A Selection of Latin Inscriptions at Winchester Cathedral

by Pat Wagstaff
with photographs by Julie Adams
A SELECTION OF LATIN INSCRIPTIONS AT WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL
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Introduction

The idea for this publication evolved from tours of Latin epitaphs in the Cathedral which I led for Cathedral Guides and for the general public.

It is, of necessity only a short selection of epitaphs. I have chosen those which are representative of the people buried or commemorated in the Cathedral and I have also tried to include examples of typical abbreviations and expressions.

The translations are my own except for those marked [GC] at the end. Those translations are by Guy Clarke who left for the Guides a file of beautifully handwritten translations.

The order of the booklet follows that of a typical guided tour through the Cathedral, beginning at the west end, proceeding along the north side into the Retroquire and then down into the south transept, into the nave and finally into the south nave aisle. The numbers on the Cathedral plan below correspond to the numbers assigned to the epitaphs in the text. Inscriptions marked with an asterisk * are visible only when the chairs have been removed from the nave of the Cathedral. Two of the memorials marked ** are currently under a temporary extension to the nave dais.

There are two appendices, one giving notes on common phrases or words used in epitaphs and the other giving information on the way Latin is used to give dates.

P.A.W.

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Dr. John Crook kindly gave permission to use his copyright outline of the Cathedral.

Atkins A M C (of Pewsey) took the photographs of memorials nos. 15 (Edward Traffles) and 16 (Abigail and John Harfell) in 1993.

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I am most grateful to all of them.

Front cover illustration: On the west end of the Cathedral

Walk that way if you wish to worship, this way if you are travelling
Plan of Selected Memorials within the Cathedral

1. Charles and Elizabeth Woodroffe
2. Matthew Combe
3. Henry Bowles
4. George Morley
5. Brownlow Poulter
6. Jean Serres
7. Deborah Over
8. Thomas Rennell
9. Avmere de Lusianan
10. Susanna Taylor
11. Frances Powlet
12. Sara Young
13. John Nicholas
14. Isaac Townsend
15. Edward Toffles
16. Abigail and John Harfell
17. William Say
18. Mary Bath
19. Thomas Bath
20. William Harris
21. Thomas Cheney
22. Charles Cheney
23. Francis Trench
24. Joseph Warton
25. Nicholas Stanley
1. Charles and Elizabeth Woodroffe
Nearby are buried Charles Woodroffe LLD, prebendary of this church and Elizabeth his most beloved wife. Dear souls, worthy to be buried with the highest honours; in as much as his serene and unwrinkled brow, his lofty and steadfast mind his refined character, his well-mannered courtesy, the austerity of his theological and legal learning tempered with more pleasant studies and the charms of music, made him a great loss to his friends. Her charming appearance, cheerful countenance, lively intelligence, well-born modesty, natural charm, her feminine virtue and her piety tempered by the sweetness of her character made her darling of her husband. He died 13th February 1726 at age 54. She died 6th September 1721 at age 33.

RB. AW put up this stone to the happy pair.

The singular verb “posuit” is a problem and AW appears to be carved by a different hand. It may be that RB was the daughter who erected the memorial and AW the son whose initials were added later. Charles Woodroffe was Rector of Upham under the patronage of the Bishop of Winchester.
2. Matthew Combe MD
Here lies buried Matthew Combe MD who exercised his profession in this city for 54 years. Equipped by natural capacity, study, hard work and practice, he acquired with remarkable success a high degree of experience in healing. In tending to the sick he was painstaking, caring, sympathetic and conscientious; in his daily round of duties he was friendly, energetic, sincere and so virtuous in his praiseworthy and unblemished devotion to God that neither his work nor his recreation were allowed to interfere with his habitual religious exercises. He was married to Christiana, daughter of John Garrard Esq. and secondly to Hannah, daughter of Sir John Oglander Bart., by whom he had three daughters who survive him. He was born 20th November 1662 and died 20th February 1748 [GC]

