

Samuel Arnoldi

Born: 1687
President: 1730-1731
Died: 1736

Samuel Arnoldi was born in England but educated in Dublin first under the tutelage of a Dr Jones and subsequently entering Trinity College as an undergraduate in 1704. His father, Richard, is listed as a gentleman and esquire and was a churchwarden of St Peter's parish in Dublin. He was involved in the transfer of lands that eventually allowed the establishment of Mary Mercer's Hospital.

Samuel graduated MB from Trinity in spring 1712. This was only a few months after the establishment of the School of Physic in August 1711 and the same year as the completion of what is now known as the Old Library. He received further training in Leiden in the Netherlands, which was very common at this time, and is listed in the register there in 1709. He was married to Anne Smith in 1715 and had at least one daughter. He received his MD from Trinity in 1719 and was elected Fellow of the College of Physicians in 1727. He is recorded as resident in Bride Street in 1730. There is no record of him attending any of the charitable hospitals established in the early years of the eighteenth century as a physician so it may be assumed that he worked as a private physician.

Beyond these biographical details we have few records of Arnoldi. However, it of interest that he appears in the list of subscribers who facilitated publication of Matthew Pilkington's book *Poems on Several Occasions* (1730). Pilkington and his wife, Laetitia, were protégés of Jonathan Swift in the late 1720s and early 1730s. They are perhaps now most famous for the scandalous disintegration of their marriage, and Laetitia's later career as a writer and diarist. The only other Fellow of the College listed amongst the subscribers was John Van Lewen (qv) who was Laetitia's father. Whether this act of benefaction for Pilkington's book implies he was in some way connected with this social circle cannot be proven. However, it is of note that he also appears as a subscriber to the four volume compilation of Jonathan Swift's writings published in 1735.

Samuel Arnoldi died in 1736 at his home in Kildare. His premature death may explain why he served only one term as President of the College.

JAH



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