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BULLETIN OF  
THE JOHN RYLANDS  
LIBRARY  
MANCHESTER

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VOL. 2

APRIL, 1915

No. 2

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LIBRARY NOTES AND NEWS.

AT the January meeting of the Council of Governors the fifteenth annual report was presented, consisting of a review of the work of the library for the year 1914, and it may not be out of place in these pages briefly to summarize such portions of the information contained therein, as are likely to be of interest to our readers.

At this meeting Sir Alfred Hopkinson, K.C., resigned the Chairmanship of the Council, in consequence of his removal to London, following upon his retirement from the Vice-Chancellorship of the University of Manchester, to the great regret not only of the Governors but of all the officials of the library.

Sir Alfred Hopkinson had occupied the position of chairman for upwards of eleven years, and the Council took the opportunity of placing upon the minutes a record of their high appreciation of the valuable services which he had rendered to the library.

We are glad to be able to report that Sir Alfred is by no means severing his connection with the library, since he retains his seat on the Council as one of the Representatives of the University and is also a Life-Trustee.

Sir George Watson Macalpine, J.P., a Representative Governor, and a Life-Trustee, who has already rendered inestimable service to the library, as Chairman of the House, Finance, and Building Committees, was elected to the position thus vacated.

The following reappointments were also made: Mr. William Carnelly as Vice-Chairman; Sir Thomas T. Shann, J.P., as Honorary Treasurer; and Mr. Gerard N. Ford, J.P., as Honorary Secretary.

Changes in the personnel of the Council occurred during the year. The Rev. A. W. H. Streuli resigned the seat which he had held as a Co-optative Governor since the formation of the Council in 1898, in consequence of his removal

to Peterborough, and was succeeded by the Rev. J. E. Roberts, M.A., B.D.

On the 7th of October the library sustained a great loss through the death of Mr. Stephen Joseph Tennant in the seventy-second year of his age. Mr. Tennant was the twin brother of the late Mrs. Rylands, and was closely associated with the institution from its inception. As one of the original Trustees, as a Life-Governor, and as Honorary Treasurer, he served the library with untiring devotion and ability from the date of its inauguration until within a few days of his death.

The right to appoint a Representative Governor to succeed Mr. Tennant was vested in the Standing Committee of the Manchester Diocesan Conference, who appointed Professor C. E. Vaughan, M.A., Litt.D., as their representative.

Immediately upon the outbreak of the war two members of the staff volunteered for service in response to the appeal for recruits. The Governors at their succeeding meeting decided to give every facility to members of the library staff to volunteer, and at a later meeting placed the following resolution upon the minutes :—

“That members of the library staff who join the National Forces, or the Red Cross, shall have their positions kept open, and shall be paid such portion of their salaries as the Emergency Committee may determine, provided (a) that in no case shall the amount paid be less than half, and (b) that no member of the staff shall suffer financially as the result of enlistment.”

Six members of the staff are now either on full active service, in training, or are rendering part time service.

MR. OLIVER J. SUTTON, is serving in Egypt as First Lieutenant in the 9th Battalion of the Manchester Regiment.

MR. T. MURGATROYD, MR. E. C. SCHWEMMER, and MR. B. ENRIGHT have joined the Public Schools' Battalion.

MISS WOODCOCK is in training for Red Cross Work.

SERGEANT A. COOK is rendering service as Drill Instructor.

Hitherto, through the ready co-operation of the other members of the staff, most of whom from various causes are ineligible for military duty, the service of the library has been efficiently maintained, without extra assistance.

There is cause for great satisfaction in reviewing the work of the library during the period covered by the report, inasmuch that from whatever point of view it is regarded, there are unmistakable evidences of progress. The library's sphere of influence continues year by year to widen, in proportion as the power to serve readers is increased, and this result is being accomplished by the consistent development of its various departments and activities along the lines which, hitherto, have been most fruitful of good results, rather than in new developments of outstanding importance. It is therefore gratifying again to be able to report a steadily increasing use of the library by all classes of readers.

The efforts which have been employed throughout the year to develop the resources of the library, and to reduce the number of lacunæ upon its shelves, have met with gratifying success. In this respect the officials have to acknowledge the valuable assistance which they have received from readers who, in the course of their investigations, have often been able to call attention to the library's lack of very important authorities. In most instances it has been possible promptly to supply the deficiency, whilst in the case of works of rarity, which are not readily procurable through the ordinary channels of supply, steps have been taken to obtain them with the least possible delay. It is almost needless to say that suggestions of any kind, which have for their object the improvement of the efficiency and equipment of the library, are not only welcomed, but are cordially invited, and receive prompt, careful, and sympathetic consideration.

