

THE ORIENTAL MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS IN THE JOHN RYLANDS LIBRARY

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THE major part of the Rylands Oriental manuscripts was acquired in the year after the Library was formally opened, when, in 1901, Mrs. Rylands purchased the extensive collection of Eastern and Western manuscripts brought together by the Earls of Crawford and Balcarres.¹ Since then certain language groups have been expanded in varying degrees, most extensively Hebrew, Samaritan, Pali and Syriac, and new groups have been added, amongst them Akkadian and Mo-So, so that the Library is now represented in this field by over forty such groups, ranging in date from the second millennium B.C. to the present century and including most of the materials used by man for his records—clay, papyrus, linen, parchment, paper of various kinds, wood, palm-leaf, bone, bamboo and bark. Although not generally comparable in size with the collections in the six principal Orientalist libraries in this country, the Rylands holdings are acknowledged to be important, and in particular those in the Near Eastern and South East Asian sections. The largest single groups are the Hebrew, Samaritan, Coptic, Arabic and Persian, but others much smaller numerically contain unique or rare items, for Lord Lindsay (later 25th Earl of Crawford) purchased with discrimination from some notable Oriental collections, including, to give only a selection, those of Van Alstein, H. C. Millies, Nathaniel Bland, Col. G. W. Hamilton, Archdeacon Tattam, and Klaproth. Among such smaller groupings of interest may be instanced the Demotic, Syriac, Turkish, Ethiopian, Armenian, Malay and Mongolian, and also the Pali, which was presented to the Library in 1915 by Professor Rhys Davids. The Batak (formerly Crawford) and Mo-So (acquired from Mr. G. Forrest), although comparatively small,

¹ One Arabic (No. 778), one Chinese (No. 466) and four Burmese (Nos. 8-11) manuscripts came with the collection she acquired from Earl Spencer in 1892.

are apparently the largest collections of their kind in the British Isles ; the latter, in fact, ranks in Europe second only to the Mo-So collection in the Staatsbibliothek in Marburg/Lahn, formed by a leading authority on this subject, Dr. Joseph F. Rock (1884-1962).

Over the years the Library has published various guides to its Eastern manuscripts. Amongst them are catalogues of part of the Demotic papyri (by Lloyd Griffith, 1909), of part of the Coptic manuscripts (by W. E. Crum, 1909), of part of the Arabic papyri (by D. S. Margoliouth, 1933), of most of the Arabic parchment and paper codices acquired before 1934 (by A. Mingana), of part of the Sumerian clay tablets (by T. Fish, 1932), and of the Samaritan manuscripts (by E. Robertson, 1938 and 1962). Other, briefer, descriptions, have also been published, such as those dealing with further portions of the Coptic manuscripts (by Crum, 1920, and Walter C. Till, 1952), a further portion of the Sumerian collection (by Fish, 1936), and the Batak manuscripts (by P. Voorhoeve, 1951). Several other catalogues and lists exist in manuscript and are available in the Library. The bulk of these were compiled while the collections were still in the Bibliotheca Lindesiana. Fortunately, the Earls of Crawford enlisted as cataloguers a number of distinguished English and continental Orientalists, amongst them Sukias Baronian, F. C. Conybeare, Reinhold Rost, E. W. West, Henri-Léon Feer, and, for the various Indonesian tongues, Hendrik Juynboll, J. C. G. Jonker, G. K. Niemann, and C. M. Pleyte. The 26th Earl also published two guides to Oriental collections then in his possession and now in the Rylands, the first in 1895, a *Catalogue of Chinese Books and Manuscripts* by J. P. Edmond, and the second in 1898, a *Hand-List of Arabic, Persian and Turkish manuscripts* by Michael Kerney ; copies of both, which were privately printed, are available in the Library. More recently other catalogues have been or are being prepared : of the Sumerian clay tablets not described by Professor Fish¹ ; the Syriac² ; Ethiopian³ ; Armenian⁴ ; Pali⁵ ; Tibetan⁶ ;

¹ By Dr. D. A. Kennedy of the Collège de France, and others.

² See below p. 458. ³ See below, p. 460. ⁴ See below, p. 462.

⁵ See below, p. 467. ⁶ See below, p. 475.

Urdu¹; and Siamese manuscripts²; and the Arabic codices acquired subsequent to the publication of Mingana's 1934 *Catalogue*.³

Nevertheless much remains to be done and it is hoped that this survey, the first to deal separately with this side of the Library's collections,⁴ may assist in drawing attention both to materials not yet catalogued and to the need for bringing many of the older catalogues up to date. Outstanding amongst larger groups still awaiting attention are the Hebrew (both codices and Genizah fragments), and the Persian, as well as additional Coptic papyri and additional Arabic papyri and paper fragments. Many of the smaller groups would also well repay examination, as is shown by the series of discoveries they have yielded to visiting scholars during recent years.

The Library's European collections also contain material of interest to Orientalists. The bulk of this occurs amongst the English and French manuscripts and in three deposited collections, the Crawford Muniments, the Bagshawe Muniments, and the Carrington Papers. It is, however, unnecessary to enlarge on it here, as it has been recorded in *A Guide to Western Manuscripts and Documents in the British Isles Relating to South and South East Asia*, compiled by M. D. Wainwright, and Noel Matthews and published in 1965.⁵ The Indian material, which is quite extensive, has been dealt with separately in an article published in *The Indian Archives*, vol. xvi (January 1965-December 1966).⁶ Other Western manuscripts of relevance are very much fewer in number. English MSS. 519-20 contain

¹ By S. M. Zaidi of University College, London, for inclusion in his *Union Catalogue of Urdu Manuscripts in the British Isles*.

² See below, p. 472.

³ See below, p. 464.

⁴ Brief accounts, based on information supplied by the Library, appeared in J. D. Pearson, *Oriental Manuscript Collections in the Libraries of Great Britain and Ireland* (London, 1954) and R. Collison and Brenda E. Moon, [SCONUL] *Directory of Libraries and Special Collections on Asia and North Africa* (London, 1970), p. 90. Both now require emendation. Mr. Pearson excluded from his account "papyri and ostraca in the varied forms of the Egyptian language" (p. iii), as well as clay tablets.

⁵ pp. 308-13.

⁶ F. Taylor, "Manuscript Materials on Modern Indian History in the John Rylands Library" (ibid. pp. 23 ff.).

eighteenth century trade statistics and reports relating to Turkey and, perhaps more interesting, English MSS. 888-90 a collection of letters and papers of Dr. C. T. Beke relating to the "Magdala affair" and Abyssinia; this includes the holograph of his *Four months in Abyssinia* (1865-6), dated 1868, arranged for printing and marked "To be Published". English MSS. 1210-12 are diaries kept during visits to the Near East in 1854-55 and 1872 by the painter Holman Hunt and letters from him written from various places in the Near East occur in English MSS. 1213-15. In addition to the Bowring Papers listed in the above-mentioned *Guide* (p. 312), the Library has in English MSS. 1228-30 and 1234 correspondence and papers of Sir John Bowring (d. 1872) dating from his years in China and the Far East; included are letters (1849-59) concerning political and commercial affairs and letters and papers relating to his Governorship of Hong Kong. English MS. 1234 contains letters addressed to Edgar Alfred Bowring between 1854 and 1858 concerning the Shanghai Duty Question. The Crawford Muniments contain a group of fourteen letters, many of them very lengthy and informative, relating to the travels in the Near East of Lord Lindsay. Written from Alexandria, Cairo, Mount Sinai, Jerusalem and Damascus between November 1836 and July 1837, they are addressed to his mother Maria, Countess of Crawford, and to Anne Lindsay. Three volumes of letters of John Francis Campbell of Islay, written in the 1870s and early 1880s during his visits to countries in the Near East and Far East, occur in the Bromley Davenport Muniments.

