

History of the Book and General Printed Collections

From the earliest years of its existence, with the acquisition of the Spencer Collection, the John Rylands Library has housed one of the most important collections in the world relating to the birth and development of Western printing and the history of the book. The merger with the University Library in 1972 added the Christie and Bullock collections, particularly rich in Italian and French printing, to the Rylands's holdings.

There are now over 4,000 Incunabula in the Library, most of which date from between 1455 and 1480, representing more than 500 European presses, some being the only known copies. Germany, Italy, France, the Netherlands, Spain and England all feature prominently; the texts printed by Caxton represent the second largest collection in the world. A concise conspectus of early printing is afforded by the Hiero von Holtorp Collection, which contains specimen leaves from virtually all fifteenth- and sixteenth-century printers in Germany, Italy, France, Spain, the Netherlands and England.

For the sixteenth century, the Library's greatest strengths lie in the field of Italian printing. The largest Aldine Collection in the world contains virtually every work produced by Aldus Manutius and his Venetian successors between 1495 and 1598, while the Bullock Collection holds an even wider range of Italian writers.

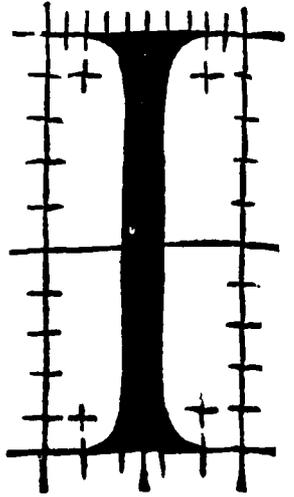
As a whole the collection of early printed books constitutes one of the world's principal resources for the study of European publication of the classics of Greece and Rome, as well as of the writings of late medieval and early modern authors.

The Library holds some 12,500 books printed between 1475 and 1640, and a further 210,000 printed between 1641 and 1800. They cover a wide range of subjects: theology, history, literature, travel and exploration, science and medicine. The first and finest editions of later authors in the European canon of great writers have been systematically sought. De-luxe editions, extra-illustrated and large-paper copies and fine bindings are plentiful, but there

LE TIERS LIVRE.

DE le I, toutes les autres lettres, cōme iay dit, presnēt & ont cōancemāt a estre faictes & escriptes. Cest ascauoir, ou en estant garde en sa droitte ligne, ou en estant reflecte & courbe, ou en estāt brise. Et luy seul entre toutes les lettres garde sa droicte ligne perpendiculaire, a limitation du corps humain, qui luy estāt sus ses pieds tout droit la represēte. En luy ouurāt les bras & iambes peu ou plus monstre la ditte brifeure, comme il peut estre facilement entendu en la sequente figure q̄ iay faicte apres celle que vng myen seigneur & bō amy Iehan Perreal, autrement dict Iehan de Paris. Varlet de chambre & excellent Paintre des Roys, Charles huitiesme, Loys douziesme, & Frācois Premier dece nō, ma comuniquee & baillee moult bien pourtraicte de sa main,

Iehan
Perreal,
autremēt
dict Iehā
de Paris.



I.V.L.
M.C.D,
Q.X.
Lettres
seruant a
nombres

Pource que a lais de de Dieue su is venu a propos de dire commant nostre dit I, est souuant mis en nōbre, il me semble nestre inutile dire aussi quelles autres liēs sont prises pour nombre, tant en Latin quen Francois.

Donques ie dis quil ya huit lettres qui seruent a nōbre, Cest a scauoir, Deux vocales. I. & V. Deux Semiuocales. L. & M. Trois Mutes. C. D. & Q. Et vne double Consone. X. Le l. seul est mis pour vng. Quāt il est double, Il en vault deux. Quant il ē triple, Il faict trois. Et quant il est quadruple, Il signifie quatre. Et notez quil ne se multiplie plus oultre avec soy mesmes. Il se multiplie avec les autres dittes

