

INTRODUCTION

IT is unfortunate that the library of Worcester Cathedral, though ranking so high among the great medieval monastic libraries of England, possesses no ancient catalogues such as we find at Durham, Canterbury, and other great Churches. Indeed, apart from the brief list of Anglo-Saxon books in an eleventh-century Worcester manuscript now at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge—almost certainly a list of books which then belonged to Worcester monastery—no further ancient record of the contents of the library has survived.<sup>1</sup> In fact until the unexpected appearance of the catalogue now lying before us the earliest examples which Worcester possessed were two catalogues drawn up after the Restoration.

The first of these is still in manuscript and is to be found in Bodleian MS. Tanner 268, where it is one of a collection of catalogues which appear to have been compiled in the second half of the seventeenth century. The second, a recension of the first, was printed in Bernard's *Catalogi MSS. Angliæ et Hiberniæ* (Oxford, 1697).

The discovery, therefore, in 1941 of a full catalogue which antedated the earliest known Worcester catalogues by some forty or fifty years was hailed as a major event in the history of the library. A carefully detailed enumeration of the manuscripts at Worcester in the early years of the seventeenth century was likely to be valuable. Evidently such a catalogue could afford only partial help in reconstructing the picture of the library as it was in medieval times, since the extent of its losses after the Reformation would remain an unknown quantity. But there was the possibility that, having been drawn up before the upheavals of the Civil War, the catalogue might open up a considerably widened vista of the library's ancient past. This hope has been abundantly justified.

The catalogue which lies before us is one of five which formed part of a large collection of Selden and Hale papers belonging to Mr James Fairhurst of Oldham. These catalogues, each of which is marked B. 29, describe the manuscripts in the Cathedral libraries of Lichfield, St Paul's, Salisbury, Worcester and Winchester. All of them belonged to Selden, and are mentioned as follows on f. 13<sup>v</sup> of the second part of a list of Selden's books and manuscripts, now also in the possession of Mr Fairhurst:

29. Catalogue (in loose sheetes) MS. 4to of the MSS. in several Cathedralls etcetera in England (videlicet)

- |                               |                          |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 In Lichfeild library pag. 1 | 2 In Pauls London pag. 5 |
| 3 In Salisburie pag. 13       | 4 Worcester pag. 23      |

<sup>1</sup> It is very improbable that the book-list in Bodleian MS. Tanner 3 relates to Worcester. For the list see H. M. Bannister in *English Historical Review*, xxxii (1917), 388.

- 5 Græcorum penes Patricium Junium pag. 40  
 6 MSorum in Bibliotheca Winton pag. 41.

Item 5 in this list has not been found. Items 1–4 and 6 are in the hand of Patrick Young, librarian successively to Prince Henry, James I and Charles I, prebendary of St Paul's in 1621, and perhaps the chief Greek scholar of his time. Mr Fairhurst took the view that the catalogues ought to belong to the Cathedrals concerned and gave the Chapter of Worcester the opportunity of acquiring the Worcester catalogue in 1941. The other four catalogues also are now in the respective Cathedral libraries.

The manuscript of the catalogue, now Worcester Cathedral Add. MS. 190, consists of sixteen folio pages, numbered 23–38. Pages 23–35 contain the list of the 343 Cathedral manuscripts,<sup>1</sup> page 36 is taken up with notes of manuscripts which belonged to Thomas Allen,<sup>2</sup> and to Gilbert Talbot, ninth earl of Shrewsbury (d. 1630), at Grafton near Bromsgrove,<sup>3</sup> page 37 is blank, and the last page gives some account of the contents of the Worcester cartulary, Cotton Tiberius A. xiii.

