

THE  
TURNBULL LIBRARY  
RECORD



No. XIII

WELLINGTON NEW ZEALAND

AUGUST 1956



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## ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY REFERENCE DEPARTMENT

THE resources of the Alexander Turnbull Library are outstanding in the field of Pacific literature, and the first duty of the Reference Department is to see that students of the Pacific area are given all the assistance that the staff can provide. The Library's reputation rests perhaps equally on its collections of rare and early printed books, and on its English literature section, but it is with the New Zealand and Pacific material that the day-to-day work of the Reference Department lies.

Although we are a public library in the sense that all citizens have the right to make use of our resources, we nevertheless feel justified in referring enquirers to another library if their question is likely to be answered more quickly and adequately elsewhere. By concentrating on New Zealand and the Pacific, we hope to render a sound service in that field of scholarship for which the Library is uniquely fitted.

The Library's public does in fact extend beyond Wellington and New Zealand, throughout the world. Enquiries which come to us over the telephone or in person are often of a routine nature and can be answered within a few minutes, but we are also called upon to assist a Government department in carrying out a survey, and the reference work involved can be considerable. The Library made its contribution to the Parliamentary Historian's investigations into the liquor question in the King Country, and to the assembling of descriptions of previous floods in the Wangaehu river, following the Tangiwai disaster of Christmas 1953.

Apart from local enquirers, users of the Library fall into two groups: those who work in the reading room on lengthy research projects, and those who write for information either from within New Zealand or from overseas. Among those who spend days, and even months, in the reading room during the Library's working hours are Fulbright students,

post-graduate students of our own University, authors, and lecturers, both foreign and local. They may be relatively few in number, but their needs are many, and in the course of their researches they explore every section of the Library, consulting relevant books, periodicals, newspapers, maps, manuscripts, and illustrative material.

From within New Zealand come many enquiries about local history. A school about to celebrate a jubilee, or a district its centenary, find the references that the Library can often supply a useful starting point for the compilation of their district's history. When the Library holds the only known copy of a book, it is sometimes necessary to do more than provide the reference: if the extract is short, a type-script copy is made, or if it is long, a photographic copy; for we do not lend books to private individuals, and only rarely to other libraries. One correspondent who lives far from the Turnbull Library, or in fact from a library of any size, is writing an account of the little-known French expedition of Surville which visited these shores in 1769-70. For this he relies almost entirely on prints from microfilm copies of the journals of the expedition, which we have been able to procure from the French archives in Paris, and elsewhere.

Requests from overseas correspondents have a special interest. A Polish scholar requires details about the scientist-explorer Strzelecki, who called at the Bay of Islands in 1839; an American professor needs a microfilm copy of any letters we hold written to or by Thomas Arnold; an Australian author wants an account of Charles Richmond Thatcher's sojourn as an entertainer on the goldfields of New Zealand; an English historian working on a new life of E. G. Wakefield asks for photo-copies of original documents; a Frenchman interested in his countryman, Baron de Thierry, lists several questions he would like us to investigate; and a German writer, compiling a dictionary of medals, requests a copy of the original order-in-council, and an illustration of the New Zealand Cross.

Questions asked of the Reference Department frequently call for days of searching. In the absence of adequate reference books on New Zealand, and because much of our history still remains to be written or re-written, it is most

important that the results of our findings should not be lost once the questions have been answered. Thus we compile bibliographies, if the subject is large enough, or record the details in catalogue form, so that we are gradually building up an index to New Zealand's local history. This index is only in its infancy, and contains a strange variety of entries, but its scope is comprehensive in the field of historical material relating to New Zealand, and its potential usefulness considerable.

## THE ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY WINDOW DISPLAYS

THE idea of "selling" a library to the public has only been generally accepted comparatively recently overseas, but public relations have become of increasing importance. For many years now the Alexander Turnbull Library has presented internal displays and exhibitions, as the General Assembly Library has. The Wellington Public Library goes a step further in arranging displays in showcases at the entrance. The National Library Service has long shown recent accessions in the windows of the shops used as depots in several towns. But the Alexander Turnbull Library broke new ground when, two years ago, the Librarian arranged for continuous displays in two shop windows on the corner of Lambton Quay and Bowen Street, close to the Library.

