

acquaintance, making sure Hartlib's petitions reached Parliament. Well aware, as he told Hartlib,

reforming interests was both long-lasting and sustained in well-developed social circles. In 1648 Bohemian-born Georg Ritschel, who had been sent to England by Comenius and then found it so welcoming he had declined to rejoin his mentor in Prussia, dedicated to Stoughton and Culpeper his . " " : " .²⁰

Doubtless various factors during Stoughton's adult life combined to draw him in to the fellowship of those who sought to acquire learning and through it to improve the world in which they lived. For instance, his wife and brother-in-law, the companions of his copying endeavours, came from the London mercantile elite among whom Hartlib gained a particular hearing, while, like other Surrey gentlemen, Stoughton was probably induced by commercial considerations to participate in a scheme to open up navigation on the River Wey.²¹ However, his engagement in international theological matters