder.

Herbert annotated a number of his books in other ways too: some have mottos (such as 'Vita momentum unde pende aeternitas'), while many others have underlinings, selective indices written on the endpapers of books and marginal comments. Most of the books in Jesus College Fellows' Library are also marked with a modern bequest book label on the title-page verso, reading, 'Hunc librum olim suum Collegio Iesu legavit Eduardus Herbert Baro De Cherbury A.D. MDCXLVII'. Some of Herbert's books bear his armorial bindings, but none are known in Jesus College's collection.



L.4.17 Gall. title-page

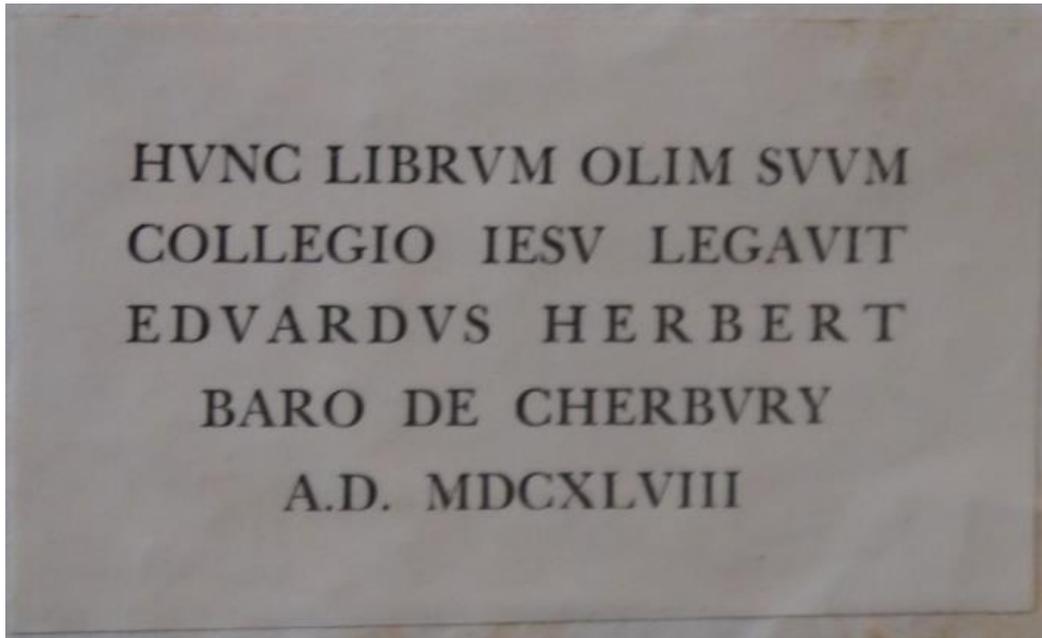
De Oraculis	219
De Chiromantia	254
De Magia	266
De Incantationibus	301
De Extorcione	374
De Auguri et Haruspicina	374
De Somn. et Lucebris	396
De Div. ca Somnys	421
De Prasagys Medicin	466
De Astrologia	556
De Physiognomia	606
De Chiromantia	606
De rebus Physiologicis gen	617
De Astrolog. predict	642
De horoscopia	720
De astrologia N. 364	
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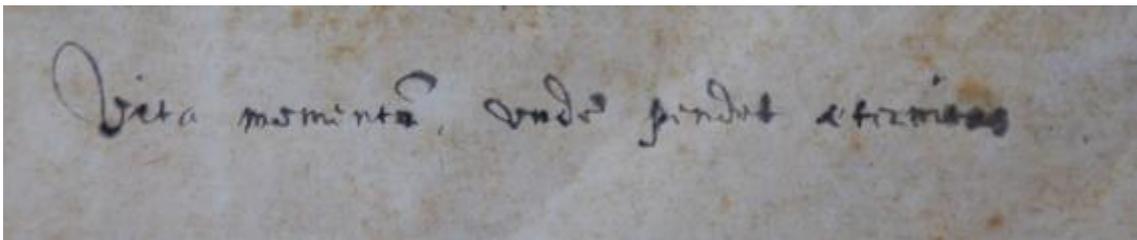
bus carendo. Alij Ceremoniarum etymon trahunt
 Etymolog. Ceremonia Cæretanis, longè repèta verbi origine. Docet Sa-
 liger^s. Cerum sanctum dici veteri lingua, à quo Ce-
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 mine Saliari. Alij putant à Cerere Ceremonias de-

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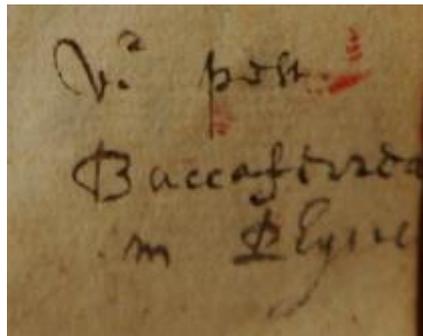
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A.8.4 Gall inside front board



N.20.11 title-page



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Bibliography

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Mansell's Inventory (Jesus College Oxford Archives PR.Mansell.C.1)

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Roberts, Dunstan, 'The Books of Lord Herbert of Cherbury' (Oxford: Jesus College Record, 2013)

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