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Seven More Books from the Library of John Donne

Hugh Adlington, University of Birmingham

In these pages in 2012 I listed twenty-seven books known to have belonged to John Donne (1572-1631).¹ The identification of additional volumes means that I am now able to add seven further titles to the list, bringing the current total to 299.² The recently discovered titles – six in Latin, one in English – provide evidence of Donne's interests in medieval theology, Jewish history, Aramaic and Hebrew proverbs, botany, chronology, books prohibited by the Roman Catholic Church, and water distribution in classical and early modern Rome. Two of the titles contain Donne's distinctive pencil reading marks in addition to his signature and motto ('Per Rachel ho servito & non per Lea'). One of these titles, Donne's copy of the so-called *Belgian Index* (1599) (L298 in the following list), is cited in Donne's pre-ordination work of religious controversy, *Pseudo-Martyr* (1610). Another, Fabrizio Paduani's *Catena temporis* (1605) (L297), is likely to have informed Donne's views on chronology and the measurement of time found in his *Essayes in Divinity* (1614) and *Sermons*. A third, a 1616 Parisian edition of the works of Peter Abelard (L293), containing Donne's marginal pencil marks, provides fascinating evidence of Donne's reading of Abelard's correspondence with Heloise. The annotated list below gives brief bibliographical details for each title, and comments where relevant on marks of ownership and use. Original spelling has been retained in all titles and quotations, though i/j and u/v have been modernised and conventional contractions silently expanded.

Books in Donne's Possession: Addenda

L293 Peter Abelard (1079-1142), *Opera*. Paris. 1616. 4^o.

¹ Hugh Adlington, 'More Books from the Library of John Donne', *The Book Collector*, Vol. 61, No. 1 (Spring 2012), pp. 55-64. This article included all titles not previously reported in either the fourth edition of Sir Geoffrey Keynes's *A Bibliography of Dr. John Donne* (1973) or in supplementary lists published in *The Book Collector*, *Review of English Studies*, and elsewhere.

² The following list has been compiled by searching all available library catalogues for records of books belonging to Donne. Wherever possible, I have acknowledged the debt I owe to those who have previously discovered Donne's ownership, but the attributions are not always acknowledged in the catalogues in which I found them. I have examined six of the books listed and seen photographs of the seventh (L296).

Works, containing Abelard's correspondence with Heloise, his other epistles, *Against Heresy*, his commentary on Romans, thirty-two sermons, and *Introduction to Theology*. Donne's motto and signature (third version, post-1612) on the title-page.³ Donne's characteristic marginal pencil marks (vertical dashes and curly brackets) occur sporadically through the early pages (esp. *Præfatio*, sigs aii^r-eiiii^v and *Censura Doctorum Parisiensium*, sigs **ii^r-**iiii^v), and on most pages of the correspondence between Abelard and Heloise (sigs Aii^r-Ddiii^r). The right-hand margin of p. 59 (sig. Hii^r) contains a long vertical line in brown ink, possibly in Donne's hand. Some pencil marks in later pages, esp. in letters to Bernard of Clairvaux (sigs Hhii^v-Iiii^r). Seventeenth-century blind-tooled calf-leather sidings with twentieth-century rebind. Marks of chained binding. Leaf edges dyed red. A bookplate marks the bequest to Sion College of £200 by Elizabeth Hicks (d. 1643), widow of the wealthy mercer and moneylender, Baptist Hicks, first Viscount Campden (1551?-1629). The Sion College Benefactors' Book records this volume in a list of books bought with Viscountess Campden's money (Sion Arc E40.2/E64, p. 36). Transferred to Lambeth Palace Library from Sion College, 1996. Lambeth Palace Library (Sion Arc Octavo, A46.3/AB1H).⁴

LAMBETH PALACE LIBRARY

L294 Johannes Drusius (1550-1616) (trans. and ed.), *Liber Hasmonæorum qui vulgo prior Machabæorum*. Franeker, 1600. 4^o.

Jewish history. Contains Greek text of 1 Maccabees (included in the Septuagint and considered deuterocanonical by the Roman Catholic and Orthodox Churches but apocryphal by most Protestants), with Latin translation and commentary by the Flemish Protestant theologian and Hebraist Johannes van den Driesche the Elder (Drusius). Donne's motto and signature (post-1612) on title-page. No pencil markings. Donne's sermons refute the Council of Trent's assertion of Maccabees' canonical status.⁵ Bound in contemporary limp vellum with L295 (below). Semi-yapp fore-edges, remains of ties, sewing supports laced through cover, ink lettering

³ For the changing appearance of Donne's signature through three phases – pre-1602, 1602-1612, post-1612 – see Hugh Adlington, *John Donne's Books: Reading, Writing, and the Uses of Knowledge* (forthcoming).