The aim of this survey is a modest one: to indicate the manuscripts available and the extent to which, within the various groups, they have been catalogued or listed. For convenience of reference the collections have been dealt with as follows: Akkadian (pp. 453-4); Egyptian (pp. 454-5)¹; Hebrew (pp. 455-6); Samaritan (p. 457); Syriac (pp. 457-8); Coptic (pp. 458-60); Ethiopian (pp. 460-1); Armenian (pp. 461-2); Arabic, Persian and Turkish (pp. 462-5)²; Sanskrit and Pali (pp. 466-7)³;

¹ Hieroglyphic and Hieratic, pp. 454; Demotic, pp. 454-5.

² Arabic, pp. 462-4; Persian, pp. 464-5; Turkish, p. 465.

³ Sanskrit, p. 466; Pali, pp. 466-7.

Modern Indian languages (pp. 467-71)¹ ; South East Asia (pp. 471-5)² ; Central Asia (pp. 475-6)³ ; the Far East (pp. 476-8).⁴ Where mentioned below the *Bulletin of the John Rylands Library* is abbreviated *BJRL*. I am grateful to my colleague the Assistant Keeper, Miss G. A. Matheson, for her valuable help.

AKKADIAN

1,043 items, including fragments and three plaster casts.

Most of the Rylands tablets come from Drehem and Umma.

(a) Nos. 1-884 were described by T. Fish in *Catalogue of the Sumerian Tablets in the John Rylands Library*, Manchester, 1932. A note on the origin of the collection may be found *ibid.* p. v.

It should be noted that Fish's Nos. 15, 722 and 734 are redundant (having been inadvertently duplicated in his *Catalogue* for Nos. 11, 694 and 720, respectively) and that Nos. 770-9 do not exist, having been omitted in error from the *Catalogue*, which jumps from 769 to 780. No. 263 is the Wage List described more fully by him in "A Sumerian Wage List of the Ur Dynasty" (*BJRL*, ix). Other individual tablets were also described by him in articles in *BJRL*, viii, xi, xii, xiii and xviii.

(b) Bedale 1-58. Tablets described by C. L. Bedale in *Sumerian Tablets from Umma in the John Rylands Library* (1915). They were described again by Fish, in a revised transcription, in the above *Catalogue*, pp. 104-12.

(c) Nos. 885-929 (contd. from (a)), letters of the First Babylonian Dynasty. Nos. 885-915 were described by Fish in *Letters of the First Babylonian Dynasty* (Manchester, 1936). Nos. 916-29 have not been described.

(d) No. 930. Described by T. Donald in "A Sumerian

¹ Hindustani, p. 467 ; Panjabi, p. 468 ; Pashto, p. 468 ; Sinhalese, pp. 468-9 ; Marathi, p. 469 ; Bengali, p. 469 ; Oriya, p. 469.

Dravidian: Tamil, pp. 469-70 ; Telugu, p. 470 ; Kannada, p. 470 ; Malayalam, p. 471.

² Burmese, p. 471 ; Siamese, pp. 471-2 ; Malay, p. 472 ; Batak, pp. 472-3 ; Buginese, p. 473 ; Balinese, pp. 473-4 ; Madurese, p. 474 ; Javanese, p. 474 ; Kawi, p. 474 ; Macassarese, p. 475.

³ Tibetan, p. 475 ; "Parsi", pp. 475-6.

⁴ Chinese, pp. 476-7 ; Japanese, p. 477 ; Mongolian, pp. 477-8 ; Mo-So, p. 478.

Plan in the John Rylands Library ", *Journal of Semitic Studies*, vii. 184-90.

(e) No. 931. Described by Fish in " A Rylands Cuneiform Tablet Concerning the Conquest of Kish under Agga by Gilgamesh ", *BJRL*, xix.

(f) The remainder of the collection, not yet described or numbered, is grouped as follows :

- (i) Ur III, 107 items.
- (ii) First Babylonian Dynasty fragments, thirty-nine items.
- (iii) Later Babylonian and Assyrian pieces, four items.
- (iv) Miscellanea : one clay " nail ", one cylindrical seal, two tablets, a few fragmentary tablets, three plaster casts.

EGYPTIAN

Hieroglyphic and Hieratic

Twenty-six items. Papyrus and linen.

Acquired with the Crawford collection, seven being hieroglyphic and nineteen hieratic. All are funerary documents and have been dated between the fourteenth century B.C. and the second century A.D. Six (three hieroglyphic, three hieratic) are described in an unpublished account by Samuel Birch (d. 1885) of the British Museum, entitled *Egyptian Papyri [in the Bibliotheca Lindesiana]*, which came with the collection. The remaining items have not been catalogued.

Demotic

I. *Ostraca*

Acquired with the Crawford collection.
Fourteen pieces, not yet catalogued.

II. *Papyri*

Acquired with the Crawford collection.

166 pieces, namely :

(a) Nos. 1-49 (*rectius* 106 pieces). Described by F. Ll. Griffith, *Catalogue of the Demotic Papyri in the John Rylands Library*, 3 vols., Manchester, 1909. The actual number of papyri is larger than is indicated by Griffith's Nos. 1-49. This is because his No. 39, described as "a small packet of miscellaneous fragments from Gebelên", comprises nine different pieces; his No. 43, described as a "packet of various fragments", comprises nine different pieces; his No. 46, described as "a number of fragments of Roman papyri", comprises forty-one different pieces; and his No. 47 comprises two different pieces. For the closer examination of Nos. 39, 43, 46 and 47, I am indebted to Dr. E. A. E. Reymond of Manchester University.

The early papyri described by Griffith are from El Hîbeh in Middle Egypt, the early Ptolemaic papyri from Thebes, the later Ptolemaic from Gebelên (south of Thebes), and the Roman from Dimê in the Fayûm.

For a separate account of Nos. 44 and 45, see Dr. Reymond's article in *BJRL*, xlix.

(b) Sixty pieces plus a few insignificant fragments. Mostly legal and showing affinities with those published by Griffith, the majority being from Upper Egypt and dating from the middle of the Ptolemaic period.

The first (numbered "50") has been described at length by Dr. Reymond in *BJRL*, xlvi, in an article entitled "Fragment of a Crocodile Papyrus". See also her "Dimê and Its Papyri: An Introduction", *ibid.* xlviii.

HEBREW

c. 400 codices, and 10,573 fragments from the Cairo Genîzah. Parchment and paper.

(a) Hebrew MSS. 1-33. These were acquired by Mrs. Rylands with the Crawford MSS. Brief descriptions are given in a Crawford manuscript *Catalogue*, written in several hands, available in the Library.

