



Central panel from one leaf of an ivory book-cover.  
6th cent. In the John Rylands Library.

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NOTES AND NEWS

**A**PART from its collection of medieval jewelled and other bindings containing manuscripts, which are described at length in Dr. M. R. James's *Catalogue of the Latin Manuscripts in the John Rylands Library* (1921), the Library possesses a number of unattached ivories and Limoges enamels from medieval bookcovers. One of the earliest of these, a sixth century ivory, probably of Egyptian or Syrio-Mesopotamian origin, which originally formed the central panel of the front leaf of one such cover, is illustrated as the frontispiece to this number. It was formerly in the Castellani and Crawford Collections.

The panel is divided into two compartments. In the upper, and larger, is depicted the adoration of the Magi, with the Virgin seated in the centre and the Child on her lap. The three Magi, in Persian caps, tunics and long trousers, present their offerings in bowls and an Angel stands in the background. Below is the Nativity with the Virgin reclining, Joseph standing by her side and, flanked by the ox and the ass, the Child in a manger of masonry in front of which the incredulous Salome stretches out her withered hand. The ivory is dark and shows traces of gilding and colouring. The background of the whole panel is patterned with stars and scroll-work.

A descriptive list of the Library's unattached enamels, ivories and book-covers has been compiled and is available for consultation in the Manuscript Department.

Landor's *Imaginary Conversations*, of all his works the one he considered most likely to earn him a title to lasting literary fame, was published while he was living in Italy. The manuscript, declined originally by Longmans and other publishers, was committed to Julius Hare (later Archdeacon of Lewes), a classical tutor at Cambridge and younger brother of Landor's intimate friend, Francis Hare. He was entrusted with the task of finding a publisher and given a letter of introduction to Southey, who was to assist him. The choice was an excellent one. It was Hare who persuaded John Taylor of Taylor and Hessey, proprietors of the *London Magazine*, and also, incidentally, the publisher of Keats, De Quincey and Lamb, to undertake the task. It was Hare, too, with the loyal co-operation of Southey, who kept the peace, as far as it could be kept, between Landor and Taylor while the work was being printed.

LANDOR'S  
IMAGINARY  
CONVERSATIONS

In June of last year the Library acquired a collection of original correspondence which constitutes a source of primary importance for the publishing history of the *Conversations*. It consists of sixty letters written between March 1823 and November 1828 by Hare, as Landor's agent, to Taylor, with two to Taylor's partner Hessey and one to Southey, drafts of eleven letters (April 1823-April 1825) by Taylor to Hare, Southey and Landor's cousin, Walter Landor of Rugeley, and letters of Walter Landor, all dealing with the negotiations for the publishing of the work, its printing, proof-correcting and reviewing and, not least, the quarrels, sometimes violent, between Landor and his publisher. Hare's task as mediator was a difficult one, for Landor's attitude was characterized by a mixture of carelessness and angry obstinacy while Taylor had strong objections, on personal and other grounds, to printing at all some of Landor's more outspoken comments. One of the most interesting aspects which the letters illustrate is the freedom which Landor permitted Hare and Southey to emend his text. This collection was formerly the property of the Rev. Rashleigh Edward Hungerford Duke, whose mother, Ellen, was Landor's niece.

With the above were also acquired forty-one letters, mainly written from Italy, of Landor himself, which are of value for

their intimate record of his daily life, his self-criticism of his works, and his views on classical and contemporary writers. Six (1811-28) are to his mother, twenty-two (1825-34) to his sisters Elizabeth and Ellen, three (1802-05) to his brother Henry, one (1864) to John Forster, and nine (1805-23) to the Rev. Walter Birch. Birch, a schoolfellow at Rugby, is described by Landor as one of the earliest, wisest and best of his friends, but although Landor's letters to him must have been fairly numerous, apparently thirteen only have survived, according to Tatham, who prints extracts in *The Fortnightly Review*, N.S., Vol. 87; this figure includes the nine mentioned above. In the recently acquired collection is also the letter written to Landor by his brother Robert Eyres Landor in 1812 dissuading him from his plan of becoming a French citizen.

