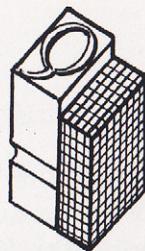


Quadrat



*A periodical bulletin of research in progress
on the British book trade*

Issue 7

June 1998

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Editor's Note

WE BEGIN the fourth year of *Quadrat* with a longer note by John Buchanan-Brown on members of the book trade mentioned by John Aubrey in his *Brief Lives*, which Mr Buchanan-Brown has recently edited for a new edition by Penguin Books, to be published early in 1999.

Peter Hanks, who has been working on the history of the book trade in Staffordshire contributes some items culled from Joshua Drewry's *Staffordshire Advertiser*, which illuminate the trade there between 1795 and 1808.

I recently contributed an entry on Thomas Slack, the Newcastle printer, to the *New Dictionary of National Biography*, and thought that it might be useful to have a note on Slack, based on the research required for the *NDNB*.

Recent pressure on my time has slowed progress on BBTI, and I include a plea for editorial assistance, with an indication of the geographical cover of the present records. **Help is greatly needed with this project.**

This issue also includes some notes and queries and the review of a new serial about books in Wales.

Peter Isaac



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Bibliography in the Seventeenth Century

John Aubrey and the Book Trade

THE POPULAR view of John Aubrey (1626–97) as a glorified Restoration gossip-writer is to ignore the very genuine contributions to archaeology made by a man of wide-ranging interests in science, antiquities and folklore,¹ and to obscure the nature and purpose of the work on which this judgement is based, his *Brief Lives*.² The ostensible purpose of this – effectively a major contribution towards the oral history of England from the end of Queen Elizabeth's reign to the Glorious Revolution – was to contribute towards the compilation by Anthony Wood of his projected *Athenæ et Fasti Oxonienses*.³

In it Wood was to provide biographies of writers awarded degrees by the University under the years in which such degrees were awarded, listing both their published and unpublished works and thus providing an important bio-bibliography of seventeenth-century Oxford graduates. In common with Wood's other informants Aubrey includes within his biographies under the heading 'Scripsit' a list of the subject's writings.

After two centuries of scholarly endeavour we take bibliographies and library catalogues for granted, but Aubrey was without any such aids. The only written source of bibliographical information which he appears to have used was the Bodleian Library catalogue,⁴ and while in some instances he clearly went to considerable pains to secure such information, in others he was content to give approximate dates of publication unless the books in question were either those he owned or those to which he had access. Then he meticulously transcribed publication details:⁵ otherwise he would leave it to Wood to obtain the relevant information from his close collaborator Andrew Allam of St Edmund Hall, Oxford.

However, where Aubrey undertook research in the main he would seem to have relied upon the physical examination of the books concerned in situ, that is on the booksellers' shelves. Thus he notes that he should go to Duck Lane to search for an early sixteenth-century mathematical book or to St Paul's churchyard to ask Mr Ben Tuke for the paper of Thomas

Hobbes's sayings or the nameless bookseller for the sermon preached at the funeral of Joseph Glanvil.⁶

Despite his impecuniosity, Aubrey remained a book-buyer,⁷ familiar both with London bookshops and with London booksellers. Indeed he knew Henry Brome well enough to consider entering his horoscope in his *Collection of Genitures*,⁸ and in 1681 Moses Pitt was prepared, on his recommendation, to engage Aubrey's old friend Christopher Wase to work on his Atlas, provided he controlled his drink-problem.⁹ However, the only member of the trade to figure in his *Brief Lives* was Richard Head whose compulsive gambling more than once bankrupted his businesses. As 'Meriton Latroon' he wrote *The English Rogue* and other studies of low life at 'twenty shilings a sheet'. 'He looked like a knave, with his goggling eies', Aubrey writes, and was drowned on a voyage to Plymouth.¹⁰

If the book trade furnished this unpromising subject for biography, its members proved useful informants in terms both of biography and of bibliography, although there were exceptions. On Wood's behalf, Aubrey had attempted to obtain information about the poet Robert Herrick from his kinsman 'Mr [Samuel] Heyrick bookeseller at Grayes-Inne-gate', but in vain. As Aubrey wrote to Wood on 5 September 1691,¹¹ 'I have been at least seven times at Mr Heyrick Stationer, whom at last, when I found, he is the most morose and unmorall man that ever I met with. He cares not for Mr Anthony Wood, 'twill be no credit to his cosen to be named in his booke, he would not take Paines to answer his Quæres'.

