

John Weever
Ancient funerall monuments
London
1631

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ANCIENT
FUNERALL MONUMENTS WITHIN THE UNITED MONARCHIE OF GREAT
Britaine, Ireland, and the Islands adjacent, with
the dissolved Monasteries therein contained: their
Founders, and what eminent Persons haue bene
in the same interred.

AS ALSO THE DEATH AND
BURIALL OF CERTAINE OF THE
Bloud Royall; the Nobilitie and Gentry of these
Kingdomes entombed in foraine Nations.

A worke reuiuing the dead memory of the Royall Progenie,
the Nobilitie, Gentry, and Communitie, of these his
Majesties Dominions.

Intermixed and illustrated with variety of Historically obseruations, annotations, and briefe notes, extracted out of approved Authors, infallible Records, Lieger Bookes, Charters, Rolls, old Manuscripts, and the Collections of iudicious Antiquaries.

Whereunto is prefixed a Discourse of Funerall Monuments. Of the Foundation and fall of Religious Houses. Of Religious Orders. Of the Ecclesiasticall estate of England. And of other occurrences touched vpon by the way, in the whole passage of these intended labours.

Composed by the Studie and Trauels of
JOHN WEEVER.

Spe labor leuis.

LONDON,
Printed by THOMAS HARPER.
1631.

And are to be sold by Laurence Sadler at the signe of the
Golden Lion in little Britaine.

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TO
THE SACRED AND IMPERIALL
MAIESTIE
OF OVR DREAD SOVERAIGNE,
THE
MOST MAGNIFICENT, ILLUSTRIOUS,
AND PVISSANT
MONARCH,
CHARLES:
BY
THE DIVINE PROVIDENCE, OF
GREAT BRITAIN, FRANCE,
IRELAND, AND MANY ISLANDS,
KING.

THE
MOST POWERFULL PROTECTOR OF THE
FAITH:
THE
MOST ROYALL PATRON, PRESERVER,
AND FOSTERER OF THE VNDERSTOOD RE=
LIGION OF IESVS CHRIST.
THE
PATTERNE OF TRVE PIETIE, AND IVSTICE, AND
THE PRESIDENT OF ALL PRINCELY
VERTVES.
HIS HIGHNESSE MOST LOWLY, AND MOST LOYALL
SVBIECT
IOHN WEEVER,
IN ALL HVMLITY, CONSECRATETH THESE
HIS LABOVRS:
THOUGH FARRE VNWORTHY THE VIEW
OF SO RESPLENDANT A
GREATNESSE.

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THE
AVTHOR
TO
THE READER.

Hauing seene (iudicious Reader) how careful=
ly in other Kingdomes, the Monuments of
the dead are preserued, and their Inscripti=
ons or Epitaphs registred in their Church=
Bookes; and hauing read the Epitaphs of
Italy, France, Germany, and other Nations,
collected and put in print by the paines of Schraderus, Chy=
træus, Swertius, and other forraine Writers. And also know=
ing withall how barbarously within these his Maiesties Domi=
nions, they are (to the shame of our time) broken downe, and
vtterly almost all ruined, their brasen Incriptions erased,
torne away, and pilfered, by which inhumane, deformidable
act, the honourable memory of many vertuous and noble per=
sons deceased, is extinguished, and the true vnderstanding of
diuers Families in these Realmes (who haue descended of these
worthy persons aforesaid) is so darkened, as the true course of
their inheritance is thereby partly interrupted: grieuing at this
vnsufferable iniurie offered as well to the liuing, as the dead, out
of the respect I bore to venerable Antiquity, and the due re=
gard to continue the remembrance of the defunct to future po=
steritie; I determined with my selfe to collect such memorials of
the deceased, as were remaining as yet vndefaced; as also to
reuiue the memories of eminent worthy persons entombed or
interred, either in Parish, or in Abbey Churches; howsoever

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some of their Sepulchres are at this day no where to be discer=
ned; neither their bones and ashie remaines in any place to bee
gathered. Whereupon with painefull expences (which might
haue beene well spared perhaps you will say) I trauided ouer
the most parts of all England, and some part of Scotland; I
collected the Funerall Incriptions of all the Cathedrall Chur=
ches of the one, and in some of the other, and euer by the way
gathered such as I found in Parochiall Churches: I likewise

tooke view of many ancient Monuments not inscribed, demanding of the Church officers, or others the inhabitants, for whom such and such Tombes or Sepulchres were made and erected, which was told me according to that truth which was deliuered vnto them by tradition: after all this scrutinie, finding so few, or none at all in many Churches (time, the malignitie of wicked people, and our English profane tenacitie, hauing quite taken them away for lucre sake) I was altogether discouraged to proceede any further in this my laborious and expencefull enterprise; vntill I came casually into the acquaintance of my deare deceased friend, Augustine Vincent, Esquire, Windsor Herald, & keeper of the Records in the Tower, who perswaded me to goe forward as I had begun, and with all gaue me many Church-Collections, with diuers memorable Notes, and Copies of Records, gathered by himselfe and others; and by his meanes I had free accesse to the Heralds Office, to write out such antiquities as I could there finde for my purpose.