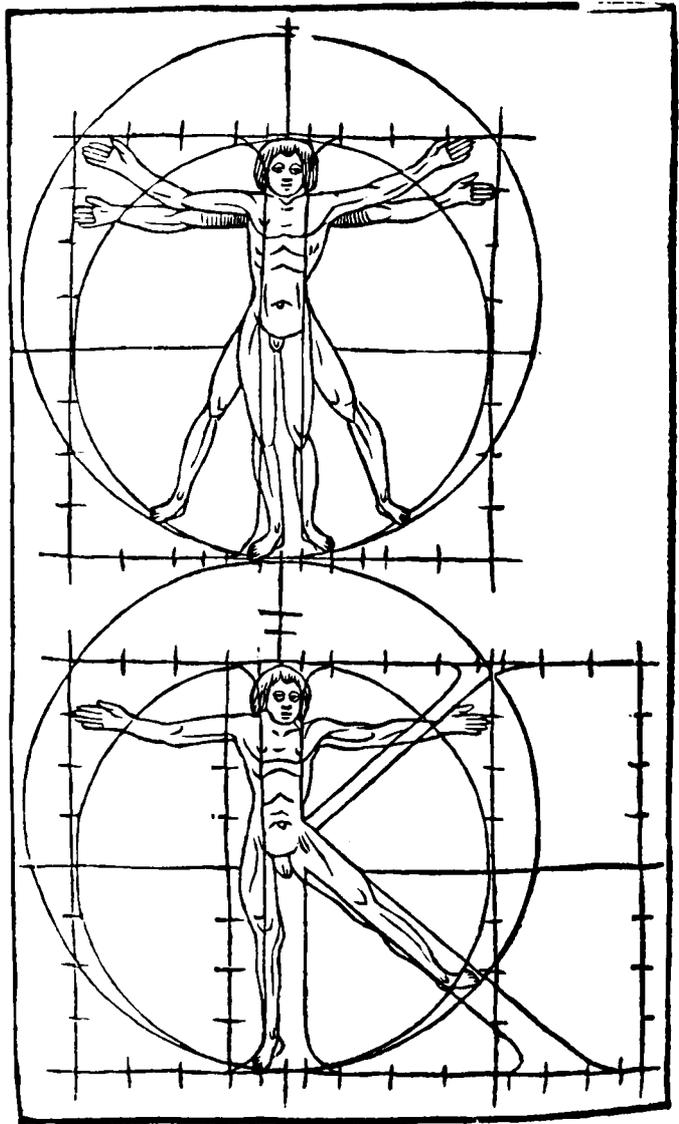


Figure 1

The first theoretical treatise on type-design, Geofroy Tory's *Champ Fleury* (Paris, 1529). 19166, fo. XLVI v.

are also substantial collections of working-class literature, such as broadsides and chapbooks.

Notable collections include the Tabley Book Collection, a fine country-house library from Tabley House in Cheshire which incorporates many seventeenth- and eighteenth-century works; the library from Sedbergh School in Cumbria, a representative example of a public-school library, ranging in date from the sixteenth century to the twentieth and full of bibliographical interest; the Lloyd Roberts Collection, which contains numerous first editions of major English authors; and the Shackleton Collection, which is especially rich in eighteenth-century French and English publications. Fine printing in the eighteenth century is further represented by the Glaswegian Foulis Press Collection, and by the works of the greatest English and Italian printers of the period, John Baskerville and Giambattista Bodoni. The Library also holds comprehensive collections of publications by several exclusive bibliographical societies founded in the nineteenth century, such as the Roxburghe Club and the Scottish Bannatyne and Maitland Clubs.

An outstanding Private Press Collection (including complete or near-complete collections of books from the Kelmscott, Doves, Ashendene and Essex House Presses), is complemented by the Casdagli Collection of first editions and books from the Gregynog and Golden Cockerel Presses.

There are countless fine bindings among the Library's collections, ranging from original bindings of the fifteenth century through to contemporary design bindings. Bindings of the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries may be found among the Spencer, Christie, Bullock and Aldine collections, while the Lloyd Roberts Collection includes a large number of fine bindings from the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, such as those produced for Grolier and Grimaldi, as well as the work of nineteenth-century trade binders such as Zaehnsdorf and Bedford. The Library holds the largest extant collection of bindings by Roger Payne, the greatest English binder of the eighteenth century, as well as a collection of his bills (English MSS 440 and 944). The reinvigoration of bookbinding in the late nineteenth century, as part of the Arts and Crafts revival, is shown in examples of the output of the Doves Bindery and the work of individual craft binders such as Douglas Cockerell and Katherine Adams within the Private Press Collection. Finally the two Tregaskis Collections constitute a unique synopsis of the state of fine bookbinding throughout the world in 1894 and 1994.

Other collections relating to the history of the book include the Viner Collection of bookplates designed by Charles William Sherborn and John Paul Rylands; the Cassedy Collection of Irish

texts, including works on local history, topography, genealogy, the Protestant and Catholic faiths and the Gaelic language; the Strachan Collection of works on Celtic and Scandinavian language, literature, history, archaeology, art and folklore; the Deaf Education Collection of books from the sixteenth to nineteenth centuries on the education of the deaf; and the Neil Salvesen Collection which contains many scarce works in and about Esperanto.

It should also be noted that the John Rylands Library Archive (p. 285) contains much information on the acquisition of printed books by Mrs Rylands and her Library.

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Aldine Collection

1,500 items.

Both Lord Spencer and Richard Copley Christie assiduously collected Aldines, and therefore the Library has many duplicate and variant copies. Of the 127 authenticated editions printed by Aldus Manutius from 1495 to 1515, the Library lacks only seven very rare and minor items. There is also a virtually complete collection of all the publications of the Aldine Press from 1515 to 1598. The Rylands collection of Aldines includes a substantial number of vellum copies. These are almost all ornately illuminated and form valuable source material for the study of book decoration. The Library has nineteen Aldine editions and variants of Baldassare Castiglione's *Il Libro del Cortegiano* (*The Book of Courtesy*) printed between 1528 and 1553. The collection also contains over 150 counterfeit Aldines, mainly printed at Lyon.

Finding aids: recorded in general printed-book catalogue; the collection is also recorded in a marked-up copy of Renouard's *Annales de l'imprimerie des Aldes*.

Bannatyne and Maitland Collection

250 items (dispersed).

The Bannatyne Club, the exclusive Edinburgh bibliographical society, was limited to thirty-one members at its institution in 1817. They included the Scottish judge, Sir William McLeod

Bannatyne. A complete set is available of the 176 volumes published by the Club up to 1867. These are a major source for Scottish literature and history, as are the publications of the Glaswegian Maitland Club, founded in March 1828 to honour the Scottish poet and lawyer, Sir Richard Maitland, Lord Lethington. Again, a complete set of the publications of this society up to 1859 is available.

