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978-1-108-07351-6 - A Catalogue of the Bradshaw Collection of Irish Books: In the University Library

Cambridge: Volume 1

Charles Sayle

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A Catalogue of the Bradshaw Collection of Irish Books in the University Library Cambridge

University Librarian at Cambridge from 1867 until his death, Henry Bradshaw (1831–86) had inherited from his banker father an important library of Irish printed books and pamphlets assembled in the early nineteenth century. Having added to it, Bradshaw generously presented the collection to the University Library in 1870, and it has been expanding ever since. Published in 1916, this three-volume catalogue was compiled by the bibliographer Charles Edward Sayle (1864–1924). The works listed here, numbering more than 8,000 items and dating from the early seventeenth century through to the late nineteenth century, represent a valuable resource for students of Irish history and printing. Sayle's catalogue reveals the breadth and richness of the collection at the time of publication. Prefaced by Bradshaw's letter gifting the collection to the Library Syndicate without imposing terms, Volume 1 lists works printed in Dublin by known printers between 1602 and 1882.

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VOLUME 1

CHARLES SAYLE



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A CATALOGUE OF THE
BRADSHAW COLLECTION
OF IRISH BOOKS IN THE
UNIVERSITY LIBRARY
CAMBRIDGE

VOL. I

BOOKS PRINTED IN DUBLIN
BY KNOWN PRINTERS

1602—1882

CAMBRIDGE :

PRINTED FOR THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

AND TO BE HAD OF

BERNARD QUARITCH, 11 GRAFTON STREET, LONDON

1916

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THE books here catalogued fall into three groups: (1) a collection of Irish books inherited by Henry Bradshaw from his father, 'nearly doubled in value,' as he himself says, by his own exertions, and presented to the University Library in 1870; (2) a second collection made by him between 1870 and 1886, the year of his death, which was given to the Library by his family; (3) books added by purchase or gift since his death, or brought in from other parts of the Library.

In his presidential address to the Library Association in 1882 Bradshaw said, 'One of the most admirable features of the Bodleian Library, to my mind, is the way in which the private library of a specialist like Gough or Malone has become, when bequeathed to Oxford, the germ of a still more precious collection, in which the University has constituted itself the man's heir and continued his collection.'

Bradshaw's own gift has afforded an opportunity for carrying out, at any rate in some degree, the principle he thus approved; and among the books added since 1886 are several which fully deserve their place in such a collection.

The original gift was announced to the Senate in a Report of the Library Syndicate, dated May 4, 1870, in which Bradshaw's letter to the Vice-Chancellor,¹ offering the collection to the University, was printed.

The letter was as follows:

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY,

March 30, 1870.

"My Dear Sir,

"There is a matter which has been in my mind for some time past, and which I should be glad if you could bring before the Library Syndicate before they separate for the Vacation.

"I have a considerable collection of books, pamphlets, and other printed papers relating to Ireland. The basis of it is the Irish portion of my father's library, that portion of it in which, as coming himself from the North of Ireland, he took most interest, and which, at his death in 1845, he left to me. For several years I did a good deal to increase the collection, especially in the matter of pamphlets and printed papers; though it is still of course very far from having any claim to completeness.

"It would give me sincere pleasure if the Syndics would accept this collection as a gift to the Library. More than forty years ago, when public libraries were less plentifully supplied than they are now, literary men used to come to my father's house to work at these books when engaged in writing upon Irish

¹ The Vice-Chancellor was Dr. Atkinson, then and until 1915 Master of Clare College, and a good friend to the Library. The letter is printed in G. W. Prothero's *Memoir of Henry Bradshaw* (London, 1888), pp. 172-4.

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affairs, and from the time that I was a child, they have had a particular interest for me. Although I have been able to give but little attention to them for some few years past, yet I have by me a mass of bibliographical notes on the subject, collected during the last twenty years; and if I could feel that these books and papers were deposited in some more permanent resting-place than my own library, I should more readily try to put my notes in order so as to turn them to some practical use.

“There are about 1000 bound volumes; and of the pamphlets and other printed papers there are, speaking roughly, about 2700 in octavo, 700 in quarto, and 500 in folio, including proclamations, broadsides, and fly-sheets. These, with a number of original signed petitions to the Houses of Parliament (chiefly ranging from 1809 to 1819 and relating to the so-called Catholic Claims) and a few other manuscripts, amount in all to about 5000 pieces. There are necessarily many duplicates in such a collection, and many also will be already in the University Library; but after making all due allowance for these, there must remain a considerable number which the Library does not possess, and which it would be difficult either to find elsewhere or to bring together again.

“I should not wish to impose any terms whatever upon the Syndicate, if they should think fit to accept the books. I have no views about the sacredness of duplicates, or the necessity of keeping such a collection intact. My whole wish is to enable the University to enrich its library with a class of books with which, though possessing some very precious things of the kind, it is on the whole but poorly provided at present; and I should therefore prefer that any suggestion which I might feel inclined to make concerning their arrangement, should be made by me as the Librarian to whose charge they would be confided under the control of the Syndicate, rather than that the gift should be hampered by conditions such as in many cases serve to hinder the very object for which the collection was formed.

