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NOTES AND NEWS

The Library has recently acquired a considerable collection of the literary and personal papers of the L. P. HARTLEY, novelist L. P. Hartley, consisting of correspondence, 1895–1972 holograph texts, typescripts and related items. We are indebted to the Keeper of Manuscripts, Miss Glenise A. Matheson, for the following description of them:

The correspondence is extensive, including both letters to Hartley as well as those written by him, the whole dating from 1908 to the year of his death. There are over 700 letters addressed to him between 1925 and 1972, the greater part for the period after 1940. These are from both personal friends and literary contemporaries. In fact, frequently his friendships were with other writers, and among these may be mentioned 31 letters from Dame Edith Sitwell (1941–58), over 80 from her brother Sir Osbert (1935–68) and 21 from Lady Cynthia Asquith (1927–59), in whose anthologies of mysteries and humorous stories some of his early work was published. Letters from contemporary novelists include 19 from Elizabeth Bowen (1945–61), 33 from L. H. Myers (1925–33)

and more than 120 from Clifford Kitchin (1925–67), Hartley's contemporary at Oxford. His own letters in the collection number over 300, and of these almost one third were written to his mother, most of them being juvenile letters from Northdown Hill School and from Harrow (1908–11). Apart from family letters the most substantial group written by Hartley consists of 39 letters (1951–60) to Sir Roderick Meiklejohn, to whom he dedicated *The Hireling*; in these he discusses his novels and his work as lecturer and critic.

The original manuscripts of 13 of Hartley's novels and 44 of his short stories, almost all dating in or after 1947, form the other notable feature of this accession. A number of these contain revisions and differences from the texts as published and there are first or early drafts of short stories, and fragments of novels for which there is no complete text in the collection. The earliest manuscript is of his first short novel, *Simonetta Perkins*, published in 1925 and here given the title "The Secret History of Lavinia Johnstone." The holograph text of *The Go-Between* (1953) is also in the collection, together with scripts and letters relating to the film version made almost 20 years later.

The Library is greatly indebted to Miss Norah Hartley and Mrs Joan Hall for the gift of the greater part of the correspondence described above. We are grateful, too, to the Arts Council for a generous grant which assisted with the purchase of the literary texts. Together these two groups form an important collection relating to one of the most prolific and esteemed of post-war novelists.'

Rylands Latin MS 395, a *Miscellanea* volume of the late fifteenth century, has over the years attracted the attention of a number of scholars, for its manuscript content, its association with the English scribe William Ebesham, and, not least, because it contains one of the three known copies of the *Propositio Johannis Russell*, printed by Caxton. Amongst the varied manuscript pieces is an interesting life of St. Katherine of Alexandria, which has so far escaped particular attention. Miss Jennifer R. Bray of Birkbeck College has forwarded an account of it:

AN
UNPUBLISHED
LIFE OF
ST. KATHERINE
OF ALEXANDRIA

The short prose life of St. Katherine of Alexandria on ff.93^r–94^r of Rylands Latin MS 395¹ appears to be unique. The saint's royal birth, learning, refusal to marry an imperfect mortal and eventual martyrdom are familiar from many recensions, but the placing of the legend explicitly in the history of the conversion of Greece, the form of the attempt to reduce the more extravagant elements of her marriage to Christ, and the missionary role attributed to her, are not.

The life concentrates on the later accretions to the legend, the conversion and marriage, and accords the passion only very summary treatment. This results in the omission of those events with which St. Katherine is habitually associated: the dispute with the philosophers, the breaking of the wheel, the burial by angels on Sinai and the invention of the body. While this concentration is found in MS Advocates 19.3.¹² and BL Additional MS 40143,³ it is atypical of Katherine-legends of English provenance and, in the form it takes here, is not related to any other recension I have seen.

I should like to suggest that this might be a holograph composed for addition to the accompanying material by a very

¹A. I. Doyle, 'The Work of a Late Fifteenth-Century English Scribe, William Ebesham', *Bulletin*, xxxix (1957), 298–325; Robert Fawtier, 'Handlist of Additions to the Collection of Latin Manuscripts in the John Rylands Library 1908–1920', *Bulletin*, vi (1921), 26. The four English entries are listed by Carleton Brown in *A Register of Middle English Religious and Didactic Verse* (Oxford, 1916), i. 455. They appear as numbers 339, 1460, 4163 and 4189 in *The Index of Middle English Verse* by Carleton Brown and Rossell Hope Robbins (New York, 1943). Further references are to be found in: Hope Emily Allen, *Writings ascribed to Richard Rolle, Hermit of Hampole, and Materials for his Biography*, *The Modern Language Association of America, Monograph Series*, iii (New York, 1927), 66, 205 and 218; and Margaret Deanesley, ed., *The Incendium Amoris of Richard Rolle of Hampole* (Manchester, 1915), pp. 33–5.