The compilation of the catalogue must have occupied Young for a considerable time, but how long it is impossible to say, for there is no reference to his visit in the Chapter records, which for this period are unusually bare. The reasons for his visit are disclosed in an entry in the *Calendar of State Papers (Domestic)* for 1622, which shows that in July of that year the King issued a 'Warrant for payment of £100, and more if needful, to Patrick Young, Keeper of the King's libraries, appointed to make search in all cathedrals for old manuscripts and ancient records, and to bring an inventory of them to His Majesty'. Probably, therefore, Young visited Worcester. While there he occupied himself in compiling a catalogue of the Cathedral manuscripts and in making an Epitome of the important First Register. The Epitome was published by Hearne in 1723—just a hundred years later.<sup>4</sup> The catalogue has had to wait until now. His task completed, Young no doubt discussed with friends like Bishop John Williams, then dean of Westminster and Lord Keeper, the various discoveries he had made in the Cathedral libraries. For, as we shall see later,<sup>5</sup> the dean and Chapter on

<sup>1</sup> The manuscripts are divided into three classes, Folio, Quarto and Octavo, and the variations from the normal size are recorded, e.g. 'large' (or 'mag') and 'litle'. The total number of folios is 215 (194 'fol.', 20 'fol. litle', and 1 'fol. large'), of quartos 90 (87, and 3 'litle'), and of octavos 37 (34, with 2 'mag' and 1 'litle'). These together with one manuscript whose size Young forgot to specify (no. 321) make up a grand total of 343.

<sup>2</sup> Thomas Allen (1542–1632), mathematician and collector of manuscripts, most of which are now in the Digby collection in the Bodleian.

<sup>3</sup> Grafton House was almost completely destroyed by fire in 1710.

<sup>4</sup> 'Chartularii Wigorniensis Epitome per Patricium Junium', pp. 513–51 of T. Hearne, *Hemingi chartularium ecclesie Wigorniensis* (1723). Hearne's text is from Young's autograph in Cotton Vitellius C. ix. The First Register is now A. iv.

<sup>5</sup> *Vide infra* (p. 3), Chapter Minute of 3 February 1624/5.

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25 November 1623 were deliberating upon letters directed to them from James I asking, as they record, ‘for all such dubble maniscritps as we have dubble in our liberary’. The manuscripts were to be sent to the Lord Keeper towards the furnishing of the library which he was then building at Westminster Abbey.

The request is strangely phrased, but, as no copy of the King’s letter was entered in the Chapter Minutes, we do not know that it has been reproduced in the language of the original. It is clear, however, that what was meant was that where there were two copies of a work in the library one was to be given to Bishop Williams for his new library. It is strange that there is no direct mention of the King’s letter in the Minutes of the meeting of 25 November, but only an Order making ‘A graunt to my Lord Keeper of such Manuscripts as we have double in our librarie towards the furnishing of his library at Westminster’.<sup>1</sup>

More than a year passed before any further action was taken. The delay may have been occasioned by the fact that the librarian, Dr John Archbold, prebendary of the fourth stall, died in December 1623. The appointment of his successor who, as Canon J. M. Wilson conjectures,<sup>2</sup> was probably the learned Henry Bright, headmaster of the Cathedral school and one of the prebendaries, could not have been made until the following year, and one can readily understand that the new librarian would need time to familiarize himself with the contents of the library before being able to make sure of the right choice of the manuscripts for Westminster.<sup>3</sup>

It was not until 3 February 1624/5 that the matter was again deliberated by the Chapter in the absence of the dean, who appears to have been in London. By this time the books intended for Westminster had been chosen and the members then present, Richard Potter, sub-dean, and prebendaries William Barksdale and Henry Bright, took action as recorded in the following Minute:

[*Acta Capituli*, Worcester Cathedral Muniments, A. lxxv, f. 84<sup>v</sup>]

3 FEBRUARY 1624(/5). Whereas letters from his Majesty directed unto us under the Great Seale of England for all such dubble maniscritps as we have dubble in our liberary towards the furnishing of a liberarie in the Church of Westminster newly erected or augmented by the nowe Lord Keper Where-uppon wee consented as by our Chapter act bearing date the xxvth day of Novemb: 1623 doth appeare Nowe wee whose names are subscribed by virtue

<sup>1</sup> A. lxxv, f. 81<sup>v</sup>. The Minutes were signed by Joseph Hall, dean, and by John Charlet, John Archbold, Henry Bright and Eustacius Moore, prebendaries.