By courtesy of the Electricity Department of the Wellington City Council, the Library was granted an occupancy of these windows in an empty shop, free of charge. The arrangement lasted just on two years, and proved so successful that though they have been suspended during the library's removal for renovation, they will be recommenced upon our return.

Originally it was intended to show one item only, changing it daily. However, the space available lent itself to building up larger displays, one in each window. These were initially for half a week at a time, and then were extended to a week each, partly on account of the amount of work involved, and partly by public demand, as many people complained that three or four days did not give sufficient opportunity to get to see the current display. Finally, a schedule was worked out, changing one window on Mondays, the other on Wednesdays, as a general rule.

As the window-displays were in the nature of an experiment of uncertain duration, it was not felt that any large expenditure was justified, and the methods employed were



necessarily makeshift. Opportunity was taken of a special display prepared for the Coronation to obtain a more appropriate background, but this was the only expense incurred.

Displays usually featured special items or some particular theme (e.g., books on fine printing; whaling in New Zealand, etc.). Special occasions or anniversaries were celebrated (e.g., a meeting of the South Pacific Commission; the Charge of the Light Brigade). Whenever possible, one window featured the Pacific collection, the other the "general" collection. Considerable use was made of pictures, photographs, and other items in support of the main display, generally from the Library's own holdings. On occasion the display was devoted entirely to illustrative material, or to manuscripts, or maps. An "educational" window was often paired with a more "popular" exhibit. It was felt that the Library's function was to support causes that were in the public interest, frequently, but not necessarily, of cultural value (e.g., the Safety in the Mountains campaign; the opening seasons of the New Zealand Players). To this end extensive liaison was maintained with other Government Departments and various societies and institutions (e.g., the New Zealand Forest Service, *The Listener*, National Archives, the Red Cross Society, the United Nations Organization, etc.).

The primary object of the window-displays was to make the Library, its functions, and its collections better known to the general public. There can be no doubt that it succeeded in capturing public interest, in building up good will, and in augmenting the use made of the Library. It has become an important factor in public relations and has more than justified the work put into it by the staff of the Alexander Turnbull Library.

## CHILDREN'S BOOKS AND THE TAYLOR SISTERS

“Though I am young, yet I may die  
And hasten to Eternity.”

THESE doleful sentiments, labelled on the title-page “Some excellent verses for the education of youth”, are not an unfair sample of printed children’s literature in England before the middle 18th century. The tone and title of such a well-known work as Isaac Watts’ *Divine and Moral Songs for Children* (London, 1715) repeats the dominant “good and godly” approach. A Morals Report in those days would find nothing to complain of in the publishing trade for children.

But the children were wiser than the grown men. They never hesitated to steal their elders’ reading. *Æsop’s Fables*, *Morte d’Arthur*, *Pilgrim’s Progress*, *Robinson Crusoe*, *Gulliver’s Travels*—one after another they stole the plums from the adults’ pantry. And their ears were always open to nursery jingles, oldwives’ tales, rhymes, songs, games, ballads, romances, legends, nurse’s fables of “the Robin Goodfellows, elves, fairies, hobgoblins, of our latter age”. All these, potted in print, were brought to the doorstep up and down the land stuffed in pedlars’ packs crammed tight with laces, pins, combs, tapes, all the gew-gaws of Autolyucus, and “Chapmens’ Books, Broadsides, or Half-Sheets, and Lottery Pictures, as Birds, Beasts, London Crys, etc., by the Gross or Dozen”. The “running stationers”, or “flying”, or just “walking” carried these rough little booklets, sometimes with a few crude cuts, under such titles as *Tom Thumb*, *The Babes in the Wood*, *The History of Sir Richard Whittington, thrice Lord Mayor of London*, *Don Quixote*, *Jack and the Giant*, and so on.

