The two great bibliographical collections which can be described as the foundation stones of the Library's richness in printed sources, the Christie Collection bequeathed to the University in 1901 and the Spencer Collection acquired by Mrs Rylands in 1892, are particularly associated with the publications of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. However, it must not be forgotten that both collections contain many items of value and research potential from later centuries, that many other collections have since been acquired by gift or purchase, and that, therefore, the Library has strong resources to deal with the requirements of scholars whose research interests are centred on the seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The aim of this article is to indicate where particular strengths lie for both literary and historical research, both subjects being treated chronologically: there is also a preliminary survey of sixteenth-century items. The scholar of virtually any discipline can be confident of finding something of interest in the Library.

Because of the problems initially experienced in enumerating publications of the Civil War and later periods, it has become common practice to treat any bibliographical account of English books as either pre- or post-1640, a date more acceptable in a historical survey than the arbitrary end of the century, 1600. It has been estimated that the Library has some 8,000 pre-Civil War English publications, a collection which is certainly not the equal in size to that of Italian literature for a similar period available here but nevertheless a collection of some importance, especially in certain areas. About half the sixteenth-century items are theological, not the prime concern of this article, but, of the rest, the items are almost equally divided between historical and literary works.

Attention can be drawn to certain authors who are particularly well represented on the Library's shelves. All three early editions of Ascham's *Toxophilus* (1545, 1571 and 1589)\(^1\) are available, undoubt-
edly the standard sixteenth-century work on archery, and the other items here by this author include three editions of *The Scholemaster* (1570, 1571 and 1589). The antiquary, John Stow, was obviously of considerable importance in the development of Elizabethan historical publishing, and the Library can offer not only the first edition of 1565 of *A Summarie of Englyshe Chronicles* together with the later 1575 edition, but also the 1611 abridgement and other items up to the 1631 *Annales*. All editions of his final great work, *A Survey of London*, from 1598 to 1633 are here. Both the 1577 and 1587 editions of Holinshed’s *Chronicles* are available, and the substantial cuts in the text ordered by the Privy Council to be made in the second and third volumes of the later edition have been restored by pages from one of the three eighteenth-century editions, that printed by Bowyer and Parker. Sir Edward Coke described Littleton’s *Tenures* ‘as the most perfect and absolute work that was ever written in any humane science’, and Bennett comments on its continuous popularity as a manual for the lawyer throughout the sixteenth century. The Library possesses the first edition of the Norman-French text printed in London in 1482 by William de Machlinia and ten later editions of this text up to that published in 1612. The earliest English version available is that published in 1556. The poet Edmund Spenser is represented by a collection of most of his published works, save for the *Prothalamion* of 1596, and there are ten copies of *The Faerie Queene* available ranging from the variant issue of 1590 to the 1617 edition. For the grammarian Robert Whittington there is a collection of nearly twenty titles, a monument to the industry and financial acumen of the printer, Wynkyn de Worde.

Frederick Sutherland Ferguson, managing director of Quaritch’s from 1928 to 1943, joined the firm in 1897 when Bernard Quaritch was still active and was therefore a direct link with one who was perhaps the greatest bookseller of the nineteenth century. Ferguson’s profound

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3 STC 832, 834 and 836.
5 STC 23319.
6 STC 23325.
7 STC 23331.
8 STC 23340.
9 STC 23341–5.
10 STC 13568–9.
13 STC 15719.
14 STC 15756.
15 STC 15767.
16 STC 23081.
17 STC 23085.
bibliographical knowledge, gained from his examination of many private libraries, made it possible for him to make an outstanding contribution to the first edition of STC. In the words of the editors, A.W. Pollard and G.R. Redgrave, Ferguson ‘was largely responsible for any bibliographical polish which the catalogue possesses’, and he himself took over the joint editorship of the next edition working closely with Dr W.A. Jackson. In 1966 Ferguson was obliged to sell his own personal library, and Manchester University Library acquired his collection of 363 early printed books. Although Ferguson had previously donated to the National Library of Scotland a special section of his books of Scottish interest, it is no surprise to find that a substantial number of the items in this Library’s Ferguson Collection were printed in Scotland and relate to Scottish history and literature. Four works by the historian, George Buchanan, include the first editions of both his De Iure Regni (1579) and his Rerum Scoticarum Historia (1582). Henri Estienne’s treatise on Herodotus entitled A World of Wonders, and possibly translated by R. Carew, is represented by the Edinburgh edition of 1608. The Scottish royal book of King James, the Basilikon Doron, is to be found in four different editions all dated 1603 and printed both in Edinburgh and London. There are some twenty-five items relating to Scottish parliamentary administration, particularly for the period from 1612 to 1640, together with some of the proclamations for the later part of this period. The only classical author for which it appears Ferguson had any significant group of items was Seneca, for both the Lodge and Farnaby translations are present together with other items. Ferguson had a keen interest in the religious controversies of the period as is illustrated by the substantial number of works he held by such authors as Robert Bolton, Calvin, John and Patrick Forbes, William Pemble, John Preston, Prynne, William Sclater, Richard Sibbes, Henry Smith and Thomas Taylor. A copy of Ferguson’s own extensively annotated version of the first edition of STC is also available in the Library.