The Library already has among its English manuscripts a considerable collection of correspondence and papers of the bibliographer Thomas Frognall Dibdin (1776-1847). Dibdin was closely associated with George John, 2nd Earl Spencer, whose famous Althorp Library was purchased by Mrs. Rylands in 1892. Lord Spencer's acquaintance with Dibdin dated from 1802, in which year the latter began his career as a bibliographer, and from that time a literary correspondence seems to have passed between them for something like thirty years. Lord Spencer became his patron, made him at one time his librarian, and developed the Althorp Library very much under his direction.

DIBDIN  
CORRESPONDENCE

In 1812 Dibdin commenced the *Bibliotheca Spenceriana*, a descriptive catalogue of the fifteenth century books which at that time were kept at Spencer House, but were later removed to Althorp. The original manuscript of this work, which was printed in 1814-15, is already in the Library together with six large manuscript volumes, numbering some 800 pages, of his bibliographical and typographical collections. Of his correspondence we possess over 370 letters, of which some 200 (1809-43) were written by him to various correspondents and 172 were addressed to him by Lord Spencer between 1802 and 1816. A further ninety letters written to Dibdin between January 1814

and June 1845 by various correspondents have recently been acquired. They deal almost entirely with bibliographical and literary topics. Among the correspondents are Lord Spencer, the Hon. Robert Curzon, Francis Douce, Hume, William Howley (Bishop of London and, from July 1828, Archbishop of Canterbury), Edward Hawtrey (later Provost of Eton), Macaulay and Dawson Turner. Included is a note of 3 April 1813 from Dibdin to the binder "Mr. Herring" [Charles Hering] respecting "the Spencer Volume" and instructions from him to the printer regarding the *Bibliotheca Spenceriana*.

Among other accessions of interest to the Department of Manuscripts may be mentioned the press-copy of John Stuart Mill's *Autobiography*. This manu-<sup>THE AUTO-  
BIOGRAPHY OF  
JOHN STUART  
MILL</sup>script, formerly the property of the grand-daughter of Mill's wife, was sold by order of her executors on 29 March 1922 (Sotheby, Lot 720) and purchased by Messrs. Maggs Bros., from whose possession it apparently passed into private hands. From that time until its re-appearance in a London saleroom in July of last year, where it came to light among a miscellaneous collection of autograph letters and papers, its whereabouts seem to have been unknown. The manuscript is of some importance for the establishing of the text of the *Autobiography*. It has been generally assumed that the original edition of 1873, published in the year of Mill's death under the supervision of his stepdaughter Helen Taylor, was printed from the Columbia University manuscript of the *Autobiography*, the so-called "final" version in Mill's hand. Professor Jack Stillinger of the University of Illinois has, however, recently pointed out that this assumption is incorrect, that the Rylands manuscript forms the basis of the 1873 edition, and that a definitive text of the *Autobiography* would combine the readings of both the Columbia and the Rylands manuscripts.

The latter, which comprises 265 folios is, apart from the first twenty-three, in two hands, each responsible for roughly the same amount. With the generous assistance of the Library of the London School of Economics these hands have been compared with specimens in their Mill-Taylor Collection and identified as

those of Helen Taylor herself and Mary Elizabeth Colman, Mill's sister. In addition, Helen Taylor is responsible for various corrections and emendations throughout the whole. She began the copying but her first twenty-five folios were not used for the press-copy and exist separately (they were also acquired by this Library). They were recopied by an unidentified continental hand, probably French, which compressed their content into the twenty-three folios mentioned above. All the passages omitted from the 1873 edition are in the Rylands manuscript, which is marked for printing throughout and contains the pencilled names of the twenty compositors who set it up.

A detailed comparison of the Columbia University manuscript, the Rylands manuscript and the 1873 edition has been made by Professor Stillinger and an article by him dealing with the text of the final version of the *Autobiography* is to be published in the next issue of this BULLETIN.

A further 380 letters of Ruskin have been added to the Library's collection of Ruskin correspondence and papers, to which reference was made in the previous RUSKIN LETTERS number (Vol. 42, No. 1, pp. 1 ff.). The largest single group consists of 154 letters (1860-89) to Mrs. Anna Oldham and her daughter Constance. Mrs. Oldham was a sister of Edward Oldfield, a schoolfellow and lifelong friend of Ruskin, and their families were neighbours in Denmark Hill. Constance Oldham, an early member of the Guild of St. George, was Ruskin's god-daughter and one of his closest friends during his later years. She acted as an amanuensis for him, copying extracts from books and letters which he afterwards used for his printed works and lectures. One hundred and thirty-eight of the letters recently acquired were addressed to her between 1866 and 1889. Extracts from three only have been printed, by Cook and Wedderburn in *The Works of John Ruskin*; with this minor exception the series is unpublished. The collection is one of great interest, for in it Ruskin expresses freely his views on art, religion and life in general and gives accounts of the progress of his works and of the meaning and purpose of *Fors Clavigera* and *Praeterita*.

