Canterbury’s first printer is believed to have been John Mychel, a fairly shadowy figure of the mid-sixteenth century whose small output can be chronicled from the indexes in volume three of the STC. There were of course booksellers in the town both before and after Mychel but no more printers until the early eighteenth century, since when the trade has had a constant presence in the town. As in a number of other provincial towns, the arrival of a press in this period is associated with the establishment of a newspaper. It is clear from the evidence of Abree’s output and that of his successors in the second half of the century that they were unable to generate enough business from book printing and jobbing printing to make a living; their regular income came from the newspaper and from their business as retail stationers, selling, of course, the usual list of patent medicines and similar wares too.

**Abree’s newspaper**

The first issue of the *Kentish Post and Canterbury Newsletter* appeared on 16 October 1717 and was ‘printed by Thomas Reeve in Castle Street for the Proprietors’. This was in quarto form, measuring 9 by 6.75 inches with a front cover decorated by a floral wood block in the top of the lower half of the space, and the whole enclosed by a woodcut frame in sections. Besides the title-page there were ten pages of letter-press, the only local items being the price of hops given at the end of the last page. The paper was to consist of ‘The most material Foreign Occurrences, and a Variety of Home-News equal to any publish’d’, and the publishers stated their aim ‘to make their Business as entertaining and useful to the County, as possible; and hope for a Favourable Reception in that they will be perfectly Inoffensive’. The newspaper was appearing twice weekly by 1721, and carrying a new masthead showing a detailed view of the city with its coat of arms. Provincial papers tended to be published weekly, more frequent publication probably being discouraged by their extended distribution systems and by the relatively saturated nature of the market, particularly in light of the Stamp Acts. The *Kentish Post* was the only example at the time of such a paper to appear regularly more than once a week.

By 1726, Wiles lists James Abree as the printer of the *Kentish Post*, though he seems to have been printing in Canterbury much earlier: from 1718 or possibly late 1717. The British Library has a half-sheet broadside which records ‘A list of the names of the Mayor, recorder, aldermen and common-council of the city of Canterbury; who (in the year of our Lord 1717,) promoted and encouraged the noble art and mystery of printing in this city and county.’ Its imprint is

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An earlier version of this paper was given by David Shaw at the 1997 Seminar on the History of the British Book Trade at the University of Kent at Canterbury.
Who was James Abree? It can be calculated that he was born in 1691, since he died aged 77 in 1768. McKenzie’s *Stationers Company Apprentices* lists him as having served the seven years of his apprenticeship under Ichabod Dawkes in London between 1705 and 1712. Unfortunately, the entry in the Company’s ledgers makes no mention of his father’s name nor his place of birth. Records of Canterbury freemen for the eighteenth century list James Abree as receiving his freedom there in 1722 when he would have been about 31 years of age. He is listed in the modern index of freemen in conjunction with entries for a family of Huguenot origin called Obree but I do not believe that this is his true surname. He never used that form of name and the Obrees maintained it consistently throughout the century. He is unlikely to have been a Canterbury man by birth. In 1722 John [sic] Abree married Mary, daughter of Samuel and Frances Simmons of Deal, and in 1723 a daughter, also Mary, was baptised in St. Margaret’s church. Mary senior died in 1748 at the age of 46.

As a newspaper proprietor and retail bookseller and stationer, Abree must have had constant business dealings with the capital. He maintained his links with the Stationers Company in London to the extent of registering two apprentices with them: John Veale, son of a Shoreditch weaver, in 1722, and William Randall, son of a Canterbury land surveyor, in 1734, in each case for seven years. Analysis of his imprints shows him working with or for a number of London booksellers, in particular James Roberts who sold sermons published by Abree in the period 1726–1739. A further example of his wider trade connections can be found from the presence of his name in book subscription lists, for example the 1744 *Harleian Miscellany* and *The Lover’s Manual* printed for Samuel Silver, a Sandwich bookseller, in 1753.

The *Kentish Post* was sold through the east of the county by Abree’s newsmen, who are alluded to in a number of imprints in his books and pamphlets. Systematic study of the imprints of the surviving issues of the newspaper would no doubt fill in further details of this picture, especially in terms of its chronological development. Abree clearly had a wide network of relationships within the book-trade in the region; his imprints list colleagues in Cranbrook (1739), Deal (1762), Dover (1762), Faversham (1762), Folkestone (1762), Maidstone (1748, 1762), Sandwich (1762), Smarden (1739, 1762), Tenterden (1739) and Tonbridge (1762). Further afield, he shared business with booksellers in Bath, Bristol, Cambridge and York, as well as London. And he had joint enterprises with partners and colleagues in Canterbury: W. Aylett, his partner for many years on the newspaper, William Flackton, bookseller and local composer, and the booksellers Thomas Smith, Edward Burgess, and Rest Fenner.

Details of these names can be found in the accompanying short-title list of Abree’s surviving output. This has been compiled from two main sources: entries from the ESTC database for Abree and my own findings over a number of years which augment the detail for many ESTC entries and which add items not yet known to
ESTC. I should of course be very pleased to receive additions and corrections to this list.