<sup>2</sup> J. M. Wilson, ‘The Library of Printed Books in Worcester Cathedral’, in *The Library*, 3rd Series, II (1911), p. 10. Canon J. M. Wilson was Cathedral librarian from 1907 to 1923.

<sup>3</sup> Or it may have been that there was no great urgency in the matter, for the work of rebuilding which Bishop Williams was carrying out at Westminster was done between the years 1623 and 1626 (Lawrence E. Tanner, *The Library and Muniment Room* (Westminster Papers, no. 1, 1933), p. 6).

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of the said letters and consent of the Dean and Chapter and as by a letter from Mr. Deane unto us of the Chapter bearing date the xxıııd day of January 1624[/5] have sent upp the sd manuscripts unto Mr. Deane to London for the better conveying thereof, and to the said purpose appointed vizt.

	[Young No.	Worcester]
Augustinus de Civitate Dei <sup>1</sup>	16 or 17	—
Idem de verbis Domini	19	F. 32
Anselmi varia	33	F. 41
Gregorii Pastorale <sup>2</sup>	37 or 38	—
Prophetæ 12 cum glossa	60	Q. 8
Psalterium cum glossa	79	F. 47
Pauli epistolæ cum glossa	81	F. 49
Historia Scholastica	91 or 93	F. 37
Vocabularium Bibliorum Huberti monachi cui titulus Prometheus	103	F. 61
Sermones Jacobi de Losanna de sanctis	110	Q. 19
Magister Sententiarum	One of 128–133	F. 2, etc.
Determinationes quotlibetorum Henrici de Gandavo	158	F. 79
Digestum novum	171 or 172	F. 136
Innocentius in decretales	176 or 177	F. 170
Decretales cum glossa	188 or 189	F. 59
Concordantia discordantium canonum	204 or 205	F. 120
Breviarium extravagantium Bernardi Papiensis	213	F. 122
Legenda sanctorum Jacobi Januensis	248	F. 45
Brito Vocabularius	282	F. 13
Prisciani grammatica <sup>2</sup>	291 or 292	—
Richardus Potter, <i>subdecanus</i> .		
W. Barksdale, <i>Receiver</i> . <sup>3</sup>		
Henry Bright.		

To the list given here we have added in two columns the number of each manuscript in Young’s catalogue and the number of the existing Worcester volume of which it was a duplicate. As will be seen, every manuscript which Westminster should have had can be identified in Young’s catalogue. Indeed it is likely that the catalogue was used when the selection was made, for the twenty manuscripts are listed in the very order in which Young described them. What happened to the books after they left Worcester is not known. They were sent direct to the Dean of Worcester (Joseph Hall, Dean 1616–27) in London ‘for the better conveying thereof’. What is meant by these words is not clear, but it may be that the Chapter had in mind that their dean would make formal presentation of the manuscripts to the Lord Keeper at Westminster. From the time of their leaving Worcester the books

<sup>1</sup> The existing copy of this work (F. 171) is an eighteenth-century addition to the library.  
<sup>2</sup> There is no longer a copy of this work in the library.  
<sup>3</sup> *i.e.* Receiver-General, an office held by one of the senior prebendaries.

completely disappeared. There is no record of their having been received at Westminster, nor are they traceable in the three seventeenth-century Westminster catalogues.<sup>1</sup> Dr Montague James regarded it as ‘extremely doubtful whether they ever arrived at the library’.<sup>2</sup> Yet it seems certain that they left Worcester.

We can now indicate the losses which Worcester library has suffered since 1622–3. In addition to the twenty sent to Westminster seventy-one manuscripts listed by Young are no longer in the library. Only five of these are to be found in the later seventeenth-century catalogues.<sup>3</sup> The remainder must be presumed to have disappeared between 1622–3 and 1697.

