

BULLETIN OF

The John Rylands University Library of Manchester

Edited by Dr. F. Taylor, F.S.A.

Published with the aid of the Francis Neilson Fund

Vol. 68

SPRING 1986

No. 2

NOTES AND NEWS

The course "Church and People in Byzantium", the XXth annual symposium of the British Society for the Promotion of Byzantine Studies, was held in Manchester, for the first time, in March 1986 under the direction of Dr.

Rosemary Morris of the University's Department of History. In conjunction with the meetings and in collaboration with Dr. Morris, Miss G. A. Matheson, the Keeper of Manuscripts, arranged an exhibition of medieval Greek manuscripts selected from the Library's holdings in Deansgate.

The Greek collection, although not large, is considered to be of importance. It comprises codices acquired mainly from the Bibliotheca Lindesiana in 1901 and from the collections of the late Dr. Moses Gaster in 1954.

Early Gospel Books were well represented in the exhibition, three being of the 11th century, one of the 12th, and two of the late 12th or early 13th century. The earliest was opened to show the richly adorned Canon Tables at the beginning of the volume and other early items illustrated the patterned headings, in ink and in colours, which mark the plainer texts of the various Gospels; the

first is also of interest as containing a miniature of John which gives the scribal apparatus with unusual fulness—the scholar's cabinet with the key in the hasp-lock, on top his various implements (inkpot, dividers, erasing knife, etc.) and, behind, a pillar supporting a mirror from which is suspended a hanging lamp. Of the two Gospel Books here latest in date (12th/13th cent.), one contains miniatures of Mark, Luke and John each preceded by full-page depictions of their evangelical symbols, the pairing being according to the system of Irenaeus, in which the eagle stands for Mark, the calf for Luke, and the lion for John; the pages showing Matthew and his symbol are unfortunately missing. The other, which is elaborately adorned throughout in gold and colours, has five full-page miniatures which have been assigned to the "Nicæan School" of illumination. They are: Moses receiving the Law and the four evangelists. Another early text contains the Gospels arranged for liturgical use. This was open to display a fine miniature of Mark writing his Gospel.

The most valuable of the surviving manuscripts of Byzantine chant are the few dating from the 12th to the 14th century containing the so-called Middle Byzantine notation and an example of this notation from our collections was included in the exhibition. This, a *Sticherarion*, contains the hymns for the series of fixed feasts throughout the liturgical year and was the work of one scribe, perhaps writing in the second half of the 13th or the first half of the 14th century. St. John Climacus has left two important treatises, of which the more celebrated is the "Ladder of Paradise", from the Greek title of which his surname is taken. The Library's Greek text of this, which was also on display, dates from 1282. St. John of Damascus was the last of the Greek Fathers and the exhibition closed with copies of his treatise on the Orthodox Faith (12th/13th cent.) and of the romance "Barlaam and Josaphat" (15th cent.) which has been traditionally attributed to him and which enjoyed wide popularity during the Middle Ages.

We are indebted to Dr. David Blamires, Reader in German in the University, for the following note on *Der jüngerere Titirel*, first printed at Strassburg DER JÜNGERE
TITIREL, 1477 by Mentelin in 1477, a copy of which is in our collections:

"For the whole of the Middle Ages and indeed right up to the time of its rediscovery in the Romantic period this expansive, flowery poem was credited to Wolfram von Eschenbach, the author of *Parzival* and *Willehalm*. Wolfram had also written the

beginnings of a third romance dealing with the tragic story of Sigune and her too-sorely tested lover Schionatulander, an elaboration of certain episodes in his own *Parzival*. This was composed in strophic form and consists of no more than 175 such strophes. The work was, and still is, known as *Titurel*, a title that is rather a misnomer since it does not tell the story of Titurel, though his name is the first to be mentioned in the poem. It dates from no later than 1219.¹ This fragmentary romance was the inspiration for one of the most popular German narratives of the late Middle Ages (12 complete manuscripts and 45 fragments are known),² written c. 1270 by a poet who names himself simply "Albrecht" (see the third last stanza of the incunabulum) and who is nowadays identified with Albrecht von Scharfenberg, named by Ulrich F  tterer in his *Buch der Abenteuer* (c. 1473-84) as the author of what we now call *Der j  ngere Titurel* to distinguish it from Wolfram's work.

In 1477 Mentelin printed both Wolfram's *Parzival* and Albrecht's *Der j  ngere Titurel* in handsome folio format. Albrecht's work is divided into forty-one chapters, their titles being listed on the last two pages of the book. Each chapter begins with a large rubricated initial, and there is space before the text for an illustration, which would probably have been a wood-cut, though none was actually printed. Mentelin's print survives in approximately twenty-five copies according to Koppitz, though he does not include the Rylands copy in his list.³ The latter appears to be the only copy in the British Isles.

