

The Destruction and Rebirth of the University Libraries during the Tudor Dynasty

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ABSTRACT. *During the Tudor dynasty, especially after the Reformation, the king and the church fought fiercely for the management of the university. As an important part of the university, the library was naturally affected. The libraries of Oxford University and Cambridge University have undergone a stable development during the potential opposition period of conflict, and then experienced the destruction after the Reformation. Finally, during the reign of Elizabeth I, the struggle between the king and the church gradually subsided. A period of time was restored, and the libraries of the two universities were rebuilt and developed.*

KEYWORDS: *Tudor dynasty, Oxford university, Cambridge university, Library*

1. Introduction

The Tudor dynasty in England has undergone earth-shaking changes, and the productivity has greatly developed; the king won the conflict with the church; the sphere of influence of the “sunless empire” was initially delimited; the social system gradually transitioned from a traditional feudal society to a capitalist society. British universities have also transformed perfectly in the social conflicts in the Tudor dynasty, creating a good start for modern universities. The educational function is the main function of the university library. Each university library will collect relevant literature materials according to the attributes, beliefs, and academic expertise of the university. These books can provide teachers and students with various valuable knowledge. It is precisely because the university library can choose documents freely, which also gives the university library its own character and its own will. During the Tudor dynasty, the conflict between the king and the church was not only reflected in the competition for university management power. The libraries of the two universities even became a battlefield of conflict.

2. The stable development of the two university libraries during the period of potential opposition

Both Oxford University and Cambridge University in the Middle Ages had their own libraries. The colleges of the university had a semi-monastery nature since their establishment. The students' studies were completed in the colleges. Therefore, they collected and owned the necessary books for study. The information has become an indispensable part of the establishment and development of the college, so each college of the two universities also has its own library. Merton College of Oxford University has the oldest college library in the United Kingdom. The books in the library are locked with chains to prevent loss, and even some rare books are still locked until many years after the Tudor dynasty. Oxford University has many precious manuscripts, which have been kept in St. Mary's Church. It was not until the bishop of Worcester Cobham donated a two-story parliament hall for Oxford University in the 14th century that Oxford University had its first strict building and first library. In this building, the library occupies the second floor space. In the 15th century, the Cobham Library was replaced by a new library, but in the new library of the seminary, the library is still on the higher floors. The new library is a memorial to a donor, the Duke of Humphrey in Gloucester, he is a collector, and was the first to donate a manuscript to the university in 1435. His donation was until 1447, and Duke Humphrey donated more than 600 books to the university. In 1458, Oxford University established the University Library named after the Duke of Humphrey, the Duke of Humphrey Library. Soon, the collections of the Cobham Library also moved into the Duke of Humphrey Library. At the same time, new books donated continuously. The Cambridge University Library was founded in 1415. The first book catalog of the library has only 52 volumes of books. By 1473, the second book catalog had 330 volumes of books. Like Oxford University, the libraries of each college are independent from the university's general library. There are countless precious books in these college libraries, the most precious of which is the historical manuscript collected by Archbishop Parker and donated to

the Christian Eucharistic Academy. In 1475, the Cambridge University Library was renamed the Rotherham Library for the purpose of Glorious God and Rotherham donated expensive books to the library. By the beginning of the Tudor dynasty, the Rotherham Library had a very rich collection of about 600 books covering theology, medicine, church law, natural and moral philosophy, logic and sophistry, grammar, and a small amount of civil law or ordinary Law books.

Since William Caxton, who traveled between Europe and the United Kingdom, brought printing to the UK and successfully printed the first book in 1476, the book printing industry in the UK began to develop slowly, and books gradually. It has become a battlefield between Catholicism and Protestantism, and has also become a battlefield for the conflict between royal power and religious power. At the beginning of the publishing industry, the copyright was controlled by the church. With the expansion of the royal power, the copyright was gradually controlled by the royal family. During the period of Henry VII, the first royal printer was appointed, and several books and textbooks on religion and law were published. With the popularity of paper books, the books of the two universities have also increased significantly. In the early Tudor dynasty, the collections of the libraries of the two universities were quite large in number. Among them, the number of Catholic theology books plus church law books accounted for about two-thirds of the total, especially the Oxford University Library most.