Ephemera
As has been said, Abree’s main regular printing activity was the production of his twice-weekly newspaper. The evidence of his other surviving printed material suggests that it cannot have represented more than an opportunistic extra. For many years, the only surviving item is the annual sheet of bellman’s verses, for which the Public Library holds a good run from the early 1720s onwards. Occasionally Abree printed book-form material involving as many as thirty edition-sheets a year (in 1727, 1743, and perhaps 1746). So far, we know nothing of the print runs for any of his material, except for the 1743 Catalogus of the Cathedral Library: Abree was paid by the Dean and Chapter for printing 100 copies of the catalogue.13

It is quite likely that some quantity of other ephemeral and jobbing work has so far failed to survive. We know of the bellman’s verses (Thomas Hall, 1723–1735; William Drayson, 1740–1742; John Pulle, 1744–1767), bits of civic ephemera such as the document commemorating the introduction of printing, the Panegyrical Poem (1718) on the beauties of Canterbury, and ecclesiastical ephemera such as the Archdeaconry visitation articles which can be attributed to him as he was the only printer available in Canterbury at the time.

A nice example of an advertisement for a local business venture is the Proposals for erecting an office of insurance from loss or damage by fire in the City of Canterbury which were printed by Abree in 1738. The main mover behind this proposal seems to have been the mayor, Thomas Davis. Abree took an active interest in fire prevention in St Margaret’s Parish, which became the first parish in the city to have a fire engine.14 Abree’s business interests extended to fire insurance: in the 1760s he was acting as an agent for the Sun Fire Office. The Kentish Post of 14/18 August 1762 carried the following advertisement:

Sun Fire Office, Policy 86,202. This is to acquaint all Gentlemen, Planters, and Dealers in Hops that there is an Insurance made for the Benefit of the Owners of what Hops and Clover Seeds shall be landed at Cox’s Wharf, Southwark, or put into Warehouses there, to the amount of Six Thousand Pounds. in case of Loss by Fire. N.B. The Policy is in the Hands of James Abree, Printer of this paper. Hargrave and Charlton, Wharfingers

A further category of ephemeral material is represented by ballads: a volume of these single-sheet publications survives in the British Library, a number of which have imprints reading ‘Canterbury, at the Printing Office’ which was the form of address of James Abree. Later in the century Joseph Grove had a similar address but always ‘at the General Printing Office’. These ballads are variously dated by ESTC, generally to the last third of the century, but I have reassigned them to 1740–1750 to bring them within Abree’s career.

Other ballads attributable to Abree are more precisely datable. Canterbury. A new balad [sic]. Sung by Miss Oates. Printed at Canterbury is dated ‘[1740]’ by ESTC but is advertised in the Kentish Post, 11/15 August 1733 in conjunction with Miss Oates’s performance. A South-Sea ballad, or, merry remarks upon Exchange-Alley bubbles. To a new tune, call’d, The grand elixir, or the philosopher’s stone discover’d is dated ‘[1720]’ by ESTC, presumably because of its association with the South-Sea Bubble. It is quite likely that provincial presses
like Abree’s regularly printed ephemeral material of this sort.

**Book printing**

It is not surprising that local clergymen used Abree to print their sermons. A sermon on the death of Queen Caroline given in Dover in 1737 by William Byrch was probably printed in London for the London bookseller James Roberts; copies were obtainable in Canterbury from Abree. The Revd John Bowtell of Patrixbourne and Bridge had a regular series of sermons printed by Abree between 1749 and 1752. Isaac Terry’s posthumous collected sermons were printed in 1746 for Abree and Thomas Smith with London sales through Samuel Birt. It is interesting to note that copies were still being offered for sale over twenty years later in an early issue of the *Kentish Gazette*, the successor to Abree’s *Kentish Post*. An item not yet in ESTC is Isaac Johnson’s *Christianity no burdensome service*, printed in 1739 by Abree and sold in Canterbury by William Flackton, in London by James Roberts, and in Cambridge by T. Thurlbourn. A visitation sermon preached by William Langhorne at Sandwich in 1762 was printed in London and sold by booksellers in Sandwich, Deal, Dover, Folkestone, Faversham, Maidstone, Smarden, Tonbridge, and in Canterbury by Abree, Flackton and Thomas Smith. A sermon of particular interest is one in French printed by Abree in 1758 by Charles Du Blés, Anglican minister of the Eglise Wallonne in the Cathedral Crypt, another item from the Public Library not yet in ESTC. It has the imprint ‘A Cantorberi, chez Jaques Abree, imprimeur & libraire’.

Abree’s linguistic skills were also demonstrated by his being entrusted with printing a catalogue of the Cathedral Library in Latin in 1743. In the imprint he has latinised his name to ‘Jacobus Abree’. This job, which might easily have been entrusted to a London printer or to one of the University presses, was commissioned by the Chapter who paid Abree to print 100 copies. The catalogue was drawn up by Revd. Dr Robert Eyre and Samuel Norris, the Cathedral Auditor.

Abree was involved in other work of a scholarly nature. Christopher Packe, a local doctor and antiquary, produced in 1743 a historical geological topography of East Kent called *Ankographia* which contains four copper-plate engravings, presumably printed in London for inclusion in the book. This must have been a sought-after book: over twenty copies are recorded as surviving. Abree had Greek type available for the title and text of this book.

John Lewis’s *The history and antiquities of the abbey and church of Faversham in Kent, 1727*, is attributed to Abree by ESTC on the evidence of a Proposals for printing by subscription *The history and antiquities of the church and abbey of Faversham, surviving in the Bodleian, which carries the information that ‘Subscriptions are taken at the printing office and booksellers in Canterbury, ...’*. The second half of the book exists in two states, apparently being reissued to accommodate additions.

