



## Reynold Wolfe.

**R**EYNOLD, OR REGINALD WOLFE, Esq., King's Printer, is rightly conjectured by Ames and Herbert, to have been of foreign extraction; if not a foreigner by birth. There were several printers of the same name: GEORGE WOLF of Baden, who printed at *Paris* from 1491 to 1499; NICHOLAS WOLF at *Lyons*, in 1498, and 1499; NICHOLAS WOLF, a GERMAN, in 1502; and THOMAS WOLFE\* at *Basil*, in 1527. Probably ours was related to one or more of them. Richard Argentine, in his book *De præstigiis, &c.* dated from *Exon*, 1563, calls him '*Argentinensem.*' However, he was brought up early to learning, and the art of printing. He was a man of eminence, a good antiquary, great promoter of the reformation, and in favour with King Henry VIII., Lord Cromwell, Arch-

\* See some account, and a supposed portrait, of this THOMAS WOLFE, in the *Bibliographical Decameron*; vol. ii. p. 295-7. Of the original of the ABOVE portrait of REGINALD, neither Ames nor Herbert says a syllable: yet I am not prepared to call it entirely supposititious. The costume of the head-dress of the above portrait, and of that of the supposed portrait just referred to, are somewhat *similar*.

bishop Cranmer, &c. John Leland was of his acquaintance.\* Our learned Kentish antiquary, John Twine, calls him a German by nation, a good man, and well learned, and a very faithful friend of his, whose kindness he had experienced in prosperity and adversity, and who, when he was set at liberty from his imprisonment in the Tower, took him into his house, ‘*situ squaloreque obsitum*,’† and entertained him there till he could return to Canterbury, to his own house and family. John Stow observes of him, that in the year 1549, the bones of the dead, in the charnel house of St. Paul’s, amounting to more than 1000 cart loads, were carried to Finsbury field, and the expense paid by him. He spent twenty-five years in collecting materials for an *Universal Cosmography* of all nations, which though at his death he left undigested, he thereby laid the foundation of those *chronicles*, which afterwards were compiled by *Ralph Holinshed*, who frankly acknowledged so much in his dedication to Lord Burghleigh. Those chronicles were published in 1577, by John Harrison, his son-in-law; and again, with large additions, in 1587, by the said John Harrison, and others. We are further informed by Edmund Howes, the continuer of *Stow’s Annals*, that if Stow had lived but one year longer, he purposed to have put in print *Reyne Woolfes chronicle*, which he began and finished at the request of Dr. Whitgift, late Archbishop of Canterbury; but being prevented by death, left the same in his study, orderly written, ready for the press; but it came to nothing. p. 811.

Ames observes, that ‘he settled his printing-office in *St. Paul’s Church Yard*, and set up the sign of the *Brazen Serpent*, which was a device used by foreign printers.’‡ Instead of the miserable repre-

\* So says Bagford: but Bagford’s authority is always to be received with caution. See the note (o) in the *Lives of Leland and Hearne*, &c. 1772, 8vo. vol. i p. 31. Bagford ‘believes that Leland dyed at Wolfe’s house, situate in the parish of St. Michael.’ *Ibid.*

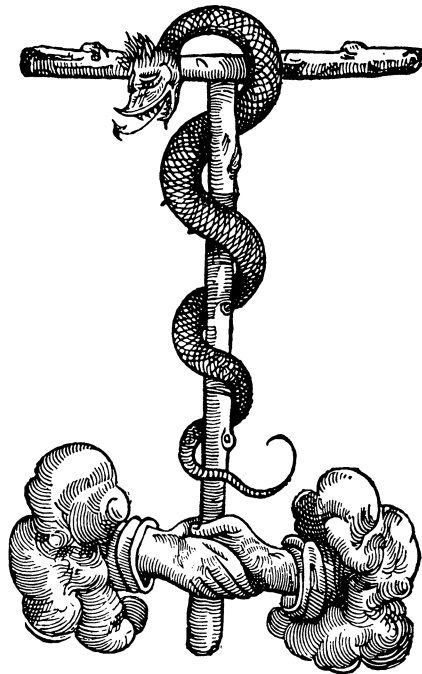
† *De Rebus Albionis*, p. 71. *Edit.* 1590. AMES.

‡ The serpent, introduced in some way or other, was the favourite device of a great number of the foreign printers; but probably Reginald Wolfe borrowed his own more immediately from that of Conrad Neobanus, as appears in his *Apost. et Sanctior. Concilia*, 1540, 4to.

