

INVENTORY OF RICHARD HOOKER, 1601¹

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IN the index to the probate registers of the Canterbury Archdeaconry Court the scribe has marked beside the name Richard Hooker "he wrote an Ecclesiastical Polity". This book remains Hooker's chief claim to fame. What of the man himself?

He was born in 1554 at Heavitree near Exeter and went to Corpus Christi College, Oxford, where he studied law. His career began when he was appointed master of the Temple in March, 1584/5. The afternoon reader there was a Puritan and their arguments and theological controversy aroused much interest in their congregations. In 1591 Hooker received the living at Boscombe, Wiltshire, where he was able to pursue his studies in more seclusion. In 1595 he moved to Bishopsbourne in Kent where he remained, his reputation continuing to spread, till his death in 1600. He was buried in the chancel of Bishopsbourne church.

Hooker was a fairly wealthy man when he died. The most valuable item in the inventory is his library of books² which, together with the chests and hampers in which he kept them, was worth £300. His house was large, consisting of twelve rooms with a separate bakehouse and wash-house. His furniture included a great chair of walnut, a wood first used for furniture in England in the mid-sixteenth century, but unusual at this time save in houses of well-to-do people. The total value of his goods and chattels was £613 7s. 2d., a good inheritance for his wife and children.

In editing the text the conventional abbreviations for with, which, etc., have been extended. In all other respects the original spelling and punctuation has been retained.

The Inventarie of the goodes and chattells of
M^r Richard Hooker late Parson of Bishopsbourne
in the County of Kent prised by Robert Rose,
Averie Cheston and Edward Slater the xxvjth of
November 1600.

¹ *K.A.O. PROC* 11/1. The Archives Office also has Hooker's Will, reference *K.A.O. PROC* 32/38/291.

² The books are not here listed individually. The *D.N.B.* refers to a list of books in the inventory of his room at college *vide Notes and Queries*, 2nd Series, xi, 128.

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Imprimis in ready mony	x li
Item his apparell	vj li xs iiijd
Item his plate	x li
Item his Books Chests hampers & dryfatts ¹ to put them in	iiijC li

Summe is iiijC xxvj li xiijs iiijd

in the Hall

Item alonge Table with two formes	xxs
Item a bench with a back of wainscott	vjs viijd
Item a table with a frame and forme	xs
Item a Settle of wainescott	xs
Item a cupboord	xiijs
Item a corslet & pike	xiijs iiijd
Item a paire of Andirons	iijs

Summe is iij li xvijjs iiijd

In the greater parler

Item a table with a frame	vs
Item eight ioyned stooles	viijs
Item iij lowe ioyned stooles	iijs
Item a courte ² cupboord	ijs vjd
Item a greate chaire of wallnuttree	vjs viijd
Item a dozen of turky ³ cushions	xxxvjs
Item ij carpetts & a cupboord cloth of darnix ⁴	xiijs iiijd
Item a paire of andirons knob with brasse a paire of creepers ⁵ a paire of tongs & a fire shovelle	xiijs iiijd

Summe is iij li vijjs xd

in the studdie

Item a square table with a frame	xvjd
Item a planck with two tressells	xijd
Item ij presses & 7 shelves for books	xxs

Summe is xxijs iiijd

in the little parlor with the roome adioyning

Item a presse for bookes	viijs
Item a cupboord	xs
Item a tuckle bedstedle	xxd

Summe is xixs viijd

¹ Dryfatt: a chest or hamper. *O.E.D.*

² Court cupboord: a movable cabinet used to display plate. *O.E.D.*

³ Turky: richly coloured wool with deep pile cut to resemble velvet. *O.E.D.*

⁴ Darnix: woollen fabric originally manufactured at Doornick in Flanders. *O.E.D.*

⁵ Creepers: small iron dogs; a pair were placed between the andirons. *O.E.D.*

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in the greate chamber over the parlor

Item a standinge bedstedle of wainscott	xxvs
Item a truckle bedstedle	iijs iiijd
Item a courte cupboord and a frame of wainscott under the window	viijs
Item xvj paire of Sheetes	vjli xiijs iiijd
Item xx ^{ti} table clothes	ii j li
Item xij dozen of table napkins	ii j li
Item a dozen & an halfe of short towells & 6 longe towells	xiijs iiijd
Item iij trunckes & ij wainscott boxes	xiijs iiiid
Item ij fether bedds 2 bolsters ij pillowes ij paire of blanketts & one coverlett & a paire of curtens of greene saye ¹	vjli xiijs iiijd
Summe is xxij li xiijs viij d	

in the chamber over the studdy

Item a standinge bedsteddle of wainscott & a truckle bedsteddle	xviijs
Item ij flockbedds one fether bolster & one flock- bolster ij paire of blanketts & a greene rugg & one paire of curteine rodde	xxxiijs
Summe is Ls	

in the chamber over the little parlor

Item a standinge bedsteddle	xxvjs viij d
Item one fetherbed a bolster a paire of blanketts 2 pillowes a crimson rugg & a paire of curteines of greene saye	iiij li.
Item a cupboord	xiijs iiijd
Item & old trunck & a wicker chaire	iijs ijd
Summe is vj li iiijs ijd	

in the Chappell Chamber

Item a standinge bedstedle of wainscott	xiiijs
Item a fether bed a bolster ij pillowes a covering of tapestry & a checker ² rugg	ii j li
Item an old chaire & a courte cupboord	ijs
Summe is ii j li xvjs	