Noteworthy items include an early fourteenth-century illuminated Sephardi *Haggadah* (Hebrew 6) with some interesting *piyyûṭîm* (see the articles in *BJRL*, xxxvi (H. Rosenau), xliii (C. Roth and M. Wallenstein) and xlv (M. Wallenstein); also D. H. Müller and J. von Schlosser, *Die Haggadah von Sarajevo* (Vienna, 1898), pp. 95-102; *Hadoar*, no. 21 (1961), pp. 351-2; B. Narkiss, *The Golden Haggadah* (Eugrammia Press (1970)), *passim*); a text of Nachmanides' *Commentary on the Pentateuch* containing illuminations by the Florentine artist Francesco Antonio del Cherico (Heb. 8); a Collection of Benedictions from Honan, nineteenth century (Heb. 24); a fourteenth-century text of the '*Ammūdē ha-Gōlāh* of Isaac ben Joseph of Corbeil (Heb. 31); and, among the Scrolls of Esther, the earliest known Italian illuminated *Megillah*, 1618 (Heb. 22) (see *BJRL*, xlv (M. Metzger)).

(b) Hebrew MSS. 34-49. Miscellaneous manuscripts acquired between 1909 and 1952. Not yet catalogued.

(c) *The Gaster Codices*. These number c. 350. Acquired in 1954 when the Library purchased from the Gaster family the collection of Hebrew manuscripts formed by Dr. Moses Gaster. Not yet catalogued. A brief finding list, in photostat, accompanied the acquisition. See *BJRL*, xxxvii. 2 sqq.

The collection includes the prayer books of many Jewish communities, apocryphal writings, commentaries, treatises, letters, marriage contracts, *piyyûṭîm*, and thirteen scrolls of the Law. Among countries represented are Spain, France, Germany, Belgium, Poland, Rumania, Italy, Morocco, and, particularly, Yemen. For Gaster Hebrew MS. 4 see M. Wallenstein, "Gaster Hebrew MS. 4 in the John Rylands Library: A Yemenite *Tikhlah* of the Seventeenth Century", *BJRL*, xlv.

(d) *Gaster Genīzah Fragments*. These number 10,573, of which 9,215 are paper and 1,358 parchment. From the Synagogue of Elijah in Old Cairo. Acquired with (c) above. Not yet catalogued. For Gaster Genīzah Fr. 1 see "A Unique *Kol-Nidrē Piyuṭ*", *BJRL*, xli, and for Fr. 2 "A Dated Tenth Century Hebrew Parchment from the Cairo Genīzah", *ibid.* xl, both by M. Wallenstein.

(e) See also Samaritan (c).

SAMARITAN

375. Parchment and paper.

(a) Nos. 1-27 were acquired with the Crawford collection. They were described by Edward Robertson in his *Catalogue of the Samaritan Manuscripts in the John Rylands Library* (1938) and include what is apparently the earliest dated manuscript (A.D. 1211) of the whole Samaritan Pentateuch to be found outside Nablus, six other Pentateuchs in whole or in part (two bilingual), three noteworthy theological codices, and interesting liturgical and astronomical texts.

(b) Nos. 28-373. All save six are from the collection formed by Dr. Moses Gaster, acquired by the Library from his family in 1954. They were described by Professor Robertson in vol. 2 of the above *Catalogue* (1962). Included are MSS. of the Pentateuch (among them bilingual and trilingual texts), commentaries and treatises, and liturgical, historical, chronological and astronomical codices. Among miscellaneous items of interest are detailed census lists of the Samaritans and lists of manuscripts in their possession.

Gaster MSS. 374 (Book of Joshua) and 375 (Chronicle, with the Book of Joshua) were inadvertently omitted by Robertson from his *Catalogue*.

(c) *Gaster Correspondence*. Correspondence of Dr. Gaster with the Samaritan community still surviving in Nablus. In Hebrew, but written in Samaritan script. c. 500 items. Not yet catalogued.

SYRIAC

Seventy codices plus thirteen volumes of photostats from the Mingana Collection at Selly Oak. Parchment and paper.

Nos. 1-6 were acquired with the Crawford collection. For a note on the origin of Nos. 7-70 see M. H. Gottstein, "A List of Some Uncatalogued Syriac Biblical Manuscripts", *BJRL*, xxxvii.

The seventy have not yet been catalogued. A "Hand-List

of the *Syriac Manuscripts in the John Rylands Library* by A. Mingana, 1922", described in a *Catalogue* of Rylands publications in 1923 as "nearly ready", was, in fact, never published and no trace of it has been found. A brief list (excluding one manuscript, acquired with the Gaster collection in 1954), compiled by Fr. W. J. Macomber, S.J., in 1959, and revised by him in 1965, may be consulted in the Library.

Syriac MS. 9 has been edited by Rendel Harris and A. Mingana (*The Odes and Psalms of Solomon*, Manchester, 1916-20, 2 vols.) and a new edition is in preparation by Professor J. H. Charlesworth of Duke University, North Carolina. Other individual MSS. were dealt with by Mingana in *BJRL*, iv, v, ix and xiv. Descriptions of Nos. 1-4, 7, 10-12, 15, 25, 35, 37, 38, 57, 66 and 69 occur in Gottstein, *op. cit.*, and of Nos. 1, 16 and 66 in Jules Leroy, "Notes Sur Trois Manuscrits Syriaques de la John Rylands Library", *ibid.* xlvii.

A *Catalogue* of the collection is to be prepared by Professor Charlesworth.

COPTIC

I. *Ostraca*

Forty-seven pieces.

Acquired with the Crawford collection.

Some are described by W. E. Crum, *Varia Coptica* (1939), pp. 16 (V. 8), 18 (VI. 1), 31 (VI. 2), 49 (V. 13); see also Walter C. Till, "Die nichtkatalogisierten Coptica der John Rylands Library", *Das Antiquariat*, Jahrg. 8 (1952), Nr. 13/18.

II. *Papyrus, Paper, Parchment*

Acquired mostly with the Crawford collection. As follows :

(a) Nos. 1-467. All, save one (No. 433), from the Crawford collection. Described by Crum, *Catalogue of the Coptic Manuscripts in the Collection of the John Rylands Library* (Manchester, 1909); see also Hugo Buchthal and Otto Kurz, *A Hand List of Illuminated Oriental Christian Manuscripts (Studies of the*

Warburg Institute, vol. 12) (London, 1942), pp. 43-44. The collection consists of two parts. One, formed by Lord Lindsay, includes Bohairic and Sa'idic MSS. from Archdeacon Tattam's collection and Sa'idic items formerly owned by the Rev. R. Lieder and J. Lee (d. 1866). The other, formed by the 26th Earl of Crawford, was purchased from two Gizah dealers in 1898; to it belong all the papyri and a small number of parchment and paper fragments. Apart from some fifty texts (mostly Bohairic), the bulk of the items catalogued by Crum are Sa'idic. The whole dates from the fourth century onwards. For a table of dates see Crum, pp. 241-3. Noteworthy items are indicated *ibid.* pp. xi-xii; see also D. P. Buckle in *BJRL*, vi, and J. Drescher in *Annales du Service des Antiquités de l'Égypte*, xlix.

