



AMPLE

Edinburgh University
Library



1580 - 1980



Exhibition
Catalogue



40p

Edinburgh University Library
1580 — 1980

**A
Commemorative
Exhibition**

Edinburgh
University Library
1980

Preface

In 1980 Edinburgh University Library proudly remembers the Edinburgh advocate Clement Little, who in 1580 bequeathed his collection of theological books to the town and kirk of Edinburgh, so that they could be used by those training for the ministry. This library was soon transferred to the newly established University so that it would be more accessible to students, and from this collection of 276 volumes has grown Edinburgh University Library, which now contains almost 2 million books and manuscripts. One might well ask, as did William Drummond of Hawthornden in an essay 'Of libraries', 'of small beginnings who is ignorant what great effects may follow?'

The Library's history is reflected not only in its successive buildings, or in the expanding system of Faculty, Departmental and Class Libraries, but also in the changing methods of book acquisitions, the catalogues, the services available to users of the Library, and former Librarians. But the history of the Library is not simply a question of changes, and many library processes, aids and services which were established long ago continue to be of use in a modern library. Benefactors, too, have been a constant source of support throughout the Library's history, and it is hoped that many more will follow the example set by Clement Little in 1580. The year 1980, then, is the time to pause and look back at the achievements of the past, so that the essential constants of librarianship in Edinburgh University Library may be retained alongside new developments which the computer will introduce in the next hundred years.

In the course of preparing this exhibition I have received help from many people: thanks are due to Mr C.P. Finlayson, formerly Keeper of Manuscripts in Edinburgh University Library for allowing me a preview, before publication, of his study of Clement Little and his library, to the editors of a volume of essays on the history of Edinburgh University Library for giving access to the contributions in draft, to A.L. Hunter for permission to use in the exhibition photographs of the building in George Square, to colleagues in the Main and Sectional Libraries, and especially to Marjorie Robertson of the Special Collections Department and to the staff of the Photographic Department. Dr Ian Campbell kindly read through the catalogue in draft.

CLEMENT LITTLE (c. 1530-1580) AND HIS LIBRARY

1. The inventory of Clement Little's theological books.

Copy of the minute of the Town Council of Edinburgh, 14 October 1580.

(Dd.3.16/1)

In his will the advocate Clement Little left to the town and kirk of Edinburgh his library of theological books valued at 1,000 merks, 'to be usit and kept be the said kirk to the use of the ministeris, elderis and decanes thairof'. William Little, who was his brother's executor, determined that the Town Council should have some control over the collection, and delivered the books to the Council on 14 October 1580; and it was decided that although the books would be in the charge of the minister of the kirk, at that time James Lawson, they were to be made available to all serious students, as well as to kinsmen of Clement Little. Accordingly, the books were housed in the attic of the manse of St. Giles'. The document shown is a copy of the original minute of the Town Council and of the inventory of the books, which was transcribed by the Town Clerk Alexander Guthrie, so that it could be displayed in the Library. The order of the books in this inventory is probably a reflection of their original arrangement on the shelves of Clement Little's library.

2. An early purchase.

Archbishop John Hamilton, *The Catechisme, that is to say, ane cōmone and catholik instructioun of the christin people in materis of our catholik faith and religioun*, Sanct Androu, 1552.

(Dd.2.33)

Clement Little may have started collecting books while he was a student at Louvain, since the ownership inscription on the titlepage of his copy of the works of Augustine, 'Clemens parvus', corresponds with the way he signed the matriculation register of Louvain University. In the 1550s Clement Little acquired many books directly from booksellers, and they can be identified in the collection because they bear no marks of previous ownership. Among these was Archbishop Hamilton's *Catechisme*, which was given in to the Town Council, with seven other works, on 7 January 1581, some three months after William Little had handed over the main portion of the library.

Though the Reformation in Scotland was not established until 1560, there had been ample signs of its coming before this date. In particular, the Provincial Councils of the Scottish Church held in 1549, 1552 and 1559, under the direction of John Hamilton, Archbishop of

St. Andrews promulgated various reforms which went a long way towards meeting the criticisms of the Reformers. The publication of 'Hamilton's Catechism', the first book printed in St. Andrews, was authorised by the 1552 council; and it was intended that the catechism should go some way towards remedying the deficiencies of the clergy in matters of religious instruction.

3. A later addition to the library.

Theodore Beza, *Tractatio de polygamia et divortiiis*, Genevae, apud Io. Crispinum, 1568.

Bound with T. Beza's *Tractatio de repudiis et divortiiis* (Geneva, 1569). (Dd.6.11)

Clement Little added to his collection throughout his life, and this volume, again without any marks of previous ownership, was probably bought soon after its publication. On the titlepage can be seen Clement Little's heraldic stamp, and the motto 'I am gevin to Edinburgh & Kirk of God be Maister Clement Little thair to reman. 1580' which William Little had impressed on the titlepages of all the books before they were handed over to the Town Council. In the case of composite volumes such as this, which also contains Beza's *Tractatio de repudiis et divortiiis* (Geneva, 1569), only the first titlepage was stamped.

Clement Little's theological library was wide ranging; not only was there comprehensive coverage of the writings of the early Church Fathers and later Catholic theologians, but a place was also given to the works of the Protestant Reformers. Works on canon law, such as Beza's treatises, were undoubtedly acquired in connection with Clement Little's work in the commissary court of Edinburgh. This was established in 1564 to replace the church courts which had fallen into disuse since the Reformation, and it had powers to deal with divorce cases from all parts of the country and also with certain lawsuits relating to wills.

4. A book from the library of Clement Little's friend Henry Sinclair, Bishop of Ross.

Constitutiones Concilii Provincialis Moguntini, Parisiis, apud Audioennum Parvum, 1550.

(Dd.2.6)

Henry Sinclair (1508-1565) was the second son of Sir Oliver Sinclair of Roslin. Destined for a career in the Church, Henry Sinclair found rapid advancement as a result of royal favours, and he was

appointed Dean of Glasgow in 1550, and Bishop of Ross ten years later. His library is the largest known collection belonging to a Scottish owner in pre-Reformation times. Clement Little was a close friend of Henry Sinclair, and probably owed his own swift promotion in the legal profession to Sinclair, who was president of the College of Justice. This friendship was unaltered by Clement Little's conversion to the Protestant faith at the Reformation, and Clement Little was appointed executor to Sinclair shortly before his death in 1565.

Clement Little received from Sinclair's library 39 volumes, which were either bequeathed or given to Little by Sinclair's heir, Sir William Sinclair of Roslin. The volume shown is in its original binding with Sinclair's stamp tooled in gold on the covers, bearing the legend 'Henricus Sinclair Decanus Glasguensis 1550'. Above this, also tooled in gold, is the stamp applied to all the books in the Clement Little collection when they were repaired under the guidance of David Laing and before their removal to new quarters in the Playfair library building in 1827. The legend encircling the Little arms reads 'Bibliothecae Edinburgenae legavit Clemens Littl'.

5-6. Books from monastic libraries in Edinburgh.

5. Convent of Sciennes.

Breviarium ad usum Sarum, Rouen, Martin Morin for Jean Richard, 1496.

(Dd.1.24)

Several volumes in Clement Little's library came from the monastic libraries in Edinburgh, which were dispersed in 1559 after they had been sacked by the populace of the town. The *Sarum Breviary*, the only known copy extant of this edition, originally belonged to John Crawford, chaplain of St. Giles', Edinburgh, who founded the chapel of St. John the Baptist of Borroughmuir in 1511, at which time he presented the breviary to the chapel. The Kalendar has numerous manuscript additions; one entry at Idibus Junii refers to the foundation of the chapel of St. John. A few years later, the chapel was made over to the Dominican nuns of the convent of St. Catherine of Siena (Sciennes), from whose library it came into the possession of Clement Little.

6. Dominican Friary.

Joannes de Turrecremata, *Questiones evangeliorum tam de tempore quã de sanctis*, [Strassburg, Printer of the 1483 Jordanus de Quedlinborg, c. 1487].

(Dd.4.20)

Clement Little acquired his copy of Turrecremata's *Questiones evangeliorum* from the library of the Dominican Friary in Edinburgh, which he may have known as a child, since the Little family house on the south side of the High Street was close by, and an annual rent on the house was payable to the Dominicans. The volume was presented to the Dominicans by William Scheves, Archbishop of St. Andrews. The binding is contemporary with the date of publication, and the title can be seen behind a horn window on the upper cover. The binding was executed in Louvain, and more than 20 similar bindings from the same workshop survive. Although Scheves had been a student at Louvain, he probably acquired this volume, along with eight others in the same distinctive Louvain binding, when he revisited the Low Countries in 1491.

THE ACQUISITION OF BOOKS AND MANUSCRIPTS IN EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

7. Books purchased from graduation fees.

Guilielmus Budaëus, *De asse et partibus eius*, [Paris], in Typographia Ascensiana, 1527.

Bound with A.A.T. Macrobius, *In somnium Scipionis M. Tullii Ciceronis libri duo, et Saturnaliorum lib. VII.* (Paris, 1524). (*T.18.2)

The first books acquired by the University Library were presented by students when they graduated. As the Library could exercise no control over which books were given, the custom was soon replaced by a graduation fee which was made over to the Library for the purchase of books. On the titlepages of these purchases was written the note 'Ego donatus sum Academiae Edinburgense a Magisterii candidatis', and the date of acquisition. The earliest surviving record of books purchased with graduation fees dates from 1635. In 1627 Principal John Adamson began to record in a ledger the monetary contributions of magistrates, and a regular list of book purchases was also kept in this ledger from 1656. The minimum contribution from magistrates was set at £4 in 1664. However the decline in graduations in arts in the eighteenth century inevitably led to financial difficulties; and if medical students had not been keen to acquire the qualification of M.D., the Library would not have had a regular income from graduation fees.

The volume shown was acquired by the Library in 1635. Previously it belonged to John Sinclair, Bishop of Brechin, the brother of Henry Sinclair, Bishop of Ross, and on 1 January 1606 it was acquired by Charles Lumsden, minister of Duddingston, who was regent at Edinburgh University in 1587. The Library was clearly more interested in Budé than Macrobius; two of Budé's works were presented by magistrates in the early seventeenth century, and several more came with the Drummond donations in the 1620s and 1630s. Budé's work *De asse et partibus eius*, a treatise on ancient coins and measures, established his reputation as one of the most eminent of the French scholars who were active in the early sixteenth century.

8. Donations of funds to the Library: William Rlg, 1619.

Conrad Gesner, *Icones animalium quadrupedum viviparorum et oviparorum* *Editio secunda*, Tiguri, excudebat C. Froschouerus, 1560.

