

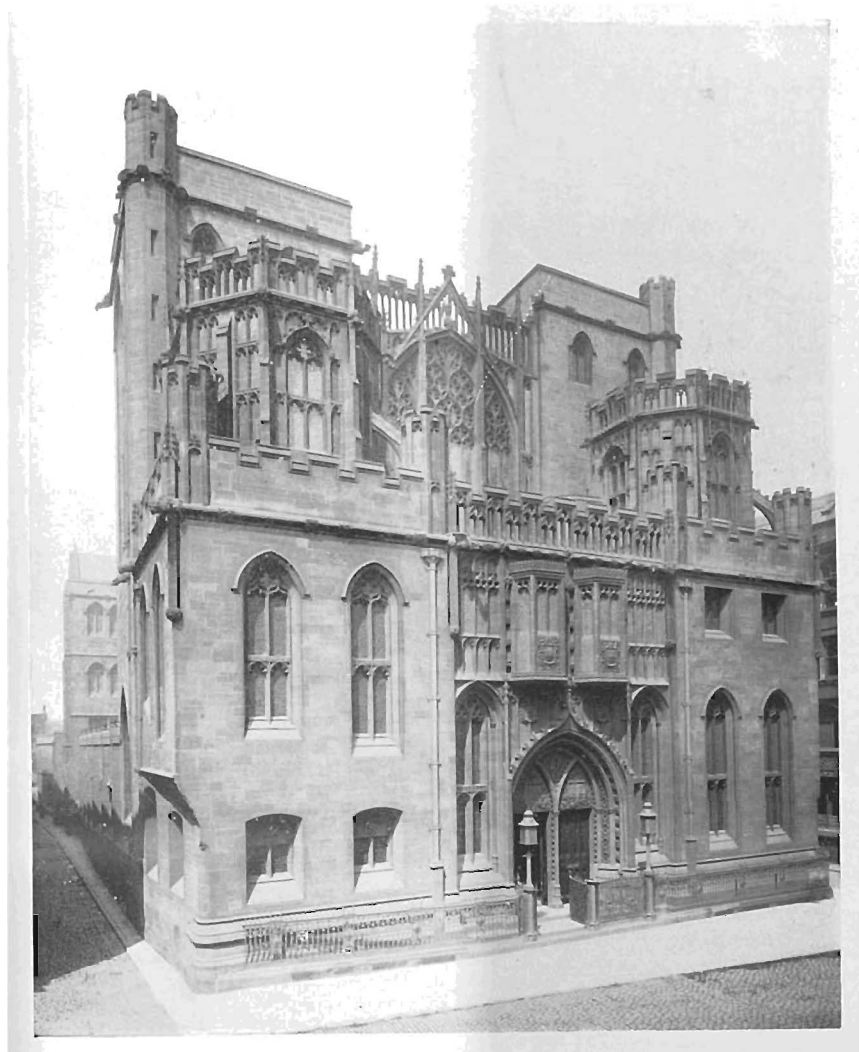
THE FIRST FORTY YEARS OF THE JOHN RYLANDS LIBRARY.

By MOSES TYSON,

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THE WESTERN MANUSCRIPTS IN THE JOHN RYLANDS LIBRARY.

THE John Rylands Library was formally opened on 6th October, 1899. Now in little over forty years it fills a high place among the great libraries of the world. The history of its development during the first thirty-five years has been written by its Librarian, and no other pen could adequately undertake the task. It is fitting, however, that in a special volume of the *BULLETIN*, compiled in honour of Dr. Guppy, some outline of this astonishing period of development should be found and the opportunity taken to pay tribute to one whose genius, scholarship and unflagging devotion have provided the main impetus.

The founder of the Library was the late Enriqueta Augustina Rylands, widow of John Rylands, who wished to perpetuate the name of her husband and happily elected to do this in a way that reflected the main non-mercantile interests of his life. John Rylands came from St. Helens and together with his father and elder brothers, established the firm of Rylands and Sons with headquarters at Wigan. He was a vigorous and far-sighted business man, with all the qualities of a first-class organiser and administrator, and in days when hard sustained labour and long hours were demanded, an employer who did not spare himself, but worked the hardest and for the longest hours. His efforts built up the enormous business concern which still bears his name, and he left to his widow a great fortune. John Rylands' life was quiet and simple; he avoided the spectacular, and shrank from taking up any position in public affairs; but he none the less contributed greatly to the well-being of his adopted



EXTERIOR VIEW OF THE LIBRARY.

city. A considerable sum of the money behind the Manchester Ship Canal project was his, and his gifts to charity, although unheralded, were large and numerous. Orphanages, homes for the aged and for poor ministers were founded and maintained by him, and to him Stretford owed a Town Hall, baths, a library and other foundations. A decoration by the King of Italy marked generous gifts to the poor of Rome. His many business undertakings far from entirely absorbed him, and probably the chief interest of his life was the study of the Bible, of which special editions by competent scholars were prepared and freely distributed at his expense. He was also behind the extensive free distributions of other religious works and was helpful and generous in encouraging and assisting poorer Free Church ministers, and students of theology.