Much of the material listed here must have been printed at the expense of the author, rather than as a commercial venture by Abree. One item which could well have been a commercial venture was the *The farmer’s harvest-companion* by Thomas Jarvis. This was a sort of ready-reckoner and practical guide book for the agriculturalists of the region. It went through three editions produced by Abree (1733, 1750, 1760). This work stayed in print into the nineteenth century, achieving its eighth edition in 1820.
Trade war with the *Kentish Gazette*

In 1764, perhaps becoming aware of his own mortality and the need to ensure the safe future of the *Kentish Post*, Abree appointed as an assistant George Kirkby, who was the son of a Canterbury vicar, and who was finishing his apprenticeship with a London printer, Mr Bettenham. Although Plomer describes this appointment as a ‘partnership’, no evidence can be found of such a formal arrangement at this time. Kirkby seems to have been a modest sort, who shared in the management of the paper without making any changes in the format or content, as might have been expected if he were in full partnership, until after Abree’s retirement.

In the issue of 25–28 May 1768, Abree printed a letter addressed to his ‘Friends’, informing them that the time of his resignation in favour of George Kirkby was now fixed for Midsummer Day, 24 June that year. This letter was an emotional expression of Abree’s appreciation of his readers, conveying his gratitude for

> The many and repeated Favours wherewith you have been pleased, for more than fifty Years past, to honour me, the first Printer and Publisher of The Kentish Post, or Canterbury News Letter.

He goes on to praise George Kirkby, describing him as ‘a young Man in every Respect qualified to succeed to my Business ... and capable of carrying on and improving the same’.

However, all was not to run smoothly in the transference of the Abree business. In the previous year, 1767, James Simmons, another young Canterbury man, had finished his printing apprenticeship in London and returned to the city to find work. Simmons must have been aware of Abree’s impending retirement - there is even a possibility of a relationship with Abree by marriage, though this has not been proved. In the issue dated 30 April - 4 May 1768 the *Kentish Post* had carried the announcement of Abree’s impending resignation in favour of Kirkby. Simmons therefore approached Kirkby and suggested forming a partnership, which Kirkby refused. On May 4 1768 Simmons distributed a free-sheet announcing his intention of publishing a newspaper and detailing his attempts to persuade Kirkby to enter into a partnership. The first issue of Simmons’s rival *Kentish Gazette* went on sale, twice weekly, on May 28.  

The first edition of the *Gazette* contained a letter from Simmons setting out his intentions for the paper and asking for his readers’ support in ‘this very laborious and expensive undertaking’. Lest he might be considered to have acted hastily in turning down a partnership with Simmons, Kirkby published, in the 8–11 June issue of the *Kentish Post*, a dignified letter commending his own position and stating ‘If my Refusal of the Offer made to me of carrying it on in Partnership requires an Apology, ... I beg leave to renew my Request to my Friends for the Continuance of their Favour ...’. At the same time, Kirkby made some changes in format and layout, and these seem to have been well-received judging by another letter published by him on June 25: ‘It gives [me] great Satisfaction to find how well the Paper has been received in its present New Form.’

Considering all this, it is perhaps surprising that on July 20 1768, only four weeks later, an announcement was published simultaneously in the *Kentish Post* and the *Kentish Gazette* that

> ... agreeable to your general opinion of the utility of one paper, a partnership will immediately take place; and that, on Saturday next, the Kentish Gazette, or
Canterbury Chronicle will be published under the joint direction of Kirkby and Simmons, and regularly continued as usual.

It appears that Simmons’s ambition and determination must have finally worn Kirkby down. Only a month after the above announcement, on August 20th 1768, James Abree died, granting the administration of his effects to his daughter Mary. He was buried with his wife in the church of St Leonard, Upper Deal. It cannot have been easy for him to see the demise of the newspaper which he had founded and published for over fifty years, the future of which he believed he had assured. The firm of Simmons and Kirkby prospered, remaining in existence until 1791 and then in various other partnerships until the early nineteenth century.
Notes


3. Issue number 971 (September 1727) of the Kentish Post advertises citron water, Hungary water, royal flower of mustard seed, blank books, ink, slates, pens, sealing wax, and a large selection of maps and engravings.


8. British Library 11900.k.26 (missing June 1997); Microfilm ESTC 487, no. 1; ESTC: t061883.


13. Personal communication, Miss Joan Jeffery, Canterbury.


15. David Rose, ‘Story behind the headlines’.
Provisional list of books printed by or for James Abree

David J. Shaw


Bowtell, John, 1667 or 8 – 1753. A sermon preach’d at Patrixbourne and Bridge. By John Bowtell, D.D. Canterbury: printed by J. Abree, 1749. 20 p. : 8°. The quotation on the title page is from Rom. xii. 18. – The text of the sermon is 1 Thessalonians iv. 11. AWN; C. ESTC: t172835


Byrch, William, 1702 or 3 – 1756. A sermon occasion’d by the death of Her late Most Gracious Majesty, Queen Caroline, preached in the parish-church of St. Mary the Virgin, in ... Dover, on ... December 4th, 1737. By William Byrch, ... London: printed for J. Roberts; and sold by J. Abree, in Canterbury, [1737?]. 30p. : 8°. With a half-title and an errata slip. CaOTU; Oc. ESTC: n025470

Canterbury. A list of the names of the Mayor, recorder, aldermen and common-council of the city of Canterbury; who (in the year of our Lord 1717,) promoted and encouraged the noble art and mystery of printing in this city and county. Canterbury: printed by J. Abree, for T. James, S. Palmer and W. Hunter, 1718. 1 sheet : ½°. *L. ESTC: t061883

