

## NOTES AND NEWS

**A**MONGST recent manuscript accessions, we have received from the executors of the late Lord Egerton of Tatton, co. Chester, the gift of over 3,400 letters, EGERTON OF TATTON MUNIMENTS papers and allied documents from the Egerton muniments, ranging in date from the fourteenth to the nineteenth century, although the bulk is of the eighteenth century. They concern mainly Samuel Egerton (1711–80), who succeeded to Tatton and the family estates in 1738, and his uncle Samuel Hill of Shenstone Park, co. Stafford, and consist of correspondence relating to family and business affairs and miscellaneous household, estate and business papers. Both nephew and uncle were active in the consolidation and enlargement of their estates and one of the most interesting features of their correspondence is the light it throws on their activities as investors in land and agricultural properties and on the relationship of local landowners to each other in the administration of their holdings. Samuel Egerton's father had married Elizabeth Barbour, sister and heiress of Samuel Hill—which name he had assumed as heir to his uncle, the diplomatist Richard Hill (d. 1727)—and some Barbour correspondence also occurs. Among individual letters of interest may be mentioned two of Lord Chesterfield dating from about 1727. The collection also includes court records (c. 1701–58) of the manors of Knutsford and Tatton, Constables' presentments for a number of places within Bucklow Hundred, and numerous accounts and receipts relating to the house and estate from the 1730s to the 1780s when Samuel Egerton and, subsequently, William Tatton Egerton were in possession. Certain letters and papers from these muniments formed the basis of an article by Dr. W. H. Chaloner entitled "The Egertons in Italy and the Netherlands, 1729–34" which was published in vol. 32 of the BULLETIN.

The John Rylands Library is noted for its illuminated, historical and literary manuscripts, both Eastern and Western, and its collections of fifteenth-century books, Aldines, early English books, Bibles, and Danteanas, but it does not claim to be a library of science. In September, however, as part of the programme of events arranged in Manchester for members of the British Association attending its Annual Meeting, the Library provided an exhibition of the type of printed book likely to be found in the library of a man of science at the end of the fifteenth century. The exhibition was later thrown open to the public.

SCIENTIFIC  
BOOKS OF  
THE XVTH  
CENTURY:  
A LIBRARY  
EXHIBITION

Representative of the encyclopaedic works common in the middle ages were the "Catholicon" of Balbus, probably printed by Gutenberg in 1460, and the compendium of Bartholomew the Englishman, printed by Wynkyn de Worde in 1495, and first editions in both Greek and Latin of the works of Plato and Aristotle, until that time the two most influential figures in scientific thought. Among medical books were first editions of the writings of Hippocrates, Galen and Celsus, and of the great medical encyclopaedia of Sylvaticus, teacher at the famous medical school of Salerno, a work often reprinted before 1500. Typical of the importance of Arabic scholarship in the transmission of classical learning in the West was the "Canon medicinae" of Avicenna, 1473, the Latin translation from the Arabic which was to remain the standard medical textbook until about 1650. Books on different aspects of medicine included treatises on poisons, 1473, thermal baths, 1485, syphilis, 1496, and the plague or English sweating sickness, the last printed in London in 1485.

The selection of books on natural history began with the first edition, 1469, of Pliny's great work, and, closely linked with medicine, the "Materia medica" of Dioscorides in the first Latin edition, 1478, and the first Greek, 1499. The series of herbals included Macer Floridus, 1477, Apuleius, 1483, with crude woodcut illustrations, and more effectively illustrated German works issued between 1485 and 1495. Books of fables (Bidpai, 1483, and the unique Spanish Aesop, 1488) and books on

field sports ("The book of St. Albans", 1496, and "Le livre du Roy Modus", 1486) were shown for their woodcut illustrations of animals.

Outstanding amongst the mathematical exhibits were the first Euclid, 1482, and Archbishop Peckham's treatise on optics of the same year, which contest the honour of being the first book illustrated with marginal mathematical diagrams. Among arithmetics were those of Boethius, 1488, and Calandri, 1491, and the "Algorismus" [c. 1500], of Arabic origin, designed to supply the mathematical knowledge necessary for business transactions. Works on astronomy and astrology included first editions of classical writers, Manilius, 1474, and Hyginus, 1482, the astronomical tables of Alphonso the Wise, King of Castile, 1483, and the perpetual calendar of Johann Müller, 1484. Of importance to navigation was the "Astrolabium" of Johann Engel, 1488, while another work of Müller, his "Calendarium", 1476, contained diagrams with moving parts. Two books printed to satisfy the popular interest aroused by the comet of 1472 and appearing in that year were those of Cato giving an account of that particular comet and of Conrad of Zürich dealing with comets in general. First editions of the geographical works of Strabo, 1469, Pomponius Mela, 1471, and Dionysius Periegetes, 1477, were on view with "The Mirrour of the World", the first English illustrated book, printed by William Caxton in 1481. Examples of early cartography were the unique world map from the Velletri Museum copper-plate, made between 1405 and 1453, and the first printed book to contain maps, the "Rudimentum Noviciorum", 1475, neither influenced by the geographical theories of Ptolemy. Of editions of Ptolemy's own work that of 1478, with copper-plate maps, and of 1482, with woodcut maps, were exhibited. With a "portolano", a manual of navigation for the Aegean Sea printed c. 1485, was a group of books of travel, Marco Polo in German, 1477, Sir John Mandeville, 1492, and the first edition, 1486, of Breydenbach's voyage to the Holy Land, with its fine folding maps and views of the cities visited.