(b) Nos. 468-78. No. 468, purchased in 1922, contains Prayers for the Feasts of Our Lord, the Virgin Mary, and Saints and Martyrs, seventeenth century. Nos. 469-71, purchased in 1923, are photographs of the *Codex Coislinianus* (Gen.-Jud. xix, 30), in 3 vols. Nos. 472-3 were acquired from Dr. Rendel Harris in June 1923 and Nos. 474-8 were presented by him at the same time. No. 472 contains fragments of (i) a Lent Book and (ii) a Lectionary, sixteenth century; No. 473 is a portion (344 fols.) of a Lent Book, sixteenth century; Nos. 474-8 are all connected with the "Rite of the Theotokia" or "Psalmodia" of the month of Kiahk, sixteenth-nineteenth century. See Maria Cramer, "Some Unpublished Coptic Liturgical Manuscripts in the John Rylands Library", *BJRL*, I. Dr. Cramer also prepared a manuscript description of these items which may be consulted in the Library.

III. Papyri Not Described by Crum

(a) Miscellaneous Numbered Fragments 1-506. Contained in Boxes numbered 1-4, these fragments form part of "the Ashmunain collection" acquired by the 26th Earl of Crawford in 1898. See Crum's *Catalogue*, pp. viii and xii. Brief descriptions in manuscript by Dr. Till (made in and after 1950) of Nos. 1-401 and by Dr. Cramer (made in 1966) of Nos. 402-506 may be consulted in the Library.

(b) Miscellaneous Unnumbered Fragments. Contained in Boxes numbered 5-7, these consist of some hundreds of fragments from "the Ashmunain collection" and of fragments found by C. H. Roberts amongst our Greek papyri when preparing vol. iv of his *Catalogue of the Greek (and Latin) Papyri in the John Rylands Library* (Manchester 1952). Not yet listed or catalogued.

(c) S[upplementary] Nos. 1-51. Found amongst Greek papyri purchased for the Library in various places in Egypt by Dr. Rendel Harris. For an account of Nos. 1-50 see Crum in "New Coptic Manuscripts in the John Rylands Library", *BJRL*, v, and Till, "Die nichtkatalogisierten Coptica der John Rylands Library", *Das Antiquariat*, Jahrg. 8 (1952), Nr. 13/18. All save three are Sa'idic and the majority date from the sixth century to the eighth. Biblical, liturgical and apocryphal texts and legal documents and letters occur. For a fuller account of the Biblical texts (numbering twenty) see Till, "Coptic Biblical Fragments in the John Rylands Library", *BJRL*, xxxiv. See also Till, "Coptic Biblical Texts Published After Vaschalde's Lists", *ibid.* xlii. S. 33, which is eleventh century, is an important Hymn (Bohairic) to St. Menas, with a drawing of him (see *Acta Orientalia*, vol. xxiii, 1-2, pp. 19-32 and Dr. Cramer's *Koptische Buchmalerei*, p. 72 and pl.).

ETHIOPIAN

Thirty-seven. Parchment and paper.

(a) Nos. 1-31. Acquired with the Crawford collection. While in the Bibliotheca Lindesiana a list was prepared by J. M. Rodwell and E. A. W. Budge. This, which is unpublished, may be consulted in the Library.

(b) Nos. 32-37. Miscellaneous codices acquired subsequently from various sources; Nos. 36-37 were acquired with the Gaster collection in 1954.

A *Catalogue* of the whole, begun some years ago by Professor Edward Ullendorff, Professor of Ethiopian Studies in the University of London, has been completed by Mr. Stefan Strelcyn,

Lecturer in Semitic Languages at Manchester University, and is to be published in the near future.

The collection, a representative one of Ethiopic (Ge'ez) literature, comprises mainly biblical and liturgical MSS. and stories of saints and martyrs. It is mostly of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Included are a rare collection of biblical passages supposedly referring to the Messiah (No. 1), Rules for the monastic life (No. 16), the *Fetha Nagast* (No. 13), and, in a particularly handsome script, a deed of gift of the Emperor Adbār Sagad (Dawit III (1716-21)) to the church of St. Michael (No. 28). Among the poems are some rare *malḳe'*: the Four Beasts (No. 14) and, especially, Zēnā Mārḳos, a fourteenth century monk (No. 37). Nos. 29-34 are magical scrolls (mostly nineteenth cent.). No. 11 (Homilies in honour of St. Michael, eighteenth cent.) contains 32 miniatures in the Gondar style of illumination. As many as 10 codices can be dated precisely (1590-1742). Nos. 4, 18, 27, 32 and 35 were brought from Ethiopia following Napier's expedition. (For the substance of this paragraph I am indebted to Mr. Strelcyn).

ARMENIAN

Twenty-two. Parchment and paper.

(a) Nos. 1-19. Acquired with the Crawford collection. While in the Bibliotheca Lindesiana a full *Catalogue* (in French) of Nos. 1-10 was prepared by S. V. Baronian in 1878 and a somewhat briefer one of Nos. 11-18 by F. C. Conybeare in 1898. These, which are unpublished, may be consulted in the Library.

Although not large, the collection contains some items of interest, amongst them: No. 1, an early *Gospel Book*; No. 3, a sixteenth century *Romance of Alexander*, profusely illuminated; and No. 10, a *Gospel Book* written at Chikbak in A.D. 1313 containing some unusual Armenian miniatures (to which a Georgian artist has added portraits of saints) and a binding bearing the name of the binder "Hakob" and the date of the Armenian era 1085 (= A.D. 1636).

On No. 3 see the article by H. Kurdian in *The Armenian Review*, ii. 39 ff., and on the Gospel Book of A.D. 1313 D. Talbot

Rice, "The Illuminations of Armenian MS. 10 in the John Rylands Library", *BJRL*, xliii, the lengthy note by Professor Sirarpie Der Nersessian, *ibid.* xliv. 266-70, and Hugo Buchthal and Otto Kurz, *A Hand List of Illuminated Oriental Christian Manuscripts (Studies of The Warburg Institute, vol. 12)* (London, 1942), pp. 88-89.

(b) Nos. 20-22. Acquired subsequently. All three are *Gospel Books*, sixteenth/seventeenth century.

No. 20 contains miniatures attributed to Jacob Tjughaetsi of Djulfa.

The nine *Gospel Books* in the collection (Nos. 1, 2, 4, 10, 12, 13, 20-22), six of which are illuminated (Nos. 4, 10, 12, 13, 20, 21), are listed 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, No. 1)* (Tokyo, 1959).

An unprinted *Catalogue* of Nos. 1-20 (in Armenian) by Archbishop Tirayr is in the archives at Erevan in Soviet Armenia (ex. inf. Professor L. S. Khatchikian, Director of the Matenadaran). This is being brought up-to-date and will be published by the Gulbenkian Foundation in their series of *Catalogues of Armenian manuscripts*.

ARABIC

I. Papyri

Acquired with the Crawford collection.

802 items. As follows :

(a) 425 are described (as AI.1—GI.13) by D. S. Margoliouth in his *Catalogue of Arabic Papyri in the John Rylands Library* (Manchester, 1933). They consist mainly of private letters, although tradesmen's and household accounts, receipts for payment of *kharaj* (land tax), and other types of record occur. The greater number of the dated items belong to the third century A.H., a few to the second, some to the fourth and, perhaps, a very few to the fifth. The town most frequently mentioned is Ushmun, the inhabitants of which were largely Copts. See

further Margoliouth's article "The Arabic Papyri in the John Rylands Library", *BJRL*, xviii.

Note: (i) The following documents, although in this series, were inadvertently omitted from his *Catalogue* by Margoliouth: C IV. 10, D II. 2, D II. 3, D III. 2, E III. 2, E III. 6, E III. 8, E III. 9, F IV. 1, and F IV. 18.