John Rylands died in December, 1888, and his wife shortly afterwards resolved to found a great library likely to benefit those in whom her husband had been particularly interested. This library was originally intended to be primarily concerned with theological studies, although it was also to include the more important collections of standard authorities in all departments of literature. It speaks highly for Mrs. Rylands' breadth of outlook that from the first she was determined there should be no "index expurgatorius" to exclude books proclaiming theological views opposed to her own.

The actual building was begun in 1890 and was designed by Mr. Basil Champneys. The work went forward slowly, and it was nearly ten years before the building was ready for occupation; ten years of exacting and loving care on the part of Mrs. Rylands, who was determined that the best, and the best only, was worthy of her project. It is not necessary to dwell on the appearance of the building, which takes the form of a College library in the late Gothic style. It has been fully described by Dr. Guppy in his *RECORD* of its history, and it is sufficient to say that the most skilled labour and the finest materials were drawn upon, and that the building ranks as one of the most magnificent examples of modern Gothic architecture to be found in Europe. In no obscure corner is the standard of workmanship lowered. The elaborateness of decoration and the perfection of the internal

ittings, whether from the hand of stonemason, sculptor, metal-worker or woodcarver, compel admiration and make the building a fitting home for the many matchless treasures gathered beneath its roof.

During the early years the collection of books for the Library was pursued with equal care and discrimination. Mrs. Rylands was a woman of wide culture and many interests, and happily had gifted advisers to guide her with great wisdom in her work. It is probable that much was owed to the Reverend Dr. Fairbairn, Principal of Mansfield College, Oxford, who later delivered the inaugural address. The Reverend Dr. Green, a friend of John Rylands, also took a lively interest in the work, and his son, Mr. Arnold Green, appears to have been the principal agent in buying books during the first few years. Many of the invoices for books bought at this time survive, and the gradual building up of the collections can easily be traced. Theology bulked largely, but no branch of the Arts was neglected. Collected works of recognised authorities in all fields of literature, general historical writings, the principal County Histories, were all acquired at this time. Nor were rare books wanting. Looking through these invoices we find the First and Fourth Folios of Shakespeare, the first edition of Shakespeare's *Poems*, first editions of Milton's *Lycidas*, *Comus*, *Paradise Lost*, a fine example of the *Biblia Pauperum*, from the Borghese sale at Rome, a manuscript copy of the Koran, and numerous other noteworthy volumes, listed with the works which form the backbone of any great public library, and others to be found in most of the great private collections. Numerous volumes dealing with the history of Art, the bird books of Audubon, Gould, Bewick and others, magnificently illustrated volumes, examples of the master binders, find their place among famous early printed Bibles and great masses of carefully selected theological, philosophical, literary and historical works.

An event which took place in the summer of 1892 caught the attention of scholars throughout the world, filled the headlines of the world's press, and determined the future course of development of the Library on lines far surpassing the original concept of a place of study for the student of theology. Mrs.



THE MAIN STAIRCASE

Rylands bought the "Althorp Library", long recognised as the most famous private collection of books in existence, from Earl Spencer. This library consisted of over 40,000 volumes, mostly gathered together during the latter part of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries by the second Earl, for some forty years one of the foremost book collectors of his age. The second Earl had inherited from his predecessors a library formed by Dr. George, Master of Eton, containing about 5000 volumes, many of them collections of the smaller Elizabethan "tracts" or "miscellanea". In 1790 he added to these by the purchase of the library of Count Reviczky, a Hungarian nobleman, educated at Vienna. The Reviczky collection consisted primarily of select editions of the Greek and Latin classics, and the productions of the presses of Aldus, Stephanus, Morel and Turnebus, besides many other choice editions. From that time onwards Lord Spencer did not cease to search for additions to his collection. He was never satisfied with imperfect copies and from time to time replaced such copies by the finest examples he was able to secure. In 1813 he bought the library of Mr. Stanesby Alchorne containing examples from the presses of William Caxton and Wynkyn de Worde. The Earl's librarian from 1802 was Dr. Thomas Frognall Dibdin, and both he and Dibdin were constant attenders at the great book sales of the day. In 1819 Lord Spencer made a tour of the Continent and acquired the complete library of the Duke of Cassano-Serra, with its many volumes from the presses of Naples and Sicily. One of his great *coups* was to persuade the King of Würtemberg to make an exchange of books by which two editions of Vergil, the second edition printed in Rome by Sweynheym and Pannartz in 1471, and an undated edition printed at Venice about the same time, and probably by the printer Adam of Ammergau, were added to his collection.

Dibdin, with his vast wealth of bibliographical knowledge, found in the book sales of the period all the excitements of a mediæval tournament, and took an unfailing delight in the growth of the Spencer collection. He published many works dealing with this collection, and in his other books, filled with erudite and curious knowledge, time and again he rejoiced to chronicle

how the doughty lance of the Earl had borne off some distinguished trophy from the fray. It was Dibdin who inaugurated the famous Roxburghe Club, after the great competition in 1812 between the Marquis of Blandford and Earl Spencer for the first edition of Boccaccio's *Decameron*, printed by Valdarfer in 1471. In this contest Earl Spencer was worsted, the prize falling to his rival for the then almost unbelievable sum of £2260 ; but later this famous Boccaccio was to find its way into the Althorp Library, and finally to the John Rylands Library.

