

BULLETIN
OF THE
JOHN RYLANDS LIBRARY

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LIBRARY NOTES.

A REVIEW OF THE WORK OF THE LIBRARY DURING 1904.

Accessions to the Library.—2,480 volumes have been added to the shelves of the Library during the year, of which 2,271 were obtained by purchase, and 209 were received by gift. During the five years that have elapsed since the Council of Governors entered upon its duties, 17,920 volumes have been acquired, and thus the total contents of the Library has been raised to upwards of 90,000 volumes.

The accessions may be classified as follows: Theology and Philosophy, 1,332 volumes; History, 489 volumes; Philology, 124 volumes; Bibliography, 217 volumes; Literature, 276 volumes; Fine Arts, 38 volumes; Social Science, 4 volumes.

These accessions comprise many important works, of which mention can only be made of a few: Fifty-five works printed before 1500, including several examples of types and presses not hitherto represented in the Library collection. An unrecorded edition of the *Wratislau or Breslau Missal*, printed at Cologne in 1499. An almost equally rare copy of St. Bonaventura's *Biblia Pauperum*, printed at Venice in 1479. *Breviarium Romanum*, Venice, 1482. *Missale Frisingense*, Munich, 1579. Two Latin Bibles of 1484 and 1492. The rare 1559 edition of Beza's Greek and Latin Testament, by some authorities said to be spurious. The 1640 Amsterdam edition of the Genevan Bible. The Sarum Primer of 1546. A number of the original works of Luther, Cochlæus, Savonarola, and other prominent figures of the Reformation. Two hundred tracts dealing with the Popish Plot. One hundred and sixty works written by English Roman Catholics, and printed either abroad or at secret presses during the penal times. Forty works dealing with the Benedictine and other religious orders. One hundred and forty volumes dealing with the early history of Congregationalism and other Church history in New England. Hugo's *Sacri et canonici ordinis Præmonstratensis annales*, 1734-36. Lobineau's *Histoire de Bretagne*, 1707. A number of works upon Oriental religions and the Jesuit and other missions of the East, from Bishop Medicott's library. Thirty-four volumes from Bodoni's famous eighteenth-century press at Parma. Walther's *Lexicon Diplomaticum*, 1756, etc.

Gifts to the Library.—The list of donors to the Library during 1904 contains forty-seven names, as compared with forty in 1903 and sixteen in 1902, which may be taken as an indication of the constantly growing interest in the institution. The most considerable gift, as usual, is due to the continued generosity of Mrs. Rylands. It comprises a

collection of Bibles and other works bearing upon the history of the English Bible, which, though not large, is of exceptional interest. It includes the September issue of Luther's first edition of the New Testament in German, containing Cranach's illustrations to the Apocalypse, in which the Beast and the Scarlet Woman are represented as wearing the tiara. This issue was rigorously suppressed, and in December of the same year a second issue appeared in which the objectionable pictures were cancelled, and the triple crown was replaced by an ordinary crown. A copy of this second issue is also in the Library. The only known copy of the octavo edition of Taverner's revision of Tyndale's New Testament, 1539. Fourteen other early editions of Tyndale's and Coverdale's Testaments; a number of the original editions of the works of Tyndale and of his contemporaries; and several other important additions to the Library collection of Greek and Latin Bibles.

The donor who wishes to be described as "A Friend" has presented to the Library a number of pamphlets, which it would have been extremely difficult, if not impossible, to procure in any other way.

