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NOTES AND NEWS

IN December the Library acquired the archive of the eminent scientist John Dalton (1766-1844) which had belonged to the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society. The purchase was most generously assisted by grants from the National Science Museum and the City of Manchester and by a further gift from the Friends of the National Libraries. The collection is important both for its scientific content and also for its completeness, for the majority of Dalton's manuscripts were presented to the Society in 1864 by his first biographer and literary executor William Charles Henry. Much was lost when fire destroyed the Society's premises in December 1940, but the surviving archive, although appreciably affected by that fire, remains the most significant collection of Dalton's papers extant and an essential source for any study of his life and his scientific achievement.

JOHN
DALTON
ARCHIVE

The collection consists of over 200 items, of which 75 are holograph. Of these, 40 are scientific manuscripts, including lectures and papers relating to Dalton's discoveries, laboratory notes and meteorological observations. The non-scientific items include 11 letters written by him between 1788 and 1842 to various correspondents, 14 volumes of personal accounts, and papers relating to the Literary and Philosophical Society, of which he was a member from 1794 and President from 1817 until his death. The archive also contains 54 letters received by him between 1812 and 1844 (including 8 from the distinguished

meteorologist Luke Howard), the accounts of the executors of his estate, 1844-5, and a substantial group of papers relating to the Dalton Testimonial Committee, 1833-42.

In 1963 we received from the executors of Lord Egerton of Tatton the gift of a considerable collection of letters and allied documents from his muniments (see BULLETIN, xlv. 276). Mr. Philip Aylett, M.A., formerly a Research Assistant at Tatton and now of this University, was closely connected with the collection and has contributed the following note on our holdings :

THE
EGERTON
MUNIMENTS

“The Egerton family exemplify well those country land-owners who encouraged and were supported by metropolitan men of commerce and who were, in the late eighteenth century, pioneers of improved communications. Among those who advised them was Samuel Hill (1691-1758), a Staffordshire lawyer of financial acumen and strong London connections. Hill, who figures extensively in the Rylands collection, was a brother-in-law of John Egerton (1679-1724) and, as W. H. Chaloner has shown (BULLETIN, xxxii), helped to provide a sound commercial apprenticeship in Europe for John’s sons—John, Samuel and Thomas—on the death of their father. However, the influence of this lawyer, M.P., government office-holder and provider of finance remains to be traced in its entirety.

“The owner of an estate at Shenstone in Staffordshire as well as land in Shropshire, Hill was a useful adviser when John Egerton came to build a new hall at Tatton in 1715. Letters in the collection demonstrate the difficulty of persuading workmen to honour their word, the problems of financing even a small manor house (Hill lent his assistance here), and some of the details of the construction—such as the ‘140 foote of new faisheo’ and ‘new stone dorecase’ erected by John Ingman. Hill had rooms in the Inner Temple, and other papers in the collection relate to his offices as ‘Register’ of the Court of Admiralty and of the Court of Appeals for Prizes, including lists of ships involved in cases. Around the time of the South Sea Bubble he was very active as a seller in the loan market, and it is

no surprise to find here correspondence regarding debtors such as Lord Hillsborough (in 1722) and Lord Oxford (in 1730 and 1734). Hill connected himself with another noble family in 1722, when he married Elizabeth, sister of Philip Dormer Stanhope, who was to become famous as the 4th Earl of Chesterfield. A letter of 1727 shows Chesterfield's wit as well as Hill's value as a negotiator. In this, Chesterfield talks of discussions about a marriage settlement, in which it is clear that Hill has been assisting him. Now, he declares that he will make 'the last attempt myself' to win the unknown lady's hand, and he continues, 'If I succeed, I shall have a great estate with a wife; if I fail I shall have a good estate without one; a wiser man than myself, might possibly prefer the latter; However, I'll be wise enough to be easy with either'. The intimate tone is that of an associate as well as a relative; both Hill and the Egertons were assiduous in developing connections that were as much commercial as they were familial.

"When his wife died while she was in London for George II's coronation in 1727, Hill characteristically turned some of his interests to Cheshire and his nephews. Apart from the trips to the Continent mentioned by Dr. Chaloner, there are letters here suggesting that Hill supported the young Egertons financially during a difficult period in the 1730s, and a letter written in 1755 advising Samuel Egerton (1711-80) to buy a tract of land. It is the variety of Hill's assistance that is interesting, as well as the length of his purse. His purchase of land in Lancashire worth at least £34,000 in the late 1750s, when he was in his late sixties, was no extravagance. At his death in 1758 all the land went to Samuel Egerton, who was well placed to exploit it; the reason was that Hill had bought much of the townships of Hulme and Ordsall—in close proximity to the course of the Duke of Bridgewater's proposed canal from the Worsley coal mines. Hugh Malet (*Bridgewater: The Canal Duke, 1736-1803*, Manchester, 1977) has shown that Egerton was well aware of the Duke's plans, for he was until 1757 his legal guardian.

