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NOTES AND NEWS

AN exhibition of manuscripts and early printing originating in Germany has been arranged in the Main Library to mark the inauguration of the Goethe Institute in Manchester, the new German Cultural Institute for Northern England. The exhibition was officially opened on Tuesday, 4 November, by His Excellency, the German Ambassador.

EXHIBITION
OF
MANUSCRIPTS
AND PRINTED
BOOKS FROM
GERMANY

The first three cases contain a selection of fourteen manuscripts dating from the ninth century to the fifteenth, more than half being twelfth century or earlier. The majority came to the Library with the Crawford collection in 1901, but several have not previously been on display. The illuminated codices include some noteworthy items, the two earliest being the Trier Psalter (ninth cent.) and a Gospel Book executed for Otto III (tenth cent.). An eleventh-century Lectionary from the Benedictine Abbey of Prüm contains miniatures in an apparently unique style and another eleventh-century codex, a Gospel Book, has recently been identified as coming from the Abbey of Essen. Of thirteen extant Essen manuscripts dating from before 1100, this is the only one known outside Germany. Our codex was executed for Svanhild, who was Abbess of Essen from 1058 to c. 1085. In a plainer style is a manuscript of c. 1000 which has the distinction of being the oldest known Gospel Book of Bremen Cathedral. An illuminated Psalter of c. 1300 belongs to a small group of which the style has affinities with that in the famous Manesse Codex. Among later illuminated codices are a *Speculum Humanae Salvationis* and an *Alchemica*, both fifteenth century. The Abbeys of Gladbach, Himmerod,

Weissenau and Weingarten are represented by twelfth and thirteenth-century manuscripts. A volume of St. Bernard's sermons from Weingarten is notable as having been written, between 1200 and 1232, for one of its outstanding Abbots, Berthold, while a glossed *Epistolae Catholicae* from Weissenau was apparently in the library of that house throughout the six and a half centuries of its existence. One of our finest medieval jewelled bindings is also exhibited, that from Trier. Each cover comprises a leaf of an ivory diptych set within borders of gilt metal adorned with semi-precious stones. The ivories are German work of the second half of the tenth century.

The collection of fifteenth-century printing which formed part of the Althorp Library acquired by Mrs. Rylands from Lord Spencer in 1892 included a number of woodcuts and blockbooks probably made in Germany, examples of the work produced in Mainz by Johann Gutenberg, the inventor of typography, and a representative selection of books printed by his contemporary fellow-countrymen. It is from this collection that the majority of the items in the printed section of this exhibition are drawn. Woodcuts include the celebrated *Saint Christopher*, which, produced in the neighbourhood of Lake Constance and bearing the date 1423, is the earliest example of Western printing with an undisputed date, and a portrayal of *Saint Bridget*, [c. 1465], on which appears the name *Michil*, presumably the artist, who may have been Michel Schorpp of Ulm. Of two editions of an indulgence of Pope Sixtus IV, both the work of Friedrich Creussner at Nuremberg in 1462, one is printed from movable metal type, the other from a woodblock. Alongside a copy of the fourth edition of the blockbook *Apocalypsis Sancti Johannis*, [c. 1465], is shown a woodblock of a corresponding page which is believed to be the only survivor from the many series of blocks made about that time for the production of such books.

Copies are on view of the two great Latin Bibles, the 42-line Bible printed at Mainz before August 1456, the earliest substantial book to have survived, and the rarer 36-line Bible, printed in the same city before 1461, both being associated with the name of Gutenberg. With them are two editions of an indulgence of Pope Nicholas V, the earlier, dated 1454, the earliest

example of dated printing from movable types. The larger of the two types employed in it links it with the printer of the 42-line Bible, while the larger type in the other edition is that used in the 36-line Bible. The work of Gutenberg's successors in Mainz, Johann Fust and Peter Schoeffer, is represented by the only complete copy of the 143-leaf edition of the *Psalterium*, 14 August 1457, the first book in which the date and the names of the printers are printed, and a unique copy of the *Bul zu dutsch widder die turcken*, [1463]. Examples of the work of other Mainz printers, Schoeffer alone, Neumeister, Reuwich and Meydenbach, are also shown, while from the press of Albrecht Pfister in Bamberg are *Die vier Historier*, 1462, and *Biblia Pauperum* in German, [c. 1462]. Pfister's work is of such rarity that it is represented in this country only by the five examples in the Rylands collection.

From the work of Johann Mentelin, the earliest printer in Strassburg, three books are on view, the earliest Biblical translation printed in any modern tongue, the *Biblia Germanica*, [1466], *Titurel*, 1477, and an edition of Valerius Maximus, *Facta et dicta memorabilia*, [1470], which is accompanied by an advertisement of this and other works which was issued by the printer in the following year. Other Strassburg presses contribute Petrarch, *Secretum*, [R-printer, c. 1470], a work not printed in Italy until the sixteenth century, Bidpai, *Directorium humanae vitae*, [J. Prüss, c. 1490], a collection of Indian fables, and the lavishly illustrated Terentius, *Comoediae*, Grüninger, 1496. With them is an edition of *Endkrist*, [c. 1482], printed, probably by Prüss, with metal types and woodcuts in imitation of block-book editions, and a blockbook of the same work made by Hans Spörer of Nuremberg in 1472.