It may not be out of place briefly to refer to the help and guidance which officials are constantly called upon to render to scholars and students, not only by personal attention in the library itself, but also in response to requests from various parts of the world, through the medium of correspondence, with the occasional aid of the photographic equipment. Such services cannot be reduced to any reliable statistical statement, but they bear fruit in the grateful acknowledgments of indebtedness to the library, which often find expression in the footnotes and prefaces of published works.

The additions to the library during the year numbered 4964 volumes of printed books and manuscripts. These accessions include many rare and interesting items of Tudor and Stuart literature from the Huth collection, to the enrichment of a

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section of the library which is already noteworthy ; a very useful collection of Portuguese literature, which has strengthened our collections on a side hitherto somewhat weak ; a much needed set of the " Collections of the William Salt Archæological Society " ; a number of early printed books from the library of the late Colonel Fishwick ; two important works of Millingen on the " Peintures antiques des Vases Grecs " ; Lamberg's " Collection des Vases Grecs," publiée par A. Delaborde ; a set of the " Hunterian Club Publications," in 16 vols. ; Cohen's " Description des Monnaies frappées sous l'empire Romain," in 8 vols. ; a set of the " Revue des cours et conférences," in 42 vols. ; a set of the publications of the " Société Linguistique de Paris," in 18 vols. ; " Les Oeuvres de Saint Simon et d'Enfantin," in 47 vols. ; Phillips' " General State of Europe " (1688-1733), in 46 vols. ; a large collection of Commonwealth News-sheets ; and two sheets of printed Indulgences of 1498 and 1508 respectively, which are of great rarity and importance.

The manuscript purchases include a collection of Letters and Documents relating to Lancashire (1576-1760) ; a thirteenth century manuscript commentary of the " Sententiae " of Petrus Lombardus ; a Nebuchadnezzar cylindrical proclamation of unusual shape ; five Charters relating to the Church of Plympton, Devon (1180-1317) ; Queen Elizabeth's " List of New Year's Gifts," 1559, in the form of a long vellum roll bearing the Queen's signature several times over ; three Syriac MSS. of the Peshitta New Testament ; a collection of Staffordshire Deeds, 1508-1616 ; and a collection of Law Tracts in 13th and 14th century hands, containing " Magna Charta Edwardi I," " Parvus Hyngham," etc. The most noteworthy addition of the year was the Syriac manuscript of the " Odes and Psalms of Solomon," which the library was enabled to acquire through the generosity of Dr. Rendel Harris, and which was described in the pages of our last issue.

These are but a few of the works added to the library during the year, taken almost at random, but they furnish some idea of the character and importance of the accessions which are constantly being obtained.

In the accompanying list of donors, which contains 109 names, we have, in the 555 volumes so generously presented, fresh proof of the sustained and increasing practical interest in the library. Several of the gifts have been offered as marks of

GIFTS TO  
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LIBRARY.

gratitude for the help and inspiration which the library, both by reason of its atmosphere and contents, has so often afforded. The Rev. D. A. de Mouilpied's welcome gift of 126 volumes of Huguenot literature, some of which are of considerable rarity, was of this character. Mr. and Mrs. Bentham presented 80 volumes of miscellaneous literature, including some useful additions to the Oriental section of the library, in memory of the late Canon Atkinson. Mr. Thomas Wise, a most generous friend of the library, has presented a number of volumes of his privately printed reprints of unique Browning, Barrow, and Brontë items, which are in his personal collection. Of these reprints the edition is strictly limited to thirty copies, all of which are intended for private circulation. There is a pathetic interest about the beautifully printed catalogue presented by Mrs. Widener, of New York, in memory of her son, the brilliant young bibliophile, who went down in the "Titanic," carrying with him some remarkable bibliographical treasures, including an unique copy of the first issue of Bacon's "Essays". The volume consists of a "Catalogue of an important collection of the books and manuscripts of Robert Louis Stevenson in the library of the late Henry Elkins Widener," the bibliographical value of which is considerable, since it contains an almost complete list of the first editions of Stevenson's works. There are many other volumes of outstanding interest amongst the gifts equally deserving of mention, but in a short summary of the report, such as the present, it is not possible to do more than refer to one or two which seem to call for special notice.

