

# *A Short History of the Library at Apothecaries' Hall.*



Original research compiled by Roy Sinclair.

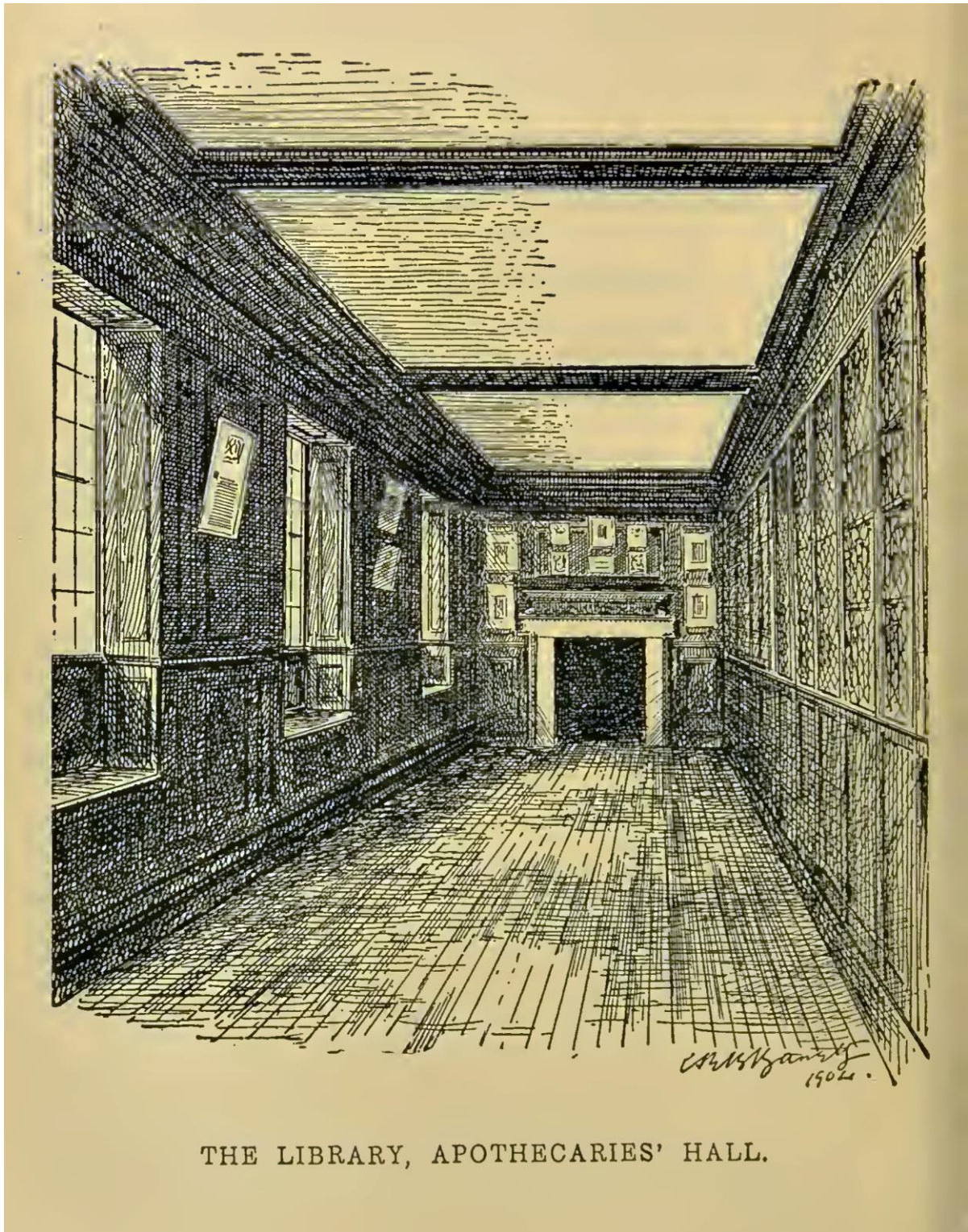
*Liveryman*

Edited and produced by Nicholas Wood.

*Curator and Past Master*

Additional Reviews by  
John Ford and Elizabeth Wood.

*Liverymen*



- 1 **Frontispiece to the Catalogue of the Library of the Society of Apothecaries**  
**By William Bramley Taylor edited by J E Harting published in 1913**  
*(This same image is also in C.R.B. Barrett's 1905 History of the Society, p.101)*

The image suggests that the cabinet glass is leaded. The current glass (2018) is plain with the corners 'missing' to allow air to circulate inside.

## Introduction

It could be claimed that the Library in Apothecaries' Hall was started in November 1633 when Thomas Johnson of Snow Hill donated a copy of his much improved and expanded edition of '*Gerardes Herball*'. In return, Johnson was made free of the Livery, and presented with a gown and hood. From such small beginnings a collection of books at the Hall was built up, donated, sold, removed and built up again over the course of nearly 400 years, to what it is today.

From that single donation of an important book (and one that is still published today though in a very different format) many donations of books over the years have been recorded. Sometimes, just a single book or a few volumes are noted but titles are not mentioned. In other cases, bequests of books are again recorded but no list of the books in the bequest are provided. One bequest resulted in books being transferred to the Physic Garden site in dribs and drabs over a period of over 200 years.

In the days when botany was king, and trade was important, when iatrochemistry and science education had yet to become a priority, herbaria (books of pressed dried plants) by some of the most famous men at the Physic Garden formed an important part of the Library collection. Some of these people also produced worthy books of their own that ran into many editions. In addition, from well before the 19<sup>th</sup> century members of the Society produced books that still have a lasting importance. Meetings of the Court of Assistants sometimes discussed the storage and movement of books usually because it was raised by the Garden Committee. We can estimate that by the mid-1700s the Society possessed around 500 or 550 books; a significant Library for the time.

However, a detailed history of the Library, the room and its books, is difficult to extract from the Society's archive sources. References to the Library or to books rarely distinguish between the Blackfriars site and the Library at the Apothecaries' Physic Garden at Chelsea. This is because up to the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century when the Garden was disposed of, books moved quite freely between the two sites and identifying which Library was being spoken about was only necessary when there were issues between them. It is only indirectly and with the support of few quotes (and most of them not from primary sources) that any purpose for the Library can be ascertained.

The room occupied by the Library at Blackfriars is easily identified but details on how it has changed over 400 years are few. Most accounts of Apothecaries' Hall describe the Great Hall, the Court Room and the Parlour in some detail, while the Library is either not mentioned at all or at most is given only a few sentences. C.R.B. Barrett's History from 1905 does contain some comments on the Library and the book collection but they are often limited to proposals made at meetings with little information on what then actually happened.

At various times over the last 300 years the Society tried to catalogue the Library and to define its purpose as an educational facility for members and apprentices, but this is only rarely explicit in the Court minutes. In 1885, the Master, George Corfe, gave a quite detailed account of the contents of the Library room but excluded the books. The only surviving Library Catalogue of note is from 1913 and this has been used to provide a guide to the original Library contents. Archive correspondence from the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century however does provide some further insight as to books that were once held and are now lost to both the Hall and the Garden.

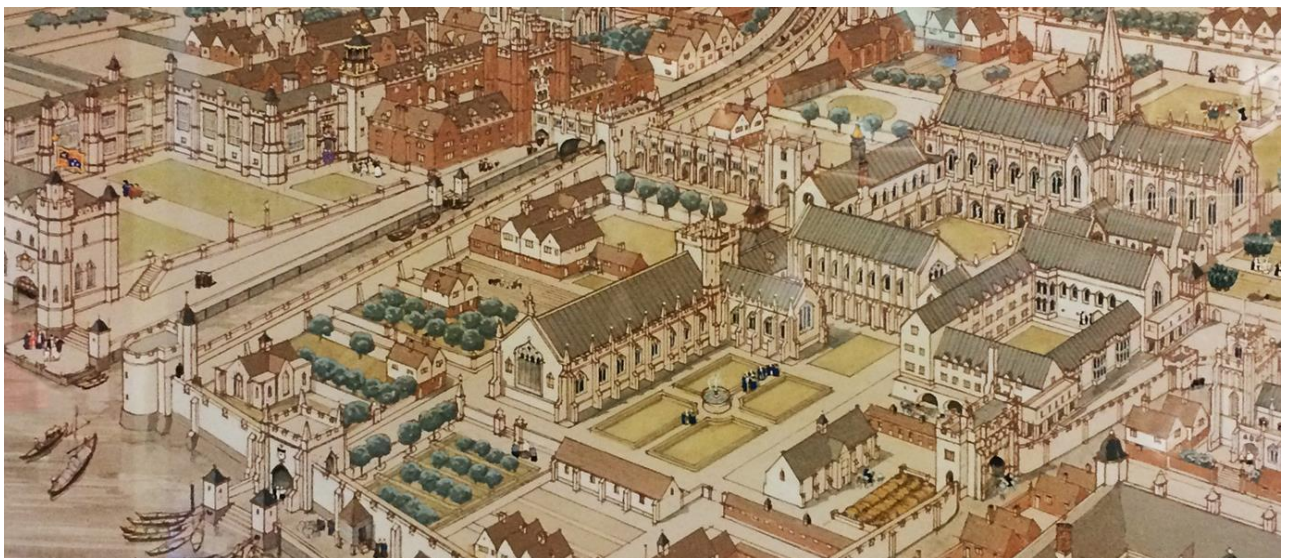
In the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, with the transfer of the Physic Garden to a trust, Blackfriars and Chelsea took on different responsibilities and much of the Library became far more relevant to the Physic Garden site. Many the 19<sup>th</sup> century and earlier volumes were moved there and by 1967, the Library at the Hall is recorded as being bare of books. Probably this was an exaggeration as it ignored the

remaining small collection of antiquarian books and some important runs of the minutes of some medical institutions.

Today, Members and others continue to donate, and the main Library now houses a modest but unique collection that focuses on medicine and pharmacy as well as on the place of the Society and other guilds within London. The 20<sup>th</sup> century saw at least two attempts at book conservation and some restored books from that time are in excellent condition. Most date their conservation from around 1990. Many older books however still require conservative restorative action. An important scheme started in 2015, Adopt-a-Book, which aims to conserve as many of the antiquarian books as possible to allow them to be once again freely available for members use.

### **Medieval Blackfriars.**

In medieval times, the site of the Hall and its Library was occupied by the great Dominican Priory of Blackfriars. The ground plan of the Priory is well documented, and many remnants can be seen above ground in the local area and indeed in the fabric of the current Hall. The illustrations below give a speculative view of how the area of the Priory might have looked around 1530 before the dissolution of the monasteries. The top left of the image shows Bridewell Palace, built by Henry VIII in 1522 and where Henry entertained Charles V, King of Spain and Holy Roman Emperor. The Palace later became a hospital and also a prison before being demolished in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.



## **2 Medieval Blackfriars**

*20<sup>th</sup> C. reconstruction showing the bridge over the Fleet and raised walkway connecting Bridewell with Blackfriars*

The enhanced section of the image below shows that in the 16<sup>th</sup> century a walkway with bridge and towers connected the Guest House of Blackfriars Priory with Henry VIII's Bridewell Palace. At the Palace end, a bridge took the walkway over the Fleet River. Long covered over, the Fleet River, or Fleet Ditch as it was often known, now runs under Farringdon Street. The bridge was then connected to the Priory by a long covered and galleried walkway decorated in similar manner to the Priory. Extending for perhaps a quarter of a mile above the heads of the populace the Gallery, bridge and passageway must have been impressive and would have allowed the King and other visitors to avoid some of the Fleet River's stench when visiting the Priory.



### ***3 Enlarged section of what is now the main area of Apothecaries Hall***

Today, the outline of the Society's Library follows the self-same upper floor route of the original galleried walkway to the Priory. It is along this walkway and through the Gallery that Catherine of Aragon, Cardinal Wolsey and Cardinal Campeggio would have used when passing from Bridewell, through the tower entrance to Blackfriars Priory roughly at the site of the entrance to the Great Hall, before then turning southwards to enter the Parliament Chambers.

It was here that the validity of the marriage of Henry VIII to Catherine was argued in an ecclesiastical Court convened by Cardinal Wolsey. In the end the Pope would not allow a decision to be made in England and the Court was adjourned. The separation proceedings ended in 1533 when, Parliament having passed the Act Against Appeals, Archbishop Thomas Cranmer annulled Henry VIII's marriage to Catherine. In the Parlour the Society has on display a painting attributed to John Seymour Lewis showing Catherine and her ladies in conversation with Cardinals Wolsey and Campeggio.

Act two scene four of Shakespeare's *Henry VIII*, first published in 1623, is set with stage directions; *London. A hall in Blackfriars*. This could justifiably be considered as being set within Apothecaries' Hall. Shakespeare joined the Blackfriars Company, and their theatre in Playhouse Yard, stood just south east of the Great Hall. Shakespeare would have been familiar with some of the 16<sup>th</sup> century

structures in the area and it was a performance of the play that caused the Globe Theatre to be burnt to the ground in 1613.

In 1538 the Priory at Blackfriars was dissolved as part of Henry VIII's suppression of the monasteries. By the time of the 1553 map below, much had disappeared and although very few thoroughfares are marked, a passageway is still recognisable, at a slight angle, leading from what had then become known as Bridewell Bridge into an unmarked Blackfriars Lane. The Priory's former Guest House and the eastern end of the galleried walkway however remained and were let. Blackfriars Lane terminated at the edge of the Thames in a gateway within London Wall and the London Wall on the Thames apparently ran roughly along the line of what is now Queen Victoria Street. St Andrews Hyll still exists, the church with the cross probably being St. Andrews by the Wardrobe.

4.



