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NOTES AND NEWS

The Library has recently made the following additions to its earlier printed collections, through Mr. David Riley, the Keeper of Printed Books, and Mr. Graham Moss, an Assistant Librarian:

GABRIEL BIEL:
SEBASTIAN MÜNSTER

“The work of the printer Johann Otmar at Tübingen has until now been represented by a single item in our collections, the *Expositio canonis missae* of Gabriel Biel (c. 1420-95), the philosopher and economist and one of the most distinguished scholastic theologians of the late Middle Ages. His *Sermones*, published in four parts by Otmar between 18 November 1499 and 10 March 1500, were edited after his death by his follower Wendelin Steinbach, who was also responsible for the completion of the 1520 edition of Biel’s celebrated *Collectorium*. Although Goff records the existence of two complete copies of the *Sermones* (B-662), all three copies to be found in the British Library Reference Division are imperfect; the work would appear to be of considerable rarity in this country (BMC iii,703). The volume recently acquired by this Library consists of two sections only, the 114 leaves of Part II (*Sermones de festivitibus B.V.*) followed

by the 136 leaves of Part III (*Sermones de sanctis*); the 8-leaf *Annotatio* of Part III is bound before the text of Part II. The book is in excellent condition, with a contemporary pigskin binding, richly blind-tooled, with diamond-shaped stamps of griffons on the upper cover together with smaller round stamps of trefoils, the lower cover being diapered by intersecting triple fillets with impressions of four large rosettes in the compartments; both brass clasps and catches are in sound condition.

A copy of the definitive Latin edition of the first detailed scientific and popular description of the known world, the *Cosmographiae Universalis Lib. VI* of Sebastian Münster, a work not previously represented on our shelves, has also been purchased. The author was born at Ingelheim in 1489 and, as a distinguished Hebraist and mathematician, taught at Basel from 1536. His supreme effort of geographical study and literature in the Reformation period was first published in Basel in 1544 with *Beschreibung aller Lender* as the title of the German text, and Münster was assisted by over one hundred and twenty collaborators. The first edition sold out at once, and a further seven new editions appeared over the next five years. The engraver Hans Rudolf Manuel Deutsch worked on improving both the individual woodcuts and the entire plan of the illustrations; the Latin and German editions of 1550 were the result, with over 960 woodcuts and nearly 40 large maps and plans, although it is noticeable that there are fewer illustrations for the less thoroughly explored parts of the world, such as southern Africa. The copy under discussion was published by Heinrich Petri of Basel in March 1552 shortly before Münster died of the plague on 23 May 1552. An attractive volume in a contemporary blind-stamped pigskin binding, Burmeister, in his bibliography of Münster, records only one other copy of this edition in public collections in this country."

The *Bulletin* has published many articles dealing with Johnson and his circle, based on our own and allied collections and not least on his association with Mrs. Thrale-Piozzi, an extensive portion of whose correspondence and papers has formed part of the holdings of the Manuscript Department for the past half century. In commemoration of the bicentenary of his death, the Keeper of Manuscripts, Miss G.A. Matheson, and the

SAMUEL JOHNSON:
A BICENTENARY
EXHIBITION

Keeper of Printed Books, Mr. David Riley, have arranged an exhibition of items from their Departments which will be on display in the Lecture Room from August until December. A catalogue of this exhibition may be obtained from the Library at a price of £ 1, including postage, and the Keepers have given some indication of its content in the account which we print below:

“The manuscript items exhibited relate to many aspects of Johnson’s life, to his close friendship with the Thrales, and to Mrs. Thrale-Piozzi’s two publications concerning him, the *Anecdotes* and her edition of the *Letters*.

Among the Johnson letters displayed is the announcement sent to his step-daughter, Lucy Porter, in July 1762 that he had been granted an annual pension of £ 300 by the King. Five years later Johnson’s famous interview with George III took place in the Royal Library at Windsor. His account of the event was reputedly written shortly after it took place, and a copy was sent to his friend Sir James Caldwell. This copy is exhibited. It is, apparently, the only one of Boswell’s five sources for the conversation which has survived. Johnson’s benevolence and concern for those in financial distress is illustrated by two letters. In 1756 he wrote to his friend, the West India merchant John Ryland, requesting his support for a benefit performance at Drury Lane for the blind poetess, Anna Williams. The second letter was written to Johnson by the bookseller Thomas Davies, and concerns a loan of £100 made by Henry Thrale to Davies through Johnson’s good offices, as the letter acknowledges.

