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OF
THE JOHN RYLANDS LIBRARY
VOLUME 37
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RULES AND REGULATIONS

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    EDWARD ROBERTSON.

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The general public are admitted to view the Library on Tuesday and Friday afternoons between the hours of two and five. Visitors to Manchester from a distance, at any other time when the Library is open, will be admitted for the same purpose upon application to the Librarian.
NOTES AND NEWS

THIS year the Faculty of Theology of Manchester University celebrates its fiftieth anniversary. We welcome this opportunity of offering our congratulations and our best wishes for its future. At our request Professor T. W. Manson, Rylands Professor of Biblical Criticism and Exegesis in the University and for many years Dean of the Faculty, has kindly contributed a note on its development and work during those fruitful years.

"1954 sees the completion of the first fifty years of the life of the Faculty of Theology in Manchester University. Its foundation was not achieved without considerable hesitations and some opposition, but it had strong and enthusiastic supporters from the outset and it was greatly helped by the benefactions of Mrs. Rylands, who founded the Rylands Chair of Biblical Criticism and Exegesis and during her lifetime contributed generously to the maintenance of the professorship of Comparative Religion.

"The work of the Faculty has always been shared between the University and the Theological Colleges and the co-operation has been both happy and fruitful. In the past the Colleges have supplied the bulk of the students and not a few of the Faculty's most eminent teachers. In recent years there has been considerable expansion of the teaching staff on the University side and this has been of great advantage to the Colleges.

"When the Faculty first began, its main teaching function was the preparation of candidates for the ministry of the various denominations. In recent years a new function has been added
through the new importance given to the teaching of Religious Knowledge in the schools. A fair number of students are now taking theological courses with a view to becoming Scripture specialists in the schools of the country.

"Another interesting and encouraging feature of the work is the number of students, including both our own graduates and graduates from abroad, who come to work for higher degrees by research.

"At the beginning of its second fifty years the Faculty finds itself more completely equipped than at any time in its history and with growing demands upon its resources. It has now ample means and opportunity to do further good work in the years ahead."

In connection with the anniversary three special lectures were delivered in the University Building. On 3 February the Rev. Canon L. W. Grensted, formerly Nolloth Professor of the Philosophy of the Christian Religion at Oxford, dealt with "The Changing Background of Theological Studies". On 16 March the Rev. L. E. Browne, Professor of Theology in the University of Leeds, spoke on "The Value of the Comparative Study of Religions", and on 28 April Professor C. H. Dodd, formerly Rylands Professor of Biblical Criticism and Exegesis at Manchester and Norris-Hulse Professor of Divinity at Cambridge, discussed "The Dialogue-Form in the Gospels". We have pleasure in printing the text of all three lectures below. After their appearance in the pages of the BULLETIN they will be reprinted together and issued as a separate volume, with an introduction by Professor Manson.

With the generous aid of the Pilgrim Trust, the Friends of the National Libraries and private donations the GASTER CASTER Library has been able to acquire a collection of MSS. Hebrew and Samaritan manuscripts assembled by the late Dr. Moses Gaster. This is the most important collection of manuscripts to come to the Library for many years.

Dr. Moses Gaster, Rumanian by birth, was forced to leave Rumania in 1885 as a victim of persecution and took refuge in
England. He became Chief Rabbi (Hakham) of the Sephardic Communities of British Jews in 1886, and continued in that office till he retired in 1919. He was, too, for a period (1890-6) head of the Montefiore College, Ramsgate. A distinguished scholar with a long list of publications to his name, his interests ranged from the Hebrew prayer book, the minutiae of Hebrew text study, and apocryphal Hebrew literature to Jewish amulets and Rumanian folklore. He made a special study of the Samaritans and became a recognized authority on their language and literature.

