

THE JOHN RYLANDS LIBRARY, 1936–72

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1936–48: GENERAL HISTORY AND ACCESSIONS

The founding of the Library, its basic collections, and its development until the mid-1930s have been admirably dealt with by its first Librarian.¹ The present survey continues from then until the merger with Manchester University Library (1972), but in much more limited space. Although roughly an equal period is covered, most of the first decade of this account must be written off as far as development is concerned, because it was overshadowed by the war with its preparatory, attendant and subsequent restrictions. Unlike the First World War, the danger was nearer home and, as the Library is in one of the main City thoroughfares, attention had to be concentrated in the late 1930s on matters such as equipping the building with the recommended precautions against air-raids, fire, and gas attacks; preparing special basement rooms for the safety of readers and staff; devising methods of controlling the lighting; selecting and packing many thousands of the Library's rarer items for transfer outside the vulnerable area of the City; and moving the remaining collections, according to their importance, into what were considered the safer rooms within the building. The Library, in fact, was fortunate during the war. It escaped with little damage from bombing, even in the blitzes of December 1940 and June 1941 when adjoining buildings were gutted,² and it continued to function throughout. But there were obvious limitations. Air-raid precautions affected the closing hours, the exhibitions and the lectures, as the large windows could not be adequately screened; nine of the already small staff were in the services³ and the rest, like staff elsewhere, had their normal duties broken by other commitments; and the collections were much depleted, as many of the

¹ Henry Guppy, *The John Rylands Library: A Brief Record of its History, 1899–1935* (Manchester, 1935). For a list of earlier accounts of the Library by Dr Guppy see *Bulletin*, xxv (1941), 19–20. See also Moses Tyson, 'The First Forty Years of the John Rylands Library', *ibid.*, 46–66.

² There was some scarring of the stonework, 500 roundels were lost from the windows by blast, and the heat from a fire in an adjoining building weakened the leading of other windows and twisted the metal framework.

³ All save one returned. Pilot Officer H. Litherland was reported missing, presumed killed, in March 1944. He was awarded the DFC and in 1945 a bar to the cross, posthumously.

more valuable holdings (manuscripts, incunabula, rare books, ivories and jewelled book-covers) were away in the country for four and a half years, not returning, happily undamaged, until 1945. With the end of the war came new problems, but these were mostly short-term, such as the difficulty of obtaining materials in general and publications in particular, especially foreign continuations. More disturbing was the persistence of certain old problems, well-known to all institutions with fixed incomes from well before the war, namely, inflation and steeply rising prices, now not merely continuing but accentuated. They were certainly not new to the Library, but fortunately it had an experienced and dedicated Librarian and an established senior staff who did not look elsewhere.⁴

Dr Guppy, who had been Librarian for nearly forty years, was approaching seventy-five years of age when this account opens and was over eighty-three when the war was over, but until the illness in the last year of his life (1948) he was as vigorous as ever and working as ceaselessly, well aware that institutions of this character do not grow of themselves when once they have been started. He was accustomed to restrictions, having seen an income which, twenty years earlier, had not merely met all contingencies but also allowed for the creation of a Reserve Fund, barely sufficing by the late 1930s for routine expenses. He was fully awake, too, to the Library's future needs, but circumstances dictated proceeding along well-established lines rather than embarking on new developments. Nevertheless, he felt that the Library's most urgent requirements, and one was an extension of the accommodation for book storage, should at least be kept before the Governors, and more than once immediately after the war he suggested to them that an appeal might be made for this purpose, particularly as the Library had the land and the plans ready; it was considered, however, that the time was not opportune. Even so, in spite of depleted funds, staff and readers, with the unfailing support of the Governors he not merely successfully steered the Library through the war years,⁵ he ended with a balance in hand as well as adding to the collections.

Guppy was always sympathetic to suggestions for the purchase of worthwhile accessions and prepared to find the money for them. Thus, the Manuscript Department acquired in these years a number of codices which would be welcomed in any library at any time. Amongst

⁴ Of the eight senior staff in 1936, seven had joined the Library in or before 1915 – G. Vine (1901), J. Peacock (1902), T. Murgatroyd (1909), W.W. Roberts (1910), Mabel Woodcock (1912), Annie Rankin (1915), R. Hall (1915). Three died or retired during the war (Vine, Peacock and Miss Woodcock), and there was one replacement by 1945 (L. Whittaker, 1926). Of the original eight, six ended with more than forty years service, the remaining two with more than thirty. Among the service staff, Mr T. Fleet (d. 1952) was caretaker for thirty years and on the staff for over fifty, and Mr R. Harris, the engineer (d. 1951) had forty-seven years service.

⁵ Mr Murgatroyd, later Registrar (1949–57), gave outstanding assistance in maintaining the Library's service during this difficult period.

them may be mentioned a 12th-century *Leges Angliae* containing the earliest known copy of the agreement of 1153 between Stephen and Henry II; a 13th-century volume bequeathed to the Sorbonne by Pierre de la Sepieyra, Canon of Evreux (d. 1304); a *Processe of the Passion* and a prose version of the Gospel of Nicodemus (15th century, West Midland dialect); a mid-15th-century *Postilla Studentium Pragensium* of Conrad Waldhauser (d. 1369), a forerunner of Hus; two volumes of treatises by leading writers of the mystical Neo-Platonist movement in 15th-century Southern Germany, both from Melk; a cartulary of St Werburgh's Abbey, Chester (Henry VI – Dissolution); a 16th-century copy of the *Libelle of Englyshe Polycye* showing differences from the established text; a *Visitation of Cheshire, 1663-1664* by Dugdale, containing notes in his hand; and an unknown sketchbook of the famous engraver Wenceslaus Hollar (d. 1677). Some 120 letters and papers were also added to the Dr Johnson-Mrs Thrale MSS; considerable additions made to the collection of the letters and papers of Sir Robert Clayton (d. 1707), M.P. for the City of London, Sheriff and Lord Mayor, to the already extensive Indian and East India Company Papers and to the Dundas-Pitt correspondence; and 500 Stanley of Alderley letters were acquired, mostly relating to the social reformer Lyulph Stanley between 1853 and 1874, as well as over 600 deeds concerning the northern counties.

Other additions to the Manuscript Department came by gift and bequest. These included 30 miscellaneous manuscripts, mostly medieval, including 10 13th-, 14th- and 15th-century Bibles, liturgical works and sermons (Mrs Ernest Hartland); 233 letters (1744-90) from the Revd John Mulso to his friend Gilbert White of Selborne (the Earl of Stamford); the holographs of Elizabeth Gaskell's *The Grey Woman* and *Wives and Daughters* (Miss M.E. Gaskell); the papers of the Hibbert-Ware family (18th-19th centuries), which had close connections with Manchester, containing over 2,000 letters and papers mostly concerning the antiquary and geologist Dr Samuel Hibbert-Ware who died in 1848 (Revd G. Hibbert-Ware); and a large collection of letters and documents relating to the Nicholson family of Liverpool and Manchester, including over 1,500 private and business letters of the 18th and 19th centuries (Revd H. McLachlan). Another large manuscript addition came in 1943, when the Revd J.N. Libbey, Principal of the Moravian College, Fairfield, bequeathed to the Library his entire personal library relating to the Moravian Brethren. This covers virtually every aspect of their history and includes transcripts from the Herrnhut archives and the archives of the British Province. It is particularly rich in biographical information, in records of the various synods and conferences of that Church, in hymnology and liturgy, and in the history of the Moravians in this country. The Library is also indebted to him for a set, not quite complete, of the Moravian Headquarters Diary for 1747-64, the whole period for which this record was compiled and circulated, consisting of an

18th-century English translation for 1747–53 and 1755–64, running to over ten thousand folios, and a German transcription for 1747–54.⁶

The Printed Book Department, too, had substantial accessions. In 1936 came one of the most important gifts the Library had so far received, from Mrs Hartland, mentioned above. It consisted of 2,000 Bibles (15th–19th centuries) and 1,500 miscellaneous volumes, including 32 incunabula. Amongst the Bibles were 65 editions of the Latin Vulgate printed before 1500, 670 later editions of the Vulgate and other Latin versions, 300 editions of the Greek Septuagint and New Testament, and 350 copies in other languages and dialects.⁷ In the following half-dozen years the Moravian Union, the Moravian College, Fairfield, and the Revd J.N. Libbey, in his will mentioned above, added to our collections some hundreds of volumes on Moravian subjects or by Moravian authors (17th–19th centuries), including a number of rare periodicals, and in 1943 and 1944 Mrs Moulton, the widow of Professor R.G. Moulton, formerly Professor of Literary Theory at the University of Chicago and a regular Library lecturer, presented in his name some 700 volumes dealing with comparative literature.⁸ In the following year (1945) came the purchase of a collection of 2,400 volumes on Irish, Gaelic, and Celtic literature assembled by the Celtologist Seamus O'Casaide.

These years also witnessed a notable deposit in the form of a large and valuable section of the Bibliotheca Lindesiana, made in 1946 by the Earl of Crawford and Balcarres⁹ and comprising six major groupings, namely, Reformation and Luther tracts, English tracts, French Revolutionary and Anti-Revolutionary tracts, the Borghese collection, a rare set of De Bry, *Grands et Petits Voyages*, and the Crawford family muniments.¹⁰ The muniments, ranging from the 13th century to the 20th, comprised both the Scottish documents and the records of the Lancashire estates and numbered some tens of

⁶ For further details of most of the above items see F. Taylor, *Supplementary Hand-List of Western Manuscripts* . . . 1937 (Manchester, 1937), and *Hand-List of Additions to the Collection of English Manuscripts, 1937–51* (Manchester, 1951).