Bound with Gesner's *Nomenclator aquatilium animalium* (Tiguri, 1560) and *Icones avium omnium* (Tiguri, 1560). (JY 95)

The Library received many bequests of money in the years immediately after its foundation, and these were an important source of revenue, since its finances had not been properly established. In 1619 William Rigg, a Town Councillor of Edinburgh, left money to the University to support a professor of divinity, and in addition he bequeathed 300 merks to the Library. Following the advice of the teaching staff of the University, the Library was able to acquire with this money 26 books, their titles being recorded on a commemorative list which was specially printed. The volumes also received an appropriate inscription on their titlepages. The emphasis was placed on scientific works, and there are important texts on mathematics, physics and astronomy, as well as Vesalius' celebrated treatise on anatomy. Conrad Gesner (1516-1565) was a Swiss naturalist, best known to his contemporaries as a botanist. His writings are now regarded as the starting point of modern zoology.

9. Books purchased from matriculation fees.

Catalogus discipulorum qui studiorum suorum initio Bibliothecam Edinburgensem auxerunt, 1653-1693.

(Da.1.33)

From 1653 students were encouraged to contribute to the Library when they first matriculated, as well as on graduation, and the ledger shown was begun in order to record individual contributions and note the books purchased with the funds collected in this way. By 1664 a minimum contribution of 30 shillings was levied, although some students felt able to give more. The decline in matriculations following the reorganisation of the system of regents in 1708 added to the Library's difficulties caused by the decline in graduations, and it was necessary in 1763 for Principal Robertson to compel professors to collect the matriculation fees as well as their own. At this date students paid half a crown, and received in return a printed ticket giving admittance to the Library during the following session. It was not until 1810 that matriculation, and the payment of the fees, was made compulsory by the Town Council.

In 1689 a discrepancy in the accounts was discovered; there was supposed to be a balance of some £58.18s.10d, and yet the cash could not be found. Apparently the sum had been borrowed from Library funds during Principal Cant's period of office and had never been returned. The Librarian Robert Henderson attested to this, stating in addition that he 'had never the keeping of the key of the box where the money lay'.

10. Books acquired through Copyright Deposit.

List of works sent to Edinburgh University Library from Stationers' Hall, 1 March 1711.

(Dc.1.41.54)

By an act of parliament of 1709 'for the encouragement of learning', otherwise known as the Copyright Act, Edinburgh University Library obtained the privilege, along with eight other libraries, of claiming from Stationers' Hall a copy of every book printed and published in the country. The act came into force on 10 April 1710, and throughout the eighteenth century provided a valuable source of additions to the Library's stock, though less so after 1763 when the Library finances were reorganised. The list of books sent from Stationers' Hall in 1711 is the earliest of those surviving sent to a Scottish library. It was intended as an inventory against which the books would be checked, and so gives only brief titles of the 159 works despatched. These comprise pamphlets, sermons and broadsides, mainly concerned with the religious and political controversies of the day. The volume shown alongside is one of the consignment; the number at the foot of the titlepage corresponds with its place in the list, and all the books were identified in this way.

It seems that George Ridpath acted as agent in London on behalf of the Library for the despatch of the first copyright books; he was asked to expedite their delivery in Edinburgh by the Librarian Robert Henderson, since the Advocates' Library in Edinburgh had already received theirs, and complaints had been made by professors. The pattern of agents was probably continued as a convenience to the Library, and it is known that two Edinburgh booksellers were commissioned, George Stewart in 1722 and Gavin Hamilton in 1730. The London printer William Strahan received a commission in 1754.

11. The relationship between University teaching and Library purchases.

Philosophical Transactions giving some account of the present undertakings, studies, and labours, of the ingenious, in many considerable parts of the world. Vol. LXVII, part 1. For the year 1767, London, printed for L. Davis and C. Reymer, 1768.

(E.B..506 Roy.)

Throughout the Library's history, there is a clear reflection in Library purchases of the changes and developments in University teaching. The present day historical collections of rare books were originally acquired in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries as textbooks for the use of students. The University was constantly aware of developments in scholarship; for example, the Library was the first

in Scottish universities to acquire a copy of Newton's *Principia*. University teachers were also keen for the Library to fill any gaps in its stock, and in the eighteenth century the lists of accessions show how the Library built up specific subjects following the establishment of new chairs.

The foundation of the Medical Faculty in 1726 had an obvious impact on the nature of the books acquired by the Library. Such was the importance of medicine that Library purchases were recorded in two separate categories, one for the Medical Branch, and the other for the General Branch; and this system continued well into the nineteenth century. The Medical Faculty from the beginning was keen to keep abreast of recent developments in research, and periodical literature has always been an important means of publicising medical discoveries quickly. The volume shown of the *Philosophical Transactions*, the Library's longest running journal, was ordered in 1771.

12. Books ordered by subscription.

Prospectus for *A collection of prints from pictures painted for the purpose of illustrating the dramatic works of Shakespeare by the artists of Great Britain*, 2 vols., London, John and Josiah Boydell, 1803.

(Da.)

The idea of publishing books by subscription was first fully developed in England in the seventeenth century. It was a means of getting into print books which because of the expense of their illustrations were too great a risk for the commercial publisher. On 8 March 1787 the Library subscribed for a series of Shakespearean illustrations, which were intended to complement a projected edition of Shakespeare's plays by George Steevens. The project was slow to progress and expensive to produce, and when completed was said by the publishers to have cost them over £100,000.

13. The meetings of the Curators of the Library.

William Jackson Hooker, *Exotic flora, containing figures and descriptions of new, rare, or otherwise interesting exotic plants*, Vol. 1, Edinburgh, printed for William Blackwood, and T. Cadell, London, 1823.

(K*.21.22)

The function of the Curators of the Library, who were appointed by the Senatus Academicus, was essentially to approve book recommendations and to examine books sent to the Library on

approval. The work of the Curators, later the Library Committee, concerning book purchases was delegated to a Sub-Committee in 1895, and the Library Committee continues to act in this respect through its Periodicals and Special Acquisitions Sub-Committee. Given the limited resources available for book purchases, the Curators had to have a real concern for costs; in 1834 it was decided that the University Library should attempt to buy British and foreign books at a discount from booksellers, and accordingly the Curators wrote to various booksellers with whom they had dealings to enquire what discounts would be available. The preferred estimate was that of Messrs MacLachlan and Stewart, and when this firm ceased trading it entrusted its business with the University Library to Messrs Thin, who are still supplying the University Library.

In the 1820s many recommendations for works on natural history came from Dr Graham, Curator for the Medical Branch, who was Professor of Botany from 1820 until his death in 1845. The first volume of Hooker's *Exotic flora* was received with uncoloured plates under the copyright privilege. However, at a meeting on 5 September 1822 the Curators had decided to order a copy of the work with coloured plates; this set was completed by copyright deposits, and the Library had to purchase the remaining volumes to complete the uncoloured set. Hooker (1785-1865), who was Regius Professor of Botany at Glasgow University until his appointment in 1841 as the first Director of Kew Gardens was chiefly interested in cryptogamic botany, but he also published many important studies on flowering plants.

14. The Reid Bequest.

Thomas Rowlandson, *The English Dance of Death*, 2 vols., London, printed by J. Diggins, published at R. Ackermann's Repository of Arts, 1815-16.

(S.B..82/69 Com.)

In 1837 the privileges available to Edinburgh University Library under the terms of the Copyright Act were withdrawn, and as compensation the Library received an annual grant from the Treasury equal to the value of the books received by copyright deposit. In 1841 the Curators of the Library agreed to apply to the Senatus Academicus for an interim grant from the Reid Bequest to assist them in purchasing such books as were considered too expensive to be bought out of ordinary funds, since General Reid, who had left a considerable sum of money to the University in 1807 to establish and endow a Chair of Music had also specified that money be used to make additions to the Library. A sum of £400 was made available annually, and under the direction of Principal John Lee the Library acquired many rare printed

books as well as a few medieval manuscripts. All the volumes received a commemorative stamp, and later were shelved in the Library's Reid Room. Money from this source ceased after 1853 when a dispute arose between the University and the Town Council over the use of the Reid Bequest.

Purchases from the Reid Bequest were wide ranging, and include items as diverse as a collection of German Reformation tracts from the library of the Duke of Sussex and the bird books of John Gould. Much emphasis was placed on finely produced colour plate books. Rowlandson's *English Dance of Death* was first issued in monthly parts, and appeared in complete form in 1815-16. The text is by William Combe, who had worked previously with Rowlandson on the *Tours of Dr Syntax*, and the plates were executed by Ackermann.

15. Exchanges.

John Eliot, *The Indian primer; or, the way of training up of our Indian youth in the good knowledge of God*, Edinburgh, Andrew Elliot, 1880.

(Df. 7.98*)

Ways other than outright purchase have been open to the Library in its efforts to acquire books. Exchanges date from 1593 when the Library received from the Dominican Convent of Sciennes in Edinburgh seven volumes, including one manuscript, in exchange for the works of Bellarmine. Exchanges were more fully developed in the nineteenth century but were only placed on a more regular footing in 1945 when the Department of Geography allowed the Library to present copies of offprints by members of staff of the Department for exchange purposes. Now a separate department of the Library handles all exchanges, and is able to offer the varied publications of Edinburgh University Press as well as Library publications.

The Indian primer of John Eliot (1604-1690), a work designed to instruct North American Indians in the fundamental tenets of Christianity, was reproduced in facsimile in 1877 from the copy in Edinburgh University Library donated by James Kirton in 1675. The facsimile was edited by the Librarian John Small, and another edition was published in 1880. In 1881 copies of the facsimile were sent to eight North American libraries, no doubt in the hope of eliciting further exchanges.

16. Appeal for funds on behalf of the Library.

- a. University of Edinburgh, *Statement and appeal*, 1898.
- b. Letter of Edward Channing to Professor Prothero, 22 January 1898.

(Da.)

By the 1890s the Library's financial position had seriously deteriorated. In 1890 the Library fund was overspent by one third and expenditure in the session 1890-91 was such that out of the annual grant of £2,300 0 0, only £111.1 0 was left for the last quarter. The Librarian's report for 1894-95 emphasised the fact that the making of both ends meet is obtained only by refraining to purchase what, if money were available, the Library Committee would consider its duty to purchase at once. A public appeal on behalf of the Library for funds was first mooted in 1895, and on 12 January 1898 the Library Committee appointed a Sub-Committee under Sir George Prothero, Professor of History, to act in concert with the Sub-Committee of the University Court. By 6 April the Sub-Committee had drafted a strong appeal, which included provision for increases to the book fund, a new catalogue, and various structural alterations to the building. Much of this was based on information gathered by Professor Prothero, at the suggestion of Andrew Seth Pringle-Patterson, Professor of Logic, concerning the financial position of North American libraries, which was used for purposes of comparison in the appeal document. Details of the finances of the libraries at Harvard and Yale were supplied by the celebrated American historian Edward Channing (1856-1931). The steam was taken out of the appeal by money becoming available in 1898 from the bequest of John Walker, Professor of Natural History, and the Librarian was able to report that this gave the Library almost £500, whereas the appeal had only produced just over £20. The money thus available was used mainly to prepare the new printed catalogue, which had been one of the aims of the appeal. Increases to the book fund were to come in 1903, when the Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland granted to the Library an annual sum of £1000 for a period of five years, which the Library Committee decided should be spent on the purchase of new books and additional journals, as well as on filling gaps in the Library's collections. This was the first of many such grants made to the Library in the twentieth century.

