The Carl T. Keller collection of "Don Quixote"

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Accessibility
The Carl T. Keller Collection of
Don Quixote

In commemoration of the four-hundredth anniversary of the birth of Miguel de Cervantes, the Harvard College Library has placed on exhibition a selection of his works drawn almost entirely from the collection given to the Library by Carl T. Keller, '94. It is hoped that some day a catalogue of the whole collection may be published, but as the collection is still growing — indeed, during the last year several additions of the highest importance were made to it — that would now be premature.

In twenty-five years of collecting Mr. Keller has centered his efforts on acquiring editions of Don Quixote mainly before 1900, both in the original Spanish and in every language into which it has been translated, and he has even indulged in that ultimate of collecting pleasure, the translation and publication of the work one collects in languages in which it has not previously appeared. This concentration has enabled him to form a collection, now numbering over 750 editions, which may be compared with those of Bonsoms, Sędó, and the Hispanic Society. Although as yet he has none of the editions printed in either Madrid or Lisbon in 1605,1 the first year of publication, his appears to be the only collection outside Spain which has both the Valencia editions of that year.

Among the twenty seventeenth-century Spanish editions now in the collection are the important 1607, 1611, and 1617 Brussels editions, as well as the authoritative 1608 Madrid, and the 1610 Milan. The rare first edition of the second part, Madrid, 1615, as well as the Brussels, 1616, reprint of it, are both here. The Antwerp, 1672–73, edition of the two parts with a complete set of the Bontius engravings is perhaps an even greater rarity than the Madrid, 1674, edition, which is the first illustrated edition to be printed in Spain, and it is not often that both Verdussen issues of the Antwerp, 1697, edition are found on one shelf. There are twenty-seven eighteenth-century editions in Spanish, including all the ‘Academy’ editions printed by Ibarra, Lord Carteret's edi-

1 For the exhibition, Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach is generously lending from his private library his very fine copy of the first Madrid edition.
tion of 1738 with the two Hogarth plates, and both the Salisbury and London editions of the Rev. John Bowles, the first modern scholarly editions.

The first part of *Don Quixote* was first translated into French by César Oudin and published in 1614. Very few copies of that first edition are known, and apparently none are in this country. The Keller collection has the second edition, of 1616, and the third edition, 1620, as well as the second edition, 1622, of François de Rosset’s translation of the second part, first printed in 1618. It was from a title-vignette which was used on both the 1618 and 1622 de Rosset editions that the engraved title of the 1620 English edition was derived, the first iconographic representation of the Knight of the Sorry Aspect and his esquire worthy of the name. In addition, there are seven other seventeenth-century editions in French, and thirty-six eighteenth-century editions, most of which are beautifully illustrated.

The Keller collection contains the first editions, as well as many later ones, of all the English translations before 1800, and most, if not all, of the later ones. The 1612 edition of Thomas Shelton’s translation of the first part is an interesting association copy, as it originally belonged to Richard Ford. The second edition of the first part, and the first edition of the second part, the latter not certainly by Shelton, both dated 1620, are present in sound copies, as are also the editions of 1652 and 1675. The Keller copy of the 1632 edition is annotated by the Rev. John Bowles and apparently was used by him in preparing his 1781 edition. The John Phillips translation, 1687, is the first illustrated English edition and the Keller copy is a fine unmutated one. The Captain John Stevens revision of the Shelton, 1700–05, contains the rare third volume, which is the first English translation of Fernandez de Avellaneda’s *Continuation*. Besides the first Motteux, 1700–03, and the Ozzell revision of it, 1719, there are several of the seventeenth-century abridgments. Among the forty-eighteenth-century editions in English are the first editions of the translations by Ned Ward, in Hudibrastic verse, 1711; Charles Jarvis, 1742, with illustrations by Vandergucht; Tobias Smollet, 1755, with cuts by Hayman; George Kelly, 1769; and Charles Henry Wilmot, 1774. Two of the most interesting volumes in this section are unrecorded periodical editions of 1725 and 1726, described in the Appendix below.