⁴ Donne's ownership appears to have been identified first when the book was rebaced in the 1950s-1960s. I am grateful to Jessica Hudson and Giles Mandelbrote for their help with this volume.

⁵ See, for example, Donne's sermon preached to Charles I at Whitehall, 18 April 1626 (*The Oxford Edition of the Sermons of John Donne*, Vol. III, ed. David Colclough (2013), p. 40).

on spine. Donne's library contains four other works by Drusius on the interpretation of the Hebrew scriptures and Jewish antiquities. Signature at top of p. 9 in black ink of Sir John Rawdon (1720-93), first Earl of Moira. Rawdon was a descendant by marriage of Edward, second Viscount Conway (1594-1655), famous book collector and friend of Donne's eldest son, John Donne Jr (1604-1663). This volume entered the Armagh Robinson Library (formerly Armagh Public Library) between 1812 and 1867, probably following the death in 1808 of Lady Moira, the widow of Sir John Rawdon. A record of this quarto edition exists in the large MS folio inventory of the second Viscount Conway's Lisnagarvey library (Armagh Robinson Library, P001209872: *Tituli catalogi sequentis in theologia*, fol. 9^v, no. 33), but the listing may refer to a different copy. Indeed, the absence from p. 9 of the ink initials of Rawdon's father, John Rawdon (1690-1723) – invariably found in books that descended to the Rawdons from Conway's library – suggests that this volume and L298 (below) might have been a later acquisition. Identified by Robert Harding and Paul Quarrie. Armagh Robinson Library (P001411825).⁶

ARMAGH ROBINSON LIBRARY

L295 Johannes Drusius (1550-1616) (trans. and ed.), *Proverbia Ben-Siræ autoris antiquissimi*. Franeker, 1597. 4^o.

Aramaic and Hebrew proverbs. Anonymous medieval text (c. 700-1000), taking its title and inspiration from Ben Sira (Sirach), author of Ecclesiasticus (Wisdom of Sirach). Compilation of two lists of proverbs, twenty-two in Aramaic and twenty-two in Hebrew, translated into Latin by Drusius, arranged alphabetically with Haggadic commentary (also translated into Latin) following each proverb. No signs of Donne's ownership, but bound in contemporary limp vellum with L294 (above). Donne's interest in Jewish legend and wisdom literature finds frequent expression in his prose, esp. in *Essays in Divinity* (1614) and *Sermons*. For provenance, see L294 (above). Armagh Robinson Library (P002474966).

ARMAGH ROBINSON LIBRARY

⁶ I am grateful to Henry R. Woudhuysen for alerting me to the discovery of this volume. I am indebted to Carol Conlin, Thirza Mulder and Dean Gregory Dunstan for their help with its provenance. For the history of Conway's library, see Brenda Collins, 'Family Networks and Social Connections in the Survival of a Seventeenth-Century Library Collection', *Library & Information History*, 33.2 (2017): 123-42, and Daniel Starza Smith, *John Donne & the Conway Papers: Patronage & Manuscript Circulation in the Early Seventeenth Century* (Oxford, 2014), 117-18, 122-6.

L296 John Gerard (1545-1612), *The Herball or Generall Historie of Plantes*. London, 1597. Fol.

Botany. Donne's motto, trimmed, discernible at the head of the title-page; the barest remains of an ink stroke in the bottom right-hand corner is all that survives of Donne's signature. Pencil notes throughout, but in a later hand. Donne's poetry suggests that he was interested in plants mostly for their metaphorical value (viz. 'The Blossom' and 'The Primrose'), though his ownership of Gerard's *Herball* might be linked with Richard Bernard's advice that a minister's library should contain, among other things, books of 'natural Philosophie, such as haue [been] written of Trees, Herbes, Beasts, of Husbandrie'.⁷ Rebound in 1963 in faux leather with buckram boards. Given to Missouri Botanical Garden Library in 1892 by the agronomist and botanist Edward Lewis Sturtevant (1842-1898), together with the rest of his extensive collection of pre-Linnaean books. Sturtevant acquired the book in 1885 from the London bookseller John Wheldon for £2, 15/-. Earlier owners may be guessed at from signatures in other hands: 'Jacobus Conie[rs]' (dedication page (sig. A2^r), head fore-edge corner); 'L. Joannes Conyers' (Index (sig. 5B3^r), foot); Thomas Radley, Woodford Bridge, Essex ('This Book Printed 220 Yeares', front free endpaper), suggesting that Radley's inscription dates from 1817. Initials 'TR', presumably Radley's, on fore-edge. Missouri Botanical Garden, Peter H. Raven Library (MBG Pre-Linneaean QK41. G3 1597 [#670]).⁸

MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN

L297 Fabrizio Paduani, *Catena temporis, sive, De tempore*. Frankfurt, 1605. 4^o.