17. The Cathcart White Bequest.

George Farquhar, *The recruiting officer: a comedy*, London, printed for Peter Davies, 1926.

(Ha.2.19)

No. 465 of an edition limited to 550 copies, printed by John Johnson, printer to the University of Oxford, and with illustrations by Max Jaffé.

In 1943 the Library received a valuable collection of printed books and manuscripts bequeathed by the Edinburgh Advocate James Cathcart White. One third of the residue of the estate was left to the University of Edinburgh, to be used for such purposes as the Senatus Academicus should decide upon. The Library Committee submitted that this money should be applied to the maintenance of the Cathcart White collection and to its enlargement by the purchase of books of similar character, and in general of items too expensive to be purchased from ordinary library grants, especially as the Library had no special funds for this purpose since the withdrawal of the Reid Bequest. Following this submission the Senatus Academicus granted half of the money available to the Library for the purposes stated in its submission.

The edition of Farquhar's *The recruiting officer* was purchased from the Cathcart White Bequest, and reflects the Library's interest in English drama, particularly strengthened by the gifts of J.O. Halliwell-Phillipps in 1872 and subsequent years. More recently, in 1964, the Library purchased another large drama collection which had been presented by Halliwell-Phillipps to the Penzance Library in 1866; almost the whole collection was purchased at auction with the help of substantial grants from the University Court and other bodies.

18. **The Friends of Edinburgh University Library.**
Poems from the manuscript of Norman MacCaig's *Rings on a tree*, 1962-67.

(Gen. 1957/8)

Largely due to the initiative of the late John E. Butt, Professor of Rhetoric and English Literature, the Library Committee investigated in 1961 the possibility of starting a body of Friends of Edinburgh University Library. A brochure outlining the aims of the society was circulated to members of the General Council of the University, and other persons who might be interested; and this explained that the funds of the society would be used to acquire manuscripts and rare books which would complement existing research collections and which it would be difficult to purchase from annual grants. At the inaugural meeting on 1 November 1962 a constitution for the Friends was adopted, and officers and a committee were elected. At this time there were just under 500 annual subscribing members, with a further 75 life members. Since their inception the Friends have been very

active in purchasing rare books and manuscripts to add to existing strengths in the collections.

The Library has been particularly interested in the manuscripts of modern Scottish writers since 1967 when a large collection of manuscripts of Hugh MacDiarmid was purchased. Since then the Library, with much support from its Friends, has built up extensive collections of manuscripts of Hugh MacDiarmid, Sydney Goodsir Smith, George Mackay Brown, Norman MacCaig, Edwin Muir, Maurice Lindsay and Helen B. Cruickshank. The poems on display are taken from the manuscript of Norman MacCaig's collection *Rings on a tree*, published in 1968, which was acquired for the Library by the Friends in 1976. According to one critic, MacCaig's *Rings on a tree* 'dramatically demonstrates that his own tree of creation is still in vigorous growth, still producing new branches and fresh fruits'; it was considered one of the best collections to be published in the field of Scottish poetry in 1968.

BENEFACTORS OF THE LIBRARY, 1580-1680

19. **William Drummond.**
Le quatreiesme livre d'Amadis de Gaule, mis en francoys par le Seigneur des Essars Nicolas de Herberay, Paris, pour Ian Longis, 1548.

(De.5.29)

The poet William Drummond of Hawthornden (1585-1649), who graduated from the University of Edinburgh in 1605, was the first major benefactor of the Library. Drummond had a large, varied collection of books, many of which he had acquired abroad. In 1626 he decided to give a large section of his collection to the Library, and a catalogue of the donation was printed in 1627, at the instigation of Principal Adamson. Further gifts were made between 1628 and 1636. The reason why Drummond so generously parted with almost a third of his private library is not known, but his friend Principal Adamson may have encouraged him to make a gesture in order to set an example for future benefactors of the Library. Drummond did not give away only the academic books he no longer wished to read, and the collection contains much contemporary literature. The Drummond collection is now one of the Library's prized collections; it was systematically rebound by David Laing before the books were transferred to Playfair's Library in 1827, and when the Rare Book Room was established it was named after Drummond. The Library in George Square also has its Drummond Room, with facilities for the display of rare books and manuscripts.

20. **James Douglas.**
Tycho Brahe, *De mundi aetheriei recentioribus phaenomenis liber secundus*, Uraniburgi, imprimebat Authoris Typographus Christophorus Uveida, 1588.

(Dd.5.50)

In 1635 James Douglas of Whittingham gave an important collection of mathematical books to the Library. Douglas, a son of Sir Archibald Douglas who had presented books to the Library in 1625, was a secretary of King James VI. Many of his books had been acquired from the collection of John Craig, the King's physician, and also a distinguished mathematician. Craig was particularly interested in astronomy, and he sent a copy of a dissertation he wrote on comets to the Danish astronomer Tycho Brahe, which resulted in his receiving this copy of Brahe's *De mundi aetheriei* in return.

21. **Robert Johnston.**
Accesserunt Bibliothecam, anno millesimo sexcentesimo quadagesimo libri qui sequuntur, a Mr Roberto Johnstono J.V.D. testamento legati, Edinburgi, excudebat Iacobus Bryson, 1641.

(Da.1.30/3)

Robert Johnston was a member of the first class to graduate from the new University of Edinburgh, and received the degree of M.A. in 1587. He spent most of his life in London as clerk of the deliveries of the ordinance. When he died in 1639 he left a considerable fortune, part of which was to be used to maintain eight poor students at the University of Edinburgh. In addition he bequeathed his books to the Library. These consist mainly of works on law and history, although there are a few medical works. Johnston specifically excluded from the bequest his Italian, French and Spanish books which were to be exchanged for others which might be more useful to the Library. A commemorative list of the books was pasted into the larger volumes, while the others had the gift recorded by an inscription on the titlepage.

22. **John Colville.**
Publius Virgilius Maro, *Works*, mid 15th century, French (Paris).

(MS. 195)

The practice whereby graduands were expected to present a book to the Library was soon replaced by monetary donations which could be used by the Library for the purchase of books. However some students felt able to give more than the required graduation fee, and others continued to present works to the Library. The manuscript of Virgil's works was given by John Colville, a graduate of 1654. It was written in Paris by a scribe called Franciscus Florius for a royal Scottish owner, possibly Princess Eleanor, the daughter of King James I. The full page miniatures are in the early style of Willem Vreliant.

23. **Thomas Bell.**
Sir Thomas More, *Libellus . . . de optimo reip. statu, deque nova Insula Utopia*, [Louvain], arte Theodorici Martini, [1516].

(Df.9.97)

From 1668 until 1675 Thomas Bell, Regent of Humanity at the University of Edinburgh made a gift of books to the Library annually. In 1668 he presented a copy of the first edition of Sir Thomas More's

Utopia, previously owned by Sir John Skene, Lord Curriehill.

Utopia, the description of an imaginary, ideal state, is Sir Thomas More's most famous work. More sent the manuscript of *Utopia* to Erasmus, entrusting him with the business of seeing the book through the press, and it was published at Louvain in December 1516. Written in Latin so that it could reach as wide a public as possible, *Utopia* was not intended to be altogether serious, and the Utopian alphabet devised by Peter Gilles was part of the fun.

24. **James Nairn.**

Flavius Vegetius Renatus, *De re militari libri quatuor*, Parisiis, apud Christianum Wechelium, 1553.

(O*.16.37)

James Nairn (1629-1678) graduated M.A. from the University of Edinburgh in 1650. He spent a brief period as Keeper of the Library from 1652 to 1653, but left to enter the Church. From 1665 until his death in 1678 he was minister of the parish of Wemyss, Fife. At his death he left money to establish two bursaries for students of divinity at the University of Edinburgh, and also bequeathed his private library amounting to 1838 volumes to the Library. A catalogue of the collection was printed in 1678. As would be expected, Nairn's library consists predominantly of theology, although some place is given to literature and scientific works. Vegetius' *De re militari* was first printed by Wechel in 1532. The woodcut illustrations, which were adapted from those used in German editions of the work, show a variety of curious and imaginary machines of war. The edition also includes works of Sextus Julius Frontinus, Aelian and Modestus.

25. **Thomas Douglas.**

Book of Hours (*Use of Sarum*), mid 15th century, English. (MS.39)

Given to the Library in 1679 by Thomas Douglas, M.D.

The manuscript, with rich border decorations, has eleven large historiated initials depicting scenes from the Passion of Christ. The manuscript was written for a woman, probably of the family of Babraham, as it was in the family's possession from 1451 to 1474.

CATALOGUES OF EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

26. **The press catalogue of 1636.**

Catalogus librorum Bibliothecae Edinburgense, 16 December 1636.

(Da.1.14)

On 24 April 1635 the Town Council approved various resolutions concerning the administration of the University Library. As the Library had no proper catalogues the Keeper of the Library Kenneth Logie was instructed to prepare alphabetical, press and subject catalogues of the books in his care. The following year a press catalogue was begun by Robert Lumsden, a graduate of Edinburgh University from 1620 and the son of a former regent Charles Lumsden. Robert Lumsden received an advance payment from the Town Council for his commission on 12 November 1636; he took the Library oath and signed the register of members on 13 December 1636 and started work three days later on 16 December. In this catalogue, Lumsden recorded the books in the order in which they appeared on the shelves, and from the details given it is clear that he examined every volume closely, transcribing their titlepages in his catalogue. At the same time he wrote on the titlepage of every book its press number. A second copy of the catalogue was produced for the use of the Town Council, and this lists the book stock up to 2 June 1641. Lumsden probably worked in the Library for a few more years after this, as inventories of Library accessions in his hand are extant. He is also known to have worked for William Drummond of Hawthornden in a secretarial capacity, as a transcript of the autograph manuscript of Drummond's *The history of Scotland from the year 1423 until the year 1542*, later corrected by the author, was copied out by Lumsden.

27. **Subject catalogues.**

Catalogus librorum in repositoriis in Bibliotheca Edinensis, c. 1670.

