

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
LIBRARY HISTORY GROUP

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This is the last Newsletter to be published by the Library History Group. Since the publication of the first issue at the beginning of 1963, the Group has grown considerably and the Newsletter has grown with it, and the Committee now feels that a more formal dress is appropriate. The next issue, therefore, will be no. 1 of a new periodical called Library History: the journal of the Library History Group. It will be published twice a year, and will be distributed free to all members of the Group; libraries and other institutions which receive the Newsletter will also receive Library History. It is hoped that the new style will encourage members of the Group to use it as a medium for discussion and for the publication of material on all aspects of the history of libraries, librarianship and book-collecting; the present sections of notes and news will be continued, together with some longer articles. Mr. Stanley Gillam's article on the London Library will appear in the first issue.

Recent months have seen the publication of a great many studies of interest to the historian of libraries. The survey below, based on what has come the way of the editor, has no claim to completeness, but it is hoped that it will serve as some sort of guide to this activity. Notes of any omissions will be gratefully received for later mention and for consideration for the bibliography of British library history.

Mr. Roderick Cave, of Loughborough College of Further Education, editor of The Private Library (the quarterly of the Private Libraries Association) writes to say that he would welcome contributions, particularly in the field of book-collecting and private libraries but also on most pre-1850 libraries.

Meetings, etc.

The 1966 Annual General Meeting of the Library History Group was held on April 1st at Sion College. After the formal business of the meeting members were given the opportunity to inspect this historic library.

Many members of the Group were present at Guildhall, London, on May 15th, when Dr. Thomas Kelly delivered the Library Association's annual lecture. His subject was "Public Libraries and public opinion". Dr. Kelly's thorough study of the history of British public libraries has put him in an unrivalled position to survey the changing attitude of the public: he showed how there had been a development from the purely philanthropic view of public libraries 'For the working classes', in the early years after 1850, to a view concerned much more with education and, later, with the cultural good of the whole community. He commented also upon the mass of documentary evidence on the occupations of early library users, material which has never been properly analysed, despite its sociological importance.

Journal of Library History

The first two issues (vol. 1, no. 1 and 2) of this new and welcome periodical have now appeared. It is published quarterly, under the editorship of Dean Louis Shores, by the Florida State University

Library School, Tallahassee, at \$10 per year. It is sure to provide an important medium for writing on American library history in particular; of more general interest on this side of the Atlantic are the article by Barbara McCrimmon on The Libri Case; and Sidney L. Jackson's Cassiodorus' Institutes and Christian book selection, which sheds light on some aspects of early mediaeval libraries. The shorter articles, on such topics as the development of the Surgeon-General's Library as an archetype of the special library, and the use of books in Ohio before 1850, are the first in what will clearly be a valuable series of historical studies of libraries in America.

Thomas Kelly: Early Public libraries. A History of Public Libraries in Great Britain before 1850. London, Library Association, 1966. pp. 281. 22 pl. , bibhog. 56s. (42s. to members)

Thomas Kelly: Public Libraries in Great Britain before 1850. London, Library Association, 1966. pp. 40. Front., bibliog. (Library Association Pamphlet No. 26) 5s. (3/6d. to members).

The first of the above-named publications, which is the main subject of these paragraphs, is the preliminary volume of a work on the history of public libraries in Great Britain commissioned by the Library Association. In it Dr. Kelly considers the extent and growth of public access to books from the Middle Ages to 1850.

He established three main types of library - institutional (of monasteries, cathedrals, universities, professional societies and mechanics' institutes), endowed (of parishes in particular) and subscription (of private members, book clubs and commercial circulating libraries), thus providing a basis for the lucid analysis of a complex field. The gradual evolution of the free lending library (the earliest is considered to have been that of the parish church of Repton in Derbyshire, 1622) is revealed through a discussion of numerous and varied foundations, supported by quotations and by comments on the size, quality and arrangement of the book-stock, as well as its accessibility to potential users.