**Copperplate map of London 1556-8 showing Bridewell, Blackfriars and the Fleet River**

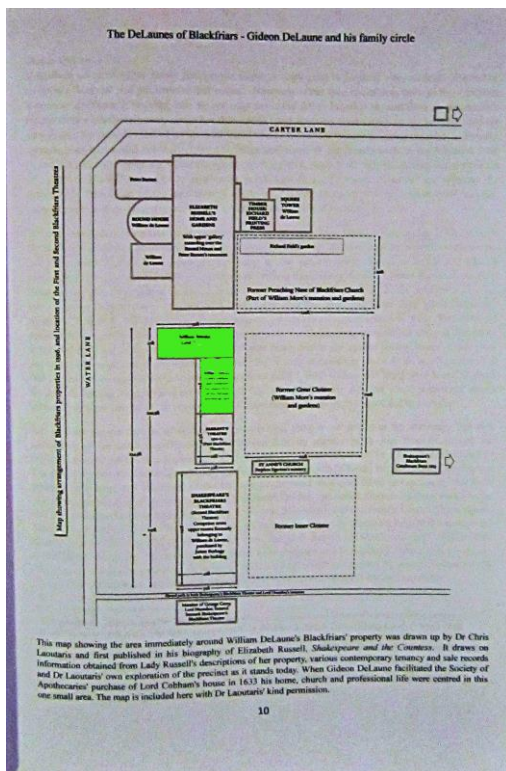


**5 Detail - Copperplate showing the Bridge connecting Bridewell Palace to Blackfriars over the Fleet**  
(Unknown author – public domain – note the City Wall and corner Towers)

In 1548 the area immediately below the Gallery and walkway was replaced by a row of tenement buildings. Later, six messuages (dwelling houses with outbuildings) were built by a goldsmith, Edward Corbett. Information suggests that all or some of the area under the Gallery and walkway was open to the exterior and supported by a colonnade of pillars right up to the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

### The Apothecaries come to Blackfriars; 1632

The Worshipful Society of Apothecaries were granted their charter in 1617 by King James I & VI. This gave them the right to 'have, purchase and retain a certain hall'. However, it was not until 1632 that they obtained the Hall in Blackfriars and although the original deeds are lost some of the contents are known and are recorded for example in Barrett's History. When purchased, the land on which the Hall stood was known as Cobham House and was an extensive property.



#### 7 Site of Cobham House (Shaded)

Wall notes that Lord Cobham only occupied the upper floor of the southern block

The Society bought it for £1,800 in October 1632 from the trustees of Lady Anne Howard sister-in-law of Frances Howard wife of Lord Cobham. (See picture and Appendix 5 for more detail.) As part of the renovations for the Society when they acquired Cobham House in 1632, the surviving eastern-most Gallery section of the Priory walkway was re-tiled by Peter Miles. Re-tiling or

re-roofing of the Gallery suggests that this had remained covered rather than being an open walkway. In the original deeds, the Apothecaries retained the right to a covered walkway leading to the waterside, this probably referring to the Fleet waterside, rather than the Thames which was some considerable distance away. This route is in all probability the route of the paved alley-way shown in Strypes map of 1720. On purchasing Cobham House, the Great Hall and the Court Room were already suitable for use. The Gallery on the north side and the lobby on the south side were used to provide a second parlour and subsidiary accommodation.



**8 Frances Howard – Dowager Lady Kildare  
aged 29 in 1601  
at the time of her betrothal to Henry  
Brooke.**

*English school. Sold by The Weiss Gallery, 2012 to a private collection.*

*Frances Howard was reputedly one of the beauties of the day*

**1633**

Both Bramley Taylor's Library catalogue of 1913 and C.R.B. Barrett's History state that the Library was started on 28<sup>th</sup> November 1633 when Thomas Johnson, who then lived in Snow Hill, donated a copy of his much improved and expanded 1633 edition of 'Gerardes Herball'. In Johnson's words, this was 'as a guifte, a booke called Gerrards Herbal'. In return, Johnson was made free of the Livery, and presented with a gown and hood. It may be worth noting that the title page of both the 1633 and 1636 editions have the names spelt as 'Gerarde' and 'Herball'. Sadly, Johnson's presentation copy no longer exists in the

Library although it is possible it may exist at the Chelsea Physic Garden. In 1967, a group of Liverymen and Yeomen donated a 1636 copy of the Herball to the Society. This is identical in all respects to the 1633 edition other than the publication date of 1636 on the title page.

**1634**

In 1634 the ceilings of the Parlour and Gallery were whitewashed and in 1640, the low Gallery (taken to mean the open colonnade below the Gallery) was bricked up and let. Some of the rooms below the Court Room were made by partitioning off the space. The brickwork was repointed, and the forecourt was coloured with ochre and size. Inventories exist for the years 1660, 1663 and 1666 but these contain little on the Gallery / Library except that two pharmacopoeias were kept in the Court Room. In fact, most rooms were then quite bare.

**1642**

On the 15<sup>th</sup> February the Society was required by the Lord Mayor to hold 50 quarts (approximately 13 gallons in volume and about 225 pounds by weight) of corn in readiness as part of the Ordinances ordered by Parliament. This was done by storing the corn in the Gallery. This would indicate that in 1642, the Gallery was a safely enclosed room probably used solely for storage within the

Apothecaries' Hall premises. According to Cecil Wall's history, the custom of City Companies to provide an agreed quota of corn for use in shortages dates from around 1521. Initially granaries were built to store the corn and then around 1596, to avoid the corn being seized by the Navy, the Companies made granaries in their own Halls. This custom ceased after the Great Fire.

## 1666

The Great Fire started on September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1666 but did not reach Apothecaries' Hall until Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup>. The only books that seem to be recorded as being removed from the Hall are the Society records which still exist in the archives. After the fire, only the original stone walls remained all rooves having been destroyed. Rebuilding started in 1668 and walls on the East, West and North had to be taken down. Cecil Wall records that the Gallery was completely ruined in the fire, but the decision was taken to rebuild it on the same site and to the same plan. Wall notes that four houses were built on the west of the forecourt on the old wall and a fifth just north of the Gallery. The details of the rebuild suggest that originally there was no fireplace in the Gallery/Library. This suggests that the wall now containing the fireplace in the Library was probably an external wall. Rebuilding was completed by 1672 making the Hall the oldest extant Livery Company Hall in the City and a Grade 1 listed building. Only the Vintners' Hall rivals it in age but unlike Apothecaries' Hall it has been heavily restored particularly in Victorian times.

## 1669

After Johnson's donation, the next mention of any books is the pamphlet or book by Dr Christopher Merrett FRS, with the title '*A Short View of the Frauds and Abuses committed by Apothecaries; as well in Relation to Patients as Physicians: and of the only Remedy Thereof by Physicians making their own Medicines*'. This pamphlet was read before the full Court on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1669. Merrett, who lived from 1614 to 1695, was a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and the author of several similar tracts. The reading apparently caused a storm with the book being published in 1669 followed by a corrected edition in 1670. The Apothecaries wrote a polite response to the Royal College of Physicians (after contemplating several different responses) where they indicated their wish to continue their amiable relationship and asked whether the College would disavow such a book. Merrett's tract came early in the growing difficulties over the prices charged by apothecaries for medicines that led later to the 'free dispensary' dispute. In his book, on page 2, he states that he was '*saving his patients' lives and purses by dispensing gratis my medicines*'. He fails to state that he was still however taking his physicians fees or honorariums for advice, something the apothecaries could not do.

In 1651 Merrett had become a Fellow of the College of Physicians and in 1654 he was appointed their Harveian Librarian. He was an expert herbalist and the first to describe in 1662 in a Royal Society paper the '*methode champenoise*' for making sparkling wines. In 1666, however the College Library was almost completely lost in the Great Fire and as a result the College stopped paying Merrett his librarian's salary. This resulted in a long drawn out dispute and Cecil Wall remarks that at the time of the pamphlet in 1669, he was already out of favour with the College and that it had been written to try and ingratiate himself with them again. Merrett in fact protested sufficiently enough to be expelled from Fellowship of the College in 1681. He was also expelled from the Royal Society in 1685.

## The New Hall and Courtyard

Little is known of the appearance of the Hall or Library before the Great Fire but as it was rebuilt immediately afterward in 1672 there are likely to be significant similarities. Whilst some doors have

been moved for example and fireplaces fitted, the major first-floor structures, such as the floor plan of the Great Hall, Court Room, Parlour and Library, were based on the arrangements before the fire and remain today almost as re-built between 1668 and 1672. According to Wall, the contents of the rooms from those time are recorded in the Rough Court Books.

Although the Gallery was replaced after the Fire, the stone Fleet Bridge had been replaced in the early to mid-17<sup>th</sup> Century with a wooden structure that then became known as Bridewell Bridge. This was burnt down in the Great Fire of 1666 and was in turn replaced with another stone bridge although it may not have stood on exactly the same spot. This second stone bridge was finally removed when New Bridge Street (leading from the Thames at Blackfriars up to Ludgate Hill) was constructed and 'The New Canal' and Fleet River were then covered over.



**9 Bridewell from John Strypes  
1720 much expanded edition of  
John Stows Survey of London**

**1672**

In 1671 a decision had been made to set up a Laboratory to manufacture and sell medicinal preparations through a shareholder system. One stipulation was that subscribers to the Laboratory were always to

have freedom of access to the Laboratory to *'inform themselves of what they shall there see in the knowledge of ye chemical parte of Pharmacy'* or as we would say *'to learn'*. The Laboratory was housed under the Great Hall in an area that had previously been described as *'open as a large vault'*. On October 22<sup>nd</sup> the Court ordered that the Courtyard be paved over with flat stones and at the same time, a small garden at the rear of the Great Hall was enclosed. Several early images of the Courtyard suggest that prior to this paving, the courtyard was paved with much smaller bricks or tiles and an undated Wellcome Museum pen and ink image gives no indication of any courtyard paving or central 'lamp' at all. The lamp allegedly covers the original Priory Well and this area would have abutted onto the area below the Gallery.

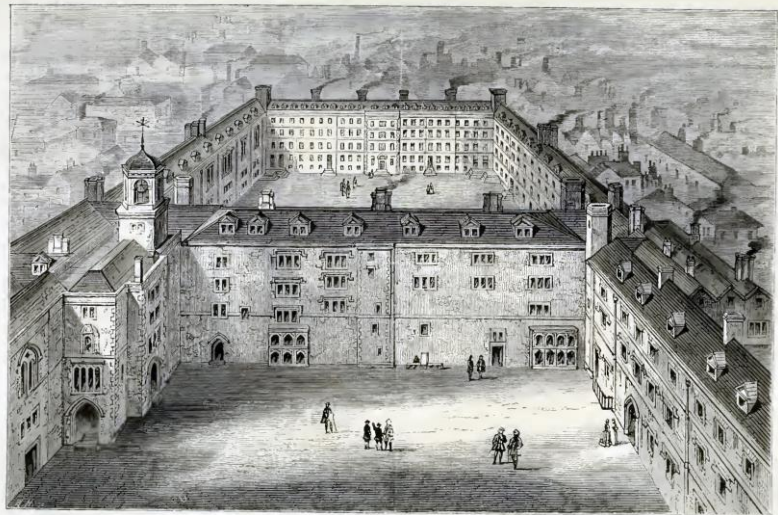
**1674**

On April 28<sup>th</sup> it is recorded that the Laboratory was to be moved to the end of the walk under the Gallery *'unto the third pillar and further if there be occasion'*. The shop was also relocated, still under the Gallery but to *'the end of the walk under the first pillar and further if there be occasion. Storerooms were retained on the cloister-garth site'*. A 'garth' referred to a courtyard surrounded by a cloister and this was on the east side of the Hall site. Barrett also includes an image of the Long Garrett but with no information about its location. There were several similar rooms and some of these could well have been located above the second-floor rooms now in existence over the Gallery.

**1677**

Wall Cameron and Underwood's History of the Society contains one of the few references to a reference Library now existing in the Hall. They state that *'Chemistry could be learnt in the*

Laboratory at the Hall. He (the apprentice) could read books on botany such as Ray's 'Historia plantarum' and Dale's 'Pharmacologia or Materia Medica'. In anatomy, James Keill's work was usually recommended but Gibson's Epitome (possibly John Gibson's Epitome of English History) was also popular.' All three books of Ray, Dale and Keill are still listed in the 1913 Library catalogue. Wall et al also state that according to the author of 'Tentamen Medicinale', the works of Willis, Sydenham, Morton, Archibald Pitcairne and Robert Boyle were available for study. This would be the text 'Tentamen Medicinale, or An Enquiry into the Differences between the Dispensarian and the Apothecaries' published anonymously in 1704 but actually by John Nutt. This was written as a rebuttal to the dispensarians and lists many of the medical authors of the day that could be consulted although it does not reference the Apothecaries' Library directly. This little pamphlet is not in the 1913 Library catalogue but many of the works that it references are.