Finding aids: recorded in general printed-book catalogue.

Baskerville Collection

30 items (dispersed).

The Library holds over half of the entire output of John Baskerville (1706–75) of Birmingham, England's greatest eighteenth-century printer. Baskerville's first and arguably finest work, the 1757 Virgil, is available in two different states, one with the extra illustrations supplied by the plates from Ogilby's translation printed in 1654. Among other classical authors are Horace (1762), Lucretius (1772) and Terence (1772), while English works include Milton (1758 and 1759), Addison (1761), and Lord Shaftesbury (1773), together with the *Book of Common Prayer* of 1760–62, and the Bibles of 1763 and 1769–72.

Finding aids: recorded in general printed-book catalogue. See also David W. Riley, 'English Books of the Seventeenth to Nineteenth Centuries in the John Rylands University Library of Manchester, with Particular Reference to History and Literature', *Bulletin of the John Rylands University Library of Manchester*, vol. 71, no. 2 (1989), pp. 95–6.

Bodoni Collection

200 items (dispersed).

The Library's collection of books printed by Giambattista Bodoni (1740–1813), the greatest Italian printer of the period, includes eight duplicates and twenty items not recorded by Giani or Renouard. The total consists solely of books, with no examples of the ephemeral material, lottery tickets, passports and inscriptions issued at Parma. The Library has 127 of the titles listed by Giani together with fourteen of the items from the Royal Press and one of the typographic works, the famous *Manuale Tipografico* of 1818. Of almost equal importance is the 1806 folio edition of the *Oratio Dominica*. Authors printed by Bodoni include Longus, Torquato Tasso, Lodovico Ariosto, Francesco Petrarch, Giovanni Battista Guarini, Giovanni Fantoni, Luigi Cerretti, Prospero Manara and Maria Luisa Cicci. Available in Manchester are both the 1795 and

P. VIRGILII MARONIS
BUCOLICA

ECLOGA I. cui nomen TITYRUS.

MELIBŒUS, TITYRUS.

TITYRE, tu patulæ recubans sub tegmine fagi
 Silvestrem tenui Musam meditaris avena:
 Nos patriæ fines, et dulcia linquimus arva;
 Nos patriam fugimus: tu, Tityre, lentus in umbra
 5 Formosam refonare doces Amaryllida filvas.
T. O Melibœe, Deus nobis hæc otia fecit:
 Namque erit ille mihi semper Deus: illius aram
 Sæpe tener nostris ab ovilibus imbuet agnus.
 Ille meas errare boves, ut cernis, et ipsum
 10 Ludere, quæ vellem, calamo permittit agresti.
M. Non equidem invideo; miror magis: undique totis
 Usque adeo turbatur agris. en ipse capellas
 Protenus æger ago: hanc etiam vix, Tityre, duco:
 Hic inter densas corylos modo namque gemellos,
 15 Spem gregis, ah! filice in nuda connixa reliquit.
 Sæpe malum hoc nobis, si mens non læva fuisset,
 De cœlo tactas memini prædicere quercus:
 Sæpe sinistra cava prædixit ab ilice cornix.
 Sed tamen, iste Deus qui sit, da, Tityre, nobis.
 20 *T.* Urbem, quam dicunt Romam, Melibœe, putavi
 Stultus ego huic nostræ similem, quo sæpe solemus
 Pastores ovium teneros depellere foetus.
 Sic canibus catulos similes, sic matribus hædos
 A Noram;

Figure 2

The first, and arguably finest, work from the press of John Baskerville, Virgil's
Bucolica, Georgica et Aeneis (Birmingham, 1757). 3580, p. 1.

1796 editions of Dante, the earlier being copy number forty-two presented by Bodoni to Lord Spencer.

Finding aids: recorded in general printed-book catalogue.

Bullock Collection

5,000 items.

The collection was formed by Walter Llewellyn Bullock, first in Chicago and later in Manchester, where he was Professor of Italian Studies from 1935 until his death in 1944. It illustrates the literature and social life of Italy, with over 2,600 items dating from the sixteenth century. The major Italian authors are, of course, represented, but the greatest strength of the collection lies in the large number of works by minor and obscure authors which it contains. Authors like Lodovico Dolce, Lodovico Domenichi, Giovanni Battista Gelli, Giovanni Battista Giraldi, Girolamo Muzio and Francesco Sansovino are represented by between five and fifty items each. There are over 100 sixteenth-century comedies and fifty tragedies together with over 200 works of literary theory. Other subjects for which a substantial number of items is available in the collection are medicine, religion, education, law, letter writing, travel and the art of war.

Note that the collection now contains only sixteenth- and seventeenth-century items; most post-1640 works were integrated into the main stock of the University Library, from which pre-1801 material was subsequently removed to the general Special Collections stock.

Finding aids: recorded in general printed-book catalogue. See also Walter L. Bullock, 'A Collection of *Cinquecento* Books', *Italica*, vol. 8, no. 4 (1931), pp. 1-6.

Location: JRULM (Deansgate).

Casdagli Collection

200 items.

Part of the library of Olga X. Casdagli of Southport, Lancashire, bequeathed on her death in 1988. The collection comprises Private Press books of the 1920s and 1930s, particularly from the Golden Cockerel and Gregynog Presses, as well as works, many in signed first editions, of George Meredith, Lewis Carroll, Oscar Wilde, T.S. Eliot, David Jones, Charles Morgan and Norman Douglas.