The eighteen Italian editions include the first translation of the first part, by Lorenzo Franciosini, Venice, 1622, together with the reissue
of it with cancel title and dedication in 1624, and the second edition, of 1625, to which the first edition of the second part is appended. The Rome, 1677, edition, the first illustrated Italian edition, also deserves mention, for it is apparently very uncommon with all eighteen engravings. The first Dutch edition, 1657, is a considerable rarity when complete, as is Mr Keller's, in two volumes with all the plates by Salomon Savery, and it is of importance as the prototype of most of the illustrated editions for several generations, although it is not the first edition to have illustrations. That honor belongs to a German edition of 1648, of which only the first section was published and of which no perfect copy appears to be in this country. Other important first translations in the Keller collection include the first Danish edition, of 1776, the first Portuguese, of 1794, and the first complete Swedish edition, 1818.

Altogether Mr Keller's collection includes editions of Don Quixote in forty-seven languages, although in not all of them is the text complete. His series of Japanese translations is believed to contain all that have been published, as well as a series of some thirty stencil illustrations made for him by Serizawa in the Japanese manner and by the antique 'oiled paper' process. These are of considerable interest: for, unlike the illustrations published in many of the Japanese editions, which are crudely copied from European originals, Serizawa has depicted the Don as a samurai of the sixteenth century, and, since there were no windmills or lions in Japan, has him charging a water wheel and releasing a tiger instead. The Icelandic translation was made and published at Reykjavik for Mr Keller in a limited edition, while the manuscript translations of selected chapters in Kashmiri, Manchu, Mongolian, Sanskrit, and Tibetan were procured for him through the efforts of Sir Aurel Stein, Baron von Stael-Holstein, and the latter's nephew, René de Stael. These translations are magnificent examples of modern calligraphy, on fine Oriental papers.

The number of volumes in the Keller collection must be several thousand, and they range in size all the way from miniature editions to the great folio Doré editions. Among the curiosities which should be mentioned, however, are two editions printed upon cork: the first was printed at San Felin de Guixols in Catalonia, in 1905, and the second at Barcelona in 1909. They are both two-volume editions and were issued in very limited numbers.

Mr Keller has wisely concentrated his efforts on the Don Quixote, but he has included a representative series of the imitations, comment-
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aries, and continuations, mainly English and particularly of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, so that the paramount role of this book in the development of the English novel is well illustrated. The few important gaps in the collection are not only known to him, but with more than the usual 'collector's luck' he is rapidly filling them. May he long continue! The several thousand volumes of Cervantiana already on Harvard's shelves contain some of the important early works other than the Don Quixote, including the first edition of the first book, Primera parte de La Galatea, Alcalá, 1585, so that through Mr Keller's generosity the Harvard collection of Cervantes is one worthy of playing a distinguished scholarly role.

Appendix

Two Unrecorded Serial Editions of Don Quixote

The publication of fiction in serial form apparently originated in the first quarter of the eighteenth century, possibly in imitation of John Walsh's successful use of that means of publishing music, although a few instances of what might be called serialization of a considerably earlier date might be mentioned. Perhaps the best known of these early serializations is the publication, a few months after its first appearance in volume form, of Robinson Crusoe on a leaf of 167 numbers of The Original London Post, or Hearth's Intelligence; Being a Collection of the Freshest Advices Foreign and Domestick, 7 October 1719-19 October 1720. Three copies of that publication are known, the Grenville-British Museum, and the Vernon-Holford and A. E. Newton copies, both of which are now at the Rosenbach Company.