⁷ With Mrs Hartland's permission, 961 duplicates were offered to Manchester University Library, amongst them 32 editions of the Latin Vulgate printed before 1500, Bibles in other languages, and miscellaneous works.

⁸ Some 200 duplicates were passed, with her permission, to the University Library and also to blitzed libraries in Europe. Dr Guppy assisted a number of blitzed libraries with duplicates, notably Louvain and Prague. There had been a close contact between the Rylands and Louvain for the past quarter of a century. Dr Beneš, President of Czechoslovakia, visited the Rylands twice during the war. Other duplicates and offprints were sent in response to appeals from war organizations.

⁹ The Crawford manuscripts from the Bibliotheca Lindesiana, purchased in 1901, form the basis of the Library's manuscripts collection. In 1924, on the 25th anniversary of the Library's inauguration, the then Earl gave the Library upwards of 20,000 proclamations, broadsides and bulletins issued in France and other European countries (16th–19th centuries), including 10,000 relating to the French Revolution, the Napoleonic régime, the Restoration, and the Commune of 1871.

¹⁰ This deposit is described at length in a separate offprint from the *Bulletin*, xxx (1946–47), entitled *The Bibliotheca Lindesiana, 1946*.

thousands of items. They contained correspondence and papers of interest to the political, social and economic historian as well as to the student of local history.¹¹

On 4 August 1948 Dr Guppy died. His most important work was done before this account opens, and his activities in that part of his life which falls within it were restricted by the war and its aftermath. But he remained to the end a leading figure in the library world and had been Librarian of the Rylands for just under half a century. He had joined the Library Association in 1894 (being its fifth oldest subscribing member) and became President of the North-Western Branch, a founder and first President of the North Central Branch, an Honorary Fellow and, in 1926–27, President of the Association itself, as well as a member of the Roxburghe Club. His many Rylands publications are well known, but it should not be forgotten that he also compiled the catalogues of the bibles, rituals and rare books in St Paul's Cathedral Library (1893) and of the Port Royal Collections in Sion College Library (1898), from which institution he came to the Rylands in 1899, and two volumes (1897, 1901) of the *Hand-list of Proclamations* in the Bibliotheca Lindesiana. It is, of course, for his association with the Rylands that he is particularly remembered. Faced with an empty building, and taking full advantage of generous endowments, he created a storehouse of manuscripts, rare books and supporting collections of enormous value to research workers throughout the world, making a provincial memorial into an outstanding institution of learning. Combining the skills of a great professional librarian and a shrewd administrator with a sincere love of scholarship, he sought ceaselessly to augment the Library and make its resources widely known, for no one knew better that a question of paramount importance in the administration of every major library is how best to render accessible to scholars its constantly increasing collections. To this end he started the *Bulletin* (1903),¹² the Library lecture series, the exhibitions, and the *Hand-lists*, and wrote and lectured widely himself. It was most appropriate that during his librarianship two of the Library's most famous manuscripts should have come to light amongst our uncatalogued Greek papyri – the St John fragment and the Deuteronomy fragment – both of which, discovered by Mr C.H. Roberts of Oxford, have made the Library known world-wide. Dr Guppy himself received many honours. For his aid in reconstructing the destroyed library of Louvain University after the 1914–18 war he was awarded a doctorate from that University and, from the King of the Belgians, the Médaille du roi Albert. Another doctorate came from Manchester in 1931, and in 1937 he received the C.B.E. Four years

¹¹ These six groupings were withdrawn during the 1970s and 1980s and transferred to the National Library of Scotland.

¹² In the same year he resigned as editor of *The Library Association Record*. He had been the first editor (from 1899) of the *Record*, the Association's official organ.

later, on completing forty years as librarian, the Governors dedicated to him a special number of the *Bulletin*.¹³ But his greatest memorial is, as he would have wished, the Library itself.

1948–72: GENERAL HISTORY

Throughout the following twenty years or so the basic administrative problem facing the Governors remained the same: how to expand limited endowments to meet ever-spiralling costs. The odds against them were heavy and of long standing. In virtually every year from 1921 onwards the Librarian in his Reports had drawn attention to the continuing ‘disastrously high’ rise in costs and his hopes for ‘a return to more normal conditions in respect of administration and maintenance’. These hopes were never realized and, as the Governors had now to cope with the effects of a second war in addition, they could hardly look for more than a partial and intermittent success in their efforts. Their actual achievement should not be under-estimated. In spite of recurrent inflation and general uncertainties, they succeeded for most of this time in attracting financial and other interests which not only enabled considerable and important acquisitions to be made to the collections but also rendered possible the modernization of the original buildings and the addition to them of two large extensions.

The jubilee of the dedication of the Library fell on 6 October 1949 and was marked by broadcasts on the Third Programme and the North Home Service and by a special lecture in the Library Lecture Room.¹⁴ In the same month three important administrative changes took place: Mr A. Maurice Haworth became Hon Treasurer, Mr L.H. Orford Hon Secretary,¹⁵ and Emeritus Professor Edward Robertson Librarian. Professor Robertson, a distinguished scholar, had held the Chair of Semitic Languages and Literatures at Bangor (1921–34) and Manchester (1934–45) and had been, the previous year, President of the Old Testament Study Society. He had had a close association with the Library throughout his years in Manchester, having lectured in its Library series, contributed to its *Bulletin*, and catalogued its Samaritan manuscripts.¹⁶ Almost immediately he embarked on further administrative changes, dividing the Library into three Departments under a Registrar, a Keeper of Printed Books, and a Keeper of Manuscripts.¹⁷

¹³ xxv (1941). A bibliography of his writings appears on pages 14–45. But for the war, the range of contributors to this volume would have been international.

¹⁴ See H.B. Charlton, ‘The Jubilee of the John Rylands Library’, *Bulletin*, xxxii (1949–50), 147–56.

¹⁵ Succeeding Alderman Wright Robinson (Hon Treasurer, 1944–49) and Mr J. Harold Brown (Hon Secretary, 1934–49), respectively. Mr Haworth, who remained in office until the merger, initiated the first separate Treasurer’s Report to the Trustees and Governors in 1949. Mr Orford died in office early in 1972.

¹⁶ Vol. I (1938). He was later to catalogue the additions to this collection.

¹⁷ As far as the Manuscript Department was concerned, the new arrangement merely stabilized the title. There had been a Keeper, originally Curator, of Manuscripts (or Western Manuscripts or Eastern Manuscripts) since 1917.

These appointments coincided with a more favourable turn in the Library's finances, for, through the good offices of the Chairman of Governors,¹⁸ it was in this year accorded a substantial and, as it became, a regular grant, through the University Grants Committee. This came opportunely, for the endowments had remained virtually unchanged since Mrs Rylands' death (1908), and in the early 1950s the Governors had in view a number of major commitments aimed at extending the Library's capacity and reducing its running costs. But, although it had an immediately vitalizing effect, the allotted sum was soon subject to depreciation, and by the mid-1950s rising costs had already seriously eroded it. This was to be the pattern throughout these years – new sources of income overtaken by inflation before long-term benefits could be obtained from them, rendering each nugatory after a few years. Nevertheless, such efforts were made ceaselessly, and in 1957 an appeal for £100,000 was launched. There was a generous response, amongst others from the Pilgrim Trust, the Lancashire Steel Corporation Ltd. (in memory of the then Lord Crawford), and the City of Manchester.¹⁹ The Pilgrim Trust, whose grant was earmarked for the purchase of source materials and the preparation and publication of catalogues of special collections, also gave invaluable aid in other ways, both towards the fabric and for special scholarly undertakings. The Governors, the Hon Treasurer, and the Librarian were tireless in stating the Library's needs,²⁰ and the interests of, amongst others, the Friends of the National Libraries, Dr Francis Neilson and Sir Isaac Wolfson were enlisted, the Wolfson Foundation generously financing the building and equipping of a large extension, opened in 1962 and described below. Through the initiative of the Hon Treasurer, Miss Muriel Stott in 1963 added another splendid gift to those already received from Dr Neilson and Sir Isaac.²¹

As a result of the benefactions, the appeal, and the careful management of the funds by the Financial Committee of the Trustees, it was possible to effect many much-needed modernizations and, also, as indicated below, to purchase again in the sale rooms. In addition to the Lady Wolfson Building, two new muniment rooms were equipped, the electricity supply changed over to mains, the old Engine Room converted to a two-tier Stack Room, the central heating boiler renewed, the lifts repaired, several substantial renewals of the fabric

¹⁸ Sir John (later Lord) Stopford, Vice-Chancellor of Manchester University, who was Chairman 1937–56. He was followed in office by his successors as Vice-Chancellor (Sir) William Mansfield Cooper (1956–70) and (Sir) Arthur Armitage (1970–80).

¹⁹ In March 1950 the Lord Mayor had paid the first civic visit to the Library, and this became an annual event.

