

SLIDE 4 - E.A. Petherick

Petherick, in his bibliographical journal, *The Torch*, printed a little item about book collecting:

Good as it is to inherit a library, it is better to collect one. Each volume then, however lightly a stranger's eye may roam from shelf to shelf, has its own individuality, a history of its own.

We wanted to do more than just bring this collection back together – we wanted to understand its history and its individuality - and a little more than 6 weeks ago began to research its acquisition – who selected the books, and where and how they were purchased - in order to understand the narrative behind the bare and official accounts in the Council minutes and letterbooks. We have only just started our investigations, which will certainly raise more questions than supply answers – but, building on excellent preliminary work done by my predecessor, Susan Woodburn, we will hopefully add to the knowledge of book selection and the book trade in colonial Adelaide.



A Bit of Background First

The University of Adelaide was formally established by Act of Incorporation in 1874. The first students were enrolled in 1875 and teaching commenced in 1876 in rented accommodation in the city, the University ultimately finding a home in custom built rooms in the Morialta Chambers lawyer rooms in Victoria Square.

SLIDE 5 - Morialta Chambers



State Library of SA 'Victoria Square' B-3271

The University building known today as the Mitchell Building was not completed until some five years later in 1881.

organised discount rates, freight, insurance and the distribution of letters to other bodies in England, and from time to time organised the purchase of scientific equipment and medical models. One suspects also that it was a pattern preferred by the first Chancellor of the University, Sir Richard Davies Hanson, Chief Justice of South Australia, and the inaugural Vice-Chancellor Reverend Augustus Short, DD, Bishop of Adelaide. The following Vice-Chancellor, Sir Samuel Way, also a Chief Justice of South Australia, commented in later years that he found use of the Treasury Box very convenient.

SLIDE 7 - Order List for Henry S. King 22/11/1878 (University Archives S169 85 Env 65 3bi)

The reasons for the choice of Messrs Henry S. King & Co. as bookseller are also not clear from the official Council records. Henry S. King was a former Brighton bookseller who in 1853 entered into a partnership with George Smith of the well-known Elder & Smith publishing firm. Elder & Smith had developed a prosperous export trade to India and the Colonies and were also used as general agents and bankers by their colonial clients. In 1868 however, Smith decided to concentrate on publishing, and relinquished business dealings with foreign agencies to the firm which became HS King and Company, bankers and East India and Colonial Agents, retaining the old premises at 65 Cornhill, while Smith removed his publishing business to 15 Waterloo Place. King & Co. also published their own booklists, in particular the International Scientific Series in 1871.

London, 12 Nov. 1878
To Henry S. King & Co.
Per Remittance

1	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
2	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
3	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
4	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
5	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
6	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
7	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
8	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
9	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
10	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
11	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
12	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
13	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
14	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
15	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
16	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
17	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
18	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
19	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
20	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
21	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
22	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
23	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
24	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
25	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
26	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
27	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
28	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
29	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
30	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
31	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
32	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
33	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
34	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
35	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
36	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
37	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
38	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
39	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
40	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
41	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
42	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
43	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
44	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
45	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
46	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
47	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
48	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
49	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
50	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
51	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
52	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
53	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
54	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
55	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
56	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
57	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
58	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
59	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
60	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
61	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
62	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
63	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
64	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
65	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
66	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
67	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
68	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
69	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
70	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
71	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
72	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
73	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
74	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
75	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
76	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
77	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
78	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
79	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
80	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
81	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
82	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
83	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
84	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
85	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
86	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
87	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
88	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
89	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
90	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
91	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
92	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
93	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
94	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
95	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
96	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
97	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
98	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
99	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st
100	Journal of the Royal Society of Victoria	10/6	1st

It was presumably King's experience as a Colonial agent which attracted the business of the University of Adelaide. King was certainly not the only bookseller experienced in dealing with the Colonies. The Reverend William Wright, a "great Oriental scholar and Cambridge Don," recommended in an 1875 letter to University Council member David Murray "You should have a respectable agent in London to procure foreign books for you – such a firm as Williams & Norgate (Covent Garden) or Nutt (Strand)."

The Agent-General had also successfully negotiated a 15% discount on all purchases of new books from King – one suspects a reasonable sum for the time although I have seen discounts of 25% offered. In addition, King undertook to bind the books destined for the Library in a specified style and stamp them with the University stamp without, it appears, any additional charge.

The only separate binding charges occur in the very first blurred order copy, and also where the item was rebound from cloth.

Whatever the reason for the choice of King, a pattern of book purchasing was established which was to persist until 1880. Ruth Lightbourne in an article in the Bibliographical Society Bulletin in 2002 noted that the General Assembly Library of NZ also used King between 1874 and 1878. They proved diligent and particular agents, keeping the University informed as to books unobtainable or out-of-print, never purchasing second-hand copies at a higher price than that specified on the order, and itemising every transaction. In 1878, King was still filling outstanding orders placed in 1875.

One speculates also why the bookseller George Robertson, who according to John Holroyd, “kept a wide range of educational books and catered for the University of Melbourne from the time it opened in 1855” (p. 18-19) was not used more by the University.

SLIDE 8 - George Robertson’s Adelaide Branch

Robertson had in 1875 taken a lease on an Adelaide branch premises at 103 King William St, a mere block away from the University premises on the other side of the Post Office. Robertson had in 1857 been the first Australian bookseller to open a London buying office¹ which had been managed since 1873 by the very able E.A. Petherick.



George Robertson's branch at 103 King William Street, Adelaide, c. 1875

Holroyd, John. *George Robertson of Melbourne 1825-1898: Pioneer Bookseller & Publisher*. Melbourne: Robertson & Mullens, 1968, p. 24

In May and June 1875 both Robertson and E.S. Wigg had respectively applied to the Council to be nominated as Booksellers to the University. Both were refused, but Robertson’s offer to keep in stock a supply of nominated classbooks was accepted. In 1876 Robertson was requested to obtain Calendars from British and American universities, and from 1877 Robertson was employed to procure the limited selection of journals subscribed to the University.² Robertson also supplied made-to-measure periodical boxes and was required to bind and stamp books not processed in England (with a stamp imported from HS King). In 1877 the firm was also asked to procure the edition of the *Encyclopedia Britannica* “now in the course of publication” and to supply the remaining volumes as they were published, along with the last edition of *The Reference Catalogue of Current Literature* and some Australian imprints such as *The Fourth Decade of Fossils* of the Geological Survey of Victoria.