It is impossible to do more than mention a few of the more important features of the Althorp collection. With some later additions the Rylands Library now possesses no fewer than 62 examples of Caxton's printing alone (of which 36 are perfect, and several are the only known copies still existing), and more than 3000 volumes printed before the year 1501. The London printers, Wynkyn de Worde, Lettou, Machlinia, Pynson, Julian Notary, and the schoolmaster printer of St. Albans are all represented among the productions of English presses. Other countries are equally well covered. Beginning with the famous block-print of "St. Christopher", bearing an inscription and the date 1423, and including no fewer than 15 block books, 9 of which are usually assigned to the period before 1450, the Library contains an almost unmatched collection of examples of early printing. There are the "36-line" and "42-line" Latin bibles popularly known as the "Pfister or Bamberg Bible" and the "Mazarin Bible", and with them the first three Mainz Psalters. Fifty volumes are associated with the printers Gutenberg, Fust and Schoeffer, some being the only recorded copies. No fewer than 219 German printers of the fifteenth century are represented. Splendid volumes from Italian presses also are found on its shelves. Every one of the fifty works printed by Sweynheym and Pannartz at Subiaco and Rome, and listed in their 1472 catalogue, are there with the exception of the "Donatus" of which no surviving fragment is recorded, and of the Aristotle of 1473. Besides the numerous incunabula the Althorp books brought to the Rylands an unsurpassable collection of works from the Aldine press, containing more than 800 volumes, many printed on vellum. Largely owing to the Spencer collection

also is the impressive array of Bibles which fills the Bible room of the Library. Eighty-five editions of the Latin Vulgate printed before the close of the fifteenth century are included.

Lord Spencer had also been interested in the art of book-binding, so that the Library possesses many beautiful examples of that art from the fifteenth century onwards, including productions of such artists as Clovis and Nicolas Eve, Le Gascon, Boyet, the two Deromes, the Padeloups, Geoffrey Tory, Bozerian, Thouvenin, Mearne and Roger Payne.

By the end of 1892 Mrs. Rylands had gathered together for her new foundation a formidable collection of volumes which already ensured that the Library would be of first-rate importance to the specialists in the fields of early printing, the Classics, Theology, History and Philosophy, while the student of literature was provided with a storehouse including not merely the great classics but also many rare works of all periods.

It might have been expected that the purchase of the Althorp collection would have resulted in a temporary slackening in the Library's development, but this was very far from happening. Mrs. Rylands and her agents, particularly Mr. Green, still haunted the salerooms and bookshops of the country and acquired many splendid volumes, while many of the more distinguished bookbinders were kept busily employed, and the coats of arms of families in a number of the large County Histories were being brilliantly emblazoned. A great bibliographical and palæographical section was also being rapidly built up.

In the immense task of selecting books, Mrs. Rylands called in the assistance of leading authorities who provided lists of essential works in various subjects. To-day the Rylands Library has in its periodicals room a wide range of Literary, Fine Arts, Historical, Natural Science, Philological, Philosophical, Sociological and Theological periodicals in many languages. It was in these early years following 1892 that the foundation of this great periodical section was firmly laid by the acquisition of numerous sets of periodical publications.

There was one field in which it appeared that the new Library could not attain equal prominence, namely in respect of manuscript materials. There were about 100 manuscripts in

Earl Spencer's library and these were gradually added to by purchases at the great book sales of the 'nineties. A great number of autograph letters and documents dating from the mediæval period and covering the fields of History and Literature were bought in 1891 at the sale of the collection made by the late Rev. Thomas Raffles, D.D., of Liverpool. The Ashburnham sale in 1897 supplied a collection of late fourteenth and early fifteenth century Wycliffite MSS.; in the Library there are now fifteen examples of Wycliffite translations. The early sales of the collection of manuscripts made by Sir Thomas Phillipps provided other historical and literary manuscript additions. During these years Mrs. Rylands had the assistance of a very distinguished bibliographer in the late Mr. Edward Gordon Duff who was busily engaged in the work of examining and cataloguing.

The new building was opened in October, 1899, by the Reverend Dr. Fairbairn, and the opening was marked by the attendance of a distinguished gathering of people from all parts of Europe and America. The City of Manchester acknowledged its gratitude to Mrs. Rylands for a gift rivalling those made by the mediæval merchant princes to the great cities of Italy, by bestowing upon her the freedom of the city, and on the following day Earl Spencer, Chancellor of the University of Manchester, conferred upon her the degree of Doctor of Letters *honoris causa*.

Several months earlier, in June, Mr. Henry Guppy had been appointed joint librarian with Mr. Gordon Duff. Mr. Duff resigned in the following year, and from 1900 onwards Mr. Guppy remained in complete control of the new foundation. The Librarian always speaks enthusiastically of the help given by the Governors in the vast developments which have taken place since that date, but the Governors themselves would probably be first to admit that since the death of the generous foundress in 1908, the formative work of the Library has been mainly due to Guppy alone.