Since Dr. Kelly presupposes no knowledge on the part of the reader, a stylistic ambivalence exists between the summaries of much that is familiar and the wealth of scholarly detail which forms a large portion of the book. For instance, we are informed that "The art of printing from movable type, perfected by Johann Gutenberg of Mainz about 1450, spread rapidly to other continental centres, especially in Germany, France, Italy and the Low Countries" (p. 38). We are also reminded of the excitement felt by those drawing up the British Museum Cataloguing Rules when they realised that it was possible to enter Quiller-Couch under Q or C, Walter de la Mare under D or M, etc. (p. 178).

Another feature with which it is possible to disagree is the index. Its function as a finding-tool" is diminished by the excessive synthesis which incorporates a great deal of effort, but which leads to three columns of entries under the word "Libraries". References from specific to more general headings and the untidy superordinate "qualifiers" do not help. To give one example, Mechanics' Institute libraries are subsumed under "Education" and "Libraries - 2 Institutional - (g) Secular Societies".

However, such irritations are minor in comparison with the great service that Dr. Kelly has performed in elucidating this exceedingly involved aspect of library history. He has read widely and critically, verifying the information in his sources, correcting and amplifying it where necessary. In particular, he contributes a great deal to the history of endowed libraries, disagreeing on occasion, with the information in the Central Council for the Care of Churches Parochial Libraries of the Church of England (p.109, n.2). Two admirable appendices which incorporate considerable research enumerate the endowed libraries founded before 1800 and the Bray libraries founded up to 1850.

A third appendix lists definitions of the library terminology evolved by the author, which is certain to be adopted as standard usage. There is a variety of attractive illustrations; perhaps the most pleasing of the author's discoveries is Wisbech Town Library's catalogue of Benefactors on the title-page of which an eighteenth century comment appears, "and God send us a Better Librarian" (p. 208).

To conclude, this book is important for two reasons: it provides a résumé of early British library history in one volume, which might have had to be gleaned from several and it is a working tool of the highest order which not only presents for the first time a unified view of library provision in Great Britain, but in the many foundations enumerated and in the extensive bibliographical references provides much raw material for further research.

An abridged version of the book in which the main narrative outline is preserved has been published in the form of a pamphlet.

L.M. Newman

Notes on some further recent publications.

Professor Irwin's The English library (Allen & Unwin, 42/-) is a revision and extension of his well-known Origins of the English library; he has provided a new introductory chapter and one on the Byzantine age, as well as adding new material throughout. In his Heritage of the English library Professor Irwin cited A. D. Momigliano's British Academy lecture of 1955, Cassiodorus and Italian culture of his time: this has now been reprinted in a collected volume Of Momigliano's Studies in historiography (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 45/-). Another study of ancient libraries is a doctoral thesis submitted to the Catholic University America by Jenó Platthy, Sources of the earliest Greek libraries (1965). This and other American theses mentioned below are listed in Library Quarterly, vol. 36 (1966), no. 1.

The mediaeval treatment of books and documents, in particular early methods of listing, in catalogues and wills, is dealt with in an article by Miss Jane Sayers, The medieval care and custody of the Archbishop of Canterbury's archives (Bulletin of the Institute of Historical Research, vol. 39 (1966), no. 99, pp. 95-107). The majority of the archives with which Miss Sayers is concerned are now in Lambeth Palace Library. S.L. Greenslade's The contents Of the Library of Durham Cathedral Priory (Transactions of the Architectural and Archaeological Society of Durham and Northumberland, vol. 11, part 5 & 6 (1965), pp. 347-369) surveys the changing and developing contents of a Benedictine library in the 12th-14th centuries. It was largely historical and theological, but contained also a small portion of the "classicizing humanists", signalling the decline of scholasticism.