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sentation of this device, given by Ames and Herbert, the reader will be pleased to receive the following ; which is a perfect resemblance of the original.



Wolfe also used two other devices ; of the smaller one of which, the following is a fac-simile ; premising that it appears on a larger and more attractive scale in the *Homilies of Chrysostom* (among others), presently to be mentioned.



Stow supposes that he built his printing-office ‘ from the ground, out of the old chapel, which he purchased of the King at the disso-

lution of monasteries, where on the same ground he had several other tenements, and afterward purchased several leases of the Dean and Chapter of St. Pauls.' He followed his business of printing with great reputation for many years, and printed for Archbishop Cranmer most of his pieces, and for others of great note. HENRY BINNEMAN was servant to him, who afterwards proved a good printer, and used the same device of the Brazen Serpent; as also did JOHN SHEPPERDE, another of his apprentices. He was the first (says Ames) who had a patent for being printer to the King in *Latin, Greek,\** and *Hebrew*; by which he was authorized to be his bookseller and stationer, and to print and publish all sorts of books in the said languages, as also Greek and Latin grammars, although mixed with English; and likewise charts, maps, and such other things, which might be at any time useful and necessary. And he was permitted to exercise this office either himself, or by sufficient deputies, and to enjoy an annuity of twenty-six shillings and eight-pence, besides all other profits and advantages belonging to his office during life. And all other booksellers and printers were forbid to sell or print any books printed by him, at his own charge, or in his name, on pain of forfeiting their books, &c. As may be fully seen in the patent, dated 19 April, 1547; printed in Rymer's *Fœdera*, Vcl. xv. p. 150.†

\* He had also a patent for printing *A book of Ydrography*, made by one JOHN ROTZ, a Frenchman born, servant to King Henry VIII., anno Domini 1542: which contained all the sea coasts, &c. of the world, curiously delineated in 18 large skins of parchment. Query, if ever printed by R. Wolfe, who had the patent. *Bishop Tanner's MSS.* In a ms. memorandum, Herbert adds, 'but I don't find he ever printed it.' The notice from Tanner's MSS. is given by Ames, at page 504.

† Ames has thought it worth while to reprint this patent in the following manner.

Reginald Wolfe's patent from Rymer, vol. xv. p. 150. anno 1547, 1 Edward VI. De officio typographi, in Latino, Graeco, Hebraicoque sermone, concesso.

Rex omnibus ad quos, &c. salutem. Sciatis quod nos, de gratia nostra speciali, et assensu carissimi avunculi nostri Edwardi ducis Somersetiae, regnorum et dominiorum nostrorum protectoris, ac personae nostrae regiae gubernatoris; necnon caeterorum consiliariorum nostrorum unanimi consensu, dedimus et concessimus, ac per praesentes damus et concedimus dilecto subdito nostro REGINALDO WOLFE officium typographi, ac bibliopolae nostri, in Latino, Graeco, Hebraicoque sermone, necnon licentiam et auctoritatem non solum im-

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Ames thinks that he forbore printing during Queen Mary's reign, and spent the greater part of his time in collecting materials for the *Chronicles* published under the name of *Holinshed*.

He was an original member of the worshipful company of Stationers, and a generous benefactor to them. When Queen Elizabeth confirmed their charter in the first year of her reign, REYNOLD WOLFE was master, Michael Lobley and Thomas Duxwell, the wardens. The same year of their office, "*The livery new begonne & reuyed agayne in the colors of skerlett and browne blew, worne on the*

