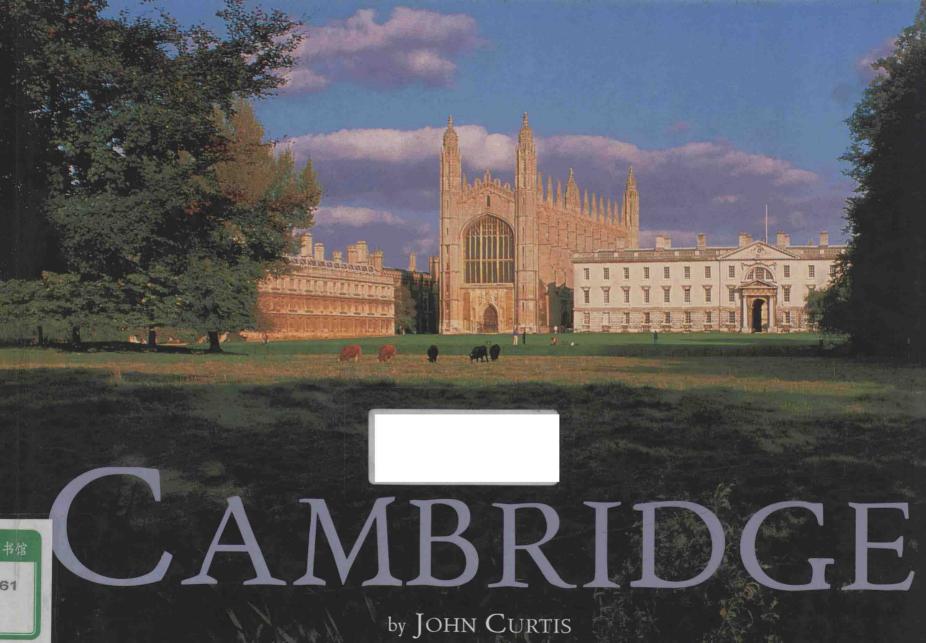


# CAMBRIDGE



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GROUNDCOVER SERIES

Text research: Richard Ashby

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John Curtis

Front cover picture: King's College Chapel Back cover picture: Punts on Mill Pool Designed and produced by Jarrold Publishing, Whitefriars, Norwich NR3 1JR

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5/05

Publisher's NOTE
Variant and archaic spellings
have been retained in quoted
material, while the modern
spellings of place names have
been used in headings.
The inclusion of a photograph in
this book does not necessarily
imply public access to the
building illustrated.

# Cambridge

JOHN CURTIS

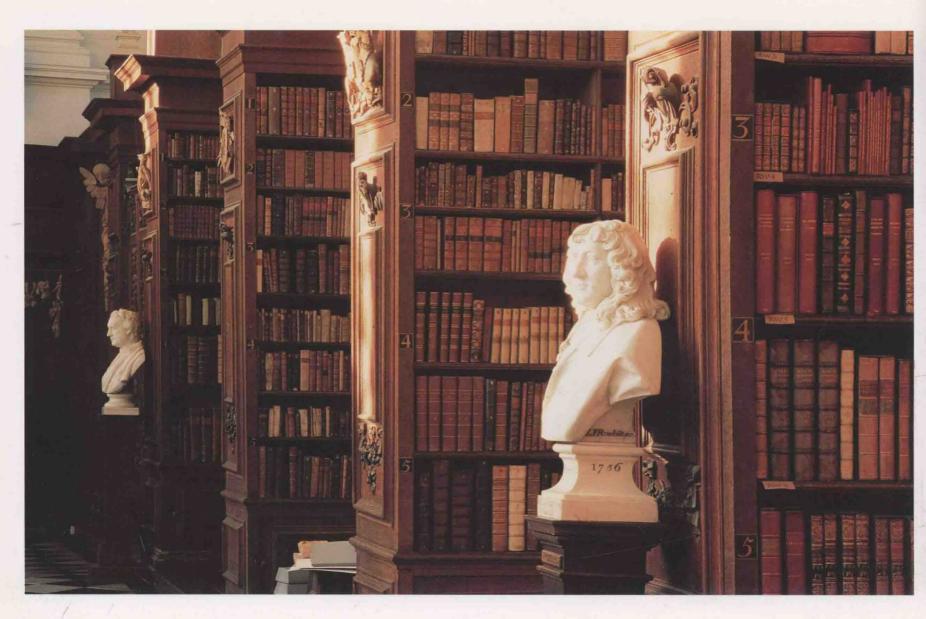
JARROLD publishing



King Henry VIII statue on Trinity College Great Gate. In place of the sceptre King Henry is holding a wooden chair leg, placed there many years ago as a student prank.