Canterbury Cathedral. Catalogus librorum bibliothecæ ecclesiæ Christi Cantuariensis. Cantuariæ: typis Jacobi Abree, 1743. 105 leaves, printed on rectos only : 8°: A–M4 N⁶ (N6 blank). MS note in A.N.L. Munby’s copy (C): ‘drawn up by the Revd. Dr. [Robert] Eyre & Mr [Samuel] Norris’. – Printed in 100 copies at the expense of the Dean and Chapter (History of Canterbury Cathedral, p. 388, n. 239, citing the Treasurer’s Accounts for 1743-44, fo. 68’). L; *C; O; *CYc; ICN. ESTC: t077704

Canterbury preserved, or, a plot discovered. Being a full and true relation of a most horrid,
barbarous and bloody conspiracy, invented and carried on by a notorious Calydonian whisler, ... Fit to be bound up with The pilgrim’s progress or Crumbs of comfort. The whole collected, revised and compared, by Jasper Jones, Esq; Canterbury: printed and sold by J. Abree; and by J. Roberts, London, [1726]. [2], 38p. : 8°. Dated Canterbury July 6, 1726. – Advertised in the Kentish Post of 29 June / 2 July, 23 July, 27 / 30 July, 1726. O. ESTC: t186684


Church of England. Archdeaconry of Canterbury. You are summoned, by vertue of the citation now shown to you, to appear before the Reverend Samuel Lisle, ... Archdeacon of Canterbury, ... to attend the visitation of the said Archdeacon, ... Canterbury?: James Abree?, 1732?]. 1 sheet : ½°. Publication date from MS. completion on LNT copy. LNT (Signed and dated in MS.: Anthony Cullen, 1 June 1732). ESTC: n034235


A compendious history of the Old and New Testament, extracted from the Holy Bible, and adapted to all capacities. ... adorned with 120 curious copper cuts, lively representing each history. ... London: printed for J. Hazard, and J. Wright; and sold by J. Leake, at Bath; Mrs. Lewis, at Bristol; J. Abree, at Canterbury; and J. Hildyard, at York, 1740. [74] p., plates: port. : 12°. C. ESTC: t165042

Dixon, Sarah, fl. 1716–1745. Poems on several occasions. Canterbury: printed by J. Abree, 1740. [2], xxvi, [6], 203, [1] p. : 8°: pl a–d⁴ B–2C⁴ 2D². Anonymous. By Sarah Dixon. – With a list of subscribers. Foxon p.188. – Still available in Canterbury in 1789 (catalogue of Flackton, Marrable and Claris, p. 201). L (2); C; *CyC (dedication copy); LEu; *O: O (MS notes); CaAEU; CaOHM (+1 p.l.); CHT (?p.l.); MH-H; NcU; NIC (?imperfect); PU; TxHR (?imperfect); CtY; CSmH; IU; NN. Lg; ICN; CLU. ESTC: t042620


Dobel, Daniel, 1700–1782. An occasional letter, offer’d to the serious consideration of the people call’d Quakers, and in particular to Mr. Joseph Besse, who calls himself one of them. By Daniel Dobel. Canterbury: printed for the author, and sold by him at his house in Cranbrook; and at the Printing-Office, 1744. 16 p. : 8°. O. ESTC: t177914

Dobel, Daniel, 1700–1782. The seventh-day sabbath not obligatory on Christians. In five parts. Together, with a particular examination of some passages in a book, entitled, The ancient and honourable way. And some remarks of a piece, entitled, The seventh-day sabbath farther vindicated. And another entitled, A second defence. To which is added, an appendix, containing answers to objections, and likewise an examination of Mr. Elwall’s chief argument for the continuation of the seventh day sabbath. ... By Daniel Dobel. Canterbury: printed for the author, and sold by J. Noon,
London; by the author, and John Maule in Cranbrook; Tho. Winder at Tenterden; James Brown at Smarden, 1739. vi, 68, [2], 25, [1] p. : 8°. The appendix has the imprint: Canterbury, printed for the author, and sold by J. Abree. – ‘The seventh-day sabbath farther vindicated’ and ‘A second defence of some reflections on Dr. Wright’s treatise’ are by Robert Cornthwaite and were published in 1736. E. ESTC: t180573

Dobel, Daniel, 1700–1782. Water baptism an ordinance of the gospel-church, manifested, by the doctrine and practice of the inspired Apostles. In a sermon, ... To which is added, an occasional preface ... By Daniel Dobel. Canterbury: printed for the author, and sold by J. Abree, 1742. 28 p. : 8°. L; O. ESTC: t101578

Drayson, William. A copy of verses, humbly presented to all my worthy masters and mistresses, in the city of Canterbury, and county of the same: wishing them health and happiness. By William Drayson, your loyal bell-man. Printed at Canterbury: [by James Abree], in the year 1740. 1 sheet, ill. : 1°. ‘Poets of all men have the hardest fate.’. CYP. ESTC: t171840

and
Printed at Canterbury: [by James Abree], in the year 1742. 1 sheet, ill. : 1°. ‘Begin, my muse, in soft and humble verse,’. CYP. ESTC: t171843


Epitaph. An epitaph upon the late Mrs Ann Hales, a nun of the order of St Austin, and doorkeeper of the nunnery. Canterbury: [James Abree?, 1722?]. 1 sheet : ½°. Possibly by Thomas Allen: MS note in the Bodleian copy as above. Foxon E446. *O.