**10. Bridewell as rebuilt after the Great Fire (Thornbury page 187)**



**12. Apothecaries Hall 1806 showing basement windows**

**1681**

In 1681, Barrett records that on October 6<sup>th</sup>, despite being crippled in funds it was determined to 'contrive a Library' for the use of the Laboratory and Garden and 'A Repositorie' was now ordered to be made at the end of the Gallery. Wall states (1905) 'that this Repositorie still exists in the shape of some exceedingly deep cupboards on either side of the fireplace. At the same time the sides of the Gallery were ordered to be lined with wainscot and a panel was executed as a specimen'. The next year, in 1682 and some 10 years after the original rebuild, the Gallery was 'converted' into a repository for books and began to be known as the Library. This indicates the Gallery was by this time an enclosed room and that the actual repository consisted only of two deep cupboards either side of the chimney. These appear in Wall's

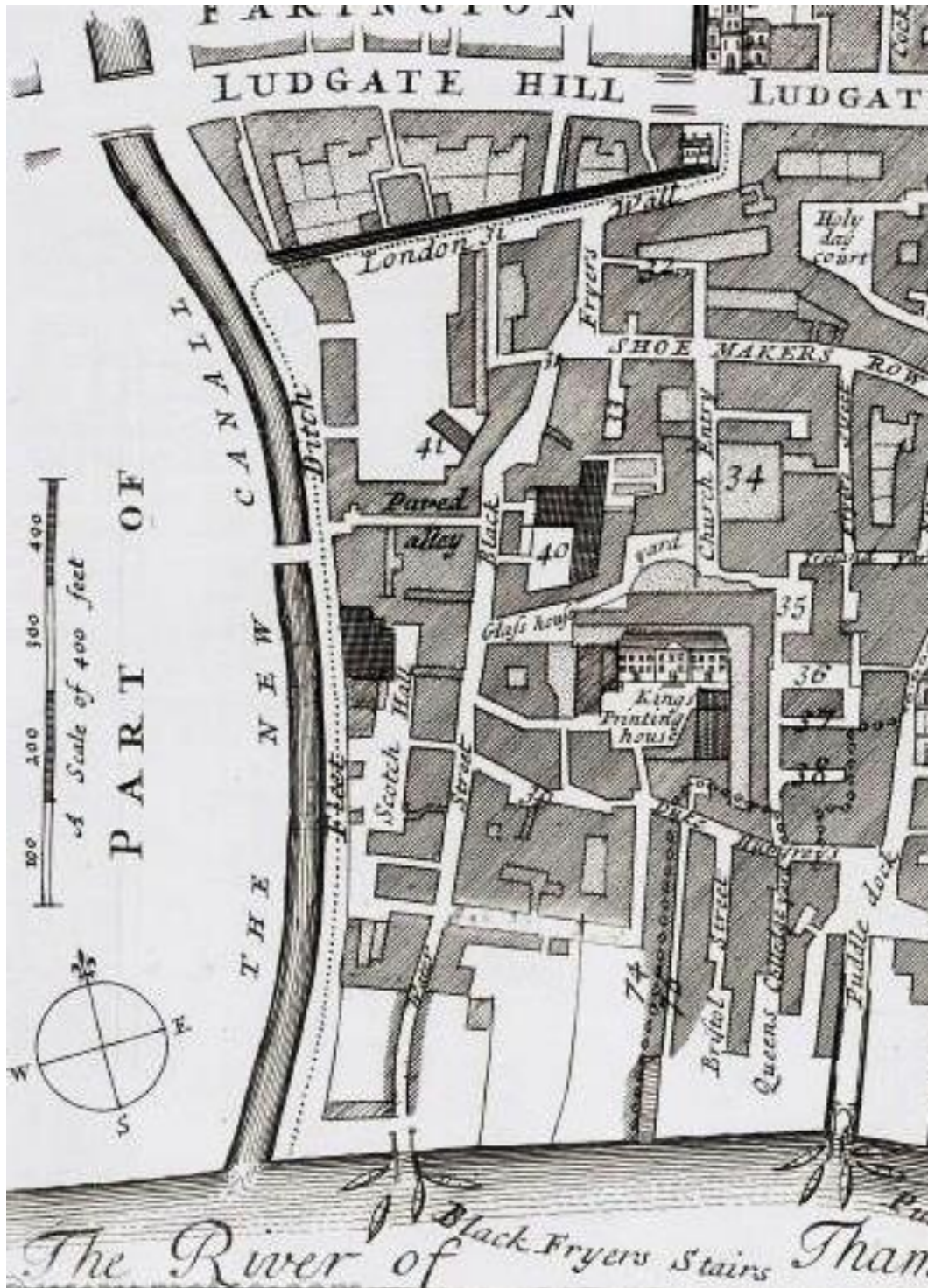
illustrations of 1932 but later in the 20<sup>th</sup> century the left-hand cupboard was modified to provide an entrance to the staff kitchen behind the wall and a false door was created beside the fireplace.

**1683**

In 1683 a catalogue of the Garden plants was produced and ordered to be printed. According to Barrett this was compiled by Nicholas Staphurst who occurs in the Apothecaries' records as Stophort, the spelling of names then frequently varying considerably. Staphurst had offered to undertake this at his own expense although why is not clear as at that time. Staphurst was the Apothecaries' Chymical Operator and the current Library contains a single booklet of 54 pages by him. This is '*Officina Chymia Londinensis*' published by Hanbury, London in 1686. Little is known of Staphurst, but it is known that Hans Sloane stayed with him while studying Chemistry at Apothecaries' Hall.

### **1689**

According to Barrett, on October 15<sup>th</sup>, 1689, there was a present of a few books to the repository. Unfortunately, they and their donor are not named. Barrett also notes that in September, Mr. Watts, the Gardener, who had planted the four famous cedar trees, had been missing for near 3 months and plants were being stolen. Watts had been made responsible for a catalogue of the garden but by 1692 this had still not been completed and Watts was replaced. What does emerge around this time are the two different views of the Garden. One was as an educational establishment and one as a money-making investment since significant sums could be made through the sale of rare or exotic plants.



11

**1720 Map from John Strypes Survey of the Cities of London and Westminster**  
 (This shows two separate entrances to the Hall (no. 40), one of which would correspond to the retail premises). Playhouse Yard is here called Glass house Yard  
 (From Stow / Strype, Survey of London ed. 1720, I. iii. 194, 280)

## 1720

The 1720 map from Strypes survey shows Bridewell Bridge as still being in place and Paved Alley leading between Apothecaries' Hall and the Fleet River. This location is the remnants of the route of the old Gallery and walkway leading to Bridewell Palace. A paved alleyway of that length would not have been that common and many smaller roads and alleyways had yet to be paved in London. Clearly it had some important use and was significant enough to be recorded as such on the map. There were houses on each side of this alley, but London's smaller street and alley names were quite arbitrary and house numbering as we understand it did not start until around 1735-1750. Identifying it as the Paved Alley, Blackfriars, would have made it a recognisable and locatable address and it corresponds roughly to what is Apothecaries Street today. There was also a drain that ran from Apothecaries' Hall across Blackfriars and along or possibly under this Paved Alley to the Fleet Ditch following the original course of Henry VIII's raised walkway. Cecil Wall in his small pamphlet '*The London Apothecaries*' states that the course of the Gallery was indicated by Apothecary Street which led from New Bridge Street under the railway arch into Blackfriars Lane, just opposite the northern side of the forecourt. Apothecary Street was formerly called Union Street, Pav'd Alley and Kings Street. The Railway arch is now closed and replaced by a walkway over the railway. Union Street and King Street hint at its past use.

## 1722

It was in 1722 that the arrangements for leasing the Garden in perpetuity to the Society were made. Wall records that they then spent money on necessary improvements, the most important being the provision of a Library and Herbarium. As a result of Sir Hans Sloane's gift of the Physic Garden, one condition was that each year 50 botanical specimens were to be presented at some public meeting of the Royal Society. On March 14<sup>th</sup>, the first 50 specimens were reported ready and a letter referring to them was sent to the Royal Society and these were duly presented. The 50 plants as drawn up by Isaac Rand are listed in Volume 32 of the Philosophical Transactions for 1722-1723 and they were presented to the Royal Society by Mr Rand and Mr Meres. Sadly, there is no copy in the Library. The full title of the short report is '*A Catalogue of Fifty Plants Lately Presented to the Royal Society, by the Company of Apothecaries of London; Pursuant to the Direction of Sir Hans Sloane, Bart. President of the College of Physicians, and Vice-President of the Royal Society*' and is on pages 279-284. The Bramley Taylor Library Catalogue of 1913 shows that the Society had runs of the Philosophical transactions from 1705 -1756 and also volumes 185-195 from 1878-79. Hence a copy was originally held in the Library, but unfortunately, no longer. 1722 and 1724 were important years for the Garden as in 1722 Philip Miller was appointed Gardener and in 1724, Isaac Rand was appointed Praefectus Hortis. Both became famous. Philip Miller (1691-1771) is remembered today for two books. His '*Gardeners Dictionary*' was the first printed and ran into many editions. His smaller, but comprehensive '*Gardeners Kalendar*', first published in 1732 and also went into numerous editions and is still valid and used today. Miller also distributed plant seeds widely including the seeds for what is considered the finest of cottons, Sea Island Cotton.

Isaac Rand (1674-1743) had been instrumental in setting up the Chelsea Physic Garden from around 1707 but in 1724 was appointed Praefectus Hortis. It was Isaac Rand who sent the lists of plants to the Royal Society and these handwritten lists are now in the British Museum.

Both Miller and Rand produced valuable lists of the plants at the Physic Garden and most are preserved. Isaac Rand's widow donated his botanical books and extensive collection of dried specimens (his Herbarium) to the Apothecaries and also bequeathed 50 shillings a year to the Praefectus Horti for annually replacing twenty decayed specimens in the Herbarium by new ones.

This Herbarium was kept at the Physic Garden along with those of Ray and the Samuel Dale donation but in 1863, all three collections were donated to the British Museum.

The Society has several copies of Philip Millers 'Gardeners Kalendar' in the Library but no copy of the Dictionary. The 1913 Catalogue lists three separate editions of 'Gardeners Dictionary' and two separate abridged versions. Four different editions of Miller's 'Gardeners Kalendar' are recorded and two works by Isaac Rand.

( 179 )

I. *A Catalogue of fifty Plants lately presented to the Royal Society, by the Company of Apothecaries of London; pursuant to the Direction of Sir Hans Sloane, Bart. President of the College of Physicians, and Vice-President of the Royal Society.*

THE Company of *Apothecaries of London*, having, in the Year 1673, established a *Physick-Garden*, which they have since furnish'd with a great Variety of Plants, for the Improvement of their Members in the Knowledge of Botany; Sir *Hans Sloane*, Bart. in order to encourage and promote an Undertaking so serviceable to the Publick, has generously granted to the Company the Inheritance of the said Garden, being part of his Estate and Manor of *Chelsey*, on condition that it be for ever kept up and maintain'd by the Company as a *Physick-Garden*; and as an Evidence of its being so maintain'd, he has directed and obliged the Company, in Consideration of the said Grant, to present yearly for ever to the *Royal Society*, at one of their weekly Meetings, fifty Specimens of Plants, that have grown in the said Garden the preceding Year, which are all to be specifically distinct from each other, until the Number of 2000 Plants be completed.

Accordingly the Company did lately present to the *Royal Society*, by the Hands of Mr. *Rand*, and Mr. *Meres*, the following fifty Specimens of Plants, for the

Y y 2 last

( 280 )

last Year 1722. which Specimens, together with those that are to follow them in subsequent Years, will, by order of the *Royal Society*, be carefully preserv'd for the Satisfaction of such curious Persons, as may desire to have recourse to them.

The Catalogue, by Mr. *Isaac Rand*, Apothecary, *F. R. S.*

- I. *A Nemone Virginiana, tertie Matthioli similis, flore parvo.* Par. Bat. 18.
- II. *Bellis Africana, capitulo aphylo luteo, Coronapi folio, caulibus procumbentibus.* H. L. Bat.
- III. *Bupleurum angustifolium.* Dod. 633.
- IV. *Calamintha, magno flore.* C. B. 229.
- V. *Carduus capite rotundo tormentoso.* C. B. 382.
- VI. *Chrysanthemum perenne, minus, Salicis folio glabro.* H. Ox. p. 3. 21.
- VII. *Cirsium altissimum, albis maculis notatum, semine viscoso. Carduus albis maculis notatus, capitulis Cirsij.* Schol. Bot. 215.
- VIII. *Clematidis caerulea erecta.* C. B. 300.
- IX. *Clematidis, f. Flammula surrecta alba.* J. B. 2. 127.

X. *Cnicus*

### 13 First pages of the Philosophical Transactions paper listing the 50 plants from the Physic Garden

1729

In 1729 Isaac Rand laid before the Court of Assistants his "*Index Officinalis Horti Chelseiani*" and the Society ordered that one thousand copies were to be printed at its expense. This was a catalogue of that part of the garden which was allotted to the culture of the medicinal plants, shrubs and trees contained in the Pharmacopoeia of the Royal College of Physicians and was designed for the use of those Apprentices who attended the Botanical Lectures at the Garden.

Philip Miller was left to have his books published at his own expense. Henry Fields 'Memorials...' states of Rand's book that there 'was no copy at present in the Library' but the Bramley Taylor 1913 catalogue lists both a 1730 and 1739 edition and both are starred (\*) indicating that they were at Blackfriars having been removed from the Physic Garden. There are several copies in the Library today.

### 1731

The first edition of Philip Miller's great work, *'The Gardener's Dictionary'* was published in 1731 in a folio volume. An eighth edition of the same size, and the last during his life-time was printed in 1768. There were also several editions of an abridged version published in octavo, and one edition in quarto. This book was highly regarded, and it was translated into Dutch, German, and French.

A new and greatly improved edition edited by Professor Martyn was produced in 1807 that extended it to four large folio volumes. Miller had passed some time in Holland to gain knowledge of the practice of the famous florists in that country. Henry Field writes much in support of Miller who is often just seen as a talented gardener. He notes that his many horticultural improvements were well recognised, and that Miller maintained a correspondence with some of the most eminent foreign botanists including Linnaeus himself. Linnaeus in his own dictionary wrote of Miller's book *'Non erit Lexicon Hortulanorum, sed etiam Botanicorum'*. (Trans. *'that the book will be, not just a lexicon of gardeners, but of botanists'*). By others he was known as *'Hortulanorum Princeps'* (Prince of Gardeners). Miller was a Member of the Botanick Academy at Florence, and a Fellow of the Royal Society of London and was at times elected to their council.

### 1733

As part of the developments around Navy Stock, the Laboratory had to vacate the house it occupied in Glasshouse Yard that was being used as a storeroom and move into a house in Water Lane (now Blackfriars Lane) just south of the current main entrance. Demolition and rebuilding along with purchasing of the Glasshouse Lane property were then taking place.

As a result of this, the various Committees met in the Library itself. This must have been cramped as today the Library is considered a suitable venue for no more than 10 people. The Great Hall was operating as a shop for the Navy Stock, the Kitchen was being used as a warehouse for heavy goods and the Garret with some of the Clerk's rooms were being used to store lighter goods. This is interesting as again there is no mention of any rooms on the floor between the Gallery and the Garret.

### 1739

Wall records that *'for the Library, too, gifts were not wanting. At almost every meeting of the Garden committee new donations were acknowledged including the bequest of Samuel Dale'*. Samuel Dale (1659-1739), was according to Wall apprenticed through Apothecaries' Hall but never took up his freedom as he practiced outside the London area. He was the author of *'Pharmacologia'* and other works. He left by his will a legacy of *'such of his books to the Society which they do not already possess'*. These were ordered to be kept in proper presses that were to be provided by the Committee, and the clause in Dale's Will relating to this was entered in the Society's minutes. These conditions, stipulated in relation to his books and dried plants, were as follow, *'That the Master and Wardens shall, within twelve months next after his decease, make or erect proper conveniences in their Physick Garden at Chelsea, for the reception thereof, and under such regulations for the keeping and preserving them, as shall be agreed on, and approved by Sir Hans Sloane and his executors after named'*. Sir Hans Sloane as Dale's executor was consulted, and his opinion was that it would be most proper to have a press or presses made to store the donation separately with an inscription stating they were the donation of Dale.

