

John Marsham
Propylaion
London
1655

Monasticon Anglicanum,
SIVE
Pandectæ
CÆNOBIORUM
Benedictinorum
Cluniacensium
Cisterciensium
Carthusianorum
A primordiis ad eorum usque dissolutionem

Ex MSS. Codd.
Ad Monasteria olim pertinentibus;
Archivis
Turrium Londinensis, Eboracensis;
Curiarum Scaccarii, Augmentationum;
Bibliothecis
Bodleiana; Coll. Reg. Coll. Bened.
Arundelliana, Cottoniana, Seldeniana, Hattoniana
aliisque digesti

per ROGERUM DODSWORTH, Eborac.
GULIELMUM DUGDALE, Warwic.

LONDINI
Typis Richardi Hodgkinsonne,
M. DC. LV.

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<v>

PROPYLAION.
JOHANNIS MARSHAMI.

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<xxxiii>

..... in justum hoc, quod est præ manibus, volumen
excreverint.

Equidem Editioni huic omnino non interfui; absolutam ta-
men non potui non collaudare: neque difficilis opellam hanc, qua=
lem qualem, amice rogatus præstiti. Interfuit autem vir exi=
mius, Gulielmus Dugdalius Warwicensis, cujus jam sub prælo
sudat locupletissima Warwicensis agri Notitia; qui tantam huic
Operi supellectilem contulit, ut Authoris alterius titulum optime
meritus sit. Interfuit etiam vir nostrarum antiquitatum callen=
tissimus, Gulielmus Somnerus Cantuariensis, qui Saxonica, quæ
exhibentur, atque Lelandi Anglica reddidit Latina: ad cujus
Glossarium, non ita pridem cum Historiæ Anglicanæ scriptoribus
editum, amandandus est lector, siqua vox Latino-barbara moram
injecerit; qui ad edendam copiosissimam Vocabularii Saxonico-
latini congeriem nunc typos parat.

Palma vero huius incoëpti tribuenda est viro egregio, Rogero
Dodsworthio Eboracensi, nuper quidem defuncto, sed nunquam
oblivione sepeliendo: qui vetustissimas Pietatis memorias in lati=
bulis dormitantes suscitavit, & ex laceris Antiquitatis reliquiis,
tanquam membris Absyrtianis, longe lateque dissipatis Historicum
hoc Corpus orbi Christiano construxit. Opus mehercle ut arduum,
ita pulcherrimum, usuque eximium.

<This is an excerpt from the introductory essay written by John Marsham for the first volume of 'Monasticon Anglicanum' (1655, pp. v–xxxvi). A letter from Somner to Dugdale, dated 10 Nov. 1654 (Hamper 1827, pp. 282–3), contains some unenthusiastic comments on a draft of this essay: it is 'a most learned and elaborate piece,' no doubt, but it leaves many things unsaid which ought to be said. It seems clear from this letter that Marsham's draft did not mention Dugdale or Somner, only Dodsworth (who had died a few months before). In Somner's opinion, Dugdale's and his own contributions deserved to be acknowledged – and the upshot was that Marsham inserted two more sentences into his draft. In some circles, in and around Canterbury, it seems to have been thought that Somner's name ought to have appeared on the title page, perhaps even in first place; but I doubt whether Somner thought that. The two books that Marsham refers to as forthcoming – Dugdale's 'Warwickshire' (1656) and Somner's 'Dictionary' (1659) – were the occasion for an exchange of compliments and thanks. 'My speciall friend,' 'my singular friend,' says Dugdale (1656, pp. v, xiv) speaking of Somner. 'My noble friend,' says Somner (1659, s.v. 'hlæwe') speaking of Dugdale. (The passages are quoted in full by Kennett (1693, pp. 68–9, 110–11).) – C.F. February 2011.>