(ii) The following five documents in this series are on paper and so were not included in Margoliouth's *Catalogue*: B I. 1, B III. 5, B IV. 11, D II. 12, and F I. 17.

(b) 252. Numbered as 1-252, but not yet catalogued.

(c) 125 miscellaneous fragments. Comprising nine folders containing thirty-two items, and ninety-three fragments pasted on card. Not yet catalogued.

II. Paper

1,483 fragments. As follows:

(a) 643 fragments, comprising the five mentioned above (second note to I(a)) and 638 additional ones. Acquired with the Crawford collection. Not yet catalogued.

(b) 840 fragments from the Synagogue of Elijah in Old Cairo. Acquired with the Gaster collection in 1954 (see under Hebrew (c)). Not yet catalogued.

III. Codices

857 vols. As follows:

(a) Nos. 1-818. Described by A. Mingana in *Catalogue of the Arabic Manuscripts in the John Rylands Library* (Manchester, 1934). Of these, the bulk was acquired with the Crawford collection and had been previously listed by Michael Kerney in *Bibliotheca Lindesiana: Hand-List of Oriental Manuscripts* (Privately Printed, 1898), pp. 1-104; included are 204 MSS. purchased in 1866 from the Nathaniel Bland collection (listed by Kerney, p. xvi), 303 purchased in 1868 from the collection of Col. G. W. Hamilton (listed *ibid.* p. xvii), nineteen from the library of Caussin de Perceval (listed *ibid.* p. xvii) and eleven from the Castel-Branco selection of Silvestre de Sacy's MSS. (listed *ibid.* p. xvii). The remaining codices described by

Mingana are miscellaneous and were acquired subsequently to the Crawford purchase. See Mingana, *op. cit.* pp. xi and 1190-2.

The collection is a notable one, covering roughly 1,000 years and having a wide subject range. Included are many unique and rare codices and an important collection of Qur'ānic literature ; several items are in Kūfi hands. See Kerney, *op. cit.* pp. xiii-xvii and Mingana, *op. cit.* pp. xii-xiii for indications of its extent and value.

(b) Thirty-nine miscellaneous manuscripts acquired subsequently from various sources ; of these, twenty were acquired with the Gaster collection in 1954. A catalogue of these thirty-nine is in preparation by Professor C. E. Bosworth, Professor of Arabic Studies at Manchester University, and Mr. A. S. Radwān.

PERSIAN

936. Paper.

(a) Nos. 1-941. Acquired with the Crawford collection. These are the Crawford numbers, but it should be noted that four (Nos. 197, 311, 313 and 321) were sent to the India Office before 1901 and twenty-eight numbers are marked as "Not filled up", leaving an actual total of 909.

While still in the Bibliotheca Lindesiana two lists were prepared by Michael Kerney : (1) *Catalogue of Persian Manuscripts belonging to the Earl of Crawford* [n.d., but probably in the 1890s]. This is unpublished, extends to 338 pages and contains emendations by Professor R. A. Nicholson. It may be consulted in the Library. It is much fuller than the account given in Kerney's published list, namely (2) *Bibliotheca Lindesiana : Hand-List of Oriental Manuscripts* (Privately Printed, 1898), pp. 107-237 (for the Nos. he lists see pp. xxxi-xxxii).

Included are 364 MSS. purchased in 1866 from the Nathaniel Bland collection (listed *ibid.* p. xxxi) and 407 purchased in 1868 from the collection of Col. G. W. Hamilton (listed *ibid.* pp. xxxi-xxxii).

The collection dates from between the early thirteenth century and the nineteenth and the subject range is wide.

A subject analysis is given in Kerney's published list (pp. xvii-xxx). For illuminated codices see B. W. Robinson, "Some Illustrated Persian Manuscripts in the John Rylands Library" (*BJRL*, xxxiv), where attention is drawn to Nos. 9, 24, 36, 37, 933 (Timurid), 6, 8, 20, 23, 907, 910, 932 (early Safawid), and 2, 3, 12, 28, 35, 45, 856, 908, 909 and 945 (later Safawid).

(b) Nos. 942-68. Miscellaneous manuscripts subsequently acquired from various sources; two were acquired with the Gaster collection in 1954. Not yet catalogued.

TURKISH

183. Paper.

(a) Nos. 1-166. Acquired with the Crawford collection. While still in the Bibliotheca Lindesiana two lists of these were prepared by Michael Kerney: (1) *Catalogue of Turkish Manuscripts belonging to the Earl of Crawford*, [1892]. This, which is unpublished, may be consulted in the Library. It is fuller than the account given in Kerney's published list, namely (2) *Bibliotheca Lindesiana: Hand-List of Oriental Manuscripts* (Privately Printed, 1898), pp. 241-68, which contains a subject analysis (pp. xxxii-xxxvii) of the collection.

Sixty-three volumes were acquired in 1866 from the Nathaniel Bland collection and seven in 1868 from the collection of Col. G. W. Hamilton.

The following manuscripts have been catalogued more fully by Mr. J. R. Walsh, Lecturer in Turkish at Edinburgh University: 1-23, 42, 49, 50, 55, 61-62, 67, 77, 79, 81, 84-85, 90-91, 93, 96, 99, 102, 122, 127, 137, 143, 155. Typescripts of his descriptions may be consulted in the Library.

For Turkish 3 see also "The John Rylands *Laylā wa Majnūn* and the Bodleian *Nawā'ī* of 1485: A Royal Timurid Manuscript", by B. W. Robinson (*BJRL*, xxxvii) and for Turkish 61, "A Sixteenth-Century Illustrated Turkish Manuscript in the John Rylands Library" by G. M. Meredith-Owens (*ibid.* xlvi).

(b) Nos. 167-83. Miscellaneous manuscripts acquired subsequently from various sources; eight were acquired with the Gaster collection in 1954. Not yet catalogued.

SANSKRIT

Twenty-nine. Paper and palm-leaf.

(a) Nos. 1-17. Acquired with the Crawford collection. Descriptions, unpublished, by Professor Geldner, Professor Max Müller, and others, varying greatly in the amount of information given, were prepared while these items were in the Bibliotheca Lindesiana. They may be consulted in the Library.

(b) Nos. 18-29. Acquired subsequently from various sources. Not yet catalogued.

The collection, which is virtually unexplored, dates from between the seventeenth century and the nineteenth. Nos. 1-2 were purchased by Lord Crawford at the Nathaniel Bland sale in 1866, No. 2 being from the Library of Sir William Jones. Nos. 3, 7, 9, 18 and 28 are illuminated. Included are items in Hindi and Panjabi.

PALI

Eighty-three items. Paper and palm-leaf.

All save eight (Nos. 1, 77-83) were presented to the Library in 1915 by Professor T. W. Rhys Davids ; of these eight, No. 1 was acquired with the Crawford collection, No. 82 purchased from Professor Rhys Davids in 1917, and the remaining six acquired from various sources.

In Sinhalese characters save for twenty-eight which are in Burmese and three in Cambodian. In date the collection ranges between the seventeenth and nineteenth centuries ; included are several manuscripts from Ceylon copied in the last quarter of last century for Professor Rhys Davids by Gate Mudaliyar E.R. Gooneratne of Galle, Hon. Secretary of the Pali Society for Ceylon. A number of items are highly ornamental, notably No. 82, comprising seven large bundles containing the *Tripitaka*, with carefully incised letters and covers inlaid with elaborate designs in mother-of-pearl.