One of the great interests of Dr. Caster's life was the collection of manuscripts. Although the age-long hostility between Jew and Samaritan has persisted into modern times, Dr. Caster visited Nablus, the headquarters of this tiny but intensely fanatical community, and induced them to part with manuscripts covering the whole range of their literature. Where he could not secure the originals he had copies made for him by Samaritan priests. In consequence, in his collection of Samaritan manuscripts, to the number of over 300, every phase of their literature is represented. Materials for a complete study of the Samaritan religion and its beliefs and practices are here to be found. Several manuscripts are unique and many more very rare. The codices of the Pentateuch are particularly fine, being written in a clear beautiful hand. In addition to complete texts there are portions of early Pentateuchs of great interest. Bi-glot (Samaritan-Hebrew and Arabic) and even tri-glot (Samaritan-Hebrew, Samaritan-Aramaic and Arabic) are included, all usually written in Samaritan characters. In addition to a complete range of liturgical texts, there are varying forms of the Samaritan Targum (Aramaic translation) and in one manuscript two differing Targums are given. The collection includes a considerable number of astronomical tables and data used in the compilation of the calendar, as well as prayers and hymns for all occasions, chronicles, commentaries, genealogies and lists of patriarchs and high priests, polemical, mystical, and hermeneutical treatises in Samaritan-Hebrew or Arabic, formularies, letters, marriage contracts and divorces, amulets, etc.
The manuscripts are in general beautifully written, amongst them being a very fine copy of the *Kitāb al-Ṭabākh* (the Book of the Cook), a famous Samaritan theological manual dealing with a variety of subjects of ritual, polemical, exegetical and medical interest. There are many other texts of miscellaneous content.

The John Rylands Library had already in its possession a small but valuable group of Samaritan manuscripts which came to it with the Crawford Collection. With the extensive and important addition of the Gaster manuscripts it now has a Samaritan collection of outstanding importance.

In the Hebrew section of some 350 manuscripts there is an equally wide range of interest. The manuscripts are drawn from a very wide area, a feature being the considerable number emanating from Yemen. But Spain, France, Germany, Belgium, Poland, Rumania, Italy (Corfu) and Morocco are also represented. Amongst the manuscripts are sixteen scrolls (one on gazelle skin), all finely written. Thirteen are scrolls of the Law, and most of them are from Yemen or Morocco. The prayer-books of many Jewish communities, apocryphal writings, commentaries, treatises, letters, marriage contracts (the earliest, 1663), divorces, piyyūṭim (hymns added to the service on special occasions), letters, etc., etc., are included. One interesting item is a collection of eighteen volumes of varying size containing autographs, or copies, from the writings, speeches, sermons, etc., of prominent representatives of Hasidism (a pietistic movement with great influence on Jewry), all dating from its early days and all apparently hitherto unpublished.

But whilst the Hebrew scholar will find much of interest in the collection as a whole, the real treasure for him lies in the Cairo Genizah fragments which Dr. Gaster was far-seeing enough to purchase towards the end of last century when they were available. The genizah was a repository attached to a synagogue in which cast-off volumes and documents were deposited. The Jews feared the profanation involved in the destruction of any writings which might contain the name of God, and would not in
consequence destroy them. The most famous Genizah is that of the very ancient Synagogue of Elijah in Old Cairo. Its accumulated contents, after vicissitudes of fortune which reduced them largely to fragmentary form, were rescued, brought to Europe towards the end of last century and found their way into great Libraries there as well as in America. The best known collection of Genizah fragments is the extensive Taylor-Shechter collection in Cambridge University Library, which has yielded and continues to yield so much of value to Hebrew scholars. With the Gaster collection has come to the Rylands Library a new mass of Genizah fragments from which much can also be expected. The acquisition of the Gaster Hebrew and Samaritan manuscripts has strengthened greatly the Library's holdings in departments which were relatively weak.

In addition to the Hebrew and Samaritan manuscripts which were acquired by purchase, the Library has received from the Gaster family a generous donation of a further 123 codices from the collection brought together by the late Dr. Gaster. These, which form the remaining portion of his manuscripts, are varied both in date and in content. They include volumes in some nineteen different languages, Western and Near Eastern, of which the most fully represented are Arabic, Greek and English: among other language groups which occur are Latin, German, Flemish, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Rumanian, Bulgarian, Persian, Turkish and Ethiopic. As might be expected, a considerable number of items relate to the Jews and their history, but Dr. Gaster's interests were wide and it is hardly possible in a brief note fully to indicate the scope of this donation. The Arabic manuscripts, twenty in number, are mainly theological and grammatical in nature; they include several copies of the Qur'an, of which two of the finest are from Morocco. Among the twenty-eight Greek codices are service books (four with musical notation), philosophical, theological and medical works, and collections of miscellaneous treatises of various dates. The English group consists for the most part of translations, mainly from Spanish and Portuguese works dealing
with Jewish history. The German group contains a description, in seven volumes, of a Jewish colony in Samaria. Of the two Persian manuscripts one is an astronomical treatise (sixteenth-seventeenth century), the other a beautifully written version of *Kalilah wa-Dimnah*. A number of Slavonic and Ethiopic service books also occur, while the solitary Latin manuscript is a well executed fifteenth-century vellum scroll containing the biblical history variously attributed to Peter Comestor or Peter of Poitiers.