But aboue all, I am most bound to loue the foresaid Vincents memory, for that he made me knowne to that honourable Gentleman Sir Robert Cotton, Knight and Baronet; who forthwith apprehending the scope and drift of this my Argument (his generous disposition being alwaies ready to afford his best furtherance to other mens industrious labours) gaue me his able directions, and withall, lent me out of his inestimable Librarie, such Bookes and Manuscripts as were most fitting for my vse.

But alas, this worthy repairer of eating-times ruines, this Philadelphus, in preseruing old Monuments, and ancient Re-

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cords: this Magazin, this Treasurie, this Store-house of Antiquities, Sir Robert Cotton, is now lately deceased, whose excellent good parts are well conceiued in a Funerall Elegie which hath happily come into my hands, and which I thinke fitting here to be inserted.

Viro clarissimo Roberto Cottono, ab antiqua Regum prosapia oriundo, Epicedium.

*Qualis Homerus erat, cuius de fonte furores
Sacros hauserunt veteresque nouique Poetæ:
Talis eras nostros inter, Cottone, Britannos,
Rerum explorator veterum. Ciuilia iura
Regni, Magnatum molimina, munia Regum
Et populi, nexus faustos, diuortia sæua,
Nauigia, et merces, castra, artes, religiones,
Nummos, structuras, chartas, solennia verba,
Et quicquid bello faceret vel pace triumphos
Callebat dextre, nemo magis, omnis ab illo
Et tua Camdene & Seldeni gloria creuit.
Ingentes Dominos titulorum dote superbos
Famososque Equites (simul omnes si periissent)
Quiuis Rex Orbi potis est renouare; beatum
Cottoni pectus nulla est reparabile cera.
Ingenio quicunque vigent tua tecta frequenter
Visabant, tanquam a Phæbo responsa petentes.
Nunc Oracla silent, sed non Schediasmate tantæ
Oceanum laudis liceat transnare, misellum
Nescio quid gaudens ad amici iusta litasse:
Omnia complectar celebrat Wigornia^α verbis
Queis Neckami obitum, crescitque in carmine verum.
'Eclipsim patitur sapientia, Sol sepelitur,
Cui si par vnus minus esset flebile funus.'*

A funerall Elegie vpon the death of Sir Robert Cotton Knight and Baronet.

He died at his house in Westminster the sixt of May, about ten of the clocke in the forenoone, Anno 1631. being aged, threescore yeares, three moneths, and some few odde dayes:

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He tooke to wife Elizabeth, one of the daughters and heires of William Brocas Esquire, by whom hee had issue, onely one Sonne, Sir Thomas Cotton Baronet, now liuing; who married Margaret, Daughter of the Lord William Howard, grandchild to Thomas Duke of Norfolk, by whom hee hath issue, one Sonne, named Iohn, and two Daughters, Lucie and Francis.

But to returne: I haue had many helpes, I confesse, from Sir Henry Spelman, Knight, and Iohn Selden Esquire, the most learned Antiquaries now liuing of our times: nor haue the helpes beene few which I haue long receiued from the well furnisht, and daily increasing Librarie of Sir Simonds D'Ewes Knight, whose iudicious directions, and ready assistance, were as often vouchsafed vnto mee, as I had occasion to request, and whose long studied, and still intended labours for the publique good, though in another kinde, may in due time make his memory and themselues deare vnto posteritie: Diuers of the Heralds haue much furthered these my intended designes; namely, Sir Richard, and Sir Henry Saint George, Knights. Iohn Philipot, and William Le Neue, Esquires, which I shall euer acknowledge, as occasion presents it selfe.

Venerable Bede, when hee compiled the Chronicles of the English Saxons, had all the helpe that might be of the Bishops and learned men of this Land. Cymbertus wrote vnto him all that was done in Lincolnshire: Nothelmus also sent vnto him all that he had gathered together in Sussex, Surrey, and Kent. Alcuinus gaue him his labours and collections for the Prouince of Yorke. Daniel of Winchester made him priuie of all that was done amongst the west Saxons: And from all other quarters of the Land, were Letters, Scrowles, and writings, directed vnto him by messengers, to aide and assist him in his enterprise, as he doth himselfe acknowledge in his Epistle Dedicatory to Ceolnulph, King of the Northumbers.