Minter records In *The Apothecaries' Garden* that the books in the Library Room at the Chelsea Physic Garden were augmented by Samuel Dale's bequest which included an herbarium. The books were

kept in 9ft tall presses that were built on completion of the greenhouse there and that three of these presses were still in existence in the year 2000. The Greenhouse was a much more substantial brick-built building than a modern greenhouse. It was known as the Orangery and provided in addition to greenhouse space, not only the Library but Committee rooms and accommodation.

The Library at the Chelsea Physic garden and the Library at Blackfriars are intimately connected with books moving between them over the years. They were perceived as a single 'Library' on two sites, but Dale's bequest clearly states that his bequest was for the Garden. A few of Dale's books seem to have moved to Blackfriars but it is clear that over the years the Garden Committee tried to ensure that books that 'belonged' to the Chelsea location remained there.

#### **1742**

Joseph Miller, (not to be confused with Phillip Miller) who had become Master in 1738 and later (1743-7) Praefectus Horti at Chelsea, presented to the Society an '*Incunable*' and about 40 books on Botany. This was added to, on his death, by his widow. These are recorded in the Court records for 1742 and 1747. An '*incunable*' is a book from prior to 1501 when printing was at a very early stage. Joseph Miller published '*Botanicum Officinale*' in 1722 which took much information on medicinal virtues from Samuel Dale's '*Pharmacologia*' and in 1732 submitted some of the Herboria Plants required by Sir Hans Sloane to the Royal Society. Joseph Miller's will, dated 27 April 1748, is held in the National Archives at Kew (Reference PROB 11/761/385).

#### **1744**

Barrett records that on June 1744, a Committee was appointed to examine what alterations would be needful to convert the Gallery into a Library. Up to this point, the Gallery had simply been used to store books in the Repository.

#### **1745**

Joseph Miller produced a catalogue of Botanick Books presented by the executrix of Mr. Isaac Rand. Mr. Robert Nicholls presented twelve volumes of dried plants, which were deposited in the greenhouse at Chelsea.

#### **1748**

The widow of Joseph Miller presented twenty-two volumes of dried plants, for which the thanks of the Court of Assistants were presented to her. John Wilmer was appointed Joseph Miller's successor as Demonstrator of Plants.

#### **1753**

Wall records that the Society planned to institute, at considerable expense, a series of lectures on Materia Medica for the apprentices and to form a permanent exhibition in the Library of drugs and medicaments of all sorts. It is not known if this ever happened.

#### **1767**

Philip Miller and Isaac Rand did not always agree. Some 35 years after the event and long after Rand's death, Miller claimed, probably correctly, that the printed catalogue attributed to Rand had been compiled by him, not Rand and that Miller had received no thanks for his contribution. Miller's copy of the catalogue (it is unclear if this was in manuscript or printed) was still at the Garden at that time.

Also in 1767, John Wilmer (1697-1767) died. He had donated two books to the Apothecaries at the Physic Garden in 1735. He was elected to the Garden Committee in 1741 (remaining until 1758) and was Demonstrator of Plants in 1748. In 1759 he catalogued the Library although it is unclear whether this was just at Chelsea or on both sites. Sometime before 1768 he acquired a Medical Degree and so was subsequently titled M.D. In his will he left £100 to the Society of Apothecaries. He left his botanical books, a gold watch and some folios of plants painted by Philip Miller to Stanesby Alchorne, another leading apothecary who had been Praefetus Horti at Chelsea in 1771-1772. Wilmer donated a Herbarium to the Society but this is believed to have been destroyed or lost around 1890.

### **1769.**

Stanesby Alchome, having been requested to prepare a new catalogue of the books remaining in the Library at the Chelsea Garden, presented his work the following year to the Committee for managing the Garden, and received their thanks. From the briefest of details about this catalogue it appears that the Library consisted almost entirely of books confined to botanical subjects; 266 in number. There were also about 50 pamphlets and unbound books meaning those still in publishers' boards. Besides these, there were in the Library at Apothecaries' Hall 238 volumes of books, the greater part of which were on subjects of botany and other departments of Natural History, many of them having been at different times removed there from Chelsea. The Society likewise possessed twenty volumes of dried plants, being the Hortus Siccus of Joseph Miller and a bundle of dried plants given by Dr. John Wilmer, who succeeded the former as Demonstrator. Isaac Rand's collection is not mentioned here. This gives a Library of at least 500-550 books in total in 1769, a quite substantial library for that time.

### **1770**

A catalogue of the plants contained in the garden, and an inventory of every particular of the Society's property there and in the green-house, was ordered to be made. This order was entrusted to a Committee, who were allowed to take such assistance as might be requisite; considerable progress was made in it, but in consequence of opposition to it, said to be made by Mr. Miller, great delay was occasioned and afterwards a new committee was appointed for that purpose, in order to obviate some difficulties raised by Mr. Miller. Whatever these difficulties might have been, the new Committee were not more successful in their proceedings than the former. Fresh complaints were made of Mr. Miller's conduct, which terminated in his request to resign the office of gardener, which resignation, despite his age and 50 years' service, was accepted by the Court of Assistants. Henry Forsyth was appointed to replace him. Henry Forsyth after whom Forsythia is named is an ancestor of the late entertainer Bruce Forsyth.

### **1772**

William Curtis (1746-1799) was appointed Demonstrator of Plants in 1771 with responsibilities to superintend the Garden and Gardener and was also to have charge of the Library and to encourage the study of botany, both theoretical and practical. Curtis does not seem to have been considered that effective.

### **1778**

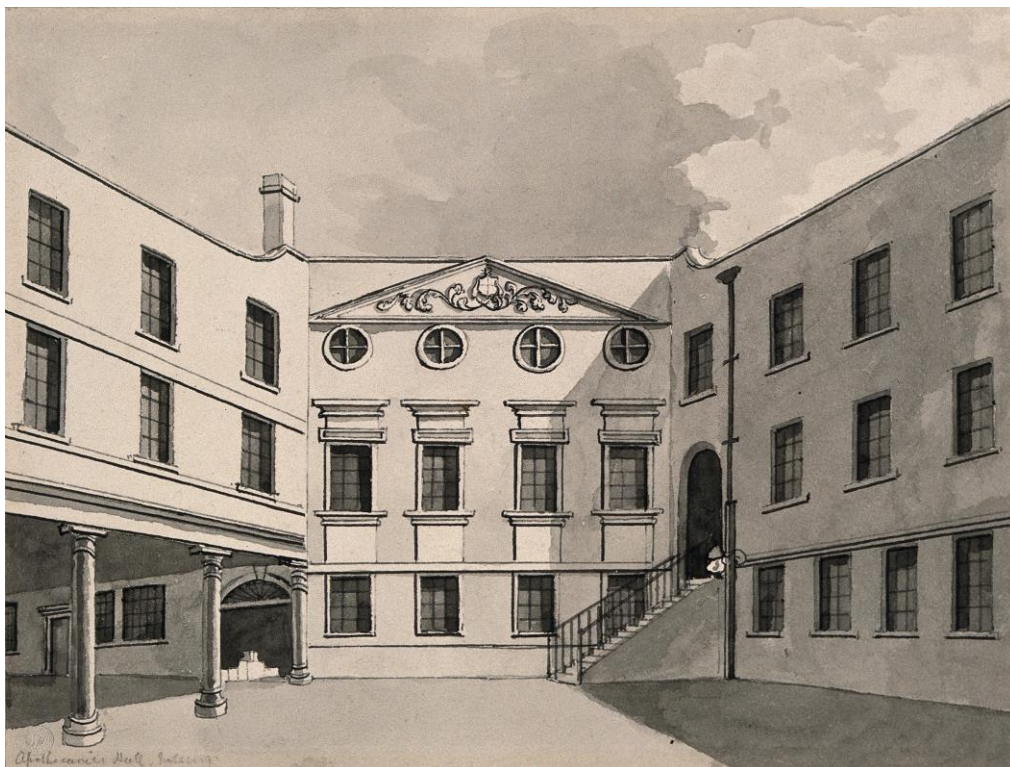
Around 1778 William Curtis began an ambitious project, his '*Flora Londinensis*'. The aim was to publish life-size images of all the plants found around London. As part of this project, he resigned from his Demonstrator's post but in the end the project proved too expensive. Each volume was to

have 72 plates, all hand coloured. Ultimately, only 6 volumes of 72 plates each were completed between 1778 and 1798 and of these only around 300 copies sold. One image, that of a foxglove, was used with Curtis's permission as the frontispiece of William Withering's 'Account of the Foxglove'. Withering and Curtis were associates and friends.

To help fund the 'Flora Londinensis', Curtis instead turned to producing his 'Botanical Magazine' from around 1787 which was highly successful and initially sold around 3,000 copies a month. This magazine is still being printed quarterly having for a short period in the late 20<sup>th</sup> Century been renamed the Kew Botanical Magazine. All the images in each edition were individually hand coloured up until the mid-1960s. Original plates from Curtis' 'Flora Londinensis' were used, (after having the name of the plants illustrated removed,) for Materia Medica examinations at Apothecaries' Hall and these plates are still kept in the archives.

## 1780

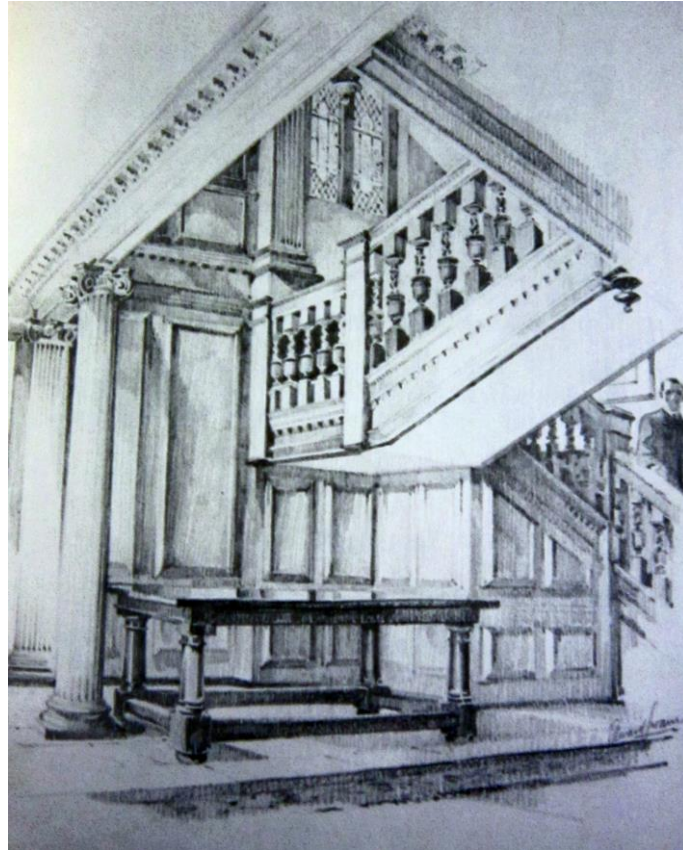
Around 1780, the walls of the Hall were 'stuccoed' and two bays of the colonnades under the Library or Gallery were partitioned off forming the Retail Drug Department. What is now the main double door entrance was then a passageway in the northeast corner leading to the factory, laboratories and Great Hall.



### **14 Apothecaries Hall -Pen and Ink Sketch from the Wellcome Collection (undated)**

*This shows the colonnade under the Library completely open. The Factory chimney is clearly visible – the cause of a few fires. A few boxes lie in the access to the Factory. No paving is shown in the Courtyard.*

table)



**15 Entrance to Main Hall showing the Library Table under the main Staircase**

*(Note that the lower level is open)*

*From Cecil Wall, The London Apothecaries, their Society and Their Hall, Hudson 1932 / 1955*

The Gentleman's Magazine for 1789 (Volume 59 Part 2) on page 877 has the following mention of the Society of Apothecaries: -

'Mr. URBAN, October 1.

PLATE II. represents the old mortar belonging to the Apothecaries' Company, which, being so cracked as to be rendered ufeless, was this summer sold, to be melted down. -The inscription round the rim is as follows; the first stanza of the hymn Veni Creator. "Weni Creator Spiritus, mentes tuo rum vifita imple fuperna gracia quie tu creasti pect[or]a. Salve mea criftur St. Wenni." The two laft words feem the maker's name. On one fide were raifed two lions rampant, supporting a caftle triple-towered, and furmounted by a chevron between two birds in chief; or perhaps the chevron may be a merchant's mark, with a flag, at the head of the infcription, and a roundel for difference. Alfo two lions rampant supporting a tree. On the other fide two griffins rampant; and two antelopes or ftags, fupport trees, Yours, &c. J. N.'



16 The old Mortar from 1789 – Plate II - Gentleman's Magazine, page 877 of Vol 59 part 2  
(A copy of this print once hung in the Library)

## 1791

Minter records that in September 1791, the Garden Committee requested the Court of Assistants to order the return from the Hall to the Chelsea Garden the '*Hortus Malabarensis*' and as much as is 'now born' (i.e. published) of Curtis '*Flora Londinensis*'. This former may refer to the '*Hortus Indicus Malabarensis*' of 1678-1705 or may be a misprint for '*Hortus Malabaricus*' a book of the medicinal properties of plants from 1678-1693.

## 1794

Wall records that in 1794 William Prowting, (Master 1775-6) died and bequeathed £100 of South Sea Annuities to establish lectures upon Materia Medica at the Hall. However, these were postponed due to the ongoing war with France

## 1802

The Garden Committee requested the Court of Assistants to order the return of Woodville's '*Medical Botany*' on 12<sup>th</sup> July. They ordered that no book should be borrowed from the Library, presumably at the Physic Garden, without the Committee's permission and no book for longer than 3 months.

