

BULLETIN OF  
THE JOHN RYLANDS  
LIBRARY  
MANCHESTER

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BY THE  
LIBRARIAN

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LIBRARY NOTES AND NEWS.

THE 28th of last July marked a new epoch in the history of the University of Louvain. It was on that day that the first stone of the new library building, which is to replace the one so senselessly destroyed in August, 1914, was laid by Dr. Murray Butler, in the presence of the King and Queen of the Belgians, the ex-President of the French Republic, and a large and distinguished company of international scholars.

RE-BIRTH  
OF THE  
LOUVAIN  
LIBRARY.

Dr. Butler, the President of Columbia University, is the Chairman of the National Committee of the United States for the Reconstruction of the Louvain Library, and it was eminently appropriate that he should perform the first public act in the erection of the new building, since the cost of it is to be defrayed by his Committee.

We had the privilege and pleasure of being present at this important function, as the representative of the Governors of the John Rylands Library, and also of the five hundred contributors to the English scheme for equipping the shelves of the new library with the necessary books ; and it is primarily for their information that we have given, elsewhere in the present issue, a brief account of the proceedings, together with some impressions which we formed of the country through which we passed on the journey to and from Louvain.

It was to us an event of peculiar interest and gratification, for in April, 1915, when we made our first public appeal for help under our scheme for rendering assistance to the authorities of the University in their heavy task of making good the ruin wrought by the war, we were regarded by some of our pessimistic friends with an air of tolerant pity for daring to make such an appeal when Belgium was still in the occupation of the Germans, and, as they said, was likely to remain so. We were not discouraged, however, incurably optimistic as we were, and persisted in our endeavours, with the encouraging result that books

began to stream in by ones and by twos and by hundreds, from all classes of the community, in all parts of the world, until to-day the substantial figure of 40,000 volumes has been reached, and gifts continue still to reach us. We are sanguine enough, therefore, to believe that by the time the new building is ready for occupation, the English collection will have totalled not less than 50,000 volumes.

Of the books already received 38,000 have been catalogued and transferred to Louvain, where they are in actual use in their temporary home, which serves as University reading-room and library, pending the completion of the building which is now in process of erection.

We invite further offers of suitable books, so that our combined gift may be an acknowledgment not unworthy of our indebtedness to the incomparably brave nation and their valiant Sovereign, who sacrificed all but honour to preserve their own independence, and thereby safeguard the liberties of Europe by frustrating the invader's plans. We owe to Belgium more than we can ever repay, but it is fitting that we should seize such an opportunity as the present scheme offers to repay at least some part of our debt.

Since the publication of our last issue in July, the following gifts have been received, and we take this opportunity for re-  
RECENT DONORS TO LOUVAIN.  
 newing our thanks to the following contributors for so generously and continuously responding to our appeals, and in that way assisting us to obtain such encouraging results.

(The figures in Brackets represent the number of Volumes.)	
THE ALCUIN CLUB. (The Rev. P. DEARMER, Secretary.)	(2)
THE BRITISH ARCHÆOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.	(33)
E. ROCK CARLING, Esq., London.	(2)
CLARK UNIVERSITY, Worcester, Mass. (Dr. L. N. WILSON, Librarian.)	(3)
The Rev. J. CROSS, Wimborne.	(97)
The CUNARD STEAMSHIP CO., LTD., Liverpool.	(1)
The Rev. A. DIXON, M.A., Denton.	(5)
HENRY GUPPY, Manchester.	(1)
The Rev. C. W. HALL, Todmorden.	(6)
The SECRETARY OF STATE FOR INDIA, India Office.	(7)
The GOVERNORS OF THE JOHN RYLANDS LIBRARY.	(37)
Mrs. MACDONALD, Sidcup.	(39)
The MANCHESTER GUARDIAN. (Per Dr. C. P. SCOTT.)	(9)

The Rev. R. G. MATTHEW, Wigan.	(14)
Miss H. M. OUTRAM, Worksop.	(10)
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The QUEKETT MICROSCOPICAL CLUB, London.	(603)
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The Rev. F. B. WYATT, Barnard Castle.	(1)

The works added to the shelves of this library during the past year, by purchase and by gift, number 8,264 volumes, of which 2,660 were acquired by purchase and 5,604 by gift.