See also the Private Press Collection (p. 26).

Finding aids: recorded in general printed-book catalogue.

Cassedy Collection

1,200 items (dispersed).

The collection was formed by James Cassedy (Seamus O Casaide), the Celtologist and bibliographer. There are some 200 periodicals, Dublin and provincial newspapers, directories, almanacs and chapbooks. The books, which include some exceedingly rare titles, date mainly from the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Subjects covered include genealogy, local history, both the Protestant and Roman Catholic faiths, Gaelic dictionaries, grammars and texts, Anglo-Irish verse and prose, natural history and topography. There is a special section devoted to the publications of Patrick Lynch (1754–1818), the Secretary of the Gaelic Union of Dublin.

Finding aids: recorded in general printed-book catalogue; see also bookseller's catalogue.

Christie Collection

8,000 items.

Professor Richard Copley Christie bequeathed his collection to the University of Manchester in 1901. Christie formed his collection 'with a view of illustrating and enabling its owner to study the Renaissance, and especially the classical Renaissance of Italy and France, ... and the lives, labours and works of a certain limited number of scholars upon whose lives and labours I had at one time hoped to write something. Etienne Dolet, Aldus, Pomponatius, Clenardus, Giulio Camillo, Ramus, Sturm, Postel, J.C. Scaliger, Paul Scaliger, Giordano Bruno, Vanini, Scioppius, Hortensio Lando are some of these.'

The Christie Collection includes an unrivalled set of virtually all the Greek texts published in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, together with a very substantial collection of Aldines (see p. 17). Christie acquired over fifty counterfeit Aldines printed at Lyon between 1502 and 1527, some of which are rarer than genuine editions. While the collection is not remarkable for its holdings of major Italian authors such as Ariosto, Boccaccio and Dante, it does contain a very representative collection of Italian printers up to 1550 with nearly 190 houses being included. As an indication of the quality of sixteenth-century French printing to be found in the collection, there are fifty-five works produced by the Parisian press of Simon de Colines and forty works printed by his successor, Robert Estienne, forty-four books issued by Étienne Dolet of Lyon, and no less than 550 titles from the *atelier* of Sebastian Gryphius in Lyon.

Christie specialized in collecting editions of the work of authors about whom he hoped to write at a future date including Pietro Pomponazzi (eighteen items), Giulio Camillo (nineteen items), Giordano Bruno (forty-five items), Ortensio Lando (seventy-three items), Étienne Dolet (113 items, including seven unique titles), Guillaume Postel (seventy-two items), and Caspar Schoppe (216 items). Christie believed that it would be difficult, if not impossible, for others to match, let alone surpass, such comprehensive collections. Another indication of the strength of the Christie Collection is that it includes over 800 editions of Horace.

Among the many fine bindings in the Christie Collection are examples of the work of Francis Bedford, Roger de Coverly, Christian Kalthoeber, Charles Lewis, Roger Payne, Robert Rivière and Joseph Zaehnsdorf in England; and of Bauzonnet, Chambolle-Duru, Derome, Duseuil, Padeloup, Simier and Trautz in France.

Finding aids: recorded in general printed-book catalogue. See also Charles W.E. Leigh, *Catalogue of the Christie Collection bequeathed to the Library of the University of Manchester* (Manchester, 1915).

Deaf Education Collection

11,000 items.

The Library for Deaf Education, or Deaf Education Collection, is probably the most important collection on surdo-mutism in the British Isles. It was established in Manchester University Library in 1919 with the aid of a grant from the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust, and out of this grant the Arnold Library was purchased from the National College of Teachers of the Deaf in 1922. Abraham Farrar donated to the Library his valuable collection of books relating to deafness, many of them rare, in 1932.

The collection as a whole comprises over 11,000 items, and includes works dealing with the various systems of teaching the deaf, lip-reading, speech therapy, the psychology of speech and hearing, phonetics, acoustics, and the anatomy, physiology and diseases of the ear, as well as sociological, historical and other works concerning the deaf. The bulk of the collection, comprising modern monographs and periodicals, is held at the Main University Library. The Farrar Collection is located at Deansgate, together with other rare material removed from the rest of the Library for Deaf Education or acquired since 1932.

There are approximately 1,000 items dating from the sixteenth century to the nineteenth century. Authors include Jan Conraad Amman, Thomas Arnold, Charles and Henry Baker, Alexander Graham Bell, Franz Hermann Czech, Daniel Defoe, Charles-Michel de l'Épée, Manuel Ramirez de Carrion, John Wallis and

Paulo Zacchia, together with many early editions of classical authors who mentioned deafness in their works.

See also the Henry Baker Papers (p. 256).

Finding aids: recorded in general printed-book catalogue. See also published catalogues, Abraham Farrar, *An Annotated Catalogue of Books on the Education of the Deaf and Cognate Subjects* (Stoke-on-Trent, 1932); Charles W.E. Leigh, *Catalogue of the Library for Deaf Education* (Manchester, 1932).

Location: JRULM (Deansgate and Main Library).

Foulis Press Collection

150 items (dispersed).