In 1774 John Newbery published “A little pretty pocket book . . . intended for the instruction and amusement of Little Master Tommy and Pretty Miss Polly”, sold by itself for 6d. or “with a Ball or Pin-Cushion” for 8d. This was

the first of a flock of little books issued by Newbery from his shop, "The Bible and Sun", in Saint Paul's Churchyard. Newbery's books were colourfully bound in gilt and pretty flowered papers, and had special illustrations, as have the better children's books ever since. And since that day the continuity of good books for children has not been broken. *Alice in Wonderland*, *Treasure Island*, the picture books of Caldecott, Crane, Kate Greenaway, *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*, *Babar*—these have supplanted the "awful warning" school.

Among the better children's writers at the start of last century were two sisters, Ann and Jane Taylor, of whom the former wrote that joy to after-dinner reciters and Lord Tennyson, *My Mother*, and the latter produced *Meddlesome Matty*, and what A. H. Turnbull called "the well-known ditty, *Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star*." Part of the excellent Library display for Children's Book Week recently included a commonplace book and four diaries of Ann Taylor.

Ann (1782-1866) and Jane (1783-1824) Taylor were both daughters of Isaac Taylor, engraver, friend of Goldsmith and Richardson, later Independent minister. Their first book was *Original Poems for Infant Minds. By Several Young Persons* (1809), with a memorable dedication, "To those parents into [whose] hands this little volume may chance to fall, it is very respectfully inscribed; and very affectionately to that interesting little race—the race of children". The Library holds Ann Taylor's own copy of this with MS. inscription and minor emendations. A shabby little volume, 5 x 3½ inches, quarter-bound in green roan with worn marbled boards, its list of contents reveals the book's character: "To a Butterfly, on giving it Liberty", "James and the Shoulder of Mutton", "Creation", "The Palace and the Cottage", "Idle Dicky and the Goat", "Washing and Dressing", "George and the Chimney-sweeper", and so on. This was followed by *Rhymes for the Nursery* (1806) and *Hymns for Infant Minds* (1810 and 1811). In the following year Ann was married to the Reverend Joseph Gilbert, a Congregational minister, and this ended the literary partnership of the sisters. Their poems have been reprinted often and, at different times collections, with Kate Greenaway's illustrations and with a preface by Edith Sitwell. Other

members of the Taylor family were inspired by their sisters' example to write, and their father wrote *The Biography of a Brown Loaf*, while "Mrs. Taylor of Ongar" produced *Practical Hints to Young Females, Maternal Solitude for a Daughter's Best Interests*, and *The Present of a Mistress to a Young Servant*.

The Library holds early or first editions of most of the Taylors' works, including another small and amusing book from Ann's library that appears to be by her—"Signor Topsy-Turvy's Wonderful Magic Lantern; or The World Turned Upside Down. By the author of My Mother, and other Poems".

Ann Taylor's commonplace book cannot be called very exciting. Bound in green roan, measuring 19½ x 16 cm., and kept in a green morocco slip-case, it contains verses written on Christmas Days from 1855 to 1862 as a kind of "chain" or "circle" game by Mrs. Gilbert and the assembled family. "We have always been faithful to anniversaries," says her note, and she goes on to explain the beginning of the custom. "Josiah and James in a long walk on that [1855] Christmas morning, concocted a couplet suitable to each of the party (17 in number) then to assemble; I believe I added a few, but so little is remembered that I fear I can make no entry." Of Ann's versification Edith Sitwell says, "Everything in these verses is as neat as can be, excepting, occasionally, the verses. These are a little apt to bend at the waist." The two following quotations are among the more readable lines:

"Another Christmas, and we meet  
Unchanged, or only more complete;  
Should changes come, why still, I guess  
We may be, neither more nor less!"