(Da.1.27)

The arrangement of the books in the earliest Library building was according to fairly broad subject divisions; press A, for example, was devoted to theology, and press K to belles lettres. Despite the various moves from one building to another, the books have always been shelved in general subject groups such as these. A much more systematic approach was not introduced until 1924, when it was decided to adopt the Dewey Decimal System of Classification for new stock, and to start a separate subject catalogue. Much has now been

classified retrospectively for inclusion in the subject catalogue.

The earliest surviving subject catalogue of the Library's books dating from c. 1670 was compiled by the Librarian William Henderson. The first part of the catalogue lists a selection of books under general headings, such as 'Papists in defence of their errors' or 'Upon history & chronology & examples'. The second part, entitled 'Miscellanea', is an alphabetical sequence in which works are grouped according to key words in their titles; under K are listed works concerning the Kirk, Kings and Knighthood.

28. **The printed catalogue, 1918-23.**

Catalogue of the printed books in the library of the University of Edinburgh, 3 vols., Edinburgh, at the University Press, T. and A. Constable, 1918-23.

(Da.)

In evidence to the Royal Commission on Scottish Universities, 1826 Macvey Napier, Professor of Conveyancing at Edinburgh University stated, with reference to Edinburgh University Library: 'Whatever treasures a Library may contain, if there is no key to them in the shape of a catalogue, they must be comparatively useless and unproductive'. The deficiencies in the Library's catalogue were felt throughout the nineteenth century, and eventually it was thought that the remedy lay in the publication of a printed catalogue. Accordingly in 1896 the Library Committee established a Printed Catalogue Subcommittee under Dr James Burgess, formerly Director General of the Archaeological Surveys in India. When the Library received a substantial monetary bequest from Sir William Fraser in 1898 work was able to begin. A team of cataloguers was recruited in order to revise existing catalogue entries and tackle large quantities of uncatalogued material. By 1902 almost 200,000 volumes had been catalogued, and in 1905 Dr Burgess was able to report that the whole of the Library's stock had been catalogued.

Unfortunately, funds from the Carnegie Trust which would have enabled the Library to publish at this date were not forthcoming, although one benefit was the publication in 1906 of a *Hand catalogue* containing a selection of the Library's stock particularly in demand by students. Finally in 1912 the University Court made a grant of £5,000 so that the catalogue could be published. Further revisions and cataloguing were carried out during the following three years, and printing began in 1915. War time difficulties delayed the project even further; the first volume was eventually published in 1918, followed by the second in 1921, and the third and final volume in 1923.

The printed catalogue is still of value to scholars, and forms the

basis of the catalogue currently in use in the Library. Few would disagree with the Chairman of the Library Committee George MacDonald and Principal Ewing, who in their preface note to volume 3, heaped praise on the Librarian F.C. Nicholson for his efforts in bringing the scheme to fruition: 'It will be an enduring memorial of the scholarship and the bibliographical skill of its Editor, and will ensure for him the gratitude of many generations of readers'.

29. **Catalogues of special collections.**

Catherine R. Borland. *A descriptive catalogue of the western mediaeval manuscripts in Edinburgh University Library*, Edinburgh, for the University of Edinburgh by T. and A. Constable, 1916.

(Da.)

The publication of catalogues of special collections in Edinburgh University Library is a fairly recent development in the Library's history. The first of these was the *Calendar of the Laing charters* which was compiled in accordance with the terms of the Laing bequest and published in 1899. In 1916 was published Catherine R. Borland's catalogue of the western medieval manuscripts. This described 230 manuscripts, most of which had come to the Library after 1825, some purchased out of money provided by the Reid Bequest, some donated, but the majority from the Laing collection bequeathed in 1878. In 1911 Miss Borland was awarded a Carnegie Research Grant to enable her to prepare the catalogue, and work on it was started in 1912. The publication of the catalogue was subsidised by the University Court and the Carnegie Trust, the latter providing money specifically for illustrations. Although the original estimates of the cost of the catalogue were exceeded, the Librarian F.C. Nicholson in a report to the Library Committee felt that the project should continue, since the publication of the catalogue would honour the Library and copies of it could be used in the future for presentation to other libraries. The catalogue was well received; Sydney Cockerell, Director of the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge wrote of it: 'It seems to me to be in all respects admirably done, giving just the information that the reader needs, all set out methodically, so as to save him all avoidable trouble. The table and indexes are splendidly full and will be very useful'.

30. **Lists of current periodicals.**

Edinburgh University Library. *A union list of current serials received in Edinburgh University Library and some other Research Libraries in Edinburgh*, Edinburgh, 1979.

(Da.)

Although the University Library produced lists of current periodicals and annual publications in the nineteenth and early twentieth century, developments in this field are quite recent. In 1949 joint talks between the major Edinburgh libraries began, in order to investigate the problems of periodical acquisitions, and especially their publication, in different libraries in the city; this resulted in the publication in 1953 of a *Union list of current periodicals in Edinburgh libraries*, edited by H. Phillips, Periodicals Assistant in Edinburgh University Library. From 1956 to 1971 Edinburgh University Library issued lists of the current serials received in the Main and Departmental Libraries, but this became increasingly difficult to keep up to date. As a result an application was made to the Manpower Services Commission in 1977 for a Job Creation Project to compile a union list of current serials in the University Library and a number of research institute libraries in the city. The list was produced in machine readable form, which allows it to be corrected and reorganized more cheaply than would be possible by more traditional methods. The list is now produced on Computer Output Microfiche, issued in updated form twice a year. One microfiche is able to include the information hitherto recorded in a 400 page volume.

BENEFACTORS OF THE LIBRARY, 1680-1780

31. **George Mosman.**
Book of Hours (Use of Sarum), c. 1500. French.

(MS.43)

George Mosman, an Edinburgh bookseller and printer, presented this Book of Hours to the Library on 16 July 1692. In all probability the donation was intended to further his business interests, as his name appears regularly in Library accounts after this date. The manuscript was written in Northern France, and the presence of Scottish names in the Kalendar indicates that it was executed for a Scottish owner.

32. **Alexander Douglas.**
Catalogue of books left in legacy to the Collège of Edr be Mr Douglas late Professor of Hebrew, 19 May 1692.

(Da.1.30/6)

Alexander Douglas was Professor of Hebrew at the University of Edinburgh from 1681 until 1690 when, together with the Principal and three other professors, he was expelled from the University by the Commission of Visitation for refusing to take an oath of allegiance to William III. In 1692 he bequeathed to the University Library 104 books, which were given in by his brother, minister of Saltoun.

33. **John Slezer.**
John Slezer, *Theatrum Scotiae*, London, printed by John Leake, for the Author, 1693.

(JY 587)

Slezer was a native of Holland and he settled in Scotland in 1669. His skills as a draughtsman were well known, and through the influence of patrons he was appointed lieutenant of the artillery, with the special responsibility for the superintendence of the ordnance. About 1678 he decided to prepare a volume of illustrations depicting the King's castles, palaces and towns in Scotland, and after many setbacks the work appeared in 1693. The text accompanying the plates was written by Sir Robert Sibbald, Professor of Medicine at the University of Edinburgh, and a benefactor of the University Library. Slezer presented this copy of his *Theatrum Scotiae* to the Library in 1695, on behalf of his two sons John and Archibald Slezer who were students at the University.

34. Edmund Calamy.

Benjamin Calamy. *Sermons preached upon several occasions*. . . . *The fifth edition corrected*, London, printed by J. Darby for Daniel Browne, John Nicholson and John Sprint, William Meers and Jonas Browne, 1715.

(A.14.7)

On 15 June 1717, Robert Henderson recorded in the Library donation book that 'Mr Edmund Calamy, a very hopeful & ingenious youth, who after some time profitably spent here & having taken the degree of Master of Arts this day, did in name of his worthy father bestow an acceptable present of all his peices and other books valuable writ by his near relations: being a dozen volumes in 8vo neatly bound up, wt their backs gilt & titled'. The volume shown was written by Calamy's great-uncle.

35. David Clerk.

Le songe du vergier, [Lyons], Jacques Maillet, 1491/2.

(Inc. 216)

David Clerk, an Edinburgh M.D. of 1746, and later physician at the Royal Infirmary, left 150 volumes to the Library in 1764, 'as a testimony of his regards for this University in which he had received his education'. The donation consisted chiefly of valuable and rare editions of the classics, and books of philosophy. Included in the collection was a copy of *Le songe du vergier*, the most famous work on common law written in France during the later middle ages, which staunchly defends common law against the encroachments of ecclesiastical law. The woodcut depicts the author of the book under a tree dreaming of the King and his Queens, Puissance spirituelle and Puissance seculiere.

36. Princess Ekaterina Daschkova.

a. Russian medals.

(Medals 119)

b. Memorandum of Professor Andrew Dalzel, Librarian, 27 April 1805.

(Da.1.30/7)

In 1779 Prince Paul Daschkov graduated M.A. from the University of Edinburgh, at which time he presented a book to the Library. Shortly afterwards, his mother Princess Daschkova presented to the University a cabinet of Russian medals, and John Robison, Professor of Natural Philosophy was instructed to make a catalogue of them. They were only handed in to the Library after Robison's death in 1805, and according to a memorandum prepared by the Librarian, Professor Andrew Dalzel, two of the medals were found to be missing at this time.

USERS OF EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

37. The rules of the Library and register of members.

Register of members of the Library, 1636-1753.

(Da.2.1)

On 24 April 1635 the Town Council of Edinburgh approved various resolutions concerning the administration of the Library, which included provision for a register of its members. This was started in 1636 by Robert Lumsden, who was working on the press catalogue of the Library at the time. The register is preceded by the oath and rules of the Library, to which all members had to subscribe, in the presence of the Principal, two Regents and the Keeper of the Library. The rules embody the regulations previously formulated by the Town Council, which was particularly anxious that students 'sall nather steill nor tak away any book or bookes furth of the said librarie nor cancell blott score raze or delet anything out of any of theme nor sall nowayes vitiat or hurt the same'. Although the Library was open to all matriculated students, it is clear that the principal users in the early days were the teaching staff, graduates and benefactors of the Library.

38. Library tickets.

a. Library tickets of William Dean, 1768/9 - 1770/1.

(Da.)

b. Library tickets of John Lee, 1800/1, 1802/3.

(Dc.4.95/3)

In 1763 new regulations for the management of the Library were submitted to the Senatus Academicus by Principal Robertson. In accordance with these, students were issued with a ticket when they paid the matriculation fee which entitled them to all the privileges of a Civis of the Library for the following session. The handsome engraved card which was introduced was replaced at the beginning of the nineteenth century by one designed by the University printer C. Stewart. The Library ticket was later superseded by the matriculation ticket, which together with a current class ticket, enabled students to enrol in the Library and borrow books. Separate Library tickets for undergraduates were reintroduced at a later date, but were finally discontinued in 1962, at which time it was arranged that students could sign the Library undertaking on matriculation and that a current matriculation card would be accepted in place of a reader's ticket.