St. John Chrysostom's *Liber primus super psalmum Miserere*, 1466, is the earliest book signed and dated by the first Cologne printer, Ulrich Zel, and lies beside *Die Chronica van der hilliger Stat van Coellen*, printed in that city by J. Koelhoff the younger in 1499, which includes an account of the origin of printing. The *Vocabularius ex quo*, 5 June 1469, was printed at Eltvil by Bechtermüntze in a modified form of the type used at Mainz in 1460 by Gutenberg in an edition of Balbus, *Catholicon*. The

importance of Augsburg in the development of printing and book-illustration is exemplified in the *Speculum humanae salvationis*, Zainer, [1473], with woodcuts of very high quality, and the *Missale Pataviense*, Ratdolt, 1494, with its excellent example of early colour printing. Examples are also shown of the work of Koberger and of Müller at Nuremberg, of Holle at Ulm and of Arndes at Lübeck.

Since German printers not only introduced the art into Italy but also exercised considerable influence on its development there, it was felt appropriate to include in the exhibition examples of their work. From the Library's unrivalled collection of the work of the first printers in Italy, Schweynheym and Pannartz, is shown a copy of Cicero, *De oratore*, [Subiaco, before 30 September 1465], the first printed classic, and with it is the only perfect copy of the first illustrated book printed in Italy, Turrecremata, *Meditationes*, 1467, the work of Ulrich Han, who established the second press in Rome. Books printed in Venice include a vellum copy of Cicero, *Epistolae ad familiares*, 1469, the first work of the first printer in that city, Johannes de Spira, the only perfect copy of Boccaccio, *Decamerone*, C. Valdarfer, 1471, the sale of which in 1812 inspired the foundation of the Roxburghe Club, and products of the presses of Adam de Rottweil and Erhard Ratdolt. Also on view are examples of the work of Neumeister at Foligno, Laurentii at Florence and Riessinger and the *Germani fidelissimi* at Naples.

The final case, devoted to the first half of the sixteenth century, includes a copy on vellum of Pfinzing, *Der Teuerdank*, 1517, and important works by Copernicus and Dürer. There is also a selection from the pamphlet literature of the Reformation in Germany, mainly drawn from the remarkable collection of Lutheran tracts deposited in the Library by the Earl of Crawford and Balcarres so that it may be more readily available to scholars. Lutheran items include his *Neue Testament dutzsch*, September 1522, the first edition in book form of his 95 theses, and a broadside of his later theses, *Artikël wider die ganze Satanschule* [1530]. There are also polemical tracts by other outstanding personalities of the Reformation, Erasmus, Johann von Eck, Carlstadt and Ulrich von Hutten.

An illustrated catalogue of the exhibition is available (see below, p. 238).

The restricted finances of the Library enforce great restraint in book purchase and the major portion of the amount available for that purpose is expended on current books appearing in this country or abroad in the fields covered by its collections. A small but fixed proportion of the Book Fund is, however, set aside each year for the strengthening of the collections of older books and some fifty items printed in England in the first half of the seventeenth century have been acquired since the appearance of the last issue of the BULLETIN. Many of these are additions to the collection of Puritan theology, including *Sermons*, 1632 (STC 22808), by Miles Smith, [d. 1624], Bishop of Gloucester, one of the translators of the Authorised Version and author of its preface, *Tithes examined and proved to bee due to the clergie*, 1606 (STC 4644), by George Carleton, [1559-1628], successively Bishop of Llandaff and Chichester, whom Camden loved "for his singular knowledge in divinity", and six works (STC 20230, 20244, 20250, 20257, 20265 and 20271) by John Preston, [1582-1628]. The addition of *The happiness of practice*, 1621 (STC 25044), brings to seven the Library's holding of the eleven recorded works by Samuel Ward, [1577-1640], the much loved town-preacher of Ipswich for nearly thirty years. Polemical works against the Roman Catholic Church are *A catholike appeale for protestants*, 1610 (STC 18177), by Bishop Thomas Morton [1564-1659], which Barwick says "dealt a deadly blow to his Romish adversaries", and, unlike his *Apologia Catholica*, did not call forth any reply, and *A treatise of justification*, 1633 (STC 7121), by Bishop George Downame, [d. 1634].