The brothers Robert and Andrew Foulis printed some 600 titles in Glasgow from 1740 to 1776, and the press was carried on rather less actively until 1806 by Andrew Foulis the younger. The Library's collection of 150 titles, which derive from the Spencer Collection (p. 30), is not large by international standards, but it includes a high proportion of the editions of Greek and Latin texts for which the press was noted. These include the only recorded vellum copy of the 1748 Epictetus; the silk copies of the 1751 Anacreon and the 1754 Pindar; and four works with bindings bearing the coat of arms of Louis XV: the 1761 Herodotus and the 1762, 1764 and 1767 editions of Xenophon.

Finding aids: recorded in general printed-book catalogue. See also David W. Riley, 'English Books of the Seventeenth to Nineteenth Centuries in the John Rylands University Library of Manchester, with Particular Reference to History and Literature', *Bulletin of the John Rylands University Library of Manchester*, vol. 71, no. 2 (1989), p. 95.

Hiero von Holtorp Collection

The collection consists of specimen fifteenth- and sixteenth-century leaves from virtually all printers of Germany, Italy, France, Spain, the Netherlands and England. Holtorp, who spent over 50 years accumulating and arranging the items, attached notes of identification to each specimen, thus tracing the progress of printing in each town represented. In addition, there are five portfolios of borders and alphabets, two of engravings and etchings, three portfolios of titles and printers' devices, and no less than eight portfolios of woodcuts, four German, two French and two miscellaneous. The woodcuts include major works of Dürer and other early masters. The original twenty lots, sold at Sotheby's on 29 March 1906, are now stored in ten large boxes.

Finding aids: auctioneer's catalogue, Sotheby, Wilkinson and Hodge, *Catalogue of valuable books including H von Holtorp's typographical and xylographic collections sold by auction on 27 March 1906 and four following days* (London, 1906).

Incunabula Collection

4,500 items.

The Library has fifteen block-books and a number of block-prints, including the *St Christopher Woodcut*, the only surviving example of the first piece of European printing bearing a date, 1423. Of the collection of incunables, 3,000 come from the Spencer Collection (p. 30), 215 were bequeathed by Richard Copley Christie (p. 21), and the remainder have been acquired from other sources. Approximately 1,000 are of German origin, about 2,000 were printed in Italy and the remainder represent the presses of other European countries and of England.

Of the earliest type-printed documents to which a place or date can be assigned there are the Letters of Indulgence of Pope Nicholas V, the 36- and 42-line Bibles, the first three Mainz Psalters and in all about fifty productions of the Mainz press associated with Gutenberg, Fust and Schöffer, several being the only recorded copies. The Library has the only complete examples in Britain of books printed by Albrecht Pfister in Bamberg. The work of over 100 German presses is represented in the Collection.

In Manchester there are sixty-six volumes printed by Sweynheym and Pannartz, the first printers in Italy working in Subiaco and Rome between 1465 and 1473. It is the most complete collection in the country, lacking only the Aristotle and Perottus of 1473. 253 printers working in nearly fifty different Italian towns are represented on the Library's shelves. There are 349 volumes printed in Rome (329 separate editions) and these include thirty-nine items printed by Ulrich Han. Of particular importance is Han's 1467 edition of the *Meditationes* of Cardinal Turrecremata, the only copy in the country of the first Italian illustrated book. Venetian incunables total 576 volumes (485 separate editions), with forty-two printed by Vindelinius de Spira and forty-three by Nicholas Jenson. Other Italian towns for which significant numbers of incunables are available include Milan (125 volumes, 111 separate editions of which thirty were printed by Zarotus), Florence (110 volumes, ninety-three separate editions), and Naples (100 volumes, ninety-six separate editions). The forty-nine volumes of forty-four separate editions printed in Brescia are of particular importance as ten are not available elsewhere in Britain, and five items, the work of Thomas Ferrandus, are unique.

The sixthe boke.



Here foloweth the sixthe boke of that noble prynce kyng Arthur.

How syr Laūcelot & syr Lyonell departed fro the courte for to seke adventures / and how syr Lyonell left hym slepyng & was taken. Ca.primū

S Done after that kyng Arthur was come fro Rome in to Englonde / theñe al the knyghtes of the table rounde resorted vnto the kyng and made many Justes & tornoymentes / and some there were that were but

knyghtes whiche encreaced soo in armes & worthyp & they passed all theyr felowes in prowesse & noble dedes / and that was wel proued on many. But in especyal it was proued on syr Laūcelot du lake / for in all tornoymentes & Justes & dedes of armes both for lyf and deth he passed all other knyghtes / & at no tyme he was neuer ouercome / but yf it were by treason or enchaūtement so syr Laūcelot encreaced so merueylously in worthyp & in honour / therfor is he the fyrste knyght & the frenche booke maketh mencyon of after that kyng Arthur came fro Rome / wherfore quene Gueneuer had hym in grete fauour aboue all other knyghtes / & in certayne he loued the quene agayne aboue all other ladies & damoyseles of

f ij

Figure 3

The Library's unique copy of Thomas Malory's *Morte Darthur* (Westminster: Wynkyn de Worde, 1498) is embellished with 'wild and wonderful' woodcuts
 —(Hodnett). 15396, fo. j ii r.

There are some thirty examples of the first Parisian printers, Gering, Friburger and Crantz, and about 100 other examples of the work of other printers in the French capital. French provincial printers are also well represented, particularly those of Lyon and Toulouse, a unique item from the latter town being the 1488 edition of Aesop with Spanish text.

Some twenty Spanish incunables are in the Library, together with a significant number of items originating in the Low Countries including William Caxton's first book (and the first book ever printed in English), *The Recuyell of the Histories of Troye* (Brugge, ?1473).