primendi et excudendi omnes et singulos libros Latinos, Graecos, Hebraicos, cujuscunque generis fuerint, verum etiam grammaticas Graecas sive Latinas, quamvis Anglico sermone intermixtas imposterum, necnon cartas, mappas, caeteraque hujusmodi, quae nobis ac regionibus nostris, in dictis linguis et sermonibus, utilia aut necessaria imposterum aliquo tempore esse poterunt, verum etiam ad opus et usum parandi et providendi tot et tales libros, quot et quales nobis imposterum parandos voluerimus aut assignaverimus: ac ipsum Reginaldum typographum et bibliopolum nostrum in praemissis, ut praemittitur, facimus, ordinamus, et constituimus per praesentes, habendum, gaudendum, et exercendum officium praedictum, ac caetera praemissa praefato Reginaldo per se, vel per sufficientem deputatum suum, sive deputatos suos sufficientes, durante vitâ ejus naturali. Et ulterius, de uberiori gratia nostra, et ex assensu et consensu praedictis, dedimus et concessimus, ac per praesentes damus et concedimus praefato Reginaldo, pro exercitio et occupatione officii praedicti, vadium et feodum viginti sex solidorum et octo denariorum, habenda et annuatim percipienda praedicto Reginaldo de thesauro nostro ad receptam scaccarii, per manus thesaurarii, et camerariorum nostrorum ibidem pro tempore existentiam, a festo sancti Michaelis archangeli proximo futuro, ad terminos in dicto scaccario, nostro usuales, aequis portionibus, solvenda durante vitâ suâ praedictâ, unâ cum omnibus aliis proficuis, commoditatibus, et advantagiis eidem officio quoque modo spectantibus sive pertinentibus. Quare omnibus et singulis typographis, bibliopolis, et excusoribus librorum, infra hoc regnum nostrum Angliae, per praesentes firmiter praecipimus et mandamus, quod nullus eorum de caetero audeat vel praesumat aliquos libros, cartas, mappas, caeterave hujusmodi, quae nos per praefatum Reginaldum imprimenda curabimus et assignabimus, vel quae praefatus Reginaldus propriâ suâ industriâ, diligentâ, atque labore acquisiverit, sumptuque suo impresserit, vel suo nomine imprimi fecerit, sub typis aut prelis suis excudere seu imprimere, vel excudi seu imprimi facere, nec eadem, per alium quemcumque praeter praedictum Reginaldum impressa aut excusa, alicui personae vendere, seu vendendo exponere, sub poenâ forisfacturae, et deperditionis librorum, caeterorumque praedictorum, quos vel quae sic vendiderit, aut vendendo exposuerit; ac ulterius incurrendi in graviorem nostri offensionem: eo quod expressa mentio, &c. In cujus rei, &c. Teste rege apud Westmonasterium, decimo nono die Aprilis. Per breve de privato sigillo.

*feaste day beyng the sondaye after saynt Peters daye A<sup>o</sup> 1560.*” Reynold Wolfe was chosen master again in the years 1564, 1567, and 1572. As Herbert did not find him in the Hall Book, serving the office of warden, he presumed that he had served it before the grant of their charter, in like manner as Berthelet and others had done. After he had continued his business above 30 years, (says Ames) he made his will, which is but short, dated the 9th of January, and left his dear wife Joan his sole executrix. In witness he set his mark\* in presence of George Bishop, Ralph Holingshed, and me John Lune, and me Thomas Sheppard. ‘Item, I bequeath to Jone my well beloved wyfe the chappel house, that I purchased of the king, that Luke Harrison now dwelleth in, and that house which Mrs. Cradocke dwelleth in, and all that thereto belongeth, and all my leases, and all the rest of my goods, and to my children according to the custome of London.’

It should seem that Wolfe died towards the end of the year 1573; for the patent granted to FRANCIS FLOWER, ‘a gentleman, being none of the company of Stationers’ (see Ames, p. 537,) bears date 15th of December, 1573; in which mention is made of the patent ‘granted to the *late* Reginald Wolfe.’ His trade was continued a good while after by his wife Joan, who made her will the first of July, 1574, in three leaves and a half, wherein she desires to be buried near her husband in St. Faith’s Church, and bequeathed to her son ROBERT† WOLFE, the chapel house, the brazen serpent, and all the prints, letters, furniture, copies, and other utensils in the printing-house, with all the books in her shop; and gives to Robert and to Henry Wolfe sixteen pounds yearly. She also gave legacies to her daughter Susan Hun—, to Mary Harrison, her daughter, wife to John Harrison, to Elizabeth Nevenson of the commons, &c. Gabriel Cawood witness to the will. We now proceed to a tolerably perfect list, as far as it extends, of the works published by this very

\* Hence (says Herbert) it appears he was very ill at this time, seeing he always signed his name in a very good hand in the Hall Book.

† I find (says Herbert) by the Hall Book, that Reginald Wolfe the younger was made free 18th May, 1565: but nothing more of him.

*Chrysostom, &c.*]

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respectable and highly educated Printer, regretting at the same time, that some particulars of a more interesting nature, connected with his biography, have not been handed down to posterity.

1796. *NÆNIÆ IN MORTEM THOMÆ VIATI, &c. 1542.*

Quarto.

