## An Early College Bookbinder

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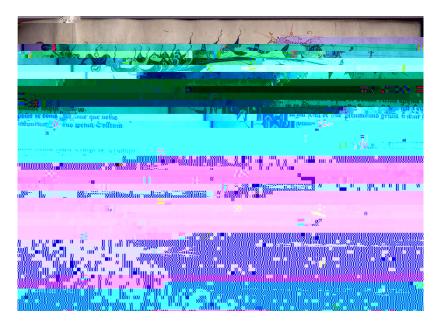
<sup>483;</sup> repr. in his Pages Fromthe Past: Medieval Writing Skills and Medieval Books (Farnham, 2012).

4 -Centu pp. 202 3, drawing his evidence from Registrum candellarii
Oxoniensis, ed. H. E. Salter, 2 vols, Oxford Historical Society 93 4 (1932).

5 - pp. 202 3. Pollard was incorrect to say that at this date
Hert Hall was occupied by New College men.

6 ibid. 202.

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Page 1 [detail], showing the fine penmanship of the scribe of WCM 21470 © Courtesy of the Warden and Scholars of Winchester College

for binding the book. The book is mentioned against the total sum of 16s 8d in a memorandum aggregating extraordinary expenses in the early year includes the very large total outlay of £43 10s 1d on books). Perhaps it had been given some sort of limp or makeshift cover, and it was decided fifty years later that something of greater dignity was required; perhaps it was simply through continual handling that the binding stood in need of repair by the middle of the century. Whatever the reason, Thomas Bokebynder binder at this time,

for 1451 2, a skin was acquired for the work along with

.15 The binding is a reverse skin, perhaps pig over pasteboard, with a wrap-around flap and three ties of plaited red silk. The stitching

perhaps pig, over pasteboard, with a wrap-around flap and three ties of plaited red silk. The stitching is very fine. The seal of the Founder, Bishop Wykeham, is pendant from the spine-fold on a thick plaited cord of red and green silk. The cost of the work, totalled with repairs to a great legendary and a small antiphoner, was 11s. 4d.



Seal from Founder's Statutes of Winchester College, Winchester College Archives, Winchester, WCM 21470
© Courtesy of the Warden and Scholars of Winchester College

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Th connection with Winchester gains some importance in respect of the developing taste for stamped bindings in England in the second half of the fifteenth century. It has long been recognised that some tooled bindings, exclusive to Oxford and Winchester at this date, show a revived taste for a style of decorative binding that had sometimes been used on Romanesque books. Between about 1150 and the early thirteenth century a small number of books were bound in polished brown calf and blindstamped. There are twelve surviving Romanesque blind-stamped bindings of English origin, three made at Winchester, three associated with binderies in London, and six of uncertain origin or provenance. 16

In Thomas Bokebynder we have an Oxford binder who was a regular visitor to Winchester and The binding of the Egerton manuscript, with its decoration modelled on Romanesque books at Winchester and , might as a result more firmly be attributed to Hokyns. What strengthens the case that Thomas Bokebynder or Hokyns originated the Romanesque style of blindstamped binding is the record of his work at Winchester College statute book stands as a solitary witness.

James Willoughby