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LIBRARY NOTES AND NEWS.

**I**N the present issue we print the first instalment of the promised hand-list of the Cheshire manuscripts of Sir Harry Mainwaring, Bart., which, as already announced, THE MAIN-  
WARING  
CHARTERS. have been deposited in the library on loan for an indefinite period, for the use of students.

The charters, many of which date back to the time of Edward III., have been the first to receive attention. These will be followed from time to time by brief descriptions or lists of the diaries, household books, literary papers, and other deeds and evidences relating to the Mainwaring family and estates, which cannot fail to be of interest to students of the history of the period to which they belong.

The charters themselves have been arranged chronologically, but for the purposes of the hand-list it was thought that it would be more useful to students if the entries were arranged alphabetically under the names of the places to which they refer. Any student wishing to know what deeds there are relating to a particular period rather than to a particular place may readily obtain the information by having recourse, in the library, to the deeds themselves.

Following upon the offer, which we made in our last issue, to undertake the safe custody of any other manuscripts relating to the Northern parts of England, or in the possession of families connected with that area, which for THE JOD-  
RELL  
MANU-  
SCRIPTS. a variety of reasons the owners might be desirous of placing in safe keeping, where they will be cared for and made readily accessible for reference, Colonel and Mrs. Ramsden-Jodrell, of Taxal, Whaley Bridge, have deposited in the library for safe custody, for an indefinite period, their interesting collection of manuscripts relating to the Jodrell family and their estates. The Jodrells have been seated in Cheshire, certainly since 1351, for the earliest recorded reference to a member of

the family relates to William Jodrell who held lands in the forest of Macclesfield in that year.

These deeds, like those of the Mainwarings, throw a flood of light upon the social and economic history of the county and period to which they refer.

One document in the collection, which has been retained at Taxal, and of which we print a facsimile reproduction, is of such exceptional interest as to call for special treatment. This has been accorded to it in the present issue in the form of an article from the pen of Mrs. Sharp, the daughter of Professor T. F. Tout, who has made a study of the period to which the document belongs.

PASS  
GRANTED  
BY ED-  
WARD THE  
BLACK  
PRINCE.

The document consists of a pass or licence granted by Edward the Black Prince to the William Jodrell already referred to—an archer in the service of the Prince, who accompanied him to France to take part in the famous Languedoc raid in 1355—giving him permission to leave the army and to return to England.

The pass appears to be the only one of the kind which has survived. It is interesting, also, by reason of the fact that it is written on paper, which was not used to any extent at that period, and also that it bears the original seal, although, unfortunately, very much defaced.

Mrs. Sharp has written around the pass a most interesting dissertation on the Seals of the Black Prince, which is illustrated with reproductions of three other examples.

We take this opportunity of renewing the offer, made in the two preceding issues of the "Bulletin," to undertake the custody of any similar collections, or even smaller groups of documents, relating to the Northern parts of England, with a view not only of providing for their careful preservation, but also of rendering them available for ready reference and study.

OFFER TO  
ACCEPT  
CUSTODY  
OF LOCAL  
MSS.

There are in the hands of Lords of Manors, Family Solicitors, and others, quantities of court rolls, deeds, marriage settlements, indentures and similar documents, now of little or no use for legal purposes, which are in great danger of destruction or dispersal.

These documents form part of the necessary material for the history of the country, and are invaluable to students of our local customs and institutions, as well as to the ever increasing numbers of scholars engaged in this description of historical investigation.

We have pleasure in printing in the present issue the first of three or four articles on the manuscripts of the Apocalypse, which Mr. Herman C. Hoskier, of New York, and New Jersey, has kindly undertaken to contribute.

MANU-  
SCRIPTS  
OF THE  
APOCA-  
LYPSE.

Students of the original text of the New Testament, to whom Mr. Hoskier's name and exact scholarship are well known, will welcome the news that for some time he has been engaged in collating all existing Greek manuscripts of the Apocalypse. As a result certain interesting facts have been dislodged from the mass, some of which have been exhibited in the present article, with the object of inviting comment before they are finally tabulated for publication in book form.

Never before has so comprehensive an examination of any book of the New Testament been undertaken, and Mr. Hoskier explains that his reason for selecting the Apocalypse, was simply because it was possible for an individual to handle the matter within his lifetime, as the supply of known manuscripts was sufficiently small to make this feasible.

We shall be glad to receive for transmission to Mr. Hoskier any communications that readers may wish to make upon the subject of the article.

In the course of the examination and description of the library's collection of manuscripts, which now number upwards of 10,000 examples either in codex, roll or tablet form, many of them have been invested with a new importance by reason of the exceptional palæographical or textual interest which they have been found to possess.

AN UNRE-  
CORDED  
APOLOGY  
OF ISLAM.

