

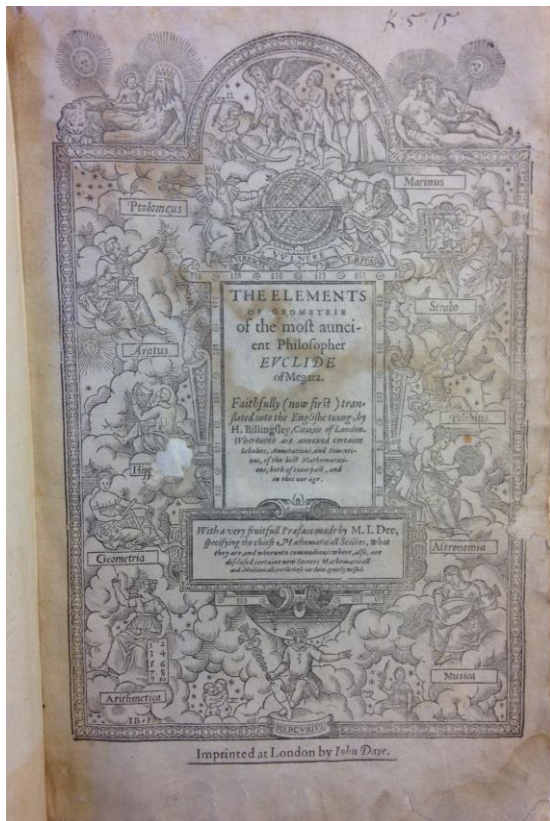
The Two Euclids of Daniel Appleford (d. 1645)

A contribution to our celebration of the 400th Anniversary of the Savilian Professorships in Geometry and Astronomy

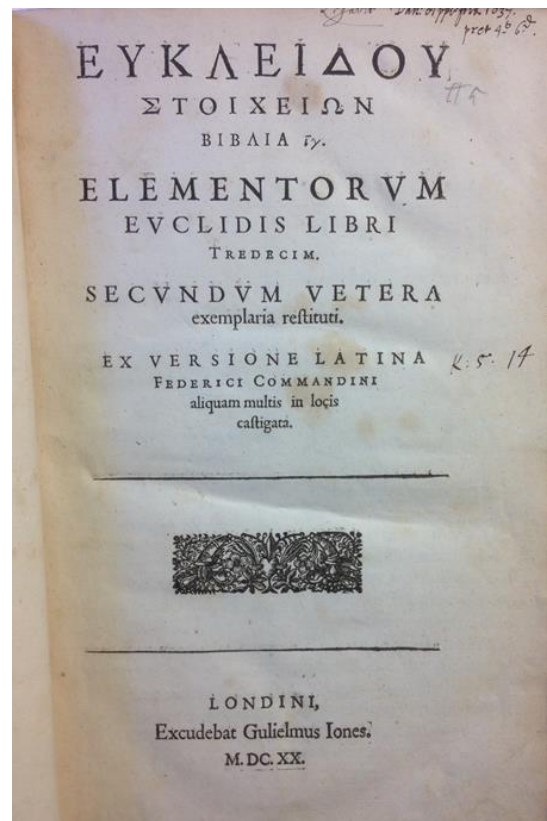
For many centuries donations or bequests to the college library were—and still are—recorded in our benefactors' register, but some periods are better represented than others. In the time of the Civil War, for instance, the register jumps from 1640, when the chaplain James Terry (MA, 1635) gave two manuscripts, of Jerome and Cicero, to 1654, under which we find a bequest from another chaplain, Robert Grebby—but with nothing at all entered between those years.

Is this the whole truth, however? Occasionally we find books still on the shelves today that demonstrate that the library was still receiving some items throughout this difficult period of warfare, siege, capitulation, and the take-over of the university and the colleges by the parliamentary regime.

The two books which form the subject of this Note are a pair of editions of the evergreen *Elements* of the classical geometer Euclid. Both were printed in London. The first is the famous 1570 translation of Euclid into English by Henry Billingsley, 'Citizen of London', *The Elements of Geometrie*, with a preface by John Dee (BT1.20.10). The second is a parallel Greek-Latin edition of the first six books of the *Elements* (BT3.207.12(1)).