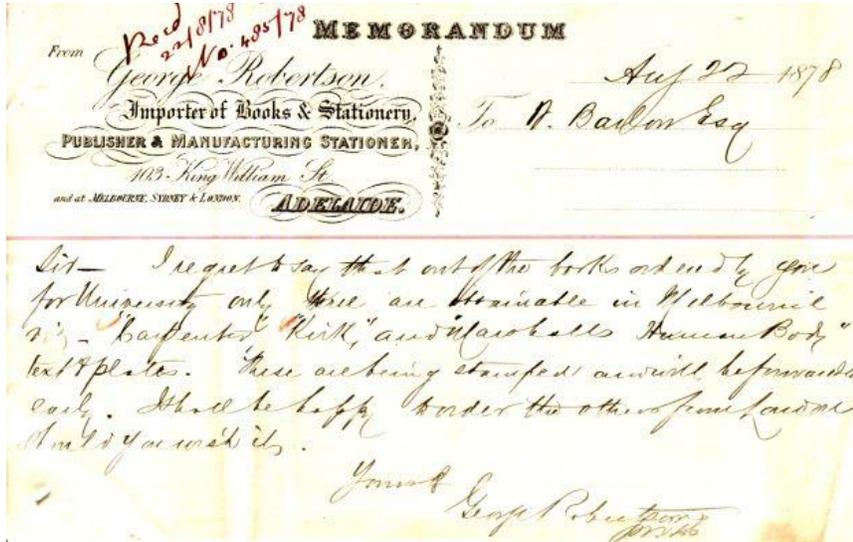
¹ Holroyd, John. *George Robertson of Melbourne 1825-1898: Pioneer Bookseller & Publisher*. Melbourne: Robertson & Mullens, 1968, p. 19

² Letterbooks 22/11/1876 (namely Quarterly J of Mathematics, Pagendorf’s Annalen, the Philosophical Magazine, Nature, the Annales & Magazine of Natural History, the Popular Science Review, Crelle’s J fur Mathematit., Academy, Silliman’s Journal, the Journal of Applied Science and The Telegraphic Journal and Electrical Review)

It is possible that the University was moving away from long-term commitments to King (whose business had in 1877 been purchased by Charles Kegan Paul who had been King's literary advisor since 1874).

SLIDE 9 - Robertson's Memorandum re Order of Physiology Books

In August 1878 however the Library Committee requested Robertson procure a list of works on physiology recommended by University lecturer Dr David Thomas³ of which they were only able to supply 3 items and offered to order the rest from their London office. Robertson was however firmly told that the University would order the books through the Agent General in London and from the usual channels.



University Archives S169 Item 85 (Envelope 65) [14f]

From the middle of 1879 the Library Committee increasingly approved the purchase of individual items from Robertson's Adelaide shop, many of them for Professor Lamb in the area of mathematics and physics, until in November 1879 the Committee recommended to Council that "each professor be authorised to order at Robertson's such books as he may think proper to an amount not exceeding £10 per annum: the orders sent to King's to be reduced by the amounts thus expended."⁴

The break with Henry S. King & Co. occurred on 20th September 1880 when the Library Committee moved that

*the account with Messrs HS King & Co be closed after the existing orders shall have been executed, and that in future all books shall be procured through some of the local booksellers*⁵

and further on the 5th October 1880 when

³ Library Committee Minutes 10/8/1878 (ie Marshall, John. The human body ... 3rd ed 1875; Marshall's Outlines of physiology 2v; Carpenter's Physiology Last ed; Kirke's Physiology last ed; Ferrier Functions of the brain; Huxley's Elementary physiology)

⁴ LC minutes 20/9/1880

⁵ LC minutes 20/9/1880

Messrs Rigby, Robertson, and Wigg & Sons [have been] requested to furnish tenders stating the terms on which they will supply such English and foreign books as shall be ordered by the University from time to time.⁶

Wigg's tender was again rejected,⁷ but as the tenders from Rigby and Robertson's were substantially identical (presumably offering substantial discounts), it was recommended that the Professors' lists be split between the 2 booksellers,⁸ Professor Davidson's English and Philosophy lists and Professor Kelly's listing of classical works going to Robertson, with Lamb's mathematical and physics texts to be purchased from Rigby. Professor Tate's list was to be placed with the bookseller of his nomination. This was obviously a successful venture. By the meeting of 21 May 1881, Professor Kelly reported that he had no list to present "as he had ordered them from Robertson as he required them."⁹

SLIDE 10 - Robertson's Advertisements 1877 and 1880

The 1880 advertisement for George Robertson in Boothby's SA Directory now proclaimed the firm to hold "school, college & university textbooks & requisites" with "the latest works on history, science, agriculture, engineering, architecture, medicine, law, horse, cattle, sheep, cookery, etc" Compared to the more meagre offerings for "Institutes, reading clubs and book societies" advertised in 1877.

GEORGE ROBERTSON
(Of London, Melbourne, Sydney, and Brisbane),
Importer of Books and Stationery,

Has great pleasure in notifying the Reading Public of South Australia that he receives large and valuable supplies of all the New and Popular Publications by every Mail, and by Ships and Steamers direct from London and *via* Melbourne.

INSTITUTES, READING CLUBS, and BOOK SOCIETIES supplied on the most Liberal Terms.

A large and most comprehensive stock of SCHOOL BOOKS and STATIONERY sold Retail at English Published Prices. Liberal allowance to Teachers and Heads of Schools.

MAGAZINES and NEWSPAPERS by every Overland Mail. Price List Free on Application.

BIBLES, CHURCH-SERVICES, PRAYER-BOOKS, and HYMN BOOKS of all Denominations, ROMAN CATHOLIC Prayer Books and Literature.

A Complete Catalogue—Price 1s.; Posted, 1s. 8d.; also separate Catalogue of Medical, Law, Juvenile, and School Books Free on application.