²⁰ In 1954 a brochure dealing with the Library's history and collections was published. The support of the Town Hall, the Manchester Education Authority, and the Manchester Chamber of Commerce ensured its wide distribution locally. See also *Bulletin*, xl (1957–58), 2–3.

²¹ For the benefactions of Dr Neilson (d. 1961) see *Bulletin*, xlv (1961–62), 1–2. Sir Isaac, Dr Neilson and Miss Scott became Honorary Governors.

and of equipment attended to, and insurance, salaries and wages reviewed. Efforts to extend knowledge of the Library's collections also resulted in a proliferation of visits from educational and other institutions – universities, polytechnics, teacher training colleges, regional colleges of art, schools of librarianship, religious bodies, historical and literary societies – and a visit to the Library was included in the programme of distinguished guests and visitors to the City by, amongst others, the Town Hall, the Chamber of Commerce, and the Central Office of Information. For many of these the routine exhibition was insufficient, and special displays were arranged with special talks. The normal run of exhibitions was maintained, of course, including those for particular occasions, such as the Festival of Britain (1951), the Coronation (1953), the 150th Anniversary of the British and Foreign Bible Society (1953), and the tenth anniversary of the State of Israel (1958). This often made heavy demands on a senior staff which it had not been possible to expand, or even hold at its former levels, but such visits, indicating, as they did, a growing interest in the Library, were fostered. The *Bulletin*, too, began to figure more prominently in the Librarian's Reports, both as an important factor in extending knowledge of the Library, particularly abroad, and as an increasingly valuable medium of exchange for the publications of other institutions. Dr Neilson did not fail to appreciate this, for, in addition to his other benefactions, he donated a substantial capital sum to the Library in 1959 on condition that the income from it should be devoted solely to the *Bulletin*.²²

In 1960 Professor Robertson was made Director, to relieve him of routine duties so that he could complete the second volume of his catalogue of the Library's Samaritan manuscripts, and Mr Ronald Hall became Acting Librarian. Mr Hall had joined the Library in 1915, and been promoted to Assistant Librarian in 1927 and to Keeper of Printed Books in 1949. When Professor Robertson retired in 1962, Mr Hall, after a short interval, succeeded him, remaining Librarian until 1970,²³ when he was succeeded by the Keeper of Manuscripts, Dr Taylor, who joined the staff in 1935 as Keeper of Western Manuscripts.

In the dozen years remaining before the merger, retrenchment and increased activity continued side by side. There were periods when the financial position was eased, following, for example, an enlargement of the Trustees' investment powers (1959), the generous donation of Miss Stott mentioned above (1963), and a substantial reduction in the rating assessment (1963), but this was never sufficient to allow the Library to move into the position of independence aimed

²² In 1964 an agreement was made with the Kraus Thomson Organisation for the reprinting of the *Bulletin*.

²³ In recognition of his efforts, Professor Robertson was awarded a Manchester doctorate. For appreciations of him see *Bulletin*, xlv (1962–63), 273–5, xlvii (1964–65), 1–2, and of Mr Hall xlix (1966–67), 1–2 (on the conferment of an Honorary Manchester M.A., 1966).

at. Rather, during these years, it may be said, financially, to have stood insecurely still. But services to scholarship and readers were not allowed to suffer, and means were always found to add both to the Library's collections and publications, as indicated in the sections following. These years were also marked by a series of major exhibitions, amongst them displays for the 350th anniversary of the publication of the Authorized Version of the English Bible (1961), the tercentenary of the appearance of the Book of Common Prayer (1962), the Second International Conference of Ethiopic Studies (1963), the Manchester meetings of the British Association (1963) and the Classical Association (1965), the Manchester Institute of Chartered Accountants (1965), the Diamond Jubilee Conference of the National Union of Journalists (1967), the centenary of the Historical Manuscripts Commission (1969), the opening of the Manchester Goethe Institute (1969), the Manchester Cathedral Festival of the Arts (for which three exhibitions were arranged), and anniversaries of the births of Shakespeare, Dante, Gutenberg and Dickens, but, most outstanding, the exhibition (1966), under the patronage of H.M. the Queen and H.M. King Hussein of Jordan, of the Dead Sea Scrolls. The Scrolls, after touring the United States and Canada, were shown at four centres in Great Britain: the British Museum, this Library (14 February–12 March), the National Library of Scotland, and the National Museum of Wales, after which they returned to Jerusalem. The exhibition, which occupied the whole of the Reading Room, was supplemented by three cases arranged by the Library itself, including a selection of its Biblical manuscripts (2nd century BC–17th century AD), and four special lectures were also arranged in the Lecture Hall. The Scrolls Exhibition attracted more attention from the general public than any other event in the Library's history, being viewed by over 66,000 people in the four weeks it was here.²⁴

These exhibitions, which underlined the wide range of the Library's holdings, together with the growth of its collections and the increasing use being made of them, also emphasized how much more could have been done with greater financial resources, lack of which alone prevented the Library developing at greater speed and in new directions; for the potential was there. This lack affected the staff particularly, and had done so for some time, for retirements and resignations had not been made good over the years, with the result that by the second half of the 1960s senior staff in the Department of Printed Books stood at less than half its pre-1939 strength and the Manuscript Department had long depended mainly on two people, while counter and domestic staff remained at their pre-1914 levels. This was in spite of considerable additional commitments all round.

²⁴ The Library was indebted to the Northern Arts and Sciences Foundation for a generous grant towards the cost.

Such staffing problems now make the headlines; the Library had had to live with them for many years. As a result, even routine duties began to suffer, and more than once in the late 1960s the Keeper of Printed Books had to report an unavoidable backlog in cataloguing. Finally, the Library's detailed cataloguing code, which had long made its entry slips a valuable reference source for bibliographers everywhere, had to be simplified to meet the new situation. Increasingly, more and more was asked of a handful of seniors, who came to assist with virtually every function in, and associated with, their Departments, not to mention with many duties outside them.

There was, however, welcome alleviation with one other major problem, even if only temporarily – that of space. The Lady Wolfson Building had soon been filled, and the question of accommodation again became pressing. By the sale to the City of land at the rear of the Library, the Governors were enabled to erect a four-storey extension on the Spinningfield side, as mentioned more fully below. This was completed in 1970. Further internal improvements were also made. The two older lifts received attention; the electrical lift was modernized and, in view of a warning that hydraulic water supply would be withdrawn in December 1972, arrangements were made to replace the hydraulic lift with an electrical one. Security had been previously reviewed and, in the latter part of 1971, after consultation with the City Fire Officer and the University, arrangements were also put in hand for improving fire precautions.

Efforts meanwhile continued to augment the Library's income, the outstanding one being in June 1968, when the Governors launched an appeal to local authorities to raise a supplementary rate on its behalf. This did not have the success anticipated and, as other fund-raising initiatives met with the same uncertainties, steps were taken to seek a more permanent solution. In 1969 negotiations were opened with Manchester University to see whether a merger was practicable. Relations between the two had long been close. The University's Vice-Chancellors had served as Rylands Chairmen of Governors, its Professors had been Trustees and Governors of the Library from the early years of the century, lectured regularly in its lecture series, contributed to its *Bulletin*, and helped to catalogue its collections, one Professor had been Librarian for thirteen years, and the University had been ever ready with assistance, financial and otherwise. The negotiations owed much to the two Vice-Chancellors, Sir William Mansfield Cooper and Arthur (later Sir Arthur) Armitage, and especially to the University Librarian Dr F.W. Ratcliffe, and on 19 July 1972 the merger was sealed with the appointment of the University as Trustee of the Rylands by the Department of Education and Science.²⁵ Four members of the Rylands staff received senior

²⁵ See *Bulletin*, lv (1972–73), 1–3.

posts in the new John Rylands University Library of Manchester: the Rylands Librarian became a Deputy Director and the Principal Keeper; Mr Keith Farmery was appointed to Administration; Dr Margaret Wright remained as Keeper of Printed Books, a post to which she had been seconded from the University Library in November 1970; and Miss Glenise Matheson became Keeper of Manuscripts.

1948-72: MANUSCRIPT ACCESSIONS

During these years several manuscript groups were greatly strengthened, notably the English, Samaritan, and Hebrew, the Greek papyri, and the Charter Room collections, and smaller additions were made to many others. In the case of the English, Samaritan, Hebrew, and Charter Room collections the growth far exceeded that made in those fields in the earlier history of the Library.