Gray, John, M.D. Copies of affidavits made at the * repeated request of Dr. Packe, and publish’d for his use. Canterbury: printed by J. Abree, 1726. 8 p. : 4°. Signed at end: John Gray. – Drop-head title; the asterisk leads to a footnote. – Imprint taken from colophon. – With reference to the case of Robert Worger. *L. ESTC: t001009


Gray, John, M.D. A short answer to a written paper privately handed about by Dr. Packe, entitled, Mr. Worger’s case. By John Gray, M.D. Canterbury: printed by J. Abree, 1726. 8p. : 4°. With a half-title. – Advertised in the Kentish Post, 28 September / 10 October 1726. *C; MnU-B (–ht); Lrcp. ESTC: t175260
Hall, Thomas, fl. 1718–1735. A copy of verses humbly presented to all my worthy masters and mistresses in the city and county of Canterbury; wishing them health and happiness. By Thomas Hall, your loyal bell-man. 
*Canterbury: printed by J. Abree, 1723.* 1 sheet: ill. : 1°. ‘Once more, my worthy masters, I appear.’ CYP. ESTC: t171830

and

*Canterbury: printed by J. Abree, 1724.* 1 sheet: ill. : 1°. ‘He that would now the help of God attain.’ CYP. ESTC: t171832

and

*Canterbury: printed by J. Abree and W. Aylett, 1729.* 1 sheet: ill. : 1°. ‘To you, most worthy sirs, with all respect.’ CYP. ESTC: t171834

and


and

*Printed at Canterbury: [by James Abree], in the year 1734.* 1 sheet, ill. : 1°. ‘I hope my worthy masters will peruse.’ CYP. ESTC: t171836

and

*Printed at Canterbury: [by James Abree], in the year 1735.* 1 sheet, ill. : 1°. ‘With candour, worthy sirs, this sheet peruse.’ CYP. ESTC: t171838

Hall, Thomas, fl. 1718–1735. An humble petition that the author of the Panegyrical Poem &c may be made bellman of this city. 

Hall, Thomas, fl. 1718–1735. A panegyrical poem on the fair and celebrated beauties in and about the city of Canterbury: ... By T. H. Gent. 
*Canterbury: printed for the author by J. Abree in Castle Street, 1718.* 8p. : 2°. Variousely attributed to T. Harrison and T. Hardres, but probably by the future bellman Thomas Hall. Foxon P43. L; *CYc; O; IU (MS notes). ESTC: t061986

Hall, Thomas. See also T. H.

Hook, William. A true and authentic confession of the many robberies committed by William Hook ... 
*Canterbury: James Abree, [1745].* L (MS copy of a printed original?). (Reference from David Knott).

J. B., Grocer in Canterbury. The decisive question, &c. concerning eternal reprobation: wherein both sides of the question are impartially consider’d: and the different consequences arising from either side observ’d and remark’d. By J. B. grocer in Canterbury. 
*Canterbury: printed by J. Abree, for the author: and sold at his shop; and by the booksellers. Also may be had of the newsmen, 1752.* 23, [1] p. : 8°. L. ESTC: t069217


Jarvis, Thomas. The farmer’s harvest-companion. Containing, a table, shewing the area, or content of any cant, or piece of land, ... Also, a table shewing the charge of workmanship of any quantity of land, ... Designed chiefly for the use of farmers and husbandmen in harvest; ... Likewise useful for wood-reeves, or men concern’d in measuring wood for sale, ... By Tho. Jarvis. 

Jarvis, Thomas. The farmers harvest companion. ... The second edition. With the addition of a table,
shewing the value of any number of perches from one perch to forty; ... Very useful for those persons who buy or sell wood by the acre. ... By Tho. Jarvis.


*Jones, Jaspar.* See: Canterbury preserved

*Kirkby, John,* 1705–1754. A demonstration from Christian principles that the present regulation of the ecclesiastical revenues in the Church of England, is directly contrary and fatally destructive to the design of Christianity. ... By a clergyman of the same church. *Canterbury: printed by J. Abree,* 1743. 48p. : 8°. Clergyman = John Kirkby. L; *CYc.* ESTC: t020931

*Langhorne, William,* 1721–1772. The influence of good example, particularly in the clergy. A sermon preached at the visitation of His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, at Sandwich, June the 18th, 1762. By William Langhorne, ... *London: printed for and sold by Sam. Silver,* at Sandwich; and by C. Hitch and L. Hawes, London; by Messrs. Abree, Flackton and Smith, in Canterbury; by Mr. Dalton, at Deal; Messrs. Newport and Burtenshaw, at Dover; by Mr. Toes, at Folkestone; Mr. Easley, at Faversham; Mr. Mercer, at Maidstone; Mr. Hogben, at Smarden; and by Mr. Baker, at Tunbridge, [1762]. 16p. : 4°. MBAt; Llp. ESTC: n029242


*Lewis, John,* 1675–1747. The history and antiquities of the abbey and church of Favresham in Kent; ... To which is added a collection of papers relating to the abbey, &c. ... *[Canterbury?: Printed by James Abree?]*, 1727. [4], iv, 69, [1], 90p., plates: ill. : 4°. The dedication signed: John Lewis. – The second part has the drop-head title: ‘Abbatia Favershamiensis’, and has its own register and pagination. – The ‘Proposals for printing by subscription The history and antiquities of the church and abbey of Favershams’ states that ‘Subscriptions are taken at the printing-office and booksellers in Canterbury, ...’ and that the ‘copy [is] ready for the press’, which implies a Canterbury imprint for the book. L; E; O; O; CaOTU; CHT (?p.1); CiY (Walpole’s copy); CLU-C. ESTC: t109195

*Lewis, John,* 1675–1747. The history and antiquities of the abbey and church of Favresham in Kent; ... To which is added a collection of papers relating to the abbey, &c. ... *[Canterbury?: Printed by James Abree?]*, 1727. [4], iv, 69, [1]; 91, [1] p., plates: ill. : 4°. The dedication signed: John Lewis. – The second part has the drop-head title: ‘Abbatia Favershamiensis’, and has its own register and pagination. – A reissue of the 90-page edition with extended addenda. L; Lbe; O; O. ESTC: t109194