3. The two university libraries were destroyed during the open conflict

During the Tudor dynasty, the library was damaged after the Reformation. With the sway of the Catholic Church, the libraries of the two universities were also in a dangerous situation, and books were constantly being lost. Since Oxford University has a longer and solid Catholic tradition, there are more Catholic theological books in Oxford University's library. Since the beginning of the Reformation, the Oxford University Library has been damaged many times, but the losses are not great. During the reign of Edward VI, the Royal Commissioner and the anti-Catholic forces at Oxford University burned almost all the books in the Duke of Humphrey's library, leaving the entire library blank and even the furniture sold. The difference between Cambridge University and Oxford University is that the Protestant forces are more active, and the collection of Catholic theological books is not as much as that of the Duke of Humphrey Library. Therefore, during the reign of Edward VI, the situation at the Rotherham Library in Cambridge University improved somewhat. Only some avid Protestants burned some Catholic books, the chanting desk was destroyed, and some books were lost. Catholic books in two university libraries, "some were burned openly, and some were even sold to glove merchants for use as gloves." With the destruction of the two university libraries, some Protestant books and ancient Greek classics were added. After the Reformation began, Cambridge University was developed by Henry VIII and Cromwell. Because Cromwell was a lawyer, there are a large number of books on civil law and church law in the library of Trinity College, Cambridge University. We don't know the exact number of these books, but according to records, some people who work in the London Bar Association want to see the new books they need, they will return to the Trinity College Library. From this we can know that in the library of Trinity College at that time, books other than theology also had a certain scale. During this period, "because the college library was regarded as a relatively private property, the libraries of the colleges of the two universities were less affected than the public libraries of the universities."

Immediately after Edward VI's "purification" of the two university libraries, the restoration of Queen Mary brought another impact to the libraries of the two universities. After Queen Mary ascended the throne, the Catholic faith was rebuilt at the two universities. Some scholars in exile during the Reformation period also returned to the two universities to continue teaching and brought back some Catholic books. Queen Mary also ordered the outrageous burning of deviant books in the two university libraries, and the scope is not limited to the university libraries, but also includes the libraries of various colleges. By 1556, in a report drafted for Cardinal Boer from the commissioner of Mary's, "There are only 175 books left in the Rotherham Library at Cambridge University". During Queen Mary's administration, the books of the two universities suffered more theft due to the negligence of the library. Some thieves are Protestants, who steal for the purpose of protecting Protestant books. Some steal Catholic books in order to destroy them. During Queen Mary's administration, not only were the books in the collection damaged, but the management and charters of the two university libraries were virtually useless. Some college libraries had to close their doors in order not to catch fire. Throughout the 1650s, people generally believed that books were safer in private hands than in public places, so few people donated books to two universities.

4. The two university libraries were rebuilt during the period when the conflict subsided

After Elizabeth I ascended the throne, Thomas Bodley, the son of a well-known bookseller, decided to

rebuild the Oxford University Library. In order to build a library, Bodley lobbied and collected books everywhere. With his efforts, inside and outside Oxford University, from nobles, book friends, booksellers to bishops and members of the royal family have donated books, and more than 2,000 books have been received before the library officially opened. In 1598, Bodley donated the first books to Oxford University. In 1602, the university's new public library opened, and there were more than 2,500 books in the collection. The library is only for doctors, masters and bachelors, but if you want to enter the library, you must get permission from the council.

The Cambridge University library is much luckier than the Oxford University library. Although it was also affected after the two great changes of the Reformation and Queen Mary's restoration, it was not completely destroyed like the Oxford University Library. Only some books were burned. "In 1574, Andrew Perne, the dean of Pembroke College, decided to rebuild the Rotherham Library after consulting with the then powerful ministers of Britain." Subsequently, Perne measured and re-planned the Rotherham Library, revised the book catalog for the library, and formulated the library charter, and hired librarians and curators specifically in 1577. After completing this series of reconstruction plans, Perne took the lead in donating a hundred books. Under his leadership, the books donated increased, and more people donated money to buy the books they needed.

5. Conclusion

At the end of the Tudor dynasty, the conflict between the king and the church gradually subsided, politics was relatively stable, academics at the two universities gradually recovered, and the library gradually became active. The academic activities of St. John's College are more active, and the demand for books is more vigorous. By the end of the Tudor dynasty, the old books in the college's library have been replaced by new books. Due to the charitable act of donating books, the collections of the libraries of the two universities and the libraries of the various colleges have continued to expand, and the content has become more abundant. Medical books, civil law books, arithmetic and geometry books and other practical books have increased, and the Chinese and English books of the two university libraries and college libraries have also increased.

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