## 1804

Barrett mentions newly established lectures on Materia Medica (perhaps those of the Prowting bequest) alongside the fact that in a meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> October 1804, it was ordered that in relation to the 'Tracts' donated in 1789 by Field that it '*be not shown to anybody*' without the permission of the Court of Assistants. Quite what these tracts were is uncertain.

## 1806

In a letter dated January 7<sup>th</sup>, 1806, the Royal College of Physicians asked the Society again to co-operate on a revision of the Pharmacopoeia. The response was favourable and ultimately this resulted in the publication of the 1809 '*Pharmacopoeia Londinensis*'. The Society holds two copies of this Pharmacopoeia, one, a large paper copy being presented to the Society by Henry Field. This bears on the front endpaper a handwritten comment, '*From the Royal College of Physicians of London, H Field esq. Apothecaries' Hall*'. Field was Junior Warden in 1824-25 and Master in 1825-26 and his portrait hangs in the Court Room. The Pharmacopoeia was printed in at least two sizes, a smaller standard volume and a larger paper size that would allow space for annotation and/or an appropriate binding. This was not uncommon.

The second Society copy of the Pharmacopoeia is unique and is described in detail below. This large paper copy has been bound with interleaved blank pages plus an additional 180 blank pages and formed the Society's Laboratory copy. The front pastedown has an ornate Society bookplate with '*Opiferque Per Orbem Dicor*' and hand-printed onto it '*proprietors of the LABORATORY*'. On the blank pages in the same copperplate script throughout are the handwritten formulae for the Society Laboratory. The only non-medical formula appears to be that for '*Mr Brandes Ink*'. These extra pages are watermarked 1809. Despite being a working copy resulting in the binding rapidly deteriorating causing the spine to have been replaced a few times, the internal pages are still remarkably pristine. The Book was rebound thanks to the generosity of the Friends of the Archives in 2018.

## 1807

Barrett records that on March 10<sup>th</sup>, the Society subscribed 100 guineas to the London Hospital and ordered the purchase of certain books on Materia Medica to complete their Library, that amount not to exceed 20 guineas. This was to support the ongoing lectures on Materia Medica that were being given at that time by Henry Field. 20 guineas would not have bought a significant number of books.

Inter site loans between the Hall and Garden seem to have still been a problem. It was directed by the Garden Committee, that no person be allowed to borrow any book from the Library without their leave, and that no book be retained longer than three months. The Library, presumably at the Garden, was to be annually inspected by the Committee in the month of August. Regular stocktaking of the Library was thus pursued from August 1807 and was continued except with breaks in 1811 and 1813. There is no record of when this stopped. The Garden Committee was also adamant that William Hudson's Herbarium, bequeathed to the Society on his death in 1793, should be returned to the demonstrator Thomas Wheeler. It is unclear if this meant to the Physic Garden or to Wheeler in person.

## 1810

Uriah Bristow, Master 1803-4 donated several books including Bruce '*On the Clove Tree*'. This was probably William Bruce who wrote '*Narrative of the Successful Manner of treating the Clove Tree in the Island of Dominica*' in 1797. This book is not listed however in the Bramley Taylor Library catalogue of 1913. Bristow also donated Evelyn's '*Kalendarium Hortense*'. Two copies of this are listed on pages 33 and 34 of the Bramley Taylor Library catalogue of 1913 as follows: -

Evelyn (John). *Kalendarium Hortense; or the Gardeners' Almanac*. 3rd Edition. Pol. Lvndon, 1660.  
Evelyn (John). *Kalendarium Hortense; or the Gardeners' Almanac*. Another copy. Bound with "*Sylva*" ed. 1670.

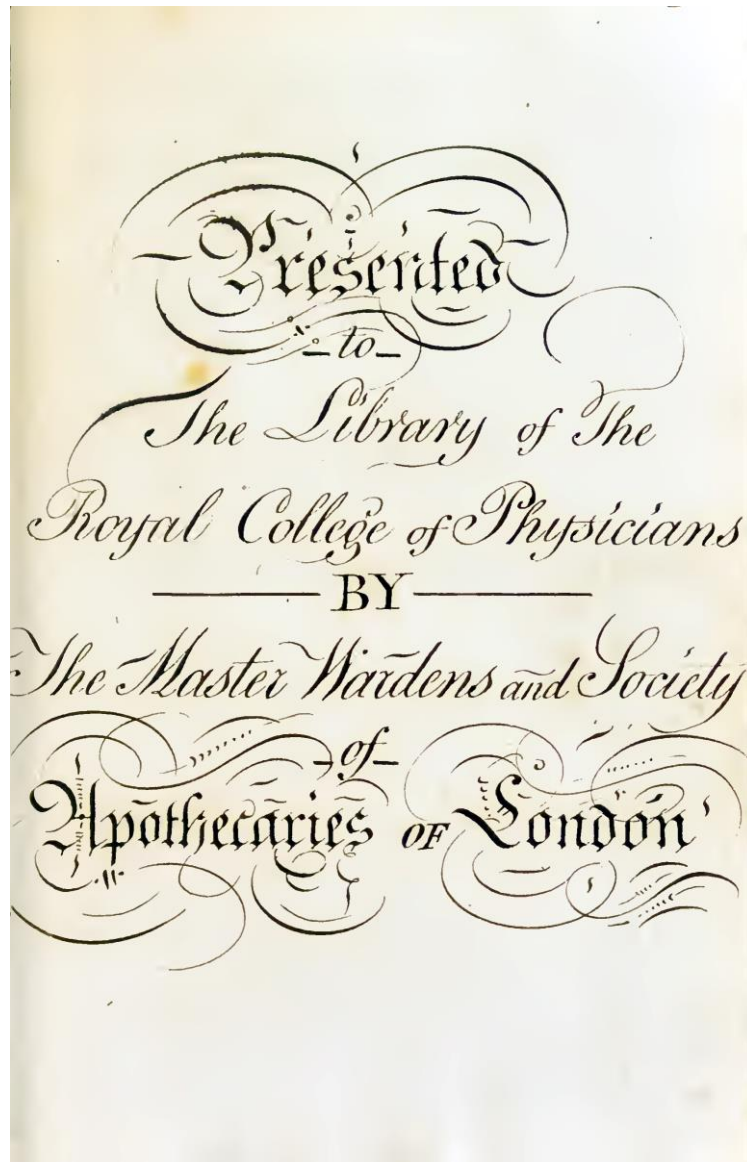
## 1815

The Apothecaries' Act essentially meant the end of the emphasis on the apothecary as a tradesman with more attention on plant Materia Medica and a new focus on the apothecary as an educated and licensed medical professional. Education became an even more important part of the Society's activities.

## 1818

On October 27<sup>th</sup> Henry Field (1755-1837), a member of Court and son of John Field (also an apothecary) was asked 'to occupy such portion of his time as may be convenient to himself in completing the account began by his father from the close thereof (1794) and bringing the same up to date'. Henry Field wrote a history of the Chelsea Physic Garden titled '*Memoirs, Historical and Illustrative, of the Botanick Garden at Chelsea, belonging to the Society of Apothecaries of London*' that was published in London in 1820. 1000 copies were printed at the expense of the Society, to whom the manuscript had been presented. This was presumably a development of the Tracts donated in 1789. It was presented to the Court in 1820 and a copy given to every member of the Society. A new edition of the book updated by Robert Hunter Semple was issued in 1878. Semple's introductory address, delivered on 11 February 1835 at the first of the society's evening meetings for scientific purposes, was also printed by his colleagues. The Library currently holds 8 copies of

different Editions of Field's book. Henry Fields portrait, by Henry William Pickersgill, hangs in the Court Room.



**17 Presentation page from Henry Fields Memorials in the possession of the Royal College of Physicians**

### **1823**

The Retail Drug Department was established under the enlarged position it held under the Colonnade. This indicates that, then, the area under the Library was still partly open to the Courtyard.

### **1827**

In 1827 Barrett records that 'On Election day, a very important proposal was made by means of a memorial signed by a large and influential number of members of the Society of Apothecaries. This was to the effect that a regular medical library should be formed at the Hall. It was pointed out that a nucleus of a Library existed already but that now, seeing that the status of the Society had been so

*much raised by the passing of the Act of 1815, it would both add to the dignity and importance of such an Institution, could be started and moreover it would contribute in no small degree to the general diffusion and advancement of medical knowledge’.*

**1831**

Minter notes that ‘On 30<sup>th</sup> September it was ordered that ‘such books as are not immediately wanted at Chelsea be removed to the Library at Apothecaries Hall’ and indicates that this was a sign of the struggles to come over the transfer between the two locations. It was not until 1953 that the final tranche of books in Dale’s bequest were restored to the Garden.



**18 Apothecaries Hall Courtyard – Pen and Ink sketch by Thomas Shepherd 1827**

*(From ‘London and its Environs in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century’ by T Shepherd and J Elmes printed 1831)*

*This image occurs in various other forms between 1831 and 1855*

**1832**

Barrett writes that in March 1832, the ‘old project of forming a Library in the Hall, and also a Museum of such branches of natural history as are connected with medicine, was revived, and a Committee was appointed to carry out the design should they think fit to do so’. It had already been decided that the books in the Library at Chelsea should be removed to the Hall in Blackfriars, and they were accordingly transferred. The number of volumes thus acquired, so far as can be now ascertained, amounted to 218, nearly all of which are still on the shelves, though a few have not been found. Bramley Taylor in the 1913 Catalogue records that as this notable addition included some of the most valuable books now in the Library — principally Herbals and Pharmacopoeias — ‘it has been thought well to distinguish them in the present Catalogue by prefixing an asterisk to the titles’ (WBT). Barrett also records that in March 1832, tea and bread and butter were substituted for wine and cakes as a small economy and that at the same time a Committee was appointed to form a

Library in the Hall and Museum of such branches of Natural History as were connected with medicine.

### **1836**

John Lindley, lecturer in Botany at the Physic Garden published '*Introduction to the Natural System of Botany*'. The book was dedicated to the Society. On the title page, Lindley is described as '*PROFESSOR OF BOTANY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF LONDON, IN THE ROYAL INSTITUTION OF GREAT BRITAIN, AND TO THE SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES*'.

The dedication reads: -

*'TO THE COURT OF EXAMINERS OF THE SOCIETY OF APOTHECARIES, LONDON  
IN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE WELL-DIRECTED ZEAL WITH WHICH THEY HAVE USED THEIR POWER  
FOR THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF BOTANY IN THE MEDICAL PROFESSION, THIS WORK IS RESPECTFULLY  
DEDICATED BY THE AUTHOR.*

No copy is listed in the 1913 catalogue, only Lindley's '*Flora Medica*', a Botanical Account of Plants used in Medicine' from 1838.

### **1842**

Barrett states that at this time, the Pharmacopoeia of the Royal College of Physicians having been long out of print and no copies being available in bookshops, the study of medical Latin was at a standstill. The Master wrote to the President of the College about the scarcity and was assured by reply that this would have immediate attention.

### **1845**

In 1845, a letter from Whitehall was received proposing that the Apothecaries' Garden be relocated to Kew. For various reasons this proposal was not taken up, not least because Kew was then considered to be so far from London. Botany as a major area of learning was declining and in 1852 the post of Praefectus Horti at the Chelsea Physic Garden was done away with.

### **1854**

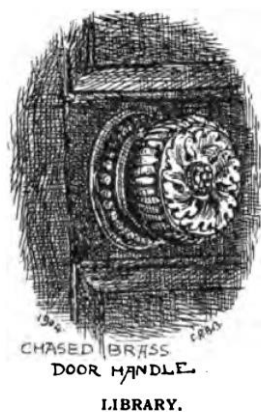
The great glasshouse at the Physic Garden was pulled down along with the Library. The Herbaria of Philip Miller, that of Isaac Rand and other works were then stored in a shed where they remained until eventually donated to the British Museum in 1862. The Herbaria also included that of John Ray, first bequeathed to Samuel Dale and so formed part of the Samuel Dale bequest to the Society in 1739.

### **1859**

A request from the London, Dover and Chatham Railway for property in Chatham Place and East Street for the building of Blackfriars station was received. During this time there were various moves to obtain land for the proposed railway line. This development was to partially cover the area of the "Paved Alley" of former times.

1865

Barrett's history ends at 1865. Without giving a date he states the Library is panelled in oak with a well carved mantelpiece. He records the two deep cupboards that formed the original book repository and notes that the nucleus of the library had outgrown these and now filled the shelves fitted on one side of the room and had even spread into the Parlour. Some of the botanical works are noted to be rare and valuable. Barrett comments on the chased brass door handles still remaining and also the ancient long bolts still in situ to lock the doors from inside. Barrett also notes the bevelled edge on the swing doors as being uncommon.

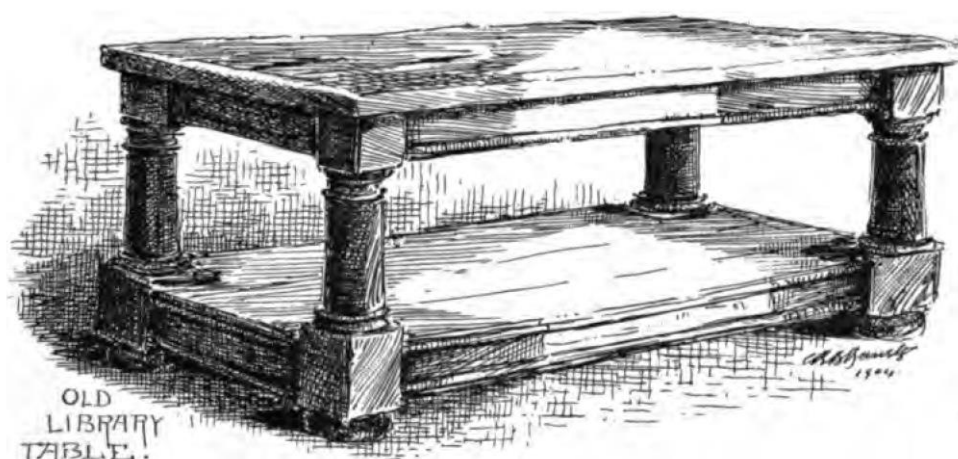


#### **19 Library Door Handle**

**Image from Barrett's History (page 104) compared with a modern 2018 Photograph**

*The matching escutcheon plate is no longer present*

Barrett further records the massive oak table in the Library, 'a table undoubtedly older than anything else in the way of furniture on the premises. My own opinion is that the table dates prior to the Great Fire, but whether it was saved when the Hall burnt down is impossible to tell'.