Dr Combe also had a daughter, Finetta, by his first wife. Christiana and Finetta are buried nearby. They both died in 1712, Catherine of smallpox, aged 58, Finetta aged 18. Mrs Hannah Combe died in 1758 in the house now known as Chernocke House in St. Thomas St.
3. Henry Bowles
Sacred to the memory of Henry Bowles, recently of this city, Doctor of Medicine, descended from an ancient family in the county of Wiltshire, a man of exceptional goodness and kindness, most skilful in his profession: when he had faithfully served in western India and southern Africa in the capacity of medical officer to the British army, finally as he was setting out for Gibraltar when a deadly fever was raging there, weakened by the agony of a most severe illness, yet unconquered in his mind and his devotion, he died on the ship in which he was sailing, most greatly missed by his family, on the 26th November 1804 AD in his fortieth year. Penelope his widow in her grief set up [this memorial].

Also of Penelope mentioned above, who, when she had inconsolably mourned her greatly beloved husband, died on the 15th day of August, 1815 AD in her fiftieth year

Henry and Penelope were married in June 1800 at Shaftesbury. He was described as “Physician to his Majesty’s forces and Inspector of the military hospitals of the south-west district.”

The background to this memorial is the war with Revolutionary France. Bowles died less than a year before the Battle of Trafalgar.
4. George Morley
Bishop Morley’s mitre and crozier are hung above his tomb. His portrait sits over the door of the Morley Library, the core of which is formed of his entire library which he bequeathed to the Dean and Chapter.

Note: The image appears distorted because of the angle the photograph had to be taken; the ledger stone is placed between two pillars on the nave altar dais. JA
In spe Resurrectionis ad Vitam Aeternam
GEORGIUS Episcopus WINTONIENSIS hic jacet,
Qui postquam pro Rege & Martyre CAROLO primo,
Et cum Rege et Exule CAROLO secundo,
Exilium in partibus Transmarinis hic, illic,
Duodecim plus minus annorum exegisset,
Redux cum Rege tandem in patriam suam,
Munificentia magis Regia quam ullo sui ipsius
(Tam sublimibus in Ecclisia gradibus) pari merito
Primum ex Uno Canoniciorum Ecclesiæ Christi
Oxoniensis factus est Decanus; breviq[ue] postea
In Ecclesia Vigorniensis Præsulatum est
Evectus, tandemq[ue] (sic volente Deo et Rege)
In hujus inclytae Wintoniensis Ecclesiæ
Episcopatum est Translatus: et jam plus
Quam Octogenarius, hoc sibi Epitaphium
Scripsit et huic sui Deposito apponi iussit.
Obijt vero Anno Domini MDCLXXXIV
Mensis Octobris die XXIX Anno
Ætatis suae LXXXV°: postquam
In hac Episcopali Cathedra
Sederat Annos XXII Menses quinqu[e].

George Morley, Bishop of Winchester
In the hope of the resurrection to eternal Life, George, Bishop of Winchester, lies here. He spent twelve years, more or less, in the service of Charles I, King and Martyr, and sharing exile with Charles II King and Exile in lands across the sea here and there. When he returned finally with the King into his own country, it was due more to the generosity of the King, than to any appropriate merit of his own that his steps on the ladder of promotion were so steep. From being one of the Canons, he was made Dean of Christ Church, Oxford, and shortly after he was promoted to the Bishopric of Worcester. Finally, (by the will of God and the King) he was translated to the bishopric of this famous Church of Winchester. When he was already more than eighty years of age, he composed this epitaph for himself and ordered it to be placed on his tomb. He died on October 29th 1684, in the 87th year of his age, having sat in the seat of this bishopric for 22 years and 5 months.

He left England in March 1649 and joined the court of Charles II at St Germain, from where he travelled incessantly on the continent.

He built the present Wolvesey Palace and in 1672 endowed the “College for Matrons” which faces the north side of the Cathedral, for ten widows of clergymen from the Worcester or Winchester dioceses. He also built Winchester House in Chelsea at a cost of £4,000.