Donations and the appeal, particularly a grant from the Pilgrim Trust, provided an opportunity to develop the English manuscripts along new lines during the 1950s and 1960s. In 1953 Mrs H.D. Rawnsley, widow of Canon Rawnsley, a founder of the National Trust and a former Honorary Governor of the Library, presented us with 600 letters and papers (1873-1902) relating to Ruskin, over 500 (1873-89) in his own hand. It was then still possible to purchase Ruskin manuscripts at a reasonable price, and this donation was used as a base on which to build a Ruskin collection which by 1972 numbered over 2,000 items and ranked second only to that at Bemburgh.²⁶ Side by side with this was developed a pre-Raphaelite collection, beginning with the purchase in 1958 of private diaries and over 300 letters of Holman Hunt, many of which had belonged to his grandchild. To this were added 112 letters and papers of the official amanuensis of the Brotherhood, William Michael Rossetti; holographs and drafts of works and poems of Oliver Madox Brown, son of the painter; and 1,560 letters of Charles Fairfax Murray (d. 1919). Murray was associated with many of those who occur in the preceding acquisitions, and his own correspondence includes over 700 in-letters and 200 exchanged between others. Amongst them are nearly 400 concerning one of the most colourful figures associated with the Pre-Raphaelites, Charles Augustus Howell (d. 1890), and 179 letters and papers of William Behnes, Sculptor in Ordinary to Queen Victoria, and his brother. A valuable supplement to this was provided by a collection of over 1,500 letters and papers of the critic and connoisseur M.H. Spielmann (d. 1948), acquired in 1965, and, incidentally, the largest single Spielmann collection extant. Spielmann, one of the most

²⁶ For a general survey of the growing collection in 1962 see Margaret Spence, 'The Library's Ruskin Correspondence and Papers', *Bulletin*, xlv (1961-62), 273-8.

important figures in the late Victorian art world, corresponded with and advised many of the leading artists of his generation.²⁷

Military papers were well represented amongst our deposited collections, but less so amongst our own holdings. This was remedied in 1958 by the purchase of the family papers of the Clintons of Ashley Clinton, Hampshire. Numbering several tens of thousands of items, they consist of letters, diaries, and military and personal records of General Sir Henry Clinton (d. 1829) and his brother General Sir William Henry Clinton (d. 1846) and relate to the wars against the French in the Peninsula (the bulk), the Low Countries, Sicily and India, and the campaigns in Portugal in 1808–09 and following the death of John VI, in all of which the two participated. Also included is extensive personal and political correspondence of the Clinton, Stanley of Adlerley, Holroyd (Earls of Sheffield), Newcastle, Chester and Dawkins families. Fortunately, the Library was able to prevent the collection being broken up, for, with a few exceptions, some of which the Library later bought back from their then purchasers, it acquired the whole. To these were added five ancillary military collections, comprising Peninsular War letters and papers of Sir John Cradock, Sir James Leith, Sir William Henry Pringle, and Sir Robert Hugh Kennedy, and correspondence and papers (1798–1810) of John Pitt, 2nd Earl of Chatham, as Master General of the Ordnance.

Other additions were made in the military and political field, notably the Bowring Papers, some 1,000 items, the majority concerning Sir John Bowring (d. 1872), who held high office in the Far East at an important period in Anglo-Chinese relations, and four volumes of consular correspondence and papers (1776–83) of Viscount Mount-Stuart, later 1st Marquess of Bute. Further substantial acquisitions of correspondence concerned the Egertons of Tatton, Cheshire (over 3,400 items, mostly 18th century); the Spring Rice family (including some 300 items concerning the Hon Stephen and the Hon Charles); the Heald family (over 500 letters, 6 volumes of letter-books and 35 of diaries, many relating to their South American associations); business correspondence of two northern merchants, Pietro Tealdi of Manchester (1836–38) and John Micklethwaite of Leeds (1786–1838); and the personal papers of Dr Francis Neilson (d. 1961). Here, too, should be mentioned the historical collections of Dr A.P. Wadsworth, formerly editor of *The Manchester Guardian*, which, apart from his own notebooks and papers, include original items such as letters of the Manchester novelist Mrs Linnaeus Banks, 18th- and 19th-century correspondence, and account books of Lancashire cotton manufacturers. Other noteworthy additions were the Raymond English Anti-Slavery Collection, the C.F. Sixsmith collection of letters and papers

²⁷ For details of the above acquisitions see F. Taylor and G.A. Matheson, *Hand-List of Additions to the Collection of English Manuscripts . . . 1952–70* (Manchester, 1977).

relating to Walt Whitman and the social writer Edward Carpenter, and letters of the Nonconformist divine Philip Doddridge (d. 1751), Dr Charles Burney, Walter Savage Landor, the bibliographer T.F. Dibdin, Florence Nightingale, and Gilbert White of Selborne. The National Art-Collections Fund presented the Library with a fine *Statutes* of the Order of St Michel, written and illuminated in the 16th century,²⁸ and it was gratifying to be able to add to the collections two manuscripts, long considered missing, discovered in a carton of miscellanea in a London sale-room, a holograph volume of *The Sisters* and other poems by Crabbe and the press-copy of John Stuart Mill's *Autobiography*.²⁹

The Samaritan and Hebrew holdings were strengthened by the acquisition in 1954, with the generous aid of the Pilgrim Trust, the Friends of the National Libraries, and private donations, of collections assembled by the distinguished Hebrew scholar Dr Moses Gaster (d. 1939), bringing to the Library a further 300 Samaritan manuscripts and over 350 in Hebrew. Amongst the latter are commentaries, treatises, apocryphal writings and the prayer books of many Jewish communities as well as letters, marriage contracts and Scrolls of the Law, while the former include manuscripts of the Pentateuch, historical, liturgical, chronological and astronomical codices and census lists. With these came some 11,500 Genizah fragments from the Ben Ezra Synagogue in Cairo, mostly in Hebrew (over 10,500) and Arabic (840), but also in Aramaic, Coptic, Judaeo-Spanish, Turkish and Yiddish, the whole dating between the first millennium AD and the 19th century. The Gaster family also generously presented 123 other manuscript codices from his collections, in 19 languages, the most fully represented being Arabic, Greek and English; three languages (Bulgarian, Portuguese, and Rumanian) were new to the Library's holdings. Four years later came another gift from the family in the form of a complete collection of all Dr Gaster's writings, numbering 230 printed items and over 50 manuscripts of his works, published and unpublished, together with his correspondence (over 500 letters) with the Samaritan community in Nablus.

Following the publication of the fourth volume of the *Catalogue of Greek and Latin Papyri* in 1952, the remaining portion of the papyri itself, which had been deposited in St John's College, Oxford, for the convenience of its editors, was returned to the Library, where it was mounted and shelved. It was understood that this completed the cataloguing of all the Library's holdings in this field. However, in 1962, a reorganization of the whole Manuscript Department was

²⁸ It had been exhibited at the Burlington Fine Arts Club in 1908 and has a particularly interesting provenance; see *Bulletin*, xxxviii (1955-56), 271-2.

²⁹ The above is only a selection. For a fuller account see the handlists of English manuscripts by F. Taylor (1951) and by F. Taylor and G.A. Matheson (1977). For the John Stuart Mill manuscript see J. Stillinger, 'The Text of John Stuart Mill's *Autobiography*', *Bulletin*, xliii (1960-61), 223-4.

undertaken by the Keeper and Assistant Keeper, Miss Matheson, in the course of which every single manuscript and manuscript fragment was checked against all known catalogues and lists, printed and unprinted. As a result it was discovered that the papyri received piecemeal from Oxford over many years, and stored in different places by previous Keepers, contained, contrary to what had been stated, material additional to that dealt with in the four volumes of the published *Catalogue* – in fact, substantial and sometimes important material; enough to justify at least a fifth volume in the series.³⁰ In addition to this unexpected find, in March 1966 were purchased from the Egyptian Exploration Society the 85 Greek papyri which Professor B.R. Rees had edited for the Society in 1964 as Volume 42 in its series *Graeco-Roman Memoirs*. Dating from between the 1st and 7th centuries AD, they come mainly from Hermopolis and contain letters belonging to the archive of Theophanes (4th century AD), already in the Library's charge. Although the Rylands collection cannot compete in size with those in London, Berlin and Cairo, one of its editors has pointed out that, because it was brought together by scholars such as Grenfell, Hunt and Rendel Harris, 'the level of interest of the texts and their state of preservation is singularly high'. Among outstanding items in the two catalogues (Volumes 3 and 4) published within the period under review occur, for example, the earliest known manuscripts of the New Testament and the Greek Old Testament, the oldest known prayer to the Virgin, the earliest Latin Christian manuscript, and an account of the achievements of Philip of Macedon written less than a century after the events described, as well as noteworthy medical, scientific, and grammatical fragments and a considerable fund of documentary papyri, including the archive of Theophanes, mentioned above, and 17 papyri from the great archive of Zenon, the estate manager and personal representative of the Chancellor of Egypt in the middle of the 3rd century BC.³¹

The most extensive manuscript additions, however, were made to the deposited documents in the Charter Rooms. The Charter Room collections, the nucleus of which was formed in 1908, comprise documents owned by the Library and documents on deposit. By the mid-1930s the former numbered some 5,000 items, the latter a figure approaching 12,000, the whole dating between the 11th century and the 20th. The first large family collection, the Mainwarings of Peover (12th–19th centuries), was deposited in 1921,³² and in the succeeding

³⁰ See Alan K. Bowman and J.D. Thomas, 'Some Additional Greek Papyri in the John Rylands University Library', *Bulletin*, lxi (1978–79), 290–313. These scholars have undertaken the further cataloguing.

³¹ See the general assessment by C.H. Roberts, 'The Rylands Collection of Greek and Latin Papyri', *Bulletin*, xxxvi (1953–54), 97–110. Also A. Souter, 'A New Volume [i.e.3] of the Catalogue of the . . . Rylands Greek and Latin Papyri', *ibid.*, xxii (1938), 539–42.