ACCESSIONS TO  
THE LIBRARY.

The acquisitions by purchase include a number of interesting and useful items which add to the strength of several departments in which the library is already admittedly rich. It has been our endeavour to keep abreast of the times in those branches of literature in which the research students and other readers who make regular use of the library may reasonably expect to find the shelves equipped with the latest or best authorities, but we have not been able to make any specially noteworthy purchases either of manuscripts or of early printed books, in consequence of the financial disabilities under which we, in common with many similar institutions, are suffering.

The files of foreign periodicals and society publications dropped sadly into arrear during the difficult years of the war, but we are glad to be able to say that, with very few exceptions, they have now been brought up to date.

As an indication of the character of the additions that have been made, apart from current literature, we mention a few items taken almost at random from the lists: Ugolino's "Thesaurus antiquitatum sacrarum . . . in quibus veterum Hebraeorum mores, leges, instituta, ritus sacri et civiles illustrantur," Venetiis, 1744-1769, 34 vols., Folio; "Ausgaben und Abhandlungen aus dem Gebiete der Romanischen Philologie," Marburg, 1881-1900, Heft 1-100, 8vo;

Emil Levy's "Provinzialisches Supplement-Wörterbuch," Leipzig, 1894-1920, 7 vols., 8vo ; "Rivista di Filologia Romanza da Manzoni, Monaci, Stengel, etc.," with the continuations, "Giornale di Filologia Romanza," "Studi di Filologia Romanza," and "Studi Romanzi," 1873-1920, 31 vols., 8vo ; "Anuari de l'Instiut d'Estudis Catalans," 1907-1914, 5 vols., 8vo ; "Annuaire de l'Ecole pratique des Hautes Études : Section des sciences historiques et philosophiques," 1893-1915, 22 vols., 8vo ; La Curne de Ste. Palaye, "Dictionnaire historique de la langue française," Paris, 1875-1884, 10 vols., 8vo ; "Bibliotheca critica della letteratura Italiana, diretta di F. Torraca," 43 vols., 8vo ; "Oeuvres complètes de Diderot, revues sur les éditions originales, avec notices, notes et études, par J. Assézat," Paris, 1875-77, 20 vols., 8vo ; Holder's "Alt-Celtischer Sprachschatz," 1896-1913, 3 vols., 8vo ; Du Boulay's "Historia Universitatis Parisiensis ipsius foundationem, nationes . . . complectens," Paris, 1665-1673, 6 vols., Fol. ; "La Bibliothèque dramatique de M. de Solienne . . . Par P. L. Jacob," Paris, 1843-44, 4 vols., 8vo ; "Analecta Sacri Ordinis Fratrum Praedicatorum, seu vetera ordinis monumenta recentioraque acta . . . P. A. Fruhwirth," 1893-1920, 28 vols., 4to ; Sir G. F. Laking's "Records of European armour and arms through seven centuries," 4 vols., 4to ; the "Publications of the Cantilupe Society," Hereford, 1909-21, 19 vols., 8vo ; "Acta Societatis Scientiarum Fennicae," Helsingfors, 1842-1917, 47 vols., 8vo ; Boccaccio's "Il Decamerone," printed at the Ashendene Press, 1920, Fol. ; "The Hobby-Horse," 1886-1892, 7 vols. ; "Bulletin de la Société de Linguistique," 1869-1916, 20 vols., 8vo ; "Die Einblattdrucke des XV Jahrhunderts in der Kupferstichsammlung des Hof. Bibl. zu Wien," 1920, 2 vols., Fol. ; Max Lehr's "Geschichte und kritischer Katalog des deutschen, niederlandschen, und französischen Kupferstiche im XV Jahrhundert," 4 vols. ; "Rassegna d'arte antica et moderna," Milano, 1914-20, 13 vols., 8vo ; two manuscript copies of the Zend Avesta and the Vendidad, from the library of L. H. Mills, in Sanskrit and Pehlevi, on paper ; The original Registers of the Archdeaconry of Richmond, Yorkshire, 1442-1473.

