

File 20100304.2123: The following information about Wilkins appeared in the *Oxford University Gazette* on 4th March 2010:

The foundation of the Royal Society was due mainly to a combination of some eight fellows of Oxford colleges, with professors of Gresham College, London. A major instigator was Sir John Wilkins, previously Warden of Wadham College, who had organised the Experimental Philosophy Club in Oxford.

Source: [1].

He was also the author of the 1641 book that I sat reading in Duke Humphrey's library one fine day [2].

## References

- [1] Editor, Oxford University *Gazette*. A celebration of the 350th anniversary of the Royal Society, 1660–2010: A meeting on sustainability. *Oxford University Gazette*, 4 March 2010.
- [2] John Wilkins. *Mercvry, or the Secret and Swift Messenger: Shewing, How a Man may with Privacy and Speed communicate his Thoughts to a Friend at any distance*. Printed by I. Norton, for Iohn Maynard, and Tomothy Wilkins, and are to be fold at the George in Fleetstreet, neere Saint Dunstons Church, London, 1641.