"The full connection between Samuel Egerton and his young kinsman still needs to be traced, but a small number of papers in the Rylands holdings show that the former was closely

concerned with the disposal of the Duke's pocket borough of Brackley in Northamptonshire as well as with the progress of the canal and His Grace's education. William Tyler, who was in charge of Bridgewater's estate at Ashridge in Hertfordshire, wrote to Egerton that a Mr. Heyton 'is the properest person to be consulted abt. Brackley . . . and in my opinion the less Mr. Kent [a solicitor] meddles there the better, as he can't know much the temper of its inhabitants'.

"The Bridgewater interests were also overseen by Earl Gower and the Duke of Bedford, and it may have been Gower who introduced 'Capability' Brown to Samuel Egerton. Brown writes from Trentham, Gower's seat, in September 1757: 'I have found a gardener that will answer your purpose', and adds that 'The survey of Fisherwick is not come yet'. Fisherwick is near Lichfield in Staffordshire, and Egerton may have been considering a purchase there, not far from his uncle Hill's estate. Certainly Egerton showed an interest in the county, for in 1766 he contributed a large sum to the capital of the Trent and Mersey Canal, a fact noted by J. R. Ward in his *The Finance of Canal Building in Eighteenth Century England* (London, 1974). Nevertheless, Samuel Egerton was able to provide a good inheritance for his successors at Tatton. William Egerton, who became lord of Tatton on his mother's death in 1780, had the money to embark on a major rebuilding of the Hall. But his expenditure was not confined to his house. Many of the large number of accounts and receipts in this collection (over 2000, dating from 1688 to 1785) list payments for various works in the Tatton area, parts of the process of emparking the largely agricultural estate which took place in the early 1780s. There are accounts for labouring work on a large scale—the tearing down of hedges, the mending of roads, the erection of fences—as well as receipts for many seedlings, presumably for park trees."

In previous numbers of the BULLETIN we have published six articles by American scholars relating to Dean Swift, some concerned with a small but interesting collection, now Ryl. English MS. 659, which forms part

A NEW
BOOK FROM
SWIFT'S
LIBRARY

of our Thrale-Piozzi MSS. and contains two items which bear endorsements in the hand of Dr. Johnson. For a forthcoming number we are promised a comprehensive study of Swift's library by two scholars whose researches on him are already well-known, Professor Hermann J. Real and Dr. Heinz J. Vienken of the University of Münster. As a preliminary to this, Professor Real and Dr. Vienken have drawn attention to a new book from his library and we are indebted to them for the following account relating to it :

"While working on the Evelyn manuscripts on deposit in Christ Church Library, Oxford, we have recently come across a *Catalogue of the Library of the Late William Upcott, Esq.*¹ According to this, Upcott, at his death, owned a book that must once have been in Dean Swift's possession, though there are no entries relating to it in either the inventory made of Swift's library in 1715² or the sale catalogue of 1745.³ The item in the *Catalogue* runs :

557 Fréart (R.) Parallele de l'Architecture Antique et de la Moderne, plates. Par. 1702

This volume was presented by the Earl of Corke to Dean Swift.

"I give this Book to Dr. Jonathan Swift, Dean of St. Patrick's Dublin ; in order to constitute him the Director of Architecture in Ireland, especially upon my own Estate in that Kingdom :"

"Corke Burlington." ⁴

¹ London, 1846.

² Cf. T. P. Le Fanu, "Catalogue of Dean Swift's Library in 1715, with an Inventory of his Personal Property in 1742", *Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy*, xxxvii (1927), 263-75.

³ Cf. Harold Williams, *Dean Swift's Library : With a Facsimile of the Original Sale Catalogue* (Cambridge, 1932). Neither has the book surfaced in any of the numerous articles reporting on new findings ; cf. *The Rothschild Library*, 2 vols. (London, repr. 1969 (1954)), II. 623-30 ; John Howard Birss, "A Volume from Swift's Library", *N & Q*, clxiii (1932), 404 ; clxiv (1933), 334 ; clxvi (1934), 295 ; H. Teerink, "A Source-book for 'A Tale of a Tub' from Swift's Own Library", *The Irish Book Lover*, xxxi (1949), 59-62 ; Colin L. McKelvie, "Some Books from Swift's Library", *Hermathena*, cxx (1976), 30-34 ; David Woolley, "Swift's Copy of *Gulliver's Travels* : The Armagh *Gulliver*, Hyde's edition, and Swift's earliest corrections", *The Art of Jonathan Swift*, ed. Clive T. Probyn (London, 1978), pp. 131-78, and in particular his notes.