The following is a list of the donors, to the number of 104, whose appreciation of the institution and its work has found expression in the numerous gifts and bequests by which the library has been enriched during 1921.

GIFTS TO  
THE  
LIBRARY.

We take this opportunity of renewing and emphasising the thanks already conveyed to each donor individually in another form, at the same time assuring them that these expressions of good-will are a source of great encouragement to the Governors, as well as to the present writer.

The names of the individual donors and institutions are as follows :—

Miss Barlow.	Sir Lees Knowles, Bart.
H. M. Barlow, Esq.	J. R. Lantin, Esq.
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Miss Bradley.	The Librarian.
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Aberdeen University.  
Aberystwyth. National Library of Wales.  
American Art Association.  
Barcelona. Institut d'Estudis Catalans.  
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Carnegie United Kingdom Trust.  
Caslon & Co.  
Chicago. The Newberry Library.  
Chicago, University of.  
Columbia University.  
Copenhagen. Royal Library.  
Copenhagen University.  
Cornell University Library.  
Cunard Steamship Co., Ltd.  
Durham University.  
Edinburgh University.  
Edinburgh Society for Promotion of Trade.  
Federal Council of the Evangelical Free Churches.  
Groningen University.  
India Office.  
Irish Society of London.  
Lisbon. Academia das Sciencias.  
London. University College.  
Manchester. College of Technology.  
Manchester. Liberation Society.  
Manchester. Victoria University.  
Michigan, University of.  
Munich. Bavarian State Library.  
New York Public Library.  
Saint Andrews' University.  
Stockholm. Royal Library.  
Stubbs' Directories Ltd.  
Sydney. Public Library of New South Wales.  
Texas, University of.  
Toronto, University of.

Utrecht, University of.

Vatican Library.

Wall Paper Manufacturers, Ltd.

Washington. Library of Congress.

Washington. Smithsonian Institution.

Yale University Library.

The gifts, which number 5,604 volumes, include many works which it would have been difficult if not impossible to obtain through any other channel. Notably : A collection of books, pamphlets and periodicals connected with the Anti-Slavery Movement, and dating back for about a century, from the library of the late Mr. H. J. Wilson, M.P., of Sheffield, which has been presented by his executors, Miss Helen Wilson and Mr. A. C. Wilson. This gift also included a number of useful reference works of general interest. Mr. A. C. Wilson has also presented, on behalf of the Society for the Liberation of Religion from State Patronage and Control, a large collection of pamphlet and other literature dealing with the question of Disestablishment, and including a set of the Society's own publications. By means of these two gifts the students of the history of either of these movements have had placed within their reach invaluable research material.

Sir Lees Knowles, Bart., was good enough to present his set of "The Times" for the period covering the great war, which he had had excellently bound in 33 volumes. This is a most welcome addition to the library's collection of war literature, which already numbers about 3,000 volumes.

Reference should also be made to the many collections of the works of modern writers from the library of Dr. Lloyd Roberts, which have been received as part of his bequest during the same period, and which have greatly strengthened the particular department of the library to which they properly belong. These include the works of James Howell, William Morris, Andrew Lang, Richard Le Gallienne, William Hazlitt, Austin Dobson, Lord Byron, Oliver Wendell Holmes, James Russell Lowell, Douglas Jerrold, Walter Savage Landor, W. Leigh Hunt, Charles Swinburne, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, George Henry Lewes, Thomas H. Huxley, George Augustus Sala, Goldwin Smith, Frederic Harrison, and William Watson, to mention only the most important. Then, too, we should

not omit to refer to the remarkably complete collection of Sir Thomas Browne's "Religio Medici," which is said to include every edition from the first to the latest ; and also the collection of the fifteen earliest editions of Sir Samuel Garth's poem "The Dispensary," both of which came to us from the same source.

