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Presses at Darlington, Auchinleck, Lee Priory, Newcastle, Middle Hill, and Strawberry Hill

John Martin

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Reissued in its first edition of 1834, this catalogue gives a valuable insight into bibliographical activity in early nineteenth-century Britain. It is the work of the former bookseller John Martin (1791–1855), an antiquary who would later become librarian to the Duke of Bedford at Woburn Abbey. Martin's aim was to assemble a catalogue of books which were never intended for the open market, circulating only among the 'friends and connexions' of those who produced them. Spanning more than two centuries of small-scale British publishing, the resulting work is an extraordinarily eclectic resource, enlivened throughout by an eye for curious detail. The latter portion of the work documents the books, bills and pamphlets which emerged from the regional presses of Martin's own day, and records the early membership and output of the Roxburghe, Maitland and Bannatyne clubs, which would in time become the foremost bibliophilic societies of Victorian Britain.

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*J. F. Stern, del. et sculp.*

FAC-SIMILE OF THE BINDING OF QUEEN ELIZABETH'S COPY  
DE ANTIQVITATE ECCLESIAE BRITANNICAE.

PRIVATELY PRINTED BY ARCHBISHOP BARKER, MDLXXII.

*London, Published by John & Arthur Arch, Cornhill, Decr 1833.*

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BIBLIOGRAPHICAL CATALOGUE

OF

BOOKS

**Privately Printed;**

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BANNATYNE, MAITLAND AND ROXBURGHE CLUBS,

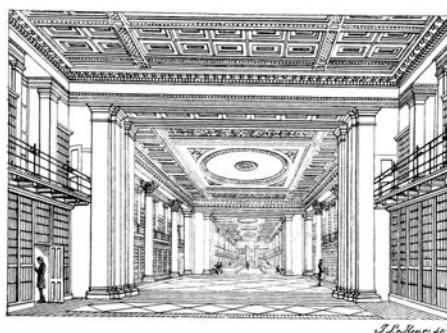
AND OF

**The Private Presses**

AT

DARLINGTON, AUCHINLECK, LEE PRIORY, NEWCASTLE,  
MIDDLE HILL, AND STRAWBERRY HILL.

BY JOHN MARTIN, F.L.S.



LONDON:

J. AND A. ARCH; PAYNE AND FOSS; J. RODWELL.

M.DCCC.XXXIV.

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## P R E F A C E.

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THIS attempt to describe a peculiar class of books in the literature of our country, has long engaged the Editor's attention; and although it comprises several of little interest, except to the writers and to their immediate connexions, it will be found to contain many of considerable value, highly worthy the attention of those who take an interest in the study of the history, antiquities, and topography of their country.

By privately printed books, the Editor means to designate such only, as were not intended by the writers for sale, and the circulation of which, has been confined entirely to their friends and connexions, or to those who took an interest in the matter contained in them. The difficulty of distinguishing such, will be easily understood by those who have paid any attention to the collecting books of this kind; and amongst the number herein enumerated, it is very probable that some will be found with a doubtful claim to appear in this catalogue. Again, it is exceedingly difficult to distinguish between books secretly, and privately printed;—with the former, the Editor has not interfered, as they were to all intents and purposes printed for sale, and consequently foreign to the object he had in view. The earliest book which he has judged to be strictly entitled to

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this claim, will be seen in the instance of the rare volume on the English Church, by Archbishop Parker; a work unquestionably printed for private circulation alone; on the examination of which, much pains has been bestowed. Previous to the time of Parker, and on the change of religion, which called forth so many controversial publications from the advocates of different opinions, many were circulated without the printer or publisher's name: these, from this circumstance, have been frequently styled privately printed; although there is little doubt they were secretly sold, the fear of prosecution preventing a more public sale. This was not the class of books which came within the Editor's intention to describe; nor is he aware that if he had attempted it, he could have added much to the information which the labours of Strype, and others, have brought to light upon these books.

Although he has been long engaged in collecting the materials for this work, he is sensible that many articles have escaped his search; the peculiarity under which these works have for the most part been printed, rendering the task the more difficult—this, however, is invariably the case with attempts of this kind, and he could hardly have expected, had he longer delayed its appearance, to have rendered it much more perfect.

It was not within his design to include pamphlets: the number of tracts which have been privately circulated in this shape, is too great, and in most cases they are of too ephemeral and uninteresting a nature, to have permitted him to make so considerable and so useless an addition to his volume: a few exceptions have been made, which the subject, or the celebrity of the writer, seemed to justify.