He was not married and the Mrs Ann Morley who died in 1787 and whose memorial is in the north aisle close by, was not a relative of the Bishop.
D. O. M.

BROWNLOW PULTER, A. M.
ECCLESIE BURTON. IN AGRO HANTON. RECTORI.
FIL. NAT. MIN. EDMUNDI POULTER.
HEJUS ECCLESIE PREBENDARII.
VITO POLITIORE HUMANITATI VERSATO.
CANTABRIGIÆ EREPTIONE IN DISCIPLINIS MATHEMATICIS
INTER IEALES PRINCIP.
PAROCHIS SUIS UNICÆ CARO.
OB SINGULAREM MORUM COMITATEM
PERGRATO CUNCTIS, ATQ: ACCEPTO.
SACERDOTE RELIGIONIS INTEGRITATE EGREGIO.
QUI MAJORÀ INDIES BONITATIS SUÆ INSIGNIA DATURUS
ACERBA MORTÉ PRÆEREPTUS IN MEDIO VITÆ CURSU
SUMMÀ OMNÌM CUM LAUDE
ET DOLORE DECESSIT.

PARENTES CONTRA VOTUM SUPERSTITES
UXORES FELICISSIMAE.
FRATER ET SORORES
MÆRÆNTES POSTÆRE.
VIXIT ANNOS XXXX MENSES III
OBIT XXX MART MDCCXXIX.
To the majesty and might of God and to Brownlow Poulter MA, rector of Buriton in Hampshire, the younger son of Edmund Poulter, prebendary of this church, a man accomplished in the more refined branches of culture and skilled among his contemporaries at Cambridge in mathematical science, a pastor uniquely loved by his parishioners, by reason of his particularly urbane disposition, a priest affable to all and popular on account of the outstanding integrity of his religious views, who, when about to reveal indications of his kind-heartedness growing from day to day, was swept away by harsh death in the mid-term of his career, and died in the highest esteem and to the grief of all. His parents, who contrary to their wishes, survive him, his most unhappy wife, his brother and sisters in their grief set up [this memorial]. He lived 40 years and 3 months. He died 30th March 1829. [GC]

The Poulter family was closely related to the Norths. Edmund Poulter married the sister of Bishop Brownlow North’s wife. He had three sons and three daughters. The eldest son, Edmund, died in 1809. The youngest son, John Sayer, was a fellow of New College Oxford.

The window in the south aisle almost opposite this memorial is dedicated to “the memory of Edmund Poulter, and of his sons, Brownlow and John Sayer,” and of his granddaughter Dorothea Julia Poulter.” The window was erected in 1853 by Brownlow’s son, also Brownlow, whose memorial is on the wall just to the east of his father’s.

Brownlow Poulter was admitted to Trinity College in 1806. He married Harriet, the daughter of Dorothea and James Morley who are buried in front of this memorial. The window immediately above Brownlow’s memorial was erected in 1851 to the Morleys.
6. Jean Serres

Here lies buried Jean Serres, a Frenchman of good family from Montauban, who, after twenty seven years condemned to the galleys at Marseilles, in chains and prisons, had fought with indomitable spirit for the protestant way of life and faith, freed by the good ness of Queen Anne, in the year of the peace treaty, came to England as a refugee. He died in 1754 aged 85. So that the memory may not die of a man who deserved so much from the reformed religion and who suffered so much from Popish Superstition, Thomas Cheney, Dean of this Church, set up this tablet.

The background to this memorial is the repeal by Louis XIV of the edict of Nantes, which had allowed freedom of worship to Huguenots. In 1713 the Treaty of Utrecht gave Huguenots asylum in England.
7. Deborah Over

Deborah
UXOR GUILELMI OVER ME D
RANDOLPHI & ANNAE LEWET FILIA
OBIJT PUIERPRA AUG. 9 A.D.1686
ÆTAT. 33

Guilelmus-Randolphus
FILUS EJUS PRIMOGENITUS
VARIOLARUM LABE CORREPTUS
INTERIIT IAN. 23. A. D. 1685
ÆTAT. 1

Guilemus
FILUS NATU SECUNDUS
25° DIE A NATIVITATE SUA
FATIS CONCESSIT AUG. 28° A. D. 1686.