Amongst other gifts to the Library is one of exceptional interest to students of the history of the modern drama, consisting of seventeen volumes of newspaper cuttings, which furnish a complete record of Miss Horniman's courageous enterprise in Manchester, from the time of her taking over the commonplace Gaiety Theatre, which under her effective direction speedily developed into one of the most widely known theatres in the world, down to the time when she relinquished its ownership and management in the early part of last year.

MISS  
HORNIMAN  
AND THE  
GAIETY  
THEATRE,  
MANCHES-  
TER.

For twenty years Miss Horniman faithfully served the interests of English drama in the North of England. More than six hundred plays, by every sort of author both native and foreign, from Euripides to Stanley Houghton and St. John Ervine, were produced at the Gaiety Theatre, which quickly became a training ground for young Lancashire writers, where they could obtain the only training that is of any service to dramatists—the chance to see their plays actually performed on the stage.

The result of Miss Horniman's enterprise was to place Manchester in a position which made it, theatrically, almost unique among the cities of the world, but it has now fallen from its high estate through allowing this home and school of pure drama to degenerate into a picture theatre. Manchester, we have been told, is full of gratitude to Miss Horniman for what she has done for it, and the extent of that debt will become more apparent as time passes. It was prepared to do anything for this courageous lady, except go to her theatre in sufficient numbers to prevent it from becoming a picture palace !

A few years ago Miss Horniman rendered another signal service to the students of the modern drama, by depositing in the Library a similar collection, in ten volumes, of fugitive, but none the less valuable material dealing with the history of the Irish National Theatre, from its beginnings in 1901.

THE IRISH  
NATIONAL  
THEATRE.

These important sources of information would have been lost, because, through accident of birth, they are buried in the files of the



various newspapers and periodicals in which they appeared, but for the praiseworthy energy displayed by the donor in collecting, and with her own hands preserving, and making the collection available in its existing form.

This Irish National Theatre was a natural outgrowth of the Celtic Revival, which in itself was but a phase of the Irish National Movement, which has met with a good deal of ridicule in this country, because of the extravagances and absurdities in which some of the more aggressive spirits have indulged ; yet, amongst literary people who have looked upon it with unprejudiced eyes it has aroused a real sympathetic interest.

The aim of the little band of enthusiasts who were responsible for laying the foundations of this national drama, some twenty years ago, was to render in dramatic form some of the best of the fascinating legendary tales and traditions which tell of the faith and life of the Irish people, of the deeds of their heroes, and of the glories of their kings, and in so doing to substitute a live national drama worthy of the name, for what Mr. Yeats describes as : " the machine-made play of modern commerce, that lifeless product of conventional cleverness, from which we come away knowing nothing new about ourselves, seeing life with no new eyes, and hearing it with no new ears ".

In the realization of their aims Miss Horniman played a very important part by generously undertaking not only to provide these struggling enthusiasts with a permanent home at the Abbey Theatre in Dublin, but also by providing them with a subsidy for five years, so that they might develop the literary and dramatic instincts of the Irish people. Until the advent of this fairy god-mother they had had to write their own plays, and with their very limited resources to produce them, often under the most distressing circumstances, and amidst the most inconvenient surroundings.

Twenty years ago there were no Irish plays except the melodramas dealing with the insurrection of 1798, and similar subjects. To-day there are hundreds of plays dealing with every aspect of modern life in town and country, with characters in Irish mythology, and with life in other lands, written or translated by Irish authors.