In the name of the Governors we take this opportunity of renewing the thanks, already expressed in another form, to the donors of these generous gifts, and also of assuring them that these expressions of interest and goodwill are a most welcome source of encouragement.

## DONORS, 1914.

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Washington. Congressional Library.  
Washington. Smithsonian Institution.  
Washington. Surgeon-General's Office Library.



Washington University. St. Louis, Mo.  
 Worcester, Mass. Clark University.  
 Yale University.

Interest in the public lectures, which have come to be regarded as one of the established institutions of Manchester, has continued unabated throughout the year. In the current series several subjects of very exceptional interest have been dealt with by acknowledged authorities, in the course of which new theories have been advanced, which are calculated to impart a new stimulus to study in their respective fields of research.

Many of these lectures, in an amplified form, are to appear in the pages of this and succeeding numbers of the BULLETIN, and we take this opportunity of thanking the respective lecturers for so generously and readily acceding to our request to allow them to be published in this form. The lecture which Dr. Rendel Harris delivered on the 5th of January on "The Origin of the Cult of Dionysos," appears in the present number. Unfortunately the personality of the lecturer, and the brilliant flashes of humour and scholarship, in the form of asides, with which the lecture was illuminated, cannot be reproduced in cold print.

The same remarks apply with equal force to the lectures of Professor Conway on "The Youth of Vergil," of Professor Tout on "A Mediaeval Burglary," and of Professor Elliot Smith on "Ancient Egypt and its influence on the Far East". We are fortunate, however, in being allowed to give permanence to the interesting results of the investigations which the preparation of these lectures involved.

Of each of these lectures a small number of separately printed issues will be published. These will be on sale by the usual agents at sixpence each.

Encouraged by the enthusiastic welcome which has been accorded to the BULLETIN in its revival, we shall endeavour to give to it greater permanence as a literary organ, by the publication of a regular succession of original articles, such as those which appear in the present issue. We shall not lose sight of the original and primary object of the periodical, which is to call attention to the possibilities of usefulness which the library offers, by the regular publication of lists of accessions, and special reading lists and

PUBLIC  
LECTURES.

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bibliographies ; but we believe we can also serve a useful purpose by inviting communications, which may take the form of literary and historical notes and queries.

Experience teaches us that much valuable time and energy is often wasted by two or more persons doing the same work in ignorance of each other's labours. Might we not help to obviate a good deal of this waste, by affording in our pages an opportunity for circulating information respecting bibliographical and other work which may be in progress, and in so doing render a service to scholars which would directly tend to the advancement of knowledge ?

We repeat what we said in our last issue that it is our ambition to make of the BULLETIN a useful medium of communication between the library and its readers, including the increasing number of students and scholars in all parts of the world who are interested in its welfare. By this means each might be enabled to profit by the experience of the other, and a feeling will be fostered that all are engaged in a common work, which cannot be other than beneficial in its effects.

It is scarcely necessary to say that no article or communication will be admitted to these pages which does not, in the editor's judgment, add something to knowledge.

One of the immediate results of the barbarous destruction of the University of Louvain with its famous library, was to call forth not only a storm of righteous indignation against the perpetrators of such an unprovoked act of vandalism, but also a widespread and sympathetic interest in the history of this interesting foundation. Many requests reached us for information respecting the history and the contents of the library, which we were unable to satisfy, in consequence of the inadequate character of the available authorities. We ventured, therefore, to make an appeal on behalf of our readers to Dr. A. Carnoy, the Louvain Professor of Zend, Pehlevi, and Greek Palæography, at present resident in Cambridge, for a brief but authoritative description of the library and its contents. The request was transmitted to Dr. L. Van der Essen, the Louvain Professor of History, at present in America, with the result that we are able to offer to our readers the interesting article which appears in the present number, possessing all the authority of first-hand knowledge.

It may interest readers to learn that Professor Van der Essen has been lecturing since the commencement of January at the University

of Chicago, on the History of Belgium, and has now been appointed to the faculty for the remainder of the academic year.

We take this opportunity of thanking Professor Van der Essen and also Professor Carnoy for their kind and prompt response to our request.

Accompanying the article referred to is an appeal on behalf of the Louvain Library to which we venture to call special attention. We feel sure that there are many of our readers who would welcome an opportunity of giving practical expression to their sympathy with the authorities of the University, by joining us in the steps which we are taking, and which have for their object the rehabilitation of the devastated library. Offers of suitable works should be addressed to the Librarian of the John Rylands Library, Manchester.

