

## **Two Copies of a Clandestine Manuscript in Late Seventeenth-century New College**

Nicholas Harpsfield (1519-75) was a famous sixteenth-century fellow of the college, and reputed a keen Marian burner of Protestants. He was subsequently imprisoned with his brother under Elizabeth I for twelve years. As *The Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* states, 'The last book Harpsfield wrote during Mary's reign, his *Treatise on the Pretended Divorce*, may well have been intended, at least in part, to replace Cranmer's *Recantacyons* as an attack on the archiepiscopal martyr. ... Harpsfield's treatise remained in manuscript until 1878 (the accession of Elizabeth made a book denying her legitimacy and raking up

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