*Maidstone.* A copy of the charter of the town and parish of Maidstone, in the county of Kent. *Canterbury: printed by J. Abree. And sold at Mrs. Bailefs in Maidstone,* (and no where else.), 1748. 36p. : 8°: A–D4 E2. *O (2 copies); Llp; NjP.* ESTC: t191731
Matson, William, upholsterer. A catalogue of the household furniture of Mrs. Masters, deceas'd; at her late house at Brook, near Wingham: ... The whole to be view'd on Thursday and Friday the 7th and 8th days of February, ... Canterbury: James Abree?, 1760. 16 p. : 8°. P.3 gives the date of the auction as ‘11 February 1760’. – Catalogues could be had at the place of sale, at the Wingham post-house, at the Anchor in Littleborn and at William Matson’s, Canterbury. – Horizontal chain lines. L. ESTC: t013002

Matson, William, upholsterer. A catalogue of all the household goods, &c. &c. of Miss Lampreys, in St. Alphage, Canterbury; to be sold by auction, (by William Matson) ... which will be on Friday and Saturday, the 19th and 20th of October; ... Canterbury: James Abree?, 1764. 8 p. : 8°. Viewing day was Thursday the 18th of October, 1764. – Horizontal chain lines. L. ESTC: t013004


Newton, William, d. 1744. A thanksgiving sermon for our double deliverance from popery and slavery, on the fifth of November; ... preached in the parish churches of Wingham and Stodmarsh in Kent, on Sunday, November the 4th, 1722. By William Newton, ... Canterbury: printed and sold by J. Abree, J. Silver in Sandwich, and A. Bettesworth in London, [1722]. [2], 17, [1] p. : 8°: Al B–C C1. Price 4d. *L; *CYp (tp only); MH-H. ESTC: t054195

Packe, Christopher, 1686–1749. Ankografia, sive convallium descriptio. In which are briefly but fully expounded the origine, course and insertion; extent, elevation and congruity of all the valleys and hills, brooks and rivers, ... of East-Kent. ... By Christopher Packe, M.D. Canterbury: printed and sold by J. Abree, for the author, 1743. [2], 110, [2] p. : 4°. The final leaf contains an errata on the recto and an advertisement for the chart 'engraved upon four copperplates' on the verso. L (3 copies); O (2 copies); Ct; E (tp.); E; Lbe; ROHp; CiY-BA (With ‘A new philosophico chorographical chart of East-Kent’, and an extra copy of the t.p.); CSmH; IU (adv.); MH-H; NH; Wu (imperfect); Reu. Lwe; Ll; *CYp (2 copies); *CYc; *MAGp (with MS letter by Packe); MAE. ESTC: t097248

Packe, Christopher, 1686–1749. A reply to Dr. Gray’s three answers to a written paper, entitled, Mr. Worger’s case. By Christopher Packe, M.D. Canterbury: printed and sold by J. Abree in St. Margaret’s; and by Mr. Burgess in Christ-Church Yard, 1727. [4], 70, [2] p. : 4°: A2 B–T2. The final leaf contains references and errata. – ‘Price One Shilling and Six Pence’. *L (3 copies); *CYc (–2 leaves); E; Lwe; O; DNLm; MnU-B (?p.l. ?f.l.); Lrcp; SAN; *MAGp. ESTC: t001012

Proposals for erecting an office of insurance from loss or damage by fire in the City of Canterbury. Canterbury: printed by J. Abree in St. Margaret’s, 1738. [2]p. : ½°. The main mover behind this proposal seems to have been the Mayor, Thomas Davis. *O. The imprint is in MS (information from Richard Goulden). ESTC t230280

Pulle, John. A copy of verses, humbly presented to all my worthy masters and mistresses, in the city of Canterbury, and county of the same: wishing them health and happiness. By John Pulle, your loyal bell-man. Printed at Canterbury: [by James Abree], in the year 1744. 1 sheet, ill. : 1°. ‘Kind gentlemen all, to you I dedicate.’ CYp (MS. note: ‘There was no bellman’s verses in 1743. The bellman Wm. Drayson being sick’). ESTC: t171846

and Printed at Canterbury: [by James Abree], in the year 1745. 1 sheet, ill. : 1°. ‘Most worthy Sirs, these well-meant lines peruse,’. MAEm; CYp (imperfect). ESTC: t165883

and Printed at Canterbury: [by James Abree], in the year 1746. 1 sheet, ill. : 1°. ‘Thes [sic] lines, the
product of a loyal heart,'. CYp (cropped at head, removing the title). ESTC: t171848

and
Printed at Canterbury: [by James Abree], in the year 1748. 1 sheet, ill. : 1°. ‘Most worthy sirs, to you I dedicate’. CYp (cropped at head, removing the title). ESTC: t171851

and
Printed at Canterbury: [by James Abree], in the year 1749. 1 sheet, ill. : 1°. ‘No more, ye nine, your aid will I require,’. CYp (2 copies, 1 imperfect). ESTC: t171853

and
Printed at Canterbury: [by James Abree], in the year 1750. 1 sheet, ill. : 1°. ‘The muse her annual tribute begs to pay,’. CYp (2 copies, 1 imperfect). ESTC: t171854

and
Printed at Canterbury: [by James Abree], in the year 1751. 1 sheet, ill. : 1°. ‘Poets, of all men, have the hardest fates,’. CYp (cropped at head, removing the title). ESTC: t171856