#### **20 Old Library Table from Barrett's 1905 History of the SOA – Page 100**

*(Note that the lower layer was then solid. This image makes it look smaller than it is as the size is more that of a refectory table)*

Barrett's book records some of the older Society customs, particularly in relation to an outgoing Master and the installation of the new Master. The customs involved several processions too detailed to record here. However, all the proceedings started, according to a summons, at 12 noon when the Master, Wardens, Assistants and Livery met at 12 noon in the Hall and began with breakfast at 12 noon. '*Sirloin of beef was the fare and it was demolished in the Library Gallery after which they adjourned to Church*'.

## 1885

A small and relatively rare booklet on the Apothecary was published by George Corfe called '*The Apothecary (Ancient and Modern)*', Elliott Stock, 1885. Corfe was both an M.D. and was Master in that year. In his booklet on pages 34 and 35 he provides the following comprehensive information on the Library: -

The Library is 40 feet long, 11 feet wide and 11.5 feet in height. It contains: -

1. Engraving of Nathl Bagshaw Ward esq., FRS, FLS, Master 1854.
2. Ditto, south view of the cedar trees in the gardens of the Apothecaries Society, Chelsea (Today this hangs over the fireplace). Dedicated, by permission, to the Right Honble. Earl Cadogan.
3. Ditto, north view of the cedar trees in the gardens of the Apothecaries Society, Chelsea. Dedicated by permission to the Right Honble. Earl Cadogan.
4. The arms of the Society, in colors (sic) with facsimile of charter.
5. Photograph, old water gate at Chelsea gardens.
6. Ditto, Chelsea Gardens from the Embankment.
7. Engraving, representing a facsimile of an ancient mortar from Apothecaries' Hall, London. 'Until within these few years this house was possessed of a most curious antique mortar. On the body were several figures, such as two griffins, supporters to a tree; and two animals, perhaps antelopes, supporters to another; two lions in the same character to a third tree, and two others supporting a castle, triple towered. The figure of this curiosity is preserved in the '*Gentlemans Magazine*' for the year 1789.', see image and notes on 1789.
8. Engraving, William Harvey M.D.
9. Ditto, George Buchanan.
10. An engraving, dedicated to the President, Fellows, and corresponding members of the Medical Society of London.
11. Photograph, John Nussey, Esq., and Michael Lambton Este, Esq., M.E., F.R.C.S.E., 1858. These portraits have been taken at the unanimous request of the members of the Friendly Medical Society, which Society is still in existence.
12. Engraving, St. Luke painting the Virgin. Presented to the Society of Apothecaries by Edward Furley, Dec. 16th, 1884.

Corfe also records the Stained-Glass Windows in the Library as being: -

- 1 1617, the 'Arms of the Society;' motto, '*Concordia parvae res crescunt, Discordia maximae dilabuntur*'. (Corfe is incorrect as the word is maxumae)
2. 1617, the "Arms of the Society motto, '*Beare one with another, Love as Brethren, Fac. Bene.dum. vivis: post mortem: vivere. si. vis*'. (The starting **F** and final **s** are almost lost in the leading)



**21 The Two former Library Windows (now on the Landing) showing the two 'mottos'**

This description of the Library indicates that the Library at that time extended well onto the present-day landing between the stairs and the windows. Inspection of the Library today will show that there appears to be two "missing" bays of shelves that were removed when the landing and staircase area were remodelled in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. This is also the most comprehensive description of items in Library that has been located.

### **1905**

In 1905, C. R. B. Barrett produced his *'The History of the Society of Apothecaries'*, published by Elliott Stock. This contains numerous scattered references to the Library throughout including some of the illustrations included here. Unfortunately, as previously indicated the History stops around 1865. It is not listed in the 1913 catalogue despite sharing the same illustration of the Library. The Library now has several copies of this book and it is quite readily available as an original edition, a modern reprint or as a download from the internet.

### **1913**

The William Bradley Taylor Catalogue was updated in June 1913 by J. E. Harting and published with a 1904 frontispiece image of the Library by Bancroft. The frontispiece image shows no carpet or furniture at all. The introduction indicates that the original catalogue was a manuscript list of books received from Chelsea Physic Garden where many of the books were once kept. In the catalogue, books with an asterisk (\*) prefix indicate those that were removed in 1832 from the Library of the Physic Garden at Chelsea and returned to the Society at Blackfriars. William Bradley Taylor was Master from 1912-1913.

### **1928**

In 1926 there was a correspondence between Lt.Col. C.T.Samman and various institutions including the Linnean Society and Cambridge University Press with a view to getting valuations on the Society's books. It is not clear if many were then sold but in 1928 when alterations were being made to some lavatories, an infestation of Death Watch Beetle was discovered. By this time Samman had

become Master and members and Licentiates from around the world were invited to contribute to the very considerable costs of eradication and repair. It is thought that the sale of some books may have also contributed, but in particular the Library room itself was shortened in the rebuilding process. As previously mentioned, this resulted in the loss of probably two bays of shelves and the dropping back of the Library doors to their present position.

### 1932

In 1932, Cecil Wall had printed the small booklet *'The Apothecaries, Their Society and Their Hall'*. A 2<sup>nd</sup> edition was printed by Harrison and Sons in 1955 with essentially the same text. Copies of this booklet that includes a small section on the Library are in the Library. This is quite different to the much more detailed *'History of the Society...'* also by Wall and completed by Underwood.

### 1953

Minter reports that in 1953, the Physic Garden was augmented by 331 volumes from the Society's Blackfriars Library. It is likely that many were part of the Samuel Dale bequest. These were placed in special cupboards in the lecture room and they were also catalogued. Some needed repairs and these were carried out by A. Maltby & Sons, Bookbinders of Oxford at a cost of £722. In today's prices (2018) this would represent a cost of around at least £10,000 and possibly significantly more.

About this time many further books were sold as evinced by evidence in the archives of a sale list by Sotheby's. By this period much of the Society's book collection had been denuded.



**22 The Library 1932, from Cecil Wall, *The Apothecaries, Their Society and Their Hall***  
*This appears to show the Left-hand book repository cupboard still in place*



new enthusiasm for the Library prevailed to such an extent that the Duke of Kent was asked to re-open it in 1982. Hunting in her History, records that the Hall was continuing to be redeveloped over several years and this included installation of the adjacent kitchen, and relocation of the wine dispense.

## 1985

In 1985, a handbook was printed by the Society and this states on page 36 that the rebuilding of the Library in 1982 had enabled books to be sorted and listed and a preliminary Catalogue to be made. The condition of the books had been assessed and plans were in hand to start work on repairing those which required the most urgent action. The listing was stated to permit the Library Committee to agree a policy of both acquisition and disposal of books. The Library fund had received a total of £2,600 from many generous benefactors and this sum was being used to cover the costs of cataloguing and some of the essential repairs of books. This Handbook of the Society continues on page 41 that:

*'work on the Library had progressed slowly and that the Catalogue was almost complete and the books most in need of repair had been dealt with. The Society hopes to obtain a grant towards these repairs and have about £1,900 in hand given by members for the purpose. However, it is a very expensive and slow progress which may cost over £10,000 to complete at todays (1985) prices and would take some years to carry out and any help that can be given would be appreciated'.*

There is then an intriguing comment: -

*'Four further books from the Samuel Dale collection were identified in the Cataloguing and these will be returned to the Physic Garden'.*

The Samuel Dale collection was bequeathed to the Physic Garden in 1739 and was followed by gifts from Isaac Rand's widow, Joseph Miller and also Dr John Wilmer. Hans Sloane advised the Garden Committee on the storage of Dale's legacy, (GCM Minutes 19<sup>th</sup> May 1739). Hunting states that one of Dale's topographical works dedicated to Sloane was in the Library (at Blackfriars) and that his portrait hung in the courtroom. Dale's gift was specifically to the Garden rather than the Society but seems to have taken around 240 years to complete its way there.

## 1990

In 1990, a Gurr-Jones Valuation List was produced as part of an overall valuation process. This listed the majority of the antiquarian books seen to have some value. It contains a few items, such as a Gerrardes Herball that were not being kept in the Library itself but in the Brande Room which provided a more controlled environment. It is very incomplete list as a catalogue of the Library, focusing on only those books that were seen to have individual financial value rather than any value due to their link with the Society.

An example of changing valuations is that one small volume valued by Gurr-Jones at £180 in 1990, was revalued at £5,000 in 2018. Most of the books however still only have a modest cash value. Other lists were also produced, presumably at the same time but their significance is difficult to determine.

## 1998

In 1998 Penelope Hunting's 'A History of the Society of Apothecaries' was published by the Society itself. This book has a few references to the Library or Gallery Room but does not mention any books. It does however bring the History far more up to date than the three previous Histories (Barrett, Wall and Copeman).

## **2010**

For many years, the Library remained out of use with the cabinets locked and access only being provided to individuals on request. Whilst holding rare and interesting books, the problem as ever seemed to be what the best purpose and use of the Library could be. It was too small to be a general reference library as many of the books could be found in the Guildhall or in public libraries. The book records of the Society were kept secure under controlled conditions but there was no complete catalogue of the books and it was possible some had been lost.

Around 2010, a decision was taken yet again to catalogue the Library contents but on a computer based database that allowed the Library to be searched, referenced and brought back into more regular use. The advances in medical information meant that the Library could not function as an up-to-date medical Library as it would require considerable additions and expansion. It could however consolidate its historical references alongside donations of new books that had relevance to the Society.

It was decided that as limited space would restrict the number and range of books that could be accepted, a guide to what would be welcome was drawn up. These express the main themes in the Library but to some extent, the groupings are arbitrary rather than absolute: -

- The Livery Companies
- The Society of Apothecaries
- Herbals, Botany and the Chelsea Physic Garden
- London
- Medical Texts
- History of Medicine
- Philosophy of Medicine
- Conflict and Catastrophe Medicine
- Pharmacy texts
- History of Pharmacy
- Pharmacopoeias
- General History
- Biographies and Autobiographies
- General reference
- Rare Books
- Medical and Pharmaceutical Periodicals

To clarify the use of the Library, the contents of the different cabinets were re-organised and labelled along these lines and the majority of the pre-1850s books were moved into the upper and lower Library Cabinet marked F. These books were not included in the electronic cataloguing at that time as it was recognised that until restored most were in too poor a condition to be made immediately available other than on a personal request.

## **2014 to the present day**

In 2014 the decision was also taken to open the Library to casual visitors on evenings when the Society's Faculties were holding lectures. The Curator felt that there was no point in having a Library that was inaccessible to members of the Society or of its Faculties. A group of volunteers took on the stalwart task of supervising the Library openings.

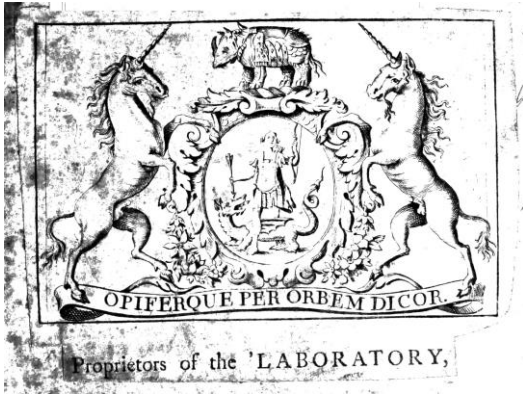
Also at this time a start was made to catalogue and assess the antiquarian volumes of which there were between 300 – 400 items. It was recognised that these had suffered quite badly from the prevailing conditions in the Library, mainly through previous fire and water damage, and probably on more than one occasion. While the Library cabinets were now full with many contemporary and relevant volumes to the Society, some of the older historic volumes remained in need of considerable restoration. Due to the mixed and possibly risky condition such as the presence of mould spores, it was decided to remove these more antiquarian volumes to the environmentally controlled cupboards in the Brande Room while cataloguing the books. Around 150 of these remaining volumes are listed in the 1913 Bramley Taylor catalogue.

To help restore some of these volumes, an Adopt-A-Book scheme was introduced through the Friends of the Archives to encourage Apothecaries and others with connections to the Society to contribute to restoration and conservation of these works which could be said to possess both historic and monetary value. To select a few of the rarer items, these volumes include William Coles '*Adam in Eden*', Rembert Dodoens '*Fruentorum Leguminum*', Goclenius '*Enchiridion Facile Parabilem*' and Eucharius Rosslins (aka Rhodion) '*Kreuterbuch*'

Perhaps the greatest find in the antiquarian books was the ageing copy of the 1809 edition of the British Pharmacopoeia that had been specifically bound with interleaved blank pages for the Society Laboratory. It was obviously intended as a workbook but the handwritten formulae (or recipes) are in a beautiful copperplate script and included in those formulae is one for Mr Brande's Ink suggesting that the scribe was Brande himself. The book was one of the first to be rebound under the Adopt-a-book scheme thanks to the generosity of the 'Friends of the Archives' and it is now kept under appropriate conditions in the Brande Room.