In May of last year the Library received from Viscountess Ashbrook of Arley Hall, Cheshire, a valuable deposit of some 12,000 documents from the Warburton Muniments. A brief account of this accession was printed in a previous number of the *Bulletin* (vol. 36, no. 1, September 1953). Two further important additions have since been made by Viscountess Ashbrook to her family muniments. The first comprises some 800 items dating from the twelfth to the eighteenth century and includes the Arley Charters, a collection notable among the records of old Cheshire families. The Arley Charters consist of muniments of title relating to the Dutton and Warburton families and county Chester, a smaller group of Yorkshire documents, mainly concerning Beverley, and a number of early wills, appointments and receipts of various members of the Warburton family. They are particularly rich in fine twelfth and thirteenth century documents. The earliest, which may be assigned to about 1170, concern the Duttons, from a branch of whose family the Warburtons are descended, Peter de Dutton having assumed the name of Warburton about 1300. In addition to the early deeds, some of which are monastic, the collection is of value for its seals, among them being twelfth-century seals of Constables of Chester, seals of the Prior and Convent of Norton, and a Statute Merchant Recognizance Seal of Chester of 1359. The second addition made by Viscountess Ashbrook consists of well over 500 records of various kinds relating to the navigation of the River Weaver, acknowledged to be the largest collection on this
subject in private hands. The bulk consists of correspondence of Sir Peter Warburton in the 1750s and 1760s, but also included are accounts of the Winsford salt works, barges and wharves from 1734 to 1752, copies of the Minutes of the Navigation Commissioners and Trustees from 1757 to 1761 and from 1765 to 1766, and printed Acts of Parliament and pamphlets relating to the Weaver. The whole collection forms a most welcome and valuable addition to the already extensive materials housed in the Library’s Charter Rooms.

During the first six months of 1954 the major part of the book-fund has been used for the purchase of modern books required to keep the Library’s collections up-to-date. The surplus available for rare books has been small but it has been possible to add a number of English seventeenth-century imprints. The only STC item (no. 20344) is “Castigatio Cvivsdam Circvla- toris”, by Bishop Prideaux, printed at Oxford by John Barnes in 1614, but about twenty books printed between 1641 and 1700 have been acquired. Among the more interesting are Creech’s translation of “The idylliums of Theocritus”, 1684 (Wing T 855); Citri de La Guette, “History of the triumvirate. Translated by Thomas Otway”, 1686 (C 4345); Jean Dumont, baron de Carlsroon, “A new voyage to the Levant”, 1696 (D 2526); and Robert Hall (a pseudonym of Peter Heylyn). “ἩΡΩΛΟΛΟΓΙΑ Anglorum”, 1641 (H 1713). Additions to our collection of seventeenth-century theologians include Jeremy Taylor, “Opus- cula”, 1678 (T 356), and Anthony Horneck, “The great law of consideration”, 1677 (H 2833), a work so popular that eleven editions were issued within fifty years. Horneck, a German protestant who settled in England at the age of twenty-four, speedily gained a considerable reputation, and, as preacher at the Savoy, his sermons drew such congregations that it was said “his parish extended from Whitechapel to Whitehall”.

An important addition has been made to the Library’s collection of Quaker literature, already considerable. This consists of sixty-one volumes which formed part of the library
of Quaker literature belonging to Mr. E. Mitford Abraham at Swarthmoor Hall, near Ulverston, formerly the home of Margaret Fell, who became the wife of George Fox. Mr. Abraham, a descendant of Margaret Fell, has recently disposed of the Hall to the Society of Friends, and has, in consequence, broken up his library. Among the books which the Library was able to purchase are a number of items important in the history of Quakerism. To George Fox's "Journal, vol. 1", which came to the Library by gift many years ago, has now been added the second volume, which contains "The Epistles", printed in 1692 (Wing F 1764). Among works of other famous seventeenth-century Quakers may be mentioned "The memorable works of George Burroughs", 1672 (Wing B 5980), Francis Howgill, "The dawning of the gospel-day", 1676 (Wing H 3157), and Richard Hubberthorn, "The immediate call to the ministry", 1654 (Wing H 3225). The remainder of the group includes many biographical works relating to outstanding Quakers of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries both in this country and in the United States.