and
Printed at Canterbury: [by James Abree], in the year 1752. 1 sheet, ill. : 1°. ‘Let learned authors, fir’d with gen’rous wine,’. CYp (2 copies, imperfect). ESTC: t171857

and
Printed at Canterbury: [by James Abree], in the year 1753. 1 sheet, ill. : 1°. ‘Great God, whose mighty power doth sway the Earth,’. CYp. ESTC: t171858

and
Printed at Canterbury: [by James Abree], in the year 1754. 1 sheet, ill. : 1°. ‘We may observe, if that we understand,’. CYp (cropped at head, removing the title). ESTC: t171859

and
Printed at Canterbury: [by James Abree], in the year 1755. 1 sheet, ill. : 1°. ‘Awake my drowsy muse, and softly sing,’. CYp (2 copies, 1 imperfect). ESTC: t171861

and
Printed at Canterbury: [by James Abree], in the year 1756. 1 sheet, ill. : 1°. ‘Chaste be my muse, and pleasant be my song,’. CYp (2 copies, imperfect). ESTC: t171862

and
Printed at Canterbury: [by James Abree], in the year 1757. 1 sheet, ill. : 1°. ‘Happy the man whose first and chiefest care,’. CYp (cropped at head, removing the title). ESTC: t171864

and
Printed at Canterbury: [by James Abree], in the year 1758. 1 sheet, ill. : 1°. ‘That time we have to spend makes no delay,’. CYp (2 copies, 1 imperfect). ESTC: t171865

and
Printed at Canterbury: [by James Abree], in the year 1759. 1 sheet, ill. : 1°. ‘My little children, hearken what I say,’. CYp (cropped at head, removing the title). ESTC: t171866

and
Printed at Canterbury: [by James Abree], in the year 1760. 1 sheet, ill. : 1°. ‘Some men whole years in resolution spend,’. CYp (cropped at head, removing the title). ESTC: t171867

and
Printed at Canterbury: [by James Abree], in the year 1761. 1 sheet, ill. : 1°. ‘The goodness, or contentment of a blessing,’. CYp (2 copies, 1 imperfect). ESTC: t171870

and
Printed at Canterbury: [by James Abree], in the year 1762. 1 sheet, ill. : 1°. ‘A thousand accidents are in the way,’. CYp (2 copies, 1 imperfect). ESTC: t171871

and
Printed at Canterbury: [by James Abree], in the year 1763. 1 sheet, ill. : 1°. ‘We by our words and deeds may honour God,’. CYp (2 copies, 1 imperfect). ESTC: t171872

and
Printed at Canterbury: [by James Abree], in the year 1764. 1 sheet, ill. : 1°. ‘Our way to Heaven it would be hard to find,’. CYp (2 copies, 1 imperfect). ESTC: t171874

and
Printed at Canterbury: [by James Abree], in the year 1765. 1 sheet, ill. : 1°. ‘While that we are alone we use to say,’. CYp (cropped at head, removing the title). ESTC: t171875
and
Printed at Canterbury: [by James Abree], in the year 1766. 1 sheet, ill. : 1°. ‘By his command that keeps us all our days.’ CYP (cropped at head, removing the title). ESTC: t171876

and
Printed at Canterbury: [by James Abree], in the year 1767. 1 sheet, ill. : 1°. ‘We are like those birds that love the fragrant spring.’ CYP (2 copies, 1 imperfect). ESTC: t171879


Regis, Balthazar. A sermon preach’d on the Fast-Day, the 18th of December 1745 at Adisham and at Staple the 22nd. By B. Regis D.D. one of His Majesty’s Chaplains in Ordinary. Canterbury: printed by J. Abree, 1746. 4°: p1 A–C2 [C2 = p1]. *CYP.

Sir, the hop-planters in this city and county round about, have always been accustomed to pay a composition of ten shillings an acre for the tythe of their hops, ... [Canterbury?: James Abree?, 1749]. 1 sheet : ½°. At head: ‘Canterbury, 27 October 1749’. – Title from opening words of text. *L. ESTC: t048365


T. H. A congratulatory poem, on the anniversary-day of His Majesty King George’s coronation, being Monday October 20. 1718. ... By T. H. gent. Canterbury: printed by J. Abree, 1718. 4p. : 2°. Variously attributed to T. Harrison and T. Hardres, possibly by Thomas Hall, the future bellman. Foxon C355. InU-Li. ESTC: n027002


The wreath. A collection of all the favourite new songs sung by the most eminent performers, at the theatres, Ranelagh, Vauxhall, &c. &c. &c. London: printed and sold by W. Reeve; H. Slater; A. Dodd; E. Cooke; and J. Abree, in Canterbury, 1752. 216p. : 12°. Dfo. ESTC: n035749

Possibly printed by Abree

Butler, George, farrier. George Butler, farrier, living in the town of Dovor, (from General Hawley’s regiment of dragoons) having by his acquired skill and knowledge in that business, proved his abilities in cures, especially of the distemper that now reigns among the horses; ... we whose names are hereunto subscribed, ... acknowledge his performances; ... this 1st day of March 1760. Mr. Randall, carrier, in Dovor – Mr. Loud of Wisley Farm – Mr. Baker of St. Margaret’s – Mr. Matson of Souton Farm – Mr. Jenkins of Oxney Farm – Mr. Hammon of Langdon Farm – Mr. Allen of Bere Farm. – Mr. Wood of Wansey Farm. ... [Canterbury?, 1760]. 1 sheet : 1/8°
Dover = Dover. – A testimonial used as an advertisement by George Butler. O (John Johnson). ESTC: t192058