³² Apart from a few items, sold by the family at Sotheby's, the Mainwaring muniments were purchased by the Library in 1973.

issue of the *Bulletin* the Librarian expressed willingness to undertake safe custody of similar collections to avoid their dispersal or destruction. The Library was appointed by the Master of the Rolls, under the Law of Property (Amendment) Act 1924, the official depository for manorial and other documents relating to Lancashire and Cheshire, and over the next few years nine large collections, including the muniments of four other northern families, were deposited here, as well as many smaller ones.

This aspect of the Library's activities was developed more intensively after the war, and in the years under review twenty more collections were received, amongst them the muniments of fourteen other families with estates in this part of the country. Many smaller groupings also came, and the muniments of the Tattons of Wythenshawe (13th-18th centuries), deposited here in 1925, were in 1953 presented to the Library. The largest collections deposited included those of the Earls of Crawford and Balcarres (13th-20th centuries),³³ the Bromley Davenports of Capesthorpe (12th-20th centuries), the Leycesters of Toft (13th-19th centuries), the Bagshawes of Ford (15th-19th centuries), the Cornwall-Leghs of High Legh (13th-19th centuries),³⁴ the Roundells of Dorfold (13th-20th centuries), the Warburtons of Arley (12th-19th centuries),³⁵ the Earls of Ducie (Manchester, Strangeways, section, 13th-19th centuries), the Ardernes (17th-19th centuries), the Astles (17th-19th centuries), the Brookes of Mere (13th-20th centuries), and the Leghs of Lyme (13th-20th centuries), in the order in which they were received between 1946 and 1969.³⁶ By the close of the period under review the deeds, charters, court rolls, estate and family records and correspondence in the Charter Rooms numbered several hundreds of thousands of items, virtually every county in England being represented, particularly Cheshire, Lancashire, Derbyshire, Lincolnshire, Suffolk, and Warwickshire; there were also some 5,000 documents (14th-19th centuries) relating to Scotland, mainly from the Crawford Muniments, some 5,000 (12th-18th centuries) relating to France, and smaller collections relating to Wales (15th-19th centuries), Belgium (13th-18th centuries), and Italy (11th-18th centuries).

All such family collections are, of course, rich in muniments of

³³ To the original deposit, made in 1946 and noted above, extensive additions, comprising both Scottish and Lancashire materials, were made between 1955 and 1959. See *Bulletin*, xxxvii (1954-55), 354-5; xxxviii (1955-56), 2-3, 273-4; xxxix (1956-57), 1-3, 284-6; xli (1958-59) 1-3; and xlii (1959-60), 4. These additions have since been withdrawn.

³⁴ The Cornwall-Legh Muniments, deposited in 1951, were presented to the Library in 1977.

³⁵ Deposited in 1953. Portions of them (the Weaver Navigation documents and the earlier Arley Charters) were acquired by the Library in 1976 and 1980, respectively. A further, and the most extensive, part of the Warburton Muniments was deposited in 1975.

³⁶ Two deposited collections were withdrawn: the Clitheroe Court Rolls, as the Lords of the Honor wished their records, previously divided between three repositories (two in Lancashire and one in Yorkshire) to be re-united at Clitheroe, and the Richards Collection, transferred to Keele. Mr Richards was appointed to the Court of Keele University.

title but, in addition to types of material common to all, many of them have features of their own. The Crawford Muniments, for example, apart from a wealth of materials arising from the administration of the estates, contained, *inter alia*, official, business and personal correspondence and papers of Alexander, 6th Earl of Balcarres as Lieutenant-Governor of Jamaica (1794–1801); letters, diaries and holograph works of Lady Anne Barnard, together with journals of her residence at the Cape of Good Hope (1797–1802); and correspondence of the Lindsay and Pennington families (16th–19th centuries).³⁷ In the Bromley Davenport Muniments are personal and family letters from the 17th century onwards and an unusually rich collection of accounts, ledgers, inventories, wage-books and other records respecting their estates in Cheshire, Staffordshire and Warwickshire. The Bagshawe Muniments contain the military papers of Colonel Samuel Bagshawe (d. 1762) relating to the 93rd Regiment and the 39th Regiment of Foot in India, military papers of Lord John Murray (d. 1787), records concerning Derbyshire lead mining, and the family correspondence of the Caldwells of Castle Caldwell, County Fermanagh, who intermarried with the Bagshawes in 1751. A substantial part of the Caldwell Papers, an archive in their own right, relates to Sir James Caldwell (d. 1784), who busied himself with the social and political affairs of this country and of Ireland; his numerous letter-books (1745–83) are here, over 1,500 of his letters and 400 letters to his wife.³⁸ The Warburton Muniments are notable for the famous Arley Charters (c. 1170–18th century) and the records, mainly 18th-century, relating to the navigation of the River Weaver, the latter acknowledged to be the largest single collection on this subject in private hands. The Ducie Muniments brought to the Library its most extensive collection relating to Manchester. Covering seven centuries and consisting of over 4,000 items and 43 manuscript volumes, it contains an abundance of information about Manchester properties, land, streets, and, to a lesser extent, bridges and railways. Amongst the Brooke Muniments are early 19th-century papers respecting plantations in Antigua. The social, political and family correspondence is an outstanding feature of the muniments of the Leghs of Lyme. Beginning in 1580, it numbers several thousands of letters, roughly half being 17th-century; included are items concerning Monmouth, a series of professional newsletters (1679–87), and correspondence dealing with local politics. Lady Newton drew on it for her *The House of Lyme* (1917) and *Lyme Letters, 1660–1760* (1925), but, admirable as these volumes are, the extent of the collection made selection inevitable. Among the smaller deposits, one of the most interesting consists of fourteen charters (1235–1565) of

³⁷ See G.A. Matheson and F. Taylor, *Hand-List of Personal Papers from the Muniments of the Earls of Crawford and Balcarres* (Manchester, 1976). The list closes with the generation of James, 7th Earl of Balcarres and 24th Earl of Crawford (d. 1869).

³⁸ See F. Taylor, *Hand-List of the Bagshawe Muniments* (Manchester, 1955).

Pluscarden Priory, Morayshire, the only Valliscaulian house of royal foundation outside France; they include the oldest surviving charter of the house.

Documents owned by the Library, as distinct from those on deposit, also showed considerable growth, mainly as the result of numerous gifts, some of which were made through the British Records Association.³⁹ The bulk relate to Cheshire, Lancashire and Yorkshire (16th-20th centuries), amongst the more substantial being some 500 Cheshire conveyances (17th-19th centuries), together with 17th-century court records for the manor and fee of Bollin, and suit rolls (1786-1832) for the same, presented by the Earl of Stamford; 800 documents (16th-20th centuries) concerning the Micklethwaite family and Yorkshire, by Mr F.M. Thirkell (1948); over 2,000 miscellaneous deeds (17th-20th centuries) relating to northern counties, by the Library's Hon Secretary, Mr Orford (1968-69); and records (17th-18th centuries) of the Byrom family, chiefly muniments of title to property in Kersal and in the Market Place and Deansgate areas of Manchester, by the Revd W.H. Thomson (1961-71). Rather more unusual was the gift, made over a period of years from 1951, by Mr A. Preston Pearce, of several thousands of French documents assembled to illustrate the history of revenue stamps, introduced by Colbert in 1673. As such stamps were applied to records and papers of all kinds, the result is a collection of considerable interest to the student of social and economic conditions in Paris and the French provinces during the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries, and particularly for the century leading up to the Revolution.

Purchases of documents during these years were few, but here, too, there was an unusual acquisition. With the generous help of the Friends of the National Libraries the Library was able, in 1951, to purchase and keep intact the records of the temporalities in Belgium of the English Canonesses of the Holy Sepulchre. Established in 1642, some ten years later they inherited the house, in Liège, and the properties of the Frères Coquins, originally known as the Brothers of the Hospital of St Christopher, and when the French Revolution compelled a move to England, the Sepulchrines brought with them the surviving records of the Coquins as well as their own. The collection comprises 129 volumes of registers, manuals and accounts and over 650 deeds, consisting of records of the Coquins from the 13th century to the mid-17th and of the Canonesses for the latter half of the 17th century and for the 18th. Among smaller groups purchased was part of

³⁹ For part of the period under consideration the facilities now provided by County and other Record Offices were either absent or limited. One of the first meetings to further the National Register of Archives (set up in 1945) was held in this library on 22 May 1946, presided over by the Deputy Keeper of the Public Records. The meeting appointed a representative Committee to assist the National Register in Lancashire and Cheshire; see the account in the *Bulletin*, xxx (1946-47), 175-84.

a collection formed by a pioneer local historian, William Nicholls (d. 1809), former Deputy Registrar and Secretary to the Bishop of Chester.⁴⁰

The attention of scholars was drawn to all these additions as soon as possible through the 'Notes and News' section of the *Bulletin*, by articles in the *Bulletin* itself, by catalogues and hand-lists of particular groups, and by general guides and interim typescript lists. Four full-scale volumes of manuscript catalogues were published by the Library within these years⁴¹ but, because this method was proving too expensive and involved too long a wait between the reception of a collection and its cataloguing, resort was had more and more to handlists, with the deliberate aim of making additions known with the minimum of delay. The Manuscript Department prepared and had published between 1937 and 1972 supplementary handlists of the Latin, English (3 volumes), French, German and Dutch manuscripts, two volumes of Charter Room collections owned by the Library, and eight handlists of the larger deposited family muniments,⁴² as well as typescript lists of the numerous smaller deposits. In addition, guides, also prepared in the Department, were published dealing with the Cheshire seals (1942), general Charter Room holdings (1947), court rolls, rentals, surveys, and analagous documents (1948), materials relating to modern Indian history (1965),⁴³ and Oriental manuscripts (1972).⁴⁴ Others were responsible for lists of our Batak manuscripts (P. Voorhoeve, 1951), Coptic Biblical fragments (Walter Till, 1952), Syriac Biblical manuscripts (M.H. Gottstein, 1955), Coptic liturgical manuscripts (Maria Cramer, 1968), and Pali manuscripts (N.A. Jayawickrama, 1972). These appeared in the *Bulletin* under the years cited in brackets and were then offprinted as separate monographs. Elsewhere appeared accounts of the Armenian New Testament manuscripts,⁴⁵ illuminated Armenian and Coptic texts,⁴⁶ Greek and Coptic

⁴⁰ For details of some of the Charter Room accessions during these years see F. Taylor, *Hand-List of Charters, Deeds and Similar Documents in the Possession of the John Rylands Library*, Vols. 3 (1937) and 4 (1975), and the 'Notes and News' sections of the *Bulletin*.

