WHAT CAN SIX HIDDEN PAGES REVEAL ABOUT SURVIVAL DURING HENRY VIII'S REFORMATION?



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Researchers have identified six pages in a Brighton archive as part of a fifteenth-century Catholic manuscript now held at Yale. The book appears to have belonged to Sir John Gage, an important official who helped Henry VIII dissolve the monasteries. The discovery suggests that Gage may have secretly protected a Catholic text from the destruction he was helping to organise. The pages had been separated from the manuscript for almost a century before researchers matched their handwriting and content. cam.ac.uk

WHY IS THIS INTERESTING?

This gives students a vivid example of how the English Reformation affected real people and books. It also complicates the idea that everyone simply accepted Henry VIII's religious changes: some officials publicly served the king while privately remaining Catholic and preserving forbidden religious texts. cam.ac.uk

THINK LIKE A HISTORIAN

"Why might a powerful Tudor official secretly protect a Catholic book?"

Source: University of Cambridge cam.ac.uk

https://www.cam.ac.uk/stories/henry-viii-dissolution-enforcer-stashed-catholic-manuscript