Albrecht's work was declared "das Haupt ob teutschen Puechen" ("the chief of German books") by the bibliophile P  terich von Reichertshausen in 1462, but from the 16th century it languished in oblivion until it was noted and eulogized by B.J. Docen in 1810.⁴ The first modern edition was produced by K.A. Hahn in 1842, who simply printed *litteratim* the 14th century

¹ Helmut de Boor, *Die h  fische Literatur. Vorbereitung, Bl  te, Ausklang 1170-1250* (Munich, 1953), p. 122.

² See Albrecht von Scharfenberg, *Der j  ngere Titurel*, ed. Werner Wolf, vol. 1 (Berlin, 1955), Introduction.

³ See Hans-Joachim Koppitz, *Studien zur Tradierung der weltlichen mittelhochdeutschen Epik im 15. und beginnenden 16. Jahrhundert* (Munich, 1980), p. 250.

⁴ B.J. Docen, *Erstes Sendschreiben   ber den Titurel, enthaltend: Die Fragmente einer Vor-Eschenbachischen Bearbeitung des Titurel* (Berlin and Leipzig, 1810).

Heidelberg MS. cpg. 383. A critical edition taking account of the whole manuscript tradition is in the process of appearing. So far three volumes have been published (Berlin, 1955, 1964, 1968; *Deutsche Texte des Mittelalters*, vols. XLV, LV, LXI), but the editor, Werner Wolf, died in 1967 without completing his task; one more volume is required.

Albrecht's poem does not commend itself easily to modern taste, but several scholars have attempted a re-evaluation in recent years. M.O'C. Walshe comments: "The work as a whole certainly makes an impression of overburdened pedantry, tortured language and tedious repetition, yet closer inspection reveals that it is in reality neither so dry nor so confused as first appeared, and there are passages of real poetic beauty and deep religious feeling. Perhaps the best, and best known, of these is the very full description of the founding of the Temple of the Graal".⁵

The following is a list of recent Library publications. It consists of reprints of articles which appeared in the latest number of the *Bulletin* (Autumn 1985):

RECENT LIBRARY
PUBLICATIONS

- "Flowers, The Butterfly— and Clandestine Books". By G.G. Barber, B. Litt., M.A., Librarian, The Taylorian Institution, The University of Oxford. 8vo, pp. 23. Price £ 1.30.
- "Linguistic Light From Three Lesser Stars". By N.E. Collinge, M.C., M.A., Ph.D., Mont Follick Professor of Comparative Philology in the University of Manchester. 8vo, pp. 19. Price £ 1.20.
- "'Zukunftsmusik': Some Desirable Lines of Exploration in the New Testament Field". By David Daube, F.B.A., D.C.L., Dr. Jur., Emeritus Professor of Law and Formerly Director of the Robbins Hebraic and Roman Law Collections, University of California at Berkeley. 8vo, pp. 23. Price £ 1.50.
- "Sir Arthur Helps, Gladstone and Disraeli", By John R. De Bruyn, M.A., Ph.D., Professor of English, Lane College, Tennessee. 8vo, pp. 39. Price £ 2.75.
- "The Ethics of Social Protest: John Woolman (1720-1772)". By the Rev. A.O. Dyson, M.A., B.D., D.Phil., Samuel Ferguson Professor of Social and Pastoral Theology in the University of Manchester. 8vo, pp. 20. Price £ 1.20.
- "Unedited Middle English Prose in Rylands Manuscripts". By G.A. Lester, M.A., Ph.D., Lecturer in English in the University of Sheffield. 8vo, pp. 26. Price £ 1.70.

⁵ M. O'C. Walshe, *Medieval German Literature* (London, 1962), p. 203.

- “‘Grace to You and Peace’: The Apostolic Greeting”. By Judith M. Lieu, M.A., Ph.D., Lecturer in Christian Origins and Early Judaism in King’s College, London. 8vo, pp. 18. Price £ 1.20.
- “From Latin to Modern French”. By William Rothwell, M.A., D.U., Emeritus Professor in the University of Manchester. 8vo, pp. 31. Price £ 2.50.
- “Some Manuscripts of Shakespeare’s Sonnets”. By Gary Taylor. 8vo, pp. 37. Price £ 2.75.
- “William Pickering and the Book Trade in the Early Nineteenth Century”. By Bernard Warrington, B.A., A.L.A., Formerly Assistant Librarian in the University of Manchester. 8vo, pp. 20. Price £ 1.20.

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