Of the remaining letters, fifty-four (1871-88) are to Henry Jowett, the manager of Messrs. Hazell, Watson and Viney's printing works at Aylesbury, and deal with the proof-correcting and printing of various of his works, notably *Proserpina*, *Praeterita* and the monthly *Fors* letters; thirteen, written between 1876 and 1879 to the bookseller and publisher F. S. Ellis and his partner David White, contain information about his purchases of books and his general activities, including the work of the Guild of St. George, for he valued Ellis's opinions highly; and thirty-five (1857-81) are to R. N. Wornum, Keeper of the National Gallery. A number of the last-named date from the period 1857-8 when Ruskin was concerned in arranging the Turner drawings in the National Gallery. Correspondents among the 100 or more miscellaneous letters which remain, dating from the 1840s to the 1880s and dealing with a multiplicity of topics, include Rossetti, G. F. Watts, the architect C. R. Cockerell, the engraver S. Williams, Mrs. (later Lady) Simon, wife of his medical friend (Sir) John Simon, G. Lowes Dickinson, Sir Charles Hallé and E. A. Bond, Librarian of the British Museum, to whom he introduces William Morris. There are, too, six letters to his mother, Margaret Ruskin, written from Winnington Hall, Cheshire, in April 1865. The collection also includes fragments of the original manuscripts of *Praeterita* and of two of his lectures.

The Library's Ruskin correspondence and papers now number more than seventeen hundred items, of which over 1,200 are letters in his hand.

Among recent additions to the Department of Printed Books are two fifteenth century books. The earlier is a volume ascribed to the press of Christophorus de Pensis at Venice (not before 1495), and consists of Latin translations of *Isocratis Oratio de Laudibus Helenae* and of *Herodoti libri novem* (BMC. V, 475, IB. 23533). The translation of Isocrates is by Joannes Petrus Lucensis, that of Herodotus is the work of the celebrated humanist Laurentius Valla. The latter translation, first printed in 1474, was frequently reprinted in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. With an edition of the text, it was reissued as late as 1809.

PRINTED  
BOOKS:  
ACCESSIONS  
BY PURCHASE



The impression of de Pensis is a page by page reprint of an edition of the two works printed at Venice, probably by Simon Bevilaqua, which bears the date "1494" but in which the letter of the editor, Antonius Mancinellus, is dated 13 January 1495 (ULC. 2094.5). The Bevilaqua edition, of which also there is a copy in the Library, is, as regards the translation of Herodotus, a reprint, often page by page, of an edition of the historian's work printed by Joannes and Gregorius de Gregoriis at Venice in March 1494 (*BMC.* V, 345, IB. 21058). In a letter prefixed to this edition Mancinellus writes that he had been urged by Gregorius de Gregoriis to undertake a revision of Valla's translation because it had been so much corrupted by earlier Roman and Venetian Printers. In the edition now acquired, as in that of Bevilaqua, the letter is moved to the end of the volume and the name of *Andreas Moretus Brixianus* is substituted for that of *De Gregoriis* as the man to whose initiative the revision is due.

The second acquisition is a copy of the edition of the *Liber sextus decretalium* of Pope Boniface VIII, accompanied by the *Constitutiones* of Pope Clement V, printed at Basel by Johann Froben and Johann Amerbach and bearing the date 1 December 1500 (*GKW.* 4905; *BMC.* III, 793, IA. 37908). The *Liber sextus decretalium* was first printed by Johann Fust and Peter Schoeffer at Mainz, 17 December 1465, and of this edition the Library possesses copies on vellum and on paper. It was a most popular work, fifty-eight editions being printed before the end of the fifteenth century, eighteen of them, commencing with that of De Tortis, Venice, 1491, being accompanied by the *Constitutiones Clementinarum*. Before Froben began to print on his own account in 1491 he had been employed by Amerbach as a corrector of the press. It was not, however, until early in 1500, after a brief partnership with Johann Petri, that Froben joined forces with his old employer. After the turn of the century the partnership was extended by the inclusion of Froben's former partner, Petri, and continued to operate until 1512. In 1500, however, its output was restricted to three works of canon law, all of which were close reprints of editions printed by Froben alone in 1493 and 1494. The woodcut of a Pope giving audience which Froben used in the earlier series reappears in the present