Deborah, wife of William over MD, the daughter of Randolph and Anne Lewet, died of puerperal fever, August 9th 1686, aged 33.

William-Randolph her first-born son, seized in an attack of smallpox, died January 23 1685, before his first birthday.

William, the second son, died on the 24th day after his birth, August 28th AD 1686.

This is one of several memorials in the Cathedral to children who died young, mothers who died in childbirth and victims of smallpox.

It was not uncommon to use the same name for a second child when the first had already died.

Randolph and Anne Lewett are buried next to their daughter and grandsons.
Sacred to the memory of Thomas Rennell DD, first a scholar of Eton College, then Fellow of King’s College Cambridge, for some time Master of both Inns of Court at the Temple in London, Dean of this Church for 35 years. (He was) a man endowed with exceptional gifts of intellect; most well versed in very many areas of scholarship, especially those which pertain to theology; steeped above all in the true religion. When he had preached the Gospel of God for a period of life rarely granted to man, with a fierce and passionate eloquence in sermons and with a certain agreeable authority in conversation with his family and friends, with an openness of character and after a life lived in a most holy fashion, finally on 31st March 1840, aged 87, he fell peacefully asleep in Christ, leaving to his relatives, his friends and the poor a pious sense of his loss. His surviving children had this memorial set up to a most tender father.

Thomas Rennell was the last Dean to be buried in the Cathedral. With Prebendary Nott and Architect Garbett, he oversaw extensive repairs to the Cathedral, although the memorial does not mention this. “His surviving children” is particularly poignant. His eldest son Thomas died prematurely in 1824 and his ledger stone is before the altar in the Epiphany Chapel next to that of his father.
9. Aymer de Lusignan

The body of Ethelmarus (Aymer) whose heart that stone now holds, on his death was buried in Paris. He died in 1261.

Aymer de Lusignan was the half-brother of Henry III who appointed him bishop although he was not of the required age. The de Lusignan brothers were expelled from England, but Aymer went to Rome and was duly consecrated bishop by the Pope. He died in Paris on his way back to England.

This plaque on the South presbytery screen marks the place where Aymer’s memorial originally was set. The stone and his heart were moved when the screen was built. The magnificent, but sadly damaged, memorial is now set in the north east wall of the retroquire.
Here is buried Susannah, daughter of Arthur Tayllor MD and of Susannah his wife. She died on 21st June, aged 4 in the year of Salvation 1669.

Dear to her friends, dearer to her parents, dearest to God.

While we wait, we die.
Frances, daughter of Nathaniel Naper, knight, wife of Essex Powlet Esq., laid down here her mortal remains (alas, how beautiful they were) 31st July of the Christian Era, 1677.

Francisca
Nath: Naper Equitis Aurati Filia
Essexij Powlet Armigeri Coniux
Exuvias mortalitatis
(Heu quam pulchras)
Hic deposuit
Pridie Cal. Sextil
Aerae Xitianae
M D C L X V I I
12. Sara Young

Sacred to the memory of Sara, only daughter of John Young DD, Dean of this Church, singularly loved, a young woman endowed with outstanding gifts, wholly devoted to Christ in life and death; here she awaits the resurrection of the blessed. In the year 1636 AD and aged 18, on the very day and hour of the Passion, she returned her soul to God whence she received it. Her god-fearing parents sent ahead their first fruits.

Be mindful of the Lord’s coming, O wayfarer; death will come, and though ever wishing to live, learn how to die.

This memorial reflects the Calvinist beliefs of Dean John Young. It is heavily decorated with cherubs, an hourglass and a skull and cross bones.
Here is buried John Nicholas DD, prebendary of this Church, public benefactor, scholar, fellow and warden of both of Wykeham’s Colleges. In both of these he left lasting monuments to his bounty. He improved the colleges by discipline, extended and embellished them with buildings. He built “School”, surely worthy of his own Wykeham, virtually at his own expense. Amidst all these activities, he provided benefits to the poor in generous measure, and was a very ready friend in need. These truly great achievements speak of the greatness of their author and will spread his renown to remote posterity. He died on 27th February, 1711, aged 74.