The great outpouring from the press of this country in the mid-seventeenth century both in the Royalist cause and in that of its opponents is well known, and the Library possesses a fine collection of Civil War Tracts, which was considerably strengthened, some years ago, by the deposit here by the Earl of Crawford of the English pamphlets from the Bibliotheca Lindesiana. It is not surprising that the analogous political situation in France at the same period resulted in a parallel use of the press. The repressive policy of the Queen Regent and her adviser, Cardinal Mazarin, first against members of the Parlement de Paris and later against certain great nobles, led to the Civil wars known as the Fronde, in which both sides made great use of the political pamphlet to further their ends. To these tracts, frequently scurrilous, was given the name of "Mazarinades", and Charles Moreau, who compiled a bibliography of the subject extending to three volumes, lists some 4,500 items. From a Parisian bookseller the Library has recently acquired a collection, formed in the seventeenth century, of political pamphlets published in France between 1649 and
1660. It consists of 1,136 separate items, bound shortly after their appearance in fourteen volumes and lettered "Pièces du temps". The later volumes include a number of rare official documents, but for the most part the contents belong to the class of "Mazarinades". It will be seen, therefore, that the collection contains nearly a quarter of all the tracts of this kind known, and includes many described by Moreau as "rare", "très rare" and "rarissime", as well as over twenty which were unknown to him. On France, in its troubled state, the execution of Charles I naturally made a deep impression, and many tracts deal with that subject and with other aspects of the political situation in England. One, "Avis à la Reyne d'Angleterre et à la France", is described by Moreau as "Pamphlet le plus audacieux de la Fronde". An interesting feature of the collection is a large number of portraits of political figures of the time which the seventeenth century collector has inserted. These pamphlets, dealing with every phase of politics during the Fronde, form invaluable material for the student of French history of the period.

Another interesting acquisition is a group of Scottish chapbooks which strengthens considerably the Library's collection of literature of this type, hitherto somewhat meagre. It consists of 213 items, bound in three volumes, brought together by Charles Kirkpatrick Sharpe, antiquary and authority on Scottish ballad literature, who was contemporary with the hawkers who peddled these books around the countryside. They were all produced in the early years of the last century, and although many were, as might be expected, printed in Edinburgh and Glasgow, the majority were the work of presses in Stirling, Falkirk and Kilmarnock. All are in verse and most consist of eight pages only, but some are anthologies running to sixty pages or more designed to sell for a copper or two, of which "The Nightingale, a collection of choice songs, from Burns, Ramsay, &c.", Falkirk, [18--], is typical. The contents of the smaller publications range from the crudest popular verse to the finest lyrics of Burns. One contains a collection of poems on Robin Hood, others the stories of famous battles such as Preston Pans and Colines, while the last item of a collection of "Humorous poems", Glasgow, 1821,
is "The Battle of Blenheim". Since chapbooks were intended to appeal to the popular market it is interesting to see how large a proportion of them contained poetry of a high standard.

The Library continues to benefit greatly from the generosity of individuals and institutions at home and abroad. Among the more considerable gifts received from institutions may be mentioned those of the Trustees of the British Museum, the National Register of Archives, the Istituto Italiano per gli Studi Storici, the Academy of Sciences, Leningrad, and the Universities of Beirut, Copenhagen, Edinburgh and Louvain. Personal gifts include many books of interest, notably "The history of the city and state of Geneva... By Isaac Spon", 1687 (Wing S 5017), among books from Mr. Edmund G. L. Mosley; important local items from Mr. W. E. Mason, the City Treasurer of Manchester, and from Mrs. I. Ross; and, from Mrs. Estelle Doheny, a finely produced catalogue of an exhibition of her collection of rare Bibles, now housed in St. John's Seminary, Camarillo, California. To Dr. Francis Neilson the Library is again indebted for author's copies of his own work, and to Señor E. Carlos de Hostos for editions of the works of his father. An interesting and unusual volume presented, in memory of his sister Pauline Rosenberg, by Mr. Mitchell Wansker, is "The Story of the Creation, in Hebrew", with illustrations by the well-known contemporary artist, Alva, produced by the method of printing through silk known as serigraph, in a limited edition of sixty copies.