“It will not be easy for me to forget the liberal manner in which the University, at the suggestion of the Library Syndicate, enabled me for more than seven years to pursue the studies which I had most at heart, and the confidence implied in the fact that no report of my work during that time was ever demanded of me. I hope that the confidence was not wholly misplaced; but I cannot express strongly enough that the freedom of those seven years of work, as it has produced results which I could not have foreseen, so it has given me a sense of debt to the University which nothing can remove.”

Yours most truly,

HENRY BRADSHAW.

*The Rev. The Vice-Chancellor,
Clare Lodge.*

During the last years of his life Bradshaw made considerable purchases at the Drake (1883), Sunderland (1883), and Wodhull (1886) sales.¹

In August, 1900, a few tracts relating to Irish history were added, which had originally formed part of the Earl of Marchmont's library. These had passed into the collection of the Hon. George Rose, and from him into the library of Lord Polwarth.

Among the additions made to the collection since Mr. Bradshaw's

¹ Bradshaw's purchases at these sales may be recognized by his pencil note QD, QS, QW, and RD, as acquired through Quaritch or Ridler.

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death may be particularly mentioned the collection of Irish broadsides formed by Col. Grant, and bought from Messrs. Pickering & Chatto in 1900 [Hib. 1. 679. 1], and the volume of Irish newspapers [Hib. 1. 785. 1].

The Catalogue is under the heaviest debt of obligation to Mr. E. R. McC. Dix, who has been consulted and has given his labour and the results of his apparently inexhaustible knowledge of the subject throughout the long period of preparation. He has also himself added to the collection. Valuable help has also been afforded by the Librarian of the Royal Irish Academy; by Mr. D. J. O'Donoghue, Librarian of University College, Dublin; by Mr. T. W. Lyster and Mr. R. I. Best, of the National Library of Ireland; by Mr. Alfred de Burgh, of Trinity College Library, Dublin; by Mr. F. J. P. Burgoyne, Librarian of the Linen Hall, Belfast; by Dr. W. H. Grattan Flood, gift (no. 8819); and by the Rev. H. Kingsmill Moore, D.D., who is also a benefactor. Mr. Philip White, of the Dublin University Press, has readily offered the detailed results of his researches upon that press. Assistance has also been received from the Rev. J. G. D. Pypen, Vicar of Swords. The Rev. W. J. D. White, D.D., Librarian of Marsh's Library, Mr. A. W. Pollard, Mr. A. E. Crowley, and Mr. E. J. Thomas, rendered important service in supplying notes upon one volume; as also did Don Annibal Fernandes Thomaz and Mr. Edgar Prestage upon another; Mr. W. J. Lawrence upon a third entry (no. 4899); and Mr. Frank Kidson, of Leeds, upon a fourth. Mr. Richard Faley, of Dublin, afforded information on no. 8385, and other details. Thanks are also due to Séamus Ó Casaide, Esq., for invaluable information.¹

Coming nearer home, gratitude may be expressed for help received from the late Mr. C. H. Monro, of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge. Mr. E. C. Quiggin has revised every entry in Irish type and language. Mr. A. E. Dobbs, Fellow of King's College, Cambridge, and Mr. H. G. Aldis, have also both assisted with advice and information.

Many gifts have been added to the Bradshaw Collection, some of which may here be recorded. Some British Museum duplicates, presented several years ago, fit in very appositely. The Master and Fellows of Magdalene College, Cambridge, have added one interesting item (no. 8700). The late Mr. J. W. Clark added one (no. 8711), and the late Dr. Robert Sinker another (no. 8572). Mr. E. Gordon Duff, Mr. C. E. Grant, Mrs. Lawrence Humphry, Messrs. Heffer & Sons, Mr. S. Gaselee, Mr. A. G. W. Murray, and the University Librarian, have all contributed. Mr. Horas Tristram Kennedy may be specially mentioned for the gift of copies of the books and pamphlets written by his grandfather.

The collection as made by Bradshaw fell into three divisions; which have accordingly been retained in the present catalogue.

1. Books printed in Ireland.
2. Books written by Irishmen.
3. Books relating to Ireland.

¹ Mr. Cassedy's Bibliography of Local Printing, which occupies three pages of the *Irish Book Lover*, ii. 4-6 (1911), was only discovered after the second volume of the present catalogue was printed off.

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The first volume includes books printed in Dublin, of which the printers are known. This contains also at end a separate index of Dublin printers.

The second contains (1) books printed in Dublin of which the printer is not known, (2) Irish provincial printing, (3) the works of Irish authors printed elsewhere, arranged alphabetically, (4) books printed elsewhere which relate to Ireland, arranged chronologically, (5) an Appendix, consisting of the catalogue of the collection of books presented by the Rev. R. J. McGhee, (6) a second Appendix containing the list of books added to the Collection by purchase during the compilation of the catalogue, or of which, being already in other parts of the Library, an entry is inserted. Among these are two volumes of Ballads (4815, 4818). The Collection of Ballads formed by Sir Frederick Madden (8605, 8606) has been indexed with these. (7) Addenda and Corrigenda.

The third volume contains the index.

30th March, 1916.

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