Henry Thrale and his wife were introduced to Johnson in 1765, and he quickly became an established member of their household both in Southwark and at Streatham. He made his only tour abroad with them, and Mrs. Thrale’s journal of this visit to France in the Autumn of 1775 is shown. It is a valuable record of the events of their journey and Johnson’s part in them. Johnson’s involvement in the family business affairs is displayed in a deed of September 1777 in which he is named a trustee of one of Mrs. Thrale’s Welsh properties. He was also an executor of Henry Thrale’s will, and his letter to Mrs. Thrale written in May 1781, shortly after her husband’s death, is exhibited. It deals with the negotiations for selling the Southwark brewery, a matter in which he was actively engaged, having helped in its management before the sale.

Mrs. Thrale’s marriage to Gabriel Piozzi in July 1783 ended her

friendship with Johnson and she was in Italy when she received news of his death. A letter of 29 December 1784 is shown in which Samuel Lysons informs her of the death and funeral, and gives news of plans for various Johnson biographies. The publication of Mrs. Piozzi's own work, the *Anecdotes*, is illustrated by this letter and by others, including those from her publisher, Thomas Cadell, and from Sir Lucas Pepys, who helped Lysons supervise the book through the press.

In a fourth showcase are manuscripts relating to the publication in 1788 of her edition of *Letters to and from the late Samuel Johnson*. They include a volume containing holographs and holograph copies of her own letters which appeared in the edition, together with correspondence concerning her efforts to obtain additional Johnson correspondence for the second volume.

We are fortunate in that from our own collections it is possible to display first editions or early association copies of virtually every important publication by or about Johnson. The *Proposals for Printing the History of the Council of Trent*, 1738, is a Johnsonian item which had never been recorded until it was discovered by a former Librarian, Dr. Moses Tyson, in an uncatalogued duplicate in this Library. It was known that Johnson had planned to publish a translation of Sarpi's *Historia* and that the project was never fulfilled, and the *Proposal* itself is mentioned in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for 1738. But no copy had ever been discovered, and, as far as is known, the one displayed is unique. The notice of the projected edition is contained on the first leaf, and a specimen of the first two pages of the text is presented on the second leaf. Perhaps Johnson is most often remembered for his *Dictionary*. The Library has a copy of the first issue of the first edition of the announcement of his intentions in 1747 and this *Plan of a dictionary of the English language* is displayed, together with the first edition of the *Dictionary* itself, 1755, and a number of later eighteenth century editions, including Sir Joshua Reynolds' copy of the fourth edition, 1773, which contains over two hundred and fifty corrections in Johnson's own hand to be incorporated in subsequent editions.

Both Johnson and Boswell published accounts of their celebrated tour of Western Scotland and first editions of both, published in 1775 and 1785 respectively, are shown. No less than three Dublin pirated editions of Johnson's *Journey to the Western*

Islands of Scotland were also published in 1775, and a copy of one of these acquired in 1776 by Edmond Malone, the Shakespearean scholar and exposé of the W.H. Ireland forgeries, is exhibited, showing Malone's extensive annotations correcting some of the many errors in the text. Lord Spencer's own copy of the 1817 edition is also on view; this is one of only two copies printed for him on "special drawing paper" by R. Chapman at the Stanhope Press.

Johnson's poetry is represented by his first published work, a translation into Latin verse of Pope's *Messiah*, 1731, and his last great poem "On the death of Dr. Levet", printed in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for August 1783, as well as by such works as *London* and *The vanity of human wishes*. Boswell's copy of the first edition of Johnson's electioneering pamphlet *The patriot*, 1774, written in support of Henry Thrale, is on display, together with other political tracts, including Johnson's study of the problems of the Falkland Islands, 1771, and *Taxation no tyranny* 1775. Boswell's *Life*, 1791, is probably one of the most famous biographies ever published, and the Library possesses a copy of the first edition in its first state. One book actually owned by Johnson is also displayed, a copy of George Ruggle's play *Ignoramus*, the third edition, 1658, of a drama which was highly successful when first presented at Cambridge in 1615 in the presence of James I".