In March two collections of great importance were added to the Library by the bequest of the late Mr. Charles F. Sixsmith of Adlington, near Chorley, of his books by and relating to Walt Whitman and Edward Carpenter. Mr. Sixsmith, as a young man, joined the group of Bolton enthusiasts who recognised the importance of Whitman as a poet and thinker, and throughout his life he devoted much care and thought to the development of his collection of Whitmaniana. Among the fifty-seven editions of works by Whitman in his possession were twenty-two editions of "Leaves of grass", including a copy of the first edition
NOTES AND NEWS

(second impression), published in Brooklyn in 1855. Other first editions in the collection are "Democratic vistas", Washington, 1871, in its original green paper wrappers, and "After all, not to create only", Boston, 1871. Of the 100 works on Whitman some are in limited editions, while others are presentation copies from the authors to Charles Sixsmith himself, to Mrs. Sixsmith, or to Edward Carpenter. The bequest, which also contains a large collection of newspaper cuttings, will be of the greatest value to every student of the poet.

Sixsmith's friendship with Edward Carpenter extended over many years and his interest in his work resulted in the formation of a fine collection. There are seventy editions of works by Carpenter, sixteen of which are signed copies presented to Sixsmith or to Mrs. Sixsmith. The number of books on Carpenter is not large, but a group of works by Henry S. Salt and other associates of the philosopher forms an interesting pendant to the collection. Sixsmith destroyed nothing which came his way relating to his friend and many hundreds of cuttings from newspapers and periodicals form a valuable part of the material under review. They include not only critical articles, reviews of his books, reports of his lectures and obituary notices, but also cuttings of many of his poems and addresses which first appeared in this form. It is probable that no finer collection exists outside Sheffield City Libraries, where Carpenter's own papers and books are preserved.

In the previous number of the BULLETIN (vol. 36, no. 2, March 1954), Mr. A. R. Myers, Lecturer in SOME Medieval History in the University of Liverpool, edited certain provisions, hitherto unpublished, for regulating the household of King Henry VI. The copy which he printed was discovered among the Burghley Papers in the British Museum and appeared to be the only one which had survived. Earlier evidence of these same ordinances has since come to light and we are indebted to Mr. Myers for the following note drawing attention to it:

"The household ordinances of Henry VI printed in the preceding number of this BULLETIN were discovered in the
Elizabethan copy now contained in Lansdowne MS. 1. When the article was already in the press Mr. H. C. Johnson of the Public Record Office kindly drew my attention to some household ordinances of Henry VI to be found in Chancery Miscellanea 3/36. On inspection this document proved to be an incomplete version, if not of the original, at least of a contemporary copy of these ordinances of 23 Henry VI. It is now in a fragmentary state. Only four membranes of the roll are left, the opening and concluding ones having been lost, and the writing of what remains has in many places had to be revived by chemicals. Enough still exists, however, to show the very dependable character of the copy in Lansdowne MS. 1. The Chancery Miscellanea 3/36 copy starts, in its present incomplete state, with the sentence 'Also that the marshall of the halle suffre no lord ne other persone . . . .' which in the Lansdowne MS. copy begins the fourth paragraph. The Chancery Miscellanea 3/36 copy ends with the sentence which in the Lansdowne MS. version concludes the narrative part of the ordinances ('And if any officer abouesaid . . . kynges hous foreuer'), thus omitting all the lists of personnel entitled to bouche of court.

"The extant parts of the fifteenth century copy correspond closely to the corresponding paragraphs in Lansdowne MS. 1, except for minor variations of spelling. The only important difference is the order of five paragraphs. All those which appear on fol. 88a of Lansdowne MS. 1 (ante, vol. 36, pp. 458-9) except the first (which begins 'Also, that all the huntyys . . . ') are placed earlier, in the same order, in the fifteenth century version, after the paragraph 'Also, that no lord, knyght, ne squier, ne noon othir persone . . . there good rule and abylite'. But this does not seem to be a discrepancy of any significance, for in Chancery Miscellanea 3/36 these five paragraphs are written on a separate membrane, shorter than the others; and it looks as though the difference in order may well be due simply to the repair of the document. In the course of centuries the membranes have come apart, and some of them have been lost. When the document reached the care of the Public Record Office and the staff came to fasten together the four membranes which remained, there was nothing in the text
to show what the order should be; and it looks as though the membrane with the five paragraphs in question was inserted at the wrong place.