⁴¹ Vols. 3 (by C.H. Roberts, 1938) and 4 (by C.H. Roberts and E.G. Turner, 1952) of the Greek and Latin papyri, and the Samaritan manuscripts in two volumes (by E. Robertson, 1938, 1962).

⁴² The Arderne, Bagshawe, Clowes, Cornwall-Legh, Crawford (personal papers), Crutchley, Leycester of Toft and Roundell families. Strictly, these are Calendars. *Hand-List*, a misnomer, was retained in the interests of the series.

⁴³ F. Taylor, 'Manuscript Materials on Modern Indian History in the John Rylands Library', *Indian Archives*, xvi (1965-66), 23-8.

⁴⁴ These guides, with the exception cited, were printed in the *Bulletin* for the years given in brackets and then offprinted.

⁴⁵ In Erroll F. Rhodes, *An Annotated List of Armenian New Testament Manuscripts* (Rikkyo University, Tokyo, Department of Christian Studies, Annual Report of Theology, Monograph Series, I, Tokyo, 1959).

⁴⁶ In Hugo Buchthal and Otto Kurz, *A Hand List of Illuminated Oriental Christian Manuscripts* (Studies of the Warburg Institute, 12, London, 1942).

New Testament manuscripts,⁴⁷ uncatalogued Coptic fragments,⁴⁸ and Pashto manuscripts.⁴⁹ Five other language groups were listed in part in typescript: the Mo-So (by Dr Joseph Rock), Syriac and Garshuni (by Dr W.F. Macomber), Tibetan (by Dr G.B. Samuel), and Turkish (by Mr J.R. Walsh); their typescripts are available for consultation in the Library. In the latter part of this period catalogues of several other language groups were in progress and for this reason, although they were not published until after 1972, they are included here. They were: the supplementary Arabic,⁵⁰ Ethiopic,⁵¹ Indonesian,⁵² illuminated Persian,⁵³ Siamese,⁵⁴ Tamil⁵⁵ and Urdu.⁵⁶ Accounts of the Library's holdings appeared, too, in various general guides, amongst which may be mentioned J.D. Pearson, *Oriental Manuscript Collections in the Libraries of Great Britain and Ireland* (1954), B.R. Crick and Miriam Alman, *A Guide to Manuscripts relating to America in Great Britain and Ireland* (1961),⁵⁷ W.E. Fredeman's guide to Pre-Raphaelite sources, *Pre-Raphaelitism: A Bibliocritical Study* (1965), and M.D. Wainwright and Noel Matthews, *A Guide to Western Manuscripts and Documents in the British Isles relating to South and South East Asia* (1965).

1948-72: PRINTED BOOK ACCESSIONS

By the mid-1930s the Printed Book Department had extensive resources to support. The possession of the Spencer and Crawford Collections alone (apart from over thirty years' additions to them, including many other special collections) dictated many of its accessions, for it was necessary to continue to fill gaps in the former and to provide modern supporting material for both, and the former extended from the beginnings of Western printing to the 19th century

⁴⁷ In Kurt Aland, *Kurzgefasste Liste der griechischen Handschriften des Neuen Testaments* (Vol. 1, Berlin, 1963). The Greek New Testament manuscripts also appeared in several other lists.

⁴⁸ Walter Till, 'Die nichtkatalogisierten Coptica der John Rylands Library', *Das Antiquariat*, 8 (1952).

⁴⁹ In J.F. Blumhardt and D.N. Mackenzie, *Catalogue of Pashto Manuscripts in the Libraries of the British Isles* (London, 1965).

⁵⁰ By Professor C.E. Bosworth, published in 1974.

⁵¹ By Mr Stefan Strelcyn, published in 1974.

⁵² Balinese, Batak, Buginese, Javanese, Javano-Balinese, Madurese, Makaserese, Malay, and Old Javanese. By M.C. Ricklefs and P. Voorhoeve, *Indonesian Manuscripts in Great Britain* (Oxford, 1977).

⁵³ B.W. Robinson, *Persian Paintings in the John Rylands Library: A Descriptive Catalogue* (London, 1980). See also the article on the same subject by Mr Robinson in *Bulletin*, xxxiv (1951-52), 69-80.

⁵⁴ Descriptions of the collection were made in 1958 by Mr Kachorn Sukhabanij, Secretary of the Thailand Historical Commission, and in 1969 by Professor E.H.S. Simmonds.

⁵⁵ Descriptions of the collection were made in 1965 by Dr Rama Subbiah of the University of Malaya for inclusion in a projected union catalogue of Tamil manuscripts.

⁵⁶ Mr Zaidi of London University began a list in 1970 for inclusion in a union catalogue of Urdu manuscripts in the British Isles. His manuscript, to date, is deposited with the University College, London, School of Library Studies, as I am kindly informed by Mr J.H. McIlwaine, Lecturer at the School.

⁵⁷ A revision, edited by John W. Raimo, was published in 1979.

while the latter contained manuscripts in over fifty languages from the 3rd millennium BC onwards. In addition, there were long runs of English and foreign periodicals to maintain. In view of the continually increasing cost of newly-published books, especially from abroad, and the rapidly growing proportion of the Book Fund which had to be earmarked for periodicals, it is hardly surprising to find the Keeper stating that it was not possible until the late 1950s to buy printed collections of any size or to purchase incunabula or examples of fine printing. Various expedients were tried to circumvent these difficulties, but, when initial commitments had been dealt with, there was little money left for new developments.

Even before the appeal and the Pilgrim Trust grant eased matters, however, several substantial acquisitions were made, mostly by donation. From Bebington Public Library, over a period of years, came, partly by gift, partly by purchase (a nominal sum), over 700 volumes discarded from the Mayer collection. These, mainly of historical, literary and theological interest, included some of the earliest works on the decipherment of hieroglyphics, 108 volumes of dramatic works of the post-Elizabethan period, amongst them many first editions, 36 chapbooks, broadsides, and caricatures by Gillray, Rowlandson and others. In 1950 Mr George A. Viner⁵⁸ presented an almost complete collection of the bookplates designed by the engraver Charles William Sherborn (d. 1912), consisting of 1,583 plates in various stages, only seven being lacking, and there are photographs of these; they include the bookplates designed for Mrs Rylands in 1894 and 1898. The only comparable collections are in the British Library and the Fitzwilliam Museum. Over 60 volumes were added to the Hebrew books in 1950–51 from a fund placed at the disposal of the Library by Mr N. Kingsley, and further additions to the same section came from the Friends of the John Rylands Library, Hebraic Section, amongst them a group of important texts printed in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. In 1952, Mr Preston Pearce,⁵⁹ mentioned above, strengthened our collection of ephemerides by a gift of 207 almanacks and companions to the almanack, covering the years 1681 to 1866. These not only filled several gaps but in a number of cases converted single issues into substantial runs. The late 17th-century items are of particular interest, one being apparently unique. The Sixsmith bequest (1954),⁶⁰ also referred to above, brought to the Library, in addition to the manuscripts, first editions of a number of Whitman's works and nearly one hundred books dealing with him, several in limited editions and many being authors' presentation copies. The Carpenter portion of this bequest contains 70 editions of his books and pamphlets, some of them signed presentation copies to the Sixsmiths,

⁵⁸ *Bulletin*, xxxiii (1950–51), 199.

⁵⁹ *ibid.*, xxxv (1952–53), 287–8.

