

on page 8 below that of Watts-Dunton? If you could induce him out of the goodness of his heart to add a word or two confirming my notes, it would add greatly to the attraction of the pamphlet and render it a really important bibliographical record.¹⁸ The 'interesting and important item' was a privately circulated copy of Swinburne's manuscripts. On the half-title page there is the inscription, 'To Norman Gullick / From Thos. J. Wise', below which Wise had added: 'The Preface to this booklet was written by Edmund Gosse, although it bears the signature of W. T. Watts-Dunton. The circumstances which resulted in this curious wrong ascription will be found detailed at length in my Bibliography of Swinburne, Vol. II, 1920, pp. 20-25. Thos. J. Wise.' To this, Gosse had added, 'Quite true; and now confirmed by the sole writer of the Preface. / Edmund Gosse.' Yet this again is inaccurate. Wise had indeed testified of the third and fourth paragraphs of the Preface, which he quoted in his Bibliography of Swinburne, 'Although the long Prefatory Note from which the above extract has been taken bears the signature of Watts-Dunton, that gentleman had in fact nothing whatever to do with it beyond attaching his name to the proof.'¹⁹ It was precisely at the end of the third paragraph that Gosse had inserted the words, 'Here T. W-D. ends';²⁰ if Gosse's statement is to be believed, Watts-Dunton *had* provided a Preface, Wise had exaggerated in his customary fashion, and Gosse had allowed himself at least to be inconsistent.

Other letters from Wise display an interest in the intended Bibliography as early as January 1923, the occasion of another gift to Gullick. Correspondence briefly resumes in 1924, when Gullick's offer of a duplicate of Gosse's scarce *Memoir of Thomas Lodge*, 1882, is warmly accepted, and an exchange offered, possibly Wise's private issue of *Letters from Algernon Charles Swinburne to Edmund Gosse*, Series I-V, 1910-11, the first volume of which is inscribed by Wise to Gullick.²¹ At the end of December, 1925, Wise hopes to see the 'grand bibliography' making an appearance, and reassures Gullick as to cost.²²

By this time, Gullick's collection of Gosse's printed works was indeed substantial. In the Preface to the intended Bibliography, he describes his collations as 'in the greater part compiled from books in my own collection', and claims an almost complete set of the private issues. It was unquestionably larger than that of Wise, which consisted of thirty-seven titles, but Wise was among the first to receive a copy of the limited issues inscribed by the author, as the Ashley Catalogue confirms. The pride of Gullick's collection was *Six Lectures written to be delivered before the Lowell Institute in December, 1884*, 'privately printed in an impression of only four copies at the Chiswick Press in London, October, 1884 . . . the rarest of Edmund Gosse's private issues.'²³ Gullick's copy had been given to him by Gosse, for it bears his inscrip-