Several momentous events in the Library's history had taken place between the opening and the end of 1908. The first of these was the acquisition by Mrs. Rylands in 1901 of the "Crawford MSS.", part of the "Bibliotheca Lindesiana" formed

largely by the 24th Earl of Crawford and his successors. That great library still retained about 100,000 volumes of printed books, but 6000 manuscripts passed into the possession of Mrs. Rylands. General descriptions of these manuscripts have been given by Dr. Guppy, and printed detailed catalogues of many sections compiled by leading manuscript scholars have already appeared. Both Eastern and Western MSS. are widely represented. The oriental section includes works in all the following languages : Amharic, Armenian, Ethiopic, Sanskrit, Pali, Bali, Panjabi, Hindustani, Marathi, Parsi, Pehlevi, Burmese, Canarese, Cingalese, Tamil, Chinese, Japanese, Malay, Javanese, Achinese, Mongolian, Tibetan, Mo-so, Batak, Bugi, Kawi, Madurese, Makassar and Pushtu. In Arabic, Persian and Turkish there are more than 2000 manuscripts in all branches of science and literature. Many are the work of skilled calligraphers, and contain distinguished examples of the illuminator's art. Three books are written throughout in letters of gold, and others would add distinction to any collection. Not all the MSS. have been fully explored, but already discoveries of great importance in the fields of Theology, History and Literature have been made. The collection of Arabic papyri is large and important ; other papyri are in Hieroglyphic, Demotic, Coptic and Greek. Among other Greek MSS. is a large part of one of the earliest surviving vellum books, a codex of the "Odyssey" written in the late third or early fourth century of our era.

The 25th Earl and his agents assiduously searched the Near and Far East while building up this oriental collection. There are about 8000 pên or native volumes in the Chinese section, many belonging originally to the Chinese library of Pierre Leopold van Alstein, bought by Lord Crawford in 1863. Fifteen hundred drawings and paintings of Chinese, Indian and Persian origin, drawn on silk, rice paper, leaves and other materials, date mainly from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. There are also about 1000 Japanese pên. Many manuscripts are the only surviving examples.

The Western MSS. are perhaps of even greater interest. There are manuscripts in English, French, German, Irish, Italian, Spanish, and other languages, but although some of these

sections contain very beautiful and important volumes, the main strength of the collection, as might be expected, is in the Latin books. Dr. Montague Rhodes James completed the first part of the catalogue of Latin MSS. in the John Rylands Library in 1920. Of the most important of these a large proportion came with the Crawford collection. They date from a sixth-century papyrus roll written at Ravenna. Many were written for, or belonged to, royal owners and were produced at the famous mediæval schools of writing. A few examples may be given. From Italy came six volumes of a magnificently illuminated sixteenth-century Missal, formerly in the Sciarra-Colonna library at Rome. Mr. J. W. Bradley suggested that the very best work in the earlier volumes of this Missal was by the artist Giulio Clovio, and that other work was by Appolonio dei Buonfratelli. From France came a Homiliary, written at Luxeuil in the late eighth or ninth century; an exceptionally beautiful early thirteenth-century Bible, probably written in Picardy; and an exquisitely illuminated thirteenth-century Psalter, once belonging to Jeanne de Navarre, Queen of Henry IV of England. Among the manuscripts of German origin are included a copy of the Gospels, written and illuminated for one of the Ottos in the tenth century, and volumes from Altenburg and Bremen. A manuscript of the works of St. Cyprian, written in several hands at Murbach, dates from the eighth century. A Lectionary was written by an Abbot of Prüm between 1036 and 1063. An early ninth-century Psalter from St. Maximin of Treves, was purchased by Lord Crawford from the Bollandist Fathers at Brussels. Spain is well represented by four remarkable volumes, and among works written in England the outstanding volume is a Missal, the earliest example of the Sarum rite known to survive, having a number of excellent full-page pictures boldly drawn and finely coloured in a characteristic English style of the thirteenth century. With the Latin MSS. are thirty jewelled and ivory book covers, a collection surpassed by two others only in the libraries of the world.

After securing the Crawford collection Mrs. Rylands did not cease to look for further additions. All sections of the Library were strengthened, sometimes gradually, at other times by



THE MAIN LIBRARY.

collections bought *en bloc*, as, for example, the 6000 volumes of Dante literature, gathered together by Count Passerini, and added in 1906. Of the "Divina Commedia" there are several manuscripts and many incunabula, including the three earliest editions printed in 1472 at Foligno, Jesi and Mantua.

At the same time Mrs. Rylands was building up a private library at Longford Hall. After her death these volumes also came to the John Rylands Library, and included many fine books on Art, productions of special presses, "grangerised" or extra-illustrated works, and a number of manuscripts. Several of the manuscripts were "Books of Hours", one a beautiful Paris book believed to have been executed for Charles VII. In addition to bequeathing these books Mrs. Rylands completed her task by generously endowing the new foundation, and by making provision for its future development.

By the end of 1908 the Rylands Library was already one of the world's great libraries. Its incunabula and rare books, its thousands of volumes with historic and literary associations, its beautifully illuminated manuscripts, and its many fine examples of book covers and of the bookbinder's art, placed it among the great Museums. But it was far more than a Museum.

