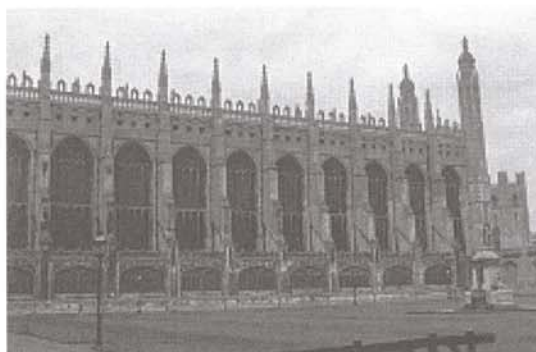


## A College in Cambridge University

### King's College

The King's College of Our Lady and St Nicholas in Cambridge was founded in 1441 by King Henry VI and munificently endowed. The Founder's statutes provided for a Provost and seventy poor scholars. Scholarships were restricted to Etonians, but a few pensioners and Fellow commoners from other schools were admitted from the middle of the sixteenth century. By the statutes of 1861 open scholarships, financed by the Fellows greatly reducing their dividends for many years, were founded, and since then pensioners and scholars from other schools have been admitted in increasing numbers. Until 1853 students at King's were exceptional in being awarded University degrees by the College.

The original site of the College lay between the present Chapel and Senate House Passage. The first College buildings were begun in 1441 on what is now the site of the western quadrangle of the Old Schools. Only the south and part of the west sides of this old Court were completed to the intended design: the rest was hastily finished when the King began to build a larger court on the site further south; but until 1828 the Old Court provided nearly all the undergraduate College rooms. It was then sold to the University, which demolished most of it apart from the gateway arch opposite Clare College.



In 1443 King Henry began to buy up the site of the present Front Court and Back Lawn. This was a built up part of the town with shops, houses, several university hostels, the parish church of St John Zachary, and the original site of Godshouse (now Christ's College). He had always meant the College to be built south of the Chapel but this was prevented by shortage of money and the Wars of the Roses. However, he acquired ground across the river, including Scholar's Piece, the walks beside Queen's Road as far as Garret Hostel Lane, and the site of Clare gardens (ceded to Clare in the seventeenth century). In 1805 the College acquired the ground beyond Queen's Road now occupied by the Fellows' Garden, the Garden Hostel and King's College School. The land where the University Library stands was King's and Clare's sports ground at one time, but was sold to the government for a temporary hospital during World War I.

On his new site east of the river, King Henry planned three domestic ranges closing up to

one another and, on the north side, to the Chapel, to form the new court. Between the Chapel and the river there was to be a cloistered cemetery and a bell tower. He laid the foundation stone of the Chapel in 1446; but the work came to a standstill, when he was deposed in 1461, with the Chapel only about 60 feet high at the east end sloping away to about six at the west, and still temporarily roofed. The Founder's stonework in the Chapel is recognisable by being white (magnesian limestone from Yorkshire), while later work is in Northamptonshire sandstone. Only the east range of the domestic buildings was begun; its foundations are still there under the lawn and can be seen in very dry summers.

Work on the Chapel was resumed in 1476, and by 1485, with the help of contributions from Edward IV and Richard III (rather surprisingly as both were Yorkists), the five eastern bays had been built and roofed. Then the work stopped again until 1508, when Henry VII provided funds and promised to see the Chapel finished. The fabric with its superb fan vaults was completed after his death, in 1515; by 1544 it had been fitted out for use, largely at the expense of Henry VIII who



gave the magnificent windows, the rood screen (on which the organ was placed after the Restoration) and the stalls in the Choir. In 1961 Rubens' painting of *The Adoration of the Magi* was presented by the late Major A. E. Allnatt and the east end of the Chapel was radically altered to house it.

In 1724 James Gibbs redesigned the front court, but was able to only build the west range of his scheme, the present Gibbs' Building. The court was

not finished until 1828, when William Wilkins built the screen (where the old Provost's Lodge and Choir School had been) and gatehouse, 'A' and 'D' staircases, the Hall, the Library, and what is now the Old Lodge, his preference for the classical style being overruled by the College's 'modern' insistence of Gothic Revival. Bodley's, the Provost's Lodge and part of Webb's Court stand on what was once a garden belonging to the Carmelite Friars, which the College bought in about 1542. When numbers began to grow after the new statutes of 1861, buildings were added here. In 1873 Sir George Gilbert Scott built the range along King's Parade between Wilkins' Building and King's Lane. The east and south ranges of Bodley's Court were completed in 1893 and Webb's Building (O, P, Q, R) in 1909 (the top floors of Webb's were added in 1957 by David Roberts). In 1927 Kennedy added a north range to Bodley's (S and Y) and built the present Provost's Lodge in Webb's Court. Part of X staircase was added to Bodley's by Sir William Holford in 1955.

The Keynes' Building, the largest scheme undertaken by the College for a century and a half, was completed in 1967. Designed by James Cubitt and Partners, it contains a small concert Hall (the Keynes Hall), meeting room (Chetwynd Room), the Research Centre, over seventy bed-sittingrooms, new kitchens and other amenities. At the same time the ground floor of the east end of Wilkins' Building was made into a new Common Room, including a reading room, a bar and a television room, and the Hall was renovated.