New College Library, Oxford, BT1.20.10

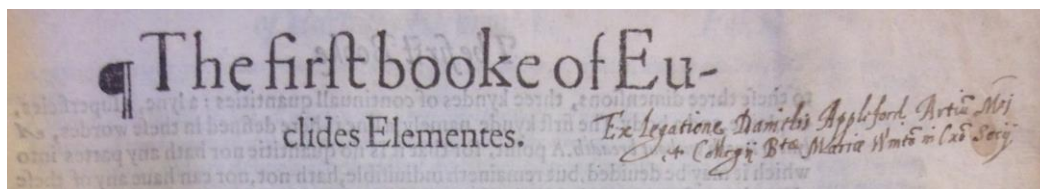


New College Library, Oxford, BT3.207.12(1)

The translation is a corrected version of the standard Latin of the sixteenth-century Italian mathematician Federico Commandino, and although this London edition lacks an editor's name, it was in fact the work of Henry Briggs, the first Savilian Professor of Geometry. It is not a distinguished piece of work, presenting just the bare text without any statements on editorial choices or any commentary, but Briggs dreamed of a proper edition of the whole text of the

Elements, to be collated against two manuscripts and Henry Savile's own annotated copy of the text in Oxford's newly established Savilian Library. But these extended plans came to nothing, and this London edition was as far as Briggs's Euclid went.¹

Now the 1570 edition bears no obvious inscriptions of ownership on its title-page, but if we skip over Dee's mathematical preface, turning instead to the start of the Euclid's first book, we find at the top the neat inscription in a contemporary hand: 'Ex legatione Danielis Appleford Artium Magistri et Collegij Beatæ Mariæ Winton in Oxon Socij' ('from the bequest of Daniel Appleford, MA and fellow of the College of the Blessed St Mary of Winton in Oxford').



Inscription: New College Library, Oxford, BT1.20.10

And if we then turn to the title-page of the 1620 edition, we can see in the top right-hand corner, now slightly cropped, the inscription 'Legavit Dan: Appleford 1637. pret 4s 6d.' Close inspection shows that 'Legavit' has been added in a later hand than the 'Dan: Appleford' inscription, which is Appleford's original note of purchase, and this 'Legavit' is in the hand of the same man who wrote the legation inscription on the 1570 edition, presumably the college librarian. In other words, Daniel Appleford bought his Briggs edition in 1637 for four shillings and sixpence, and when he died some years later, both this edition and his copy of the 1570 Euclid came by bequest to his college. When they were received they were sensibly shelved next to one another, as they bear adjacent old shelfmarks of 'K 5.14' and 'K 5.15', signifying the letter of the book-press, the number of the shelf, and the number of book on the shelf.

The owner, Daniel Appleford, was from Michelmersh in Hampshire, a small village near Romsey, where his father of the same name was town clerk; he died, on probably his second marriage, in 1643.² When the younger Daniel matriculated at New College in November of 1635, he was described as 'armigerous', and aged nineteen. He received his BA in 1639, and his MA in 1643, a fairly typically timed progression, but his future career was cut short by his early death in 1645, right at the height of the first civil war, when Oxford was still a Royalist stronghold. So Appleford bought his Briggs edition half way through his studies for his BA, and he may well have acquired his Billingsley translation at the same time, potentially to help him with his comprehension of the Greek text. This is a precious crumb of evidence about mathematical learning in the college at this time, and it accords with what has been argued elsewhere about the timing of mathematical studies within the BA syllabus in this period.³ The Lake Lecturer in mathematics in the college in 1637-38 was John Richards (BA 1635, MA 1639), and from 1638 for at least the next three years it was one 'Coles', either Edmund (BA 1638, MA 1642), or Gilbert (BA 1639, MA 1643).⁴ These men were at best only slightly senior to Appleford, and so the

¹ See Briggs to Holsten, [28 September] 1626, in Bodleian, MS d'Orville 52, fol. 134r. Briggs's editorship is assumed in the preface to what can be seen as a companion publication, also of 1620, the Savilian Professor of Astronomy John Bainbridge's edition of (pseudo)-Proclus and two other texts.