Now generous Reader, as hee had these helpes for the perfecting of his Ecclesiasticall Historie, and as I haue had the acceptable assistance of many of my good friends, studious in this kinde, for the finishing of this first part, and the rest of the worke now in hand, which is already in a good forwardnesse,

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let me intreate thy furtherance in the same thus farre, that, in thy neighbouring Churches, if thou shalt finde any ancient funerall Inscriptions, or antique obliterated Monuments, thou wouldst be pleased to copie out the one, and take so much relation of the other as tradition can deliuer; as also to take the Inscriptions and Epitaphs vpon Tombes and Grauestones which are of these times; and withall to take order that such thy collections, notes, and obseruations may come safely to my hands; and I shall rest euer obliged to acknowledge thy paines and curtesie.

And I would earnestly desire the Tombe-makers of this Citie of London, and elsewhere, that they would be so careful of posteritie, as to preserue in writing the Inscriptions or Epitaphs which they daily engraue vpon Funerall Monuments, from whom I shall expect the like kindnesse, and to whom I will euer remaine alike thankfull. For, I intend, God willing, hereafter to publish to the view of the world, as well the moderne, as the ancient memorialls of the dead throughout all his Maiesties foresaid Dominions, if God spare me life;

if not, it is enough for me to haue begun, as Camden saith in his Epistle to the Reader of his booke Britannia, and I haue gained as much as I looke for, if I shall draw others, when I am dead, into this argument; whose inquisitiue diligence and learning, may finde out more, and amend mine.

It may seeme, peradventure, vnpleasing to some, for that I do speake so much of, and extoll the ardent pietie of our forefathers in the erecting of Abbeyes, Priories, and such like sacred Foundations.

To the which I answer with Camden, that I hold it not fit for vs to forget, that our Ancestours were, and we are of the Christian profession, and that there are not extant any other more conspicuous and certaine Monuments of their zealous deuotion towards God, then these Monasteries with their endowments, for the maintenance of religious persons, neither any other seed-plots besides these, from whence Christian Religion and good literature were propagated ouer this our Island. Neither is there any other act of pietie more acceptable

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in the sight of Almighty God, then that of building Churches, Oratories, and such like sacred edifices, for the true seruice of his heauenly Maiestie.

Ethelbert the first Christian King of Kent, hauing built S. Pauls Church London, and diuers other Churches and religious structures, as I shew hereafter, is thus commended to posteritie by this Epitaph following, which passed with applause no question in those dayes.

*Rex Ethelbertus hic clauditur in Polyandro,
Fana pians certus Christo meat absque Meandro.*

King Ethelbert lyeth here
closed in this Polyander,
For building Churches sure he goes
To Christ without Mæander.

Saint Pauls
Church to be
repaired.

The pious care likewise and gracious intention of our late Lord and Soueraigne King Iames of famous memory, had, for the repairing of the foresaid Church of Saint Paul, and the earnest desire and purpose, which our dread Lord and Soueraigne now hath (proceeding out of his zeale to Gods glory and his diuine worship) for the repairing and vpholding, as his Father intended, of that venerable large Fabricke and goodly Pyle of building, will be had in remembrance to all generations, and their names will be registred in the booke of the liuing.

And the munificent allowance towards the said worke from William Laud, now Lord Bishop of London, of one hundred pounds by the yeare, while he doth contiue there Bishop, shall be commended, and had in remembrance of all his Successours for euer.

It may, perhaps, bee distastfull to some for that I write so fully of the fall and backsliding of Religious Persons from their primitiue zealous ardour of piety, making that the maine cause of the dissolution of Abbeyes: which I doe, for that some are of opinion, that because many of these Monasteries were built vpon the occasion of rapine and bloud, the Founders thereby thinking to expiate their guilt, and make satisfac-

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tion for their sinnes (an error in point of Diuinitie) these sacred structures howsoeuer consecrated to the seruice of Almighty God, could not stand fast, nor continue in one and the

Speed Hist.

same state for many ages; therefore I thinke it meete and expedient to discover and lay open to the world, the manifold enormities of the professed votaries residing in such religious foundations; that it may evidently appeare that it was not the sinnes of the Founders (of whose pious intentions we ought to haue a more reuerend opinion) that their donations were of no longer continuance but that the delinquencies of the religious Orders themselues, were the sole cause of their owne vnter subuersion.