The collection of over 15,000 English tracts includes many dating from the Civil War period with 745 items associated with parliamentary matters, fifty-five relating to Oliver Cromwell and 351 specifically concerned with Charles I. This last figure includes

19 ibid., vii.
20 STC 3973.
21 STC 3991.
22 STC 10554
23 STC 14349–52.
24 STC 21896–929.
25 STC 21996–22001.
26 STC 22214, 22218–19.
eighteen editions of *Eikon Basilike* from the first issue of 1648 onwards, which, if it had been published earlier, it is considered might have saved the King's life. The Library possesses three editions of *Eikon Basilike* which are variants of those described by Almack and Madan. A substantial number of other publications of this period are also to be found in the Library's tract collection, and, in addition to the usual author and subject catalogues, an index of the items arranged in chronological order of publication is available together with a tract list which indicates what is to be found in each bound volume.

The Sutherland Collection consists of nearly 600 late seventeenth- and early eighteenth-century tracts brought together by John Gordon, 16th Earl of Sutherland. About one third of the collection consists of polemical works on the religious issues of the day, but the major portion is concerned with the union of Scotland with England.

Eighteenth- and nineteenth-century county histories are well represented on the Library's shelves: examples are Hoare on Wiltshire (1812-19), Shaw on Staffordshire (1798-1801), and both the 1819 and 1882 editions of Ormerod's study of Cheshire, the later edition being revised by Helsby. Many of the volumes are extra-illustrated with the coats of arms hand-painted.

The Preston Pearce Collection of almanacs and companions consists of several hundred items dating from 1681 to 1866. There are no less than ten available for the year 1684 alone.

The Library has a substantial collection of poll books, dating from 1734 to 1868, with a large group for East Anglia. Some 300 broadsides, posters and leaflets relate to elections in Shrewsbury, 1790-1841, and Cumberland, Westmorland and Northumberland, 1826-74.

The Ashburne Hall Collection includes three special groups of material, the Morley, Toller and Tootal Broadhurst Collections. The items date from the seventeenth to early eighteenth centuries, and there is a marked emphasis on the history and literature of England, America and Europe.

A collection of several hundred nineteenth-century anti-slavery pamphlets was received from the executors of H.G. Wilson, the distinguished Member of Parliament for Sheffield. The subject index of the available handlist indicates that this collection is of particular importance.
for the study of the activities of provincial philanthropic societies.  

The collection formed by George Benson, a former Member of Parliament for Chesterfield, is devoted to the history of English socialism. The material ranges from the works of Robert Owen, Bronerre O’Brien, Jacob Holyoake, and William Thompson to the early socialist periodicals of the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, *Hog’s Wash, The Black Dwarf* and *The Crisis*. Also included in the collection are all the major publications of the Independent Labour Party up to 1923.

James Cassedy (Seamus O Casaide), the Celtologist and bibliographer, was responsible for the formation of a collection of nearly 1,200 titles of Irish origin and interest. There are some 200 periodicals, Dublin and provincial newspapers, directories, almanacs and chapbooks, mainly dating from the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. The subjects covered include genealogy, local history, both Protestant and Roman Catholic religions, Gaelic dictionaries, grammars and texts, Anglo-Irish verse and prose, natural history and topography. There is a special section devoted to the publications of Patrick Lynch (1754–1818), the secretary of the Gaelic Union of Dublin.

The Library’s French Revolution Collection is recognized to be of outstanding importance, and has been previously described. Suffice it to draw attention here to the collection it contains of English newspapers such as *The Courier and Evening Gazette*, the *London Evening Post* and *The Oracle* together with the English writings of such authors as Burke, Alison and Macfarlane.