Cooke, John, 1646 or 7 – 1726. Some considerations touching the payment of tythes: address’d to the professors of religion, commonly call’d Quakers, in the parish of Mersham. By the late Reverend John Cooke, ... [Canterbury?, 1730?]. 15, [1] p. : 8°. L; Lu. ESTC: t135220

Fleming, Caleb, 1698–1779. A farther defence of infant-baptism: wherein the infants right, upon the parent's faith, is illustrated by those miracles which Jesus performed ... And is addressed to adult-baptizers in general, more particularly to those of the county of Kent. [Canterbury?): Sold by Mr. Fenner, Canterbury, and by J. Brackstone, London, [1742]. [2], 24 p. : 8°. Anonymous. By Caleb Fleming.– In: 'Tracts on baptism, respecting the mode and subjects of it. Now republished, ... ’ London, 1745. L; MRu; Ldw. ESTC: t053372

Nightingall, Miles. A catalogue of the household furniture, china, linen, ... of William Kingsford, ... Which will be sold at publick auction by Miles Nightingall, on Friday the 9th day of November 1759. ... [Canterbury?, James Abree?, 1759]. [2] p. : ½°. The catalogues were available ‘at the Coffee House in High Street, the Fountain Inn in Canterbury, the place of sale [Chartham], and at Mr Nightingall’s in Golden Square, London’. *L. ESTC: t013570

Roch, Thomas. A catalogue of all the genuine househould furniture of John Trevor, Esq; at his house, in Castle-Street, Canterbury: to be sold by auction on Wednesday the 19th and Thursday the 20th of this instant March, 1766. ... [Canterbury, 1766]. 7, [1] p. : 8°. Catalogues could be had at taverns in the larger eastern Kent towns, and also at Thomas Roch’s Canterbury. L. ESTC: t013003

Roch, Thomas. A catalogue of the household goods and furniture of Edward Mantell, Esq; at his house in Castle-Street, Canterbury:... To be sold by auction, on Tuesday and Wednesday the 21st and 22d inst. 1762. ... [Canterbury?, 1762]. [4], 8 p. : 8°. Catalogues could be had at taverns in the larger eastern Kent towns including Faversham, Ashford, Dover, Sandwich and Deal, and also at Thomas Roch’s, Canterbury. L. ESTC: t013003

Silver, Jacob, bookseller. Jacob Silver in Sandwich, sells all sorts of books, new o[r] second hand, as bibles testaments [sic], ... [Canterbury?, 1720?]. 1 sheet : ½°. Includes a puff for Anne Silver selling general wares. O (John Johnson). ESTC: t161077

Society for the Relief of the Widows and Orphans of Poor Clergymen of the Diocese of Canterbury. Whereas a society has been formed, and subscriptions entered into, for the relief of the widows and orphans of poor clergymen of this diocese, which has met with great encouragement from his Grace the Archbishop, ... [Canterbury?, 1751]. 1 sheet : ½°. Dated at head: Canterbury, August 20, 1751. L. ESTC: t202635


Ballads

British Library C.20.c.30 contains a collection of ballads, a number of which have the imprint ‘Canterbury, at the Printing Office’ which was the address of James Abree. These are variously dated by ESTC, generally to the last third of the century, but may well be from 1740–1750. Later in the century J. Grove had a similar address but always ‘at the General Printing Office’. Other items in the same volume might also be Canterbury work: several are so attributed by ESTC; several Canterbury
items seem not to be included by ESTC.

The **cobler’s golden prize**: or, the translator turn’d gentleman ... To the tune of the Coventry ’squire. *Canterbury: sold at the printing office, [1740–50?].* 1 sheet; ½°. Starts: ‘There was a cobler liv’d of late’. *L. ESTC: t000006 (1780?).

The **dying lovers last farewell**: or the tragical downfal of Marcellus and Aminda. *[Canterbury?, 1740–50?].* 1 sheet; ½°. A song: ‘One night when all the village slept,’. *L. ESTC: t035108 (1780?).

**How Coventry was made free by Godina [sic]**, countess of Chester. *Canterbury: sold at the printing office, [1740–50?].* 1 sheet; ½°. Verse: ‘Leofricus, that noble earl,’. *L. ESTC: t036708 (1780?).

The **humours of the Rag-Fair**: or, the Country Man’s description of their different trades and callings. *[Canterbury?, 1740–50?].* 1 sheet; ½°. Verse: ‘Last week in Lent I came to town,’. Has the same woodcut as ‘A song in praise of the leather-bottle’ below. *L. ESTC: t036843 (1760).


**True love rewarded with loyalty**: or, mirth and joy, after sorrow and sadness. ... To a new West-country tune, call’d, O hark my love: or, Flora’s farewell. - *[Canterbury]: Sold at the printing-office, Canterbury, [1740–50?].* 1 sheet; ½°. A song: ‘As I walk’d forth to take the air’. *L. ESTC: t051893 (1780?).

[The **wandering Prince of Troy.**] An excellent new ballad entituled The wandering prince of Troy. To an excellent tune, call’d Queen Dido, &c. *[Canterbury?]: Sold at the printing office, [1740–50?].* 1 sheet; ½°. Starts: ‘When Troy town for ten years wars’. L. ESTC: t033722

**The Wiltshire wedding.** *Canterbury: sold at the printing office, [1740–50?].* 1 sheet; ½°. Verse: 'All in a misty morning'. *L. ESTC: t0525248 (1780?).