

Herewith a further commentary to the chronology from David Bryden on

Richard Delamain(e) - Hero or Villain?

'He becomes a joiner by trade' - I have not checked this, but was Delamain a member of the Worshipful Company of Joiners? Normally, that would imply that he had been through a seven to ten year apprenticeship to a member of the Company – but there were other ways of becoming a member of a City Company – for example, by patrimony – ie one's father was a member – by purchase (though this would require support from within the company, vouching for suitability – even by the early years of the Stuart era, City Companies were becoming less focussed on the trade to which they were originally very closely associated).

'studies Maths at Gresham College' – Gresham College was (and still is) a very peculiar institution. It had/ has no registered students, and awarded no degrees. The Gresham Professors were required to give Lectures in the City to all comers – lectures were originally to be given in Latin with an English summary, I do not know what the custom and practice was in the 1620s. The Gresham Professor of Geometry was one Peter Thomas, who followed Henry Briggs as Gresham Professor Geometry, serving 1620-30, when he followed Briggs as Savilian Professor of Geometry at Oxford. John Ward, *Lives of the Professors of Gresham College* (London 1740) 132 –

[you can get this on-line at

https://books.google.co.uk/books/about/The_Lives_of_the_Professors_of_Gresham_C.html?id=y6pLAAAACA&redir_esc=y]

indicates that he retained his Fellowship of Merton College Oxford, where he mainly resided, presumably going to London only to fulfil his (well paid!) lecturing duties at Gresham. The Professor of Astronomy, appointed 1726 was Henry Gellibrand – he succeeded Edmund Gunter. Either of these might well have lectured on mathematical subjects - and Gunter is the contact mentioned by contemporaries. 'the King also became a maths pupil of Delamain's for a fee of £40 per year.' This may well have been no more than the King indicating his patronage of Delamain, with nominal duties. ODNB states that the 1633 appointment was as Quartermaster-General and Tutor to the King – I presume data from CSPD, access to this needs a visit to Oxford, and the Libraries are not yet open!

"Royal artefacts do not normally disappear. I'll bet it is tucked away somewhere in the Royal Archives, in all probability catalogued either as a toy or a sundial. I feel more research coming up and maybe a future article!"
End of original article!"

But they disappear did during the protectorate! The Royal Collection of Paintings, for example, was sold by Parliament. Furthermore, the family of Charles I, in exile on the continent during the protectorate, were very hard-up, and if the Duke of York had been permitted to take the silver instrument with him when he was forced into exile, he may well have had to dispose of it!

Looking for a Delamain instrument is like looking for a needle in a haystack! David Cressy's interesting chapter on Delamain's continued search for Royal patronage suggests that the Bridgewater and Salisbury family archives/collections might narrow the search somewhat!

David Bryden