William Dean attended the University as a medical student for three sessions from 1768; he did not graduate. John Lee (1779-1859) came to the University in 1794 and remained there for ten years,

attending full courses in arts, medicine and divinity. He graduated M.D. in 1801 with the thesis *De viribus animi in corpus agentibus*. He later pursued a career both in the Church of Scotland as well as in the Scottish universities before he was appointed Principal of Edinburgh University in 1840, a post he held until his death in 1859.

39. Borrowings of Professors: William Cullen and Adam Ferguson.

Professors' borrowing register, 1763-1790.

(Da.2.2)

In the beginning the borrowing of books from the Library was not allowed. However by the end of the seventeenth century it is clear that books were straying out of the building, and in order to keep a closer check on the Library stock wire-mesh doors were fitted to the book presses. Borrowing was put on an official footing by Principal Robertson's regulations for the Library of 1763. Students were permitted to borrow books against a deposit left with the Library to the value of the item borrowed; each transaction was recorded in chronological order, and when the book was returned the entry in the ledger was scored out. The Principal also introduced a regulation approved by the Curators of the Library respecting the period of loan, namely, that they should have the loan of an octavo for a week, of a quarto for a fortnight, of a folio for a month. By the end of the eighteenth century the volume of borrowings was such that it was decided that the Library would handle loans on Tuesdays and Saturdays, and the return of books on Mondays and Fridays.

The borrowings of professors were recorded in a separate ledger, since deposits were not demanded of them, and no limit was placed on the number of books they were allowed to borrow from the Library. The various transactions were registered under the names of the professors rather than in one chronological sequence as was used for the students. The ledger on display shows the borrowings of two of Edinburgh's most celebrated professors in the eighteenth century, Dr William Cullen, Professor of Chemistry and later Professor of the Institutes of Medicine and Practice of Physic, and Adam Ferguson, Professor of Moral Philosophy.

40. Borrowings of students: Thomas Carlyle.
Students' borrowing register, 1819.

(Da.)

The folio registers used in the eighteenth century to record student borrowings in a chronological sequence were replaced early in

the nineteenth century by small receipt books. Each student had a page in the book allocated to him if he wished to borrow books from the Library, and the outer portion of the page was detached as a receipt for the payment of the now standard £1 deposit. The student was allowed to retain one book for a period of two weeks, although it was impossible to control the loan period strictly. The deposit money generally remained with the Library throughout the session, for when one book was returned another would be taken out. If the student wished to borrow more than one book at a time he could do so on payment of another deposit for a different page in the receipt book. Not all books in the Library could be borrowed, and some were deliberately kept from circulating; in evidence to the Royal Commission on Scottish Universities, 1826 the former Librarian Dr Duncan stated: 'We have discountenanced the practice of giving out novels, plays, or other books considered inexpedient for students to read during their attendance at the classes'. The deposit system attracted much criticism at the time, as it was considered an unfair imposition on the students, especially those of limited means. However, deposits continued to be exacted from students until 1959 and the borrowing system was not radically changed until 1960.

The receipt book displayed shows some of the borrowings of the essayist and historian Thomas Carlyle while he was a student at Edinburgh in 1819. Carlyle made four deposits in all, and so was able to borrow four books simultaneously, with the result that during the session he borrowed over sixty volumes. However Carlyle probably did not have a very high regard for the Library, since the satirical picture of a library in *Sartor resartus* is thought by many to represent Edinburgh University Library.

41. Missing books.
List of books which stands against the names of Professors and Surgeons and which is in some cases disputed on the plea that the books were returned, 1818.

(Da.)

The problem of missing books has always been of concern to the Library. In order to ensure the safe return of books when borrowed the system of deposits was introduced in the eighteenth century, and more recently fines on overdue books have been levied to control their circulation. From the evidence given to the Royal Commission on Scottish Universities, 1826, it is clear that services in the Library were not what could be expected, and in many cases it was suggested that the fault lay with the professors: 'It seems highly proper that the Professors, by whose ministry knowledge is to be dispensed among the

students, should be allowed a much larger use of the books than any other description of persons entitled to apply for them. Their privileges ought, however, to be subject to regulation, and to have definite limits'. Apparently, contrary to regulations, professors had direct access to the books, and many borrowed from the Library more books than they were entitled to. Inevitably, there were complaints that professors had out of the Library the books most in demand by students.

From time to time the Library staff examined the borrowing ledger and listed the books still outstanding against professors' names, although the professors often disputed the accuracy of the list, claiming that the books had been duly returned. Dugald Stewart, Professor of Moral Philosophy appears to have drawn attention to himself in this respect, since in 1823 the Librarian Dr Brunton reported to the Curators of the Library that a search had been made in Dugald Stewart's home for missing Library books, and that those which had been found there had been returned to the Library.

42. The Reading Rooms.

a. *Regulations for students in the Reading Room*, [Edinburgh], George Richardson, Printer to the University, [c.1870]. (Da.)

b. Photographs of the Old and New Reading Rooms, 1951. (Da.)

Little is known of the accommodation offered by the first Library buildings for students to read on the premises. However the Library designed by William Playfair in what is now known as Old College provided for a consulting room for students, and the Graduation Hall when not in use for the purpose for which it was designed was open to the professors as a reading room. The accommodation for students proved to be inadequate and in 1854 a new reading room was fitted out in the Graduation Hall, and was stocked with the books most used by students. This room, later known as the Old Reading Room, was not always a comfortable place to work in, and David Cuthbertson, who began working in the University Library as an assistant there in 1880, described it thus: 'And such a Reading Room! It was previous to the invention of the electric light, and it had not, until a few years later, even one solitary gas jet. It was thus in vain for the student to obtain the necessary light on dark days, and much inconvenience was caused.'

Increasing pressure on the Library in later years led to suggestions being made that the Upper Library Hall be converted into a reading room for students, but this was vigorously opposed by the Library Committee. In 1931 the former Natural History Museum was converted into the New Reading Room, and the undergraduate collec-

tions were divided between the two on a subject basis when this was ready for use in 1932. Further fragmentation occurred when the Ramsay and College Street Reading Rooms were opened, and the situation was not resolved satisfactorily until 1967 when the Library moved to its new, spacious building in George Square.

43. Library guides.

Edinburgh University, *Guide to the Library*, Edinburgh, T. and A. Constable Ltd. at the University Press, 1931. (Da.)

In response to a resolution of Aslib which urged all libraries and educational authorities to ensure that they provided systematic instruction in the organisation and use of libraries, the Library Committee determined to publish a small pamphlet which would serve as a general introduction to the Library, since a lecture or series of lectures was considered unworkable. A draft was prepared by the Librarian, and revised by a Sub-Committee specially appointed by the Library Committee. Copies of the guide were made available free of charge both to students and other readers upon application at the Library. The guide provided a brief description of the layout of the building and of the services offered in the Library, followed by an account of the Library's collection of books and manuscripts, and of the various aids to readers.

This guide was substantially revised in 1954, and a new edition appeared in 1956. When the Library moved to the new building in George Square, a new guide was essential, and the general guide to the Library is now issued on an annual basis. It is supplemented by many specialised guides which give more detailed information on specific services and subject areas of the stock.

BENEFACTORS OF THE LIBRARY, 1780-1880

44. William Thomson.

Abstract of a dissertation . . . concerning the system of the earth, its duration and stability, [Edinburgh, 1785].

(JA 904/1)

Bound with J. Walker, *Delineatio fossilium, in usus academicos Edinburgi* (Edinburgh, 1782), J. Walker, *Schediasma fossilium, in usus academicos Edinburgi* (Edinburgh, 1781) and C. Linnaeus, *Observationes in regnum lapideum* (1750).

William Thomson, a graduate of Oxford University, was a medical student at Edinburgh University for two sessions from 1780 to 1782, during which time he took an active part in University life. He returned to Oxford in 1782, and after further studies embarked on a career in medicine, but in 1790 he resigned his appointments, and left the country, spending the rest of his life in Italy and Sicily, where he died in 1806. In his will he left his geological specimens to his old college in Oxford, but when the college authorities declined to accept the bequest, the collection came to Edinburgh. Under the terms of his will a selection of his books was placed in the University Library. These reflect Thomson's interests in medicine, geology and mineralogy, but there are also some travel books and literature. Thomson's scientific work attracted much attention at the time, and he published various papers on geology and mineralogy. Though resident abroad, he kept abreast of developments in the geological sciences in this country; he owned a copy of the *Abstract of a dissertation . . . concerning the system of the earth* in which James Hutton (1776-1797) first made known his theories concerning the formation of the earth's crust, and indeed his own writings bear the influence of this work.

45. David Stewart Erskine, 11th Earl of Buchan.

James Thomson, *The seasons*, London, printed in the year M.DCC.XXX.

(Df.2.51)

In 1791 David Stewart Erskine, 11th Earl of Buchan instituted an annual festival to commemorate the Scottish poet James Thomson. At the first ceremony which took place at Ednam Hill, the poet's birth-place, on 22 September 1791, the Earl of Buchan delivered a eulogy of the poet, and not having a bust of the poet to crown, he laid a garland of bay leaves on a copy of *The seasons*. This had been given to Buchan's father by the printer Andrew Millar as a presentation copy from the author, and the Earl of Buchan presented the volume to the Library on 21 March 1808. It includes various holograph manuscripts

of poems by Thomson, and a sketch of the poet which has been attributed to William Aikman.

46. John B. Baillie.

Haifz of Shiraz. *Collected poems*, late 18th century, Delhi. (Or.MS.106)

In 1876 the collection of oriental manuscripts formed by Lt.-Col. John Baillie of Leys (1772-1833) was presented to the University of Edinburgh by his grandson John B. Baillie, Lt.-Col. Baillie, who entered the service of the East India Company in 1790, was the first Professor of Arabic and Persian Languages, and of Mohammedan Law, at the College of Fort William in Calcutta, founded in 1800 for the instruction of young civil servants of the East India Company. His lectures on Arabic were based on readings from the manuscripts in his own personal collection. A condition of the donation was that a descriptive catalogue of the manuscripts should be prepared, and this was eventually published in 1925. The collection includes many fine manuscripts, the star of which is undoubtedly the richly illustrated world history by the Mongol Vizier Rashid al-Din, written at Tabriz in 1307 at the scriptorium founded by the author. On display is an eighteenth century Indian manuscript of the poetical works of Haifz, the greatest of the lyric poets of Iran.