A library to keep alive has to be continually expanding, or, if its numbers must be kept down, must be subjected to constant pruning, *ephemera* or out-of-date texts being replaced by better or later works. The Rylands Library, however, consists of works concerned mainly with the Arts, very widely defined, and Theology. The work of selection has been thoroughly carried out, and little ephemeral material has found a place on its shelves. Standard collections of authors, select editions, works of criticism, usually have a permanent value, so the Library grows in size and, incidentally, the need for further book accommodation is a constant source of anxiety to the governing body. This anxiety was only temporarily allayed by the purchase in 1909 and 1911 of further sites next to the building, and by the completion in 1921 of a new section with additional book storage and rooms for the administrative staff.

During the last thirty years the development has been controlled with a threefold aim : to fill in gaps in those subjects in

which the Library is strongest, equipping it for advanced research by specialists in certain fields of study ; to build up a first-class working library for serious students, with special attention to foreign works and leading English and foreign periodicals and society publications ; and to encourage the interest of the general public by means of lectures and exhibitions. Additions have been made for working purposes rather than for their exhibition value. None the less the carrying out of this policy has brought in its train many historic books and documents.

Apart from his distinction as a bibliographer, the great qualities of the Librarian have been shown, first, by his success in persuading scholars of repute to assist in the work of cataloguing the Library's treasures ; secondly, by his quick grasp of new developments in many branches of learning—in this he has been greatly assisted by the many distinguished professors who from time to time have served on the governing body ; and thirdly, by the interest in the Library which he constantly inspires, an interest which has resulted in many splendid gifts and bequests.

In 1918 Dr. Guppy persuaded his old friend, Dr. Rendel Harris, to accept the post of Keeper of Manuscripts, an office which he held till 1925. The world-wide reputation of Rendel Harris need not be stressed here, it is sufficient to say that even before his appointment his relations with Dr. Guppy had resulted in the acquisition by the Library of manuscripts and documents discovered by him in the course of several voyages of exploration in the Near East. One of these manuscripts, turned out in sorting a mass of weather-stained and water-stained documents from the East, was the famous Syriac MS. of the Odes of Solomon, a copy of a lost book of hymns used by the early Christians, since edited by Dr. Harris and Dr. Mingana.

From other manuscripts found by Dr. Harris, and not yet fully explored, a number of discoveries of first-rate importance have already been made. In 1916 the Reverend James Hope Moulton, Greenwood Professor of Hellenistic Greek and Indo-European Philology at Manchester, went to India hoping to meet Harris, who was on the way to Ceylon. The ship carrying Harris was torpedoed in the Mediterranean and he stayed in Egypt. Afterwards he joined Professor Moulton at Port

Said when on his way home. Their ship was torpedoed and one tragic loss was the death of Moulton after several days' exposure in an open boat. While Harris was in Egypt he continued his search for manuscript materials and acquired a number of papyri, some of which later came to the Rylands Library. When Mr. C. H. Roberts of Oxford, who is continuing the work begun by the late Dr. Hunt and others in cataloguing the Greek papyri in the John Rylands Library, was dealing with these fragments he found among them an envelope containing two pieces of cartonnage, the papyrus wrapping used for mummies. When this cartonnage was separated it was found to consist of fragments of at least four separate columns of a roll of the Book of Deuteronomy, fragments of a roll containing Book I of the *Iliad*, and other early pieces. The fragments of Deuteronomy, according to Mr. Roberts, are earlier by some 300 years than any other manuscript of any part of the Bible, being part of a manuscript written in the second century B.C.

When Dr. Guppy obtained the assistance of Drs. Grenfell and Hunt in cataloguing the Greek papyri, he enlisted the help of the foremost scholars of the day in papyrological studies. Their explorations had largely supplied the Crawford collection of papyri, which became part of the Rylands Library. From Dr. Grenfell the Library also secured a group of papyrus found in Egypt in 1920. It was while examining this collection that Mr. Roberts discovered fragments of several literary texts, and in particular a fragment of the Gospel of St. John. The latter fragment is very small, but appears to date from the first half of the second century and is the earliest known fragment of the New Testament. It also provides evidence that this manuscript of the Gospel of St. John was written in book form, and not on a roll as was usually the case with literature of that period.

One of the Rylands Keepers of Manuscripts was the late Dr. Alphonse Mingana, who catalogued the Arabic manuscripts, and did much work on the Syriac manuscripts. Mingana, like Harris, made several exploratory journeys in the East searching for manuscripts. Most of his discoveries were made on behalf of Mr. Cadbury and are in the Selly Oak Library at Birmingham. A very considerable collection, however, was acquired for the

Rylands Library, including a number of works of great importance.

The Demotic papyri in the Library were catalogued by Mr. F. Ll. Griffiths, the Coptic MSS. by Mr. W. E. Crum, and the Arabic papyri by the late Professor Margoliouth. An important collection of Samaritan MSS. has lately been catalogued by Professor Edward Robertson of the University of Manchester.

A collection of Sumerian, Babylonian and Assyrian tablets, dating as far back as 3000 B.C., was acquired largely owing to the assistance of the late Professor H. W. Hogg, Canon C. H. W. Johns and the Reverend C. L. Bedale. Mr. Bedale described a number of the Umma tablets for a Library publication between 1901 and 1905, and after his death 600 of these tablets were presented to the Library by his widow. A catalogue of the Sumerian tablets from Drehem and Umma was prepared by Dr. T. Fish in 1932. Professor Hogg's collection of Hebrew, Sumerian, Babylonian and other oriental literature was later bought from Mrs. Hogg.