MANUSCRIPTS LISTED BY PATRICK YOUNG IN 1622–3,  
which have been alienated from Worcester<sup>4</sup>

Manuscripts marked with an asterisk have already been assigned conjecturally to Worcester. Their presence in Young’s catalogue confirms their Worcester provenance. Those marked + are now for the first time shown to be Worcester books.

<i>Young No.</i>		<i>Present location, where known</i>
3	Hieronymus in 12 prophetas	? B.M., Royal 4 C. ii, s. xii*
5	Hieronymus in psalmos	B.M., Royal 4 A. xiv, s. x <sup>+</sup>
6	Hieronymus in epistolas canonicas	B.M., Royal 2 D. xxvi, s. xiii <i>in</i> .
12	Exodus cum glossa	—
13	Ruth cum glossa	—
16 or 17	Augustinus de civitate Dei	—
18	Augustinus de verbis Domini	? B.M., Royal 5 C. ii, s. xiii <sup>+</sup>
20	Augustinus, Confessiones, vetus	—
21	Augustinus de libero arbitrio, etc.	—
22	Augustinus de mendacio, etc.	B.M., Royal 5 A. xiii, s. xii
23	Augustinus contra 5 hæreses, etc.	—
24	Augustinus in apocalypsin	Bodleian, Hatton 30, s. x
25	Augustinus, Retractationes, etc.	B.M., Royal 5 A. xiv, s. xii <sup>+</sup>
26	Registrum Gregorii	B.M., Royal 6 C. vii, s. xii*
28	Epistolæ Hieronymi	? B.M., Royal 6 D. iii, s. xii <sup>+</sup>
35	Quæstiones Isidori, etc.	B.M., Royal 5 E. v, s. xii <sup>+</sup>
36	Vita Gregorii	B.M., Royal 6 A. vii, s. xi <i>in</i> .*
37 or 38	Pastorale Gregorii	? Glasgow, Hunterian V. 5. 1, s. x and xii*
39	Pastorale Gregorii, etc.	B.M., Royal 5 E. xii, s. xiii <sup>+</sup>
41	Fulgentius de fide Donato, etc.	B.M., Royal 5 B. iii, s. xii <sup>+</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Nor did they find their way to the library at St John’s, Cambridge, which Bishop Williams was then building and furnishing.  
<sup>2</sup> J. A. Robinson and M. R. James, *The Manuscripts of Westminster Abbey*, 1909, p. 103. In 1695 (for the date see L. E. Tanner, *op. cit.* p. 7) there was a fire in the library, and of the 230 manuscripts only one, the famous Islip Roll, is now in existence.  
<sup>3</sup> Y. 183, 252 and 275 in Bodleian MS. Tanner 268; Y. 167 and 293 in Hopkins’s 1697 catalogue.  
<sup>4</sup> This list does not include those entries in Young’s catalogue which have been tentatively identified with entries in the later Worcester catalogues (see Appendix I).