ALL BOOKS AT PUBLISHED PRICES.

GEORGE ROBERTSON,
103, KING WILLIAM STREET,
(OPPOSITE THE TOWN HALL.)

FACSIMILE OF SOUTH AUSTRALIAN DIRECTORY ADVERTISER.
SOUTH AUSTRALIA
South Australia Collection

GEORGE ROBERTSON,
Importer of Books and Stationery.

Institutes, Reading Clubs, Sunday Schools, Teachers, and the Town and Country Trade supplied on the most Liberal Terms.

SCHOOL, COLLEGE, & UNIVERSITY TEXT BOOKS & REQUISITES.

THE LATEST WORKS
On History, Science, Agriculture, Engineering, Architecture, Medicine, Law, Horses, Cattle, Sheep, Cookery, &c.

ROMAN CATHOLIC PRAYER-BOOKS & LITERATURE.

A LARGE AND COMPREHENSIVE STOCK
OF
USEFUL, FANCY, & COMMERCIAL STATIONERY.

Orders taken for British, Foreign, and Colonial Periodicals.
Price Lists gratis, on Application.

SOLE AGENT FOR
STRAKER'S FAC-SIMILE PROCESS.

PROSPECTUS ON APPLICATION.

The Finest Stock of Illustrated Drawing-Room Books, hand-somely bound Books, and Juvenile Publications ever exhibited in South Australia.

GEORGE ROBERTSON,
103, KING WILLIAM STREET,
OPPOSITE THE TOWN HALL.
Adelaide.

I was initially puzzled as to why the sudden break with King had occurred. The purchase of books had up until 1880 been apparently driven largely by financial considerations. The University had obtained a generous discount of 15% from King (with special binding included) and did not have to pay additional freight from Melbourne as orders were shipped directly to Port Adelaide. The University had also saved costs of postage and agency fees by channelling all orders through the SA Agent-General in London. So carefully had they controlled costs that usually orders for second-hand books had been cancelled rather than pay a price above that nominated (and sometimes not that far over).

⁶ LC minutes 5/10/1880

⁷ LC minutes 22/10/1880

⁸ LC minutes 4/11/1880

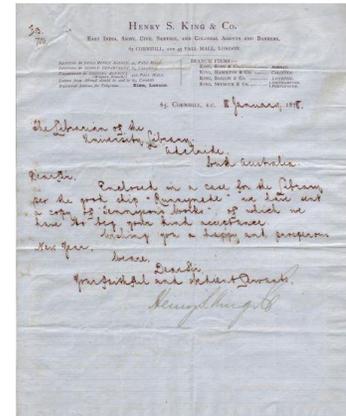
⁹ LC minutes 21 May 1881 (BSL)

The Intercolonial Railway between Adelaide and Melbourne was not completed until 1887, and there had been no major changes in University administration or staff. The only evident changes were with King themselves. Kegan Paul and his partner Alfred Trench had formed Kegan Paul, Trench and Co. in 1878 from the takeover of H.S. King and Co., followed in 1879 by the death of King himself. An 1878 letter from King to the Librarian begs acceptance of a copy of Tennyson's works – a final parting gift from the old firm perhaps?

SLIDE 11 – Tennyson Gift Letter H.S. King

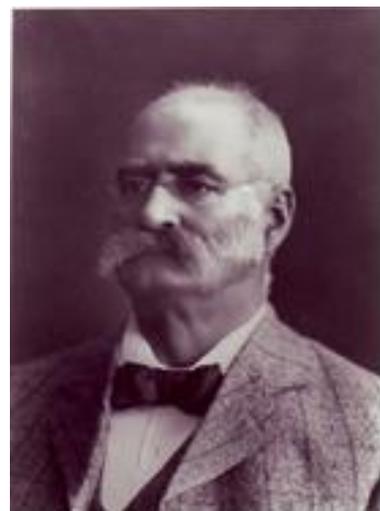
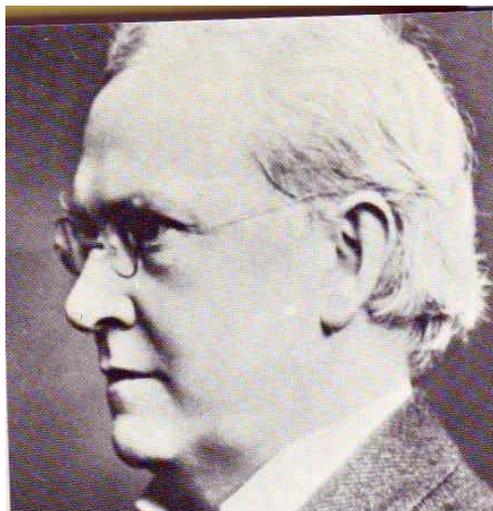
The University minutes however continue to refer to King as their supplier up to 1880. Presumably the level and style of service (or discount) changed with the Kegan Paul/Trench takeover. The answers may perhaps lie in the company archives held in University College London.

University Archives S109 85 Env 65 3a



SLIDE 12 - Professors Davidson, Lamb and Tate

It was the four foundation Professors who gave the early Library its substance and its individuality. They were personally responsible for selection for their individual disciplines. The initial order filled by King in 1875 for £185 covers lists supplied by Read, Davidson and Tate (Tate's list must have been sent from England before his arrival in 1876). Only £150 was allocated to spend on the Library in 1876 - £30 for each of the Professors and the remaining £30 for general purchases – rising to £200 per annum between 1877 and 1891. By comparison, the highest professors' salaries were £800 per year augmented by students' fees. Titles had to be selected with care, serving only essential teaching and research needs. It was conscious University policy, for example, not to duplicate any works in the free Institute Library.