Two more American theses bring us to the beginnings of modern libraries: Thomas Bloch, The lives and works of the sixteenth century bibliographers (Graduate Library School, University of Chicago, 1964) and Nati H. Krivasty, Libraries in seventeenth-century England (Catholic University of America, 1965). A.G. Watson's The library of Sir Simonds D'Ewes (British Museum Bicentenary Publications, no. 2, 1966; 105/-) is a highly important contribution to the history of book-collecting and of the Harleian and Royal libraries. Mr. Watson has traced the books and manuscripts collected by D'Ewes (1602-50), and has added to the detailed catalogue a full introduction covering his life and the acquisition of this great historical library. He devotes much space to its arrangement and appearance, and deals fully with its sale to Robert Harley, from whom it passed into the Royal Library and so into the British Museum.

The Harleian Library is the principal subject of the latest publication of the Bibliographical Society: The diary of Humfrey Wanley, 1715-1726, edited by C. E. and R. C. Wright (2 volumes, 1966). The two original volumes of the diary in the Department of Manuscripts at the British Museum are well-known, but even with Wanley's own index their usefulness has hitherto been limited. Now Dr. and Mrs. Wright have produced a splendid edition of one of the most important contemporary records of eighteenth century librarianship. Wanley's activities as keeper of the Harleian Library, his purchases and negotiations with all the leading collectors of his time, are readily available, fully indexed and annotated; and the long introduction and bibliography make this an indispensable addition to the literature of library history. Another document by Wanley (noted by Dr. and Mrs. Wright in their bibliography) is a letter edited by Geoffrey Wakeman: Humfrey Wanley on erecting a library, in The

Private Library, vol. 6, no. 4 (October 1965). This letter, written to Robert Harley in 1714, gives an earlier example of Wanley's views.

Two theses accepted recently by the Library Association for the F.L.A. are G. E. Maxim's History of library publishing, 1600 to the present day, in two volumes; and V. J. Kite's Libraries in Bath, 1618-1964. These studies indicate the high standard demanded for such theses.

Douglas Duncan's Thomas Ruddiman (Edinburgh, Oliver & Boyd, 1965; 42/-) deals with "the foremost literary scholar in the Scotland of his day". Ruddiman (1674-1757) served the library of the Faculty of Advocates for over 50 years, beginning in 1702 as "bibliothecar's servant". He was responsible for building up the library on the basis of the Copyright Act of 1709, and his principal memorial is the author catalogue completed in 1733 and published in 1742. Mr. Duncan, in the chapter devoted to his work as librarian, also sketches the history of the Advocates' Library in general, and more particularly mentions the activity of Ruddiman's successor, the philosopher David Hume. Another article on Hume's librarianship appears in Library Quarterly, vol. 36, no. 2 (1966), pp. 88-98: Michael H. Harris's David Hume: scholar as librarian gives a useful survey of the Advocates' Library from 1752 to 1757.

Dr. Paul Kaufman has followed his study of community lending libraries in Ireland and Wales (Library Quarterly, vol. 33) with a major article published in the Papers of the Bibliographical Society of America, vol. 59 (1965), no. 3, pp. 233-294. The rise of community libraries in Scotland is based on surviving catalogues of circulating libraries, reading societies, book clubs, subscription libraries of the parochial type and the Dundee Burgh Library, which was based on the 13th-century library of the Franciscan monastery. The majority of such libraries, however, have left no catalogues.

The developing proprietary and subscription libraries in England in the later eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries have produced their share of recent literature. Charles Parish's History of the Birmingham Library (Library Association, 1966; 21/-) draws on the records of this proprietary library, founded about 1779, which survives today, though now united with the Birmingham and Midland Institute. The part played in its foundation and early history by Joseph Priestly, the theologian and scientist, is given full treatment, and Mr. Parish's detail enables the running of a library of this sort to be studied closely. He also sketches the library's later history to 1955. Circulating and other libraries principally in Bath and Brighton in 1817 are the subject of J. E. Vaughan's Contrasts in ideas for library provision in early nineteenth-century England (Library Association Record, vol. 68 (1966), no.2, pp. 45-49). Mr. Vaughan points out the disparity between library provision in fashionable centres and the efforts made by the clergy and others to improve the working classes. In Sir Francis Hill's Georgian Lincoln (Cambridge University Press, 1966; 80/-), some details are given of the foundation of the Lincoln Library (proprietary) in 1814, succeeding two earlier establishments. Its first president was Dr. Edward Charlesworth, who appears, interestingly enough, to have made an enemy of Col. Charles Sibthorp, the leader of the forces of reaction in Parliament against Ewart's public libraries bill. Sir Francis also refers to the New Permanent Library in Lincoln, founded in 1822 to cater for the lower classes and later absorbed by a Mechanics' Institute.