A very extensive series of the accounts of early voyages and travels is available including such famous published collections as those of Hakluyt, Purchas, Smith, De Bry, Bougainville and Clark. For the circumnavigator, James Cook, the collection is significant and contains many of the rarest and most interesting items. For instance, the first printed book described by Beddie, the 1778 *New Discoveries*, is available together with G.W. Anderson’s *New, Authentic and Complete Collection of Voyages* of 1784–86. A Manchester imprint is represented by Sowler and Russell’s 1799 publication of the *Voyages*. Hawkesworth’s edition of 1773 of the account of the first voyage can be placed beside the 1777 and 1784 London editions of the second and third voyages. A handsomely-bound copy of General Kutuzov’s

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34 Most of this collection will soon be made available on microfilm from World Microfilms Publications.
37 ibid., item 17.
38 ibid., item 61.
39 ibid., item 648.
40 ibid., items 1216, 1543.
Russian translation, published between 1796 and 1800, was presented to Lord Spencer when he was First Lord of the Admiralty. A catalogue of the different specimens of cloth collected in the three voyages, published by Alexander Shaw in London in 1787, contains thirty-eight specimens, a unique item as the specimens all differ in every surviving copy of the text.

Another circumnavigator well represented is Hon Commodore John Byron with both the French and English 1767 editions of the description of his voyage in the *Dolphin*, the 1768 *Narrative*, the 1775 *Voyages to the Southern Hemisphere*, and the Manchester 1843 edition of the description of the loss of the *Wager*. Captain John Hunter in his publications describing the voyages of the *Sirius* (1787–92) and discoveries in New South Wales, was fortunate to have no less an artist than William Blake as one of his illustrators.

In all there are in the Library some 10,000 items concerned with topography and travel before 1900, and significant collections exist for, among other authors not mentioned above, Blount, Burton and Cabot. In order to illustrate the range of the material it must suffice to mention three items, William Hodges's *Travels in India* (1793), one of the earliest illustrated works on this subject, the three-volume set (1858–63) of Francis Frith's *Egypt and Palestine*, one of the first works to use a large number of individually pasted-in photographs as illustrations, and Bohn's rare guide book to Norway, published in 1853, the year of the commencement of the regular hurtigruten service to North Norway.

In the 1920s, the Library acquired an extensive collection of printed research material for the history of India in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. The several thousand volumes include state papers, government reports and publications, many of which, printed in remote parts of India, would have been unprocurable without the generous assistance of successive holders of the office of Secretary of State for India. For the history of the East India Company and Warren Hastings the material is especially rich, about 1,000 items in all.

There are substantial collections of works by, and relating to, all major English authors from the introduction of printing to this country by Caxton, and the seventeenth century is no exception with such writers as Jonson, Shakespeare, Bunyan and Milton represented by rare first editions and important ancillary material. Only four complete copies in this country are recorded of the first edition (1600) of *England's Helicon*, an anthology collected by John Bodenham (or was it N. Ling?). Poets represented include Shakespeare, Sidney,
Spenser, Drayton and Bartholomew Young. Unique to this Library is the copy of *Ratseis Ghost* (1605), the second part of the adventures of the highwayman Gamaliel Ratsey with Shakespearian connections. Another well-known compendium, Thomas Coryate's *Crudities* (1611), has a title-page engraved by William Hole.

All four Shakespeare folios are present, published in 1623, 1632, 1664 and 1685, together with many nineteenth- and twentieth-century facsimiles of the First Folio including Wright's type facsimile of 1808 and Staunton's first photo-lithographic facsimile of 1866. The first edition of Shakespeare's *Sonnets* (1609), with the variant imprint, is also available with the contemporary price of 5d marked on the title page. Ben Jonson is represented by, for example, the first edition of his complete works (1616), again a variant imprint with an engraved title-page by Hole.

In 1633 appeared the first editions of both John Donne's *Poems* and George Herbert's *The Temple*. The first edition (1621) of Robert Burton's *Anatomy of Melancholy*, apparently published pseudonymously, does in fact have the author's name in the body of the text. Both the unauthorized and first authorized editions of Sir Thomas Browne's *Religio Medici* (1642–43) are available together with the first authorized edition of part one of Butler's *Hudibras* (1663), and the first edition of Walton's *Compleat Angler* (1653).