Professors Davidson, Lamb and Tate

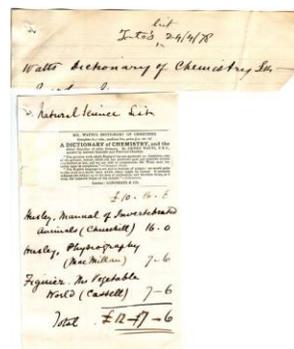
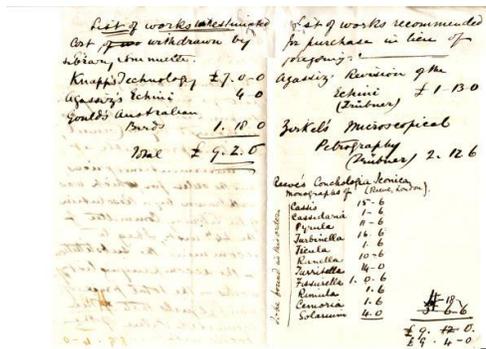
The first University chairs were endowed by the wealthy grazier and copper miner Walter Watson Hughes who had offered £20,000 to Union College established to educate Baptist, Congregational

and Baptist ministers. Davidson and others on the Union College council persuaded Hughes that the money would be better dedicated to the founding of a University. Hughes agreed, and after some misunderstanding regarding potential use of the money, decided without any authority on the appointment of two tutors from the College, the Reverend John Davidson as the first Hughes Professor of English Language and Literature and Mental and Moral Philosophy, and the Reverend Henry Read as the Hughes Professor of Classics. Davidson, aged 41 when appointed, was not a graduate but was a progressive Presbyterian minister, a scholar and a popular lecturer in the community. Henry Read was an Anglican minister of 44 years when appointed who had served as a missionary in Central America before ill-health forced his return to England. Read and Davidson had both worked tirelessly to establish the University but were hardly distinguished scholars and this is reflected in the solid and classic nature of their book selection.

The University had more discretion over the spending of the gift of £20,000 from Thomas Elder, a generous benefactor who made his money from the Wallaroo and Moonta mines and later the wool selling firm Elder, Smith and Co. The Council decided to invest the money and use the income for founding the Chairs of Natural Science and Mathematics, advertising the positions widely in England. Ralph Tate from Cambridge was appointed to the Chair of Natural History. He was an energetic and passionate scientist, an explorer keen for new experiences, and an established author and researcher with a fine critical sense. Reputed to be the most distinguished botanist of his day in South Australia, Tate was also a good zoologist, and an excellent palaeontologist and geologist. A Founder of the Royal Society of South Australia, Tate also enthusiastically contributed to the Linnean Society and the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science. The gifted Horace Lamb was appointed as the Elder Professor of Mathematics at the age of 26, having spent 3 years as a Fellow at Cambridge achieving recognition as a mathematician of great ability, but having to resign the Fellowship upon his marriage. With a light teaching load, Lamb was able to develop original treatises on the motion of fluids and the application of harmonic analysis to vibrational problems. We could hold that Adelaide's early distinction in science can be attributed to a desire for adventure and the pursuit of love.

SLIDE 13 - Professor Tate's book orders (Library Archives S169 85 Env 65 8ei and 8eiv)

The new Elder Professors brought a vigour and contemporary edge to their book selection, Tate in particular solicited donations from learned societies and scholars such as Tennyson Woods, and perused scholarly journals and lists of newly published works, focussing on specialist items of distinction which emerged during this exciting period of scientific discovery. Quite a respectable list for a colony regarded by many as on the "fringes of the English-speaking world."¹⁰



¹⁰ Kirsop, Wallace. Books for Colonial Readers: The Nineteenth-Century Australian Experience. Melbourne: BSANZ, 1995. p. 1

All of the Professors were intensely involved with the Library Committee and were dedicated to building a sound collection for teaching, albeit on a limited budget. Surprisingly few of these early works “disappeared” into the Professors’ own collections, despite the lack of professional supervision – a dedicated Librarian not being appointed until 1900 - or any useable catalogue or register.

Sources of Information

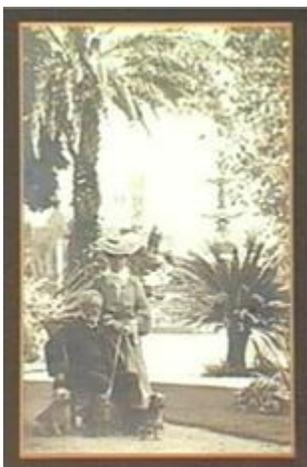
In addition to contemporary journals, other sources of book acquisition noted in archival Library files include King’s own circular letter, the Reference catalogue (presumably Whitaker’s *Reference Catalogue of Current Literature: being a collection of publishers’ catalogues ...* of which there does not appear to be a copy in Australia), the second-hand book listings of Mayer & Muller, Berlin, and “Mr William Wesley’s catalogue.” Wesley was a London bookseller established in 1855 and appointed agent of the Smithsonian Institution who published *The natural history and scientific book circular*, which ran until no. 147 in 1914. Agents had also been requested in 1876 to send catalogues of scientific books from Quaritch, Williams & Norgate, Asher, Friedlander and other foreign booklists.

The early library also of course received a few donations (the earliest being Seneca’s *Tragediae* printed in 1679 and included in the 1878 list) and solicited transactions and proceedings from the Royal Societies of NSW and Tasmania, the NZ Institute and NZ Colonial Secretary’s Office, and the Queensland and the very generous Victorian Colonial Secretary’s Offices. Appeals to the Royal Societies of London and Edinburgh, the Royal Irish Academy, the British Association for the Advancement of Science, and University of Cambridge for their Pitt Press series and the Oxford Clarendon series were not overly successful.

Sir Samuel Way

At the same time that the University was building its fledging collection, Samuel Way, who had played a major part in the founding of the University, was also assembling a personal and professional library.

SLIDE 14 - Sir Samuel and Lady Way ca 1890, and Residence Montefiore ca 1895



State Library of SA B21986 and B25122

Samuel James Way was a notable public figure in colonial South Australia but perhaps not as esteemed outside of his own State. Chief Justice for life, and at times Member of Parliament, Lieutenant-Governor of SA, Vice-Chancellor and then Chancellor of Adelaide University, the first Freemason Grand Mason, Member of the Boards of the Public Library, Museum and Art Gallery, and the Adelaide Children's Hospital, the first South Australian to be knighted and only the fourth Australian to achieve this honour, Way was a man of ambition and considerable ability.