The writer to whom we are indebted for the article on "An Old Turki Manuscript in the John Rylands Library" (Dr. A. Mingana) is one of the foremost authorities, not only on the Arabic language and literature, which is his native tongue, but on Syriac and the Semitic group of languages in general, and their literatures.

AN OLD  
TURKI  
MANU-  
SCRIPT.

Dr. Mingana was responsible, in collaboration with Mrs. Agnes Smith Lewis, for the publication of that interesting and important volume which appeared last year under the title, "Leaves from Three Ancient Qur'ans, possibly Pre-'Othmanic, with a list of their variants". These leaves, recovered from a composite palimpsest, some pages of which are double palimpsest, purchased at Suez by Mrs. Lewis in 1895, present us with portions of a text differing so much from the *Textus Receptus*, as to constitute the beginnings of a textual criticism of the Qur'an.

Other articles from Dr. Mingana's pen may be looked for in future issues of the BULLETIN, since the Governors of the Library have been fortunate enough to secure his services in connection with the preparation of an exhaustive catalogue of the large and important collection of Arabic, Turkish and Syriac manuscripts in the possession of the library, numbering upwards of twelve hundred volumes, and including many texts not to be found elsewhere.

The second volume of the "Catalogue of Greek Papyri in the John Rylands Library" is upon the point of publication. In the preparation of this volume Dr. Hunt has had associated with him Mr. J. de M. Johnson, M.A., late Senior Demy

GREEK  
PAPYRI.

of Magdalen College, and Dr. Victor Martin, of Geneva. The volume which runs to upwards of 500 pages deals with nearly 400 papyri, consisting mainly of non-literary documents of an official or legal character extending from the Ptolemaic to the Roman period. The chief interest centres in the description of the collection of carbonized papyri of Thmûis. These papyri were found, says Dr. Hunt, as well as others of the same group in various European collections, without doubt in the ruined building in Thmûis (Tell Timai), partly excavated by the expedition of the Egypt Exploration Fund during the season 1892-3, whose chambers were found choked by a medley of decayed rolls, and it is interesting to learn that the documents printed in this volume form the largest body yet published from this source. The texts, which are printed *in extenso*, are accompanied by extensive notes and commentaries, twenty-three plates of facsimiles in collotype, and most elaborate indices.

A number of documents of the Byzantine period remain to be dealt with. These will form the subject of a future volume, which it is hoped will appear at no very long interval.

Another thin quarto volume which is also upon the point of publication, consists of a "Description of 58 Sumerian Tablets comprising Temple and other records from Umma". These tablets were acquired for the library some three years ago, at the suggestion of the late Prof. Hogg and Canon C. H. W. Johns. They have been transcribed, transliterated, translated, and described by the Rev. C. L. Bedale, M.A., Lecturer in Assyriology at the University of Manchester. The volume will be of considerable interest, since it probably makes available for study the first batch of tablets from Umma.

Canon Johns has rendered the editor very valuable assistance in the preparation of this volume for the press, and is adding to the many services which he has already rendered to the library, by contributing an interesting foreword, in which he describes the nature of the transactions recorded.

There may be some of our readers yet unfamiliar with the character of such documents who would be interested to learn something about these dainty little clay tablets. For that reason we reproduce some of the paragraphs in which Canon Johns has so graphically described them.

Most of them, and all of them it may be, are what are usually called temple accounts. The ancient Babylonian temples were organized much as were the monasteries and other religious houses in our Middle Ages. They had large estates which they managed themselves. From these and the gifts of the faithful, they received, yearly, large revenues; mostly in natural products. There were a number of persons attached to the temple, priests, officers, and ministers of various sorts, who lived at the expense of the temple. The temple stewards were bound to furnish amounts of food, and other allowances to the persons who had a customary claim on the temple. They were also bound to keep account of what they received and furnished in this way. Also the servants, slaves, shepherds, and husbandmen on the estates received allowances for wages and for the maintenance of the flocks and herds of the temple.

It was the custom to write down a record of each transaction on behalf of the temple, and the stewards or the scribes gradually accumulated vast numbers of these memoranda, which they used to enter up periodically on large tablets, many of which survive, and may be regarded as ledgers giving both receipts and expenditure for months or years together. From these accounts, could we exactly interpret them, we should gain a very clear notion of city life in Babylonia.