Both Milton and Bunyan are represented by particularly substantial collections. For Milton the items available include *Comus* (1637), *Eikonoklastes* (1649), and no less than six variant issues of the first edition of *Paradise Lost* (1667–69), then in ten books and not twelve. For Bunyan mention must be made of the rare first issue of the first edition, without errata, of part one of *Pilgrim's Progress* (1678) and the first edition of *The Holy War* (1682). For the literature of the latter part of the seventeenth century only one example must suffice, the first edition of Dryden's *Absalom and Achitophel* (1681), although
many other works and authors could be quoted. Shortage of space indicates that only one example of the many seventeenth-century English translations of major European authors which are available in the Library can be offered here, both parts of Shelton’s translation of *Don Quixote* (1620).  

The collection of eighteenth-century English works numbers some 50,000 items, and details are internationally available by accessing ESTC. The major authors are represented by substantial collections of contemporary publications. Many of the polemical writings are available of both Defoe and Swift, the first much concerned with the Scottish ‘equivalent’ and nonconformity, the second equally scathing in his attack on contemporary politics in *The Publick Spirit of the Whigs* (1714), an uncensored issue. The Library has copies of both the first and second editions, the B issue, of *Gulliver’s Travels* (1726–27). Defoe’s known works are more numerous than those of any other author according to J.R. Moore who lists some 550 in his bibliography. One fifth of these are available in first editions, and a number of the other titles are held in later eighteenth-century editions, a Manchester collection of considerable importance although not the equal in size of those to be found at the British Library or Bloomington. Particular emphasis can be placed on the tracts written at the time of the union of Scotland with England, but there are examples of Defoe’s literary output on all subjects throughout his life up to *Reasons for a War* (1729).  

To complement the Library’s substantial manuscript collection of Johnsoniana, first editions and interesting association copies of most of the printed works of Johnson are available, including his very first published work, a Latin verse translation of Pope’s *Messiah* which appeared, unknown to the author, in the 1731 edition of *A Miscellany of Poems by Several Hands* compiled by John Husbands. A Johnsonian Proposal for printing a translation of Sarpi’s *History of the Council of Trent* in 1738 was discovered in an uncatalogued duplicate by a former Librarian, Dr Moses Tyson. Unrecorded until then save for

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63 STC 4916–17.
64 Eighteenth-Century Short Title Catalogue, a computer data-base with administrative offices both in London and the United States. The staff of ESTC consider that when processing the entries for this Library’s holdings around 20 per cent of new records have to be created: eventually such material will be made more widely available through the Library’s programme of microform publishing.
65 *The Shortest Way with the Dissenters* (1702).
67 ibid., items 291, 293.
70 ibid., item 505.
mention in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for 1738, it is considered that the Library's copy is unique.\(^{72}\) There are many editions of the famous *Dictionary* available including the first issue of the first edition of the 1747 *Plan*,\(^ {73}\) in which Johnson announced his intentions, and the first edition of the *Dictionary* (1755).\(^ {74}\) But particular attention must be drawn to a copy of the fourth edition (1773), which was at one time owned by Sir Joshua Reynolds and contains over 250 corrections in Johnson's own hand: these were subsequently incorporated in the sixth and later editions.\(^ {75}\) An equally strong collection of printed items relating to Boswell is available, including the first edition (1791) of his life of Johnson.\(^ {76}\)

The eighteenth century, the age of neo-classicism, saw the introduction of new ideals of printing (Bodoni, Ibarra and Baskerville are outstanding names) and the revival of classical learning with an attempt to produce accurate texts of the great authors. The brothers Robert and Andrew Foulis printed in Glasgow from 1740 to 1776 some 600 items, and the press was carried on rather less actively until 1806 by Andrew Foulis the younger. A university press in all but name, the staple product was the academic text edited by the most eminent Scottish scholars of the day. Lord Spencer's collection of around 150 titles published by this press is not large by the standards set by Gaskell who lists the five libraries, three of which are in Glasgow, where more than 300 separate editions are located.\(^ {77}\) However, while Spencer largely ignored the titles of Scottish interest and the reprints of the English classics, he assiduously collected the editions of Greek and Latin authors with texts considered by many to be the most accurate of the day. Furthermore, Spencer collected the finest available copies of the volumes including the only recorded vellum copy of the 1748 Epictetus,\(^ {78}\) the silk copies of the 1751 Anacreon\(^ {79}\) and the 1754 Pindar,\(^ {80}\) and four works with bindings bearing the coat of arms of Louis XV, the 1761 Herodotus\(^ {81}\) and the 1762, 1764 and 1767 editions of Xenophon.\(^ {82}\)

Unlike Robert and Andrew Foulis, England's greatest eighteenth-century printer, John Baskerville of Birmingham, was not

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\(^{73}\) Courtney, *A Bibliography*, 20.