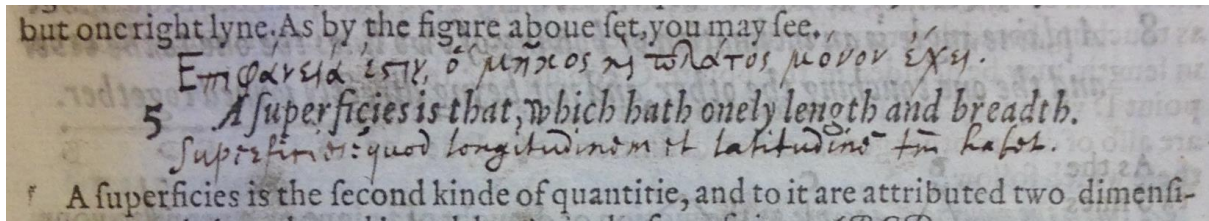
² 'Romsey Abbey Registers', *Papers and Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club* 16 (1944), pp. 11, 12. The Caroline Daniel Appleford is not to be confused with his Restoration namesake, also of New College, and probably of the same family, who was expelled for 'enormous crime', but ordered to be restored by royal *mandamus* in 1672, a writ then challenged by the college, Lord Chief Justice Hale finding in their favour—a case thereafter often noted by writers on the common law (see, e.g., William Nelson, *An Abridgement of the Common Law* (London, 1726), vol. 2, p. 1151).

³ Mordechai Feingold, *The Mathematicians' Apprenticeship: Science, Universities and Society in England, 1560-1640* (Cambridge, 1984), pp. 23-31.

⁴ For these lecturers see my ['Teaching and Learning in Jacobean New College: The Foundation of the Lake Lectureships'](#), *New College Notes* 9 (2018), no. 5.

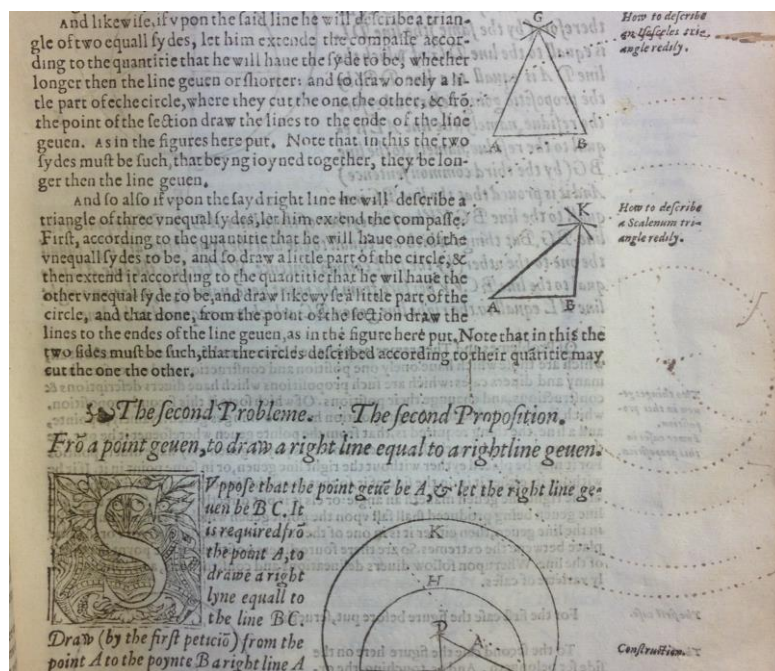
mathematical instruction provided in the college was presumably of a fairly basic kind, and the lecturers and students, at least in these years, cannot have been at markedly dissimilar stages. This is as we would expect: advanced mathematical training was now supposed, since their creation in 1619, to come from the two Savilian professors.

Appleford has not annotated his Briggs text, but he has used it to mark his Billingsley, because as we turn over the opening pages of the latter, we can see that Appleford has added by hand to each of the ‘definitions’ the original Greek text above and Commandino’s Latin text below.