work. The volume, which is in a contemporary binding of stamped pigskin over wooden boards, has two ownership inscriptions of "Petrus de Mean, 1596", a distinguished jurist who compiled in 1620, at the direction of Prince Ferdinand of Bavaria, a *Recueil des points marquez pour coustumes du pays de Liege*.

Several interesting additions have been made to the Library's collection of English books printed before 1640. *The summe and substance of . . . the Conference at Hampton Court*, London, John Bill, 1625 (STC. 1458), is a work with a certain association with Manchester. William Barlow, Bishop of Lincoln, who prepared the account at the request of Archbishop Whitgift, and who took part in the revision of the Epistles for "King James's Bible", the only lasting result of the Conference, is believed to have been a member of the family of Barlow of Barlow Moor, Manchester. Of the four recorded pre-1640 editions of the book the Library now possesses three, STC. 1456, 1458 and 1459, and in addition a variant of the first edition of 1604. Of Pierre Charron, *Of wisdom, translated into English by Samson Lennard*, London, Geo. Miller for W. Ashley, 1630 (STC. 5054), four other editions are recorded between 1606 and 1640, none of which is in the Library. Lennard, the translator, was a somewhat unusual person. He served in the Netherlands with Sir Philip Sidney and was with him when he was fatally wounded at Zutphen. Later he took a keen interest in genealogy and was appointed Rouge-rose Pursuivant extraordinary in 1614 and Bluemantle Pursuivant in the following year. His leisure he appears to have devoted to the work of translation from French and Italian. A copy of another of his translations, Jean Paul Perrin's *Luther's forerunners*, 1625 (STC. 19769), is also in the Library. A pamphlet much printed in the seventeenth century was Richard Wimbledon's *Sermon . . . preached at Pauls Crosse . . . in the yeare . . . 1388 and found out hidden in a wall . . .*, no less than fifteen editions appearing before 1640. Until the recent acquisition of the fifteenth edition, London, T. Cotes, 1635 (STC. 25839), this work was not represented in the Library. Although Gervase Markham's industry in the compilation for the booksellers of books on husbandry and other subjects was such that

he has been described as “ the earliest English hackney writer ”, few of the early editions of his works are to be found in this Library. A copy of his anonymous work, *The enrichment of the Weald of Kent*, London, A. Griffin for T. Harrison, 1636 (STC. 17365), has recently been acquired. As with so many of Markham’s works, this book was frequently reprinted, twelve editions appearing before 1700. Translations of only two works by St. Ambrose were printed in this country before 1640. Of the earlier of these, *Twoo bookes of S. Ambrose entytuled : Of the vocation of all nations. Translated by H. Becher*, London, R. Watkins, 1561 (STC. 549), the Library acquired a copy some years ago. To it is now added STC. 548, *Christian offices crystall glasse, translated by R. Humfrey*, London, for J. Dawson, 1637.

An important recent purchase is a collection of forty-five volumes comprising 559 tracts brought together by John Gordon, sixteenth Earl of Sutherland (1660[?]-<sup>SUTHERLAND TRACTS</sup> 1733). The majority of them date from the last two decades of the seventeenth and the first decade of the eighteenth centuries, although a few items of earlier date are included. About one-third of the collection consists of polemical works on the religious issues of the day including many tracts by well known divines such as Thomas Case, Rector of Stockport, Samuel Johnson, pilloried and whipped for his attacks on authority, Edward Stephens, known as *Abbat Stephens* on account of his theological learning, and Daniel Featley, a member of the Westminster Assembly.

The bulk of the collection, however, reflects the Earl’s interest in the affairs of his time. As in 1689 he took up arms on the Revolutionary side, it is not surprising that there are many anti-Jacobite tracts, among them the anonymous satirical poem *The tribe of Issachar*, 1691 (*W/T* 2270). There are, too, many tracts relating to William III, including a fulsome eulogy by Thomas Plunket, *The character of a good commander*, 1689 (*W/P* 2629).