Anyone who has tried to study the various account books of the monasteries in our own country will understand that in addition to the difficulties of decipherment, the entries, even when read with certainty, give rise to endless questions which are often insoluble. The entries are not written as consecutive prose, nor with regard to literary rules of composition, but only with a view to conveying an intelligible meaning to those versed in such accounts. Local names for commodities, local measures, local 'saints or divinities, and many other details will afford subjects for research.

Yet another of the library publications which is nearly ready for issue, consists of a portfolio of facsimile reproductions of eight early engravings which are preserved in The John Rylands Library. In addition to its fine collection of printed books of the fifteenth century, the library contains a small but very precious collection of the woodcuts and metal cuts that were issued separately in large numbers in the early part of the same period,

FACSIMILES  
OF EARLY  
ENGRAV-  
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chiefly as aids to devotion. Two of these woodcuts are of exceptional interest and importance, and have been known and celebrated for a century and a half, but have not hitherto been reproduced in a satisfactory and trustworthy manner, by any of the modern photomechanical processes. The two woodcuts referred to, represent "St. Christopher" and "The Annunciation". The former has acquired a great celebrity by reason of the date (1423) which it bears, and which gave to it the position of the first dated woodcut.

Since the discovery in 1845, at Malines, of another woodcut representing "The Virgin and Child," and bearing the date 1418, which was afterwards acquired for the Royal Library at Brussels, and has it is to be hoped escaped the fury of the modern Vandals, the St. Christopher, in the estimation of some of the authorities, has lost its position. It must be pointed out, however, that the genuineness of the date on the Brussels print is seriously in dispute. There is a strong suspicion that the date has been faked, if not added later, since the character of the lettering in the date differs entirely from that found in the untouched ribbon scrolls, containing inscriptions, in the picture itself.

These and many other points of great interest will be dealt with by Mr. Campbell Dodgson, Keeper of the Prints and Drawings in the British Museum, a recognized authority on such matters, who has kindly supplied a descriptive letterpress and introduction.

The "St. Christopher" and "The Annunciation" have been reproduced in the exact colours of the originals, and also in monochrome. The other engravings, including an unusually fine dotted print, have been reproduced in monochrome. The price at which the portfolio will be sold will, it is hoped, not exceed five shillings.

Another interesting piece of work which has just been completed and is at present passing through the press, is the ENGLISH  
"Catalogue of English Incunabula in the John Rylands ABULA.  
Library". It will be, if we mistake not, the first catalogue of the kind to be printed, and will consist of a full and minutely accurate bibliographical description of the library's remarkable collection of English books printed before 1501, including, of course, those printed by William Caxton. It will furnish full collations, and will be illustrated by facsimiles of pages from some of the outstanding and unique items in the collection.

Several other volumes are in the printer's hands, but we must reserve the description of them for some future occasion.

We have found it impossible to print the full list of the most important of the recent accessions to the library, without unduly increasing the number of pages in the present issue. We have therefore reserved the second half of the list for publication in the July issue, when it will be accompanied by an alphabetical author index to both parts.

The classification of the items in this list has been carried out in accordance with the main divisions of the "Decimal System of Classification," originally devised by Melvil Dewey in 1873, and in the interest of those readers, who may not be familiar with the system, it may be advisable briefly to point out the advantages claimed for this method of arrangement.

The principal advantage of a classified catalogue, as distinguished from an alphabetical one, is that it preserves the unity of the subjects, and by so doing enables a student to follow its various ramifications with ease and certainty. Related matter is thus brought together, and the reader turns to one sub-division and round it he finds grouped others which are intimately connected with it. In this way new lines of research are often suggested.

One of the great merits of the Dewey Decimal System is that it is easily capable of comprehension by persons previously unacquainted with it. Evidence of the recognition of its merit is to be found in the general approval and extensive use of the system throughout England and the United States. Primarily it was constructed for the arrangement of books on the shelves, but it is now very widely applied to the construction of catalogues.

The distinctive feature of the system is its employment of the ten digits, in their ordinary significance, to the exclusion of all other symbols—hence the name, "decimal system".

The sum of human knowledge and activity has been divided by Dr. Dewey into ten main classes—0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9. These ten classes are each separated in a similar manner, thus making 100 divisions. An extension of the process provides 1000 sections, which can be still further sub-divided in accordance with the nature and requirements of the subject. Places for new subjects may be provided

at any point of the scheme by the introduction of new decimal points. For the purpose of this list we have not thought it necessary to carry the classification beyond the hundred main divisions, the arrangement of which will be found in the " Order of Classification " which precedes the list.