A second stone, on the floor of the chapel in front of this one, marks his burial place. “School” is a detached brick building on 1687 built by Warden Nicholas in the Wren tradition.
14. Isaac Townsend
Sacred to the memory of Sir Isaac Townsend, who was employed in naval affairs for sixty years. At sea he spent thirty five years in the Royal Navy in which, in a career of distinction, he commanded many of the principal ships, and on land, he was for twenty five years conspicuous among the leading authorities for naval procurement, for real foresight in naval requirements. He was at all times and in all places, by land and sea, most loyal to his sovereign and to his country, a man of honour and integrity in all walks of life. [GC] He died on the 26th of May 1731 in his 75th year. His grieving widow set up this memorial of her very deep sorrow.

The back of the memorial bears a long inscription in English to his wife. It ends, “...in no time of her life did she appear more glorious than in her last moments, when she perceived the approaches of inevitable death with invincible courage, and overcame its finishing stroke with a well-grounded and truly Christian assurance of a blessed mortality.” She had outlived her husband by almost four years. The sides of the monument depict a man-of-war and naval and military trophies. There is a portrait of a Sir Isaac Townsend in the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich, but he is this Sir Isaac’s nephew.
Edward Traffles, Gentleman, until his death Auditor of Accounts of this holy Church and Registrar to the reverend Archdeacon of Winchester, who, after faithfully completing the course of his most hard-working life, attained his goal and (as the hope is) his crown, on the 4th November in the year of our Redemption, 1675, aged 63.

The metaphor of the race of life ending with the crown of righteousness is common in the acts of the Apostles and the letters of St. Paul.
Sacred to the memory of Abigail, wife of Edward Harfell, gentleman, and of the son of the same, John, who died (as we hope) acceptable sacrifices to God. He died on the 12th August 1685, aged 16. She died on the 22nd September 1685, aged 47. Fever snatched the son, dropsy carried off the mother. The first succumbed to the fates by fire, the second by water.

This stone is damaged in the parts marked [?]. This is an ingenious way of commemorating mother and son who died in the same year and parallel phrasing is used throughout.

Holocausta is from the Greek meaning “wholly burnt” of a sacrifice in classical times.
17. *William Say

ABIJT NON OBIJT   PÆIJT NON PERIJT
IN MEMORIAM DILECTISS MARITI SUI
GUILELMI SAY COLEGIJ OMNIUM
ANIMARU[M] IN ACADEMIA OXON: QUONDA[M]
SOCIJ UTRIUSQ[UE] IURIS BACHALAUREI
HVIVS ECCLE. GANONICI NEC NON
REVERENDORVM IN CHRO PATRVM
IOHANNIS WATSONI ET IOHANÆ COOPERI
HVIVS DIOCESEOS EBORUM CANCELLARIJ
INTEGRIMI POSVIT PIA MARGARETA
HOC AMORIS SUI MONUMENTVM.
EXCESSIT E VIVIS 10 DIE IVLIJ A° SALUTIS
HUMANÆ 1615 AETATIS SUÆ 71.
MANET MEA VITA MANET ME RESURRECTIO
He has left, he has not died. He has gone before, he has not perished.
To the memory of her most beloved husband, William Say, formerly Fellow of All Souls’ College, Oxford University and Bachelor of Law, canon of this Cathedral and also irreproachable Chancellor of this Diocese in the time of the reverend fathers in Christ, Bishops John Watson and Thomas Cooper. His dutiful wife Margaret set up this memorial of her love for him. He departed from the living 10th July in the year of man’s salvation 1615, aged 71.
My life endures. The resurrection awaits me.