Many of these texts were used by Professor Rhys Davids

and other pioneer editors for the editions published for the Pali Text Society. Some of the unpublished texts are rare.

A catalogue has been prepared by Professor N. A. Jayawickrama, Professor of Pali in the University of Ceylon, and is to be published in the Autumn 1972 number of the *BJRL* (lv).

MODERN INDIAN LANGUAGES¹

HINDUSTANI

Thirty-four. Paper.

Nos. 1-33 were acquired with the Crawford collection and while there listed by M. Kerney in his unpublished *Hindustani, Marathi and Panjabi MSS.* [in the *Bibliotheca Lindesiana*]. This may be consulted in the Library.

The collection, which is mostly in Urdu,² dates from between the sixteenth century and the nineteenth and comprises literary, poetical, historical, mathematical, architectural, musical and astrological works. Nos. 1-2, 4-10, 31-33 were purchased in 1866 from the Nathaniel Bland collection and Nos. 3, 11-27 in 1868 from the collection of Col. G. W. Hamilton. Nos. 1, 2, 16, 28 and 34 are illuminated. Outstanding is No. 1, the *Laur-Chandā* of Maulānā Dāūd of Dalmaū, an almost complete text (326 fols.) of a work of Hindustani literature known elsewhere only from a few odd leaves preserved in Indian libraries. The miniatures (over 300), painted c. 1530/40 at a Muslim court, possibly Malwa, are also noteworthy. The text was edited (in Hindi) by Dr. P. L. Gupta, in 1964.

No. 34, not yet catalogued, was presented by Sir R. Ewbank in 1957.

See also under Sanskrit.

¹ With the Crawford collection there also came twenty-two volumes and folders containing Indian paintings and drawings. They are for the most part bound together indiscriminately, so that the works of single artists or of periods can not easily be grouped; a number are the work of painters at the courts of the Moghul Emperors. A further volume was acquired in 1957.

² Manuscripts in Urdu also occur within the Persian collection.

PANJABI

Five. Paper.

Acquired with the Crawford collection and while there described by [M. Kerney and R. Rost] in *Hindustani, Marathi and Panjabi MSS. [in the Bibliotheca Lindesiana]*.

No. 1, miscellaneous poems ; No. 2, commentary by Jāni Muḥammad on the Arabic moral poem *Burdah* ; No. 3, Mukbil, The Story of Hero and Leander ; No. 4, Janam Sākhī, The biography of Guru Nānak, founder of the Sikh religion, followed by verse eulogies on him ; No. 5, *Ādi Granth*, the religious code of the Sikhs. The first four are nineteenth century, No. 5 is mid-seventeenth. Nos. 1-3 were purchased in 1868 from the collection of Col. G. W. Hamilton.

See also under Sanskrit.

PASHTO

Sixteen. Paper.

Acquired with the Crawford MSS. ; two were purchased in 1866 with the Nathaniel Bland collection and eleven in 1868 from the collection of Col. G. W. Hamilton. Described by J. F. Blumhardt and D. N. MacKenzie, *Catalogue of Pashto Manuscripts in the Libraries of the British Isles* (London, 1965), our MSS. being Nos. 26, 27, 30, 33, 86, 118, 121, 132, 133, 138, 139, 140, 141, 145, 147, 166.

All save three are eighteenth century. Four are religious in content ; one, the *Kitāb-i Zaḳḳūm* (Pashto 9), is an unique text ; one (14) is the *Dīwān-ī Raḥmān* ; and the remaining ten contain other verse.

SINHALESE

Sixteen. Palm-leaf.

(a) Nos. 1-8. Acquired with the Crawford collection and while there described in a catalogue of *Pushtu and Sinhalese MSS. [in the Bibliotheca Lindesiana]*, Nos. 1-4 and 6 by Dr. R. Rost, No. 5 by Mr. R. Morris and No. 8 by Mr. M. Kerney. For No. 7 see below. This catalogue, unpublished, is available in the Library.

No. 1, *Pansiyapanasjātaḥ-pota* ; No. 2, the *Pūjāvaliya* by Mayūrapāda Thera ; No. 3, *Kāvyaśēkharaya*, a poem by Śrī-Rāhula of Toṭagamuva ; No. 4, an alliterative poem, composed in 1786, addressed by Karatoṭa Therunnānsē to the King of Ceylon, Rājādhirājasimha ; No. 5, text of and commentary on the *Brahmajāla-sutta* ; No. 6, book of charms ; No. 7, a *History of Ceylon*, with carved ivory covers ; No. 8, *Māhavaṃsa*.

(b) No. 9. Acquired subsequently. Gospel of St. Matthew, probably eighteenth century.

(c) Nos. 10-16. Transferred from the Pali collection, where they were formerly Nos. 53-54, 56, 69, 73, 78 and 86. Not yet catalogued.

MARATHI

Four Paper.

Acquired with the Crawford collection. An unpublished catalogue of *Hindustani, Marathi and Panjabi MSS.* [in the *Bibliotheca Lindesiana*] may be consulted in the Library.

No. 1, *Ādīparva* ; No. 2, *Pāṇḍupratāpa* ; No. 3, *Rāmavijaya* of Śrīdhara ; No. 4, *Bhaktivijaya* by Mahīpati. All are eighteenth century.

BENGALI

One. Palm-leaf.

Transferred from the Pali collection where it was numbered 57.

Liṅgānuśāsana by Amara Siṃha, the scribe being Rāmadulāla Devaśarmaṇa, 1709. (For this identification I am indebted to Dr. T. P. Mukherji of the School of Oriental and African Studies, London).

ORIYA

One. Palm-leaf.

Transferred from the Pali collection, where it was numbered 77. Not yet catalogued.

DRAVIDIAN

Tamil

Fifteen. Palm-leaf and paper.

(a) Nos. 1-11. Acquired with the Crawford collection and

described by Dr. R. Rost, M. Kerney and others in an unpublished *Catalogue of Canarese, Pali and Tamil MSS.* [in the *Bibliotheca Lindesiana*], available in the Library.

They date from between the seventeenth century and the nineteenth and came mostly from the collection of Dr. B. G. Babington (d. 1866). No. 1, *Valliy-ammai-purāṇam*; No. 2, a drama of the trials of Hariṣchandra, King of Ayodhya; No. 3, religious memoranda; No. 4, *Mahā-Bhāratam*, a condensed prose translation; Nos. 5-8 and 11, French-Latin-Tamil dictionaries (eighteenth century); Nos. 9-10, *Beschi Tēm-bāv-aṇi*, with commentary. A number of items, including the dictionaries, are associated with the Jesuit missionary Fr. Constantino Giuseppe Beschi (d. 1742).

(b) Nos. 12-14. Acquired in 1918 from Mr. Alfred Huntback; came from the collection of J. Goss. Not yet catalogued.

(c) No. 15, not yet catalogued, has been transferred from the Pali collection where it was numbered 89.

Telugu

Four. Palm-leaf.

Nos. 1-3 were acquired from the Rev. A. Brockbank in 1912 and have been identified by Dr. V. Raghavan of Madras University as an astrological handbook, medical recipes, and a list of Sālagrāma images, respectively. No. 4, not yet described, has been transferred from the Pali collection, where it was formerly numbered 82.