The list of the donors is as follows:—

Mrs. Rylands, 70 vols.	N. Kolp, Esq., 1 vol.
"A Friend," 30 vols.	Lady Leighton-Warren, 2 vols.
The Rev. S. G. Bastow, 1 vol.	The Librarian, 4 vols.
Bristol Public Library, 1 vol.	The Rev. J. H. Lawlor, 1 vol.
The British and Foreign Bible Society, 1 vol.	The London Library, 1 vol.
The Bible Translation Society, 5 vols.	W. R. Macdonald, Esq., 1 vol.
The Century Association, New York, 1 vol.	The Minister of Education, Toronto, 8 vols.
Edwin Burton, Esq., 1 vol.	P. P. New, Esq., 1 vol.
Cardiff Public Library, 2 vols.	Leo S. Olschki, Esq., 1 vol.
The Rev. J. W. Crake, 8 vols.	The Patent Office Library, 11 vols.
George Dunn, Esq., 1 vol.	Edward Peacock, Esq., 1 vol.
The Rev. R. Eubank, 1 vol.	Thomas Riley, Esq., 5 vols.
The Rev. Dr. Gaster, 1 vol.	J. P. Sheldon, Esq., 1 vol.
F. L. Griffith, Esq., 1 vol.	C. W. Sutton, Esq., 2 vols.
S. Grimaldi, Esq., 1 vol.	The University of St. Andrews, 2 vols.
M. Haas, Esq., 1 vol.	Dr. Joseph Thompson, 11 vols.
Dr. Joseph Hall, 2 vols.	H. Yates Thompson, Esq., 1 vol.
Theo. D. Hall, Esq., 2 vols.	The Master and Fellows of Trinity College, Cambridge, 1 vol.
H. C. Hoskier, Esq., 3 vols.	The Rev. P. J. Scorey, 4 vols.
Charles Hughes, Esq., 1 vol.	The Rev. Dr. A. de Vlieger, 1 vol.
F. M. Jackson, Esq., 1 vol.	James Ward, Esq., 1 vol.
The John Crerar Library, Chicago, 1 vol.	Upsala University, 1 vol.
Miss M. Kerr, 1 vol.	Louis N. Wilson, Esq., 5 vols.
The Provost and Fellows of King's College, Cambridge, 1 vol.	From other sources, 5 vols.

The Governors take this opportunity of again thanking the donors for their welcome gifts.

The Use of the Library.—It becomes increasingly difficult as the years go on to say anything which has not been said before regarding the use made of the Library by readers. This may be said, however, that as the number of lacunæ on the shelves of the Library has diminished, so the power of serving readers has been proportionately increased. That this has been appreciated is shown by the steadily increasing number of students, from far as well as from near, who make regular use of the Library.

Bible Exhibition.—On the occasion of the centenary celebration of the British and Foreign Bible Society, it was felt that a fitting opportunity was offered for display-

ing to the public the richness of the collection of English Bibles possessed by the Library. An exhibition was forthwith arranged, to illustrate the history of the English Bible from Wiclif to the present time, and a little descriptive catalogue was printed. The interest of the exhibition was enhanced by His Majesty the King's gracious act in lending for this occasion General Gordon's Bible, and by the kindness of Mrs. Rylands in lending Queen Elizabeth's Bible for the same purpose.

The exhibition remained open for four months, during which time upwards of 20,000 persons visited the Library, and 6,000 copies of the catalogue were distributed.

Library Lectures.—With the object of directing attention to the Bibles exhibited, and also of stimulating interest in the work of the Bible Society, four lectures on the history of the English Bible were delivered in the Lecture Room to crowded audiences; and it is gratifying to learn from the authorities of the Society that these lectures, together with the exhibition, contributed largely to the success of the celebration in Manchester and the district.

In the month of October Professor Caspar René Gregory, of Leipzig, visited Manchester to examine the Crawford Greek Manuscripts which were placed at his disposal by Mrs. Rylands. So delighted was Professor Gregory with the facilities for study and research which he found in "commercial Manchester," and with the work that the Library was doing, that he generously offered to show his appreciation by giving a public lecture, with the result that, on the 19th October, he delivered a most instructive lecture on "The Bible in the Ancient Greek Church" to a large and enthusiastic audience. The lecture was illustrated by manuscripts and other objects from the Library collections, and thus partook of the character of a demonstration.

Since Professor Gregory's return to Leipzig he has written to renew his expressions of appreciation of the work that the Library is doing. These are his words: ". . . I have had it on my mind to express to you my happiness at knowing that there is in Manchester such an institution as the John Rylands Library. The astounding amount of most valuable material in so young a library has excited my admiration, and I await with interest the development and publication of your treasures. The best of it is that you are not at the end, that you are daily adding to those stores, which will compel scientific men to go to commercial Manchester for their researches. . . . May Manchester daily delight more and more in its centre of learning and research in the John Rylands Library."

Educational Visits to the Library.—A large number of organised visits have been paid by parties of senior scholars from high schools and other secondary schools, by teachers from elementary schools, and by pupil-teachers from the various pupil-teachers' centres. To most of the parties demonstrations were given upon some pre-arranged subject or section of the Library, calculated to help them in their studies, or to stimulate interest in the Library, as well as in literature in general. The object of these visits is to draw the schools and colleges into closer relationship with the Library, that it may achieve a fuller measure of usefulness.

Other Visits.—Arrangements were also made from time to time throughout the year to enable members of literary societies, reading circles, and kindred institutions, as well as bodies of working men, to visit the Library during the evening. Addresses were given upon a variety of subjects, designed to open out the resources and the possibilities of usefulness that such a library offers to the humbler student, as well as to the ripe scholar, with most encouraging results.