The son of a Bible Christian minister, Way came to Adelaide in 1853 at the age of 16 after completing his education – he could not have advanced to University level as English Universities did not then accept dissenters even if the family finances had allowed it. In Adelaide however the young Samuel was welcomed into a Nonconformist community which did not regard the family's lack of status or wealth as any impediment to advancement.

Progressing rapidly from legal clerk to practicing solicitor to owner of a legal practice, and in time Queen's Counsel, in 1876 Way was appointed Chief Justice, a position he retained for 40 years until his death in 1916 at the age of 79.

As a young man Way devoted himself to advancing his legal career, leaving little time for other activities. Once his position was established however, Way's intellectual curiosity and energy prompted his participation in a great number and variety of interests, ranging from the propagation of rare native plants¹¹ to support for the Deaf and Dumb Asylum and the destitute, to membership of the Adelaide Book Society.¹² From his father he inherited an appreciation of education, a love of reading, and an interest in social and philanthropic improvements for the benefit of the community – not to mention a deep religious faith. Way was also a generous and sociable host - at times entertaining up to 30 guests for breakfast at his impressive home 'Montefiore' in North Adelaide – and a prodigious letter writer constantly distributing newspaper clippings and books he felt would be of interest to his friends and acquaintances.

Way as a Book-Collector

Contemporary accounts or later biographies have revealed very little about Way's library or his activities as a book collector – for example I have not as yet been able to find a photograph of his library despite of his impressive home and garden being featured in South Australian House & Garden Magazine and newspapers. Way's letterbooks and diaries held by the State Library of South Australia do however contain numerous, but often brief, references to his collecting activities.

Way's early letters from the 1850s suggest that he was regularly procuring books from Melbourne, mainly law texts to build up his professional library and probably obtained through his close friend, the Bible Christian minister James Thorne. There is then a gap in his correspondence until the 1870s and in October 1871 he called upon "my booksellers Messrs Stevens and Sons" of Chancery Lane to assist with the payment of his London tailors account and in February 1872 sent them an order (one of the very few examples to be found in the letters) for 54 law books and 9 additional

¹¹ Gardening – cultivated rare *Livistona Mariae* palm from McDonnell Ranges – sent seed to Trinity College Gardens, Palmer Place? Naturalist – collected plants and birds from India – released birds on his property Kadlunga in Mintaro north of Adelaide

¹² Adelaide Book Society – Diary 24/10/1882 records meeting at Montefiore – also in photo album in State Library

“miscellaneous” items, including the *Recollections* of John Adolphus, Mills' *The English colonization of America*, Tyerman's *Life of Wesley* and Wedgwood's *Dictionary of English etymology*. Stevens had evidently been supplying Way for some time and he had an established account with them kept in credit.

Way actively collected as complete a legal library as possible – in March 1874 he wrote to a Mr Field, an American who had offered to put together a representative collection of American law reports and digests for the Supreme Court Library, asking for a duplicate set for himself “I am gradually collecting a library myself and am desirous of adding to it”, wrote Way.

More interesting is a letter of January 1872 to James Smith, the well-known Melbourne journalist, early Parliamentary librarian and art critic. Smith had approached Way as a fellow collector in the hope of finding a buyer for Smith's own library. Way reluctantly declined, and while expressing regret at the dispersal of a personal collection, displays his enthusiasm:

“I am collecting in so many subjects and getting a professional and miscellaneous library of more magnitude than my shelves will hold, my purse afford, or my leisure oblige”

and later in June of the same year also to Smith:

“I had the pleasure of opening my book box last Thursday – as an old book buyer you know what that is ...”

The Smith library went to auction but apparently Way did obtain some material, writing to Smith: “I am very pleased with my purchases which makes me wish I had taken the entire Shakespearean collection – that is the English part of it.”¹³ The purchase cost Way £20. Although there is no record of the titles they possibly included Coleridge's 1849 *Notes and lectures upon Shakespeare* and Walker's 1784 *Critical observation on several plays of Shakespeare*.

Methodism

Way always sought to advance the interests of the Bible Christian community in SA and devotedly collected Bible Christian and Methodist literature and Methodist history. He sought out many works from authors themselves, such as Buckley's *History of Methodism in Australia*, and promoted bibliographic endeavours in the field – an 1899 letter reports to Dr AWW Dale of Trinity Hall, Cambridge, that his father's works “are read widely in SA” – “being available in all the local shops on Yorke Peninsula” and that he had sent Dale the already rare “Jubilee of Congregationalism in South Australia” to complete his father's bibliography, at the same time asking for one of his father's works to complete Way's own set.¹⁴

Way has originally intended to deposit his Methodist collection with Way College (named for his father) but the college was disbanded and most of it eventually came to the Barr Smith Library, along with Way's varied collection of missionary literature. In 1910 Way did give his collection of Wesleyan poetry to Melbourne University's Queen's College, after forming a high regard for its principal Rev. E.A. Sugden.

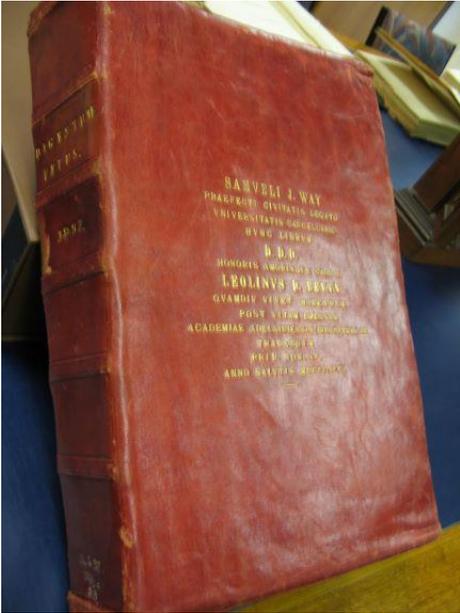
¹³ Smith 24/6/1872

¹⁴ 8/8/1899

Gifts / “Exchange”

As a prominent public figure, Way also attracted a great many books as gifts from political colleagues and friends as well as authors and publishers. Henry Parkes and many Federationists sent him copies of their publications.