Kannada

Three. Palm-leaf.

No. 1 (part of a prose version of the *Mahābhārata*) was acquired with the Crawford collection and described by Dr. R. Rost in an unpublished *Catalogue of Canarese, Pali and Tamil MSS.* [in the *Bibliotheca Lindesiana*], available in the Library. Nos. 2 and 3, acquired from the Rev. A. Brockbank in 1912, have been identified by Dr. Raghavan as, respectively, a poem of Advaita philosophy by Mahalinga Ranga and a text of the poetic work *Nalacaritre* by Kanakadasa.

Malayalam

- One. Palm-leaf (fragmentary).
Not yet catalogued.

SOUTH EAST ASIA

BURMESE

Twenty-one. Palm-leaf, copper plates and paper.

(a) Nos. 1-7. Acquired with the Crawford collection.

(b) Nos. 8-11. Acquired with the Spencer collection in 1892.

(c) Nos. 12-19. Acquired from various sources between 1912 and 1953.

(d) Nos. 20-21 have been transferred from the Pali collection, where they were numbered 52 and 72, respectively.

Henri-Léon Feer of the Bibliothèque Nationale catalogued Nos. 1-4 at length in an unpublished *Catalogue of Burmese MSS.*, while they were in the Bibliotheca Lindesiana; other hands have added brief descriptions of Nos. 5-7 and 12-14. This *Catalogue* may be consulted in the Library. The remaining items have not been catalogued.

The collection, which is eighteenth and nineteenth century, includes, among identified items, various Buddhist works, and grammatical, magical and astrological treatises. Of the five items on paper (2-4, 14, 17), Nos. 2, 4 and 17 are illustrated.

SIAMESE (THAI)

Fifteen (but numbered 1-11, in certain cases more than one work being within the same cover). Palm-leaf (one item only, No. 8) and paper.

Acquired with the Crawford collection. A *Catalogue* of Nos. 1-10 was prepared by Henri-Léon Feer while the collection was in the Bibliotheca Lindesiana (No. 11 consists of mythological drawings). This *Catalogue*, which is unpublished, may be consulted in the Library.

The fifteen works comprise eleven literary, two concerning

divination, one medical, and one containing charms. They date from between the seventeenth and the nineteenth century. The most important appear to be No. 1 (a seventeenth-century collection of invocations, sayings and Buddhist terms) and No. 2 (a copy of a text of c. 1340 dealing with *The Three Worlds*).

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 of the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, for incorporation in, respectively, a survey of Thai MSS. in the British Isles and a *Union Catalogue* of the same. An account is also to appear in a *Bibliographic and Library Survey of Thailand* being undertaken by the Thai Library Association.

MALAY

Eleven. Paper.

Nos. 1-10 were acquired with the Crawford collection, in which they were numbered 1-3, 5-11. Descriptions by H. Juynboll were bound in an unpublished *Catalogue of Indonesian MSS. [in the Bibliotheca Lindesiana]*, which may be consulted in the Library. No. 11 (*Hikāyat Hang Tūah*) was acquired in 1926.

The collection, which is eighteenth and nineteenth century, comprises rhymed tales; various histories, including the *Sējarah Mēlayu* (No. 1) and a History of Johore (No. 10); a law-book of Minangkabau, with an introduction dealing with legendary tales of the social institutions of Minangkabau (No. 2); a valuable text of *Hikāyat Bandyar* (No. 4, edited from this MS. by J. J. Ras, The Hague, 1968); and an eighteenth-century text of *Hikāyat Hang Tūah* (No. 11).

BATAK

Twenty-nine items. Fifteen on bark, ten on bamboo, three on paper, and one on bone.

(a) Nos. 1-26. Acquired with the Crawford collection. While in the Bibliotheca Lindesiana a catalogue, unpublished,

was prepared (before 1898) by C. M. Pleyte and may be consulted in the Library together with notes on certain of the MSS. made by G. K. Niemann in 1878. Nos. 1, 5, 8-10, and perhaps others, were purchased from the collection of Professor H. C. Millies of Utrecht in 1870¹; four of the MSS. about which Niemann made notes are from the "Bragge collection". According to Pleyte Nos. 2, 12, 13, 20 and 22 are in the Toba dialect, No. 6 in South Toba, No. 11 in sub-Toba, Nos. 1, 4, 5 and 7 in Mandailing, and Nos. 3, 8, 9, and 10 in South Mandailing.

Nos. 1-26 were described, with plates, by Dr. P. Voorhoeve of Leiden in his article entitled "Batak Bark Books", *BJRL*, xxxiii. 291-96, preceded by an introduction (pp. 283-91).

(b) Nos. 27-29. (One on bark, one on bamboo, one on bone). Acquired subsequently from various sources. Not yet catalogued.

BUGINESE

Five. Paper and palm-leaf.

Acquired with the Crawford collection, where they were numbered 1-3, 3a-4. Two descriptions (by J. C. G. Jonker and an unidentified cataloguer) are bound in an unpublished *Catalogue of Indonesian MSS. [in the Bibliotheca Lindesiana]* which may be consulted in the Library.

According to this, the collection is eighteenth and nineteenth century and comprises a collection of didactic poems, c. 1800 (No. 1); a letter of 1845 to the Governor of Makayar from Majoor Kalang Kangang (No. 2); parts of the Galigo epic (Nos. 3, 3a); and a collection of Mohammedan prayers with a Buginese translation, c. 1800 (No. 4).

BALINESE

Seven. Palm-leaf.

Acquired with the Crawford collection and described by G. K. Niemann and Dr. Van Eck in an unpublished *Catalogue*

¹ Most of the Indonesian manuscripts in the Bibliotheca Lindesiana appear to have been purchased from this collection. An account of Indonesian manuscripts in English libraries, by Dr. Voorhoeve, is being prepared for publication.

of *Indonesian MSS.* [in the *Bibliotheca Lindesiana*], which may be consulted in the Library.

According to this, the manuscripts date from between the sixteenth century and the nineteenth and include an Old Javanese law code (No. 2); a *Chronicle* of the relation between the royal families of Bali and Lombok (No. 5); and medical and mystical works.

MADURESE

One. Paper.

Acquired with the Crawford collection.

Tanda Angrək, 1848. Described in the above *Catalogue*.

JAVANESE

Twenty-six. Paper and palm-leaf.

(a) Nos. 1-23. Acquired with the Crawford collection, where they were numbered 1-16, 18-23 (the present numbering includes a 5a). Descriptions by C. M. Pleyte and others were bound in the unpublished *Catalogue of Indonesian MSS.* [in the *Bibliotheca Lindesiana*], which may be consulted in the Library.

The collection, which is eighteenth and nineteenth century, comprises histories, chronicles, legends, romances and stories (including two collections of Bible stories), and religious, legal and poetical works. Nos. 2, 5a, 6, 7, 10, 14, 16 and 20-23 are illustrated, Nos. 7 (*Legends of Damar Wulan*) and 16 (*Radèn Pañji Sèmara Bangun*) profusely so.

(b) Nos. 24-26. Acquired from P. Phillipps and I. Leslie in 1950 and 1954. Not yet catalogued.

KAWI

Two. Paper and palm-leaf.

Acquired with the Crawford collection.

No. 1, *Bhārata Yuddha*, eighteenth century; No. 2, portion of the Kawi version of the *Mahābhārata*, nineteenth century. Described in the above *Indonesian Catalogue*.