It will be realised that all these efforts to make accessible manuscript materials, while indirectly resulting in the Library securing new materials, have brought about a wide extension of the bibliographical and palæographical sections, and have pointed the way to further lines of development.

The close relationship maintained by the Librarian with many scholars at the University, some of them Governors of the Library, has had equally surprising and satisfactory results. It was undoubtedly the Librarian's familiarity with the studies of Professor Tout, which led to a number of noteworthy purchases. Such was the purchase of a number of Wardrobe and Household Expense Books of Edward I and Edward III of England, Queen Philippa of Hainault, Queen Joan of Navarre, Queen Catherine of Aragon and others, and a treasury account book of Charles VI of France. These belonged to Major Heneage of Coker Court, near Yeovil. Two members of the Heneage family—Thomas Heneage, a vice-chamberlain of the household of Queen Elizabeth, and a treasurer of the Queen's chamber, and Michael his brother—had been Keepers of the Records in the Tower.

The same inspiration probably resulted in the purchase of

a volume written at the latest in the early years of King John. It contains a collection of English laws from the time of Ine, the West Saxon king, to that of Henry I, and provides, to quote that distinguished scholar, the late Dr. Liebermann, who greeted the discovery with enthusiasm, "the earliest text not only of the whole collection *Leges Anglorum*, but also of two most important documents embodied in it, viz., of *Leges Henrici I*, and of Henry I's London charter in the form which mentions for the first time the London *ward-imot*". This manuscript was discovered in a well-known London bookshop in 1909 by Dr. Guppy, who captured the prize without hesitation. An article by Liebermann, describing this volume, appeared in the *English Historical Review* in October, 1913. He had discovered fragments of the collection in volumes written in 1210 and 1230, but knew of no manuscript with the whole collection earlier than 1310. Years earlier, however, in 1894, he had come to the following conclusions: someone, evidently a Londoner, had compiled during the reign of King John a large law book by joining together in narrative form, by means of genealogical and historical notes concerning the various kings, selections of laws and ordinances; and this compiler, indulging a desire to glorify London as the head of a "Pan-Britannic" empire, had not hesitated occasionally to stoop to forgery. Liebermann had attempted, from the late manuscripts known to him, to reconstruct this collection by cutting out what he considered were interpolations. In this contemporary manuscript in the Rylands Library he had the satisfaction of verifying the correctness of his earlier deductions, the brilliance of which had filled with admiration the late Professors Maitland and Tout.

The same happy collaboration may be traced in the acquisition of a Register of documents of the time of Edward III, containing copies of treaties, alliances, agreements and the like, concerning this and other countries of Europe between 1330 and 1360; and also in the addition of numerous monastic cartularies, chronicles and other manuscript volumes—many from the collection of Sir Thomas Phillipps, and of thousands of charters. Among the numerous monastic houses represented are St. Mary's Abbey, York, Bredon, Byland, Evesham, Fountains, Meaux,

Rievaulx, Stavelot, Tockwith, Toilethorpe, Wardon and Whalley. With a large volume of a fifteenth-century Fountains Abbey cartulary, covering the letters Q to W, was acquired a considerable number of manuscripts gathered together by Scipio Squire, a vice-chamberlain of the Treasury of the Exchequer under James I and Charles I.

When Mr. John Ramsay Bryce Muir held the Chair of Modern History in the University, he was busily engaged on the history of India. Both he and many of his students profited by the large collection of books on India which Dr. Guppy built up. This has constantly been increased, as is also a large and growing group of manuscript letters and documents on Indian affairs.

Dr. A. S. Peake, Rylands Professor of Biblical Criticism and Exegesis, was for many years a Governor and keenly interested in the sections dealing with his particular subjects. Professor Herford, in the field of English Literature and Italian studies, Professor Conway with his vivid enthusiasm for the Classics, Professor Samuel Alexander, and many others of their colleagues and successors, have all contributed of their wisdom and helped to make the Rylands Library rank high as a place of learning. Thousands of scholars from all parts of the world have pursued their studies in its quiet alcoves, and generations of undergraduates have benefited not only in their work but from surroundings bringing home to them the dignity of books and the recognition of that humility—hall-mark of the true scholar and worthy citizen of the world—which comes with the realisation both of the immense achievements of the past, and of the small part played by the best or the worst of us upon the vast scene of the Universe. Here, too, many of them have thrilled to the adventure of seeking to discover some hidden truth, happy in the knowledge that while byeways, gay with glittering temptations, might draw them from the path, they would at least find no barriers raised by intolerances of creeds or by the fear-ridden arrogance of Ignorance, posturing behind the mask of Tyranny or other ephemeral power.

The fame of its collections, and not least the services so gladly offered by its Librarian and all members of its staff, have brought the Library many friends and many gifts.