Annotations: New College Library, Oxford, BT1.20.10

Like many student annotators, he lost interest in this exercise fairly quickly, working through the opening definitions, postulates, and axioms with waning levels of diligence. But this is a book that has evidently been well used, a rather worn copy today, no longer in its original binding, and many of its pages show the presence of a working student—compass practice (10r), ink arcs (19v), pencilling of uncertain date (e.g. 48r), pen corrections to the text (134v), and various pen trials or doodles (145r, 207v). These are arguably not all the work of one reader, but I am fairly optimistic that Appleford is the author of an interesting cross-reference (13r) to ‘Henr: Saul: Lect. p. 193.’, which is indeed an exact reference to a passage in Henry Savile’s celebrated 1620 Oxford lectures on Euclid, published as *Praelectiones tresdecim in principium elementorum Euclidis* (1621), taken from a passage in his tenth lecture. The Billingsley edition is also notable for its appendix of ‘nets’ as we would call them today, paper versions of the geometrical solids which could be cut out and assembled into open-out 3-D models, to be glued into the main text at the appropriate points. Two have indeed been cut out, but alas not assembled and remounted.



Compass practice markings: New College Library, Oxford, BT1.20.10

Appleford has left little track in the historical record. As he died in the university, his will was proved in the Chancellor's Court, and from it we learn a bit more about the man and his life. It is mainly concerned with pecuniary bequests, often in the form of debts to him forgiven. The children of one of his sisters receive money towards their education, two other sisters get gold rings with death's heads on them, a brother gets a similar ring and his wife 'my greate bible'. More interestingly, Appleford's brother Charles received a ring and a piece of gold 'wth the Ks picture engraven vppon it', as well as his choice of four books from Appleford's study. John Lamphire (BA 1638, MA 1642), a New College fellow who at the Restoration would become the Camden Professor of History, and then principal of New Inn Hall and then of Hart Hall, is to receive two of Appleford's 'physique bookes', and John Geers, presumably he of St Edmund Hall and then New College,⁵ is to have 'two of the best of my other books' after Charles's choice. As for New College, it is to receive 'my Greek & Latine Hypocrates'.⁶ One last comment on Lamphire: we saw above that Appleford cross-referenced Savile's lectures on Euclid. The copy in the college library of this very edition was the gift of none other than Lamphire, who had matriculated the year before Appleford, and I imagine therefore that Appleford and Lamphire studied Euclid together with their fellow BA students, and that they studied the text with the assistance of Savile's printed lectures, just as Savile had wished.⁷

This will shows Appleford to have been a fairly well-to-do fellow already bound up in a web of financial transactions with in-laws, a predicable royalist, but also, interestingly, a man who from his testamentary bequests must have embarked upon a postgraduate career as a physician. His will makes no mention of his Euclids, and so his executor must simply have decided to hand these books over the college as notional bequests, even though they probably were not so. Appleford's two Euclids offer us, however, a valuable glimpse of the statutory business of working through Euclid for one's BA degree, something we know was supposed to be ubiquitous, but which is often hard to catch in practice.

William Poole
Fellow Librarian
New College, Oxford

⁵ He matriculated at the former in 1637, aged 19, but took his BCL from New College in 1646. As a fellow he was expelled by the Parliamentary Visitors in 1648, but restored in 1660 (Foster, *Alumni Oxonienses*).

⁶ Possibly the 1595 Frankfurt edition (BT3.252.7).

⁷ Lamphire is nowhere named in the benefactors' register, but this book, now at BT3.179.16(1), was certainly from him, bearing the inscription: 'Donavit Johannes Lamphire Artium Mr et Novi Collegij Socius.' Lamphire owned at least one remarkable book, albeit probably only from a modern bibliographer's point of view, namely the c. 1483 Oxford edition of William Lyndwood's *Constitutiones provinciales Ecclesiae Anglicanae*. He gave this to his good friend Thomas Barlow, Provost of Queen's, in which college's library it now is (Sel.a.197).