MACASSARESE

Two. Paper.

Acquired with the Crawford collection.

Collections of (No. 1) four moral tales and (No. 2) six miscellaneous historical treatises. Nineteenth century. Described in the above Indonesian *Catalogue*.

CENTRAL ASIA

TIBETAN

Fourteen. Paper.

(a) Nos. 1-6. Acquired with the Crawford collection. Accounts (fuller for Nos. 1 and 4, brief for Nos. 2, 3, 5 and 6), in English and German, were made for an unpublished catalogue of *Thibetan MSS. [in the Bibliotheca Lindesiana]*, which may be consulted in the Library.

(b) Nos. 7-14. Acquired subsequently from various sources.

A typescript catalogue (1970) of Nos. 1-12 by Dr. G. B. Samuel of Cambridge may be consulted in the Library. No. 6 comprises two sandalwood book covers, with inscriptions in Chinese, Mongolian and Sanskrit and six coloured miniatures.

See also under Mo-So.

“ PARSİ ”

Twenty-one. Paper.

(a) Nos. 1-19. Acquired with the Crawford collection. According to notes which came with that collection: “ This group comprises MSS. in Zand, Pahlavi, etc. relating to the Parsi Religion.” They were described in some detail by E. W. West (Nos. 1-12, 18-19) and Professor Geldner (Nos. 13-17) in an unpublished *Catalogue of Parsi MSS. [in the Bibliotheca Lindesiana]*, which may be consulted in the Library. No. 19 was acquired from the Nathaniel Bland collection in 1866. Most of the remainder were formerly owned by the Orientalist John Wilson (1804-75).

(b) Nos. 20-21. Acquired subsequently. No. 20, presented by J. H. Moulton in 1914, consists of photographs "of a (?) Pahlawi document lately found in a sealed jar at Awramān in Persian Turkestān" [endorsement, subscribed "Edward G. Browne, 11 November 1913"]. No. 21, acquired in 1920, is the *Avesta*.

FAR EASTERN

CHINESE¹

Thirty-one.

Acquired with the Crawford collection. The basis of the Crawford Chinese collection was the important library of Pierre Léopold Van Alstein (sold at Ghent in 1863) supplemented by works purchased from the library of Pauthier, from English and continental booksellers, and through an agent in Peking employed by Lord Lindsay. The total number of pên acquired by Mrs. Rylands in 1901 was c. 8,000.

Two guides came with the collection: (1) [J. P. Edmond], *Bibliotheca Lindesiana: Catalogue of Chinese Books and Manuscripts* (Privately Printed, 1895), and (2) *Catalogue of Chinese Books*, an account in manuscript (183 fols.) containing much fuller descriptions of the Van Alstein purchase with "an appendix including some works from the collection of M. Duprat, Bookseller in Paris, and a few others", compiled by John Williams in 1863; other hands have made additions.

The following are manuscripts: Nos. 13, 68, 94, 95, 102, 116, 119, 135, 217, 222, 224, 235-44, 246, 327, 354, 398, 416-17, 449-50, 460, 466. They date mostly from the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and include histories, biographies, ceremonies, dictionaries, grammars, and works on calligraphy, in Chinese, English, French and Latin. Some are associated with the distinguished French Sinologist Jean Pierre Abel

¹ With the Crawford collection came also fifty-seven volumes and folders containing paintings, mostly of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, relating to many aspects of China and Chinese life. Eight similar volumes were acquired in 1941.

Rémusat (d. 1832). A number of items are from the library of Heinrich Julius Klaproth (d. 1835).

See also under Mo-So.

JAPANESE

Twenty-two.

Acquired with the Crawford collection which comprises c. 1,000 pên, including many Tokugawa period prints, several of them illustrated.

Two, unpublished, guides came with the collection: (1) *Catalogue of Japanese Books*, in various hands. The Crawford Librarian, J. P. Edmond, considered this so untrustworthy that he compiled (2) "a new *Classified Catalogue of Japanese MSS.*" [sic, for *Books and MSS.*], "which was revised by Professor Douglas and Sir Ernest Satow". This is "arranged by classes and it was my intention to add a number key, index of names, index of titles and a preface". Regrettably he did not do this.

The following are manuscripts: Nos. 63, 65, 67, 75, 93, 125, 136, 138-41, 149-50, 156, 164, 195, 197, 215, 225-8. Most are eighteenth and nineteenth century, the subjects including history, poetry, drama, anthropology and topography, in Japanese, Dutch and English; amongst them are four volumes of annotated drawings of plants and insects. Former owners include Van Alstein, Klaproth, Nathaniel Bland, and Frederick V. Dickins, whose "Japanese Library" Lord Crawford bought in 1871.

MONGOLIAN

Two. Paper.

Acquired with the Crawford collection.

No. 1, *Altan Gerel*, with a binding of thick wooden covers covered with gilt cloth; under the cloth on the front cover is a painted miniature. Seventeenth century. Professor Walther Heissig of Bonn has identified this as "a copy of the *Suvarnaprabhasa* translation prepared shortly after 1580, by order of Altan Khan, by his grandson Buyan bagatur". No. 2, *Sandan*, written in Kalmuck. It bears the following inscription in German "Tagl. Gebet an Dshakshimuni", identified by Professor Heissig as being in the hand of the Moravian brother

Johann Jaehrig (d. 1795), translator of Mongolian to the Tsar and a notable collector of Mongolian manuscripts for St. Petersburg, Göttingen, and other learned institutions in Europe. Formerly in the Van Alstein collection.

Brief descriptions occur in an unprinted catalogue of *Mexican and Mongolian MSS.* [in the *Bibliotheca Lindesiana*], which is available in the Library.

Mo-So (NA-KHI)

135, plus several fragments. On thick, bark paper.

Acquired at different times between 1916 and 1920 from the botanist George Forrest, one of the few Europeans to have lived in the ancient Mo-So capital Li-chiang. The Rylands collection is the second largest in Europe.

Both pictographic and syllabic texts occur. Of the two main types of Mo-So manuscript, those used for divination and those from which their propitiation and other ceremonies were chanted, our collections consist mainly of the latter. Some are decorated in a style reminiscent of that of the three brothers known as Dto-la, who were illustrating Mo-So texts during the last century of the Ming dynasty. Nos. 6, 9 and 93 contain Chinese translations, Nos. 43 and 47 Tibetan translations, and Nos. 63, 77 and 88 Tibetan inscriptions. At the end of the collection are two loose leaves in Tibetan.

The late Dr. Joseph F. Rock, a recognized authority in this field, had arranged to describe the collection but died before completing his examination. He has, however, left typescript notes on the following, which may be consulted in the Library: Nos. 1, 24, 79, 83-88, 92-93, 100, 104-105, 114, 122, 125, 128-130. He described the Rylands manuscripts as "very old" and as coming, with some exceptions, from outlying districts of Li-chiang rather than from the capital itself. He also dealt with certain of our manuscripts in his account of Mo-So funeral ceremonies in *Studia Instituti Anthropos*, vol. 9 (1955) and drew on them for his *A Na-Khi-English Encyclopedic Dictionary*, Part I (*Serie Orientale Roma*, xxviii), Rome, 1963. See also the article by A. Jackson, "Mo-So Magical Texts" in *BJRL*, xlviii.