**23 The Unique SOA Copy of the 1809 SOA London Pharmacopoeia in its original state**



*Sum pulveribus.*  
*Recd.*  
 Pulv. Cort. Bromat. Dr. Robertson  
 No. 118. 6. 63  
 R Pulv. Cort. Peruvian. ℥ss 1  
 Rad. Sarsap. 6  
 Cort. Cinnamon 3  
 Cancl. Alb. 2  
 Josc simul. Lector in vitree bene (Obthuratione.)  
 clauso. Dosis ʒijf.  
*Recd.*

263

*Ink* Mr Brande

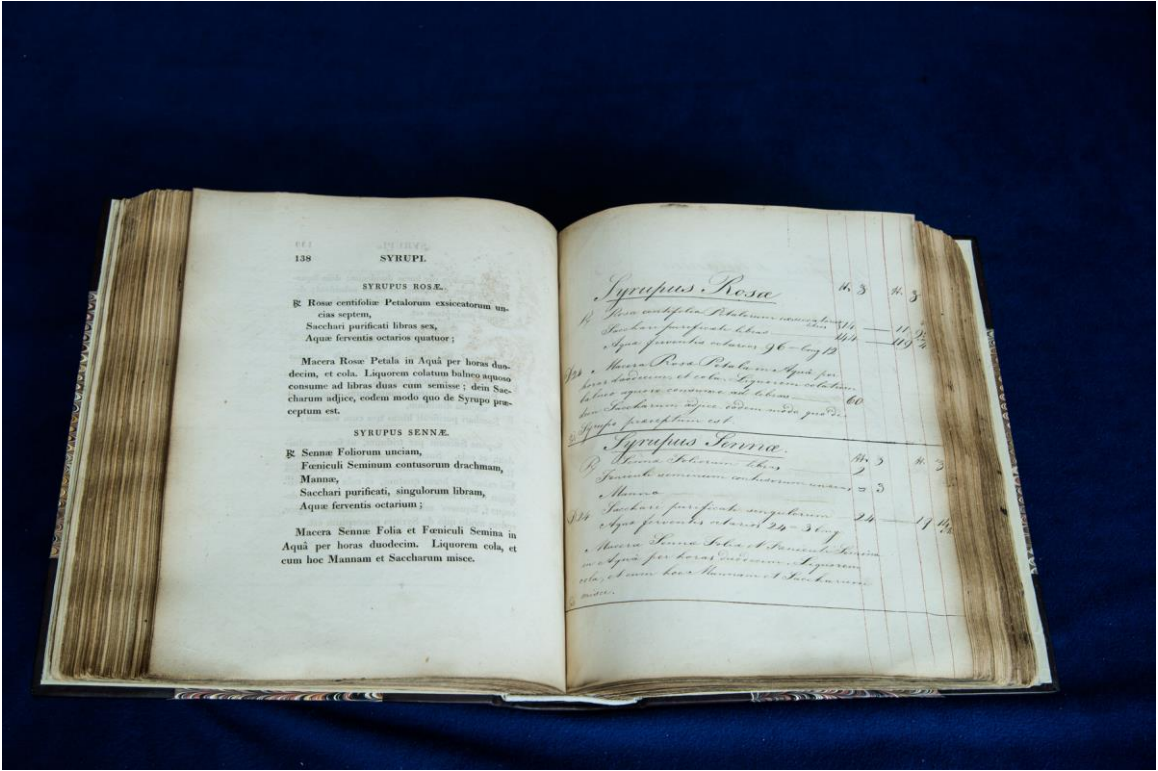
R

	℥s	ʒs	ʒs
Galls finely bruised	2	4	av
Green Vitriol		12	
Shavings of Logwood		12	
Gum Arabic	1	8	
D. 12. Distilled Water			Gallons 3

Digest these Ingredients for  
 14 Days in a moderate temperature  
 frequently shaking the bottle containing  
 them. then pour off the Ink and  
 allow it to stand for a Week in a  
 well stopped bottle pour it off from  
 the Sediment and add to it  
 60 Grains of Corrosive Sublimate = 1  
 and a few Cloves (say 2 drams) = 2

**24 Unique bookplate and original Recipe from the SOA 10809 Pharmacopoeia**  
 (The bookplate has not been found in any other volumes in the SOA)

**25 Recipe for Mr. Brandes Ink in the SOA 1809 Pharmacopoeia**



SYRUPUS ROSE.

℞ Rose centrifolae Petalorum exsiccatorum un-  
cias septies,  
Sacchari purificati libras sex,  
Aque ferventis octarios quatuor;

Macerata Rose Petala in Aquâ per horas dua-  
decim, et cola. Liqueorem colatum balneo aquoso  
consume ad libras duas cum semisse; dein Sac-  
charum adijce, eodem modo quo de Symplo præ-  
ceptum est.

SYRUPUS SENNE.

℞ Sennæ Foliorum unciam,  
Feniculi Seminum contusorum drachmam,  
Mannæ,  
Sacchari purificati, singulorum libram,  
Aque ferventis octarium;

Macerata Sennæ Folia et Feniculi Semina in  
Aquâ per horas duodecim. Liqueorem cola, et  
cum hoc Mannam et Saccharum misce.

*Syrupus Rose* 4. 3 4. 3  
℞ Rose centrifolae Petalorum exsiccatorum un-  
cias septies 11 3/4  
Sacchari purificati libras sex 11 3/4  
Aque ferventis octarios quatuor 11 3/4  
℞ Macerata Rose Petala in Aquâ per  
horas duodecim, et cola. Liqueorem colatum  
consume ad libras duas cum semisse  
dein Saccharum adijce, eodem modo quo de  
Symplo præceptum est 60  
℞ *Syrupus Senna*  
℞ Sennæ Foliorum unciam 4. 3 4. 3  
Feniculi Seminum contusorum drachmam 1  
Mannæ 5  
Sacchari purificati, singulorum libram 11  
Aque ferventis octarium 11 3/4  
℞ Macerata Sennæ Folia et Feniculi Semina  
in Aquâ per horas duodecim. Liqueorem  
cola, et cum hoc Mannam et Saccharum  
misce.

26 Restored 1809 Pharmacopoeia

## **Appendix 1: Illustrations**

1. *Frontispiece to the Catalogue of the Library of the Society of Apothecaries by William Bramley Taylor edited by J E Harting published in 1913*
2. *Medieval Blackfriars -20<sup>th</sup> C reconstruction showing the Bridge over the Fleet and raised walkway connecting Bridewell with Blackfriars*
3. *Enlarged section of Medieval Blackfriars of what is now the main area of Apothecaries Hall*
4. *Copperplate map of London @1553-1590 showing Bridewell, Blackfriars and the Fleet River*
5. *Detail - Copperplate showing the Bridge connecting Bridewell Palace to Blackfriars over the Fleet*
6. *The fatal vespers meeting at Hunsdon House, a contemporary print. See Appendix 4*
7. *Site of Cobham House (Shaded green) (Cecil Wall – This needs a better image)*
8. *Frances Howard – Dowager Lady Kildare aged 29 in 1601 at the time of her betrothal to Henry Brooke*
9. *Bridewell from John Strypes 1720 much expanded edition of John Stows Survey of London*
10. *Bridewell as rebuilt after the Great Fire (Thornbury page 187)*
11. *1720 Map from John Strypes Survey of the Cities of London and Westminster (This shows two separate entrances to the Hall (no. 40)*
12. *Apothecaries Hall 1806 showing basement windows*
13. *13 First pages of the Philosophical Transactions paper listing the 50 plants from the Physic Garden (2 images)*
14. *Apothecaries Hall -Pen and Ink Sketch from the Wellcome Collection (undated)*
15. *Entrance to Main Hall showing the Library Table under the main Staircase*
16. *The old Mortar from 1789 – Plate II - Gentleman’s Magazine, page 877 of Vol 59 part 2 (A copy of this print once hung in the Library)*
17. *Presentation page from Henry Fields Memorials in the possession of the Royal College of Physicians*
18. *Apothecaries Hall courtyard – Pen and Ink sketch by Thomas Shepherd @1827*
19. *Library Door Handle -Image from Barrett’s History (page 104) compared with a modern 2018 Photograph (2 images)*
20. *Old Library Table from Barrett’s 1905 History of the SOA – Page 100*
21. *The Two former Library Windows (now on the Landing) showing the two ‘mottos’*
22. *The Library 1932, from Cecil Wall, The Apothecaries, Their Society and Their Hall*
23. *The Unique SOA Copy of the 1809 SOA London Pharmacopoeia in its original state*
24. *Unique bookplate and original Recipe from the SOA 10809 Pharmacopoeia*
25. *Recipe for Mr. Brande’s Ink in the SOA 1809 Pharmacopoeia*
26. *Restored 1809 Pharmacopoeia*

### **Images at rear –**

1. *Photo of Apothecaries Hall Courtyard – Stated to be around 1920*
2. *Coloured Engraving by John James Hinchliff, 1805-1875 after Thomas Shepherds 1827 sketch*

## Appendix 2: Sources and References

All references are by their nature secondary references.

- Allen D.E. John Martyns Botanical Society, a biographical analysis of Membership. Proceedings of the Botanical Society of the British Isles, 6, 1967, 305-24.
- Anon. The Worshipful Society of Apothecaries of London – Handbook 1984
- Barrett, C.R.B. The History of the Society of Apothecaries, Elliott Stock, 1905  
*Contains numerous references to the Library.*
- Copeman, Dr. W S C The Worshipful Society of Apothecaries of London, A History 1617-1967. The WSA 1967
- Corfe, George M.D. The Apothecary (Ancient and Modern), Elliott Stock, 1885  
No copy of this book, by a past Master is in the Library.
- Field Henry Memoirs, Historical and Illustrative of the Botanick Garden at Chelsea, R Gilbert. London 1820  
*Contains comments on the Library at Chelsea and Blackfriars.*
- Hunting, Penelope A History of the Society of Apothecaries, SOA, 1999.
- Minter, Sue The Apothecaries Garden, Sutton Publishing 2000
- Taylor, William Bramley, (Edited by J. E. Harting). Catalogue of the Library of the Society of Apothecaries, Taylor and Francis 1913.  
This catalogue is the most complete catalogue of the Library at Blackfriars. Several later partial or incomplete and unpublished later catalogues do exist that give a suggestion as to the books that may have been passed back to the Physic Garden. It is also entirely possible that some older books, perhaps in too poor a state to retain were simply disposed of with no record being kept.  
The catalogue also allows some estimate of the movement of books between the two locations (Blackfriars and Chelsea).
- Thornbury, Walter Old and New London: Volume 1, Cassell, London, 1878.  
Blackfriars and Apothecaries hall is discussed in some detail.
- Thornton, J.L. Medical Books, Libraries and Collectors, Andre Deutsch, 1965.  
Briefly mentions the Library on page 200.
- Smith, John Thomas An Antiquarian Ramble in the Streets of London: With Anecdotes, Volume 2, Bentley, London 1848
- Wall, Cecil, The Apothecaries, Their Society and Their Hall. Harrison and Sons, 1955. Illustrations by Edward Swann.  
The 1955 edition is a reprint of the 28 page 1932 original.
- Wall, Cecil, + C. Cameron  
And E. A. Underwood A History of the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries of London. Wellcome, 1963.  
Although called Volume 1, Volume 2 was never printed.  
There is very little in this volume on the Library.

### Appendix 3: Locations Terminology.

Colonnades	Open area underneath the Gallery / Library.
Courtroom	Room adjacent to the Great Hall and in-between the Great Hall and the Parlour.
Courtyard	The area immediately inside the entrance arch. A lamp in the centre marks the original well for Blackfriars Priory.
Gallery	Now the Library – remains of walkway between Bridewell and Blackfriars.
Garret	An area above both the Gallery and rooms above the Gallery. This was unfurnished and used by apprentices. It is now modern office space approached from outside Apothecaries' Hall.
Gate	Entrance to Apothecaries' Hall from Blackfriars lane. Built/rebuilt after the Great Fire.
Glasshouse Yard	The frontage of the Cloister Garth site. Now Playhouse Yard.
Kitchen	Originally under the Parlour. Now the Brande Room.
Library	Originally the Gallery. The Library was used to film scenes from Shakespeare's 'A Winter's Tale'. This play is claimed to be a defence of Anne Boleyn. The use of the Library would therefore be appropriate.
Parlour	Parlour.
Rosemary Room	Original name of the room that was above the Parlour.
Shop	Enclosed area under part of colonnades that opened into Blackfriars lane. The entrance remains north of the Arch to Apothecaries Hall.
Waterside.	The records of the Apothecaries often refer to the Waterside. This seems to be accepted as meaning the Thames. Although the Thames was much wider until the embankment was built by Bazalguette, the Hall and its surrounding premises were never 'at the side' of the Thames although they had a wharf and premises at the Thames. This could be read as simply indicating a direction – e.g. the south side of the premises or the fact that it was relatively closer and adjacent to the Fleet that could be accessed through the paved or covered walkway. Both of these interpretations can be used to fit different instances where 'waterside' is used. Using Thameside would have made an intended direction obvious. Cecil Wall in his <i>'History of the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries'</i> part 1 gives some details on the location of the Thames and Fleet on pages 58-60.



*Photo of Apothecaries Hall Courtyard – Stated to be around 1920*

#### Appendix 4: The Fatal Vespers

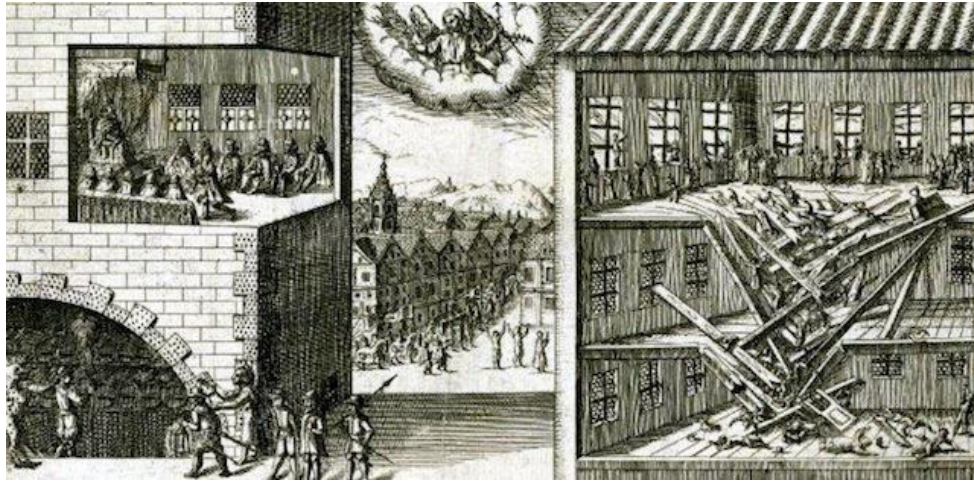
In 1623, some 9 years before the Apothecaries purchased what became Apothecaries' Hall, Blackfriars was the scene of a fatal and extraordinary accident in the Chief House of the Friary known as the Fatal Vespers. This disaster was recorded in detail by Walter Thornbury in his account of Blackfriars in Volume 1 of his 1878 book *'Old and New London'*. His account, in all probability is an expanded version of the same event described in Volume 2 of *'An Antiquarian Ramble in the Streets of London: With Anecdotes of ...'* by John Thomas Smith that was published in 1846. The anecdote is also in Edward Brayley's 1829 *'Londiniana'*, in volume 3 on pages 117-118 and Cecil Wall in his unpublished notes also briefly mentions this incident. The location in the Chief House of the Friary would have been remarkably close to what became Apothecaries' Hall. Thornbury's account and Cecil Wall refer to the name Hunsdon House after Baron Hunsdon. While Hunsdon House existed and was a building in Blackfriars, its actual physical location, is unknown even today.