The Editor has not felt himself at liberty to indulge

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in any remarks of a critical nature; the circumstances under which these works have appeared, clearly preclude him from such a course: where notices of that nature appear, the source from which they have been derived is mentioned, and the opinion will be respected according to the value placed upon the authority. It was his intention to have added a catalogue of suppressed books; but the length to which this work has extended, as well as the delay which would have been incurred, have induced him to abandon the design: he had made some progress in collecting materials for that purpose, which should the present attempt be favourably received, he may be induced to resume.

The second portion of the work, consisting of an account of the publications from literary clubs, and private presses, will probably be found the more interesting: no pains have been spared to render it perfect, and the Editor's endeavours have been most liberally and kindly seconded by the different parties most able to give him information.

Private presses appear to have existed at a very early date in this country: a slight sketch is here attempted of those which have come under notice, in the researches for books connected with this undertaking. At the period of the Reformation, the advocates of the ancient faith were compelled, from the fear of prosecution, and the severe punishment entailed on the printer of seditious works, as these were then styled, to avail themselves of a foreign press for the dissemination of their opinions. The inconvenience and delay thereby occasioned, naturally led to the establishment of a private press in this country. "The first appearance," says Johnson,\* "of pamphlets amongst us, is

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\* Preface to Harleian Miscellany.

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generally thought to be at the new opposition raised against the errors and corruptions of the church of Rome. Those who were first convinced of the reasonableness of the new learning, as it was then called, propagated their opinions in small pieces, which were cheaply printed; and what was then of great importance, easily concealed. These treatises were generally printed in foreign countries, and are not therefore, always very correct. There was not that opportunity of printing in private; for the number of printers was small, and the presses easily overlooked by the clergy, who spared no labour or vigilance for the suppression of heresy. There is, however, reason to suspect that some attempts were made to carry on the propagation of truth, by a secret press; for one of the first treatises in favour of the Reformation, is said, at the end, to be printed at *Greenwich, by permission of the Lord of Hosts.*"

Edward III. founded a convent at Greenwich, in 1376; but the record of its foundation is buried in much obscurity. In 1486, Henry VII. however, granted a charter to the Franciscan Friars there established. In the reign of his successor, Katharine of Arragon was a great protector of this order, and one of its members was her confessor; having taken up the cause of their illustrious patroness, when the divorce from her brutal husband was in agitation, that monarch, in revenge, suppressed the whole order throughout the kingdom. They assembled again, on the accession of Queen Mary, but Elizabeth finally suppressed the establishment, in 1559.\*

In the reign of Queen Mary, a small tract, purports to be printed at Greenwich, entitled *A faythful Admonycion of a certain trewe pastor and prophete sent into the Germanes, &c.*

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\* Dugdale, Monasticon.

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*now translated into Inglyshe, &c.*" At the end it is stated, *Imprynted at Greenwyche, by Conrade Freeman*, in the month of May, 1554. Dr. Cotton,\* however, is of opinion, that it was executed in the Low Countries, or Switzerland: a copy of the tract is in the Bodleian Library.

In the reign of Edward VI., a press is said to have been in action in Devonshire, about the period when the insurrection in that county, broke out against the authority of that monarch. So great appears to have been the annoyance which the existence of private and unlicensed presses gave to the ruling powers, that it is reported to have given rise in the reign of Queen Mary, "to a charter granted to certain freemen of London, in whose fidelity no doubt she confided, entirely prohibiting *all* presses but what should be licensed by them—which charter is that, by which the Company of Stationers in London is at this time incorporated."†

In the reign of Queen Elizabeth, a private press was erected at Wandsworth, where the Nonconformists established in 1572, a presbytery, "the first born of all the presbyteries in England."‡ The most active member of this establishment, was Thomas Cartwright, the brother-in-law of Stubbs, who with Page, "had their right hands cut off with a cleaver, driven through the wrist by the force of a mallet, upon a scaffold in the market-place at Westminster,"§ for being concerned in the publication of a pamphlet against the projected match between Queen Elizabeth and the Duke of Anjou; styled in the proclamation in 1579, as

\* *Typographical Gazetteer*, Second edition.

† Johnson; *Preface to Harleian Miscellany*.

‡ Fuller's *Church History*, Book viii.

§ Camden, *Annals of Elizabeth*.

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“a lewd seditious book, rashly compiled and secretly printed.” Herbert\* mentions a book, entitled *Certain Articles, &c.*, said to have been privately printed at Wandsworth [Wandsworth], near London, 8vo. 1572.