SLIDE 15 - Justinian Digestum Vetus & Way’s Bookplate



The monumental *Digestum vetus* of Justinian printed in Venice in 1482 was a gift from Congregational minister and fellow book collector Llewelyn David Bevan (seen here in one of Way’s distinctive gilt stamped red morocco bindings of which we hold several examples). The NSW Government printer presented copies of Fitzgerald’s *Australian orchids*, while the rare journal *Black Dwarf* was a gift from the Adelaide architect Roland Rees. Works on politics and history were regularly sent by a Canadian associate, Way remarking in one of his letters on “the spacious area of my shelves which is occupied by your contributions to my library.”¹⁵

Way in turn promoted Australian endeavour and widely distributed works he considered worthy of attention – sending official publications on Federation to Harvard Law Library¹⁶ and presenting translations of the New Testament into Dieri (the first time the whole work had been translated into an Aboriginal language) to the British Museum, Harvard University, the Bodleian, Christ Church and Athenaeum libraries, to the Rev Dr Buckley of Trinity College Library (along with Spencer & Gillen’s *Natives of Central Australia*), as well as the American Bible Society, London Bible Society, and New England Genealogical Society. Way was very taken with this little translation by Lutheran missionaries at Kopperamana printed in 1897 at Tanunda in an edition of 500 copies, remarking 'the rustic character of the work is to me an interesting feature of it - I believe the printer worked at it con amore'. At Way’s suggestion the English Bible Society belatedly paid the whole cost of the issue.

¹⁵ State Library of SA. Samuel Way Letterbooks (April 1898)

¹⁶ (Aug 1898)

Literature

Literature was a less favoured area of collecting. Way wrote to Prof Wendell of Harvard that “My life is too busy to allow much novel reading”¹⁷ although he was at times impressed with works such as Harlow Bates ‘popular success’ novel *Puritan*, and he regarded Marcus Clarke’s *For the term of his natural life* as ‘among the most powerful novels I know’ (1893). Way however remarked that he thought Catherine Martin’s *An Australian girl* to be ‘very wishy washy stuff’ and described *The Bulletin* in 1899 as “*a pestilent, iconoclastic journal which, nevertheless, is very powerfully written.*” Way much preferred Dickens and reading history, collections of literary essays, and biographical writings concerning distinguished men - particularly statesmen and men of religion – and these form a large component of his collection. Way particularly enjoyed works of patriotism and national pride, and often recommended the works of Rev. W.H. Fitchett, principal of MLC in Melbourne, arranging for copies of his *Deeds that won the Empire* to be sent to a number of people in 1898.

Newspapers

Way also subscribed to numerous literary periodicals and newspapers and from these ordered many reviewed works, mainly through correspondence with English and interstate agents, and also ordered recent publications from many publishers and booksellers’ catalogues. I presume that Way purchased items on his travels, although his London diaries are packed with social events which would seem to leave little time or opportunity for book collecting. He does comment on a tour he made of the British Museum but added that this was for the University and not for his own purpose. His 1897 Diary does however contain repeated references to calling at booksellers during a trip to Tasmania.

Spending

Way was careful where he spent his money, often remarking that he had many demands on his pocket (he subscribed to many worth causes and institutions) and he often bypassed purchase of more expensive volumes, remarking in a letter to Petherick “I cannot afford to buy Gould’s birds now – I hope I may before the price goes up.”

I will not cover today Way’s taste in art – Ruskin was a particular favourite – or his collections of early printed material, natural history, gardening and travel, discovery and exploration, colonial history, and ethnology and Pacific material.

It is sufficient to observe that from as early as the 1850s, and increasingly from the 1870s, Way was building a varied, if somewhat unstructured library which reflected his many personal interests and taste, as Susan Woodburn remarked “very much at one with the man seen in both public and private records.”

E.A. Petherick

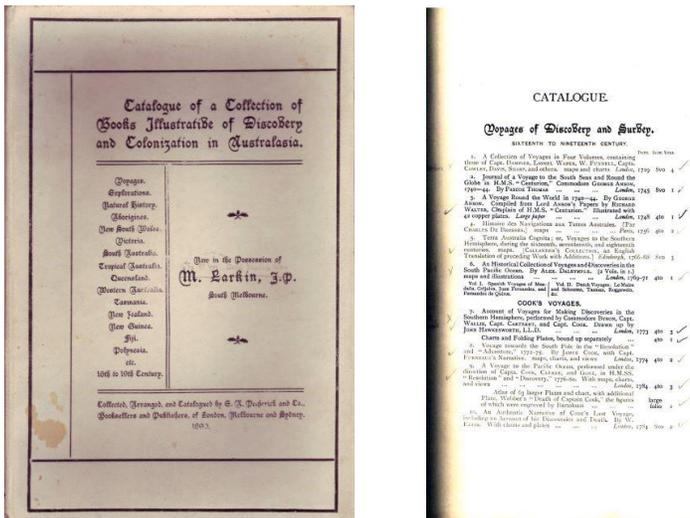
Much of Way’s best and most prized material (particularly in the area of Australiana) was however brought together not through his own enterprise, but with the assistance of the man who has

¹⁷ June 1899

been called Australia's foremost bibliographer, EA Petherick (whose own collection of course was to form the basis of the National Library's Australiana collection).

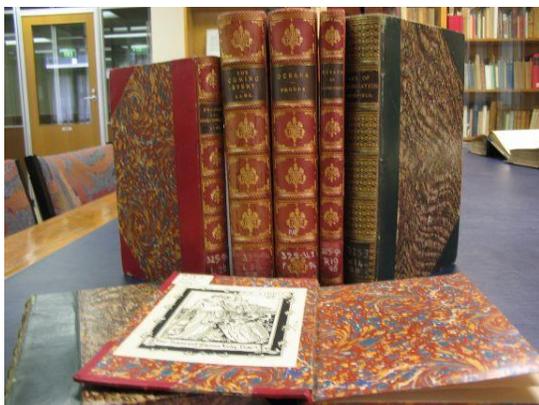
As Hannan, Way's biographer observed of his legal work, Way had "early acquired the art of using the services of others for the checking and routine work he had to do."¹⁸ In 1895 Way made his most important single purchase - the ready-made collection of Matthias Larkin, a Melbourne auctioneer, real estate agent and financial dealer, which was put up for sale after Larkin's 'reversal of fortunes' when he was convicted of 'financial malefactions' in March 1892 and sentenced to six years imprisonment. Petherick had assembled Larkin's collection in the 1880s and in 1890 published the catalogue, sending a copy to Way in 1891 with the author's compliments.