Recent Library publications consist of reprints of articles from the latest *Bulletin* (Spring 1984) and of a double article from the Autumn 1983 and Spring 1984 numbers:

- "A Checklist of the Correspondence of John and Mary Hawkesworth." By John L. Abbott and Geoffrey J. Finch. 8vo, pp. 30. Price £2.30.
- "Concepts of Sainthood in Fourteenth-Century England". By Jennifer R. Bray, M.A., Birkbeck College, University of London. 8vo, pp. 38. Price £2.50.
- "Paul and 'The Powers That Be'". By F.F. Bruce, M.A., D.D., F.B.A., Emeritus Professor in the University of Manchester. 8vo, pp. 19. Price £1.70.
- "Studies in Samaritan Scribal Practices and Manuscript History, II: The Rate of Writing Samaritan Manuscripts and Scribal Output". By A.D. Crown, M.A., Ph.D., Department of Semitic Studies, University of Sydney. 8vo, pp. 27. Price £2.00.

- "John Ruskin and Illuminated Addresses". By James S. Dearden, Curator, Ruskin Galleries, Bembridge School, Isle of Wight. 8vo, pp. 17. Price £ 1.50.
- "Rousseau, His Publishers and the *Contrat Social*". By R.A. Leigh, C.B.E., Litt.D., F.B.A., Professor of French in the University of Cambridge. 8vo, pp. 24. Price £ 1.70.
- "The Bible And The Call: The Biblical Roots of the Monastic Life". By The Rev. Barnabas Lindars, S.S.F., M.A., D.D., Rylands Professor of Biblical Criticism and Exegesis in the University of Manchester. 8vo, pp. 18. Price £ 1.50.
- "Thomas Hollis (1720-74): The Bibliophile As Libertarian". By P.D. Marshall, M.A., Ph.D., Professor of American History and Institutions in the University of Manchester. 8vo, pp. 18. Price £ 1.50.
- "The Gospel of Matthew and Judaism". By Graham N. Stanton, M.A., B.D., Ph.D., Professor of New Testament Studies in the University of London, King's College. 8vo, pp. 20. Price £ 1.75.

The following reprint comprises articles from the Autumn 1983 and Spring 1984 *Bulletins*:

- "Sir Arthur Helps and the Royal Connection". By John R. DeBruyn, Professor of English, Lane College, Jackson, Tennessee. 8vo, pp. 70. Price £ 4.00.

The following is a list of the public lectures (eighty-third series) which have been arranged for delivery in the University Library Building in Deansgate during the current session 1984-85 at 5.15 p.m.:

THE EIGHTY-THIRD
SERIES OF RYLANDS
PUBLIC LECTURES

- 10 October 1984. "The Sound of the Trumpet: Paul and Eschatology". By The Rev. Barnabas Lindars, Rylands Professor of Biblical Criticism and Exegesis in the University of Manchester.
- 24 October 1984. "The Evolution of the Atlas from 1570 to 1800". By W.C. Brice, Emeritus Professor in the University of Manchester and B.P. Hindle, Lecturer in Geography in the University of Salford. (Arranged in association with the Centenary celebrations of the Manchester Geographical Society).
- 7 November 1984. "Elizabeth Gaskell and the Novel of Local Pride". By Angus Easson, Professor of English in the University of Salford.
- 5 December 1984. "The Church of Jerusalem in the Acts of the Apostles". By F.F. Bruce, Emeritus Professor in the University of Manchester.
- 23 January 1985. "The Ethics of Social Protest: John Woolman (1720-

- 1772)". By The Rev. A.O. Dyson, Professor of Social and Pastoral Theology in the University of Manchester.
- 13 February 1985. "Revision in Shakespeare's Plays". By Stanley Wells, General Editor of The Oxford Shakespeare.
- 13 March 1985. "Suicide and Murder in Paris, 1790-1810". By Richard Cobb, Emeritus Professor in the University of Oxford.
- 1 May 1985. "Linguistic Light from Three Lesser Stars". By N.E. Collinge, Mont Follick Professor of Comparative Philology in the University of Manchester.

In the first half of 1984 the following made valuable gifts to the Library and we welcome this opportunity of expressing GIFTS to them our grateful thanks:

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