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NOTES AND NEWS

IN October 1970 Ronald Hall retired as Librarian of the Rylands Library. Leaving Manchester Grammar School in 1915, he joined the Library as an assistant and remained on the staff for over fifty-five years. In 1927 he was promoted to assistant librarian and during the next thirty years occupied most of the positions in the Department of ^{THE} LIBRARIAN Printed Books, becoming Keeper in 1949. On the retirement of Professor Edward Robertson in 1960 he was appointed Acting Librarian and three years later, in October 1963, became Librarian. He had taken an external degree in English Literature from London University and in 1966 Manchester University recognized his services by conferring on him the Honorary Degree of Master of Arts.

Mr. Hall's interests were wide but, if any one of them had to be singled out, it would be the love of early printed books. This he retained throughout his career and his special knowledge has been of enduring value to the Library. May we wish him a long and happy retirement.

Mr. Hall was succeeded as Librarian on 1 November 1970 by the Keeper of Manuscripts, Dr. F. Taylor. Dr. Taylor joined the Library staff in 1935 when he was appointed Keeper of Western Manuscripts, a position he held until 1949, in which year he became Keeper of Manuscripts. He retains the Keepership with his new appointment.

Since 1958 the Library's Pre-Raphaelite collection has grown steadily. In December, with the generous assistance of the

Friends of the National Libraries and a personal gift from Mr. Simon Nowell-Smith, a further purchase was made. It consists of fifty-six letters by William Michael Rossetti and ten by the artist Michael Frederick Halliday.

PRE-
RAPHAELITE
CORRE-
SPONDENCE

The letters from Rossetti are to Anna Steele, the novelist, and date between 1888 and 1911, although the greater part was written in the years 1895 to 1904. They cover a wide variety of topics, revealing Rossetti's interests and opinions. Many of them contain reminiscences of artists and writers and his evaluations of their work. Shelley, Tennyson and Meredith are amongst those mentioned, as well as others, like Swinburne, who were close associates of the Pre-Raphaelites. The Pre-Raphaelites themselves occur frequently throughout the correspondence, and most often, Dante Gabriel Rossetti; references to his work, and particularly his paintings and drawings, are especially detailed. William Michael also writes of his own activities, for during these years he was engaged in the editorial and biographical work for which he is best remembered,

The letters by Michael Frederick Halliday are to Holman Hunt, and date between c. 1849 and 1867. The first was written at the beginning of their friendship, when Millais introduced them. Halliday was a close friend of Millais, and became his confidant in the months before Millais' marriage to Ruskin's former wife. Two long letters sent to Hunt in Jerusalem at that time (1854 and 1855) contain details of Millais' activities, and also of those of the Pre-Raphaelite circle of painters and their associates. The remaining letters cover Halliday's visit to the Crimea (1856), from which he returned via Constantinople with Hunt, his stay in Rome, and Hunt's own return from Florence after the death of his first wife.

The following is a list of recent Library publications, consisting of reprints of articles which appeared in the latest BULLETIN (Autumn 1970):

RECENT
LIBRARY
PUBLICA-
TIONS

“ Which Language Did Jesus Speak? ” By James Barr, M.A., D.D., F.B.A., Professor of Semitic Languages and Literatures in the University of Manchester. 8vo, pp. 21. Price thirty pence (6s.) net.

“Niccolò Machiavelli’s Political Assumptions and Objectives.” By C. H. Clough, M.A., D.Phil., Senior Lecturer in Medieval History in the University of Liverpool. 8vo, pp. 45. Price fifty pence (10s.) net.

“Kafka’s Modern Mythology.” By Idris Parry, M.A., Professor of Modern German Literature in the University of Manchester. 8vo, pp. 17. Price thirty pence (6s.) net.

“Diplomacy in Thucydides.” By H. D. Westlake, M.A., Hulme Professor of Greek in the University of Manchester. 8vo, pp. 20. Price thirty pence (6s.) net.

The following reprint consists of the two articles on this subject which appeared in the BULLETINS for Spring and Autumn 1970:

“Les Objets du Culte, Le Sanctuaire du Désert et Le Temple de Jérusalem, dans Les Bibles Hébraïques Médiévales Enluminées, en Orient et en Espagne.” By Thérèse Metzger, Professeur Certifié de Lettres Classiques, Licenciée d’Histoire de L’Art et d’Archéologie. 8vo, pp. 84, with four plates. Price seventy-five pence (15s.) net.

In the second half of 1970 the following donors made valuable gifts of books to the Library, and to them the Governors offer grateful thanks:

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