SLIDE 16 - E.A. Petherick. Catalogue of a Collection ... of M. Larkin



There are 16 copies of the Petherick catalogue in Way's library, and the copy initially sent to him in 1891 has been annotated for duplicate copies and with prices (possibly by Clucas our first Librarian - the line in the cover title "Now in the possession of M. Larkin, J.P.' being neatly crossed through and replaced with 'Now in the possession of the Rt. Hon. Chief Justice Way'.

SLIDE 17 - Sir Samuel Way's Bindings

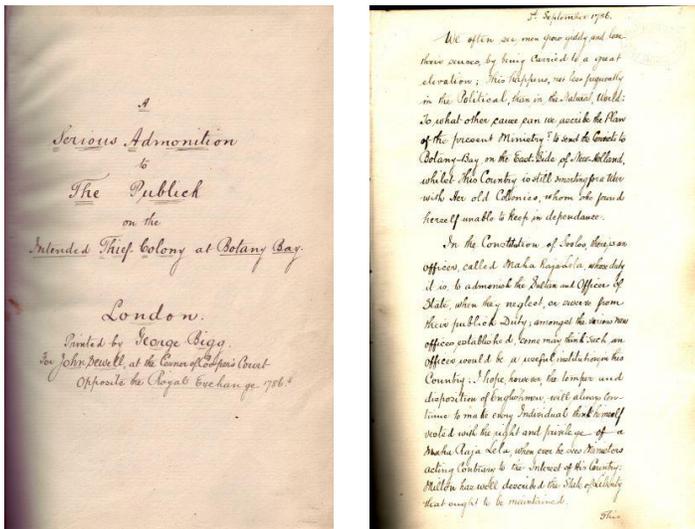


¹⁸ A.J. Hannan. *The life of Chief Justice Way : a biography of the Right Honourable Sir Samuel Way, Bart., P.C., D.C.L., LL.D.*, for many years Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Justice of South Australia and Chancellor of the University of Adelaide (1960) p. 14

Way paid £500 to £600 for the Larkin library of 600 volumes only 'but with many very valuable and specially bound in sets' still readily identifiable – I am not sure whether the particular binding styles have any significance but it would be worth future investigation.

SLIDE 18 - Dalrymple Pamphlet

Several of the items have direct association with Petherick, such as the ms copy of Alexander Dalrymple's pamphlet, *A serious admonition to the public, on the intended thief-colony at Botany Bay*, originally printed in London in 1786.



Petherick had 2 MS copies made, one for the York Gate Library now held by the Royal Geographical Society of SA, and one for the Larkin collection¹⁹ – ours in the elegant white vellum like binding that Petherick seemed to favour.

Way subsequently asked Petherick to pick up for him various books that were not included in the Larkin collection. Way enjoyed a reciprocally rewarding relationship with Petherick, thanking him in November 1897 for his kindness in fulfilling commissions, and enhancing Petherick's collection through gifts such as a copy of the Dieri New Testament (with newspaper clippings inserted) and subscribing to his bibliography, requesting of course that it be "properly bound."²⁰

It was due to Petherick's skill and expertise that Way's library has been considered as one of the largest and best private libraries in Australia of the time – a collection certainly smaller than David Mitchell's and less specialised than Petherick's own, but imbued with Petherick's quality.

Canada

Another example of Way using the services of others can be found in an intriguing set of correspondence relating to a collection of Canadian books assembled at Way's request by

¹⁹ Davidson, Rodney. *A book collector's notes on items relating to the discovery of Australia, the first settlement and the early coastal exploration of the continent* (1970)

²⁰ Feb 1898 Way to Petherick – re 7½ % commission for Petherick – also paying "£3.13.6 for the Larkin catalogues" "I am much obliged to you for the trouble you are taking" to Petherick August 1898 "You will of course put me down as one of the subscribers to your Bibliography and will you kindly see that it is properly bound."

Jonathan Bourinot of Ottawa in 1891. Bourinot had not at this stage met Way but willingly took on his request, writing:

I made up a list which comprises the best works in history, science and general literature. Some of the books were difficult to obtain but they have been procured with some trouble ... One the whole you can find abundant material for a work on Canada. The cost is below the £50 to which you limited the order.

When the shipment arrived Way would not accept it as it included maps which he certainly had not requested, only relenting 8 months later when he had confirmed that Bourinot had approved the selection.

A Determined and Exacting Collector

Way at times proved to be a determined and persistent collector – he disliked unfinished business, as reflected in his chosen coat of arms featuring salmon resolutely swimming upstream, and his motto: “where there’s a will there’s a Way.” Way for example pursued the missing volumes of his set of Farmer’s “Slang and its Analogues” through correspondence with the original publisher, as well as with Petherick, the Agent-General, and HCA Thieme of Shoe Lane, in a quest which continued for over 5 years – even offering to pay again to complete the set.

What I have however failed to find in the later letterbooks and diaries is any trace of the enthusiastic early collector. There are no diaries or letterbooks for 1895, the year Way purchased the Larkin Collection – but Way records in his 1896 diary the arrival of the collection:

8 March - arranged [transport] books from Melbourne
 9 April - went through books purchased at Sir Henry Parke’s sale
 10 April - wrote letters and arranged books
 18 April - Cunningham came over to help me with books
 16 May - cosy fire and homey chat in Library
 23 May - quiet evening at books and writing
 6 June - Taylor and I placing books in Library –[then] Out to hunt
 11 June - Morning chambers – afternoon hard at work placing books
 12 June - Afternoon Taylor and I at books
 13 June - Taylor and I all morning arranging books
 20 June - Wet day. Hard at work all day with Taylor and McBean shelving books, got them all put away, walk to town pm

Where is the excitement? The joy in finally having at hand this amazing collection? Or the pleasure he experienced in opening his book box that he expressed in 1872?

