

= Roger Gale ( antiquary ) =

Roger Gale ( 27 September 1672 ? 25 June 1744 ) was an English scholar and antiquary as well as a member of Parliament for Northallerton . His father was an ecclesiastic and professor at Cambridge , which the younger Gale also attended . After his graduation , Gale briefly served as a diplomat in France , as well as holding a position as a reader at Oxford University 's Bodleian Library . On his father 's death in 1702 , Gale retired to his family estate , but was elected to Parliament in 1705 , where he served until 1713 . He then continued in public service until 1735 , when he once more retired to his estates .

Besides his governmental career , Gale was a member of the Society of Antiquaries and the Royal Society , where he served as treasurer . Gale was known as a collector of manuscripts and other antiquarian items , writing a few published works on those subjects . He donated his manuscript collection to his alma mater in 1738 , and died in 1744 . Although contemporaries felt he was one of the foremost scholars of his age , later historians have been less convinced , contrasting his learning unfavourably with his father 's .

= = Early life = =

Roger Gale was the eldest son of Thomas Gale and Barbara Pepys . His father was Dean of York as well as a professor of Greek at Cambridge University , while his mother was a cousin of the diarist Samuel Pepys . Roger was born on 27 September 1672 at Impington , Cambridgeshire . Thomas and Barbara had a younger son , Samuel Gale , who also became an antiquary , and a daughter , Elizabeth , who became William Stukeley 's as second wife .

Gale was educated at St Paul 's School in London , where his father was in charge from 1672 to 1697 . He then went on to attend Trinity College starting in 1691 , earning his Bachelor of Arts in 1695 and a Master of Arts in 1698 . He then became a reader at the Bodleian Library at Oxford University on 6 March 1699 . Soon after this , probably in the later part of 1699 , he went with Charles Montagu , then the Earl of Manchester , on a diplomatic mission to France . His father died in 1702 , and Gale retired to his newly inherited estates at Scruton , Yorkshire .

= = Public service = =

In 1705 he was elected a member of Parliament ( MP ) for Northallerton in a by @-@ election . He remained an MP until 1713 , usually voting with the Whigs and working on committees concerned with regulating servant wages and the naturalisation of foreigners . After leaving Parliament , he was appointed to a commission dealing with stamp duties , then later was a commissioner of excise . He remained in that position until 1735 , when Robert Walpole had him removed to free the post for one of Walpole 's friends .

Gale also served as the first vice @-@ president of the Society of Antiquaries , and was the treasurer of the Royal Society for a number of years . In 1736 he returned to his estates and retired from public life .

= = Antiquary and writer = =

Gale inherited his father 's library of manuscripts and books , which he eventually donated to his alma mater , Trinity College , in 1738 . Included in Gale 's donation was one of only two complete manuscripts of the Liber Eliensis , now known as Trinity College MS O.2.1. Gale also collected coins , and donated his collection to Cambridge University .

In 1697 Gale translated Louis Jobert 's La science des medailles into English , with the title of The Knowledge of Medals . This was designed as an instruction to the beginning coin collector , and also contained information to protect the new collector from fraud . Gale then in 1709 published his father 's work on the Antonine Itinerary , which Gale supplemented with his own notes and commentary . His last major published work was as the editor of a 12th @-@ century manuscript register of the

Honour of Richmond that was contained in the Cotton library . He also contributed a number of essays on antiquarian topics to the Philosophical Transactions journal put out by the Royal Society .

Gale 's letters survive , and some were first published in the third volume of John Nichols 's *Bibliotheca Topographica Britannica* in 1790 . Later more appeared in Nichols ' *Literary Anecdotes* , and then finally his complete letters were published in three volumes by the Surtees Society along with letters from his brother Samuel and brother @-@ in @-@ law William Stukeley . Nichols in 1781 declared that Gale was " one of the most learned men of his age " , but later scholars have been less full of praise . D. C. Douglas , writing in the 1950s , contrasted Gale with his father , and felt that the younger Gale was given a greater reputation than he deserved . Notwithstanding Douglas ' opinion , Gale 's work did much to preserve important historical information , as he was a member of the new style of antiquary , who instead of working just with manuscripts , turned to the topography and other relics in the countryside . This group of antiquaries did much to record information that has since disappeared .

= = Death and family = =

Gale married Henrietta Roper , the daughter of Henry Roper of Cowling , Kent . She died in 1720 . They had one son , Roger Henry Gale , who was born in 1710 . Gale himself died on 25 June 1744 at his estates in Scruton , and was buried near the church there . There is no monument in the churchyard , as he stipulated in his will that he be buried in such a manner that no one would know exactly where he was buried .