⁶⁰ *ibid.*, xxxvii (1954–55), 10–11.

and there is a valuable pendent to the whole in the form of many hundreds of newspaper and magazine cuttings relating to both writers. Another friend of Carpenter, Richard Hawkin, began about this time a series of gifts which over the years resulted in a collection of several hundred books and pamphlets concerned mainly with radicalism, with the history, archaeology and topography of Yorkshire, and with William Blake.⁶¹

One of the most extensive gifts came in 1958 by bequest, the Kenneth Brown Railway Collection⁶² (18th–20th centuries), containing early books on the subject, Acts of Parliament, reports of civil engineers, maps and plans, and descriptive and historical material on English railways down to their grouping in 1923 and, to a lesser extent, foreign railways, with much pictorial matter, early Bradshaws and other timetables, the whole comprising over 1,300 volumes (600 monographs, 225 pamphlets, 220 bound maps, and 281 volumes of periodicals), 153 prints, and many photographs. In the same year Miss F.E. Gresty Jackson⁶³ presented, in memory of her father, some 200 volumes from his library, comprising books on local history, religious art and symbolism, and grangerized copies of Thornbury's *London*, Brewer's *Beauties of England and Wales*, and Baines's *History of the County Palatine*, and the distinguished American collector of Whitmaniana Mr Charles E. Feinberg⁶⁴ added to the Whitman collection 27 works by and studies of the poet, many of which it would not be easy to acquire in this country. Other friends, notably Sir Thomas Barlow, Major J.R. Abbey, and G.V. Funduklian, presented examples of fine printing, and in the early 1950s were added to the sets of private presses, by gift and purchase, further examples of some of the minor ones (Baynard, Beaumont, High House, Raven, Slide Mountain, and Tintern) as well as books designed by the famous American printer Bruce Rogers.

A number of purchases also proved possible. In 1953 part of the Clogher Diocesan Library was acquired, supplementing the O'Casaide collection referred to above and also containing 16th-century books from presses in Switzerland, Germany and the Netherlands and over 1,100 sermons and pamphlets, mainly theological, 176 printed before 1700. The most substantial purchases, however, came in the following two years with the acquisition of some 1,450 'Mazarinades' (1649–60),⁶⁵ pamphlets in prose and verse, frequently scurrilous, attacking

⁶¹ *ibid.*, xxxiii (1950–51), 11, 198–9; xxxiv (1951–52), 17; xxxv (1952–53), 18; xlix (1966–67), 273–5. The William Blake collection, comprising 92 volumes of editions of his works, facsimiles of his illustrated books, and biographical and critical treatises relating to him, was presented to the Library by Mr Hawkin's daughter, Mrs Joan Vaughan, as a memorial gift; *Bulletin*, li (1968–69), 2–4.

⁶² *ibid.*, xli (1958–59), 277–9.

⁶³ *ibid.*, xl (1957–58), 266.

⁶⁴ *ibid.*, 266–7.

⁶⁵ *ibid.*, xxxvii (1954–55), 8–9; xxxviii (1955–56), 5–6.

or defending Cardinal Mazarin and the court party; 213 early 19th-century Scottish chapbooks assembled by an authority on Scottish ballad literature, Mr C.K. Sharpe;⁶⁶ 273 volumes from the British and Foreign Bible Society containing versions of the Bible or parts of it issued by them, increasing the number of languages in which the Library possesses every book of the Bible they published from 116 to 262 and decreasing the unrepresented languages from 465 to 270; and over 60 works important for the history of Quakerism from Mr E. Mitford Abraham,⁶⁷ late of Swarthmoor Hall, near Ulverston, formerly the home of Margaret Fell (who became the wife of George Fox, founder of the Society of Friends), of whom he was a descendant. For over fifty years Mr Mitford Abraham had also collected works on windmills, and in 1955 this collection, too, was acquired from him, consisting of 40 volumes, 7 large portfolios of cuttings, and 47 albums of photographs, accompanied by his notes. The negatives from which these prints were made came with the collection, probably the most complete in existence on this subject.⁶⁸ Efforts to overtake war-arrears in foreign continuations also made particularly good progress during these years.

Also in the 1950s an important reference library of Quaker books and pamphlets, formed by Mr James Midgley of Spring Hill near Rochdale⁶⁹ and housed since 1863 in the Friends Meeting House in Manchester, was placed on deposit. It consists of 221 volumes comprising over 1,200 items (mid-17th to mid-19th century), the majority being rare Quaker writings of the later 17th century. George Fox is represented by over 100 works, William Penn by 38, and all the outstanding Quaker writers of the period occur. The important group of Commonwealth tracts includes several rare anti-Quaker items. In all, the collection contains about one-sixth of the estimated number of Quaker items published before 1700 and makes important additions to the already strong Quaker holdings in the Library.⁷⁰

In 1957 and the years immediately following, thanks to the appeal and the Pilgrim Trust grant, it became possible not only to fill gaps in a wide range of subjects but also to purchase incunabula. Amongst subjects to which substantial additions were then made were 19th-century English literature, the history of Nonconformity, military history (in particular the British army), the French collections (including the Revolutionary tracts and cartularies of French religious houses), 19th-century Irish political, social and religious history, the railway collection, chapbooks,⁷¹ the history and topography of the

⁶⁶ *ibid.*, xxxvii (1954–55), 9–10.

⁶⁷ *ibid.*, 7–8.

⁶⁸ *ibid.*, xxxviii (1955–56), 277–8.

⁶⁹ *ibid.*, xxxvii (1954–55), 361.

⁷⁰ A collection of papal bulls, proclamations, indulgences, and early playing cards was temporarily deposited from 1955 to 1973 by the Earl of Crawford. For details see *ibid.*, xxxix (1956–57), 3–6, 286–9.

⁷¹ *ibid.*, xli (1958–59), 16–17.

northern counties, bibliography, and palaeography. Incunabula were purchased of presses either new to the Library or in types not hitherto represented, amongst them presses in Italy (Bologna, Cremona, Pavia, Reggio Emilia, Venice), Germany (Cologne, Freiburg, Mainz, Memmingen, Speier), France (Paris, Lyons), and Switzerland (Basel). Gaps were also filled in the STC and Wing holdings, but these are too numerous and too varied to be particularized in the limited space available here. The late 17th- and 18th-century controversial religious and political tracts, already extensive, were augmented. Immediately following the grant, some 200 miscellaneous items were added, including further anti-Quaker material and a folio volume containing 26 items relating to the trials following the Popish plot of 1680. From the library of a religious house at Burscough were purchased 70 historical, theological and literary works, including 6 from the STC period and 25 in English dating between 1641 and 1700; the imprints Louvain, Boulogne, Douai, Rouen and Caen, amongst others, illustrate the dispersal of English Catholics on the Continent at this time. The 'Mazarinades' were also increased, bringing the holdings of pamphlet literature concerning Mazarin and the court party to over 1,800, amongst them one of the earliest of such items and also several of the rarest.⁷² Another purchase, supplementing the Spencer collection, consisted of 10 volumes containing 169 tracts dealing with the Jansenist troubles in France following the publication of the papal bull *Unigenitus*.⁷³ Although promulgated in 1713, the bull was violently opposed and did not become law in France until 1730. These volumes, several of which bear an *ex-libris* inscription of the Abbey of Saint-Volusien in Foix, cover the period from 1716 to 1745 and throw much light on the attempt to force acceptance of the bull on the French clergy.

Another considerable addition was a collection of 559 tracts brought together by the 16th Earl of Sutherland (d. 1733). Dating from the 17th and early 18th centuries, they are mainly historical, political and ecclesiastical in content. About one third consists of polemical works on the religious issues of the day, but the bulk reflects the Earl's interest in general political affairs, not least anti-Jacobitism and the Union of England and Scotland, for he was one of the Commissioners appointed to arrange the terms.⁷⁴ Other pamphlets of the 1830s formed a pendent to the collection of rare books and journals illustrating the early development of socialist thought which were presented to the Library in the late 1940s and early 1950s by the MP for Chesterfield, Sir George Benson. The Library's collection of colour-print books was also strengthened, partly due to a bequest from

⁷² *ibid.*, xliv (1961-62), 280-1.

⁷³ *ibid.*, xliii (1960-61), 284-6.

⁷⁴ *ibid.*, xlii (1959-60), 267-8.

Mrs S.S. Payne, through the good offices of the National Art-Collections Fund, which includes examples of the work of Redouté, Morris and the Daniells, uncle and nephew, and partly due to the acquisition, by purchase and bequest, from the Greg family of works by Harding, Nash, the Belgian lithographer Louis Haghe, and Bewick,⁷⁵ including, amongst other items of note, two copies of the first edition (1797) of Bewick's best-known work, the history of British birds. The Library had collected productions of private presses from its earliest days, and substantial additions were now made to these, notably to the Chiswick, Corvinus, Ditchling (formerly St Dominic's), Dolmen, Elston, Eragny, Essex House, Gregynog, Vale, and Bremer presses. Three more items were added to the collection, almost complete, of the Cuala press. Among the more outstanding modern works purchased was the monumental four-volume *La biblioteca napoletana dei re d'Aragona* by Tammaro de Marinis, published in Milan between 1947 and 1957.

By 1963 the Pilgrim Trust grant was almost exhausted as far as printed books were concerned and, although successful investments and other generous donations had enabled the Governors to make increases in the Book Fund and even to earmark part of it for the purchase of special items, this was offset by a parallel and steeper rise in prices. Books published in America and on the Continent, and works of the kind required by the Library, were becoming particularly expensive while, towards the close of this period, it was estimated that periodicals and monographs alone would soon account for three-quarters of the Book Fund. In spite of economies, including the cancellation of a number of subscriptions, it was becoming increasingly difficult to keep abreast of current publications in the many fields covered by the Library, while, as regards older books, reliance was having to be placed more and more on gifts. Nevertheless, additions were made by purchase to, amongst others, the Wesleyan, Railway and Whitman Collections and to the French Revolutionary journals, and several small groups of 17th- and 18th-century historical and theological pamphlets were also acquired, while the Special Fund enabled additions to be made to the editions of Erasmus, Voltaire, and the *Imitatio Christi*, to the rare bindings, and to the collection of early 20th-century poets.