One of the most striking of the recent discoveries was made by Dr. Mingana in the course of his examination of the Arabic collection. It is a manuscript of modest appearance and dimensions, the provenance of which it is now impossible to determine, since there is no record of when and how it came into the possession of the late Earl of Crawford, from whom it was acquired with other manuscripts in 1902.

It consists of an unrecorded "Apology of Islam" by a learned Muhammadan physician and moralist named 'Ali b. Rabbān Ṭabari, who died about A.D. 864, the importance of which may be gleaned from the following notes.

The ninth century of the Christian era is marked by numerous apologetic works by Christians and Muhammadans, who lived not far

from Baghdad, the capital of the 'Abbaside dynasty of the Eastern Caliphate. The names of Abu Nūh, Timothy the Patriarch, and Ishāq al-Kindi, among Christian apologists, are known to all interested in oriental learning. In particular the "Apology of the Christian Faith" by Al-Kindi can hardly be ignored by any educated Muslim, or by any educated Christian living with Muslims. But, as far as we are aware, hitherto, no such apology of Islam of so early a date and of such outstanding importance, by a Muhammadan, has been known to exist.

The MS. containing the present apology which was written at Baghdad at the request of the Caliph al-Muttawakkil (847-861), is dated A.H. 616 (= A.D. 1219). It is of first rate importance not only to the Muslim, but to every oriental scholar, whilst to theological scholars it cannot fail to be of interest.

It follows the apology of Al-Kindi, which the author may have intended to refute. The work contains one hundred and thirty long quotations from the Bible, the object of which is to prove the divine mission of the Arabian prophet. These quotations follow the Syriac version of the Bible, said, in the manuscript, to have been translated by an unknown author called "Marcus the Interpreter". The Syriac word *Mshabbha*, "the Glorious," wherever occurring in the Old Testament, is translated into Arabic by the word *Muhammad*. It is possible, therefore, that the Prophet having heard this word pronounced, wrote (S. VII. 156, etc.) that his name was found in the Sacred Books of the Christians and the Jews. The manuscript is a transcript of the autograph of Ṭabari himself, and is certainly the most seriously written book on the apologetic theme existing in our days.

At the request of the Governors Dr. Mingana at once prepared the original text and an English translation for the press, in readiness for the time when conditions in the printing trade should be more favourable to publication. Although, as yet, there has been no substantial reduction in the cost of book-production, the Governors, yielding to the persistent enquiries for the work since its discovery was announced, have decided to publish the English translation with as little further delay as possible. The manuscript is now in the printer's hands, and it is hoped that the volume will be ready for publication before the close of the year.

It will form a demy octavo volume of about 220 pages, the price of which has been fixed at half-a-guinea net.

Orders for copies may be sent to the Librarian, or to the Library's regular agents : the Manchester University Press ; Messrs. Longmans, Green & Co. ; and Messrs. Bernard Quaritch, Limited.

In case the announcement which appeared in the last issue, of the publication of the first two volumes of the " Catalogue of Latin Manuscripts in the John Rylands Library " may have escaped the notice of some of our readers, we take this opportunity of repeating the information.

LATIN  
MANU-  
SCRIPTS IN  
THE J.R.L.

The first volume contains the descriptive text, whilst the second volume comprises nearly two hundred facsimile reproductions in colotype, of characteristic pages of text, illuminations, and jewelled bindings, selected from the manuscripts (numbering 183) with which the Catalogue deals, and including examples of first class quality of the art of the great mediæval writing schools of Europe, ranging from the sixth to the sixteenth century, and covering a wide range of subjects.

The work has been executed at the Clarendon Press, Oxford. The two volumes, which are royal quarto in size, and bound in cloth, are published at four guineas, net, a price which is much below cost.

Copies may be obtained from the Library's regular agents.

The reconstruction of the Library of the University of Louvain has been advanced yet another stage by the placing of the contract for the construction of the new building with the Foundation Company of New York. The work, which is to cost about one million dollars, is to begin at once.

REBUILD-  
ING OF THE  
LOUVAIN  
LIBRARY.

In order to complete the fund required for the purpose seven hundred American colleges and universities united in April in what is described as a week's drive.

The previous campaign yielded \$165,000, and in an appeal to the American people signed by Dr. Murray Butler, of Columbia University, and his associates on the executive committee, the nation is reminded of its duty to redeem its promise to provide the building for the new library. We wish them success.

Since the publication of our last report in January we have received 4,240 volumes for transmission to Louvain. These have been catalogued, registered, and packed in readiness for shipment, which we hope to effect in the course of the next few weeks, as soon, indeed, as other promised contributions have reached us.

RECENT  
DONA-  
TIONS TO  
LOUVAIN.

The total number of volumes received and dealt with to date, on behalf of the English Committee, amounts to 42,240.

We take this opportunity for again thanking the following contributors for so continuously and generously responding to our appeals.

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