47. J.O. Halliwell-Phillips.

a. *A midsummer night's dreame*, from W. Shakespeare, *Comedies, histories, & tragedies*, London, printed by Isaac Jaggard and Ed. Blount, 1623. (JY 439)

b. Draft of letter from D. Laing to J.O. Halliwell, 25 November 1869. (La.IV.17)

In 1872 and subsequent years the Shakespearean scholar J.O. Halliwell, later Halliwell-Phillips (1820-89) presented to the Library a collection of Shakespearean rarities. The University Library had obliged Halliwell-Phillips in 1865, when through the good offices of David Laing, a copy of the second quarto edition of *Titus Andronicus* given to the Library in 1700 by William Hog was loaned to him for several months for the purpose of making a facsimile edition. By 1869 Halliwell-Phillips began to make arrangements for the disposal of his collections of books and manuscripts after his death, and he decided that his Shakespeare collection should come to Scotland. He wrote to Laing asking for advice on the matter, as he could not decide between

the Universities of Edinburgh and Glasgow. Laing recommended Halliwell-Phillips to give Edinburgh the preference: 'No doubt Glasgow has a grand building in progress but so far as Literature is concerned it is like a Liverpool compared with Oxford'. In the event Halliwell-Phillips presented part of the collection to the Library in 1872, and the rest came in later years. It includes nearly all the editions of Shakespeare printed before 1660. The copy of *A midsummer night's dream* has been extracted from the first folio edition of Shakespeare's works published in 1623; it has manuscript cuts and additions so that it could be used as a playhouse prompt book.

48. David Laing.

a. St. Anselm, *Tractatus varii*; St. John Chrysostom, *De laude Pauli Apostoli*, second half of 12th century, English.

b. Letters of procuratory by Renaud, Count of Ghelre and Margaret, his wife, 3 July 1286. (MS 104)

(Laing Charter 21)

The most important bequest in the Library's history came in 1878 when David Laing bequeathed his collection of manuscripts to the University of Edinburgh. Laing (1793-1878), the son of an Edinburgh bookseller, was a well known bibliophile and antiquary, and was Librarian of the Signet Library, Edinburgh from 1837 until his death in 1878. During his life Laing amassed a huge collection of manuscripts, unbound letters, documents, writs and charters, which he had acquired at sales both at home and abroad, although a part came from an Edinburgh waste paper merchant who would sell to Laing parchment documents by weight. Laing had dealings with the University Library throughout his life: in 1815 he printed a facsimile of Principal Adamson's catalogue of the Drummond donation; later, in 1825, he was called in by the Senatus Academicus to supervise the rebinding and repair of many volumes in the Library before their transfer to the Playfair building; and in 1869 he was instrumental in directing the Shakespeare collection of J.O. Halliwell-Phillips to the Library.

The Laing collection contains many spectacular treasures as well as manuscripts which are extremely important from a historical point of view. The manuscript of treatises by St. Anselm and St. John Chrysostom formerly belonged to Reading Abbey, one of the most important Benedictine houses in England. The manuscript, which was originally in two volumes, was written in the abbey's scriptorium, and is decorated with finely executed initials to the sections of the book.

The letters of procuratory by Renaud, Count of Ghelre and Lord of Lembourg, and Margaret, his wife, daughter of Guy, Count of Flandres, authorised Guy and Isabel, his wife, to receive all assignment of the dowry due to Margaret, by reason of her marriage to her late husband, Prince Alexander, son of Alexander III, King of Scots. The seal of Renaud is attached to the left of the document, that of his wife Margaret to the right.

FORMER LIBRARIANS

49. The first Librarians.

Franciscus Horantius, *Locorum catholicorum, tum sacrae scripturae, tum etiam antiquorum patrum, pro orthodoxa & vetere fide retinenda, libri septem*, Parisiis, apud Claudium Fremy, 1565.

(Dd.7.121)

When Clement Little's bequest was made over to the Town Council of Edinburgh in 1580 the books were entrusted to James Lawson, minister of St. Giles', who became the first custodian of the collection which now forms the nucleus of Edinburgh University Library. The books were still in the care of James Lawson in 1583 when the University was established. However, in September 1584 the Town Council decided to take over the collection and William Little, Clement Little's brother, was authorised to check its contents. Shortly afterwards the books were removed to the college buildings where they would be more accessible to students, and Robert Rollock, Principal of the University took charge of them. The first Keeper of the Library was not appointed by the Town Council until 1635.

The volume on display belonged first to James Lawson and later to Robert Rollock. It was presented to the Library by Clement Little's nephew William Little in 1599, the year of his graduation.

50. William Henderson.

Memoires of the institution, donations, fabrick, progress, maisters & others, appertaining to the Universitie of Edinburgh, collected out of the manuscripts of Mr Thomas Craufurd . . . by Mr William Henderson Bibliothecare, 1673.

(Dc.4.3.)

In 1635 the Town Council formulated the duties of the Keeper of the Library, for the benefit of Kenneth Logie who had just been appointed. These included a requirement that the Keeper of the Library dust the books twice a year and keep fires going, at his own expense, from October to February in order to prevent the books getting damp. Such hard work for the small salary offered led to a constant turnover of Keepers of the Library, and between 1635 and 1667 there were no less than ten holders of the post. By 1658 the Town Council was obliged to insist on a minimum period of office of six years, otherwise a caution of 1,000 merks would be forfeited.

William Henderson was appointed in 1667. He stayed in office until his election in 1684 as Precentor of St. Giles' and clerk to the Kirk Sessions, and was succeeded by his son Robert. William Henderson was responsible for the systematic recording of donations to the Lib-

rary; he also started a subject catalogue, and he assisted his son in the production of a new press catalogue, which was finally completed in 1695. In 1673 William Henderson was commissioned by the Town Council to bring up to date the history of the University written by Thomas Craufurd, Professor of Mathematics, but all that appears to have survived is Henderson's transcript of Craufurd's text.

51. Duke Gordon.

a. Duke Gordon's commonplace book, 18th c.

(Dc.6.34-5)

b. Receipt of Duke Gordon for payment of an additional annual allowance, 14 December 1792.

(Da.)

When Robert Henderson, the longest serving Librarian at the University of Edinburgh, died in 1747, after a period of 63 years in office, the Town Council decided that the Library should be in the charge of one of the professors, appointed as Honorary Librarian, while day to day affairs would be entrusted to an Under-Librarian. Duke Gordon was recruited in 1763 as Under-Librarian by the second Honorary Librarian, James Robertson, Professor of Hebrew, and he remained in office for almost 40 years. Duke Gordon was educated in Edinburgh, and although he entered his father's business, he preferred to give this up when his father died in order to teach Latin privately, and translate medical theses from English into Latin. He attended Edinburgh University for two sessions in 1753 and 1755, but did not graduate. Alexander Bower, author of *The history of the University of Edinburgh*, who was also an Under-Librarian, wrote of him: 'His punctuality of attendance, accuracy, propriety, and dignity of demeanour, not only impressed the students who applied to him for books, but even the professors themselves. He was of the most essential service to both; for though his manner was certainly distant, and even repulsive, yet he was always ready to answer any civil question, and to communicate whatever information was within his power, that might be required by the students'. In 1800 he received an honorary M.A. for his services to the University. He died on 30 December 1800, and in his will authorised the Librarian to select from his private collection such books as would be useful to the Library.

52. John Small.

The castles and mansions of the Lothians. Illustrated in one hundred and three views, with historical and descriptive accounts by John Small, 2 vols., Edinburgh, William Paterson, 1883.

(Zv.1.34-35)

John Small was born in Edinburgh in 1828; he was educated at Edinburgh Academy and at the University of Edinburgh, where he graduated M.A. in 1847. While still a student he assisted his father, who was Under-Librarian at the University Library to Alexander Brunton. Professor of Hebrew, and on his father's death in 1847 Small was appointed to succeed him. Dr Brunton died in 1854, and as the Town Council had decided to abolish the post of Honorary Librarian, Small became Librarian. Small edited a number of volumes of early Scottish and English poetry, and communicated numerous papers to the Royal Society of Edinburgh and the Society of Antiquaries. His *Castles and mansions of the Lothians*, though more popular in appeal, was no less painstakingly researched. In addition to his duties in the Library, Small acted as Honorary Librarian to the Royal College of Physicians, and as assistant clerk to the Senatus Academicus under Professor Kelland, in which capacity he was responsible for editing the University Calendar. He also took an active interest in the University Musical Society. In recognition of his services, the University conferred on him its honorary Doctorate of Laws in 1886, but a few months later, on 20 August, he died. Although Small was a scholar librarian, it is clear that he actively participated in the running of the Library throughout his career, and David Cuthbertson, an assistant in the Reading Room appointed in 1880 remembered Small 'standing at the counter, entering books and eating a roll at the same time'.

53. Alexander Anderson.

a. A. Anderson, *Songs of the rail*, London, Simpkin, Marshall & Co., 1878. (JA 3174)

b. Letter of Alexander Nicolson to A. Anderson, 24 June 1880. (Dc.4.103)

Alexander Anderson (1845-1909), best known by his pseudonym 'Surfaceman', was a self taught poet from Kirkconnel in Dumfriesshire. He started work at the age of sixteen as a labourer in a quarry, but soon afterwards he became a surfaceman, or plate-layer, on the Glasgow and South Western Railway. The only formal education he received was at the local village school which he attended as a child, and for the rest he had to rely on what could be achieved by sparetime reading. In 1880 Anderson decided to abandon the life of a labourer; he applied for a post in Edinburgh University Library, and was supported in his application by the Gaelic scholar Alexander Nicolson. Even though one member of the interviewing committee felt that a man lacking a liberal education should not be appointed, his application was successful; and apart from a short spell as secretary to the Edinburgh Philosophical Institution, he remained in the Library

until his death in 1909. His career in librarianship was not an unqualified success, and when he became Librarian in 1900, his promotion was not made generally known to his colleagues, who spotted no apparent change in his duties, and Professor Julius Eggeing, Curator of the Library, was the man in charge.

Anderson's first collection of poems was published in 1873, and several others followed, although it is clear that city life did not suit him particularly and his later poetry suffered as a result. In his poetry Anderson captured vividly the life of the railway navy as well as the domestic simplicity of rural Scotland. His *Songs of the rail* (1878) brought together in one volume the railway poems from earlier collections. Facing the titlepage of the copy shown is a verse from Anderson's best known poem, 'Cuddle doon'.

54. Frank Carr Nicholson.

Letter of W. de la Mare to F.C. Nicholson, 25 September 1948. (Gen.7151/60)

Frank Nicholson (1875-1962) was the son of H.A. Nicholson, Professor of Natural History at the University of Aberdeen. Educated at the University of Aberdeen, and then at the University of Cambridge, he became Assistant Librarian in Aberdeen University Library in 1901. In 1903 he moved to Edinburgh as Acting Librarian of the Royal College of Physicians, a post he held until he became Librarian of Edinburgh University Library in 1910. During his period of office the Library underwent considerable changes, and valuable catalogues were published under his guidance, the most important of which was the *Catalogue of the printed books* (1918-23). In recognition of his services to the University, Frank Nicholson was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Laws in 1939, the year of his retirement; on this occasion he was praised in the following terms: 'His scrupulous thoroughness in every detail of the art of librarianship, his bibliographical scholarship, his unfailing tact, courtesy and helpfulness have won for him the deep gratitude of students, teachers and research workers in every subject; and the whole academic community takes leave of him with great reluctance'.