Others were much more forthcoming. In 1681 William Croke acted as Aubrey's go-between to obtain a brief curriculum vitæ from Edward Lane,¹² whose *Mercy Triumphant* he had published in the previous year. The Quaker bookseller and publisher Benjamin Clark furnished Aubrey with a list of forty-two books and pamphlets written by William Penn which Wood stigmatised as 'but a very imperfect catalogue', adding 'Quære Silas Norton quaker'.¹³

Finally Brabazon Aylmer provided a complete list of Dr Isaac Barrow's theological works (edited by Dr Tillotson and published in four volumes 1683-7), and may well have given Aubrey notes of his mathematical works, listed in some detail in his life of the Master of Trinity College, Cambridge. The bookseller may have expected a quid pro quo, since he had commissioned Abraham Hill to supply a life for his edition and he knew (through

Barrow's father) that Aubrey was gathering similar materials for Wood. At all events, Aubrey reported to Wood on 10 May 1683¹⁴ 'that I am dunn'd and importunated by Mr Abraham Hill and his friend Mr Brabazon Ailmer, bookeseller, to desire you to gett a Transcription of Dr Barrowe's life, which he is goeing to print, and he will pay for it', since Aubrey was unprepared to let the manuscript (now MS Aubrey 8) out of Wood's hands in view of the politically sensitive material in the other lives contained in it.

These are instances of Aubrey using members of the book trade for substantial bibliographies. There is evidence, too, that his knowledge of, and acquaintance with, them enabled him to check minor bibliographic details in the biographies he supplied to Wood. Thus he approached John Playford senior for information about Milton's father's musical compositions;¹⁵ Mr Littlebury, to whom he had sold his books in 1677, gave him details of the writings of Dr Francis Anthony and was noted as a potential informant as to whether Anthony's son had written anything;¹⁶ while Henry Brome could be approached for copies of 1663 news-books to verify the dates of Seth Ward's promotion to the see of Exeter.¹⁷ Brome himself was, as we have seen, a close acquaintance, telling Aubrey an anecdote illustrating the precocious intellect of his brother, Alexander.¹⁸

Wood's *Athenæ*, as we have said, was not only concerned with the bibliography of its subjects' writings but also with the location of unpublished manuscript material. Thus Aubrey will note the whereabouts of material in private hands. It was, however, inevitable that such manuscripts should also pass into the book trade. Moses Pitt is recorded as holding the manuscripts of a Latin dictionary compiled by John Milton (*Idioma Linguae Latinae*)¹⁹ as well as the second part of Nicholas Mercator's *Logarithma Technica*.²⁰

Sometimes Aubrey was mistaken and when he enquired of William Cadman (whom he calls Cadnam) for Ezreel Tong's papers the bookseller told him that Tong's brother had given them to Lord Culpepper who took them to Virginia where they were lost.²¹ A similar fate may well have befallen the collections made by Captain Silas Taylor for the history of Harwich which 'he pawned a little before his death to Mr Baker, the Printseller by the old Exchange for £4 15 shillings. I acquainted Sir Philip Parker, whom the Borough uses to choose for their Burghesse, which would doe them more service then all his roast-beefe, wine, and ale at an

Election'.²² While local historians of East Anglia may mourn this presumed loss, Taylor's Herefordshire collections – no doubt including some pillaged from Hereford Cathedral library during the Commonwealth – were to survive in the Harleian Library.

Check-list of Booksellers mentioned in Brief Lives

AYLMER, Brabazon (died c1707), active 1670–1709 when he was succeeded by his son, Brabazon Aylmer jr. He specialised in theology and published Milton's prose works. He had an interest in *Paradise Lost*. Contracts for these and for Barrow's writings are preserved in the Bedfordshire County Record Office (see Peter Lindenbaum, 'Authors and publishers in the late seventeenth century', *The Library*, 6 ser, 17 (1995), 250–69. Plomer3, 18.

BAKER, Mr, Print-seller.

BARNES, Joseph (c1546–1618), the Oxford bookseller and printer to the University who issued some 300 titles between 1584 and 1617. His wine-bar is mentioned by Aubrey (Clark II, 25). Plomer1, 22–3.

BEE, Cornelius (died 2 January 1672), active from 1636 from his shop in Little Britain. He suffered heavy losses in the Great Fire of 1666. Aubrey mentions him as the purchaser of John Hales's library (Clark I, 279, 281). Plomer2, 19.

BROME, Henry, active 1657–69. He developed an extensive list of general publications (he listed some forty-two separate titles in 1664). Despite what Aubrey says (Clark I, 126) Plomer2 (p 34) denies that he was related to Alexander Brome (1620–66).

CADMAN or CADEMAN, William (Aubrey's Mr Cadnam), a publisher of poetry, plays and literary works, active 1668–87. Plomer3, 62.

CLARK, Benjamin, printer and publisher, active 1674–98. In addition to work for the Quakers, he specialised in educational books. Plomer3, 71.

CROOKE, Andrew (father: Plomer2, 56–7), and William (son: Plomer3, 87). Andrew Crooke was active as a publisher of plays (Beaumont and Fletcher, for example); issued the first edition of Browne's *Religio Medici* as well as Hobbes's *Leviathan*. His son, William, had acted independently (1664–5) before succeeding his father. Hobbes used his address as a post box (eg Clarke I, 379 ff) and Crooke supplied Aubrey with details of Hobbes's published works for the bibliography in the latter's life of the

philosopher (Clark I, 359). Crooke died in 1694 and was succeeded by his widow, Elizabeth.