This is placed by Ames and Herbert as the earliest piece from Reginald Wolfe's press. Wood tells us it is a Latin poem in one sheet and an half, in 4to. : It was reprinted in Hearne's edition of the Itinerary of Leland, vol. ii. : and a copy of the original impression is among the Selden books in the Bodleian library : see *Bliss's, Wood's Athenæ Oxon.* vol. i. col. 199. The title runs. 'Naeniae in mortem Thomae Viati equitis incomparabilis; Joanne Lelando antiquario authore Londini Anno M. D. XLII. Sign. A. in six. Colophon; *Londini Ad signum ænei Serpentis.* The original piece is of excessive rarity.

1797. *CHRYSOSTOMI HOMILIÆ DUÆ, &c. 1543. Quarto.*

The title at length (as given in Maittaire, vol. iii. p. 345) is in Greek and Latin, on the recto of the first leaf; the reverse being blank. The small device of Wolfe is just above the imprint: the author is thus designated in the title: *JOANNE CHEKO CANTABRIGIENSI.* A dedication to Henry VIII. follows the title: ending on A 4 reverse. The Greek text begins on B rect. and ends on the reverse of E 5: the previous signatures being in fours. The Greek imprint is on the recto of E vj. The title of the Latin version begins on a j: and the version, printed in a handsome italic, immediately follows. The imprint more at length than in the title, is on the recto of g vj; the previous signatures having only 4 leaves. On the reverse is a similar device, in composition, to the one in front of the work: but upon a larger scale; with the motto, in Greek and Latin, 'Charitas non quærit quæ suæ sunt.'—'Patiens est, non invidet, omnia suffert.' A note of the Bishop of Ely, in the Duke of Devonshire's copy of this rare book, says, that 'this is the first book printed in England in the Greek language.' He ought to have added, with the exception of the '*Galen de Temperamentis.*' It has been very imperfectly described by Ames and Herbert.

## 1798. GENETHLIACON, &amp;c. 1543. Quarto.

‘GENETHLIACON illustrissimi Eäduerdi Principis Cambriae, Ducis Coriniæ, et Comitum Palatini: libellus ante aliquot annos inchoatus, nunc verò absolutus, & editus: Ioanne Lelando Antiquario autore. Libellus Candido Lectori (consisting of three hexameter and three pentameter verses.) Londini. Anno. M.D.XLIII.’ Contains g 6, in fours. Colophon, ‘Londini Apud Reynerum Vuolfium, in cæmeterio Paulino, ad æneum serpentem. 1543.’ The small device, as seen at page 3, ante. This rare piece was reprinted in the ixth volume of Hearne’s edition of Leland’s Itinerary. A copy was in Herbert’s collection: but no mention is made by Herbert of a piece entitled ‘Syllabus & Interpretatio antiquarum dictionum, quæ passim per libellum [prædictum] lectori occurrunt’—which is said by Wood to be printed with the former, in 1543; and of which a copy appears to be among the Selden books in the Bodleian library. *Edit. Bliss*: vol. i. col. 199.

## 1799. ASSERTIO, &amp;c. ARTURII REG. BRIT. 1544. Quarto.

‘Assertio inclytissimi Arturii regis Britannia Londini. M.D.XLIII. in which is included, according to Wood, ‘Elenchus Antiquorum Nominum.’ An exceedingly rare volume; of which a copy was recently sold by Mr. R. H. Evans. Another appears to be among the Selden books in the Bodleian library. This work was translated by R. Robinson, under the better known title of ‘*Antient Order, &c. of Prince Arthur and his Knightly Armory of the Round Table, with a threefold Assertion, &c.*’ and published in 1582, and 1583, 4to. impressions of equal rarity; and of which a very copious account will be found in the *British Bibliographer*, vol. i. p. 109-135. *Bliss, ibid* The Latin impression appears to have escaped Herbert.

## 1800. EXPEDICION IN SCOTLANDE, &amp;c. 1544. Octavo.

Herbert, who had a copy of this singularly scarce volume, has favoured us with the following notice of it. ‘The late expedicion in Scotlande made by the Kynges hyghnys armye, vnder the conduit of the ryght honorable the Erle of Hertforde, the yere of oure Lorde God 1544. Londini. Cum priuilegio—solum.’ It begins on the back with this head-title, ‘The late expedition in Scotlande sent to



*Laudatio Pacis, &c.*] REYNOLD WOLFE.