Through his friendship with Georgina Sime, for whom he acted as 'amanuensis, private secretary, counsellor, editor-at-discretion', as he called it, Nicholson came to correspond with Walter de la Mare on the subject of dreams, and this correspondence was continued over a long period of years. De la Mare took a keen interest in Miss Sime, and endeavoured to find publishers for her work which he regarded highly, as can be seen from his appreciation of 'This girl was I' in his letter of 25 September 1948.

BENEFACTORS OF THE LIBRARY, 1880-1980

55. Mrs E. Hodgson.

Procès-verbal de ce qui s'est passé au lit de justice tenu par le Roi à Versailles, le mardi douze mars 1776, Paris, de l'Imprimerie Royale, 1776.

Bound with J. Necker, *Compte rendu au Roi* (London, 1781). (Dh.7.12/1)

W.B. Hodgson (1815-1880) was a leading educational reformer in the nineteenth century. Educated at Edinburgh University, he was later principal of the Liverpool Mechanics' Institute, and principal of Chorlton High School, Manchester. In 1871 he was appointed as the first Professor of Commercial and Political Economy and Mercantile Law at Edinburgh University, but unlike all the other chairs his was a temporary post for a period of only seven years. Even though his subject was not part of any curriculum for graduation, his classes were relatively popular, and he accepted reappointment in 1878; but he died suddenly in 1880 while attending a conference in Brussels.

Hodgson had a large collection of books relating to the history of economics which were presented to the Library by his widow in 1880. His copy of the account of the proceedings of the *lit de justice* which took place on 12 March 1776 was sent to the economist Adam Smith (1723-1798) on behalf of Louis XVI's Comptroller general of finances, Turgot. In 1776 Turgot attempted to introduce important economic reforms in France, but his edicts met with much opposition and could only become law after the King had held a *lit de justice*, an emergency measure by means of which the Paris Parlement was forced to register edicts as law without further discussion or opposition.

56. Aeneas J.G. Mackay.

Michael Drayton, *Poly-olbion*, London, printed by H.L. for Mathew Lowmes, I. Browne, I. Helme and I. Busbie, 1613. (JY 177)

In 1911 Aeneas J.G. Mackay bequeathed to the Library his collection of books, mainly of historical and literary interest, numbering over 4,000 volumes. Mackay was Professor of Constitutional Law and History from 1874 until 1881, and subsequently an advocate-depute, and sheriff-principal of Fife and Kinross. Part of the collection was handed over to the Kirpatrick History Library, another part was kept to form an English Departmental Library, and the rest was added to the stock of the Main Library.

Michael Drayton (1563-1631) was a poet of the Elizabethan literary renaissance. Over a long career he collaborated in plays, and wrote many sonnets, pastorals and odes, but he intended as his masterpiece a long historical-geographical poem about the English countryside called *Poly-olbion*.

57. Marjory Kennedy-Fraser.

Recording of a song by Alick Campbell, Skye, 1907. (Kennedy-Fraser Collection, Skye A 9)

Marjory Kennedy-Fraser (1857-1930) was a Scottish singer who took a keen interest in the folksongs of the islands of the Outer Hebrides. She collected and edited many songs, and due to her studies on the subject and her frequent lecture recitals, the songs achieved a measure of popularity with the general public. In 1930 she presented to the Library a collection of 280 cylindrical recordings of Hebridean songs made by the inhabitants of the islands themselves. In a volume of tributes to Marjory Kennedy-Fraser published in 1930, the Marchioness of Aberdeen and Temair wrote: 'In all parts of the world the sound of Marjory Kennedy-Fraser's name brings to mind music, and a realm where poetry and daily work, melody and language, visible and invisible, seem to meet more naturally and harmoniously than elsewhere. This heritage, hidden for centuries in the Western Isles, had been kept alive there mainly by the women who made and handed on their songs. Now a woman has handed them on to the human race as a permanent possession.'

The cylinder on display is a recording of a song from Skye by Alick Campbell, to an old tune which he learnt from his mother. It was recorded by Campbell in 1907.

58. Mrs E. Buchanan.

Demosithenes, *Olynthiacae orationes tres*, Francofurti, apud Ioannem Wechelium, impensis Roberti Cambieri, 1585. (JA 2239/1)

Bound with St. Basil, Archbishop of Caesarea, *De grammatica exercitatione libellus* (Paris, 1585).

In 1941 Mrs E. Buchanan presented to the Library 116 volumes from the collection of her late husband, Thomas R. Buchanan (1846-1911), as a memorial of his association with Edinburgh as Member of Parliament for Edinburgh, 1881-85, and West Edinburgh, 1885-92. They include interesting early printed and illustrated books, and many were acquired as examples of the bookbinder's art. On display is a volume from the library of the eminent French historian Jacques-

Auguste de Thou, who was a keen book collector at the end of the sixteenth century and beginning of the seventeenth. De Thou's coat of arms has been tooled in gold on the binding. The volume later passed into the library of the Abbaye de Saint-Victor, Paris, which was dispersed at the Revolution. It was acquired by T.R. Buchanan in Paris in 1894.

59. James Cathcart White.

Book of Hours (Use of Rome), late 15th century, Flemish. (MS. 312)

In 1943 James Cathcart White, Advocate bequeathed an important collection of books and manuscripts to the Library. This valuable donation, which was compared with the Laing bequest at the time, consists of medieval manuscripts, and early printed books on classical and modern literature, law, history, heraldry and medicine, with supporting modern reference works. An endowment fund was also established from the residue of the estate and made available for the purchase of rare books and manuscripts.

On display is a *Book of Hours* from Cathcart White's small collection of medieval manuscripts. It is of the Roman use, connected with the diocese of Tournai and contains fourteen full-page miniatures with naturalistic borders depicting flowers, fruit, insects and birds which are typical of Flemish *Books of Hours* of the period.

60. Sir John W. Thomson-Walker.

William Hunter, M.D., London, published by Robert Wilkinson, 1812.

(Thomson-Walker Coll. TW 1. H40)

Sir John W. Thomson-Walker (1871-1937), who studied medicine at the University of Edinburgh, had a distinguished medical career in the field of urology, during which he occupied many important positions and received many honours. In his will he bequeathed to the University of Edinburgh, 'in the hope of encouraging the study of the history of medicine on which this great medical school has had such a profound and lasting influence' his collection of engraved portraits of British and foreign medical men, numbering in all about 2,500 prints, together with a number of books on the art and technique of engraving. The collection came to the Library in 1939.

Of display is a portrait of the anatomist William Hunter (1755-1812), an important benefactor of Glasgow University.

61. Miss E.L.W. Black.

Letter of James Lind to Joseph Black, 27 March 1785. (Gen. 874/IV/11-12)

In 1967 the University Library received one of the most important donations of recent years, comprising papers and correspondence of the celebrated Scottish chemist Joseph Black, who was Professor of Chemistry at the University of Edinburgh from 1766 to 1795. This collection was presented to the Library by Miss E.L.W. Black, through the good offices of her nephew Air-Commodore Jonas Black (1728-99) is now remembered for his experimental work on calorimetry and latent heat, and his researches paved the way for Cavendish, Priestley and Lavoisier. The collection includes letters to Black from contemporary scientists, many enquiries from people seeking assistance from Black in the application of chemistry to industrial processes, together with drafts of some of Black's replies.

James Lind (1736-1812) graduated M.D. at the University of Edinburgh in 1768. He settled at Windsor and became a Physician in the royal household. In the letter on display, Lind communicates to Black information that Black had asked him to obtain from a friend, Tiberius Cavallo, a scientist from Naples who had settled in England.

FACULTY AND CLASS LIBRARIES

62. The Theological Library.

An account of those that have been benefactors either by money or books to the Theological Library in the College of Edinburgh which was founded in the year M.DC.XC.IIX.

(New College MS.X.13b.6/3)

The earliest class library in Edinburgh University was the Theological Library, started in 1698 when divinity students, at the instigation of Professor George Campbell, collected money amongst themselves in order to establish their own library separate from the University Library. By 1702, when the first inspection of the library was made, there were 996 volumes in the collection. At first the library was looked after by a student, but in 1703 he relinquished his duties, and as Robert Henderson 'could not attend the hours and dyaits of the theologues because of his own charge' in the University Library, the Town Council decided that a librarian should be appointed especially for the Theological Library. It seems to have been more common in the eighteenth century for the library to be controlled by the Professor, who then appointed librarians to attend to day to day matters. A bitter dispute arose in the early nineteenth century between the Professor and the divinity students who thought that they should have a greater say in the library's administration, and the Senatus Academicus finally ruled that the students should elect Curators from their own number. The Theological Library had grown to about 10,000 volumes by 1936, when it was transferred from the Divinity Hall in Old College to New College Library in its newly rebuilt premises on the Mound. This move was a consequence of the reunion of the Church of Scotland with the United Free Church in 1929, which brought together the Divinity Faculty of the University with New College, formerly the United Free Church College. The administration of New College Library was taken over by the University Library in 1962.

63. The Physiological Library.

Jean de La Quintinie, *The compleat gard'ner, or, directions for cultivating and right ordering of fruit-gardens and kitchen gardens* . . . *Made English by John Evelyn Esquire*, London, printed for Matthew Gillyflower and James Partridge, 1693.

(*K.24.20)

The Physiological Library was begun in 1724 by Robert Stewart the first Professor of Natural Philosophy, and some of his students. The collection of books covered a wide variety of subjects ranging from natural history to book-keeping and navigation. The library was run by the Professor, together with six Curators who were chosen by

the students. Benefactors were allowed to borrow books from the library, the loan period being related to the size, and so presumably the length, of the book. A catalogue of the collection was published in 1725; at a later date the library was disbanded, and many of the books can be identified in the collections of the University Library.

John Evelyn (1620-1706), perhaps the most famous writer on gardening in the second half of the seventeenth century, was convinced of the need for practical books on gardening. *The compleat gard'ner* is a translation of *Instruction pour les jardins fruitiers et potagers* (Paris, 1690) by the celebrated French gardener Jean de La Quintinie (1626-88), although it is now thought that the King's gardener George London, who together with Henry Wise was responsible for a popular abridged version published in 1699, may have had a hand in the translation. The volume was presented to the Physiological Library by Archibald Murray, Advocate.

64. The Humanity Class Library and its successors.

a. Caius Julius Caesar, *Commentarii . . . recogniti à Ioanne Rosseto*, Lausannae, excudebat Ioannes Probus, 1571.