HEAD, or MERITON (nom de plume), Richard, the sole 'brief life' of a bookseller (Clark I, 305); see also DNB and Plomer2, 94.

HERRICK or HEYRICK, Samuel, active 1662–1700 and an important member of the Stationers' Company of which he was Upper Warden 1696–7 and 1699–1700. Plomer2, 96; Plomer3, 153.

LITTLEBURY, Robert, a learned bookseller of Little Britain where he operated from two addresses 1652–85. Plomer2, 119; Plomer3, 191.

MONTAGUE, Mr, a second-hand bookseller of Duck Lane (not in Plomer) who had served in the Parliamentary Army in Scotland (Clark I, 32).

PITT, Moses, bookseller and printer (London agent for the Oxford University Press) who bankrupted himself through building speculation. His *Account of one Anne Jeffries... who was Fed for Six Months by... fairies* (1696) might have been of particular interest to Aubrey. See also DNB and Plomer3, 238–9.

PLAYFORD, John sr, from 1623 to c1686 the most important publisher of music. See DNB and Plomer2, 148.

TOOKE, Benjamin (died 1716), King's Printer Dublin 1669–85; simultaneously active in London from 1669. Queen's Printer 1713; Under Warden 1689 and Clerk and Treasurer of the Stationers' Company 1677–1702. He was Swift's bookseller and publisher and (Plomer3, 293) 'One of the largest publishers of the time'.

Hereford

John Buchanan-Brown

REFERENCES

Clark is *Brief Lives... set down by John Aubrey* (edited by Andrew Clark, 2 vols, Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1898).

Plomer 1 is H G Aldis & others, *A Dictionary of Printers and Booksellers in England, Scotland and Ireland... 1557–1640* (Bibliographical Society, 1910).

Plomer 2 is Henry R Plomer, *A Dictionary of Booksellers and Printers... in England, Scotland and Ireland 1641–1667* (Bibliographical Society, 1907).

Plomer³ is Henry R Plomer & others, *A Dictionary of Printers and Booksellers... in England, Scotland and Ireland 1668-1725* (Bibliographical Society, 1922).

NOTES

1. Michael Hunter's *John Aubrey and the Realm of Learning* (London: Duckworth, 1975) assesses fully Aubrey's contribution to and place in seventeenth-century science and antiquarianism.
2. Strictly comprising only MSS Aubrey 6, 7 & 8, together with MS Aubrey 9 (Life of Thomas Hobbes) in the Bodleian Library, Oxford.
3. Oxford, 2 vols, 1691-2.
4. For example Thomas Hariot (Clark I, 287).
5. cf Richard Benese (Clark I, 97), Thomas Digges (Clark I, 236), Cyprian Lucar (Clark II, 38ff), or James Peele (Clark II, 120).
6. Clark I, 97, 356, 266.
7. Although Aubrey records the sale of his books to Robert Littlebury on 31 July 1677 (MS Augrey 23, 103; Bodleian Library, Oxford), and Robert Hooke accepted others in settlement of unpaid loans, Aubrey continued to acquire books, since he was occasionally able to present volumes to the Royal Society (listed by John Buchanan-Brown, *Notes and Records of the Royal Society of London*, 28.2 (1974), 167-93) and made a substantial donation of mathematical books to what is now Worcester College, Oxford. At his death a further substantial collection of miscellaneous books was bequeathed to the Ashmolean Museum, together with his manuscripts. These are now preserved in the Bodleian Library, Oxford, and together with the mathematical books were catalogued by Dr R T Gunter, whose lists are printed as 'Appendix B: Aubrey's Library' in Anthony Powell's *John Aubrey and his Friends* (London: Heinemann, 2nd revised edition, 1963, 293-310).
8. MS Aubrey 23, 64^v (Bodleian Library, Oxford).
9. MS Tanner 456(a), 27 (Bodleian Library, Oxford).
10. Clark I, 305.
11. MS Wood F39, 433 (Bodleian Library, Oxford).
12. Clark II, 29.
13. Clark II, 136.
14. MS Ballard 14, 136 (Bodleian Library, Oxford) - the printed life is signed 'A[braham] H[ill]' and is dated 10 April 1683.
15. Clark II, 62.
16. Clark I, 52.
17. Clark II, 286.
18. Clark I, 126.

19. Clark II, 66.
20. Clark II, 58.
21. Clark II, 262.
22. Clark II, 255.
23. Clark II, 256.

Some Notes and a Question

The Pawletts of London and Grantham

IN HER ARTICLE 'Some late seventeenth-century book-trade activities' in *Quadrat* 6 (November 1997) Dr Hargreaves lists Mr Robert Pawlett of London as one of the 1676 distributors of Lionel Lockyer's antimonial *Pillulae Radiis Solis Extractae*, and notes that 'Plomer gives Robert Pawlett in London, but an Edward Paulet in Grantham'. These were, in fact, brothers, the sons of a Melton Mowbray mercer, Robert being baptised on 10 May 1635 and Edward on 16 August 1640.