A few later volumes, landmarks in the history of science, "Prodromus", 1596, and "Astronomia nova", 1609, of Keppler,

“ *Machinae coelestis descriptio* ”, 1673–9, and “ *Cometographia* ” 1668, of Hevelius, the “ *Astronomicall conjecture* ”, 1632, of Tycho Brahe, Bacon’s “ *Instauratio magna* ”, 1620, Napier’s “ *Logarithmi* ”, 1614, and Descartes’ “ *Discours de la méthode* ”, 1637, were shown with a selection of illustrated bird books, in which the Library is particularly rich, including works by Audubon, Buffon, Le Vaillant, Gould and Elliot.

The list of donors printed at the end of “ *Notes and News* ” indicates that several substantial gifts have been received. Professor H. Hale Bellott has presented a further twenty-one volumes from his historical library, Judge Neville Laski a further seven volumes on Jewish subjects and Professor Robertson an additional seventy-eight monographs and offprints mainly on Semitic subjects. Other interesting gifts include a folio Dutch Bible of 1748, with a series of engraved maps, from Miss S. Landsborough of Huddersfield; from the Rev. G. D. Clayton a copy on paper of Copinger’s “ *The Bible and its transmission* ”, with a set of the page-proofs; and from Mr. V. G. Funduklian, to complete the donation he made in celebration of the centenary of the foundation of the family firm, a copy of the facsimile edition of the “ *Book of Durrow* ”.

PRINTED  
BOOKS:  
ACCESSIONS  
BY GIFT

Dr. Kathleen Chesney presented two early books from her library to mark her appreciation of the facilities of the Library enjoyed when she was an undergraduate. The first is an incunable, an edition of the “ *Sermones* ” of Oliver Maillard, in three parts, printed in Paris by Philippe Pigouchet during the year 1500. The printer is perhaps best known for his splendid series of “ *Hours* ” of the use of Paris with which his press was almost entirely occupied from 1491 to 1498. Of the earliest of these the Library possesses a fine copy on vellum. In the last two years of the century he turned to work of a less specialized nature of which the present book is typical. It is printed in two of his types not hitherto represented in the Library. The second book is a selection from the voluminous poetical work of Jean Molinet, poet and historiographer, head of the school of Burgundian poets to which the name of *rhétoriqueurs* was given. It was

printed in Paris in 1540 for Denys Janot, is an attractive little volume in a pleasing Roman type, and bears the duplicate stamp of the Imperial Library in Vienna. The book was first published in 1531, but Brunet states that this edition is "plus rare que la précédente".

Only one purchase of older books, again made with the aid of the Pilgrim Trust gift to the Library's Appeal Fund, was made during the second half of 1962. Through the good offices of Mr. R. Sharpe France, Lancashire County Archivist, we were given the opportunity of viewing the library of a religious house at Burscough which was to be sold, with a view to adding to the large collection of polemical literature, both Catholic and anti-Catholic, already in the Library. Inspection of the collection yielded some seventy items of interest, including six from the *STC* period. "A reply to Fulke", Louvain, 1580 (*STC* 3802), a defence of two of Allen's attacks on Fulke, is by Richard Bristow, right-hand man of Cardinal Allen in his new foundation of the English College at Douai and head of the college when it was temporarily transferred to Rheims. Of the "Nicetas or the triumph over incontinencie", the work of Jeremias Drechsel, distinguished Jesuit ascetic writer, so popular that works by him were translated into Dutch, German, French, and English, there are two editions, the original Latin, Cologne, 1631, and the English, probably printed in London in 1633 (*STC* 7238). Of Thomas Rogers, a Protestant divine whose work was highly esteemed there is an edition of "The Faith, doctrine and religion professed . . . in the realme of England", 1621 (*STC* 21229). Of interest also is Daniel Featley's "Transubstantiation exploded", 1638 (*STC* 10740) which includes his disputation in Paris, while he was serving as chaplain to the British ambassador from 1610 to 1612, with Christopher Bagshawe. Among secular *STC* items are Percyval's, "A dictionarie in Spanish and English", 1623 (*STC* 19621) and Paolo Manuzio, "Epistolarum libb. xii", London, 1591 (*STC* 17288), a welcome addition to the Library's incomparable Aldine collection. Twenty-five books in English, of historical, theological or literary interest from the period 1641-