I may, perhaps, be found fault withall, because I doe not chorographically and according as Churches stand, neare or further remote in one and the same Lath hundred or wapentack, emprint and place the Funerall Monuments in this my booke; but slip sometimes from one side of a County to another before I emprint an Epitaph. To which giue me leaue to make this answer, that hauing found one or two ancient Funerall inscriptions, or obliterated Sepulchers, in this or that Parish Church, I haue ridden to ten Parish Churches distant from that, and not found one. Besides I haue beene taken vp in diuers Churches by the Churchwardens of the Parish, and not suffered to write the Epitaphs, or to take view of the Monuments as I much desired, for that I wanted a Commission; which would greatly haue encouraged me (and still it would) as that of Henry the eight did Iohn Leyland, in the prosecution of this businesse.

I conclude the Epitaphs and Funerall inscriptions in this booke as I finde them engrauen, with a *cuius anime propitiatur Deus*: or with God pardon his soule; which some may say might haue beene as well left out of my booke, as they are in many places scraped out of the brasse: And I write the Latine in the same manner as I finde it either written or imprinted, as *capud* for *caput*, *nichil* for *nihil*, and the like; as also E vocall, for E diphthong, diphthongs being but lately come into vse. And now I hope that neither the conclusion of the one, nor ter-

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mination of the other will seeme any way offensiue to my intelligent Reader.

I likewise write the Orthographie of the old English as it comes to my hands; and if by the copying out of the same it be any manner of wayes mollified, it is much against my will, for I hold originalls the best; whereby some may object the simplicity of my vnlaboured stile, and the rough hewen forme of my writing. To which I reply, that this my kinde of Argument is incapable of all eloquent speech.

When I cite Ouid or Lucan, I vse those exquisite translations of George Sandys, and Thomas May Esquires.

Some will say, that the Epitaphs of London are already printed, and true it is that some are, especially such as are of later times, with which I do not meddle at all, onely I set downe those of more antiquitie, which haue either beene omitted in the collection, or for which I haue some historicall elucidations, for the better vnderstanding of the qualities of the parties defunct and interred.

Hauing had the helps and collections of many, my Reader may finde errours in some, which hereafter I shall studie to amend; intreating in the meane time a fauorable construction.

Many are the errataes, I am afraid, which will be found in the printing, the greatest I haue met withall I haue amended, not doubting but some also of consequence haue escaped mee; and for those of lesser note, I haue passed them ouer, desiring my Reader to correct and pardon.

Thus, curteous Reader, submitting my selfe, and this worke,

to thy learned and friendly censure, I take my leaue. From my
House in Clerkenwell Close, this 28. of May 1631.

Chytræus.

*Te moneant, Lector, tot in vno funera libro,
Tempore quod certo tu quoque funus eris.*

So many burials, Reader, in one booke
Warne thee, that one day, thou for death must looke.

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Errata.

In the Epistle to the Reader, in the Elegie of Sir Robert Cotton, reade Wigornia. . . .

. . . p. 235. l. 8. r. of. p. 247. l. 17. r. vt: p. 273. l.

4. 81.l. p. 273. l. 16. r. Totehill. p. 284. l. 24. the number of Constables mistaken. p. 295. two halfe-
lines transposed. p. 301. l. 1. r. him omitted. . . .

<John Weever had a strange hobby. Year after year he travelled around the country copying inscriptions from tombs and grave-stones. His travels took him 'ouer the most parts of all England, and some part of Scotland' (p. vi); they also took him overseas (at least as far as Rome), to places where famous English people had been buried. At first this was a private obsession; but then he happened to make the acquaintance of Augustine Vincent (d. 1626), who introduced him to other heralds and antiquaries. Through these contacts he gained access to archives and libraries in London – Sir Robert Cotton's library most importantly. By 1630, Weever had started preparing his collections for publication. His plan was to produce two series of volumes, the first called 'Ancient funerall monuments', the second (presumably) 'Moderne funerall monuments'. (The dividing line seems to be drawn at or about the accession of Queen Elizabeth.). The first volume of the first series appeared in 1631 (the preface is dated 28 May): within a year Weever was dead (his will was proved on 29 March 1632), and none of the other intended volumes ever saw the light. The one published volume begins with a general introduction; then it deals with four English dioceses: Canterbury, Rochester, London, Norwich. I reproduce three parts of it, the preface and the descriptions of the two dioceses in Kent. – C.F. June 2011, revised September 2011.>