Edward was admitted to the freedom of the corporation of Grantham in 1660 to practise as a bookbinder (and later as a bookseller), while Robert was apprenticed to the London stationer Daniel Pakeman in 1652, being freed on 1 August 1659. The brothers published at least four books with joint imprints – for example that for William Walker's *An Explanation of the Rules of the Royal Grammar* reads:

LONDON, Printed for *Robert Pawlett* at the Sign of the *Bible in Chancery Lane near Fleet-Street*, and *Edward Pawlett* Bookseller in *Grantham*. 1670.

Robert Pawlett was the publisher of over 120 books of divinity, history, law and parliamentary texts, as well as broadsheets on the alleged popish plots and other contemporary issues. Details of some of his activities, as well as those of his younger brother (and of their family successors), can be found in 'Edward Pawlett of Grantham: a provincial bookseller, 1660–1687' by John H Manterfield, published in *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*, 29 (1994), 11–16, from which most of the above information is taken.

Gainsborough

Jim English

Dr Hargreaves was interested in Jim English's note on the Pawletts, but felt that this did not explain Lockyer's listing Robert Pawlett as his Grantham

distributor. Was Lockyer confused or was Robert in Grantham for a time in the mid-1670s?

Pills and Print

THE BOOK TRADE was a most important – perhaps *the* most important – means of distribution for patent medicines from the middle of the seventeenth century to the middle of the nineteenth. Newspaper proprietors and the larger printers and booksellers frequently acted as regional wholesalers. In England from the early eighteenth century nostrums were distributed by the newsmen around the newspaper-distribution networks.

Dr Iain Beavan, of Aberdeen University Library, recently drew my attention to an entry in J P Edmond, *The Aberdeen Printers Edward Raban to James Nicol 1620–1736* (Aberdeen, 1886) for the Aberdeen town and university printer James Nicol (*fl* 1710–36). In 1716 Nicol printed *Aberdeen's New Prognostication for the Year of our Lord 1716*. Among the advertisements at the end there is one for 'sundry quack medicines', which reads:

Also, *Daffy's* Original and Famous Elixir Salutis, the Choice Drink of Health, or Health-bringing-Drink: Being a Famous Cordial Drink, found out by the Providence of the Almighty, and (for above Fifty Years) Experienced by himself and Diverse Persons whose Names are at most of their desires Insert in the Bills of Directions given with each bottle, The price of each bottle 3 shillings sterling. Also, *Stoughton's* Elixir Magnum that rare Cordial for the Stomach with Directions, 1 shilling sterling per bottle. Also the Queen of *Hungary's* Water, and White Powder, to be sold at the foresaid place.

This and similar almanacs were distributed by chapmen, as were the nostrums, and it is worth noting that there were no newspapers in Aberdeen until the 1740s.

Wylam

Peter Isaac

'Printed for and Sold by'

On the printed back cover of Thomas Donaldson's *Poems, Chiefly in the Scottish [sic] Dialect* (Alnwick: Davison, 1809) is an advertisement headed 'Books printed by & for W. Davison, Alnwick'. The last of the five books listed is *The Caledonian Musical Repository*. I recently bought a copy of this book dated 1811, published by Oliver & Boyd. This is the work listed

by the Revd Thomas Hugo in the Supplement to his *Bewick Collector* (London, 1868, item 5413). There is no evidence of any connexion with William Davison. Iain Bain has kindly searched the ledgers of Thomas Bewick, but could find no mention of wood-engravings for Oliver & Boyd for this work, although a cut of a couple under a tree (see below), made in 1809 for the Edinburgh publishers for their undated edition of Allan Ramsay's *The Gentle Shepherd* (and there used on the title-page), was used again in *The Caledonian Musical Repository* on p 26.

Again, the last three pages of vol 16 of the 18-volume edition of Baron van Swieten's *Commentaries on Boerhaave's Aphorisms*, published by Charles Elliot, the Edinburgh bookseller, in 1776, carry an advertisement for 'Medical Books printed for and sold by Charles Elliot, Parliament Square'. Of the sixty-eight books listed no more than seven dated 1776 or earlier can be found in *ESTC* with Elliot's name in the imprint, with another five in the years 1777-1779.

Presumably, if a bookseller's name appears in an imprint, not obviously a cancel, he had some contractual responsibility for the work concerned. How common were these 'spurious' 'Printed for & sold by' advertisements in the eighteenth century (and later)? And what is their significance, if any?

Wylam

Peter Isaac





BBTI – a Plea for Assistance

AT THE BEGINNING of April the British Book Trade Index contained 70 494 records, including a substantial number of duplicates. London hugely predominates with 26 763 records, and the geographical representation of the records outside the metropolis is also very uneven, as may be seen from the count made at that time, and shown on the opposite page.