There are some mistakes in the carving of this ledger stone, which suggest that the stonemason did not understand the Latin that he was copying. EBORUM: most likely for EPORUM, an abbreviation of EPISCOPORUM. INTEGRIMI: more correctly spelt INTEGERRIMI. The mason also omitted CONIUX, “wife” and had to insert it in small letters between the lines.

18. *Mary Bath

1625 Feb: 8

Organa qui Te[m]pli pulso,
Doceo[ue] Choristas
Isthic Sepultam lugeo
uxorem bonam

MARIAM GEORGIVS
BATH F. THOMAE BATH
IUXTA SEPULTI

1625 February 8th. I, George Bath son of Thomas Bath who is buried nearby, who play the organ of the church and teach the Choristers, mourn a good wife, Mary, buried here
19. *Thomas Bath

HIC IACET THOMAS BATH PHARMA
COPOLA, QUONDAM HVIVS ECCLE
SIE VICARIVS LAICVS ET CORIS
TARUM INFORMATOR OBIJT 20°
DECEMB: A. D[OMI]NI 1614

Here lies Thomas Bath, apothecary, once lay Vicar of this church and instructor of the choristers. He died 20th December A.D.1614

Both Thomas and George Bath carved their names on the stone screen to the east of the choir pulpit.

20. William Harris

M. S.
Gulielmi Harris S.T.P. huius ecclesiae
SCHOLARIS, SOCIJ, ARCHIDIDASCALI.
Vir inter prima gentis Wicchamicæ
Nomina memorandi, et Fundatori optimo,
cum tumulo, tum pietate et munificentia
Conjunctissimi.
upote qui in hac Ecclesia orientalem
Chori partem (legatis in id unum Ooctingentis
libris) Adornandum curavit. Collegijis
Wicchamici, Saxius utriq[ue] beneficiando
libras ultra Quingentas dedit et Colerniae
sue Natalis in agro Wilts Pauperibus in perpetuum
Sublevandis Trecentas libras impendit.
Caetera quae Clam erogavit plurima
Palam aliquando rependet Deus.

( Dni 1700
Obijt 9no die Novembris Anno
Ætatis suae 52.

Sacred to the memory of William Harris DD, prebendary of this Cathedral and scholar, fellow and headmaster of Winchester College, a man to rank among the most eminent Wykehamists and closely united to the founder both in his tomb as well as in his piety and liberality, inasmuch as, after providing for the decoration of the eastern section of the choir in this cathedral, by a bequest of £800 for this sole purpose, he donated a further £500 to Wykeham's colleges in more frequent benefactions to both of them and he demised to his native Colerne in Wils the sum of £300 in perpetuity for assistance to the poor. His many private charitable gifts will be publicly recompensed by God hereafter. He died on the 9th November 1700, aged 52.
Harris’s bequest paid for the re-paving of the upper end of the choir with black and white marble and for urns on the great screen. His coat of arms is in the spaces over the doors from the Sanctuary to the Feretory.
21. Thomas Cheney
Buried nearby lies Thomas Cheney DD, Dean of this Church and Fellow if Winchester College who was always acknowledged to be prudent, shrewd and sincere with highly acute judgement and experience of affairs in every kind of transaction, for no-one discerned with greater perspicacity or insight the natural qualities and characters of men; and also was for a long period on terms of familiarity with persons of influence and he could easily have aspired to higher positions. Yet here in a life of sheltered leisure truly worthy of a man of talent and culture, he preferred to enjoy the society of his friends and to indulge his own taste within his family, until with prolonged problems of failing health and increasing age, he piously rendered his immortal soul to God, the giver of all good things and the supreme judge of all men.

He died on the 27th January 1760, aged 66. [GC]

Dean Thomas Cheney is buried in the nave in front of his magnificent memorial, close to his two sons, Charles [no. 20] and John. Milner, in his History of the Cathedral, described the memorial as remarkable for “the beauty of its materials and for the conception and execution of its design.”

He erected the memorial for Jean Serres [No. 6].
Charles was clearly the great hope of his family and the final three lines poignantly reflect the genuine grief of his parents after a rather conventional eulogy. Charles’ younger brother, John, who died aged five, is buried nearby.