\(^{74}\) ibid., 54–5.


\(^{76}\) For further information on both the Johnson and Boswell collections see Samuel Johnson, *1709-1784: A Bicentenary Exhibition* (Manchester: JRULM, 1984).


\(^{78}\) ibid., item 108.

\(^{79}\) ibid., item 181.

\(^{80}\) ibid., item 274.

\(^{81}\) ibid., item 395.

\(^{82}\) ibid., items 413, 435, 472.
officially associated with a university throughout his career, although
on occasion he did print for Cambridge. His texts are more finely
printed than by his Glasgow rivals, but he cannot claim the same
authoritative accuracy. Baskerville’s first and perhaps finest book, the
1757 Virgil, is available in the Library in two different states, one
being with the extra illustrations supplied by the plates from Ogilby’s
translation of Virgil printed in 1654. Over half of Baskerville’s entire
output is represented on the shelves of the Library, including not only
such classical authors as Horace (1762), Lucretius (1772), and Terence
(1772), but also English authors such as Milton (1758 and 1759),
Addison (1761), and Lord Shaftesbury (1773), together with the
Book of Common Prayer of 1760–62, and the Bibles of 1763 and
1769–72. Mention should be made briefly of the two continental
printers with similar ideals to Baskerville: Bodoni of Parma, and
Ibarra of Spain. Substantial collections of works printed at these
presses are to be found in the Library, and the items range from the
tiny Anacreon in a superb Roger Payne binding to the splendid
Academy edition of Don Quixote (1780), which complements the
extensive collection here of seventeenth- and eighteenth-century
English translations of Cervantes.

Although Lord Spencer’s prime concern was to enhance the
bibliographical importance of his library with the acquisition of rare
examples of early printing, by no means did he ignore contemporary
publishing, and this can be illustrated from subscription lists. Publica-
tion by subscription began in England in 1617, but by the eighteenth
century it was frequently used for many different kinds of work. Lord
Spencer does not appear to have had much interest in acquiring music
or the more esoteric Celtic publications (both Irish and Welsh), but in
two randomly chosen years, 1795 and 1800, a check of the lists
supplied by Robinson and Wallis reveals that, excluding music and
Celtic publications, Lord Spencer subscribed to some 80–85 per cent
of the available titles. Therefore the richness of the late eighteenth-
century materials in the Library can be illustrated by noting that in
1795 Lord Spencer acquired on subscription, among other items,
Aiken’s Description of Manchester, Betham’s Genealogical Tables of
the Sovereigns of the World, Brydson’s Summary View of Heraldry,
Halfpenny’s Gothic Ornaments in the Cathedral Church at York,
the anonymously-published Musae Etonenses by William Herbert,

83 Philip Gaskell, John Baskerville: A Bibliography (reprinted with additions and corrections,
Chicheley: Minet, 1973), item 1.
84 ibid., items 23, 43, 47.
85 ibid., items 4, 6, 7.
86 ibid., items 17, 49.
87 ibid., items 12, 13, 19.
88 ibid., items 26, 35.
89 F.J.G. Robinson and P.J. Wallis, Book Subscription Lists: A Revised Guide (Newcastle
upon Tyne: Harold Hill, 1975), 48–9, 51.
Murphy’s *Portugal*, Newcome’s *History of St Alban’s Abbey*, and Mary Parker’s *Voyage round the World*. In 1800 the subscription copies include Collier’s *Poems*, Garrard’s *Description of Oxen*, Sanderson’s *Poems* published in Carlisle, Whitaker’s *History of Whalley and Clitheroe* published in Blackburn and Joseph White’s *Aegyptiaca*.

Two sets of grangerized volumes, the work of Lord Spencer, are worthy of note. Both by Clarendon, they are his *History of the Rebellion*, where the 1807 edition in three volumes has been increased to twenty-one volumes, and the two-volume 1811 edition of *Religion and Policy* increased to six volumes. In addition, both sets have very detailed manuscript indexes which facilitate access to the large number of portraits and engravings. Other grangerized works in the Library include Rapin’s *History of England* (1733–1805) increased from five volumes to twenty-one; Pennant’s *Some Account of London* (1805), in six volumes; and Chalmers’s *Biographical Dictionary* (1812–17), in thirty-two volumes. The copy of the edition of the plays of Shakespeare edited by Samuel Johnson and George Steevens and published in 1793 is Steevens’s own copy which he himself enriched by the insertion of some thousands of engravings of great rarity: in the seventeen volumes he added many manuscript notes.