As well as members of the book trade the database also includes names of papermills, newspapers, presses, and libraries.

It is important to make the coverage of BBTI more representative geographically, and I shall be most grateful for offers of help, working through local directories etc for the poorly covered counties, and, quite as important, offers of assistance with editing and conflating the existing entries. I now have equipment for 'writing' CD-ROMs, and intend to prepare these for BBTI with a suitable 'search-engine'. I shall be happy to supply a CD to anyone willing to assist with editing or adding records. Each CD will be able to take the database six or seven times, so that successive emendations can be accommodated.

Another very important respect in which the database is unrepresentative is that it consists mainly of 'masters', whose names will have been drawn from the directories. Information of apprentices, journeymen etc can be found from newspapers, wills, parish records and similar sources. Help with this particularly laborious task will be doubly welcome. Please reply to me at 10 Woodcroft Road, WYLAM NE41 8DJ.

Peter Isaac

BBTI - Geographical Distribution of Entries

Bedfordshire	197	Sussex*	1164
Berkshire	401	Warwickshire*	2356
Buckinghamshire†	564	Westmorland*	255
Cambridgeshire	470	Wiltshire	484
Cheshire*	1677	Worcestershire*	568
Cornwall**	333	Yorkshire*	6434
Cumberland*	603		
Derbyshire*	722	Anglesey	76
Devonshire*	3042	Brecon	150
Dorset	338	Caernarvonshire	143
Durham*	810	Cardiganshire	164
Essex**	586	Carmarthenshire	320
Gloucestershire (inc Bristol)	1423	Denbighshire	191
Hampshire*	793	Flint	105
Herefordshire**	345	Glamorgan	375
Hertfordshire	385	Merionethshire	110
Huntingdonshire	89	Monmouthshire	296
Kent*	2736	Montgomeryshire	139
Lancashire‡	5730	Pembrokeshire	177
Leicestershire	138	Radnorshire	42
Lincolnshire	815		
Middlesex	505	Guernsey	14
Norfolk*	757	Jersey	13
Northamptonshire	366	Isle of Man	48
Northumberland*	968	Isle of Wight	87
Nottinghamshire	401		
Oxfordshire	809	* <i>Well-covered</i>	
Rutland	15	** <i>Additional work welcome</i>	
Shropshire	574	† <i>Papermakers probably disproportionately represented</i>	
Somerset	735	‡ <i>3310 records from Liverpool; wider work needed</i>	
Staffordshire	977	<i>Most records for Wales do not go beyond 1820; more work needed</i>	
Suffolk*	951		
Surrey*	1146		

Joshua Drewry of Stafford

JOSHUA DREWRY, printer, bookseller, stationer and insurance agent, set up his business in Stafford in 1792, and continued there until 1821. Three years after setting up he established the weekly *Staffordshire Advertiser and Political, Philanthropic and Commercial Gazette* with his printery, which he later named the Staffordshire Advertiser Printing Office, in Gaolgate Street.

The first issue of the *Advertiser* came out on 3 January 1795; it may be of interest to note some of the advertisements and notices published in that newspaper. In the first issue Drewry set out his wares.

Joshua DREWRY begs leave to inform the public that he executes the Printing business at the above office in all its branches. Catalogues, Club Articles Bills Cards &c. &c. done with neatness, accuracy on moderate terms and at the shortest notice etc.

On 31 January a similar advertisement included 'Books bound in a firm, neat or elegant manner'. (The three categories of binding are worth noting.) This advertisement was repeated the following week.

On 27 June 1795 there was this notice

Remedy against the effects sustained from Bugs, Gnats &c. – Place upon your bedstead, or other part of the room, a skin, or large piece of what is called Russia leather, in the red dressed state it comes from thence (for if again dressed here it is not found to be so effectual). This remedy is generally practised in that country, and has been found effectual in England.

One wonders if this suggestion was an outcome of his bookbinding activities; and what was the agent responsible? (Arsenic was used in Northern Nigeria to preserve the goatskins before transport to North Africa for export to Europe.)

On 12 September 1795 Drewry advertises a new circulating library. The subscriptions were 10s.6d for one year, 6s for a half year, 3s.6d for a quarter and 1s.6d for a month; non-subscribers were charged 2d per volume.

Drewry was agent for a Militia Society, providing substitutes for those ballotted to serve in the Militia, the subscription being 5s.6d. This service was advertised on 10 October 1795.

Early next year his business must have been looking up, for on 20 February 1796 he advertised

WANTED

An Active Youth as an Out-Apprentice to a Printer. He will receive Wages from the Commencement of his Apprenticeship; and no Premium will be required.