One of the most noted bibliographers of the early nineteenth century was the Rev. Thomas Frognall Dibdin (1776-1847). The Houghton Library at Harvard has now published a beautifully produced bibliography by the late Professor W.A. Jackson, An annotated list of the publications of T. F. Dibdin (1965). As well as descriptions of such works as the Bibliographical Decameron (1817) and Dibdin's catalogue of the Bibliotheca Spenceriana (1814-23), Professor Jackson has succeeded in identifying many of the collectors described under classical sobriquets in the Bibliomania (1809).

An article of more interest, perhaps, to the archivist, is R. B. Pugh's Charles Abbot and the Public Records: the first phase (Bulletin of the Institute of Historical Research, vol. 39 (1966), no. 99). Abbot, Speaker of the House of Commons, presided over the first two Record Commissions, and in 1800 suggested legislation for setting up county record offices. As well as investigating the state of the

public records, he undertook a survey of manuscripts in ecclesiastical and institutional libraries in 1799-1800.

The India Office library: its history, resources and functions, by Rajeshwari Datta (Library Quarterly, vol. 36 (1956), no. 2, pp. 98-148), gives a great amount of detail, not all of it important, on the working of the library at various periods; the present dispute over the future of its collections lends interest to Mr. Datta's study.

An interesting collection of historical illustrations in Malcolm Seaborne's Education (Visual History of Modern Britain; Studio Vista, 1966; 45/-) includes several of libraries, such as the Selden Wing of the the Bodleian, 17th-century furnishings at Jesus College, Oxford, and, less familiarly, a picture of a primitive travelling library - a horse and cart - which belonged to the Warrington Mechanics' Institute in 1860.

An account of a library set up in Scotland to improve the workers is given in A factory library at Blantyre in the nineteenth century by R.E. Adams (The Bibliothek, vol. 4, no. 5, 1965). Also from Scotland comes a history of Glasgow Public libraries, 1874-1966, published at 5/- by the library, and illustrated with colour plates.

E.R. Reid-Smith's The contribution of public libraries to English adult education (a dissertation for the Diploma in Adult Education of the University of Manchester, 1966) deals principally with libraries after 1850. A copy of the work is available in the library of the Library Association.

American library history cannot be recovered fully in these notes, but a particularly interesting work is Benjamin Franklin and eighteenth-century American libraries, by Margaret B. Korty' (American Philosophical Society, Transactions, vol. 55 (1965), no. 9; \$2. 00). Miss Korty describes Franklin's great interest in and encouragement of libraries, particularly in Philadelphia, where the Library Company owed much to his efforts; the American Philosophical Society itself was one more of the many libraries with which he was concerned. The good bibliography consists mainly of contemporary documents, catalogues and later accounts of the libraries dealt with. Two more theses may also be mentioned: J. M. Goudeau on Early libraries in Louisiana (Western Reserve University, Ph.D., 1965), and Phyllis Gale's The development of the public library in Canada (Graduate Library School, University of Chicago, 1965). The library of the University of British Columbia has published a Scrapbook for a golden anniversary, edited by T. Shorthouse and others, giving a survey of its history from 1915 to 1965. (University of British Columbia, 1965).