¹ Saye: a cloth of fine texture resembling serge; formerly partly of silk, subsequently entirely of wool. *O.E.D.*

² Checker: checked; alternate squares of colour.

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in the great butterie

Item a Bin	xvjd
Item a table with supporters	xvjd
Item ij hogsheads & ij barrells	iijs
Item ij Stillings ¹ & foure shelves	ijs iiijd
Summe is ix	

in the little Butterie

Item 7 ferkins & kilderkins	vijs
Item a stillinge iij shelves & a frame	xvjd
Item a glasse case	vjd
Summe is viijs xd	

in the chamber over the still house

Item a truckle bedsteddle a flock bed a bolster a blancket & a rug	xiijs iiijd
Summe extat	

in the chamber over the greate butterie

Item a boarded bedsteddle a flock bed & bolster a blancket & a rugg	xiijs iiijd
Item a flock bedd a bolster a blancket & a rugg	xiijs iiijd
Summe is xxvjs viiij	

in the drye larder

Item & truggs & 12 earthen panns	vs
Item a table & two tressells & 7 shelves	iijs
Summe is lxs	

in the wett larder

Item a cheese presse & a butter cherne	vs
Item a powderinge tubb & 4 shelves	ijs
Item ij cheese mowles & xij butter crocks	ijs
Summe is ix	

in the kytchen

Item one old cupboord	xviiij
Item a plate cupboord	xiijs
Item an iron barr 3 paire of pott hangers a paire of andirons a paire of racks ij paire of tongs & a range of iron	xxs
Item a iack & foure spitts	xxs
Item ij iron dripping panns & one of plate	vs

¹ Stillings: a stand for a cask. *O.W.D.*

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Item iij turned chaires and one other chaire a little table & ij formes	iijs
Item ij dresser boordes & iij shelves	ijs
Item a beame scales & weights	xiijs iiijd
Item the pewter of all sortes	ls
Item one greate copper kettle & one great brasse kettle & ij little brasse kettles	xxxxs
Item ij iron potts & little brasse pot 2 skilletts ¹ ij skymmers a warminge pann a frying pan 2 grid-irons ij paire of pot hookes 2 iron chafing dishes & a grater	xxs
Summe is viij li xviijs xd	
in the bake house	
Item a boulting ² hutch iij meale tubb ^s & a kneading trough	ijs
Item a table with tressells to mowld on	xviijd
Item a boulder ² & two siffes	xijd
Summe is iijs vjd	
in the washe house	
Item the Pumpe	xxs
Item the cesterne	xxxxs
Item a pipe of leade y ^t runneth into the brewehouse	viijs
Item a coope for capons	xijd
Item ij old plancks	vjd
Item a brewing tub a buckinge tub 5 keelers ³ & 2 ringes with other lumber	xxvijs viijd
Summe is vj li vjs ijd	
the corne in the barne at Barham	
Item the wheate	lx li
Item the Barly	xlv li
Item the Oates	x li
Item a fanne skry ⁴ bushell & scoupe there	vjs viijd
Summe is Cxx li vjs viijd	

¹ Skilletts: a cooking utensil of brass, copper, or other metal, usually having three or four feet and a long handle, used for boiling liquids, stewing meat, etc. *O.E.D.*

² Boulder: a sieve; a boulting hutch is a small tub or other receptacle into which meal, etc., is sieved.

³ Keeler: a shallow tub. *O.E.D.*

⁴ Skry: a coarse sieve for corn. Halliwell's *Dictionary of Archaic and Provincial Words*.

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the corne in the barne at Boorne

Item the wheate	xlvi li
Item the barlie	xxv li
Item oates	vj li
Item the podwarre ¹	iiij li
Item a ffanne, skry, scoupet, scoupe & bushell	xiijs iiijd
Summe is lxxx li xiijs iiijd	

The cattle horses & other moveables

Item 4 kine & an heiffer	x li
Item ij geldings	x li
Item ij hoges	iiij li
Item the wood & plancks about the house	iiij li
Item the poultry	vs
Item the trough & bucket at the well	iijs iiijd
Item xij sacks	xijjs
Item the saddles & bridles	vs
Summe is xxvij li vs iiijd	

¹ Podwarre: ? podder: beans, peas and other vegetables with pods. Halliwell.