The Abbey Theatre artists are now performing in this country and America, and it has its own school of acting under the direction of Mr. Frank Fay, one of the Abbey's first and greatest players.

In the early days of this movement some of the finest productions were played to very sparse audiences, and when Synge's "Playboy in the Western World" was first produced the police had to be called in to quell the opposition and to remove those who protested.

Since those exciting days there has been a great change. The Abbey Theatre has created a taste for sincere and original drama, with an atmosphere which allows of a latitude of expression that would not have been dreamt of twenty years ago. It can now live on its earnings, but it should not be forgotten that in the period of transition Miss Horniman's help was invaluable.

Indeed, when the history of the English and Irish movement during the first quarter of the twentieth century comes to be written, the historian will find that much of his work will have to be written around Miss Horniman, and that he is indebted to her for her foresight in preserving this valuable collection of material for his use.

We are glad to be able to announce the publication of the first two volumes of the long expected "Catalogue of Latin Manuscripts in the John Rylands Library," which may be procured from the Library's regular agents: The Manchester University Press; Messrs. Longmans, Green & Co.; and Messrs. Bernard Quaritch, Limited.

CATA-  
LOGUE OF  
LATIN  
MANU-  
SCRIPTS.

The first volume contains the descriptive text, whilst its companion volume of plates comprises nearly two hundred facsimile reproductions of characteristic pages of text, illuminations, and jewelled bindings, selected from the manuscripts with which the catalogue deals. These include examples of first-class quality of the art of the great mediæval writing schools of Europe, ranging from the sixth to the nineteenth century, and covering a wide range of subjects.

It should be explained that the present volumes represent the first instalment of the "Catalogue of Western Manuscripts," and deal with the first group (numbering 183) of the Latin rolls and codices, which are almost exclusively written in the book hand.

Considerable additions to this section of the Library's manuscript collections have been made since the present catalogue was taken in hand, many of which are of considerable historical importance, including cartularies, royal wardrobe and household expenses books, chronicles, early papal bulls, briefs, patents, wills, marriage contracts, court rolls, charters, etc. These are being examined and described in readiness

for inclusion in the succeeding volumes of the catalogue, by one of the Assistant-Keepers of Manuscripts.

The present volumes are the work of Dr. Montague Rhodes James, one of the most distinguished authorities in this field of investigation, who has rendered a valuable service, not only to the Library, but to scholarship, by undertaking the work in spite of many other more pressing and more legitimate claims upon his time. By so doing Dr. James has greatly enhanced the value and interest of the manuscripts themselves.

The two volumes, in royal quarto, are published at four guineas net, a price which is much below the cost of production.

It is our intention to print, from time to time, in these pages, hand-lists, consisting of brief descriptive notes of the rarer, and in some cases unrecorded, works which are to be found in the Library's collections of manuscripts.

TEMPOR-  
ARY HAND-  
LISTS OF  
OTHER  
RARE  
MANU-  
SCRIPTS.

One of our reasons for adopting this plan is that we find it impossible to proceed with the printing of the full descriptive catalogues, several of which are ready for the press, whilst the present prohibitive cost of printing and book production prevails.

In order, therefore, that students, interested in the subjects with which these manuscripts deal, should not be penalised by being kept in ignorance of their presence in the library, we propose, by this means, to call attention to works of great rarity and importance, which would otherwise remain, at least for the present, buried and unknown.

The present instalment of these notes deals with some of the rarer or unique texts, under the heading Theology, to be found in the collection of Arabic, Persian and Turkish manuscripts, which comprises upwards of two thousand volumes.