The English incunables include over sixty Caxtons of which thirty-six are complete and unsophisticated, and four are unique, constituting the second largest such collection in the world. Other English printers well represented include John Lettou, William de Machlinia, Richard Pynson, Julian Notary, the Schoolmaster printer of St Albans, and Wynkyn de Worde, the copy of whose 1498 edition of *Morte Darthur* is unique; the Library also has one of the only two surviving copies of the Caxton edition of *Morte Darthur*.

Approaching three-quarters of the incunables date from before 1480. 'Ephemera' include advertisements (Strasbourg, Mentelin, c.1471; Westminster, Caxton, c.1477), and the only surviving wood block used to print a block-book, an as yet unidentified variant edition of the *Apocalypse*.

Finding aids: recorded in general printed-book catalogue and on the Incunabula Short Title Catalogue (ISTC) database. See also the Bibliography above.

Private Press Collection

600 items (dispersed).

This comprises all fifty-three publications of William Morris's Kelmscott Press, including a vellum copy of the press's masterpiece, the 1896 edition of Chaucer's *Works*; all but one of the works of T.J. Cobden-Sanderson's Doves Press; and most of the publications of C.H. St John Hornby's Ashendene Press and the Essex House Press of C.R. Ashbee. The Library also possesses a volume of original drawings and designs for the masterpiece of the Essex House Press, *The Prayer Book of King Edward VII* (1903). In addition there are smaller numbers of publications from the Daniel, Dun Emer/Cuala, Eragny, Golden Cockerel, Gregynog, Nonesuch, Shakespeare Head and Vale Presses, and a selection of works from contemporary presses such as Gwasg Gregynog, the Fleece Press, the Rampant Lions Press and the

QUI COMINCIA LA SECONDA CANTICA DELLA COMMEDIA DI DANTE
ALIGHIERI, DETTA PURGATORIO. CANTO PRIMO.

Lo Purgatorio
i. 1-42



PER
CORRER

MIGLIOR ACQUA ALZA LE VELE

Omai la navicella del mio ingegno,
Che lascia retro a se mar sì crudele.
E canterò di quel secondo regno,
Dove l'umano spirito si purga,
E di salire al ciel diventa degno.
Ma qui la morta poesì resurga,
O sante Muse, poichè vostro sono,
E qui Calliopè alquanto surga,
Seguitando il mio canto con quel suono
Di cui le Piche misere sentiro
Lo colpo tal, che disperar perdono.
Dolce color d'oriental zaffiro,
Che s'accoglieva nel sereno aspetto
Dal mezzo puro infino al primo giro,

Agli occhi miei ricominciò diletto,
Tosto ch' i' uscii fuor dell'aura morta,
Che m'avea conristati gli occhi al petto.
Lo bel pianeta che ad amar conforta
Faceva tutto rider l'oriente,
Velando i Pesci ch' erano in sua scorta.
Io mi volsi a man destra, e posi mente
All'altro polo, e vidi quattro stelle
Non viste mai fuor che alla prima gente.
Goder pareva il ciel di lor fiammelle.
O settentrional vedovo sito,
Poichè privato sei di mirar quelle!
Com'io dal loro sguardo fui partito,
Un poco me volgendo all'altro polo,
Là onde il carro già era sparito,
Vidi presso di me un veglio solo,
Degno di tanta riverenza in vista,
Che più non dee a padre alcun figliuolo.
Lunga la barba e di pel bianco mista
Portava, e i suoi capegli simigliante,
De' quai cadeva al petto doppia lista.
Li raggi delle quattro luci sante
Fregiavan sì la sua faccia di lume,
Ch'io 'l vedeo come il sol fosse davante.
Chi siete voi, che contro al cieco fiume
Fuggito avete la prigione eterna?
Diss'ei, movendo quell'oneste piume.

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Figure 4

Among the most magnificent productions from C.H. St John Hornby's Ashendene Press was *Tutte Le Opere di Dante Alighieri Fiorentino* (Chelsea, 1909); this is one of only six copies on vellum. R19389, p. 79.

Whittington Press. There is also much ephemeral material such as announcements, prospectuses, catalogues and specimen pages. Altogether the collection provides a complete conspectus of twentieth-century British wood-engraving.

See also the Casdagli Collection (p. 20), the Tregaskis Collections (p. 33) and the Peter Huchel Collection (p. 224).

Finding aids: recorded in general printed-book catalogue. See also David W. Riley, 'A Definite Claim to Beauty': Some Treasures from the Rylands Private Press Collection', *Bulletin of the John Rylands University Library of Manchester*, vol. 72, no. 2 (1990), pp. 73–88.

Lloyd Roberts Collection

5,000 items.

David Lloyd Roberts, the distinguished Manchester doctor and bibliophile, bequeathed his books to the Library, and the items were accessioned in the 1920s. A substantial portion of the collection is devoted to first editions of major English authors ranging from Thomas Browne to Lord Byron and John Ruskin. However, the bequest added significantly to the Library's holdings of early editions of Ariosto and Dante Alighieri, and the collection also contains some mid eighteenth-century costume books by Tommaso Maria Mamachi. Also included are a large number of fine bindings dating from the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, such as those produced for Jean Grolier and for Giovanni Battista Grimaldi, with the characteristic Apollo and Pegasus cameo stamp. There are also numerous examples of the work of nineteenth-century binders such as Zaehnsdorf, Bedford and Chambolle-Duru.