PRINTED  
BOOKS:  
ACCESSIONS  
BY PURCHASE

1700, were included in the purchase and the imprints, Louvain, Boulogne, Douai, Rouen, Caen, among others, illustrate the dispersion of English Catholics on the continent during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Among items outside the theological field are Enschede, "Proef en letteren", 1768, and "Terence in English", 1641, and there are two additions to our important collection of editions of the "Imitatio Christi", Paris, 1710 and Orléans, 1784.

In July 1737 Samuel Johnson wrote to the printer Edward Cave suggesting a "design which, I hope, if you join in it, will be of advantage to both of us". The design was a new translation of Sarpi's *Historia del Concilio Tridentino*. First published in 1619, the *Historia* had been translated the following year into Latin by Adam Newton and into English by Nathaniel Brent. Brent's translation had gone through three more editions (1629, 1640, and 1676) and it was the last of these Johnson proposed to replace by a new translation, making use of the notes in a French version by Pierre François le Courayer, published the preceding year (1736), which, he considered, had revived the book's reputation. The proposal does not seem to have borne fruit at once, but Cave had certainly agreed to it a year later, for on 2 August 1738 he made the first of a series of advance payments for it. During approximately the next eight months further payments were made to Johnson for this and other work as copy was produced. Meanwhile Cave advertised and, to attract subscribers, printed, according to John Nichols, six thousand copies of the *Proposals for Printing the History of the Council of Trent, Translated from the Italian of Father Pauli Sarpi; With the Author's Life and Notes . . . by S. Johnson*. In spite of the most diligent search it was considered until recently that none had survived.

A copy, in excellent condition, has now come to light in Manchester University Library, appropriately enough amongst the leaves of a duplicate of the last edition (1676) of Brent's translation of Sarpi, the very one which Johnson's new version was intended to supersede. For its discovery scholars are indebted to the University Librarian, Dr. Moses Tyson, whose

A JOHNSON  
DISCOVERY

account of our own collection of letters and papers of the Johnsonian circle appeared in an earlier volume (19) of this *Bulletin*. Discoveries in the field of Johnsonian studies are rare and we offer our congratulations to Dr. Tyson on his find. An article dealing with it and with the whole background of the Johnson-Cave project is contributed to the present number by Mr. J. A. V. Chapple, Lecturer in English Literature in the University.

The following is a list of recent Library publications, consisting of reprints of articles which appeared in the latest issue of the BULLETIN (September 1962):

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“Studies in the Structure of Some Ancient Scripts”: I. “The Writing System of the Proto-Elamite Account Tablets of Susa”. By William C. Brice, M.A., Lecturer in Geography in the University of Manchester. II. “The Question of Ligatured Signs in the Cretan Linear Scripts”. By Ernst Grumach, D.Phil. Formerly Professor of Greek in the Humboldt-University, Berlin. 8vo, pp. 43. With 7 pp. of line-drawings. Price seven shillings and sixpence net.

“Parson Weems and George Washington’s Cherry Tree.” By Marcus Cunliffe, M.A., B.Litt., Professor of American History and Institutions in the University of Manchester. 8vo, pp. 39. Price six shillings net.

“The Adoption of Christianity in the Roman Empire.” By the Rev. Arnold Ehrhardt, Dr. Jur., Ph.D., B.D., Bishop Fraser Senior Lecturer in Ecclesiastical History in the University of Manchester. 8vo, pp. 18. Price four shillings net.

“Byron and Hamlet.” By G. Wilson Knight, M.A., Professor of English Literature in the University of Leeds. 8vo, pp. 33. Price six shillings net.

“The John Rylands Megillah and Some Other Illustrated Megilloth of the XVth to XVIIth Centuries.” By Mendel Metzger, Docteur de l’Universite de Poitiers. 8vo, pp. 37. With four plates. Price six shillings net.

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of the Roman Empire in the University of Oxford. 8vo, pp. 13. Price three shillings net.

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“Menander : Production and Imagination.” By T. B. L. Webster, M.A., Litt.D., Professor of Greek at University College, London. 8vo, pp. 38. Price six shillings net.

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