“This junto,” says Collier,† “published a great many venomous pamphlets, under the disguise of Martin Mar-Prelate.” The same authority says, “The Puritan libels were generally printed by one Walgrave: he had a travelling press for this purpose; ’twas removed from Moulsey, near Kingston upon Thames, to Fawsley, in Northamptonshire. The next stage was Norton; from Norton ’t was shifted to Coventry.”

The exertions of the ministers of Elizabeth at length broke up the press at Wandsworth. It is said to have been established again at Esher, and conducted in such secrecy, as to have defied all the efforts made to destroy it. From this press issued the pamphlets, directed against Archbishop Whitgift; and, when finally put down at Manchester, by the Earl of Derby, where the printer and press were both seized, it was employed upon the well-known pamphlet, called *More Work for a Cooper*. “Never,” says Mr. D’Israeli,‡ “did sedition travel so fast, nor conceal itself so closely; for they employed a moveable press; and as soon as it was surmised that Martin was in Surrey, it was found he had removed to Northamptonshire, while the next account came that he was shewing his head in Warwickshire.” These proceedings of this sect appear to have been finally extinguished by Elizabeth; and no more is

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\* Ames, History of Printing, page 1632.

† Collier, Eccl. History, vol. ii.

‡ Quarrels of Authors, vol. iii.

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heard of them until 1635, when Heylyn says,\* they again made their appearance.

The reign of the peaceful James appears to have been little disturbed by the productions of private presses, although the work of Vorstius, '*De Deo*,' published on the Continent, which was publicly burnt here, gave him considerable uneasiness; and was the subject of a long diplomatic correspondence.† The reign of his unfortunate successor has been well styled by Johnson, the "Age of Pamphlets." The British Museum contains the celebrated collection of the tracts published on both sides of the then prevailing controversy, consisting of upwards of two thousand volumes. This valuable series was presented to the nation by the munificence of George III. More than one hundred volumes in this collection were clandestinely printed at private presses, all traces of which are now obliterated.

During the puritanical reign of the usurper Cromwell, Rinuccini, the Pope's legate, established presses at Kilkenny and Waterford, for the purpose of disseminating those doctrines which he conceived to be essential to the interests of his master.‡ Dr. O'Connor styles them vile publications. §

In the reign of James II. Obadiah Walker "set up cases of letters and a press in the back part of his lodgings, belonging to him, as Master of University College, where

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\* *Ecclesia Vindicata*.

† Mr. Trumbull was the agent of James at Brussels during this period. In the valuable manuscript collection of the Marquess of Downshire, are several letters on this subject.

‡ Colton, *Typographical Gazetteer*.

§ *Columbanus*, Letter 11.

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he printed the works of Ab. Woodward, his quondam tutor, and would have printed many more (all, or most, against the Church of England), had King James II. continued longer on the throne."\*

Among the tracts printed at this press, was, *Some Reflections, by Thomas Deane*, Fellow of University College, an. 1688, 4to. Walker had a license granted to him by the King, dated May 1686, for the exclusive sale of certain books for twenty-one years. The list of them is printed in the second volume of Gutch's *Miscellanea Curiosa*: they are all in favour of the Roman Catholic religion.

Dr. Lee, in a memorial, states that at Holyrood House several papers and works were printed, by the authority of James II.

Few traces remain of private presses after this time, the necessity for establishing them having pretty well subsided, from the tranquillity consequent on the Revolution. Politics and religion, the two prime agents which supplied these secret presses, being generally allowed to state their claims and advance their arguments with tolerable freedom. The Rebellion in Scotland may perhaps have given rise to a temporary establishment of such a press. Dr. Cotton mentions, that a private press appears to have been once established at Ragland Castle, in Monmouthshire; from whence issued, *A Collection of Loyal Songs, Poems, &c.* said to be privately printed, in 1750.†

The purposes to which the institution of private presses have been applied in later days, have differed considerably from those of former times. The more elegant branches

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\* Wood, *Athenæ Oxonienses*, by Bliss, vol. iv.

† Vide page 35.



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of literature, poetry, history, and topography, have supplanted the controversies of the religious bigot and political partizan.

To the slight but imperfect sketch already given, there remains but little to add. The first that occurs, is that of a press established at Glynde, near Lewes in Sussex; a seat belonging to the late Lord Hampden, which Dr. Cotton states to have been erected in the year 1770.