An acquisition of considerable ecclesiastical interest is a volume containing twenty-four mainly seventeenth-century pamphlets, sixteen of which are special forms of prayer for various occasions, for deliverance from the Gunpowder Plot, [1606 ?] (STC 16494), "for the averting of Gods heauy visitation upon . . . this kingdome", 1625 (STC 16541) and, in the same year, "for staying the contagious sickness of the Plague",

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BOOKS:
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(STC 16542). Among forms of prayer or thanksgiving issued later in the century are those "for the protection of His Majesties sacred person", 1678 (W/C4145), "for the prosperity of the Christian cause against the Turks", 1686 (W/C4177), "during this time of publick apprehensions from the danger of invasion", 1688 (W/P3196a), later in the same year "for having made the Prince of Orange the glorious instrument of the great deliverance of the Kingdom from Popery" (W/C4125) and, in the next century, "for the blessing of God in suppressing the late Rebellion", 1716. In the same volume are documents addressed to the Church by James II and William III, and "Articles to be enquired of and answered by churchwardens" in visitations of their dioceses, by John, Bishop of Norwich, in 1692, and Simon, Bishop of Ely, in 1704.

Of more general interest are *Resolves*, 4th edition, 1631, (STC 10759), a collection of moral essays by Owen Feltham, [1602-1688], of which twelve editions appeared before 1709 and which were several times republished in the nineteenth century, and *The Phoenix of these late times*, 1637 (STC 25228), the life of Henry Welby [d. 1636], who, embittered by the depravity of his brother John who made an attempt on his life, lived for forty-four years as a recluse in Grub Street, giving generous help to his distressed neighbours. The volume contains tributes in verse from Marmion, John Taylor the "Water Poet", and Thomas Heywood. *Aphorismes civill and militarie*, 2nd edition, 1629 (STC 6198), is the work of Sir Robert Dallington, [1561-1637], a member of the household of Henry, Prince of Wales, and later of Prince Charles, by whose support he was appointed Master of the Charterhouse in 1624. In this second edition is a translation of a passage from Guicciardini, referred to in the first edition as "effaced out of the original by The Inquisition". John Davies's *Antiquae linguae Britannicae et linguae Latinae dictionarium duplex*, 1632 (STC 6347), is the work by which the author, [1570?-1644], who collaborated in the translation of the Welsh Bible of 1620, established his reputation as a scholar. Among translations acquired is Malvezzi's *Romulus and Tarquin*, 1637 (STC 17219), by Henry Carey, second Earl of Monmouth, who lacked the energy of his father and, after election to Parliament

on five occasions between 1620 and 1628, retired from public life and devoted himself to translations from Italian and French. The Malvezzi volume is the first of his translations to be printed.

From the period 1641-1700 are works by Sir Roger L'Estrange, *The Visitation*, 1662, E. Hickeringill, *News from Doctor's Commons*, 1662 (W/H1823), and R. Shower, *Family religion*, 1694 (W/S3666) while to the Wesley Collection has been added *The Wesleyan Sunday School Magazine*, vols. 1-3, 1823-25, and to the collection of journals of the French Revolution *Le chronique du mois*, 1791-93, *L'abeille du Nord*, 6 vols., 1806-07, and *Arlequin au Museum*, 11, 1804.

Following the gift of the library of the late Professor H. H. Bellot (BULLETIN, vol. 52, no. 1, pp. 1-2), we received in November the further gift of his family papers. The collection is extensive, comprising personal letters and documents and legal records of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries relating to the Bellot, Hale, Killer and Thyer families. The Thyer papers are not numerous but form one of the most interesting parts of the collection, as some sixty of them relate to Robert Thyer, Librarian of Chetham's Hospital for over thirty years (1732-63) and the first layman appointed to that office. Robert was the step-father of Elizabeth Killer, whose grand-daughter Frances in 1847 married William Henry Bellot.

LETTERS AND
PAPERS OF
ROBERT
THYER
(d. 1781)

This note is merely to record that the Thyer papers are now in the Rylands Library, for they are not unknown to scholars. Their presence among the Bellot family records was, in fact, drawn to the attention of Mr. Edmund Ogden some forty years ago following his article on Robert Thyer in the *Transactions of the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society*, vol. 41. As a result, Mr. Ogden based a second article on them which appeared in vol. 47 of the same *Transactions*. He there surveyed the collection and printed some items in full. The main features of it are twenty-eight letters from Robert—of which twenty-five are bound in a volume containing a mass of Bellot family records and memoranda covering several generations—and a collection of his essays and verses, together with papers relating to his wife

Silence, among them being her Will (1751). Also included are Robert's burial dues to the Collegiate Church (1781) and receipts (1785-86) to his step-daughter and executrix Elizabeth Killer.

"Catalogue of an Exhibition of Manuscripts and Early Printing originating in Germany, arranged to mark the Official Opening of the Goethe Institute, Manchester, November, 1969." 8vo, pp. 35, with nine plates. Price ten shillings net.

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"The Grecian Urn: An Archaeological Approach." By James Dickie, M.A., L. en L., Ph.D., Lecturer in Islamic Studies in the University of Lancaster. 8vo, pp. 19, with six plates. Price seven shillings and sixpence net.

"A Forgotten Artist: John Harris and the Rylands Copy of Caxton's Edition of Malory." By Barry Gaines, M.A. 8vo, pp. 14, with one plate. Price six shillings net.

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