The House was, at the time, the residence of the French Ambassador, Count de Tillier. At 3pm on Sunday, November 5<sup>th</sup> (or October 26<sup>th</sup> according to old Calendar) 1623, a Roman Catholic congregation of about three hundred persons, worshipping in stealth, with some fear of Puritans in the theatrical neighbourhood, had assembled in a long garret on the third and uppermost floor. Brayley states that this was an old building *'adjoining to the gate of the French Ambassador's residence and to which it appears to have been likewise connected on the upper floor'*.

Master Drury, a Jesuit prelate of celebrity was in charge. The garret, looking over the gateway, was approached through a door into the street, and also by a corridor from the ambassador's withdrawing-room and was about seventeen feet wide and forty feet long. A vestry for a priest was partitioned off at one end. At the appointed hour, Master Drury, the priest, came from the inner room in white robe and scarlet stole while an attendant carried a book and an hour-glass to time his sermon. The text for the day was *'Therefore is the kingdom of heaven like unto a man being a king that would make an account of his servants. And when he began to make account there was one presented unto him that owed him ten thousand talents'*.

After this text was read, the preacher sat down to commence his sermon. He had spoken for about half an hour when the calamity happened. The great weight of the crowd in the old room suddenly snapped the main summer beam (the Bressumer or load bearing beam) of the floor, which instantly crashed in and fell into the room below. The main beams there also snapped and broke through to the ambassador's drawing-room over the gate-house, a distance of twenty-two feet. Only a part, however, of the gallery floor, immediately over Father Rudgate's chamber (yet another small room used for secret mass) gave way. The rest of the floor, being less crowded, stood firm, and the people on it, having no other means of escape, drew their knives and cut a way through a plaster wall into an adjacent room.

The Recorder, the Lord Mayor and Aldermen at once provided for the safety of the Ambassador's family, who were naturally shaking in their shoes, and also shut up the gates to keep off the curious and thievish crowd and set guards at all the Blackfriars passages. (It is this comment that sets it as being in or very near Blackfriars Lane).



***The fatal vespers meeting at Hunsdon House, a contemporary print***

Workmen were employed to remove the *débris* and rescue those sufferers who were still alive. All that night and part of the next day the workmen spent in removing the bodies, and the inquest was then held. It was found that the main beams were only ten inches square, and had two mortise-holes, where the girders were inserted, facing each other, so that only three inches of solid timber were left. The main beam of the lower room, about thirteen inches square, without mortise-holes, broke obliquely near the end. No wall gave way, and the roof and ceiling of the garret remained entire. Father Drury perished, also Father Rudgate, who was in his own apartment underneath.

Lady Webb, of Southwark, Lady Blackstone's daughter, from Scroope's Court, Mr. Fowell, a Warwickshire gentleman, and many tradesmen, servants, and artisans—ninety-five in all—perished. Some of the escapes seemed almost miraculous. Mistress Lucie Penruddock fell between Lady Webb and a servant, who were both killed, yet she was saved by her chair falling over her head. Lady Webb's daughter was found alive near her dead mother, and a girl named Elizabeth Sanders was also saved by the dead who fell and covered her.

A Protestant scholar, though one of the very undermost, escaped by the timbers arching over him, and some of them slanting against the wall. (One might ask what a Protestant scholar was doing at a secret Mass). He tore a way out through the laths of the ceiling by main strength, then crept between two joists to a hole where he saw light and was drawn through a door by one of the ambassador's family. He at once returned to rescue others.

There was a girl of ten who cried to him, "Oh, my mother! —oh, my sister! — they are down under the timber". He told her to be patient, and by God's grace they would be quickly got forth. The child replied, "This will be a great scandal to our religion". One of the men that fell said to a fellow-sufferer, "Oh, what advantage our adversaries will take at this!" The other replied, "If it be God's will this should befall us, what can we say to it?" One gentleman was saved by keeping near the stairs, while his friend, who had pushed near the pulpit, perished.

Many people died in the incident – in fact 96 in total. In the fore-courtyard, by the French ambassador's house, a huge grave, eighteen feet long and twelve feet broad, was dug, and forty-four corpses piled within it. In another pit, twelve feet long and eight feet broad, in the ambassador's garden, they buried fifteen more.

Thornbury's account does not name Apothecaries' Hall in relation to this incident. However, Penelope Hunting in her history notes that the corridor (Gallery) was repaired and re-plastered in 1534 for the benefit of the French Ambassador but had decayed yet again by 1548. This suggests the garret used for the 'secret mass' was more likely to be near the current site and entrance rather than the location of the older gatehouse which was some 50 feet or so south of the current gateway near the turn from Blackfriars Lane into Playhouse Yard. Cecil Wall in his *'History of the Worshipful Society of Apothecaries'* Vol 1 on page 60-63 provides some details of the layout of the buildings when the site was obtained by the Apothecaries that indicate the current forecourt is in the same place as the earlier forecourt.

## Appendix 5 The Howards

After the dissolution of the monasteries, the Priory Guest House and associated buildings came into the hands of George Brooke, the Lord Cobham. Lord Cobham is known to have extensively refurbished Cobham House in 1582. Cobham Hall, the main family home, was in Kent and is a Grade 1 listed building and now a Girls School while the quite recent modern building just north of and adjoining Apothecaries' Hall is named Cobham House. The 11<sup>th</sup> Baron Cobham Henry Brooke married Frances Howard (1572-1628) sister of William Howard, the 3rd Baron Howard of Effingham (1677-1615). Frances Howard was first married to Henry Fitzgerald 12<sup>th</sup> Earl of Kildare and was known as the Dowager Lady Kildare and only later as Baroness Cobham

In 1603, Lord Cobham was implicated in a plot to remove James I from the throne. Sir Walter Raleigh was also involved, and both were imprisoned in the Tower and although released at the same time, Raleigh was then executed in 1618 and Lord Cobham, who was seriously ill when released, died on the 24<sup>th</sup> January 1619.

Lord Cobham's property could have been forfeited but it remained within the Howard family. In 1604, a lease dated May 13<sup>th</sup> and that included Lord Cobham's Blackfriars house in London, was granted by King James I to Lady Kildare. This was in fact Frances Howard, Lady Cobham, using her former title from her first marriage rather than her new title from her disgraced second husband. The lease granted the property to Frances for her whole of her life, or for 100 years after the attainder (the forfeiture of land due to a death sentence for treason or similar) of Lord Cobham.

The King was in reality hoping the property could be passed to some of his friends. However, in 1609 Frances gave Cobham House to her brother William Lord Effingham (son of the second Lord Howard) on the occasion of his marriage to Anne St. John, the daughter of John St. John 2<sup>nd</sup> Baron St John of Bletso. Anne and William had one daughter, Elizabeth but when William died in 1615 the estate was administered by the Trustees for Lady Anne remaining known as Cobham House. Lady Kildare (Frances) retained Cobham Hall in Kent.

In *'Six Wills relating to Cobham Hall-Archaeologia Cantiana'* Vol II, 1877 it is recorded that:

*'In June, 1622, when the King was going to Rochester to inspect his Navy, he said that he would call at Cobham Hall, and dine with Lady Kildare, hoping that he might then be able to persuade her to sell the place, on reasonable terms, to the Duke and Duchess (of Lenox). Probably his Majesty eventually succeeded, although not at once. On the 19th of July 1623, Lady Kildare wrote from Cobham Hall to the Lord Treasurer (Lord Middlesex) asking for £200, and saying that she "wants all," but she is told that she is put off until the King is in progress, and the servants provided for. Within a year or two, however, it is evident that she had made some bargain with the Duke of Lenox, and had retired to a house which she had purchased in Deptford, where she made her will on the 21st of June 1628'*

In due course it was the trustees of Lady Anne Howard, Frances Lady Kildare/Cobham's sister-in-law that finally sold the property to the Society of Apothecaries in 1632 for £1,800.

## **Appendix 6: Book preservation and restoration**

The existing Library heating system is directly under the south facing windows with hot air rising from lateral grills under the sash windows themselves. These windows have no blinds or similar to protect the interior from sunlight and by facing approximately south, receive direct sunlight throughout each and every day. An added problem is that directly behind the wall on which the Library cabinets sit is a small area lying between the Library and the new Kitchens which houses much of the necessary internal pipework and cabling of the Society including those for heating.

The rear panelling of the Library cabinets had shrunk with age and as a result hot or warm air can penetrate and circulate within them. The effect over decades has been to dry out the books and binding materials to such an extent that the glues and covers of some volumes have become extremely brittle and snap as the books are opened. These are not ideal conditions for a Library and were the primary reason that the older rare books were moved from the Library to the Brande Room where the environmental conditions are better.

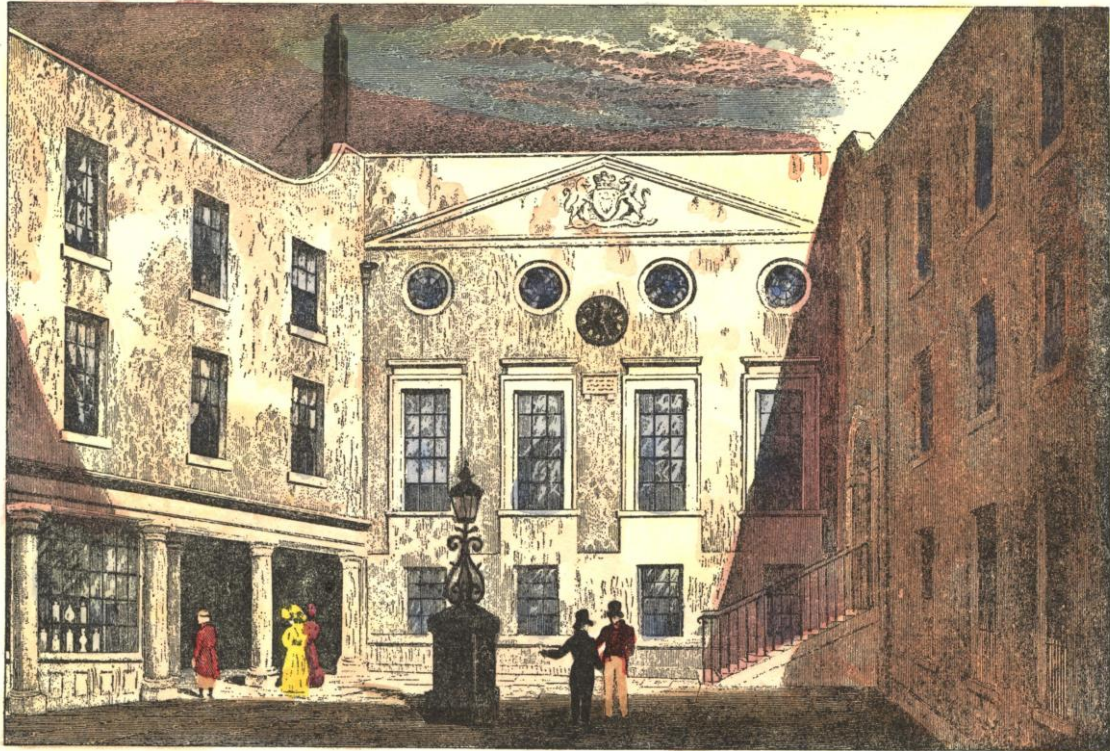
Many older volumes have boards that had become completely detached, particularly from the larger more unwieldy volumes. There has also been the problem that fire, water damage and mould is extensive. Some of these issues date from 1943 but some are earlier. Records indicate that several fires occurred over the years, some from the Laboratory area below.

During the 20<sup>th</sup> century, there have been at least two periods of conservation. One initiative, probably around mid-century shows some heavy-handed restoration using materials that have not aged well and now need removing and replacing as they are causing damage. On some volumes for example, thick oiled adhesive tape has aged badly and, when used internally, is worsening the damage it was intended to repair. A few volumes damaged by smoke, water, mould and the environment have pages adhering to each other that are both torn and damaged by bookworm. These will require expert professional restoration.

Some of the antiquarian volumes have been rebound in modern contemporary leather or had vital areas of worn binding restored such as the spine and are now in excellent condition. This conservation seems to have taken place around 1990 and was both expertly and sensitively done. Other than requiring a spring-cleaning, these volumes need little work.

Between approximately 1850 and 1950 there was much experimental work on the materials for printing and binding books. However, the quality of the paper and bindings during this period, has not always proved to be that durable. The paper has often become fragile and brittle and bindings simply fall apart. The variable quality of the stitching also means that in some books, pages (signatures to be technical) split if opened. The introduction of what is known somewhat ironically as 'perfect binding' for paperbacks, and what was used later in cheaply produced hardbacks has given many books a very short lifespan.

Older paper, roughly pre-1850, was based on woollen rags and the older vellum and leather bindings have proved far more durable and able to stand up to some of the extremes of modern living. The worst problem is old vellum bindings becoming rock hard and infestation by the inevitable bookworm. A 17<sup>th</sup> Century Medical textbook in Latin can thus remain looking relatively crisp and be perfectly functional whereas an early 20<sup>th</sup> century volume can shed individual pages like dandruff every time it is opened.



Drawn by Tho. H. Shepherd

Engraved by J. Hinchliff

APOTHECARIES' HALL, PILGRIM ST.

**Coloured Engraving by John James Hinchliff, 1805-1875 after Thomas Shepherds 1827 sketch**