In the Keller collection are two English serial publications of Don Quixote, both unrecorded and both apparently abortive. The earliest is an anonymous translation entitled 'The Life and Actions of that Ingenious Gentleman Don Quixote de la Mancha. Wrote by M. Cervantes Saavedra. To be Published Monthly. Numb. I. London: Printed for Thomas Woodward, at the Half-Moon over against St. Dunstan's Church in Fleetstreet; and John Peele, at Lock's Head in Pater-Noster-Row. MDCCXXV. (Price 1s. 6d.).' Facing the English title is a similar title in Spanish, and the original Spanish text is printed throughout in parallel columns with the translation, while below are more elaborate notes than occur in any earlier edition. It is an octavo in fours of exactly 100 leaves, the text ending with the beginning of Book III, but probably this was all that was published, for the translator states at the end of his Preface, 'If the present Translation meets a favourable Reception, I shall continue the Work Monthly: If not, I shall neither trouble the Publick nor my self with publishing any more of these Pieces.' It should also be noted that the translator dedicates his work to Lord Carteret, the dedicatee of the London, 1738, Spanish edition, the first finely illustrated edition of Don Quixote to be published. It is possible
that the translator may be Thomas Townsend, whose translation of Solis' History of the Conquest of Mexico was published by Woodward and Peele in 1724. If so, and a comparison of the works makes it seem at least not improbable, it may be of interest to record that on the title of the 1738 edition of the Solis he is entitled 'Late Lieutenant Colonel in Brigadier General Newton's regiment.'

The other unrecorded serialization is in the Penny London Post, a four-page newspaper issued three times weekly, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, and bearing at the foot of the fourth page the imprint 'London: Printed by T. Read behind the Sun-Tavern in Fleet-Street. Where Advertisements are taken in. And compleat Setsts had.' Mr Keller's set is not complete, but extends from No. 109 (Monday, 3 January 1726) to No. 211 (Monday, 5 September 1726), lacking eight numbers but with three numbers repeated. The translation is that of John Phillips, and each number has only one column of it, the first column on page 2, headed, "The Continuation of the Life of Don Quixote, and his Man Sancho Panche." As No. 109 begins in the middle of 'The Captive's Story' (Part I, Bk. IV, Chap. XIV, p. 223, of the 1687 edition) and No. 211 ends with the 'Discourse between Don Quixote, Sancho Panza, and the Young Corrasco' (Part II, Bk. I, Chap. III, p. 306, of the 1687 edition), it is apparent that earlier numbers must have contained more than one column each.

The first page of each number is headed by a woodcut view of London, with the arms of the city at the upper left and a mounted post-boy at the upper right, and the title and issue number between. Below the cut is the date and the rest of the page contains: Nos. 109-117, 'Historical Novels, continu'd,' while Nos. 178-211 have 'The Description of all Nations.' The first column of page 2 contains the excerpt of Don Quixote, while the second column contains: Nos. 109-169, 'Chinese Tales, continu'd,' and Nos. 179-211, 'The Life and Adventures of Lady Lucy.' Pages 3-4 throughout contain news and advertisements, mostly of a sensational nature. Although no copies can be traced, the printing of Don Quixote was continued in the Penny London Post until 25 November 1726, for Baron Rothschild has an incomplete set, found a few years ago with Mr Keller's series at Paxton House, Berwick-on-Tweed, which begins with the issue for that date. It is misnumbered No. 251 (by count it should be No. 245, but by the numbers which follow it should be No. 252), and bears at the top of the text on page 1 the statement, 'We shall omit for some time the Life of Don Quixote to give Place for the Travels of Captain Lemuel Gulliver into several remote Parts of the World, which have been lately published, and bore so considerable a Share in almost every Conversation both in Town and Country, not only from the Reputation of their supposed Author, but the vast Variety of Wit and Pleasantry with which the several Relations are interpos'd; that those who have not the Convenience of reading them at the Price they are now sold, may not be debar'd so delightful an Entertainment, we shall begin them in this Paper in the Manner following, and continue them till the whole is finished.' Whether or not this promise was carried out cannot be determined, for Baron Rothschild's set ends with No. 267, 30 December 1726.

William A. Jackson
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