The late Earl of Crawford was for many years one of the Trustees, and to him much was owed. He helped to signalise the twenty-fifth anniversary of the opening by a splendid gift of over 20,000 proclamations, bulletins and broadsides. The majority of these belong to the period of the French Revolution and to the Napoleonic regime, throwing light on activities throughout the length and breadth of Europe. There is a set of the "Bulletin de la Convention Nationale" between 1792 and 1795, and some 5000 laws and decrees of the National Assembly between 1790 and 1795. Smaller groups of proclamations relate to France between 1532 and 1871, the Netherlands from 1584 to 1842, Tuscany from 1548 to 1793, the Venetian Republic from 1668 to 1797, the Neapolitan Revolution of 1848-49, and Spain between 1716 and 1843. Shortly afterwards the Governors supplemented this gift by the purchase from Messrs. Quaritch of some 5000 volumes, also originally at Haigh Hall. Many of these deal with the French Revolution, and they include a great number of the rare and short-lived journals of that time. They help to make up a rich store of material for the historian of the period.

Medical men figure prominently among the book collectors of our age. Two such collectors, Dr. Lloyd Roberts and Dr. Thomas Windsor, spent many hours discussing bibliographical and other matters in the Librarian's room, and both bequeathed considerable libraries to the John Rylands Library. The Lloyd Roberts bequest of some 5000 books included many from well-known collections, such as those of Grolier and Maioli. There are hundreds of examples of the craftsmanship of great modern binders, Trautz-Bauzonnet, David, Marius Michel, Chambolle-Duru, Bedford, Rivière, Cobden Sanderson, Prideaux, Zaehnsdorf and a host of others.

Dr. Thomas Windsor left the Library over 20,000 volumes of general and bibliographical literature, including many rarities. The most recent bequest, of 900 volumes, was also by a medical man, the late Dr. Larmuth of Ambleside.

Among the long list of other gifts and bequests are 500 volumes of Huguenot works from the Reverend D. A. de Mouilpied; 300 volumes, mainly on Roman law, from

Mrs. Emmott in memory of her husband, Professor Emmott of Liverpool ; 150 volumes of historical and topographical works from Mr. George Hankinson of Altrincham ; a large collection of books and pamphlets concerned with the Anti-Slavery movement, from the executors of the late Mr. H. G. Wilson, M.P. for Sheffield ; 3500 books, including 2000 Bibles and many incunabula, and 30 manuscripts dating from the thirteenth to the nineteenth century, from Mrs. Hartland of Chepstow ; a collection of manuscripts and letters to Mrs. Gaskell from Dickens, Thackeray, Landor and other celebrated contemporaries, also an autograph collection made by Mrs. Gaskell, from the executors of the late Miss M. E. Gaskell ; and many manuscripts and papers from the late Mr. W. Duncombe Pink, of Leigh, mainly collected material for a projected Dictionary of Members of Parliament.

The average annual rate of increase to the Library, books and periodicals, is close on 10,000 volumes. This number consists for the most part of separate works and continuations, but is kept up by such gifts as those already mentioned, and also by occasional large purchases. Of the latter, a few deserve special mention. They include about 1000 volumes of Wesleyan literature ; about 900 volumes of occult literature ; a fine collection of some 1200 volumes and tracts of English poets and writers of the eighteenth century, formerly in the Portico Library, Manchester ; 800 volumes of grammars, dictionaries and other works relating to Italian dialects, from a Leicester bookseller ; a large collection of materials relating to Dr. Samuel Johnson and his circle ; and the Samuel Oldknow papers.

Among the Spencer books the Library acquired a copy of the fourth edition of Dr. Johnson's *Dictionary of the English Language*, on a fly-leaf of which was the note : " This book containing some MS. corrections in the Author's Handwriting was left by him to Sir Joshua Reynolds, from whom it was inherited by his niece, the Marchioness of Thomond, who gave it to George John, Earl Spencer ". In 1932 the Library's association with Dr. Johnson was strengthened by the purchase from a descendant of Sir John Salusbury Piozzi Salusbury, adopted son of Mrs. Piozzi, better remembered as Dr. Johnson's Mrs. Thrale,

of over 3000 manuscript letters and documents. Hester Lynch Salusbury, later wife of Henry Thrale, the Southwark brewer, and after her second marriage, Mrs. Piozzi, had a weakness for preserving letters and other documents. One of the results of this practice is the collection now in the Rylands Library, with its many letters to and from Johnson and Mrs. Thrale, and letters and other manuscripts by or relating to Boswell, Baretti, Fanny Burney, Elizabeth Montagu, Arthur Murphy, and many other members of the Johnsonian circle. Some of this material has already been published or discussed in the pages of the BULLETIN and elsewhere.

The Oldknow papers are of a very different character. About 1920 a boy scout, distributing eighteenth-century weavers' pay tickets to passers-by, attracted the attention of Mr. Arthur Hulme, a pupil of the late Professor Unwin. Investigation showed that on the upper floor of a ruined mill at Mellor, in Cheshire, were masses of letters, papers, account books and business documents of all kinds. They were the papers of Samuel Oldknow, born in 1756, and one of the outstanding figures in the history of the early cotton industry. To quote Professor Unwin, in *Samuel Oldknow and the Arkwrights*, "the documents afforded a unique illustration both of the final phase of the 'domestic industry' and of the earliest phase of the factory system".