A number of other welcome acquisitions came by gift and bequest. In 1966 Dame Mabel Tylecote⁷⁶ added to the printed Ruskiniana twelve pamphlets new to the collection, two by Ruskin himself and the rest relating to him and his work, three bearing a Manchester imprint. In 1969 Dr Francis Neilson and Professor H. Hale Bellot, both generous benefactors in their lifetimes, bequeathed

⁷⁵ For the Bewick collection see *ibid.*, xliii (1960-61), 5-6.

⁷⁶ *ibid.*, xlix (1966-67), 8-10.

their personal libraries. The former comprises a large group of his personal papers, referred to above, and some 2,000 printed works, the greater part concerned with philosophy, sociology, diplomacy and international relations. The library of Professor Bellot, formerly Reader in Modern History at Manchester and Professor of American History at London, consists of over 5,000 volumes and is rich in English and American history and the literatures of England and France; it also contains his collection of 19th-century children's books and works on the local and natural history of Somerset. Another regular benefactor, Judge Neville Laski,⁷⁷ presented, amongst other volumes on Jewish subjects, several rare items of Judaica, together with manuscript family material and copies of his own works and those of his brother Professor Harold Laski; to his good offices, too, we owe a gift from Gray's Inn Library of historical works relating to the Inn. From Mr A.B. Race⁷⁸ came a collection of 16th-century books printed in England, amongst them editions of the Book of Common Prayer and of metrical versions of the Psalms. Mr E.F. Chaney, an authority on and collector of Villon, bequeathed 29 volumes concerning the poet, including 19 editions and translations of his works and monographs on him. It is unfortunately not possible to list all benefactors here, but perhaps reference may be made to three more to underline the quality of individual volumes which could be presented: a copy of the edition of the Vulgate printed in Venice in 1481 by Leonardus Wild of Ratisbon, the gift of Mr Vernon Goss; *The Saur Bible* of 1743, the first American edition of the Bible in any European language, from the Revd Don Cleveland Norman; and *White's Beyträge zur Naturgeschichte von England* (Berlin, 1792), a rare abridgement of Gilbert White's *The Natural History . . . of Selborne*, published within three years of the latter's first appearance, presented by the Earl of Stamford.

Institutional donors were increasingly active throughout this period. The Library was a pioneer in the systematic exchange of publications between learned institutions, and, as many of the other publications which had been used in the past, notably the larger catalogues, were by this time out of print, the *Bulletin* became the main medium of exchange and grew steadily in influence. Whereas at one time most exchanges were made on the Library's initiative, the Library was now invited to make such arrangements itself, and throughout these years continued to convert to exchanges series for which it had previously had to subscribe, thus reducing the proportion of the Book Fund which had to be devoted to continuations. Many academic bodies presented far more than a single journal by way of exchange. In fact, by 1971 1,535 publications from 288 institutions

⁷⁷ *ibid.*, 275.

⁷⁸ *ibid.*, xlvii (1964-65), 247-8.

were being received; twenty years earlier the figures had been 840 publications from 132 institutions. Although, regrettably, individual and institutional donors cannot be listed here, the names of both are placed on permanent record in the 'Notes and News' section of each *Bulletin*.⁷⁹

Assessments were also published in the *Bulletin* of the Library's Reformation tracts,⁸⁰ French Revolutionary collections,⁸¹ Dante holdings,⁸² and pre-1700 medical books,⁸³ and the Department continued to play its part in various co-operative enterprises. Lists of new periodicals were regularly supplied for the regional and national catalogues and other sources as required, such as the joint lists of classical periodicals prepared at the London Institute of Classical Studies and of Romance periodicals sponsored by London University Library, and assistance was given with many other projects. Amongst these, to mention only a selection, lists were supplied of the Rylands editions of Erasmus and Milton, Cyrillic books, books on the English language, Scottish chapbooks, 16th-century books printed in Germany, books printed at Antwerp by Plantin, separately printed English poems 1701–50, and books owned by Dr Richard Farmer (d. 1797), to assist various bibliographical undertakings in this country and abroad. Assistance was also given, of course, with the revision of the STC and with the resumed *Gesamtkatalog der Wiegendrucke*.

BUILDINGS

In the period dealt with by Dr Guppy one extension was added to the original building. This, completed in 1920, provided space for a further 150,000 books as well as additional staff rooms. In the years under review two more extensions were added.

The first, erected through the munificence of Sir Isaac Wolfson and named the Lady Wolfson Building, was opened on 28 June 1962.⁸⁴ Built to the design and under the supervision of Messrs Francis Jones and Sons, it is in three storeys, to house some 50,000 books. The top floor was originally⁸⁵ intended for the use of scholars

⁷⁹ Until the death of Dr Guppy, a lengthy and classified selection of printed books added to the Library was also published in that section of each issue. This was discontinued with xxxi:2 (December 1948), although attention continued to be drawn there to outstanding acquisitions, manuscript and printed.

⁸⁰ xl (1957–58), 261–4, by Professor E.G. Rupp.

⁸¹ xlii (1959–60), 8–14; xliii (1960–61), 286–8.

⁸² xliv (1961–62), 175–212, by Professor Kathleen Speight.

⁸³ liv (1971–72), 2–5.

⁸⁴ See *The John Rylands Library: Opening of the New Building, Gift of Sir Isaac Wolfson, Bart., by Lady Wolfson, Thursday, 28th June 1962* (Manchester, 1962). Also *Bulletin*, xl (1957–58), 1–2; xlv (1962–63), 2–4.

⁸⁵ Following the transfer of the Methodist Archives and Research Centre from Epworth House, London, to this Library in December 1977, the whole of this storey was reserved for the main portion of that collection.

engaged in special research and also to contain (a) the Library's Wesley Collection, then numbering 1,580 items, including early and rare editions of works of the Wesley family and monographs on the history of Methodism, and (b) the Chinese and Japanese Collections, the former comprising some 9,000 pên dating from the 15th to the 19th century, and the latter some 1,000 pên, both brought together by the 25th Earl of Crawford. The second storey (upper ground floor) houses the French Revolutionary Collection of 6,000 books and 5,500 broadsides. The ground floor is occupied by a photographic studio, fitted with up-to-date equipment and replacing the pioneer studio installed by the Governors in 1910.

The second, and larger, extension was made possible by the sale to the City of land at the rear of the building, temporarily being used as a car park. The Library received in exchange both a financial consideration and a grant of land on its Spinningfield side. Here an extension devoted entirely to storage was erected, the architects being Messrs Leach, Rhodes and Walker. It consists of four storeys and houses some 210,000 volumes, as well as providing additional space for the Library's extensive Charter Room collections, including legal and business records and family muniments.

Further space was also gained within the original complex. Until 1950 the Library was lit by electricity manufactured by its own plant, having been one of the first public buildings in the City to be lit by this means. In October of that year there was a change-over, and supplies were henceforth obtained from the North West Electricity Board. The room containing the generating plant was dismantled, and the opportunity taken to replace it by a two-tier Stack Room. This was completed in 1953, and for the next seventeen years provided accommodation for another 40,000 to 50,000 volumes. When the 1970 extension was added, however, the Stack Room in its turn had to be demolished and with it were also demolished two caretakers' cottages which had been attached to the original building. The site of one of these, fronting Wood Street, was retained to be used as an unloading bay. By November 1970 both caretakers had moved into two purpose-built flats on the top floor of the new extension.

A further internal change was necessitated by the growth of the Charter Room collections. This was so rapid that the space available to house them proved quite inadequate, and in 1950 two additional rooms, one a large basement cellar in the original building, were converted and re-equipped as muniment rooms. These, in turn, were quickly filled, and there was further pressure on space until the 1970 extension was completed, when some relief was obtained by having recourse to its sub-basement. This growth continued, and before 1972 still further accommodation was under consideration to house this side of the Library's manuscript holdings.

Externally, a number of factors contributed to enhance the building. The erection of the Crown Courts and Magistrates Courts

immediately behind meant that Mrs Rylands had sited her Library better than she knew, for, with these Courts behind and the Town Hall an equivalent distance in front, it now occupies an important central position in the prestige 'civic area' of the City. As part of Manchester's development plan for the area between Albert Square (containing the main municipal buildings) and Crown Square (containing the main legal complex) the warehouses which had concealed the Library on its Spinningfield side had been demolished, and this area, which contains the two extensions, was now landscaped, work which was completed in May 1971; in fact, a projected 'processional way', intended to join the two Squares, would have run along the south side of the Library. On 27 May a piece of sculpture on the landscaped area, the work of Mr Keith Godwin, was formally unveiled by Sir William Haley. It was not only the outside of the building which gained by the demolition. The south cloister, the main staircase, the Council Room and the Main Library itself are seen to greater advantage because of the additional light which floods in now that the warehouses which crowded the Library along its south side have been removed.

It was particularly appropriate, in view of this, that in 1968-69, through the generosity of Mr A.S. Cussons and Mr E.M. Garnett, the whole of the outside of the Library, as well as the Entrance Hall and main staircase, should have been cleaned, for this meant that for the first time since it had been blackened by industrial smoke early in the century the fine colour of the stonework and the details of the carving became clearly visible.