Clearly the printer was looking for 'cheap labour'. Under section 31 of Elizabeth's statute relating to artificers, labourers, servants of husbandry, and apprentices it was not lawful for anyone to set up in business in any craft, to which he had not been apprenticed for at least seven years. In consequence journeymen printers had no objection to indoor apprentices, living as part of the master's family, but objected very strongly to outdoor apprentices. As skilled labour grew scarce in the Napoleonic Wars out-apprenticeship grew commoner. Elizabeth's statute was finally repealed in 1814, against the wishes of the journeymen whose skills were their only 'capital'.

Taxes have always been objected to, especially Pitt's diverse searches for revenue, the tax on paper being especially obnoxious to the book trade. On 21 October 1797 appeared

The heavy Tax on Paper has almost ruined the Printing and Book-selling Business of this Country, and transferred all the foreign trade to Germany and France, whence Books in all languages are exported to America, &c. at one-third less charge than from England. The annual consumption of printing paper in Paris, which, for seven years before the Revolution, was averaged at 160,000 reams, was, at the close of last year, computed at 2,800,000.

Shades of the high pound!

On 2 March 1799 many volumes from the estate of the late William Smith are advertised, and on 15 June of the same year Hinchcliffe & Round advertise the sale of the effects of a Major Halliday, including 'a select and valuable LIBRARY of BOOKS elegantly bound. This advert was repeated on 22 and 29 June.

Problems with employees were highlighted on 12 September 1801

Stoke-upon-Trent. Sept. 1801

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

That if any person or persons employ Samuel Turner, James Kennedy, Henry Alden, Joseph Macguire or any other of my servants, either directly or indirectly, in the art or business of Engraving, or otherwise colleague with them to my injury, will be prosecuted as the law directs.

EDW. WHITEHOUSE

A week later this notice was repeated with the following addition

The said Henry Alden having run away from his master's service. He is about 5 feet 8¹/₂ inches high, cropt dark coloured hair, black eyes, rather sallow complexion and pitted with the small pox - All persons are warned against secreting or harbouring him after this notice.

Stoke-upon-Trent 16 Sept. 1801

Presumably by 1802 Drewry's out-apprentice was out of his time, because on 20 November 1802 he was again advertising

WANTED IMMEDIATELY

An Apprentice to a Printer, Bookseller and Stationer. A youth of respectable connexions, who can write a good hand, will be taken with a moderate premium - Apply to the Printer of this Paper.

The requirement of a premium appears to have produced no response, for on 12 February 1803 he advertised again

WANTED

An Apprentice to the Printing Business, who must board with his parents or friends. He will receive wages from the commencement of his apprenticeship, and no premium will be required. Apply to the Printer of this paper.

This advert was repeated a week later, and yet again on 25 June of the same year

A Youth of promising abilities as an Apprentice to the Printing Business. Apply to the Printer of this Paper.

And this, too, was repeated a week later. Drewry was again seeking an apprentice on 14 March 1808.

Until 1804/5 the *Staffordshire Advertiser* used the long s, which it dropped when it changed its typeface at that time. Our printer had problems, as may be seen from a notice published on 5 March 1808.

WHEREAS I John Hickman, journeyman printer with Mr Drewry, of Stafford, did on the morning of Saturday the 27th of this instant February, wantonly, maliciously, and without any provocation, attack the dwelling-house and assault the PERSON, of the Rev. EDWARD DICKENSON, Rector of St Mary's, in Stafford, for which offence, I have been justly threatened with a Prosecution; but the same has been withdrawn on the following terms, viz. . . . that I the said John Hickman do pay TWO GUINEAS to the Infirmary of the County of Stafford, with the expence [*sic*] of inserting this advertisement in the Staffordshire Advertiser; in order thus publicly to acknowledge my SINCERE CONTRITION for the said offence –

Now I do hereby publicly acknowledge the lenity which I have experienced, and do promise never to offend in like manner for the future – Witness my hand this 29th February, 1808.

JOHN HICKMAN

Witness, CHARLES MEASAM

Other masters had even worse problems, as may be surmised from the printer's advert on 9 April 1808

On TUESDAY next will be Published

PRICE SIXPENCE

THE Trial at large of WILLIAM HAWKESWOOD, who was executed at Stafford, on Wednesday last, for the WILFUL MURDER of his master MR. JOHN PARKER, of Swindon, in the parish of Wombourne.

Printed by J. DREWRY, Stafford and sold by all Booksellers.

Local authors, as we know from Byron's juvenilia printed and published in Newark, often commissioned local printers to produce their work, even where they were able to get a London publisher to sell the book. We have an example of this in an advertisement on 15 October 1808 (repeated the following week) for *Ned Bentley*, a novel in 3 volumes (price 15s) by Mr Amphlett dedicated to Sheridan. This was published in London by Longmans, and sold by booksellers in Stafford, Chester, Newcastle [-under-Lyme], Leek, Cheadle, Wolverhampton, Lichfield, Newport and Congleton.