It seems very likely that the composer of this epitaph was familiar with a line of Velleius Paterculus: “Neque quisquam elegantius intervalla negotiorum otio dispunxit”: “Nor did anyone balance more tastefully the intervals of business with leisure.”
To their eldest son, Francis William Trench, his surviving parents, Richard Chenevix and Frances Mary, had this stone placed as memorial both of their loss and their hope. Their great unhappiness is tempered in that they mourn the child snatched from them less than they see him sent ahead into peace.

The pain that he escaped, he passed to his family, 31st December 1841. He lived for eight years.

Francis William was the eldest of fourteen children born to Richard Chenevix and Frances Mary. In 1841 Richard Trench was the incumbent at Curdridge Chapel and in the same year became curate to Samuel Wilberforce who was then rector of Alvestoke. He became Dean of Westminster in 1856 and Archbishop of Dublin in 1864. His mother, Melesina, is buried in the Guardian Angels Chapel and she has a memorial on the south wall of the north transept of Winchester Cathedral.
24. Joseph Warton
H. S. E.

JOSEPHUS WARTON S. T. P.
HUJUS ECCLESÆ
PRÆBENDARIUS
SCHOLAÆ WINTONIENSIS
PER ANNOS FERE TRIGINTA
INFORMATOR
POETA FERVIDUS FACILIS EXPOLITUS
CRITICUS ERUDITUS PERSPICAX ELEGANS
OBIT XXIII FEB. MDCCC
ÆTAT. LXXVIII

HOC QUALECUNQUE
PIETATIS MONUMENTUM
PRÆCEPTORI OPTIMO
DESIDERATISSIMO
WICCAMICI SUI
P. C.

Here lies buried Joseph Warton, DD, Prebendary of this Church, for nearly thirty years Headmaster of Winchester College. A poet of feeling, fluency and grace: a critic scholarly, discerning and refined. He died 23rd February 1800, aged 77. This memorial, such as it is, his own Wykehamists set up to the best and most missed teacher.

Warton faces west: his memorial was originally intended to be placed in the north aisle where he is actually buried. It was designed by Flaxman and is said to bear a strong likeness. It was paid for by Wykehamists by subscription “as a memorial of their respect and gratitude.” The boys are the sons of Georgina Hare-Naylor (who had commissioned Flaxman’s illustrations of the Iliad and the Odyssey), Francis, Augustus, Julius and Marcus, although only Augustus was a Wykehamist.

This is the latest of a series of designs and clearly derives its inspiration from an Athenian stele. Warton was known especially as the teacher of classical taste. The faces on either side of the memorial are of Pope and Dryden who had made translations of Virgil and Homer. Warton had also edited pope’s Works in nine volumes in 1797 and at his death was part way through an edition of Dryden, which was completed by his son. Warton was also a poet in his own right and this is marked by the lyre on the top of the memorial.

Ironically, Warton has the reputation - possibly an undeserved one - of being a very poor disciplinarian.

In a letter of 1813, the writer complained that the sculptor had put C for “curavit” (singular) instead of CC for “curaverunt” (plural). “How can you Wykehamists bear it?
Nicholas Stanley
M. D.
obijt 5th Septembris
anno Dom.: 1710
et suo ætatis 52.

Abi lector.
Hoc Breve mihi sufficit Epitaphium
et placet si legas nec tui jam
sis Immemor sepulchri.

Nicholas Stanley
M. D.
died 5th September 1710
Aged 52

Depart, you who read this.
This brief epitaph is sufficient for me and it pleases me if, as you read it, you are not unmindful of your own grave.
Appendix I Terms frequently used in epitaphs

The usual layout is:

1. HSE or HIC IACET or MS/SM
2. NAME
3. Son/daughter/wife/husband of ……
4. OCCUPATION/STATUS
5. EULOGY
6. DIED: date and age
7. MEMORIAL PLACED BY….

