

## Proposal for Graduate Forum

'The Buckler Dynasty (1796-1901): the continuity of an antiquarian-minded approach to design'

The paper will introduce the Buckler Dynasty of C19 antiquarian goths. It principally comprised three figures spanning three generations: John (Sr.) FSA (1770-1851), his son John Chessell, (1793-1894) likely the first centenarian architect, and his son Charles Alban (1824-1905). The dynasty began with John Sr.'s first (unrealised) designs for Magdalen College, Oxford (1796), under the patronage of Revd. Dr. Martin Routh, and ended with his grandson's retirement from practice, ceasing his substantial rebuilding of Arundel Castle (1901) for the 15th Duke of Norfolk.

Though well-known to architectural historians for their industrious topographical drawings of medieval subjects (held mostly to the British Library and the Bodleian), the family have not attracted detailed scholarship and their role as architects, rather than as artist-antiquaries, has been all but neglected. This doctoral project makes the first attempt at a detailed study of the family as a unity, and in particular seeks to reassess the legacy of the Bucklers as practitioners. Indeed, their legacy might have been quite different had John Chessell's second premium design for the Palace of Westminster (1836) been chosen over Barry's. The paper will introduce the Bucklers' built work with reference to their drawings, a fundamental source for the antiquarian inspiration of the dynasty. Their corpus is rich in country house commissions (notably Costessey Hall, Norfolk), ecclesiastical works (including important RC churches by the younger Buckler after his conversion to Rome in 1844), and secular work, particularly collegiate: including commissions at five Oxford colleges further to the Master's Lodge and restoration of the Chapel at Magdalene, Cambridge.

The paper will map the developments of these protagonists, whilst attempting to present them on a larger canvas to help explain broader phenomena. For instance, it shall consider how the family might be able to offer insights into the broader role of antiquaries in the development of neo-medievalism. It will also consider how, despite changing contemporary attitudes to medieval buildings over the dynasty's lifetime, the family distinctively displayed a remarkable consistency of antiquarian interest rooted in the C18 Carter School. The paper will disseminate the state of research and formulate emerging developments, hypotheses and problems.

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