(JY 153)

b. *Rules of the Sellar and Goodhart Classical Library, Edinburgh University*, [c. 1920].

(Da.)

The Humanity Class Library was instituted in 1823 by James Pillans, Professor of Humanity (1820-63), who wanted a collection to supplement the books available in the University Library and to provide students in their first year at University with additional means of obtaining information on the classical world. Professor Pillans is known to have spent a large sum of money on books for the library, and many donations were received. The volume shown was presented in 1824 by William Steven, a graduate of the University from 1822, who was later appointed headmaster of Heriot's Hospital and inspector of the Heriot Foundation schools. The Humanity Class Library was disbanded later in the century, and its book stock was put into the University Library.

Its successor was the Sellar and Goodhart Classical Library which was started in 1897 with money collected by S.H. Butcher, Professor of Greek and W.R. Hardie, Professor of Humanity, as a memorial to William Sellar, Professor of Humanity from 1863 to 1890, and his successor Harry Goodhart who was Professor from 1891 to 1895. From the beginning students had easy access to the books in the library, and participated directly in its management. This library now forms part of the Classical Library, created in 1963 by the amalgamation of the Sellar and Goodhart Classical Library with the Ancient History Library.

65. **The Reid Music Library.**

Sebastian Virdung, *Musica getusch*, [Basel, Michael Furter, 1511].

(Reid Library C 186)

In recognition of the time he had spent at the University of Edinburgh, 'where I had my education and passed the pleasantest part of my youth', General John Reid (1721-1807) bequeathed a large sum of money to the University in 1807 to establish and endow a Chair of Music. General Reid's private collection of music books, which was left to the Chair of Music, formed the nucleus of a collection of books to serve the needs of music students which was developed by the first Professor appointed, John Donaldson. His successors in the Chair - Sir Herbert Oakley, Frederick Niecks, Sir Donald Tovey and Sidney Newman - all took a keen interest in the library's development, and Professor Tovey in addition presented his personal library to the Faculty of Music in 1940. The Reid Music Library came under the administrative wing of the University Library in 1947, at which time the first music librarian was appointed. Originally housed in the Reid School of Music in Teviot Place, the Library moved to new premises in Nicolson Square in 1967.

Sebastian Virdung was the author of the oldest known work which describes early musical instruments. The description of keyboard instruments is followed by an account of others in use at the time. The second part of the work gives tablatures for the organ, the clavichord, the lute and the flute.

66. **The Veterinary Library.**

Andrew Snape, *The anatomy of an horse*, London, printed by M. Fleisher for the Author, and are to be sold by T. Fleisher, 1683.

(Vet. Library .5997)

Veterinary education was started in Edinburgh by William Dick (1793-1866) who by 1823 was giving lectures at his Edinburgh Veterinary School, later the Royal (Dick) Veterinary College. There was no provision for a library in the school, but students had access to the collection of books which belonged to a student society, the Edinburgh Veterinary Medical Society, founded in 1826. When Principal William Williams decided to form a separate veterinary college in Edinburgh in 1873, taking many of the College's students with him, the library of the Edinburgh Veterinary Medical Society was also transferred. The present Veterinary Library thus dates from 1874 when the Dick Trustees established that all future property of the newly created Edinburgh Veterinary Medical Association, including the library, should belong to the Trustees and not to the society. In 1916 the

College moved to new premises in Summerhall. The college library in this building, which now houses the historical collections of books, including a few which belonged to Dick himself, was made the college War Memorial in memory of staff and students who died in the Great War. The Veterinary Library became part of the University Library in 1951, and since 1964 when the College achieved Faculty status in the University the Library has undergone a period of rapid expansion.

The early teaching of veterinary science concentrated on the horse, and this is reflected in the literature of the subject. Snape's treatise was the first work on equine anatomy to be published in the English language; nevertheless, the text owes much to Ruini's *Anatomia del cavallo* (1598), and many of the plates have been copied from this work.

LIBRARY BUILDINGS

67. **The 1617 Library.**
Sketches of the College of Edinburgh, 1823.

(Da.)

Clement Little's collection of books, initially kept in the attic storey of the manse of St. Giles', was handed over to the University in 1584 and placed in Hamilton House, the former residence of James Hamilton, second Earl of Arran, which had been adapted by the Town Council for use as the college building. The increasing size of the University resulted in dissatisfaction with this makeshift arrangement, especially as there was no room large enough to assemble the whole student body. To remedy this deficiency the Town Council built on a site to the east of Hamilton House a two storey building; the lower floor served as a common hall, and the upper floor became the Library. However, this 1617 building was subject to damp, and a new building for the Library was constructed and ready for use in 1646. Eventually, this building, too, became inadequate, and it was decided to enlarge the 1617 building by raising the roof in order to provide a gallery above the second storey and a fourth attic storey. The Library was moved back into the refurbished building in 1753 and remained there until 1827 when it was transferred to the premises designed by Playfair. By this time the building was no longer weather proof, and its dilapidated state gave rise to fears that it was in danger of collapse. The building was finally demolished in 1827.

68. **The 1646 Library.**
The seventeenth century University buildings, from *Edinburgh in the olden time*, Edinburgh, Thomas George Stevenson, 1880.
(BB.3.24)

The expansion of the Library in the first part of the seventeenth century, as well as structural defects in the 1617 building, may have influenced the Town Council in their decision of 15 April 1642 to construct a new Library. This was to run from east to west from the north gable end of the 1617 Library towards Hamilton House, and building work continued up to 1646 when the College Treasurer was instructed 'to perfyt the bibliothek with all diligence'. The 1646 Library was not without its problems, and the Town Council had to attend to a leaking roof over the years, and also contend with the redoubtable Mrs Anderson, who installed her printing shop in premises beneath the Library in 1687. When the Library moved out in 1753, the Town Council raised the roof of the building to provide

additional classroom accommodation, and it remained in use until it was demolished in the early nineteenth century to make way for the new buildings of what is now Old College.

The illustration from *Edinburgh in the olden time* which T.G. Stevenson described as Merchant Court, Cowgate, is now thought to represent the University buildings; the 1646 Library is seen as a crenellated single storey building.

69. **The rebuilding of the University, 1767-1841, and the Library.**
Report from the Senatus Academicus of the University of Edinburgh, on the accommodation required in the New Buildings, Alex. Smellie, Printer to the University, [c.1815].
(Df.4.477)

By the middle of the eighteenth century the squalid appearance of the college buildings did not do justice to the University's reputation as a seat of learning, and Principal Robertson had ambitious plans for the rebuilding of the University, including a new Library. A public subscription to attract money for the project was started but failed to attract sufficient funds, and the scheme lay dormant until the 1780s when the Town Council started a new subscription to finance a University building designed by Robert Adam. The building was begun in 1789, but the funds collected, though considerable, were soon exhausted and the works came to a halt. In 1815 the scandal of the half-finished building was brought before Parliament, and as a result an annual grant of £10,000 was procured from the Treasury for it to be completed under the direction of a College Commission. New designs on a reduced scale were now sought; a draft specification was drawn up by the Senatus Academicus in 1815 and architects were invited to submit plans to the Commissioners. Those of W.H. Playfair were preferred, because externally they retained Adam's design as far as possible, they accommodated every Chair in the University, and they were the cheapest to execute. The deciding factor, however, was the superiority of his plans for the Library and Museum.

70. **Playfair's Library in Old College.**
W.H. Playfair, *Longitudinal section of the southern buildings*, 20 April 1824.
(Playfair Collection, No. 438)

In its specification for the Library, the Senatus Academicus expressed the need for a dry, dust free building with a capacity of at least 100,000 volumes, and with secure accommodation for rare books and manuscripts. Playfair realized that the book stock was expanding

at an alarming rate and therefore assigned to the proposed Library the whole of the south side of the quadrangle around which the buildings were arranged. The Library was on two principal floors with space for 150,000 volumes. Playfair paid particular attention to the fire risk, suggesting that the building should be heated by ducted hot air, and that iron should be used for the floors instead of timber as far as possible. According to John Leslie, Professor of Mathematics, 'Mr Playfair's plan for the library bears the stamp of genius, and combines every advantage that could be desired - at once commodious, elegant and even magnificent. In short, when finished, it would unquestionably be the boast of our northern metropolis'. Building work commenced in 1817, and ten years later the new apartments were ready for occupation. At this time the Edinburgh bibliophile David Laing was engaged to supervise the rebinding of many dilapidated volumes. The move into Playfair's Library was planned by a Committee of Library Arrangements, and the books were carried in stages via a wooden corridor connecting the enlarged 1617 Library with the east wing of the new college building.

71. *Planning a Library for the twenty-first century.*

University of Edinburgh, *An appeal for capital funds*, Edinburgh, Pilans and Wilson Ltd., [1959].

(Da.)

Though the Library remained in Old College until 1967, this was not without problems: a building planned at the beginning of the nineteenth century could not be expected to cope with increasing student numbers and a growing book stock indefinitely; and the bringing into use of additional accommodation for library purposes both in Old College and elsewhere, together with structural alterations to Playfair's Library, did not remove the basic need for a new building. Already in 1944 the Senatus Academicus was asked to investigate the position of the Library in development plans for the University, and by 1949 the Library Committee had drafted a paper outlining the requirements the Library would have in a new building. This was submitted to the Educational Policy Committee, and there was general agreement that a new Library building was an overriding priority. Further specifications were drafted for a Special Committee on the Future of the University Library in 1955, substantially revising the plans made in 1949, and at this time Basil Spence was appointed the consultant architect. The appeal brochure of the University issued in 1959 made due reference to the new Library which was to be erected at the south-west corner of George Square, but further progress was halted by the death of the Librarian, Dr L. W. Sharp in the summer of 1959.

His successor, E. R. S. Fifoot, who took up his post in 1960, restarted the planning of the new Library. By the end of 1963 the limit of expenditure was agreed with the University Grants Committee, and detailed plans could then be finalised and contracts placed.

72. *The George Square Library.*

Commemorative brochure of Edinburgh University Library, George Square, 1967.

(Da.)

The site chosen for the new Library building was the south-west corner of George Square, occupied by Masson Hall and Cowan House, both student residences. Demolition work to clear the site began in November 1964 and construction work was started the following year, in March 1965. Steady progress was maintained and the building was taken over by the University in August 1967. Complex removal operations were required to ensure the safe transfer of the book stock from Old College, and the Library had to be closed to readers for a period of seven weeks. Library services resumed at the end of September 1967, and the building was officially opened by the Chancellor, H. R. H. the Duke of Edinburgh, on 1 March 1968, at which occasion he was presented with a specially bound and inscribed copy of the commemorative brochure. The new Library provides places for 2,500 readers, and has stack capacity for 2 million books. The building, which is fully air-conditioned and double-glazed, was completed at a cost of £2,101,555.