"On the dorse of Chancery Miscellanea 3/36 are the words 'Peticio parliamenti a° 23 H. VI'; and though these are written in a later hand, they give additional weight to the view (ante, vol. 36, pp. 449-50) that these ordinances belong to the year 1445 and not to 1458. The evidence of Chancery Miscellanea 3/36, therefore, not only supports the authenticity of the ordinances and confirms the accuracy of the Lansdowne MS. 1 version but also clarifies their date."

Among the Althorp collection which the Library acquired from Earl Spencer in 1892 was a fourth edition (1793) of "The Plays of William Shakespeare in Fifteen Volumes" by Dr. Johnson and George Steevens, the Shakespeare commentator. This set has an additional value in that it belonged to Steevens himself who, "in compliance with the modern custom of decorating a single work at the expense of many others", enriched it by the insertion of some thousands of engravings, many of considerable rarity. During a recent examination of these, the Rev. W. M. Merchant of University College, Cardiff, who is making a special study of Shakespeare illustration, discovered a Coriolanus plate of particular interest, together with a note by Steevens relating to it. In the account which follows Mr. Merchant discusses this plate and Steevens' comments on it.

"In 1766 George Steevens published a collection of Shakespeare quartos, followed in 1773 by a complete Shakespeare with notes by Samuel Johnson. This ten-volume edition was reissued in 1793 and the John Rylands Library possesses Steevens's own grangerized set in which there are notes in his hand on blank pages in the first volume. They contain the pleasant effrontery of some derogatory comments on grangerized copies but in addition they have brief judgments of the utmost importance in the history of Shakespeare illustration. Steevens had decided
to select his extra-illustrated material exclusively from portraiture, but he makes one exception:

From the following series of Plates, all ideal and theatrical representations were meant to be excluded. The cuts, however, to Rowe's edition of Shakespeare are here introduced, as they are the first efforts of the pencil towards the ornament of our Author, & serve at least to ascertain the mode in which the characters were dressed about the year 1709; for by such of his plays as were then on the stage, it is clear that the draughtsman conducted his designs for all the rest.

A single departure from this practice may be observed; as the frontispiece to the third scene of the fifth act of Coriolanus is unsuitable to that drama, being a mere copy of some engraving from the well-known picture of Nicholas Poussin on the same subject differently treated.

To many points in this note we must return, but first a disputable statement in the succeeding note needs examination:

The plates were both designed and executed by Edward Kirkall. . . . He appears to have been constantly employed by the Tonsons, and to have entertained no higher ideas of Macbeth and Hamlet than he had caught from their usual representatives, Messieurs Mills and Wilks. The original of her Danish Majesty will be found in any common portrait of Queen Anne.

This has some errors; the artist's name was Elisha, and not Edward, Kirkall, though in this error Steevens is in the company of Horace Walpole and Redgrave. It is true that he was employed by Tonson for some years, but the plates in the Shakespeare of 1709 are unsigned, with the exception of the frontispiece by Van der Gucht; and the President of Magdalen College, Oxford, has shown that probably only some nine of the plates are by Kirkall ¹ though the Coriolanus may be added to the list. That Kirkall used a Poussin composition without acknowledgement is not surprising, for he was one of the earliest to pirate Hogarth's engravings and this Coriolanus is a quite skilful adaptation. Poussin had used the story of Coriolanus in two studies: one is a drawing of a battle scene, now in the Royal Library at Windsor (no. 11891); the more important, from which Kirkall's frontispiece is taken, is at the Musée Poussin at Les Andelys ² and (a basis for Steevens's supposition that

¹ T. S. R. Boase, "Illustration of Shakespeare's Plays in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries" in The Journal of the Warburg and Courtauld Institutes, x (1947), 83-108, the most important single contribution to the history of Shakespeare illustration.

² I have not been able to examine the original but through the courtesy of the curator of the Musée Poussin I have been able to compare the Kirkall with an excellent photograph.
Kirkall followed 'some engraving'), it was reproduced three times, by Audran, Baudet and Picart.¹

"Steevens condemns this frontispiece as unsuitable to illustrate the play's fifth act; indeed, Poussin's interpretation is radically different from Shakespeare's and Kirkall follows the former. Poussin's treatment of this subject, from his later period, after his return to Rome in 1642, fulfils Professor Blunt's description of the religious subjects of his last two decades as 'those which admit of more dramatic or psychological interpretation'. Of the classical pictures, including Coriolanus, he says: 'In all these he expounds moral themes in accordance with Stoical philosophy, all variations on the central problem of the victory of the will over the passions.'²

"In this painting Coriolanus is about to sheathe his sword in response to the appeal of his mother, his wife and son, and the Roman women. Poussin has united the varied emotional appeal of the women, who stand and kneel in a close oval group, with the succeeding tension of Coriolanus's tragic decision, which at this complex moment appears an act of piety. This corresponds to Plutarch's words, which Shakespeare renders:

You have wonne a happy Victory to Rome.
But for your Sonne, beleve it: Oh beleve it,
Most dangerously you have with him prevail'd,
If not most mortall to him.

