

Caput II. Buchananus et Haddonus et Gloriana

The month is **Februarius**, the last month of the year before Julius Caesar's calendrical reforms (making the Tenth Month, **Decembres** the last month, of the twelve-month cycle; and positioning **ianuarias** as first in the new yearly cycle). This month is also the second, of the three-part series looking at Latin and European literature during the Tudor-Renaissance era

This month we look at the life and work of **Walter Haddon** (**Gualterus Haddonus**: 1516-1572), an English civil lawyer who was involved in church and university matters during the reigns of **Edward VI**, **Queen Mary**, and **Elizabeth I**. In parallel to his public life, he became known as a Latinist, writing poetry for his friends. And, as we shall see, his Latin became an integral part of his public persona for state and sovereign

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Haddon was a leading jurist of Tudor England. (Haddon's life is documented. His biography is available on the World Wide Web. This work briefly discusses his life and offers two short literary selections, Haddon's line count of 30 to Buchanan's 35. Two sums for a Latinist as yourself the opportunity to discern the quantity of the quality of these *oeuvres*.)

Haddon came from Worcestershire. He was educated at Eton College and in 1533, went to King's College, Cambridge. He was a diligent student, and to the point, swiftly completed studies to graduate with a Doctor of Laws. He came to the notice of Thomas Cranmer and worked on legislation regarding the reform of ecclesiastical laws. The boy-king Edward VI, died due to contracting tuberculosis. (Haddon's report was finally published in 1571, **Reformatio Legum Ecclesiasticarum**.)

When Queen Mary ascended to the throne in 1553, he sent congratulatory Latin verses to her. Haddon continued working in the law, and was admitted to Gray's Inn in 1557 and, elected Member of Parliament in 1558 (the first of four times). But and, there is always a *but*, politics and position are always pursuits, for the Tudor era, *they are passions*. Princess Elizabeth had been ill, accordingly; Haddon sent a consolatory poem

Elizabeth, on her accession in 1558; Haddon was age 42. His sympathy to Protestantism was appreciated. During his final 14 years, to a natural death; he enjoyed professional and private success

Haddon's letters, **Lucubrationes** and poetry, **Poemata** were published in 1567 by Thomas Hatcher, a classmate and friend from Cambridge. A second posthumous edition was published in 1576

An exchange of books

Accepi parvum, tibi ¹ parvum mitto libellum
utque tuus novus ² est, sic, tibi, mitto, novum;
das mihi Germanum ³, Germanum redo vicissim,
ut tuus est varius, sic etiam meus est.
5 Non dubito magnum studium quin parvus haberet
Hessus ⁴, item Charion plenus amore venit;
felicem felix annum iubet esse poeta,
historiae Charion imperat auctor idem.
Ergo liber libro respondet, votaue votis
10 conveniunt; annus par sit utrique novus;
sic ego praeclarus prodibo repente poeta,
sic et in historia te licet esse ducem.
Cresce puer, versaue manu virtutis avitae
maxima quae praesens dat monumenta liber;
15 nam Charion patrios repraesentatque labores
maioemque tuo te docet esse patre.

Praise of Cicero

O decus, o splendens Romanae gloria gentis,
virtutis specimen, vitae praeceptor ¹ honestae,
o Cicero doctus inter doctissimus omnes,
cur tua temporibus nostris non iuncta fuerunt?
5 cur tua non licuit praesentes ora videre
praesentis? cur non tecum nos viximus una?
cur tua verba deus sacrum non vertit ad usum?
cur tua non venit servitor Christus ² in ora?
O quantum nostrum iuivisses religionem!
10 Gloria quanta Deo, per te quaesitia fuisset!
Vivere dignus eras nostris, o Marce, diebus,
digna fuit rebus summis facundia summa.
Sed quoniam Deus hoc nunc ³ sic effect ut esset,
quod Domino placuit, nobis placet: ergo valet!

Footnotes : An exchange of books

- 1 Background. Haddon exchanges a New-Year present with an un-named, well-born young man
- 2 Adjective. **novus** 1 / 2 adjective. **new**. The adjective indicates the book is recently published
- 3 Proper noun. **Germanus** 1 / 2 noun. **German**. See note 2, newly printed German publication
- 4 Proper noun. **Hessus**. Refers to **Eobanus Hessus**, the **Chronicom** of the savant **Ioannes Carion**

Praise of Cicero

- 1 Noun. **praeceptor**. 3m. **Teacher, tutor, instructor**; particularly a **teacher of philosophy**
- 2 Noun. **christus**. 2m. **An anointed one** (person). Era usage, singular with *majuscule C*, sense; **Christ**
- 3 Research indicates, suggested amendment, original text. See line 13. Delete **nunc**, insert **non**