The Library has a copy of the 1471 edition of Boccaccio printed by Christopher Valdarfer which was sold by the Duke of Roxburghe in 1812 for £2,260, then the highest price ever paid for a book in a London sale room. In honour of this event the Roxburghe Club was founded, the first president being George John, 2nd Earl Spencer. The Library is fortunate in possessing a more or less complete set of the publications of the Roxburghe Club, probably the most important and exclusive of bibliographical societies. Around 250 titles are available, and many of the volumes have the distinction of being the personal copies of members. A number of the most outstanding studies in the history of printing and bookbinding have been published in this series in very limited editions.

Another, and in some ways even more exclusive, bibliographical society is the Bannatyne Club of Edinburgh which, at its institution in 1817, was limited to thirty-one members including the Scottish judge, Sir William Macleod Bannatyne. A complete set is available of the 176 volumes published by the Club up to 1867, a major source for Scottish history and literature as are the publications of the Glaswegian Maitland Club founded in March 1828 to honour the Scottish poet and lawyer Sir Richard Maitland, Lord Lethington. Again, a complete set of the publications of this society up to 1859 is available.

All major nineteenth-century authors are represented on the shelves of the Library together with most of the minor and more obscure writers. However, particularly significant collections exist for certain literary figures. For example, special emphasis can be placed on the poets Blake, Byron, Wordsworth, Coleridge, Shelley,
Fitzgerald, Clough and Tennyson, the essayists Lamb, Hazlitt, Carlyle, Leigh Hunt and Arnold, and the novelists Scott, Brontë, Gaskell, Dickens, Thackeray and Eliot. Limitations of space preclude the possibility of giving here detailed descriptions of each of these collections, but that for Byron must serve as an example, where some two thirds of his published works are available in first editions (although not, alas, the rare Waltz of 1813), and most of the remainder, including the suppressed texts, in early editions. Attention must be drawn to the four-volume 1815 edition of the Works, an edition not recorded by Wise, in which the first volume of the set bears an inscription presenting the books, Childe Harold, to ‘Jno. Taylor, Esq.,’ with the author’s compliments & respects, July 23d 1815.’

A substantial portion of the early Byron editions was received as part of the bequest of Dr David Lloyd Roberts, the distinguished Manchester book collector. Wise appears to have indulged in his usual nefarious practice of preparing the ground for the distribution of his forgeries by implying that this is not so and that the collection of Byroniana was sold abroad. Special mention can be made of the first edition first issue of the third canto of Childe Harold (1816), the first published edition of The Giaour (1813), the second issue of the first edition of The Corsair (1814), the first edition of Lara and Jacqueline published together (1814), the first issue first edition of Hebrew Melodies (1815), the first edition of The Siege of Corinth (1816), the 1816 Farewell to England, not recorded by Wise, the first issue first edition of The Prisoner of Chillon (1816), the first edition of The Lament of Tasso (1817), the first separate publication in the original wrappers in 1822 of Cain, not recorded either by Wise or Steffan, the first edition of The Age of Bronze (1823), and the first edition of The Island (1823), a handsome copy bound by Zaehnsdorf with the portrait and arms of Byron and a view of Newstead Abbey inserted. It is worth drawing attention to three copies of English Bards and Scotch Reviewers: the Lloyd Roberts copy of the fourth authorized edition

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92 The poet and song writer of Norwich.
93 Wise, A Bibliography, i. xxiv-xxv.
94 Ibid., i. 54-5.
95 Ibid., i. 79.
96 Ibid., i. 93-4.
97 Ibid., i. 101.
98 Ibid., i. 103-4.
99 Ibid., i. 106-7.
100 Ibid., i. 113-14.
101 Ibid., i. 119-20.
103 Wise, A Bibliography, ii. 41-2.
104 Ibid., ii. 42-3.
(1810),\textsuperscript{105} the Spencer copy of the second authorized edition (1809),\textsuperscript{106} and a massively grangerized copy of the third authorized edition (1810),\textsuperscript{107} the work of Joseph Mayer, the nineteenth-century antiquary and book collector of Bebington, Merseyside. The Spencer copy of Byron's \textit{Works}, published in Paris by Galignani in 1827, includes the suppressed items and also the facsimile of Byron's Venetian letter to the publisher, 27 April 1819, which has caused so much trouble with the uninitiated. The grangerized copy, doubled in size, of Leigh Hunt's biography of Byron (1828) is also a source of much information. For Byron, as with other authors for whom there are significant collections, there are a considerable number of biographies and critical treatises available together with other ancillary material.