The earl was an active supporter of the Union of England and Scotland and was, indeed, one of the Commissioners appointed to arrange the terms on which it should take place. As a matter of course, therefore, we find many tracts dealing with the problems

which had to be settled, particularly those of trade and of "the equivalence" of the currency. A rare item of this class is a crudely printed, undated tract, *The Heemle petition of the peer Shank workērs and Fingren spinners of Aberdeen*, [n.d.].

Few works of the more important literary figures of the day are represented in the collection and those few appear to gain inclusion by their satirical or political flavour. Examples are John Dryden's *Britannia Rediviva*, re-printed at Holy-Rood-House, 1688 (W/D 2252); Robert Gould's *Love given over, or, a satyr against women*, 1686 (W/G 1425); the following pamphlet being the anonymous *Sylvia's revenge, or; a satyr against man*, 1688 (W/S 6335); and the first edition of Selden's *Table talk*, 1689 (W/S 2437). The breadth of the collection may be illustrated by citing one or two pamphlets on scientific subjects as, for instance, George Philips's *Problem concerning the gout, in a letter to Sir John Gordon*, 1691 (W/P 2027B) and a French translation of Captain Robert Fitzgerald's *Salt water sweetened: L'eau de mer douce . . . Troisieme Edition*, 1684 (W/F 1081). The conversion of sea water to fresh water has exercised the mind of man from Aristotle onwards. Great interest was aroused by Fitzgerald's cheap and easy method—he offered a machine of great size for £16, so simple that it could be worked by a sailor and so well built that it would last for years. The pamphlet announcing his invention appeared in 1683 not only in an English edition but in translations into Latin, Spanish and French, and by the following year four editions of the English text and three of the French translation had been required. This collection, brought together by, and reflecting the interests of, a man prominent in the political and social life of the end of the seventeenth century, forms valuable source material for the history of the period and is an important addition to the Library's tract collection.

The following is a list of recent Library Publications, consisting of reprints of articles which appeared in the latest issue of the BULLETIN (September 1959):

"Mallarmé on Music and Letters." By L. J. Austin, Professor of Modern French Literature in the University of Manchester. 8vo, pp. 20. Price three shillings net.

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LIBRARY PUB-  
LICATIONS

“Manchester in the Latter Half of the Eighteenth Century.” By W. H. Chaloner, Senior Lecturer in Modern Economic History in the University of Manchester. 8vo, pp. 21. Price three shillings net.

“The King and the Monks in the Tenth Century Reformation.” By Eric John, Lecturer in History in the University of Manchester. 8vo, pp. 27. Price three shillings net.

“Faith and Reason in the Thought of Gregory of Rimini (c. 1300-1358).” By Gordon Leff, Lecturer in History in the University of Manchester. 8vo, pp. 25. Price three shillings net.

“The Jewels of Queen Margaret of Anjou.” By A. R. Myers, Reader in Medieval History in the University of Liverpool. 8vo, pp. 19. Price two shillings and sixpence net.

“The Second Isaiah Scroll from Qumrân (IQIsb).” By Bleddyn J. Roberts, Professor of Hebrew, University College of North Wales, Bangor. 8vo, pp. 13. Price two shillings and sixpence net.

“William Catesby, Counsellor to Richard III.” By J. S. Roskell, Professor of Medieval History in the University of Nottingham. 8vo, pp. 30. Price three shillings net.

“The Conclusion of Virgil’s *Aeneid*: A Study of the War in Latium, with Special Reference to Book XI and XII.” By W. H. Semple, Hulme Professor of Latin in the University of Manchester. 8vo, pp. 19. Price two shillings and sixpence net.

“Ruskin’s Correspondence with Miss Blanche Atkinson.” By Margaret E. Spence, Lecturer in the Department of Education in the University of Liverpool. 8vo, pp. 26. Price three shillings net.

“Coptic Biblical Texts Published after Vaschalde’s Lists.” By Walter C. Till, Reader in Coptic in the University of Manchester; Tit. Ao. Professor in Egyptology (Vienna). 8vo, pp. 21. Price three shillings net.

“New Plays of Menander.” By E. G. Turner, Professor of Papyrology and Director of the Institute of Classical Studies in the University of London. 8vo, pp. 18. Price two shillings and sixpence net.

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National Register of Archives [57]; Editions Nauwelaerts, Louvain.

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