

Transcription of M.R. James's unpublished description  
Cambridge, University Library, MS Dd.8.2

<b>Title</b>	Obit Book of Kington, Wilts.
<b>Secundo folio</b>	
<b>Language</b>	Latin and English
<b>Material</b>	Vellum
<b>Measurements</b>	16 x 10 ¾ ins.
<b>Collation</b>	1 <sup>6</sup> 2 <sup>6</sup> (wants 6) 3 <sup>6</sup>     4 <sup>8</sup> 5 <sup>10</sup> . All within a single sheet which served as cover.
<b>Number of leaves</b>	40
<b>Columns</b>	Single to f. 21, then double
<b>Lines to a page</b>	48 to f. 20, then 35
<b>Date</b>	XV late and XIII - XIV
<b>Handwriting</b>	1 rough English, 2 very fine English
<b>Binding</b>	Usual

Moore 44

**Contents**

f. 2 is a paper leaf and, with 39, served as a cover.

On it (2b) at top: Dominus tecum. In red: John Elys, John Baker and three Latin sentiments.

Two large shields:

1. A John Elys la frère eisne; base ermine, a fess sable, in chief arg., 3 lions rampant sa.

2. A Thomas Elys la frère puisne. The same with the chief az and the lions or.

These are repeated on 39a.

f. 3 sqq. in a current late xv<sup>th</sup> century hand, the names John Elys and John Baker in red at bottom.

A very brief compendium of history. The first five ages of the world in a line apiece. The sixth age gives the dates of Christ's life, the coming of Joseph of Arimathea to Britain and a list of kings to Henry VII with their burial places.

An interest in Glastonbury is apparent. Under Richard I we have: Et idem Sanaricus medio tempore (erasure) sanctis monialibus de Kyngton in Com. Wiltes.

4b, 5a are headed Kyngton monialium and contain:

The order to resseyue Brothers and Susters to the suffrages of the Religion there. When the chapter ys do they that shall be resseyued brothers and susters shall come yu to the chapter house before the priores etc.

At bottom: Ihesu have mercy on the soule of John Baker

5a: The order to resseyue a mynchon there

Ends 5b.

6a at top: Kateryne moleyns mynchon professed at Shaftesbury Piores of Kyngton yn Wiltshire.

Blessed mary moder maiden and wyfe pray for me. A brief Litany invoking Mighel, Gabriel, Patriarches and prophetes, Peter and Paule, Stephen and Laurens, Siluester Jerom Gregory Austyne, Kateryne and Margarete, Al halowen. Lorde that is al myghtfulle spede al rightfulle etc.

Three verses:

Almyghty god fader of heuen

for cristes love that deyed yn rode [*MS roode*]

Carleton Brown 154, one of five copies.

Swete Ihesu to the

a gylty wrecche I yelde me

l.c. 2068

After this:

John Baker of Briggewater

Criste helpe the nowe and euer. Amen

And dame Kateryne Moleyns also

To the blysshe of heuen þ<sup>i</sup> sche [*MS* she] may go. Amen

6b: Thomas (Langton) ... Sarum ep. ... domine kateryne moleyns moniali monasterii Shastonie, appointing her Prioress of Kington, to the vacancy caused by the resignation of Alicia Laurens. Remmesbury (Ramsbury), 9 Ap. 1492.

As the old catalogue suggests, she was probably related to Adam Moleyns, Bp. of Chichester 1445.

Extenta omnium terrarum et tenementorum etc. of the Priory.

7b: List of tithes

8a blank.

[8b] In red and black:

Iste [*MS* ista] sunt preces et suffragia pro uiuis et mortuis in capitulo conuentuali dicenda. Ad te leuauit etc.

Recommendacio benefactorum nostrorum

Pro mortuis

9 – 20: Kyngton in com. Wiltes. Jo. Baker of Briggewater. Kalendare dierum obitus ffundator(is) ffratrum et sororum ac aliorum benefactorum. Priorisse ac Conuentus monasterii de Kyngton in com. Wiltes. renouat' per katerinam moleyns priorissam ibidem in xl<sup>ma</sup>. A.d. milles. cccc lxxxxiij<sup>o</sup> et a<sup>o</sup> ix<sup>o</sup> henrici septimi.

Printed by Canon Jackson in *Wilts. Arch. Mag.* IV, 60 sqq. Each month occupies a leaf.

In March is the entry of John Baker's gifts (printed l. c.) which includes: Thus boke for to be there mortilage.

June 17 Bothulfi Abb. is added

July 16 Tr. S. Osmundi ep.

Sept. 15 Edithe v.

Oct. 12 Tr. S. Edwardi reg. in red (for Shaftesbury whence Kath. Moleyns came)

17 Tr. S. Etheldrede v.

19 Tr. S. ffridiswide v.

Nov. 3 Wenefrede v.

Dec. 4 Osmundi ep.

8 Concepio b. marie v. red

II. The rest of the book, ff. 21-38, consists of a separate, very beautiful, early xiv<sup>th</sup> century volume containing:

21 Office of the Dead. Commendacio anime. Subuenite sancti.

27b Hours of the Virgin (use of Sarum)

All except the first page in double columns; music on four-lined stave. The decoration of this is of exceedingly fine quality.

21a has a three-sided border and large initial S (blue on light red patterned ground; in the upper part two angels on gold ground) in air hold a white cloth with blue bands on it, in which is the soul, a white bird. Below four beardless persons carry a bier to R. The coffin has a bluish patterned pall, a coped clerk with book follows. At bottom are two men with round targes and swords fighting. A line-filling of a grotesque with woman's head is excellent. In several subsequent initials are busts on gold grounds of nun, bishops, bearded men.

27b: Matins of the Virgin has a full border. Large initial with gold ground of the Annunciation.

Gabriel's scroll has AVE – GRACIA. The Virgin is bare-headed and has curling hair, very beautiful.

She stands and turns toward him, L hand laid on book on desk.

The border has grotesques and, below, a man shooting at a rabbit.

29b: Lauds. Two-sided border, small initial of the Nativity, the Virgin sleeping. Manger in C above, Joseph seated on R. Stag in lower margin.

Memoriae include Thomas of Canterbury.

33 Prime. Partial border. Larger initial than the last. Christ between two men before Pilate. Gold ground with red pattern.

34b Tierce. The Scourging, three figures. Similar ground.

35 Sext. Bearing the Cross (green). Christ, crowned with thorns, led by a rope about his body. A man with winged headdress and the Virgin follow.

- 36 None. Christ on the Cross (no crown of thorns or title) with Mary and John.  
37 Vespers. Three-sided border. The Deposition. Mary and John stand L and R. One man supports the body.  
37b Compline. The Entombment. Joseph, Nicodemus, three other men. Red trefoil arches behind.

This is a very remarkable example of English art. It has a considerable flavour of the thirteenth century about it, and must belong to quite the earliest years of the fourteenth.

For the most recent account of Kington Priory, see Mr H. Brakspear's paper in Archaeologia LXXIII, p. 244. Also Monasticon IV 397.