It may not be out of place again to remind students that Sir Harry Mainwaring, Bart., late of Peover Hall, Cheshire, has deposited in this library, on loan for an indefinite period, for the use of students, his interesting collection of manuscripts, which includes many early charters, and other materials relating to the county of Cheshire. The Mainwaring family had been seated at Peover ever since the Conquest, and had the good fortune to possess State papers, diaries, household books, and literary papers of the seventeenth century, besides a vast quantity of deeds and evidences relating to their lands, which cannot fail to be

THE MAIN-  
WARING  
CHARTERS  
AND  
OTHER  
MANU-  
SCRIPTS.

of interest to students of the history of the period covered by them. Many of the Peover deeds are of the time of Edward III, whilst five hundred of them are earlier than the reign of Henry VIII, the earliest of all consisting of charters granted, in the twelfth century, by Earls of Chester.

We hope to commence, in an early issue of the "Bulletin," the publication of a hand-list of these interesting and important documents.

We should be glad to undertake the safe custody, under similar conditions, of any other collections of manuscripts, especially those relating to the North of England, or in the possession of families connected with that area, which the owners are either unable or unwilling to dispose of, and for which they are no longer able to provide suitable housing accommodation.

OFFER TO  
ACCEPT  
CUSTODY  
OF LOCAL  
MSS.

At the present time, when so many estates are being broken up, and old family residences are being relinquished and the contents dispersed, there is a grave danger lest valuable documents of great historic interest, the importance of which may not yet have been realised, should be lost sight of, and perhaps be accidentally destroyed with the so-called lumber which so often accumulates in great houses, or be stored temporarily, for want of better accommodation, in unsuitable buildings, where they are likely to suffer irreparable damage from damp and neglect.

It is for this reason that we venture to offer not only the hospitality of the Library, but the services of the staff in caring for and arranging such collections, so that they might be accessible to students, under the customary safeguards, whilst they remain in our custody.

We shall be glad to advise owners of such collections in the matter of their transfer and treatment.

It will interest many of our readers to learn that the Assyriological library of the late Canon C. H. W. Johns, D.Litt., D.D., sometime Master of St. Catherine's College, Cambridge, whose death, on the 20th of August, 1920, was a serious blow to that department of Oriental research in which his pre-eminence was everywhere recognised, has been presented, by his express desire, to Queen's College, Cambridge, where it is available for use by any student of Assyriology visiting Cambridge.

THE LIB-  
RARY OF  
THE LATE  
CANON.  
JOHNS.

The library contains, in addition to the valuable collection of

books, a mass of systematized notes, card catalogues and manuscript matter, a small number of tablets and squeezes which students will find most useful for practice in reading Cuneiform.

We are also glad to be able to announce that the collection of "Assyrian deeds and documents in the 7th century, B.C.," of which Canon Johns himself published the first three volumes, is to be continued. Mrs. Johns, at the express desire of her late husband, is to edit and see through the press the fourth volume, which Canon Johns left in manuscript and in an unfinished state. The demand for the forthcoming volume is so great, we are told, that it has been decided to double the issue which had been originally proposed.

Mrs. Johns also hopes to publish a second edition of the first volume of the same work, which has been long out of print and in much demand.

We must not omit gratefully to acknowledge two RECENT GIFTS. other important gifts which the library has received quite recently. The first is from Miss Algerina Peckover, consisting of a manuscript, "Missale Romanum," which was probably written for a church in the diocese of Cologne, in the latter part of the eleventh or the early years of the twelfth century, and later passed into the possession of a church in the Netherlands, probably attached to some nunnery. The few ornamental letters with which the MS. is embellished appear to show traces of the influence of the school of St. Gall. It is in a fifteenth century binding of brown stamped leather over oaken boards, and forms a most welcome addition to the library's collection of liturgical manuscripts.

The other gift is of a different, but none the less welcome, character, taking the form of a cheque, and representing the first gift of money which the library has received apart from the benefactions of the Founder. We are grateful to Miss Winterbottom for this helpful expression of her interest in, and appreciation of, the institution and its work.

The present issue completes the sixth volume of the "Bulletin," and we furnish herewith a title page and list of contents for those of our readers who may wish to preserve their numbers by having them bound.