Stone

Peter Hanks

Thomas Slack, 1723?-1784

THOMAS SLACK, an important printer, publisher, newspaper proprietor and author of Newcastle upon Tyne, was the eldest son of Joseph Slack, of Wreay, near Carlisle, and his wife Mary (née Stephenson), whom he married on 12 May 1722 at St Cuthbert's Church, Carlisle. On 15 December 1751 Thomas Slack married Anne Fisher (1719-1778), daughter of Henry Fisher, a yeoman of Oldscale, in the parish of Lorton, Cumberland. This was the start of a productive writing and publishing partnership, that passed through one of their daughters to the Hodgsons.

On 18 October 1752, Thomas Slack, as the heir of his father, was admitted tenant of lands at Wreay, which, in turn on 16 September 1784, his eldest daughter and heir-at-law, Mrs Mary Blaylock, inherited.

It is not clear where Slack learnt his trade, but by 1751 he was working for the Quaker Newcastle printer, Isaac Thompson, in Burnt House Entry, the printer to whom William Bulmer was later apprenticed. Thompson was proprietor of the *Newcastle Journal*, and Slack was said to have been his manager. Their working relationship is unclear, for, in 1755, was issued *Lucius and Celadon: or, a Dialogue of the Existence and Immortality of the Soul* with the imprint 'Printed by I Thompson and C^o, for Tho. Slack...'; in the following year *The Newcastle Memorandum-Book* was published with the imprint 'Printed for Tho. Slack, and sold by all the Persons who distribute the *Newcastle Journal*...'. The *Memorandum-Book* survived as an annual publication until 1893, and was widely sold by booksellers in England and Scotland, Charles Elliot, the Edinburgh publisher and bookseller, for example, taking 100 copies in 1774.

In association with the London publishers, George Robinson & Co, he also published *The Ladies' Own Memorandum-Book*, prepared by his wife; Slack printed the letterpress matter, and the Robinsons dealt with the calendar and ruled matter. This, too, was purchased in bulk by Charles Elliot, who wrote directly to Mrs Slack. This publication continued, under his successors, until 1805, when the Robinsons failed.

In 1763 Thomas Slack started his own printing business, following a disagreement with Isaac Thompson, reflected in correspondence in the

local newspapers. He named his shop at the Head of Middle Street, Newcastle upon Tyne, opposite High Bridge, the Printing Press. As well as books and stationery he, ably assisted by his wife, sold prints, lottery tickets and spectacles. The printing of books formed a large part of their flourishing business, his name appearing, as printer, publisher or bookseller, in the imprints of some 150 books from 1755, and with two editions of *The Pleasing Instructor* by his wife writing under her maiden name Anne Fisher in 1756. to the year of his death in 1784.



Thomas and Anne Slack (sketches from *The Monthly Chronicle of North-Country Lore and Legend* (1890), 224

Amongst other books by his wife, of which Thomas Slack printed and published several editions were *A Practical New Grammar* (1757-), *An Accurate New Spelling Dictionary* (3rd edn, 1777), *A New English Exercise Book* (1770) and *The New English Tutor, or Modern Preceptor* [1778]. An advertisement in the *Newcastle Chronicle* for 16 March 1782 shows that he also published the pastoral poems of John Cunningham, poet and player.

In competition with Thompson's *Newcastle Journal* Slack established the weekly *Newcastle Chronicle*, the first issue appearing on 24 March 1764. The newspaper remained in the control of his daughter and son-in-law and their sons until 1850. When Joseph Cowen, industrialist and MP, took it over from Mark William Lambert in 1859 it became a radical campaigning journal; it ceased publication in 1953.

Thomas Slack was also an author, writing under the pseudonym of S Thomas, complementing his wife's work with a series of books on business

practice: these included *The British Negotiator* (1759–), *The Banker's Sure Guide* (1762–), *Britannicus Estimator: or, the Trader's Complete Guide* (1764), which became *The Ready Calculator* (1771–), and *The Commercial Palladium: or, Tradesman's Jewel* (1775). He also edited an edition of W Webster's *Essays on Book-Keeping* (1779).

At the time that Slack was at work on his own account Newcastle was an important centre for the book trade. The four principal members of the trade were John White (*fl* 1711–1769), William Charnley (*fl* 1755–1803), Thomas Saint (*fl* 1761–1788), who worked with and succeeded White, and Slack. White was the first 'permanent' printer in Newcastle and, in 1711, established the *Newcastle Courant*, which Saint continued. Saint continued White's policy of concentrating on popular literature, including children's books, often illustrated by Thomas Bewick. Charnley was a considerable bookseller and publisher, helping to establish Fourstones papermill in 1763. Each of these four had, therefore, his own field of specialization, Slack concentrating on more substantial, frequently didactic, works and all had connexions with the London and provincial book trade. Anne Fisher's schoolbooks were reprinted in association with Slack and 'pirated' by Hoey of Dublin, Henry Mozley of Gainsborough, Christopher Etherington of York, and John Soulby of Penrith, amongst others.