<i>Young No.</i>		<i>Present location, where known</i>
53	Lanfrancus de corpore Domini, etc.	B.M., Royal 5 F. xii, s. xii <sup>+</sup>
54	Admonitiones simplices parrochiis necessariæ, caractere Saxonico	—
55	Biblia latina	Bodleian, Auct. D. inf. 2. 4, s. xiii
56	Comment. in psalmos anonymi	—
59	Jeremias et Daniel glosati	B.M., Royal 3 A. viii, s. xiii
61	Expositio in 12 prophetas et Job	B.M., Royal 2 E. xi, s. xiii <i>ex.</i>
67	Epistolæ Pauli glosatæ	B.M., Royal 2 F. i, s. xiii <i>in.</i>
70	Expositio Bedæ in Marcum, etc.	B.M., Royal 4 B. xiii, s. xii <i>ex.</i> <sup>+</sup>
73	Epistolæ Ambrosii, etc.	? B.M., Royal 6 A. xvi, s. xii <sup>+</sup>
74	Postills in English	—
98	Expositiones ex diversis patribus in Evangeliiis et Epistolis	Bodleian, Barlow 4, s. xi <i>in.</i> <sup>+</sup>
102	Summa J. de Rupella, etc.	—
119	Sermones varii anonymi	—
167	Institutiones cum glossa	B.M., Harley 4967 <sup>+</sup>
183	Leges et decreta Gratiani	—
192	Isidorus de originibus	—
199	Summa Godfredi super titulis decretalium	Worcester, F. 17 ( <i>now missing</i> )
216	Regula S. Benedicti	Bodleian, Hatton 48, s. viii <sup>+</sup>
217	Smaragdi abbatis expositio in regu- lam S. Benedicti	Bodleian, Hatton 40, s. xii
218	Vita S. Modwennæ, etc.	B.M., Royal 15 B. iv, s. xii/xiii <sup>+</sup>
221	Excerpta ex synodis, etc.	Bodleian, Hatton 42, s. ix <sup>+</sup>
222	Collationes Joh. heremitæ	Bodleian, Hatton 23, s. xi*
223	De officio missæ, caractere Saxonico	Bodleian, Hatton 93, s. viii/ix*
235	Sermones de virginibus	—
240	Regimen animarum	Bodleian, Hatton 11, s. xv <i>in.</i> <sup>+</sup>
252	Liber precum in festis Sanctorum	—
253	Aldelmus de virginitate, caractere Saxonico	B.M., Royal 5 F. iii, s. ix/x <sup>+</sup>
257	Concilium Ottoboni, etc.	—
275	Gerardinus de modo medendi, etc.	—
286	Vita Barlaam et Josaphat, etc.	B.M., Harley 5394 <sup>+</sup>
291 or 292	Grammatica Prisciani	B.M., Royal 15 B. xiv, s. xii <i>ex.</i>
293	De virtute lapidum, etc.	—
296	Liber grammaticalis (A. Nequam)	—
297	Missale cum notis musicis	—
298	Missale aliud cum notis musicis	—
301	Homilia anon.	—
305	Commentum Duncaht	B.M., Royal 15 A. xxxiii, s. x <i>in.</i> *
309	Precationes quædam, caractere Saxonico	? B.M., Royal 2 A. xx, s. viii <sup>+</sup>
316	Fragmentum passionum quorum- dam Sanctorum	—

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<i>Young No.</i>		<i>Present location, where known</i>
317	Sermones Saxonici	Bodleian, Hatton 115, s. xi <i>ex.</i>
318	Sermones Saxonici	Bodleian, Hatton 113, s. xi
319	Sermones Saxonici	Bodleian, Hatton 114, s. xi
320	Sermones Saxonici	Bodleian, Hatton 116, s. xii
321	Constitutiones lingua Saxonica	Bodleian, Junius 121, s. xi
322	Dialogi Gregorii, etc., Saxonice	Bodleian, Hatton 76, s. xi
324	Compilatio decretorum Ivonis, etc.	Bodleian, Hatton 6, s. xiii <i>in.</i> <sup>+</sup>
330	Smaragdus de diversis virtutibus	B.M., Royal 8 D. xiii, s. xii <i>in.</i>
333	Cypriani testimoniale	B.M., Royal 5 E. xiii, s. ix <i>ex.</i> <sup>+</sup>
337	Sermones duo lingua Saxonica, etc.	—
339	Retractationes Augustini, etc.	—
342	Compendium Veteris Testamenti	? Eton College, 96, s. xiii <i>med.</i> <sup>+</sup>
343	A missal in English	—

Besides these seventy-two entries in Young’s catalogue which cannot be identified at all with extant manuscripts at Worcester there are some entries which can only be identified doubtfully, since many of Young’s titles are very brief, and those applied to the legal books and the service-books are sometimes, we may suspect, inexact.<sup>1</sup> It has seemed well, however, to dispense with a query whenever a description in Young fits an extant Worcester manuscript exactly and to draw attention only to the considerable element of doubt in the identification of the following numbers:

Young		
57	Psalterium et pars missalis	? F. 160 Antiphonarium, etc.
175	Decretalium liber sextus unde multa excisa	? F. 97 Apparatus sexti libri decretalium per G. de Baysio
209	Apparatus domini Guidonis supra extravagantes Joh. papæ	? F. 168 J. Andree apparatus in Clementinas, Extravagantes Joh. xxii, etc.
314	Homiliæ quædam laceræ	? Q. 100 Sermones (damaged by damp)

Young’s catalogue does not include Hatton 20, the ninth-century Anglo-Saxon version of the ‘Regula Pastoralis’ of St Gregory the Great presented to the Church of Worcester by King Alfred, but with this exception all the books constituting the famous Worcester group of Anglo-Saxon manuscripts in the Hatton collection are to be found in the catalogue, nos. 317–22. The catalogue shows, too, the presence in the library at that time of the eighth-century copy of the Benedictine

<sup>1</sup> Four manuscripts now at Worcester and almost certainly there in 1622 cannot be identified with any of Young’s descriptions. One of them, Q. 32, a thin collection of fragments of a glossed Isaiah and other texts, may have been passed over by Young owing to its evident lack of interest. The second and third are law books: F. 29, the commentaries of Azo on the Code, labelled in the late Middle Ages ‘Commenta Justiniani’, and F. 58, containing a ‘Breviarium de jure canonico’ and ‘Goffredus super titulis decretalium’. The fourth, F. 173, is a fragment of an eleventh-century Sacramentary written for the Old Minster at Winchester.

Rule (Young no. 216, now Hatton 48), of which it is not too much to say that, as the oldest copy of the Rule extant, it is an object of veneration to every member of the Benedictine Order throughout the world.<sup>1</sup> It has hitherto been ascribed to Canterbury, where indeed it may have been written.<sup>2</sup>

It would be interesting, if it were possible, to trace the process by which from about the middle of the sixteenth century to the last quarter of the seventeenth the Cathedral was gradually despoiled of some of its greatest literary treasures. But we have as yet too little information to enable such a task to be undertaken with any prospect of success. It must suffice to touch upon the history of the spoliation in the briefest way.

It seems unlikely that the library suffered much before the Reformation. There would be, no doubt, the usual minor losses which were inevitable in a library not subject to the stringent regulations which are customary in great libraries to-day.

The earliest known loss is a copy of the Sentences, *c.* 1300, now Peterhouse, Cambridge, MS. 71, which is entered in the catalogue of the College Library compiled in 1418. It bears the inscription 'Memoriale fratris Roberti de Dikklesdon Monachi Wygornensis ecclesie'.<sup>3</sup>

Another book which may have strayed at an early date is now Bodley 223 (*Summary Catalogue* 2106), which came to the Bodleian from the dean and canons of Windsor in 1612. Its flyleaves contain Worcester documents and the script of the main text, Gregory on Ezekiel, suggests that the book was written at Worcester in the time of St Wulstan.

The period of the real losses seems to have begun towards the middle of the sixteenth century. It is convenient to date it from the visit paid by John Leland, the King's antiquary, between 1534 and 1543.<sup>4</sup> The ten Worcester books which found their way into the library of Henry VIII may well have been selected by him.<sup>5</sup> They are handsome folios of theology and law of the twelfth, thirteenth and fourteenth centuries.

<sup>1</sup> Dr H. H. E. Craster wrote of this manuscript: 'It is the most ancient copy of a document of prime importance in the history of religion and learning' (in E. A. Lowe, *Regula S. Benedicti*, Oxford, 1929, p. 5).

<sup>2</sup> See N. R. Ker, 'The Provenance of the Oldest Manuscript of the Rule of St Benedict' (*Bodleian Library Record*, vol. II, no. 17, 1941, p. 28).