In 1856 these rather pleasant lines are given to the baby Annette:

"Dear little one, long may you live to remember  
The joy of these bright Twenty-fifths of December;  
I don't mean plum puddings, nor apples, nor filberts,  
But dear Aunts and Uncles, and Grandmama Gilberts."

Four pocket-books of Ann Taylor, for the years 1804, 1807, 1829, and 1850, each measure 12 x 8 cms., and are bound in crimson roan with a folding flap and clasp. They are very attractive little books, with engraved plates, stories,

poems, articles, hackney coach fares, watermen's fares on the Thames, marketing tables, and facing each weekly diary space is a page for cash accounts filled in most punctiliously. The first three of these belong to a series, *The Minor's Pocket-book*, printed by Darton and Harvey, well-known children's publishers, and they have printed in them several early poems by Ann and Jane. The entries are prosaic to a degree: "Jemima drank tea at Mrs. Blower's", "Jane and I went church meeting evening", "Baptist lecture", "No event". Only very rarely are there hints at Ann's poeticizing, "Heard from Darton with money" (29 Feb., 1804), "Darton ordered a 2d. volume of moral songs" (30 Nov., 1804.) But the incessant repetition of humdrum entries and meticulous accounts serves, as in some detailed Dutch interior, to paint the busy, frugal, pious life of this woman, first engraver's 'prentice daughter, then minister's wife, who jotted down so much in the scant leisure of a crowded life. Isaac Taylor's two daughters are far from the least in the long list of entertainers for "that interesting little race, the race of children".

P. C. M. ALCOCK.

## THE BEQUEST OF PERCY WATTS RULE

WHEN Alfred H. Huth, one of the most magnificent book-collectors of modern times, made his will in 1903, he provided that the British Museum should have a selection of fifty books from his library. The result was recorded in a handsome volume published by the Museum in 1912, where the treasures were described. It was a noble tribute to a noble gesture.

It may be that Percy Watts Rule, distinguished architect of Timaru, whose untimely death occurred in May 1953, had this precedent in mind when he provided in his will that the Alexander Turnbull Library should receive a selection of twenty of his books, to be chosen by his daughter, Mrs. H. G. Norris, and the Librarian. In addition, however, he devised the whole of his "A. Edward Newton Collection".

The name of A. Edward Newton, of Philadelphia, has enjoyed an individual and robust repute in the higher circles of book-collecting in the past thirty years, for Newton was a millionaire book-collector, who knew what he was about, was an undeniable "character", and an engaging and competent writer to boot. Few more charming books on English book-collecting than his *Amenities of Book Collecting* have ever been published, and if Percy Watts Rule found himself admiring the American's writings and personality therein, it was perhaps that he recognized a kindred spirit and that his was merely a parallel line of development.

It had become a new path in book-collecting to assemble the not inconsiderable writings and "—ana" of Newton, and without much conscious intent at first, Watts Rule anon found that in following his interest he was accumulating quite a collection. This is now manifest in the scores of items now present in the Library under the name of Newton.

Apart from writing well and knowledgeably on his favourite study, Newton stressed sound principles in its pursuit, such as his insistence on original condition, and the significance of association and provenance. He was in the

habit of producing an attractive booklet for his friends each Christmas, and a nice series of these graced Watts Rule's shelves. Newton was perhaps best known as an admirer of Dr. Samuel Johnson and his works. It is relevant here to retail an anecdote that I took pleasure in passing on to Mr. Rule. Newton, at a gathering of academic people, was introduced to a Dr. Johnson, a professor of physics. The latter, knowing something of Newton, smiled quizzically and remarked, "To me, sir, there is only one Newton." Edward Newton struck a pose, and retorted, "Sir, there is only one Dr. Johnson to me!"