Punts, Quayside





GROUNDCOVER SERIES

### Introduction

Cambridge – the name evokes many unforgettable images: the grand architecture of the colleges, the pastoral calm of the tree-lined Backs, the bustle of bicycling students on King's Parade, and the serenity of the Christmas Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols from the magnificent King's College Chapel. These are just some of the unique facets of this historical university city.

When the first scholars arrived in 1209, Cambridge was already a flourishing market community that had grown from a Roman fort in the first century, a Saxon settlement during the Dark Ages and a Norman stronghold.

For centuries the relationship between the townsfolk and the scholars was not harmonious, and privileges conferred on the university often resulted in rioting and violence. Today, 'town and gown' happily co-exist amid the many contrasting features of Cambridge. To walk around the city is to discover a mix of medieval, Tudor, Georgian and Victorian architecture – the quaint winding streets and passages, the wide stately

courts, the green and peaceful spaces beside the River Cam, the busy shops and market stalls of the town centre. It is, perhaps, hard to believe, as one takes in this ancient setting, that Cambridge is at the forefront of science and technology, and is often referred to as the 'Silicon Fen'.

While it is principally the fame of the university and its buildings that attracts visitors to Cambridge, it is the timeless charm of the city and its way of life, sitting beneath the vast fenland skies, that leaves the lasting impression.

Just as writers and artists have been and continue to be inspired by the sights and atmosphere of the town, so the modern photographer cannot fail to be almost overwhelmed by the creative possibilities that it presents.

I was already familiar with Cambridge when I began work for this book, but in the year that I spent taking the photographs presented here, I found myself again surprised and delighted by the characteristics of this fascinating and beautiful city.

JOHN CURTIS

left: Wren Library, Trinity College

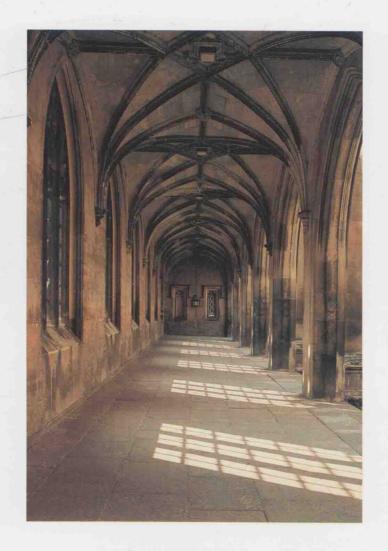




### ST JOHN'S COLLEGE GATEHOUSE

The Gateway of *St John's*, with its four tall turrets and battlements between...will show to what glory early sixteenth-century brickwork can attain. This gateway [is] the noblest in Cambridge...

E. A. R. Ennion Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire and the Isle of Ely 1951



#### ST JOHN'S COLLEGE New Court, Cloister

The Evangelist St John my patron was:
Three Gothic courts are his, and in the first
Was my abiding-place, a nook obscure;
Right underneath, the College kitchens made
A humming sound, less tuneable than bees,
But hardly less industrious...

WILLIAM WORDSWORTH From The Prelude: or Growth of a Poet's Mind 1850





#### ST JOHN'S COLLEGE NEW COURT above, BRIDGE OF SIGHS right

It is said that an undergraduate of St John's was once lounging on Trinity Bridge just before dinner, when the reverend and learned the Master was returning from his daily canter. He rode up to the youth with the remark, 'Sir, this is a place of transit and not of lounge.' No attention was paid to this, and the remark was repeated with yet more force. 'Sir, are you aware what the bridge of Trinity is made for?' 'Yes, sir, to see St John's new buildings from.'

WILLIAM EVERETT On the Cam: Lectures on the University of Cambridge in England 1869