⁴ Cf. p. 33. Corke Burlington is, of course, Richard Boyle, 3rd Earl of Burlington and 4th Earl of Cork (1695-1753), to whom Pope addressed the fourth of his *Moral Essays* (1731).

"The explanation is fairly simple. Swift received the book from Burlington on 27 June 1726, presumably during his stay with Pope at Twickenham¹ and in Pope's presence ('Witness, A. Pope'), and presented it at a later date to his friend Francis Bindon, the well-known painter of several of Swift's portraits,² as is evident from a manuscript addition :

"Which Book I do hereby give to my Ingenious and worthy friend, Francis Bindon, Esq. hereby delegating him director of Architecture through all Europe."³

"So it is hardly surprising that Fréart's *Parallèle* was included neither in the inventory of 1715 nor in the Faulkner auction catalogue of 1745. In view of Upcott's notorious thefts from the Evelyn library at Wotton,⁴ we should perhaps add that he cannot have taken the Fréart volume of 1702 from the Evelyn collection. Evelyn published his translation of Fréart as early as 1664, and a copy of the *Parallèle de l'Architecture Antique et de la Moderne* was in his library according to the catalogue of 1687.⁵"

The following is a list of recent publications, consisting of reprints of articles which appeared in the latest BULLETIN (Autumn 1979) :

RECENT
LIBRARY
PUBLI-
CATIONS

"The 'Protected Peoples' (Christians and Jews) in Medieval Egypt and Syria." By C. E. Bosworth, M.A., Ph.D., Professor of Arabic Studies in the University of Manchester. 8vo, pp. 26. Price £1.20.

"Problems in Epigraphy and Palaeography : The Nature of the Evidence in Samaritan Sources." By Alan D. Crown, M.A., Ph.D., Department of Semitic Studies, University of Sydney. 8vo, pp. 24. Price 90p.

"Right Rejoicing : Sermons on the Occasion of the Stuart Restoration, 1660." By Carolyn A. Edie, Professor of History

¹ Cf. *The Correspondence of Jonathan Swift*, ed. Harold Williams, III. 1724-1731 (Oxford, 1965), p. 136, n. 1.

² Cf. op. cit. V, pp. 82, n. 2, 143-4 and n., 183 and n.

³ Cf. p. 33.

⁴ Cf. W. G. Hiscock, "John Evelyn's Library at Christ Church", *TLS*, 6 April 1951, p. 220.

⁵ Cf. Geoffrey Keynes, *John Evelyn : A Study in Bibliophily with a Bibliography of his Writings*, 2nd ed. (Oxford, 1968), pp. 166-72.

in the University of Illinois at Chicago Circle. 8vo, pp. 26. Price £1.10.

"The Significance of the Doctrine of the Last Things for Christian Belief." By R. P. C. Hanson, M.A., D.D., M.R.I.A., Professor of Historical and Contemporary Theology in the University of Manchester. 8vo, pp. 17. Price 85p.

"Polemics Against Manichaeism As a Subversive Cult in Sung China (A.D. c. 960-c. 1200)." By Samuel N. C. Lieu, Lecturer in Classical Civilization at the University of Warwick. 8vo, pp. 36. Price £1.20.

"Manchester and the American Revolution." By Peter Marshall, M.A., Ph.D., Professor of American History and Institutions in the University of Manchester. 8vo, pp. 19. Price 80p.

"The Lyrical Structure of Goethe's Second 'Wandrer's Nachtlied'." By Ronald Peacock, M.A., D.Phil., Litt.D., D.Litt., Emeritus Professor of German in the University of London. 8vo, pp. 20. Price 80p.

"The Inquisition and the Jews of Venice: The Case of Gaspare Ribeiro, 1580-1581." By B. S. Pullan, M.A., Ph.D., Professor of Modern History in the University of Manchester. 8vo, pp. 25. Price £1.20.

"Effie Ruskin and Pauline Trevelyan: Letters to Ruskin's 'Monitress-Friend'." By Raleigh Trevelyan. 8vo, pp. 27. Price £1.20.

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