<sup>3</sup> Robert of Diclesdon was made a penitentiary by Bishop Walter Reynolds in 1308 and was eighth in seniority amongst the monks in 1317. Six examples of the use of 'Memoriale' in book-inscriptions are given by M. R. James, *Descriptive Catalogue of the Manuscripts in the Library of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge*, I, 405. The word sometimes appears to mean 'keepsake', but, as Dr R. W. Hunt has pointed out to us, it certainly means 'pledge' in some instances.

<sup>4</sup> In 1533 Leland received a commission empowering him to make a search after England's antiquities and to peruse the libraries of all cathedrals, colleges, etc. His commission seems to have covered much the same ground as that of Patrick Young.

<sup>5</sup> They are now B.M. Royal 2 C. vii, 2 E. vi, 4 B. iv, 4 D. xii, 5 C. vi, 9 B. v, 9 B. xii, 11 B. ii, Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, 217, Oxford, Bodleian, Bodl. 862 (*S.C.* 2730). The two last are in the velvet bindings, with metal corner pieces, bosses and clasps, which clothe a number of the King's books outside the present Royal collection.



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A peculiarity about them is that they all contain the inscription ‘Liber monasterii Wygornie’, instead of the ‘Liber ecclesie cathedralis (beate Marie) Wygorn’, or ‘Liber sancte Marie Wygorn’, found usually in Worcester books which bear a medieval inscription.<sup>1</sup> The form ‘Liber monasterii Wygornie’ is parallel to the ‘Liber monasterii Eveshamie’ found in two other manuscripts which were formerly in the King’s library.<sup>2</sup> It seems likely that this form of inscription is a memorandum inserted at the time a manuscript was chosen for the King, in order to identify the library from which it was drawn, and that it is in fact of the same non-monastic kind as the inscriptions found in books from Cirencester, Bardney and Pershore which came into the King’s hands.<sup>3</sup>

About twenty years later the real dismemberment of the library began. Serious inroads were made upon its manuscripts by Archbishop Parker, who succeeded in gaining possession of at least eleven important codices, four of them entirely in Anglo-Saxon. How he acquired them, or upon what terms, is not known. At his death all these Worcester manuscripts—save one which he had given to Cambridge University Library in 1574—passed by his bequest to Corpus Christi College, Cambridge. What Parker’s object was in assembling them we know from Strype. ‘Our archbishop’, he says, ‘... was desirous to inquire everywhere for Saxon and British antiquities for the better knowledge of the history of the ancient state of this Church and nation’.<sup>4</sup> There is piety of purpose in this. We must let it go at that. And whether Parker’s action was just or unjust, we shall do well to remember that its effect has been to assure the safety of these books for the generations to come.

The archbishop seems to have approached the Cathedral libraries through his diocesans. Thus he writes to John Scory, bishop of Hereford, in January 1565/6:

I geve you thankes for that you dydd not forgett to cause Hereford librarie to be serched for Saxon bookes.

<sup>1</sup> Three other books contain the inscription ‘Liber monasterii Wygornie’:

(a) Royal 10 B. x, which belonged to Lord Lumley (1534?–1609) and may have been formerly in the King’s library.

(b) Worcester Cath. F. 79, which does not appear to have left Worcester, but was perhaps selected for the King and afterwards discarded. It has the inscription in the same sixteenth-century hand as that in Bodl. 862. The book contains the ‘Quodlibeta’ of Henricus de Gandavo, another copy of which, now Royal 11 C. x, was in the old Royal library.

(c) B.M., Harley 1659, W. Peraldus, *De vitiis et virtutibus*, which belonged to William Cecil, Lord Burleigh (1520–1598), and was in the sale of his manuscripts in 1687.

Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, MS. 24 may also have this form of inscription, but only ‘Liber monasterii’ is legible.

<sup>2</sup> Bodleian MS. Auct. D. 1. 15 (*S.C.* 2239) and Queen’s College, Oxford, MS. 302.