Chronology. Donne's motto and signature (1602-1612) on the title-page. No pencil markings. Structured as a *catena* (chain), the book comprises 62 *annuli* (rings) that deploy biblical, classical and patristic quotation and paraphrase to explicate issues relating to the nature, measurement, and divisions of time. Relatively few copies survive. In his exegesis of Gen. 1:1 in *Essayes in Divinity* (1614), Donne distils arguments about the dating of creation made in works such as Joseph Justus Scaliger's *De emendatione temporum* (Paris, 1583) and Thomas Lydiat's *Recensio . . . emendationis temporum* (Geneva, 1613), copies of both of which Donne

⁷ Bernard, *The Faithfull Shepheard* (1607), STC 1939, F3^v.

⁸ Thanks to Susan Cobbledick and Doug Holland for their help in establishing the provenance of this volume.

owned.⁹ In *Essayes* and his *Sermons*, Donne may well have drawn on Paduani's *Catena temporis* (esp. Ann. XXXIII *De origine mundi* and Ann. LXII *De mundi duratione*) to the same end. Tightly bound in contemporary limp vellum. Semi-yapp fore-edges, remains of ties, sewing supports laced through cover, ink lettering on spine. Former owner's ink signature on title-page in seventeenth-century hand: 'J. Osborne', possibly John Osborne (1609-c.1707), admitted pensioner at Gonville and Caius in 1626.¹⁰ The College's library catalogues suggest that the volume came to Gonville and Caius in the late 1850s or early 1860s by purchase or anonymous gift. Initially assigned the shelf-mark N.10.37, the book appears to have been swiftly diverted to the Inner, now Lower Library and its present shelf-mark. The college book-plate was pasted in around 1910. Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge (L.12.10).¹¹

GONVILLE AND CAIUS COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

L298 Roman Catholic Church, *Index expurgatorius librorum qui hoc sæcundus prodierunt ... in Belgia concinnatus anno MDLXXI*. [Strasbourg], 1599. 12^o.

Roman Catholic index of forbidden books, with lists of required corrections, known as *The Belgian Index*. Donne's motto and signature (1602-1612) on the title-page. In *Pseudo-Martyr*, Donne cites numerous passages from this work to support his argument that the Roman Catholic Church has 'misencouraged' men to martyrdom (*Pseudo-Martyr* (1610), sigs H4^v, L3^r, S2^v, T2^r, 2E1^v-2E2^r (STC 7048)). At almost all of the corresponding places in his copy of *Index expurgatorius* (sig. A9^v, pp. 15, 86, 146, 154) we find Donne's vertical and slanting pencil marks in the margin. Signature at top of p. 9 in black ink of Sir John Rawdon (1720-93), first Earl of Moira. See L294 (above) for the conjecture that this volume came to Rawdon not from the collection of Edward, second Viscount Conway, but through later acquisition. The absence of this title from the folio inventory of Conway's Lisnagarvey library supports this supposition. Like L294 and L295, this volume entered the Armagh Robinson Library between 1812 and 1867. Bound in contemporary limp vellum. Semi-yapp fore-edges, holes for ties on

⁹ L161 and L114, respectively, in Keynes, *Bibliography of Dr. John Donne* (1973), pp. 275, 271-2.

¹⁰ John Venn and J. A. Venn, eds, *Alumni Cantabrigienses: A Biographical List of All Known Students, Graduates and Holders of Office at the University of Cambridge, from the Earliest Times to 1900*, Pt 1, Vol. 3 (Cambridge, 1924), p. 285.

¹¹ I am indebted to Mark Statham for his help with the provenance of this volume.

front and back boards, sewing supports laced through cover, ink lettering on spine.
Identified by Viscount William Bangor. Armagh Robinson Library
(P001338591).¹²

ARMAGH ROBINSON LIBRARY

L299 Agostino Steuco (Eugubinus) (1497-1548), *De aqua virginem in urbem revocanda*. Lyon, 1547. 4°.

Water distribution in ancient Rome. Short oration urging Pope Paul III (1468-1549) to refurbish the aqueduct known as the *Aqua Virgo*, in order to supply Rome with adequate fresh water. No marks of Donne's ownership, but bound in contemporary limp vellum with L285, Steuco, *Contra Laurentium Vallam, de falsa Donatione Constantini* (Lyon, 1547), which came into Donne's possession between 1602 and 1612.¹³ Tie holes and manuscript title on spine. Queens' College, Cambridge (Queens' Old Library: C 1 13).

QUEENS' COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

¹² I am grateful to Henry R. Woudhuysen for alerting me to the discovery of this volume, and to Carol Conlin, Thirza Mulder and Dean Gregory Dunstan for their help with its provenance.

¹³ Reported in Adlington, 'More Books from the Library of John Donne', p. 60, but with no mention of the existence of this second work (with a separate title-page) in the same volume.