The Bodleian Library contains the first sheet only of a poem, called *The Summer Day, a Descriptive Pastoral*, 4to. Glynd, 1770.

The celebrated John Wilkes had a press at his house, in Great George Street, Westminster, where he printed two works, mentioned in this volume.\*

At Hafod, in Cardiganshire, now the property of his Grace the Duke of Newcastle, its late owner, Mr. Johnes, established a press; from whence issued, as is well known, the *Chronicles of Froissart, Monstrelet, and Joinville*; works which, independent of their typographical excellence as the productions of a private press, have conferred a lasting benefit on the literature of the country.

At Hartwell, in Buckinghamshire, when occupied by the exiled Royal Family of France, it is said that a press was used for the purpose of printing proclamations, and other small pieces, in support of the claims of the House of Bourbon.

This imperfect account of private presses cannot better be closed than by the notice of that established at WINTER HARBOUR, off Melville Island, by Captain Parry and his enterprising companions, in 1819 and 1820, when the sound

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\* Vide pages 40, 41.

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of the tympan and frisket were heard, for the first time, amid “a bleak expanse, shagged o’er with wavy rocks, cheerless and void,” and the *North Georgia Gazette and Winter Chronicle*, made its first appearance.

In the present volume will be found a more particular history of other private presses, the number and importance of their productions appearing to demand a more complete account.

Nothing now remains for the Editor, than that he should discharge one of the pleasantest parts of his duty; namely, that of acknowledging the great kindness and valuable assistance he has received.

To enumerate all the different parties who have taken an interest in his undertaking,—who have aided him by their advice, and furnished him with several valuable communications, he would have to record a list which, however gratifying to himself, would most probably weary the reader’s patience, and appear like an endeavour to throw over his work an air of consequence and value far beyond its deserts. In the work itself will be found his acknowledgments to several friends, for particular assistance; but, although he refrains from swelling his list with the names of all to whose kindness he is indebted, he cannot content himself without particular mention of a few, whose assistance has been most material.

From the earliest announcement of his intentions, the Venerable Archdeacon Wrangham has constantly favoured him with numerous and important communications, drawn, for the most part, from his own valuable library, rich in books of the class herein described.

The Venerable Archdeacon Cotton, whose bibliographical knowledge is too well appreciated to require the

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feeble tribute of his pen, the Editor has to thank for several curious communications, and for his readiness in answering inquiries, which he has had occasion to trouble him with.

To the Rev. Dr. Lamb, Master of Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, he begs to return his thanks for his condescension in examining Archbishop Parker's work, not only in the Library of his own College, but in other Libraries of that University.

To the Rev. Dr. Bandinel, Keeper of the Bodleian Library, Oxford, and the Rev. John Lodge, Keeper of the Public Library, at Cambridge, his thanks are due, for the great kindness with which they forwarded his views, and facilitated his access, not only to the treasures entrusted to their peculiar care, but to the various other Libraries dispersed in the different Colleges of the two Universities; and from the Keepers of which he is bound, for the most part, to acknowledge the greatest attention to his wishes.

To the Rev. Dr. Bliss, his acknowledgments are due, for the very lively interest he has displayed in seconding his wishes during his visits to Oxford.

To Charles George Young, Esq., F.S.A., York Herald, his thanks are pre-eminently due. The readiness with which that gentleman renders his valuable assistance to any literary undertaking, is well known; and the present work has had the benefit of his suggestions, and been enriched by several of the most important and valuable books described in it.

To Mr. Thomas Moule, he has to render his sincere thanks, not only for several interesting communications, but for the benefit of his correct taste, in many of the illustrations dispersed throughout the volume.

From the Shakspeare Press, several of the works herein

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described have issued; and to Mr. Nicol, the proprietor of that establishment, he is indebted for valuable hints with respect to the works printed by him, as well as for some very interesting information, which without his kindness he should have been unable to have obtained.

The Editor regrets that the expenses necessarily incurred in printing this work, have been so considerable as to make it necessary to fix a high price upon it; which he trusts will not be considered unreasonable, when it can be truly stated that the sale of all the copies will not pay the cost. But he will feel amply rewarded for the labour this attempt has cost him, should it be found worthy a place among the few bibliographical works of this country; and, in the words of the Historian of the Aldine Press, “il conserve l’espoir qu’au moins par un petit nombre de personnes bien disposées en sa faveur, son livre ne sera point jugé *labor irritus et incassum.*”

*Mount Street,*

*January, 1834.*