Newton and Watts Rule corresponded occasionally, and his letters give an intimate touch to the collection. And I remember his showing me, with some concern, Newton's last Christmas booklet, where he quoted Charles Lamb's "Yours, ratherish unwell". For he had written to me about the same time in the same unhappy strain. It presaged the end, and the end meant something more to Newton—that he would, in the sale of his splendid library, give to others the pleasure he had had in collecting all those treasured volumes. The three-volume sale catalogue is a monument of its kind, such as Newton would have enjoyed preparing—and buying from!

It is tempting to linger on this theme, but the rest of the bequest is also important in divers ways. The selection sought to obtain books that would not only improve the Library's holdings, but reflect some lustre upon the benefactor and his collecting.

Watts Rule's interest in art was the dominating note in his library, as in his life as an architect. Thus two huge volumes (1748 and 1750) of the imposing prints of Piranesi's Roman Architecture were an obvious choice. Four volumes of Japanese colour prints were chosen, one original, two as issued in P. Neville Barnett's editions, and one beautiful volume of Hiroshige.

Two early Bibles were selected, one printed at Lyons in 1643, with woodcuts by Albrecht Durer and others, the other printed at Mainz in 1609, with the superb copper plates of De Bry. As the Library already holds a full set of De Bry's *Voyages*, this latter was an attractive choice.

A Book of Common Prayer printed by Mark Baskett in

1766, handsomely printed, and bound in green morocco, bearing the arms of King George III, was a treasure that the owner once asked to be included.

Watts Rule bound a number of volumes in his library, and he stipulated that at least one of his bindings should be included. The volume chosen is essentially his own work, a variorum collection of translations of the Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam by Fitzgerald, engrossed in his own fine hand-lettering, and bound in a black calf with inlaid design.

The life and adventures of Peter Wilkins is one of the best known of the imitators of *Gulliver's Travels*, and is curious for its flying people. The attractive two-volume edition of 1784 was deemed a fitting companion to the first editions of *Gulliver* and *Robinson Crusoe* already on the shelves.

A Persian MS. of the 17th century, with tasteful water-colour paintings, was the collection of stories known as *Risala Khayal Fullah*. Other MSS. were a document of 1757 signed by Louis XV of France, one of 1621 signed by Charles Prince of Wales, later Charles I, and a letter from Lord Tennyson to the poet W. C. Bennett, 1880.

Four volumes of incunabula were highly prized by their late owner, and each has its own interest. Two were printed at Lyons, one by Mathias Huss undated, but from internal evidence not before 1495. This is that very popular history, *Fasciculus temporum*, by Werner Rolewinck. Other fifteenth century copies of this work by another printer are in the Library. The other volume is attractively produced, with many woodcuts, by Nicolaus Philippi and Marcus Reinhard, who printed the first dated book at Lyons in 1477. The present book, *Postilla in Evangelia et epistolas*, by Guilielmus Alvernus (Giullaume d'Auvergne, Bishop of Paris from 1228 to 1249), was printed about 1485, but is undated. This commentary on the Gospels and Epistles is notable mainly for its illustrations.

Johannes Gritch's *Quadragesimale*, printed at Strassburg by the mysterious craftsman who is known to bibliographers as "Printer of Henricus Ariminensis", was the most cherished fifteenth century book in the Earlham Library. This is primarily because it came from the library of William Morris at Kelmscott House. It is an impressive folio rubricated by



hand. The type was also used by another printer at Reutlingen. The work is a collection of sermons for the Lenten season.

Equally unidentified is the printer of Herodianus' *Historia de imperio post Marcum* printed at Rome on 20th June 1493. He is thus known simply as "Printer of Herodianus", and for the production of one other book. Likewise his type is identical with that of a Neapolitan printer. This is now one of the few books in the Library's collection from fifteenth century Roman presses, and is, incidentally, quite rare.

A special printing of Percy Watts Rule's bookplate has been done for insertion in all these books, and is reproduced here. The Library is grateful for the additional richness with which he has endowed its shelves, which will long bear witness to his goodwill.

C.R.H.T.