²Phillipa Hardman, 'A Medieval "Library in Parvo"', *Medium Aevum*, xlvii (1978), 262–73; Auvo Kurvinen, 'The Life of St. Catharine of Alexandria in Middle English Prose', Oxford D.Phil. thesis, 1960, pp. 81–90. The scribe of MS Advocates 19.3.1, ff. 30^r–47^r, expressed the intention of treating the saint's passion, so the omission, or loss, of the usual conclusion to her life cannot be considered the result of lack of interest in her martyrdom.

³J. A. Herbert, 'Two Newly-Found Portions of the Edwardes MS.', *Romania*, xxvi (1907), 89–91; Kurvinen, op. cit. p. 192. The allusive reference to St. Katherine's passion on f. 6^vb is fitting for a verse life in which the emphasis is tenderly mystical, not corporeal.

early owner.¹ This suggestion is supported, but not confirmed, by the similarity in format of the folios in question to the others in the manuscript and by the absence of that textual confusion sometimes perpetrated by copyists. An interest in St. Katherine's conversion and marriage is consistent with one in the mystical and affective devotional works of the fourteenth century, which make up the greater part of the manuscript. The latinity which, apart from the idiosyncratic use of tense and mood, is substantially correct for its period, would not appear to be beyond the authorial ability of one who could read the other articles.

The more curious sections of the narrative are presented below. In these extracts the contractions have been expanded without comment but, while modern punctuation and use of capitals have been imposed, no attempt has been made to regularize the use of *ij* or *u/v*.

Beneath the simple heading *De Sancta Katerina* (f.93^v) the life begins with references to the saint's education and to the circumstances which resulted in her and her parents' being pagan: 'Fides quippe Christiana, que per Pauli et Dionisij predicacionem et doctrinam olim in finibus Grecis creuerat, per Traianum et alios imperatores et tyrannos totaliter destructa fuit et ad ritum paganorum peruersa.'

After the death of her father, Katherine and her mother ruled Greece and Katherine became the object of the matrimonial attentions of many suitors, all of whom she refused, desiring only one who

fuerit in orbe potentissimus et ditissimus, pulcherimus et mundissimus, sapientissimus et mitissimus, et ne per mortem unquam inter nos possit fieri diuorcium. Volo quod sit immortalis. ...

Interea quidam sanctus heremita iuxta fines Grecie in cella sua pro statu ecclesie Deum deuote deprecatur.

Apparuit ei angelus Domini, dicens, 'Vade in Alexandriam Grecie et ex parte Jesu Christi dices Katerine, que preest populo Macedonico, quod tecum huc cum familia simplici et priuata veniat et maritum ad votum ac sponsum inueniet.'

¹Doyle, op. cit. pp. 308–12. Dr Doyle considered this manuscript, 'at least in part' (p. 308), the work of a professional scribe, William Ebesham of Westminster. Ff. 93^r–94^r appear to be in a different hand, but one of the same period, from the rest of the manuscript, including those folios which Dr Doyle has demonstrated are Ebesham's work.

Heremita ait quod tanta domina talem nuncium vilipenderet.

[f.93^v] Angelus inquit: 'Proficiscere sine mora, quod antequam ibi venies in tantum a Deo inspirabitur quod tibi credet et tecum huc veniet et baptismum a te suscipiet et sponsa Christi peculiaris ac pre ceteris specialis merito fiet.'

Igitur vir Dei ad Alexandriam proficiscitur, a virgine Katerina benigne suscipitur et ad secreta colloquia graciose introducitur. Pandet ille diuinum mandatum; fauet illa, concito optans quod fiat opus consummatum. Denique licencia a matre petita alicubi pro re publica diuertendi et cito reuertendi, cum electa familia, sed admodum pauca, iter agreditur, et infra paucos dies ad habitaculum viri Dei prospere venit.

Heremita vere prius ingreditur et in oratorio angelum Dei inuenit dicentem, 'Egredere et dic Katerine quod familia sua foris presteletur, et illa sola ingrediens loqui cum sponso celesti merebitur et sibi, si velit, perhenniter copulari.'

Katherine entered accompanied only by the hermit and was almost overcome by the sight of the Virgin surrounded by denizens of heaven. The Virgin offered her son to Katherine as a husband and he, appearing from beneath his mother's robe in response to the saint's request, agreed to the marriage on condition that she became a Christian and received baptism. When the condition had been fulfilled Katherine repeated her request for the hand of Christ.

Ille . . . anulo matris sue ipsam subarrauit, eam sibi in sponsam copulauit, eique dixit: 'Iam dilecta filia mea et sponsa, ad propria redeas, tecumque duc seruum meum, qui te huc adduxit, qui matrem tuam, te instigante, ad fidem orthodoxam conuertet et baptizabit. Inde vos tres nomen meum per tres Grecie partes populo annuntiabitis et in nomine Trinitatis baptizabitis. Demum vere te sponsam ego sponsum visitabo. . .'