Finding aids: recorded in general printed-book catalogue. See also David W. Riley, 'English Books of the Seventeenth to Nineteenth Centuries in the John Rylands University Library of Manchester, with Particular Reference to History and Literature', *Bulletin of the John Rylands University Library of Manchester*, vol. 71, no. 2 (1989), pp. 98–9.

Roxburghe Club Collection

300 items (dispersed).

The Library has the copy of the 1471 Valdarfer edition of Boccaccio, sold by the Duke of Roxburghe in 1812 for the then record price of £2,200, after which event the Roxburghe Club was founded. The Library also holds a complete set of the publications of the Club, many of the volumes being the personal copies of

members. Worthy of special notice is Lord Spencer's own copy, uniquely printed on vellum and handsomely illuminated, of *The First Three Books of Ovid De Tristibus*, translated into English by Thomas Churchyard (1816). This was the third publication of the Club, and the first to be presented to its members by the President, Lord Spencer.

Finding aids: recorded in general printed-book catalogue.

Neil Salvesen Esperanto Collection

710 items.

This important collection of books published in and about Esperanto once formed part of the extensive library of Neil Salvesen (1944–90). For most of his adult life Salvesen held administrative posts in the textile industry. He was introduced to Esperanto by a friend and quickly became an enthusiastic Esperantist and active member of the Manchester Esperanto Society. A little over two years before his early death in 1990 he was appointed an official of the Universal Esperanto Association (Universala Esperanto-Asocio) and was based in Rotterdam. The collection is arranged according to broad subject groups: encyclopaedias and dictionaries; original and translated poetry; original works; translated works; works in other languages about Esperanto; and journals and yearbooks. The significance of the collection is indicated by the fact that, of the 710 volumes present, only 246 are to be found in the Library of Congress, and a mere sixty-six are held by the British Library.

Finding aids: recorded in general printed-book catalogue; see also unpublished handlist.

Location: JRULM (Main Library).

Sedbergh School Library

900 items.

The historic library of Sedbergh School in Cumbria (formerly the North Riding of Yorkshire) was deposited on permanent loan in 1972–73. The school was founded in 1525 by Dr Roger Lupton, Provost of Eton and a native of Sedbergh, and endowed by him with lands associated with a chantry. The constitution of the school was revised by the Endowed Schools Commissioners in 1874, when the buildings were greatly enlarged. Today Sedbergh is an independent boarding school for boys with 350 pupils.

The collection is a good representative example of an English public-school library. Of the 900 volumes, approximately 300 date

from the sixteenth to eighteenth centuries. Prominent among these are works of Classical literature, including an edition of Horace (Paris, 1519); historical works such as Matthew Parker's *De Antiquitate Ecclesiae et Privilegiis Ecclesiae Cantuariensis*, revised by Samuel Drake (London, 1729); and also religious texts, for example the works of Peter the Martyr (Zurich, 1567), and Benedictus Aretius's *Commentarii in Quatuor Evangelistas* (Morges, Switzerland, 1580). The remainder of the collection, dating from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, covers a broad subject range, and includes works in Spanish, German and French. More popular series include *The Story of the Nations*, a French ten-volume *Histoire Générale*, and *Stanford's Compendium of Geography*. There are several presentation volumes from eminent former pupils.

Finding aids: recorded in general printed-book catalogue.

Shackleton Collection

3,300 items.

The collecting activities of Robert Shackleton (1919–86), one-time Marshal Foch Professor of French Literature at the University of Oxford and Bodley's Librarian, were particularly associated with the publications of the Age of Enlightenment, and therefore the collection has made possible substantial additions to the Library's holdings of eighteenth-century publications in French and English. The collection's strength is in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century French studies, especially literature, philosophy and civilization, with some 3,000 works published before 1850. However, the collection also contains some 200 sixteenth-century Italian books. There are a significant number of counterfeit editions, encyclopaedic dictionaries and reference works.

Finding aids: recorded in general printed-book catalogue. See also John P. Tuck, 'French Studies: a Guide to Research Resources in the John Rylands University Library of Manchester', *Bulletin of the John Rylands University Library of Manchester*, vol. 72, no. 2 (1990), pp. 12–14.

Spencer Collection

43,000 items.

In 1892 Mrs Rylands purchased from John Poyntz Spencer (1835–1910), fifth Earl Spencer, what was acknowledged to be the finest library in private ownership, notable for its outstanding collection of Bibles (see p. 92). The majority of the items were acquired at the end of the eighteenth century and the beginning of the

nineteenth century by George John (1758–1834), second Earl Spencer, although both earlier and later acquisitions were made by other members of the Spencer family.

Lord Spencer's prime concern in building his collection was to acquire first editions of the Greek and Latin classics and to establish a complete collection of Aldines (see p. 17). He visited Italy to accomplish his aims, purchasing, for example, a large portion of the Neapolitan library of the Duke of Cassano-Serra. However, Spencer did not neglect other aspects of collecting both by language and by date: it is estimated that the Collection contains 10,000 Italian books of all periods, one quarter of the total. Spencer subscribed to many eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century publications, and his wide interests can be illustrated by the large number of editions of the works of Vitruvius, Andrea Palladio and Leon Battista Alberti which he possessed.