1. HSE: hic sepultus/situs est: here is buried
HIC IACET: here lies
MS/SM: memoriae sacrum: sacred to the memory of
PM: piae memoriae: to the affectionate memory of
DOM: Deo optimo maximo: to God, the best and greatest
AMDG: ad maiorem Dei gloriam: to the greater glory of God
HOC MONUMENTUM: his memorial/monument
SUB HOC MARMORE: beneath this marble (slab)

2. Christian names are usually Latinised: surnames (almost always) stay in their English form.

3. FILIUS/FILIA: son/daughter
UXOR/MARITUS/CONIUNX: wife/husband/spouse
VIDUA/RELICTA: widow
PARENTES/MATER/PATER: parents/mother/father
NATU MAXIMUS/SECUNDUS: eldest/second son

4. EPISCOPUS: bishop
PREBENDARIUS: prebendary/canon
DECANUS: dean
GEN(EROSUS): gentleman
ARMIGER: esquire (allowed to have coat of arms)
EQUES AURATUS: knight (gilded coat of arms)
SENESCHALLUS: steward
SOCIUS: fellow
AM: artium magister: MA
STP: sacrae theologiae professor: equivalent to a DD
MD: medicinae doctor: medical doctor
HUIUS ECCLESIAE: of this church
IN AGRO/COMITATU: in the county of

6. OBIIT: PERIIT: all mean he/she died
INTERIIT: )
DENATUS/A EST: )
E VITA DISCESSIT )
FATIS CONCESSIT: )

VITA: life
VIXIT/VIXISSET: he lived
DIES / MENSIS / ANNUS: day / month / year
ANNO DOMINI: in the year of lord
ANNO SALUTIS: in the year of our salvation
ANNO AETATIS: in the year of his/her age

VARIOLAE: smallpox

7. POSUIT: placed
PC: ponendum curavit: had placed
MP: monumentum posuit: placed the memorial
BM: bene merito/merenti: well deserved
MAERENS: grieving
Appendix II - Notes to explain dates in Latin

There are three fixed days in each month:

Kalends: which are always the first of the month
Nones: which are usually on the 5th
Ides: which are usually on the 13th.

In four months, however, the Nones are on the 7th and the Ides on the 15th. The usual mnemonic for remembering these four months is March, July, October, May (not chronological, but easier to say!).

Every date is counted from these three fixed points. So:-

1. If the date coincides with the Kalends/Nones/Ides you will find:

Kalendis Martiis: 1st March
Nonis Iuniis: 5th June
Nonis Octobris: 7th October
Idibus Ianuariis: 13th January
Idibus Maiis: 15th May

2. If the day is the one before one of these fixed points you will find:

Pridie Kalendas Iunias: 31st May
Pridie Nonas Iunias: 4th June
Pridie Idus Maias: 14th May

3. For any other date it gets a bit complicated. Essentially you start with the fixed point and count backwards including the fixed point. So you will find:-


Written out in full this is ante diem tertium Kalendas Iunias

which means “on the third day before the Kalends of June”. Remembering to count in the Kalends, you get to 30th May.

The third word is an ordinal number so in the abbreviated form you may see, eg. IIIum.

a.d.Vum Id. Mai.

= ante diem quintum Idus Maias.

So it is the fifth day before the Ides of May. The Ides in May are on the 15th, so counting back including the 15th, you get to 11th May.

a.d. VIum Non. Mai

= ante diem sextum Nonas Maias.

This is six days before the Nones of May. The nones in May are on the 7th, so this is May 2nd.

3. Months look like ours with the exception of August which originally was Sextilis and July which was Quinctilis. The Roman year began in March.

4. Roman numerals:

M = 1,000
D = 500
C = 100     XC = 90
L = 50      XL = 40
X = 10      IX = 9
V = 5       IV = 4

Sometimes there is a reverse C (called an apostrophus): ☌:

I ☌ is said to be the origin of D and = 500
another ☌ multiplies by 10: so I ☌ = 5000
☐☐ is said to be origin of M and = 1,000