A few of the many items published on the history of libraries in Europe may also be of interest. V. Tirelli's Gli inventari della biblioteca della Cattedrale di Cremona, sec. X-XIII (Italia Medioevale e Umanistica, 7, pp. 1-77, published 1965) deals first with the 'descriptio' of the library drawn up in 984-5 by bishop Odelricus, and containing 102 entries; this is partly repeated in an 11th-century inventory of the cathedral treasures, and the article also reprints the 'catalogo dei libri' of 1201, which has only 82 entries. The documentation and identification of the books in these very early catalogues is excellently done. A much later period of Italian libraries is covered in a short article by Cardinal Tisserant, 75 years of the life of the Vatican library (Manuscripta, vol. 9 (1965, pp. 3 -11).

An early French monastic library is described in La bibliothèque des chanoines réguliers d'Aureil en Limousin au 13e siècle, by J. Becquet (Bulletin de la Société Archéologique et Historique du Limousin, vol. 92 (1965), pp.107-134). French libraries in the seventeenth century, especially personal libraries, are given 44 entries in the preliminary section of A. Cioranescu's Bibliographie de la littérature française du 17e siècle (Paris, CNRS, 19 65), which follows his similar bibliography of the sixteenth century.

The first volume of the history of one of Germany's biggest libraries, dealing with the period from 1661-1871, is Eugen Paunel's Die Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin: ihre Geschichte und Organisation während der ersten zwei Jahrhunderte seit ihrer Eröffnung (Berlin, De Gruyter, 1965; DM. 98). A second volume will deal with the history up to the time of Milkau's librarianship in 1921-25.

The concentration camp established at Terezin (Theresienstadt) in Czechoslovakia had what appears to be a remarkably efficient library run by the late Emil Utitz from 1942-1945. A chapter by him, The central ghetto library, appears in Terezin, published (in English) in Prague by the Council of Jewish Communities, 1965, and gives a good picture of the librarian in circumstances as unhappy as can be imagined.

Finally, returning to a more English library, there is an article in the special number of the Times of Malta issued to mark the 400th anniversary of the foundation of Valletta, on March 23rd, 1966: Henry C. Formosa's Their contributions over 150 years have made the Royal Malta Library what it is today covers the librarians of this library since 1811, when its own premises were built, and supplements Sir Hannibal Scicluna's account in A. Macmillan's Malta and Gibraltar (1915).

Death of a library

The Hampstead Subscription Library closed after 133 years on April 2nd, 1966. It was founded in 1833 as the Hampstead Public Library of General Literature and Elementary Science, and among its early subscribers were John Constable and Samuel Rogers. In common with many similar libraries it excluded party political works and theological literature, though in later, less controversially-minded times, theology was admitted. The book-stock has been dispersed, but all the library's papers and records have been deposited at Hampstead Central Library (London Borough of Camden), Swiss Cottage, N.W.3. I am grateful to Mr. F. D. Cole, deputy librarian, for allowing me to see this collection of accounts, correspondence, lists of members and catalogues (including one in guard book form). Unfortunately no records of borrowings have been preserved, so far as is known.

A sixteenth-century borrowing.

A copy of the Sarum Missal, printed at Rouen in 1509, was sold at Christie's on June 29th, 1966. It contains a note in an early 16th-century hand. "Sir Henry Halsall knyght dyd geve this masse boke to Halsall church", and another, roughly contemporary but in a different hand, which records "that Willm Welding borowed this boke of Sir Thomas Haskew prest to be delyverd a.gayne when he hade done with hit to Halsall church". The Victoria County History for Lancashire reveals that Sir Henry Halsall died in 1522, but its list of rectors of Halsall does not give a Thomas Haskew. There is a George Hesketh, rector from 1571 to 1594, and a Thomas Ayscough of Aintree is mentioned as being connected with the village in 1482. Presumably William Welding never returned the book; it has been in the Adair family since the nineteenth century at least. Perhaps a member of the Library History Group can throw some light on the matter. Both the Editor and Mr. Frank Lissauer of Christie's would be glad to hear of anything more which can be discovered about the book.