<sup>3</sup> See N. R. Ker, *Medieval Libraries of Great Britain* (Royal Hist. Soc. 1941), p. xvi.

<sup>4</sup> Strype, *Life of Matthew Parker* (Clarendon Press, 1821), I, 417. See also Parker’s own statement in the Preface to *A Testimonie of Antiquitie* (? 1567).

His intention at that time was ‘to have the use of them for a tyme. Meaneinge with thankes shorttlye to returne them again’.<sup>1</sup>

A little later Parker was making similar enquiries at St David’s. His letter to Bishop Davies reveals the interesting fact that already in March 1565/6 he had got together ‘divers books and works’ in Anglo-Saxon and had in his house scholars well able to understand them.<sup>2</sup> His task of collecting the books needed for his purpose must have been completed in this year, for in the Preface to his *Testimonie of Antiquitie*, published probably in 1567,<sup>3</sup> he mentions Anglo-Saxon manuscripts ‘yet reserved in the libraryes of. . . Worcester, Hereford, and Exeter’ and adds: ‘From which places diverse of these bookes have bene delivered into the handes of the moste reverend father, Matthewe, Arch-bishop of Canterburye. . .’.

Amongst the scholars whom Parker speaks of as being in his house must have been John Joscelyn, his Latin secretary, who held a prebend in Hereford Cathedral between 1560 and 1577. That Joscelyn was in touch with the library at Worcester is shown by the fact that it is from him that we learn that the Worcester Saxon Chronicle, now B.M. Cotton Tiberius B. iv, was still in the library of that Church (‘est adhuc in bibliotheca ecclesiae’) in his day, at some time, as has been shown, between 1560 and 1567.<sup>4</sup> And it was probably at Worcester during these years that he began to make use of this Chronicle. To the same period must be assigned the annotations which he made in so many of the more ancient Worcester manuscripts, for his hand occurs not only in those which left the library in the sixteenth century but also in those which remained there until the seventeenth.<sup>5</sup> The manuscripts he used for his Anglo-Saxon word-lists in Lambeth Palace MS. 692 include five from Worcester, namely Bodleian, Hatton 20, 113, Junius 121, and Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, 178 and 198. The same three Bodleian manuscripts and Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, 265 supplied copy for Joscelyn’s collectanea in Cotton Vitellius D. vii. These collectanea contain also at f. 129 extracts from a ‘Vita S. Goaris’<sup>6</sup> of

<sup>1</sup> The letter is printed in full by its discoverer, B. H. Streeter, *The Chained Library* (London 1931), p. 347. The books which the Hereford Chapter sent were ‘Vita Sancti Marcelini’, ‘Sermones dominicales’ and ‘Vite quorundam sanctorum saxonice script.’.

<sup>2</sup> *Correspondence of Matthew Parker* (Parker Soc. 1853): Bishop Davies of St David’s to Archbishop Parker, 19 March 1565/6; Archbishop Parker to Bishop Davies, 28 March 1566.

<sup>3</sup> Strype (*op. cit.* I, 472) dates the work 1566 and states that the Preface is undoubtedly Parker’s work.

<sup>4</sup> Ivor Atkins, ‘Origin of later part of Saxon Chronicle known as D’, *English Historical Review*, vol. LV (1940), p. 25.

<sup>5</sup> Joscelyn wrote in twelve Worcester manuscripts: Bodleian, Hatton 20, 113, 114, Junius 121, Laud misc. 482, Rawlinson C. 428; C.C.C., Cambridge, 9, 198, 265; B.M., Cotton Tiberius A. xiii, Tiberius B. iv, Nero E. 1. Archbishop Parker’s red-pencil notes and interlining occur in Hatton 42, Junius 121 and Rawlinson C. 428.

<sup>6</sup> This saint is commemorated at 6 July in the Kalendar of St Wulstan’s Homiliary (MS. Hatton 113).