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the ryght honorable Lorde Russel, Lorde priuie seale from the Kynges armye there, by a frende of hys." Contains sixteen leaves. 'Imprynted—in Powls churchyarde by Reynolde Wolfe. at the sygne of y<sup>e</sup> Brasen serpent. Anno 1544. Cum priuilegio—solum.' The late Mr. Beloe, in his *Anecdotes of Literature, &c.* vol. ii. p. 345-9, has given a more particular account of it. It was reprinted in 1798 at Edinburgh, with the Fragments of Scottish History. The Duke of Roxburghe's copy, obtained at sixteen guineas, was sold for thirty.

## 1801. CHRYSOSTOMI ORAT. SEX. 1545. Octavo.

'D. Johannis Chrysostomi de Prouidentia Dei ac de Fato Orationes sex, Johanne Checo Cantabrigiensi interprete.'" At the end, 'Londini in officina Regneri Vuolfii: Anno Dom. M. D. XLV. Mense Januario.' From the Collection of Dr. Lort.

## 1802. CYGNEA CANTIO. 1545. Quarto.

Herbert gives the following description of this rare volume, from a copy in his own collection.

'ΚΥΚΝΕΙΟΝ ΑΣΜΑ Cygnea cantio. Authore Ioanne Lelando Antiquario.' A cut of a swan crowned, with a collar and string about its neck, and twelve young swans swimming about her. Under it, 'Londini. M. D. XLV.' Contains 22 leaves. To it is annexed, 'Commentarii in Cygneam cantionem Indices Britannicæ antiquitatis locupletissimi. Autore Joanne Lelando Antiquario.' Sixty leaves. No printer's name nor device to either, but they are evidently printed with the same type as the Genethliacon. See them in the Itinerary, vol. ix. A copy of the original is among Selden's books in the Bodleian library. Valance translated the tale of the Swans in 1590, reprinted in Leland's Itinerary by Hearne. Wood notices a London edition of Cygnea Cantio of 1638; of which a copy appears to be among Crynes's books in the Bodleian—according to Mr. Bliss.

## 1803. LAUDATIO PACIS. 1546. Quarto.

'ΕΓΚΩΜΙΟΝ της ειρήνης. Laudatio pacis. Joanne Lelando Antiquario autore.—Londini anno M. D. XLVI.' Contains b, in fours; and is paged in figures, as in modern use, which is the first book I

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have observed to be paged since the *Introductorium Linguae Latinae*. (See vol. ii. p. 295.) Colophon ; ‘ *Londini Apud Reynerum Wolfium in cæmiterio Paulino, ad æneum serpentum, Anno M.D.XLVI. mense Augusto.*’ See it in Leland’s *Collectanea*, vol. v. p. 69.—Herbert’s description ; from a copy in his own collection.

1804. A PLAYNE DECLARATION, &c. 1547. Octavo.

‘ A PLAYNE Declaration made at Oxforde the 24 daye of July by Mayster Richarde Smyth, Doctor in diuinitie, vpon hys Retraction made & published at Paules crosse in London, Jn the yeare of oure Lorde God, M.D.xlvij. the xv. daye of May.—Cum priuilegio—solum.’ Contains 22 leaves. Colophon ; ‘ *Imprinted—in Paules churchyarde at the sygne of the brasen serpent by Reynolde Wolfe.*’ Herbert’s copy of this piece (which is reprinted in *Beacon’s Works*, vol. iii. p. 271, a) had another colophon added in ms. differently spelt, with the date of 1547 added ; from which he was led to suppose that there might be two editions of the same year ;—but Mr. Heber, who has a copy of the impression : assures me that this is not the case.

1805. EPISTOLA EXHORTATORIA AD PACEM. 1548.

Quarto.

‘ EPISTOLA EXHORTATORIA AD PACEM, Missa ab Illustrissimo Principe Domino Protectore Angliæ, ac cæteris Regiæ Maiestatis Consiliarijs, ad Nobilitatem ac plebem, uniuersumq; populum Regni Scotiæ.’ In a grand architectivè compartment, on the sell of which is ‘ Cum priuilegio Regio.’ contains D, in fours. Concludes ‘ Bene valetè. Londini, quinto Februarij, Anno Domini, 1548.’ Colophon ; ‘ *Excusum Londini, tertio Nonas Martias per Reginaldum Wolfium, Regiæ Maiestatis in Latinis typographum. Anno Domini 1548.*’ On the back, his device of the tree of Charity. Herbert’s description, from a copy in the possession of the late George Mason. This piece was also printed by Grafton the same year : see vol. iii. p. 460.

1806. VRINAL OF PHYSICK. 1548. Octavo.

‘ The Vrinal of Physick. Composed by Mayster Robert Recorde