The Oldknow papers call to mind another function fulfilled by the John Rylands Library, namely that of a centre of material for the study of local and county history. Thousands of charters and deeds, ranging from the early Middle Ages, have gradually been acquired. They include many English and foreign documents from the Phillipps Library; the Beaumont Charters—many of which were originally in the possession of a well-known Norman scholar, the Abbé de la Rue; the papers of Sir Edward Nicholas, Secretary of State to Charles I and Charles II; Medici Records from the eleventh century onwards, formerly in the possession of the Marquis Cosimo and the Marquis Averardo de Medici, and numerous English documents, many relating to Lancashire and Cheshire. In 1924 the Library was recognised by the Master of the Rolls as a repository for manorial deeds and

documents of historic importance relating to Lancashire and Cheshire. Since this recognition many other charters have been purchased or received as gifts, but great numbers have also been deposited in the Library for an indefinite period and may be used by students. The first large collection deposited on these terms came in 1921 from Sir Harry Mainwaring, Bart., late of Peover Hall, Cheshire. There have been Mainwarings at Peover since Norman times, and the Mainwaring collection contains state papers, diaries, literary MSS., and household books, as well as numerous charters, some granted by Earls of Chester in the twelfth century.

Another family, the Jodrells, have been in Cheshire since the fourteenth century, and the Jodrell manuscripts and papers also have been entrusted to the Library by Colonel and Mrs. Ramsden-Jodrell of Taxal, Whaley Bridge. Among many other collections received under the same conditions are the Tatton papers, belonging to Mr. Robert Henry Grenville Tatton of Wythenshawe, and relating to Tattons, Massies, and other local families from mediæval times onwards. The Clowes papers, relating to Manchester and the immediate neighbourhood, contain many documents and letters concerning members of the Chetham family. Four hundred rolls (1311-1733) and forty bulky folio volumes (1733-1825), compose the court records of the manors of Chatburn, Worston and Pendleton, Accrington (Old and New), Tottington, Ightenhill (including Pendle), Colne and Trawden, and have been entrusted to the care of the Library by the Lords of the Honor of Clitheroe. Much of the material is now catalogued and available through the efforts of Dr. Robert Fawtier, former Keeper of Western MSS., and Dr. Frank Taylor, the present Keeper.

The foregoing brief account of the growth of a great institution conveys little of the achievement, romance and adventure which have led to this gathering together of hundreds of thousands of books. No one can be more aware of its inadequacies than the compiler. It tells little that is new; little, indeed, which has not been written, with much greater felicity, by Dr. Guppy himself. But if, incidentally, it has succeeded in conveying something of what is owing to the devotion and efforts of that

great man, this scanty outline has accomplished its object. It ought not to be concluded without some reference to the work of the permanent staff. The cataloguing of many of the manuscript collections has already been mentioned; the main work of a library is the everyday cataloguing of its printed books. Already in 1895 a short title author catalogue of books bought for the Library and printed in England, Scotland and Ireland, and of books in English printed abroad, to the end of the year 1640, had been prepared by Mr. Gordon Duff and was already published. In 1899 a brief title author catalogue of printed books, including those in the Althorp collection, with short descriptions of the few manuscripts then in the Library, appeared in three volumes. Ten years later Mr. Guppy and the sub-Librarian, Mr. Guthrie Vine, produced a classified catalogue of the works in Architecture and the allied arts in the three principal libraries of Manchester and Salford. In 1930 what the Librarian described as a piece of staff team work, resulted in a fully detailed catalogue of the English incunabula in the Library, the initial slips being prepared by Mr. S. O. Moffet (now Librarian of University College, Cardiff), Mr. W. W. Roberts, and Miss M. Woodcock, under the supervision of Mr. Guthrie Vine. Mr. T. Murgatroyd compiled a list, printed in 1932, of the numerous current periodical publications and transactions of learned societies in the Library. Other projects are well advanced, but the most impressive pieces of cataloguing work are the vast author and subject slip catalogues, with their detailed descriptions and full cross-references. These slip catalogues have been systematically built up, under Mr. Vine's direction, by the members of the staff already mentioned, Mr. Peacock, Miss A. B. Rankin, Mr. R. Hall and others. From the photographic studio the excellent work of Mr. Hall and Mr. L. Whittaker has resulted in scholars all over the world being supplied with photographs and photostats of rare books and manuscripts. Past and present members of the staff have contributed considerably to the numerous and important collection of the Library's publications, and to the BULLETIN. The rapid expansion marked by all these undertakings is forcibly brought home when it is realised that Mr. Julian Peacock, known to

many for his profound genealogical knowledge, is still actively cataloguing after a period of service reaching back to 1903, before which time he was with Lord Crawford at Haigh Hall : that until last year the Library had as its assistant-secretary, the late Mr. James Jones, whose connexion with Mrs. Rylands and the firm of John Rylands dates back to pre-Library days : and that the present caretaker, Mr. Thomas Fleet, helped in the erection of the building.

The John Rylands Library, like most institutions, has its war-time problems and changes. Many of its treasures are now suffering what is hoped will be brief exile in a place of comparative safety. Dr. Guppy, who played so great a part in helping in the building up of a new Louvain Library to replace the one so wantonly destroyed by the Germans in 1914, has seen that tragedy repeated. His own Library runs a constant risk from the explosives and incendiaries of the same reckless enemy. Much damage may be done, but it may yet be that the splendid gesture made by the widow of a Lancashire business man will be remembered with gratitude in a more enlightened, if distant, age, when exploits of would-be world rulers appear but lurid padding in the history of human progress.