

### **‘Bowlin Greens’ in Loggan’s *Oxonia Illustrata* (1675)**

David Loggan was an artist and engraver who settled in Oxfordshire in 1665 and was appointed ‘engraver to the university’ in 1669. The main legacy from his work at Oxford is his *Oxonia Illustrata*, which was produced as a companion volume to Wood's *The History and Antiquities of the University of Oxford* (1674) to be presented to important visitors to the university. *Oxonia Illustrata* was printed over a number of years at Loggan’s press on Holywell Street.<sup>1</sup>

New College has five copies of *Oxonia Illustrata*, one of which is rather different from the others. Firstly, BT1.15.2 is bound in vellum, rather than the much more common calf or goatskin as seen on the four other New College copies. Secondly, it lacks the fold-out engraving of Christ Church College. However, perhaps the most unusual difference is that, on the map of Oxford, there are three ‘bowlin greens’, where the other copies show ‘bowling greens’. In fact, as pictured below, it appears that the ‘g’s have been squeezed in at a later date. Loggan therefore first engraved ‘Bowlin’, and later corrected it to ‘Bowling’, possibly because it was pointed out to him that such a show-case publication ought not to display incorrect spelling, here presumably prompted by colloquial pronunciation.



**BT1.15.2**



**BT1.5.3**

Furthermore, BT1.15.2 lacks full stops after the College names on both the English and Latin lists of Colleges on the map. The other copies have had full stops added, plus dots above ‘i’s where they are missing on BT1.15.2.

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<sup>1</sup> Geoffrey Tyack, ‘Loggan, David (bap. 1634, d. 1692)’, *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, Oxford University Press, 2004; online edn, Jan 2008 [<http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/16945>, accessed 17 April 2013]



BT1.15.2



BT1.5.3

It seems likely that the variant copy could be an early uncorrected proof, printed before the main print run. It is possible that it was presented or sold by Loggan at an early stage in the publication of the book, although there does not appear to be any evidence to refute or support this in the College archives.

It is not clear how many copies with the ‘bowlin green’ variation there are in existence. No mention has been found on SOLO of similar copies in Oxford; a trawl of COPAC did not result in anything conclusive; and Paul W. Nash, who has done some research on variant plates for the RIBA catalogue<sup>2</sup>, has not seen this particular variation before (although it is rather common for there to be some differences in print runs). While Falconer Madan describes ‘bowling greens’ in his *Oxford Books* bibliography<sup>3</sup>, he does not mention any ‘bowlin green’ variant plates. Finally, after examining the Bodleian and Trinity copies, and help from All Souls, this variant has still not been found anywhere else. At present, this is the unique witness to a small but significant moment of orthographical self-correction.

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<sup>2</sup> British Architectural Library, *Early Printed Books, 1478-1840: A catalogue of the British Architectural Library Early Imprints Collection* (London: Bowker-Saur, 1994-2003).

<sup>3</sup> Falconer Madan. *Oxford Books: A Bibliography of Printed Works relating to the University and City of Oxford or printed or published there*, vol. 3 (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1931).