And yet Petherick considered the Larkin Collection to be worthy of a finely printed catalogue – in both large and small paper states. Nowhere in the diaries or letters have I yet come across fellow book lovers being invited to view his collection, or any references to the quality or content of his newly acquired books. He did not express any great pleasure or enthusiasm in his purchase.

Carl Bridge in his history of the State Library of SA dismissed Way, along with Gill and Snowden, as “just keen amateurs. Their interest barely extended beyond the collection of icons, symbols of the

colony's achievements, rather than real historical sources."²¹ A somewhat harsh judgment I feel, and no real reflection of Way's enthusiastic collecting of his earlier years – but perhaps in Way's mind the Larkin collection was to be an icon for his University rather than a treasured personal possession.

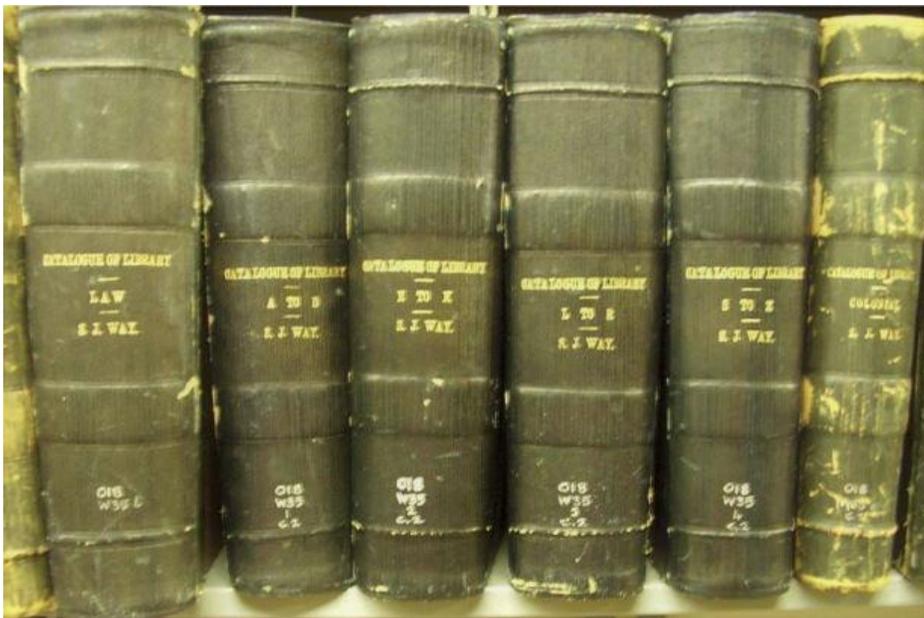
As early as 1903 Way wrote to JR Seddon, the NZ Member of Parliament,
I have a large collection of Australasian books which I want to make as complete as possible. When I have done with my Library it will go to the University
 – and again on in March of that year:
I am anxious to have the New Zealand section as complete as possible

Is it possible that Way purchased the Larkin Collection not for his own pleasure but with the purpose of enhancing the Library of his beloved University of Adelaide which, as we heard earlier, struggled for many years to build a respectable collection on very little money?

Bequeathed to Adelaide

Way's 1916 bequest of some 16,000 volumes increased the Library's total collection by more than 60% - it remains our largest single contribution of books and forms the basis of the Rare Book Collection of the Library with many others added to the main Collection.

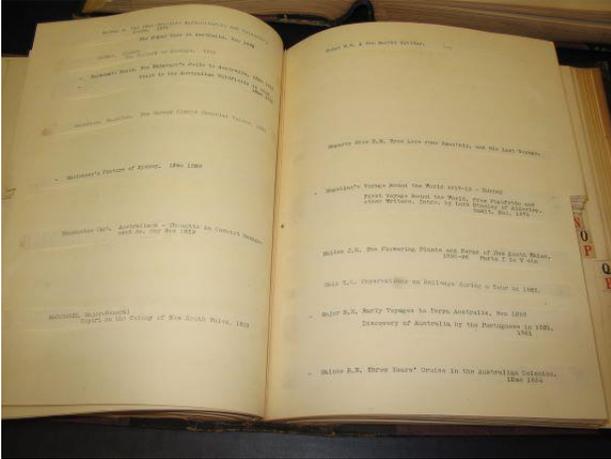
SLIDE 20 - Samuel Way's library catalogue



We also hold 2 copies of the Way Library guardbook catalogues – the main alphabetical sequence in 4 volumes, with additional volumes for the Law and Colonial Collections. They were probably compiled around 1898 to 1900, although Way complains in a letter from London in 1891 that his Masonic regalia had been delayed “because the catalogue of my books was not ready to be included in the case.”

²¹ C. Bridge. *A trunk full of books: history of the State Library of South Australia and its forerunners* (1986)

SLIDE 21 - Samuel Way library catalogue entries



The records are very basic, although the Colonial Catalogue had the advantage of Petherick's Larkin Catalogue, and corresponding entries match exactly in style and idiosyncrasy. A hyphen in the front of the entry shows that the book came from "Petherick's collection" and in the front is a list of books which were not supplied – note the references are to Petherick's and not Larkin's collection.

The Way-Petherick- Larkin connection is little known in Australian bibliographical circles. There is certainly no indication on the catalogue entries for the Larkin catalogues in the Mitchell or the National Library that the Larkin Collection was sold to Way and is now in the Barr Smith Library, although there is a short note on the British Library microfilm copy that the collection was purchased by Way in 1895. George Mackaness in his *The art of book-collecting in Australia* published in 1956 certainly had no knowledge of the fate of the Larkin Collection.

To return to our earlier quote from *The Torch*:

The man who has a library of his own collection is able to contemplate himself objectively, and is justified in believing in his own existence. No other man but he would have made precisely such a combination as his. Had he been in any single respect different from what he is, his library, as it exists, never would have existed.

Samuel Way accumulated a most unique collection – both through following his own interests, and through using the services and skills of others. In the same way the early 1878 collection of the Barr Smith Library is a reflection of the enthusiasm and dedication of our early professors. We are well on the way to understanding the history of our collections.