The Sharpe Collection of Chapbooks\textsuperscript{108} was formed by Charles Kirkpatrick Sharpe, the antiquary, etcher and authority on Scottish ballad literature. There are several hundred items dating from the early nineteenth century mainly printed in Stirling, Falkirk and Kilmarnock. To these can be added a similarly sized group printed in Newcastle upon Tyne, the acknowledged capital of chapbook literature.

The collection of nineteenth-century fiction in the Library is extensive with over 600 authors represented of whom just under one half are pre-Victorian. To the already substantial number of three-decker-novels available has been added the Seydi Collection of some 350 items, the majority dating from the first half of the century. For most major authors their work is represented by first editions and interesting association copies. Attention can be drawn to the first edition of Thackeray's \textit{Vanity Fair} (1848), in the original cloth with the author's portrait of Lord Steyne on page 336, which was later suppressed. For Dickens, both \textit{Edwin Drood} and \textit{Pickwick Papers} are available in the original part wrappers with the first twenty illustrations of the latter being in the earliest state. \textit{Oliver Twist}, too, is a first issue of the first edition with the final Cruikshank illustration which Dickens later rejected.

As befits the Manchester author, Elizabeth Cleghorn Gaskell, to complement the Library's important manuscript holdings, there is available a significant collection of printed items which includes all of Sadleir's comparative scarcities,\textsuperscript{109} and all of the items for which he gives full bibliographical descriptions,\textsuperscript{110} save for the New York 1850 edition of the brief domestic tale \textit{Lizzie Leigh},\textsuperscript{111} and the 1850

\textsuperscript{105} ibid., i. 25-6.
\textsuperscript{106} ibid., i. 23-4.
\textsuperscript{107} ibid., i. 24-5.
\textsuperscript{108} \textit{BJRL}, 37 (1954-55), 9-10.
\textsuperscript{110} ibid., items 924-36.
\textsuperscript{111} ibid., item 929.
Manchester pamphlet *The Sexton's Hero*. Not recorded by Sadleir but available in Manchester are the 1840 *Clopton Hall*, the 1858 New York edition of *My Lady Ludlow* and the 1860 edition of *Right at Last*. Many of the volumes contain the author’s own inscriptions and notes, and, as usual, the acquisition of significant critical treatises and other secondary material has not been neglected.

To complement the Library’s outstanding collection of the letters and other manuscripts of John Ruskin, there is available a large collection of Ruskin first editions and other printed material relating to his works. Some 340 separate nineteenth-century editions are available, including not only the many items issued from Orpington but also the possibly suspect and unauthorized Wise editions, many of which are printed on vellum. It is interesting to note that much of this collection was acquired by Mrs Rylands herself before the foundation of the Library. Special attention can also be drawn to the pamphlet literature and other Ruskin ephemera in the Dame Mabel Tylecote Collection.

The Thomas J. Wise Collection of privately-printed pamphlets by Ruskin, Browning, Borrow, Tennyson, Swinburne and other nineteenth-century writers is of importance in the history of bibliography as since 1934 many of the items have been recognized as forgeries. The Library, naturally, possesses many works by these authors which are not spurious editions, and there are particularly substantial collections for Browning, Tennyson and Swinburne together with a significant group of items relating to members of the Rossetti family. The collection of over 700 volumes formed by a previous Librarian, Moses Tyson, reflects his interest in a number of nineteenth- and twentieth-century authors, and, in particular, Drinkwater, Galsworthy, Housman, Kipling, Masefield, Swinburne and Tennyson.

William Michael Rossetti was associated with editing a number of the works of Walt Whitman. The Charles F. Sixsmith Collection of the works of Whitman includes twenty-two different editions of *Leaves of Grass* and over 100 works of criticism, many being presentation copies in limited editions. There is much material relating to the Bolton Whitman Circle of which Sixsmith was a member: Charles E. Feinberg of Detroit made important additions to the Whitman collection. In all there are nearly sixty separate editions and issues of *Leaves of Grass* in the Library and some seventy editions of other works by Whitman are here. Save for the early

112 ibid., item 934.
118 BJRL, 40 (1957–58), 266–7.
temperance novel *Franklin Evans; or, The Inebriate* of 1842,\(^{119}\) virtually every item described by Wells and Goldsmith is available.

