A Possible Volume from the Winthrop Donation

There has been in the recent past a keen interest in Harvard's Old Library, and especially in the books remaining from the great donations of the seventeenth century — those of John Harvard, Sir Kenelm Digby, Governor John Winthrop, and Sir John Maynard. We have more or less complete lists of the books contained in the first three of these gifts, and are able to reconstruct with some degree of fullness the list of those given by Maynard. Of John Harvard's gift one volume may have survived: John Downman's The Christian Warfare, London, 1634 (STC 7117). Similarly, the Library still has but one book given by Sir Kenelm Digby: Joannes Cassianus' Monasticae Institutiones, Antwerp, 1578. The Maynard gift has fared better; perhaps, oddly enough, because many of them were sold as duplicates, and so escaped the fire of 1764. The seven Maynard volumes returned to Harvard as a gift of the American Antiquarian Society in 1924 included a copy of Bishop John Davenant's Determinations, a first edition, Cambridge, 1634 (STC 6294). However, no book from the Winthrop donation has been identified.

A volume presented to the Library in December 1948 by Mr. George Goodspeed may perhaps fill that lack. The evidence for its having been given originally by Governor Winthrop is not conclusive, but it is at least as good as the case for The Christian Warfare. The volume is a copy of Ephraim Pagitt's Theatrum Christi, London, 1615 (STC 12679). It bears on its flyleaf the inscription 'Ad Bibliothecam Collig. Harvard.,' its shelf number, probably because such numbers were not in use when it stood — or lay — on Harvard's shelves. On its fore-edge is inked 'Pagit eclec Hist.' — another sign that it once belonged in some collection. Whether Harvard's books were shelved fore-edge out, in the ancient manner, is a question that has never been settled, but it can be considered probable. In the 1723 catalogue, not the 1635 but the 1636 edition is listed. Possibly, in the manner of the time, the earlier edition had been rejected as an unneeded duplicate when the later edition was acquired. There was, as those who are interested in the subject will remember, a general disposal of duplicates at the time of the Sir John Maynard gift in 1682.


7 Catalogus Librorum Bibliothecae Collegii Harvrdendi (Boston, 1723).

8 Samuel E. Morison, Harvard College in the Seventeenth Century (Cambridge, Mass., 1919), I, 281 f. See also Henry J. Cadbury, Harvard College Library and the
Notes

Christianography has on its title-page the inscription 'Anne Cottons 1734', which suggests that this may be one of the volumes, of which no list appears to exist, acquired from the Harvard Library by the Cottons. The only evidence of the book's subsequent history is the inscription, written in pencil on the blank leaf at the end of the book: 'Francis Edward Parker Portsmouth 1830'. It is quite possible, then, that this is the example acquired by the Library through the gift of Governor Winthrop in 1658.


Pagitt's Christianography demonstrates the wide spread of Christianity, and, with the usual Protestant bias, shows how small a proportion of all Christians pay allegiance to the Pope. It is, in a sense, a geography of Christianity. It is interesting to contrast this view with that of John Foxe, about sixty years earlier, who lamented that, of all the parts of the world that had once been Christian, 'only a little angle of the West parts remained in some profession of Thy holy name.'

LESLIE MAHNY OLIVER


Lighting a Monumental Reading Room

A MONUMENTAL reading room can be satisfactorily lighted. This has been conclusively proved during the months following the complete relighting of the Main Reading Room of Baker Library at Harvard's Graduate School of Business Administration in the summer of 1948.

Baker Library's reading room is truly a monumental one, for it is over 240 feet long by 43 feet wide, and has a high (24-foot) slightly arched segmented ceiling. The room is divided into three sections by coupled columns. Each section, before the changes were made, contained long internal 'skylights' covering nearly 30 per cent of the ceiling area, with corresponding external skylights in the roof above. Additional daylight was furnished through large tall rectangular windows on the north, east, and west sides of the room. The only artificial illumination was provided by two parallel rows of incandescent light fixtures — each row containing seventeen units. Each fixture was 36 inches in diameter, with an annular plaster reflecting surface above the lamp and facing down.

During the day the illumination on the tables might range from a gloomy 5-foot-candles to an overly bright, high-contrast 60. At night, the intensity ranged from 3 to 10 foot-candles on the tables to practically a zero reading at the bookshelves along the walls.

The skylights also created several problems. It was difficult to control the amount of light entering through
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