Thomas Slack was unusual, in the eighteenth-century book trade of provincial England, in combining authorship (his and his wife's), printing and publishing a wide range of books, newspaper proprietorship and jobbing printing. In this he was most successful, his will showing that in addition to the property at Wreay and his house and printing workshop in Middle Street, he had other houses and a shop in Newcastle and a one-sixteenth share in the ship *Mary*.

Thomas and Anne Slack had nine children, all girls, three of whom died in infancy; one other, Jane, predeceased her father, dying in 1776, aged 21. Thomas Slack died on 13 January 1784, leaving his printing business to the fourth extant daughter, Sarah, then aged just under 24. Solomon Hodgson (1760–1800), who had probably been working for Slack, married Sarah on 15 February 1785. On 21 February, the executors of Thomas Slack's estate transferred to Hodgson the *Newcastle Chronicle*, together with the printing, bookselling and stationery business.

Wylam

Peter Isaac

Review

Y Llyfr yng Nghymru/Welsh Book Studies (Canolfan Llyfr Aberystwyth Centre for the Book), No 1 (1998), pp x, 103. ISSN 1368-5902. Price £7.95.

Recently several academic historians of the book have congratulated themselves that this topic has been recognized professionally as a discipline in its own right. Bumbling amateurs like your reviewer feel that they ought to be pleased, but cannot help being somewhat dismayed – a topical oxymoron. The seriousness required of an academic discipline – and the humourless ‘political correctness’ that this is likely to engender – even if they do not exclude the fun we have had in our ‘research’ will make us feel guilty if we continue to enjoy it. Is there, indeed, any longer any place for the amateur?

Ungraciousness apart, everyone interested in the writing, making, distribution and reading of books will warmly welcome the establishment, in 1997, of the Welsh Centre for the Book in Aberystwyth by the Welsh Books Council, the National Library of Wales, and the University of Wales Aberystwyth (through its Department of Information & Library Studies). This complements the Centre for the Book, set up some years ago in the British Library. Let us hope that the cooperation clearly demonstrated in Aberystwyth will be taken to heart in Edinburgh, where institutions seem to be competing rather than working together.

A happy first-fruit of the new Centre is *Y Llyfr yng Nghymru/Welsh Book Studies* ‘which aims to publish articles in Welsh and English on all aspects of the book in Wales including its contribution to Welsh life and culture’. This first issue contains four substantial articles, together with notes of relevant current research. The articles in Welsh are provided with an abstract in English.

The two Welsh papers by R Geraint Gruffydd and Brynley F Roberts deal respectively with the first printed book in Welsh *Yny llyvyr hwnn* (1546), and with the publications of Edward Llwyd, Keeper of the Ashmolean Museum in the seventeenth century. The longer paper in English is a study by Rhidian Griffiths of the music printing and publishing of David John Snell (1880–1957), who set up in Swansea in 1900. Music has

always been important in Wales and Snell created a substantial business, also supplying musical instruments.

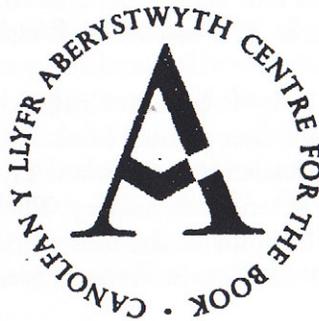
The hardest-hitting article is the last, by Ned Thomas, Director of the University of Wales Press, under the title 'Publishing and the Research Assessment Exercise' – a title much less apocalyptic than its message: that the successive RAEs carried out by the Higher Education Funding Councils have already distorted the balanced function of universities. Mr Thomas, whose concern is with the humanities and the social sciences, quotes the views of several academic publishers which may be summarized 'most UK academics had neither the research time nor the back-up resources to complete such projects' [scholarly books].

This reader, who has been – and still is – printing from 'hard metal', was dismayed by the book's typography. A book designer has to reconcile hyphenation for word breaks at line endings with word (and letter) spacing. I could find no word breaks, with the consequent excessive word spacing and, especially in the Welsh-language text, unacceptably wide letter spacing. This arises not only from an unwillingness to break words, but also from a type size too large for the text measure – as may be seen from the better appearance of the notes with their smaller type size. It is to be hoped that the design specification will be reconsidered before the second number comes out.

Aside from the small design niggle this first issue of *Y Llyfr yng Nghymru* is warmly welcomed. I look forward eagerly to the second issue. Good luck to this new venture.

Wylam

Peter Isaac



The Contributors

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Jim English, who is a retired public librarian, has contributed to *BBTI*, but local printing is but one of his many interests in the history of his adopted county. He may be reached at 1 Dorton Avenue, GAINSBOROUGH DN21 1UB.

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ETTRICK BANKS.

ON Ettrick banks, ae summer's night, At
 gloam-ing when the sheep came hame, I
 met my las-sie, braw and tight, Come
 wad-ing bare-foot a' her lane:
 My heart grew light; I ran, and flang My
 arms a-bout her li-ly neck, I

Caledonian Musical Repository, showing the musical type used (see pp 10-11 inside)