BEQUEATHED TO THE ALEXANDER  
TURNBULL LIBRARY IN MAY 1953

## THE FRIENDS OF THE TURNBULL LIBRARY

### REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

YOUR COMMITTEE reports as follows:

1. General meetings were held during 1953 as under—  
20th August (annual meeting): An address was given by the Librarian, Mr. C. R. H. Taylor, on developments in the Library during the past year.

17th September: A discussion was conducted by the President, Mr. A. E. Currie, and the Librarian on "Book-binding of Many Styles".

15th October: An address was given by Mr. Northcote Bade, adviser on furniture to the Dominion Museum, on "Inside Early Colonial Homes".

The thanks of the Friends are due to these gentlemen.

19th November: Owing to the indisposition of the speaker arranged for, a film screening was substituted.

2. The death is regretted of Mr. S. H. Perry, of the Audit Department, who for a number of years has given the Friends valuable assistance in the preparation of annual accounts.

3. Once again the accounts show that the sale of maps, prints, and booklets has resulted in the Society's being in a better financial position than at any previous time.

4. Issue No. 11 of the Turnbull Library Record was produced during the year and distributed to members. Also issued in a limited number by the Library jointly with Victoria University College was Bulletin No. 11: *A Bibliography of English Poetical Miscellanies*, by W. J. Cameron. Members were advised that copies were available for those who desired them; copies are still so available. The bibliography has been favourably noticed in the major English bibliographical periodical, *The Library*.

5. During the year anxiety has been felt for the safety of the Library's collections owing to the overloaded state of the floors of the building, and doubts as to its stability in earthquakes; apprehended reduction of facilities for study and reference were also a cause for concern. Through the activity of Mr. F. A. Simpson a meeting was called of representatives of over a dozen organizations whose members are particularly interested in the use of the Library. Your committee was invited to send

representatives, and did so. Representations were made to the Government, and steps are now being taken to strengthen the building, and in the meantime to store many of the books elsewhere in Wellington and Hutt Valley, but in such a way that the bulk of the matter removed will still be available for reference.

Acknowledgement is due to Mr. P. M. Alcock, of the Library staff, for his work as secretarial assistant, which the President in particular has found invaluable.

THE FRIENDS OF THE TURNBULL LIBRARY

SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 1954

RECEIPTS		PAYMENTS	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Balance, 31/3/53—		Bank Charges	
Bank of N.Z.	207 3 4	Stationery and Advertising	1 0 0
P.O.S.B.	195 10 9	Tasman Maps and Booklets	8 6 9
Subscriptions—		Printing— <i>Record</i>	41 2 1
Current	42 0 0	Heaphy Prints (Kauri and Wel-	43 0 0
Arrears	1 11 6	lington)	45 0 0
Advance	4 4 0	Blocks for Kauri and Wellington	152 0 7
Life Membership Fees	47 15 6		281 2 8
Donations	21 0 0	Frames	22 19 0
Sales—Maps, Prints, Pamphlets, etc.	3 13 6	Balance, 31/3/54—	
Cash, source unknown	122 15 3	Bank of N.Z.	100 11 3
Interest—	20 0 4	P.O.S.B.	204 1 3
Government Stock	3 12 0	Cash in Hand	8 8 3
P.O.S.B.	4 18 6		
	8 10 6		
	<u>£626 9 2</u>		<u>£626 9 2</u>

STATEMENTS OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

GENERAL ACCOUNT

EXPENDITURE		INCOME	
	Previous Year		Previous Year
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
General Expenses	— — —	Donations	3 13 6
Bank Charge	1 0 0	Life Membership Fees	21 0 0
Stationery	3 4 0	Subscriptions	56 3 6
Subscriptions in Arrears written off	13 2 6	Profit on Sales Maps, etc.	50 13 5
Printing <i>Record</i> (No. 11)	22 2 6	Sundry Income (unrecorded cash sales)	20 0 4
Advertising	3 8 9	Interest, P.O.S.B.	4 12 0
Excess of Income over Expenditure	113 5 0		
	£156 2 9		£179 18 4