It will be obvious that, over the years, the Library has made every effort to form collections of the works of English authors who were closely associated with this University, and both George Gissing and Francis Thompson are examples of this policy. Of Gissing the Library possesses, as well as critical studies, first editions of virtually all of his novels as described by Danielson,\(^{120}\) including what Sadleir considers to be his rarest work, the 1884 edition of *The Unclassed.*\(^{121}\) Of Francis Thompson, the late nineteenth-century poet and man of letters, there is a collection of several hundred editions of his works with critical and biographical publications: very few of the items described by Stonehill are lacking.\(^{122}\) The E.F. Burney Collection consists of nearly 2,200 volumes and includes a large number of items associated with Mrs Linnaeus Banks, the author of *The Manchester Man.*

The Allardyce Nicoll Drama Collection of over 1,000 nineteenth-century plays was formed by Professor Nicoll when he was writing his *History of the English Drama.* Very much acting editions with full stage directions, plans of settings and notes on costumes, the texts range from burlesque to tragedy. Both major authors and minor farceurs are represented, but Boucicault, Burnand, Jerrold, Morton and Pinero are among the dramatists for whom a considerable number of items are available.

Founding a library in the late nineteenth century placed Mrs Rylands in a most favourable position to acquire the best and most important productions of the Private Press movement, and the collection of some of the finest and most beautiful books published in the last decade of the nineteenth century and first quarter of the twentieth century can only be described as comprehensive. Of William Morris's Kelmscott Press all fifty-three titles as listed by Ransom\(^{123}\) are here, the majority being vellum copies. Forty-six out of the fifty-one publications of T.J. Cobden Sanderson's Doves Press\(^{124}\) are available, and of these thirty-two are on vellum. Not only has the Library one of the four vellum copies in this country of the Essex House Prayer Book but also can offer C.R. Ashbee's original drawings for this magnificent volume published for the coronation of King Edward VII. Of the thirty-eight Essex House Press items in the


\(^{121}\) Sadleir, *XIX Century Fiction*, i. 378. Unfortunately, it has not yet proved possible to acquire a copy of his first published work, *Workers in the Dawn*, of 1880.


\(^{124}\) ibid., 250–4.
Library, twenty-three are on vellum. C.H. St. John Hornby’s Ashendene Press is represented by twenty-seven items, two thirds of which are vellum copies, and there are ten volumes from Pissarro’s Eragny Press, only one of which is a paper copy. While the Dun Emer, later Cuala Press, may not be the equal of others in typographical excellence, its publications, under the direction of Elizabeth Yeats, are of considerable importance in the history of the Irish literary renaissance.\textsuperscript{125} The Library possesses over seventy items including virtually everything as described by Ransom.\textsuperscript{126}

Any general survey of this kind must be, of its very nature, highly selective, and there are many special collections which so far have not been mentioned. At this point attention can be drawn briefly to the Mitford Abraham collection of books, pamphlets, photographs and newscuttings relating to windmills and watermills,\textsuperscript{127} to the Bellot Collection, the working library of 5,000 volumes of the late Professor H. Hale Bellot of the Department of American History, London University, and formerly a member of staff of Manchester University,\textsuperscript{128} to the Kohler Collection of 750 British political pamphlets dating from 1875 to 1890; to the Brockbank Cricket Collection; and to the Kenneth Brown Railway Collection of 1,300 books, pamphlets, acts, plans and periodicals,\textsuperscript{129} to which can be added the Edmondson Collection of railway tickets and ephemera. A number of other named collections could be added to the list, but, as Robin Alston so rightly points out,\textsuperscript{130} in this Library much of the research material is part of the general stock and not in named collections. Alston\textsuperscript{131} offers the following rather conservative estimates of the total stock of British books available here:

\begin{center}
\begin{tabular}{ll}
1475–1640 & 8,000 \\
1641–1700 & 15,000 \\
1701–1800 & 60,000 \\
1801–1900 & 200,000 \\
\textbf{total:} & \textbf{283,000} \\
\end{tabular}
\end{center}

He further suggests that the function of the Library in connection with research activities is akin to that of American institutions such as the Huntington and Folger libraries. The scholar can expect facilities and service of the highest possible standard.

\textsuperscript{126} Ransom, \textit{Private Presses}, 238–41.
\textsuperscript{128} \textit{BJRL}, 52 (1969–70), 1–2. This collection also includes a substantial number of nineteenth-century children’s books.
\textsuperscript{131} ibid., 65.