In fact, however, Shakespeare's emphasis in these scenes differs from Poussin's and a hint of the difference is found in North's Plutarch. Half way through the women's pleading, Coriolanus speaks to his mother:

CORIO. : . . . I have sate too long.
VOLUM. : Nay, go not from us thus.

¹ John Smith, A Catalogue Raisonné of . . . the most Eminent Dutch, Flemish and French Painters, 1837, part 8, p. 173. The Picart engraving only is in the Brit. Mus. Print Room; it is inscribed: "N. Poussin pinx. B. Picart sculp. dixit 1720". It was thus engraved eleven years after Kirkall's frontispiece and is a far more competent work.

In the next scene (Act V. sc. iv) Menenius comments on Coriolanus's temper:

He sits in his State as a thing made for Alexander. What he bids bee done, is finisht with his bidding. He wants nothing of a God but Eternity, and a Heaven to Throne in.

The suggestion for this is found in North's passage:

For at their coming, they were brought through the camp, to the place where he was set in his chair of state, with a marvellous and an unspeakable majesty.

Shakespeare's intention, with this reiteration of 'sate', 'sits', 'set', is clear: a canopied throne of state on a footpace, with the supplicating women grouped down-stage. Indeed, this tradition persisted in other plays in the theatre and may be seen even in Rowe's edition which we are considering. But the attraction of Poussin's painting was too great for Kirkall and he followed the painter in using a landscape and not an interior setting of state. He faced the problem of transforming a horizontal composition into an octavo frontispiece by adopting Poussin's drawn sword as a strong diagonal dividing Coriolanus and the Volscians from the women. For Poussin's broad oval composition, into which the varied dramatic gestures fall, Kirkall substitutes two triangular groups, omitting inconvenient figures on the left. This tension across the line of the sword is dramatically effective in spite of the crude stiffness of the drawing, though it has destroyed the integrity of the original composition. Kirkall uses some deft tricks to emphasize his vertical drawing: the horizon is raised and the distant buildings given prominence; Volumnia is increased in stature and on the right a Volscian spear establishes the high triangle, while an inconspicuous shield in Poussin's work is taken out to the extreme left and its long axis used as part of the vertical frame. In short, the change from Poussin, though the work of a hack, is crudely effective."

1 Cf. Measure in vol. i, L.L.L. and Merchant in vol. ii, W.T. (with "state" at stage left) in vol. iii and a very elaborate chair of state in the apocryphal Thomas Lord Cromwell in vol. ix.
The following is a list of the public lectures (fifty-third series) which have been arranged for delivery in the Lecture Hall of the Library during the current session 1954-5 at 3 p.m. in the afternoon.

13 October 1954. "Browning's Priests and Parsons." By H. B. Charlton, Professor of English Language and Literature in the University of Manchester.

10 November 1954. "The Lord’s Prayer." By T. W. Manson, Rylands Professor of Biblical Criticism and Exegesis in the University of Manchester.


12 January 1955. "'Aeneas Ilium in Italian Portans'—a short study of Virgil, Aeneid iii." By W. H. Semple, Hulme Professor of Latin in the University of Manchester.


11 May 1955. "The Eve of Magna Carta." By C. R. Cheney, Professor of Medieval History in the University of Manchester.

The following is a list of recent Library publications, consisting of reprints of articles which appeared in the previous issue of the Bulletin (March 1954):

"The Influence of the Lombard Invasions on the Gregorian Sacramentary." By Henry Ashworth, O.S.B., of Quarr Abbey, Isle of Wight. 8vo, pp. 23. Price three shillings net.

"Some Unnoticed Aspects of the Emperor Henry VI's Conquest of the Norman Kingdom of Sicily." By Dione R. Clementi, Assistant Lecturer in History in the University of Manchester. 8vo, pp. 32. With plate. Price three shillings net.


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