Today the Spencer Collection, including the libraries of Count Reviczky, Stanesby Alchorne and the Duke of Cassano-Serra, is of fundamental importance for the history of printing in Europe in the era of the hand-press, with all the important presses represented.

Finding aids: recorded in general printed-book catalogue. See also *Catalogue of the Printed Books in the John Rylands Library*, 3 vols (Manchester, 1899), which contains details of the Spencer Collection, reproduced on microfiche by Chadwyck-Healey, 1989; Thomas Frognall Dibdin, *Bibliotheca Spenceriana*, 7 vols (London, 1814–23); Anthony Lister, 'The Althorp library of Second Earl Spencer, now in the John Rylands University Library of Manchester: its formation and growth', *Bulletin of the John Rylands University Library of Manchester*, vol. 71, no. 2 (1989), pp. 67–86.

Strachan Book Collection

600 items.

The personal library of John Strachan (1862–1907), one of the greatest Celtologists of the nineteenth century. Strachan was Hulme Professor of Greek, 1885–1907, and Professor of Sanskrit and Comparative Religion, 1890–1907, in Owens College and later the University of Manchester. In 1904, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to Celtic scholarship, he was appointed lecturer in Celtic. After Strachan's death his personal library was purchased by friends and colleagues and presented to the University Library. It contains a number of rare printed works from the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Among those of most interest to Celtic studies are Bedell's translation of the Old Testament into Irish (London, 1685), Connor Begly's

English-Irish Dictionary (Paris, 1732), John Davies's *Antiquae Linguae Britannicae Dictionarium Duplex* (London, 1632), James Johnstone's *Antiquitates Celto-Scandicae* (Copenhagen, 1786), Edward Lhuyd's *Archaeologica Britannica* (Oxford, 1707), Francis Molloy's *Lucerna Fidelium* (Rome, 1676), John O'Brien's *Focalóir Gaoidhíle-SaxBhéarla* (Paris, 1768), John David Rhys's Welsh grammar (London, 1592), and John Smith's *Gaelic Antiquities* (Edinburgh, 1780).

However, a very wide range of languages, many esoteric, is represented in the collection: Albanian, Armenian, Avestic, Breton, Cornish, Early English, French, Greek, Irish, Latin, Lithuanian, Manx, Old Prussian, Oscan, Persian, Sanskrit, Telugu, Thai and Umbrian.

See also the John Strachan Papers (p. 282).

Finding aids: recorded in general printed-book catalogue; see also separate duplicated handlist.

Location: JRULM (Deansgate). Note, however, that only a small proportion of Strachan's original collection is at Deansgate: most of it was integrated into the general stock of the Main Library.

Tabley Book Collection

5,000 items.

The personal library of the Leycester/Leicester/Warren family and Barons de Tabley from Tabley House near Knutsford, Cheshire, includes the books of the seventeenth-century antiquary and Royalist, Sir Peter Leycester, and those of the great patron of British artists, Sir John Fleming Leicester (1762–1827), first Baron de Tabley.

The collection contains items ranging from the early sixteenth to the early twentieth centuries, with the majority dating from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. They cover a wide variety of subjects: art, English and foreign literature, the classics, history, law, politics, religion, natural history and travel. Miscellaneous material includes scrapbooks and sketch-books. Many works are finely illustrated and some have attractive bindings. Items of note include an incunable, Jacobus Philippus de Bergamo's *Supplementum chronicarum* (Venice, 1486); a First Folio of Shakespeare (1623); and a full twenty-four-volume set of the *Naturalist's Miscellany* with colour engravings.

Of the 5,000 items in the collection, approximately 460 are located at the JRULM (Deansgate) and have been fully catalogued. The rest of the collection remains at Tabley House and will be catalogued in the future.

See also the Tabley Muniments (p. 121).

Finding aids: partially recorded in general printed-book catalogue.

Location: JRULM (Deansgate) and Tabley House.

Tregaskis Collections

150 items.

The original Tregaskis Collection contains seventy-three copies of the Kelmscott Press's *Tale of King Florus and the Fair Jehane* (1893) in unique bindings from twenty-seven different countries, commissioned for exhibition in 1894 by James and Mary Lee Tregaskis. The Library also owns the Tregaskis Centenary Collection, which comprises over eighty copies of the Folio Society edition of Andrew Marvell's *The Garden & Other Poems* in contemporary design bindings from around the world. The collection was commissioned for exhibition in 1994 by Designer Bookbinders and was purchased by the Library with support from the Museums and Galleries Commission and the Victoria & Albert Museum Purchase Grant Fund.

See also the Private Press Collection (p. 26).

Finding aids: published catalogue, *Tregaskis Centenary Exhibition: a Catalogue of the Tregaskis Centenary Exhibition 1994, together with a facsimile of the Tregaskis Exhibition catalogue of 1894 and colour plates of the bindings in both exhibitions* (London, 1994).

Viner Bookplate Collection

The collection of over 1,500 bookplates, donated by George H. Viner, consists largely of those designed by Charles William Sherborn between 1860 and 1912, but the designs of John Paul Rylands are also represented.

Another important collection of bookplates is to be found among the Tabley Muniments (p. 121).

Finding aids: published catalogue of Sherborn bookplates, Charles Davies Sherborn, *A Sketch of the Life and Work of Charles William Sherborn, Painter-Etcher ... with a catalogue of his bookplates* (London, 1912). See also note in *Bulletin of the John Rylands Library*, vol. 33 (1950–51), p. 199.