Sicque benedictione Dei et matris sue precepta, virgo cum heremita, nutu Dei, matrem Katerine conuertit, per quos postea tota fere Grecia ad Christum conuertitur.

Et sic Maxencius Imperator ibidem dirigitur vt populum in Christo credentem torqueat, et sic Katerina ad palacium imperatoris adiit ex mera voluntate vt pateretur sine cohercione. Vbi plura passa est tormenta vt patet in legendis et cetera. . . Amen.'

The Rt Revd R. P. C. Hanson, Professor of Historical and Contemporary Theology in the University, writes: ORIGEN

The Centre d'Analyse et de Documentation Patristiques has begun the vast task of producing an Index of all the Biblical quotations and allusions in Patristic Literature. They have reached their third volume, which is devoted wholly to the work of Origen. In this they have set out all the Biblical references in all Origen's

known works, even those most recently discovered (such as the *De Pascha*). With this they have printed a list of all Origen's known works in their most recent editions. This volume is produced by Editions du Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (15, quai Anatole-France, 75700 Paris). If used in conjunction with the *Bibliographie Critique d'Origène* of Professor H. Crouzel, S.J., it will prove a tool of inestimable value in future not only for students of Origen but for anyone doing research on the theology or the hermeneutics of the theologians of the third century, and it confirms the impression that in Patristic scholarship today the French have a lead which is not likely to be soon overtaken by the scholars of any other country.'

The following is a list of recent library publications, consisting of reprints of articles from the latest *Bulletin* (Spring 1981):

RECENT
LIBRARY
PUBLICATIONS

'St. Paul in Macedonia: 3. The Philippian Correspondance.' By F. F. Bruce, MA, DD, FBA, Emeritus Professor in the University of Manchester. 8vo, pp. 25. Price £1.30.

'Beowulf and the Tenth Century'. By W. G. Busse, PhD, and R. Holtei, MA, University of Düsseldorf. 8vo, pp. 45. Price £1.90.

'Samaritan Minuscule Palaeography.' By Alan D. Crown, MA, PhD, Department of Semitic Studies, University of Sydney. (With eight plates.) 8vo, pp. 39. Price £2.50.

'On the Chronological Development and Classification of Decorated Initials in Latin Manuscripts of Tenth-Century Spain.' By Jacques Guilmain, MA, PhD, Professor of Art, State University of New York at Stony Brook. (With five plates.) 8vo, pp. 33. Price £2.30.

'The Domestication of Paul: A Study in the Development of Early Christian Theology.' By the Revd A. T. Hanson, DD, Professor of Theology in the University of Hull. 8vo, pp. 16. Price £1.00.

'The New Look on the Son of Man.' By the Revd Barnabas Lindars, SSF, MA, DD, Rylands Professor of Biblical Criticism and Exegesis in the University of Manchester. 8vo, pp. 26. Price £1.30.

'Thirty Years of Hebrew Literature Under Independence: 1948-1978.' By Eisig Silberschlag, PhD, Center for Middle Eastern Studies, The University of Texas at Austin. 8vo, pp. 20. Price £1.10.

The following is a list of the public lectures (eightieth series) which have been arranged for delivery in the University Library Building in Deansgate during the current session 1981-2 at 5.15 p.m.:

THE EIGHTIETH
SERIES OF
RYLANDS PUBLIC
LECTURES

14 October 1981. 'Christ and Salvation.' By The Revd Barnabas Lindars, Rylands Professor of Biblical Criticism and Exegesis in the University of Manchester.

18 November 1981. "'We shall know by this fellow.'" Prologue and Chorus in Shakespeare.' By D. J. Palmer, Professor of English Literature in the University of Manchester.

9 December 1981. 'The Acts of the Apostles To-day.' by F. F. Bruce, Emeritus Professor in the University of Manchester.

20 January 1982. 'The Religious Policies of Republican Statesmen and Varro's "Antiquitates Rerum Divinarum".' By H. D. Jocelyn, Hulme Professor of Latin in the University of Manchester.

10 February 1982. 'Real and Imaginary Journeys in the Later Middle Ages.' by J. K. Hyde, Professor of Medieval History in the University of Manchester.

10 March 1982. 'Trial and Tribulation: A Study of Mark 13.' By Morna D. Hooker, The Lady Margaret's Professor of Divinity in the University of Cambridge.

5 May 1982. 'The Abbé Coyer and the Chevalier D'Arc.' by F. E. Sutcliffe, Professor of Classical French Literature in the University of Manchester.

In the first half of 1981 the following made valuable gifts to the Library and to them we offer our grateful thanks:

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