

*less Lovers*. The likelihood that Settle's *The Empress of Morocco* (1673) was also printed by Milbourn is also of interest insofar as this was the first English play published with whole-page illustrations.

John Griffiths

John Jones Thomas, *Britannia Antiquissima*—  
Addenda to Ferguson 17023

The recently-published seventh volume of the late Sir John Ferguson's *Bibliography of Australia* completes—within the limits the compiler defined in the preface to volume V—the record of Australian publications down to 1900. No bibliographer is foolhardy enough to imagine that he has said or included everything he intended, so that Ferguson's vast pioneering achievement cannot be diminished by the reflection that new locations and unrecorded titles will continue to come to light. It is inevitable, too, that the increasingly rigorous character of bibliographical analysis will bring about revisions of many of Ferguson's descriptions. As a living discipline, Australian bibliography, however mindful of great debts to its founders, must move into the Greg-Bowers era and beyond.

Ferguson No. 17023 (vol. VII, p. 616) calls for a supplementary note that illustrates some of the pitfalls of title-pages. The item described is the "second edition" (1866) of John Jones Thomas's *Britannia Antiquissima; or, a key to the philology of history (sacred and profane)*, published by H. T. Dwight of Melbourne. Locations indicated are the Mitchell Library and the National Library of Australia. Now a first edition of this work does exist, and, as will be seen, it is, by any strict definition of the term, the only edition. It may be summarily—and partially—described as follows:

*Title.* ["druidical" symbol: "three strokes or bars, one perpendicular in the centre, and two oblique lines, one on either side", cf. Thomas's text, pp. 154 sqq.] / BRITANNIA ANTIQUISSIMA; / OR, / A KEY TO THE PHILOLOGY OF HISTORY, / (SACRED AND PROFANE.) / [short rule] / "Gwir yn erbyn y byd, / "Yngwyneb Haul a llygad goleuni." / [short rule] / BY / JOHN JONES THOMAS, B.A., CANTAB., / [CARADDAEG], /

LATE HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTOR OF DENOMINATIONAL  
SCHOOLS. / [pentagon] / MELBOURNE : / HENRY  
TOLMAN DWIGHT, BOURKE STREET EAST. / 1860.

*Formula.*  $(8\frac{21}{32} \times 5\frac{10}{32}$ , top edges uncut) :  $\underline{1}^8 2^2 \chi 1 \underline{A}^8$   
B - I<sup>8</sup> J<sup>8</sup> K-M<sup>8</sup> N<sup>4</sup> [§ 1 signed]; 119 leaves, pp.  
[i-vi] vii-xxii, [1] 2-216; plates [2] (facing  
pp. xviii and 177, pasted to 2<sub>2</sub><sup>r</sup> and K8<sup>v</sup>).

Three copies (two in the State Library of Victoria, one in my own collection) have been collated. In addition, two other copies (Mitchell Library, National Library of Australia) have been inspected. Two of these copies have a library binding, but the other three are, as issued, in a cloth casing (brown or purple) with blind-stamping on front and back covers. All three cloth-cased copies have plain yellow endpapers inside the front and back covers and include, inserted after N4 and before the endpaper, a two-leaf catalogue: H. T. DWIGHT'S / CATALOGUE OF BOOKS, / 234 BOURKE STREET EAST, / NEAR THE PARLIAMENT HOUSES. New and secondhand books are included in this undated list, which must be one of Dwight's earliest catalogues (the first having appeared in November 1859). The plates, which illustrate—with accompanying letterpress labels and explanations—symbols, diagrams, and alphabets discussed at length in the text, are on orange paper.

If this first edition is compared with the "second" (copies collated: State Library of Victoria and my collection; other copies inspected: Mitchell Library, National Library of Australia, Library of New South Wales), it will be discovered that the same formula applies, with minor variations. All edges are now cut, giving the dimensions  $8\frac{17}{32} \times 5\frac{10}{32}$ . The title is a cancellans (with the cancellandum stub clearly visible in all copies seen) so that the preliminaries collate  $\underline{1}^8 (\neq 1_1) 2^2 \chi 1$ . Ferguson's collation includes the orange endpapers of the edition-binding (done by Detmold, as a ticket in the VSL copy indicates), presumably because they carry advertisements for various Dwight publications, but they have no connection with the setting and printing of the text.

Apart from the cancelled title and the two *reset* plates (now on mauve paper but inserted as before), the "second" edition differs from the first only by virtue of the fact

that gatherings A (still unsigned) and B represent entirely new settings. The compositor has attempted to follow his copy line by line, but discrepancies can be noted in pages 1 and 2 as well as in the size of capitals used in the chapter-headings and in the position of signature B in the direction line on page 17. Errors listed among the errata on page xxii are corrected. Substantially, then, the sheets used are—for both preliminaries and the body of the text—those of the first edition, of which this "second edition" is more properly a re-issue. The two states of page 142 (error noted in the errata but corrected in some copies) do not distinguish the two issues, since they occur indiscriminately in the copies collated. Whatever the reason for the short supply of gatherings A and B, the justification advanced on the verso of the cancellans title may be considered to flatter the author's vanity unduly or at least to be something less than bibliographically complete:

In consequence of the first Edition being exhausted, I was unable to satisfy the various demands made for it by numerous friends, not only in Victoria but also in New South Wales. I therefore deemed it expedient to republish the same on my return from the latter colony.

JOHN JONES THOMAS, B .A.

By 1866 Sir Henry Barkly, to whom the edition was still ostensibly dedicated—thanks to the original preliminaries—, had long since—on 21 August 1863—presented his copy to the then Melbourne Public Library. Barkly's reply (20 August 1860) to a despatch from the Duke of Newcastle on 14 June 1860 requesting information about Thomas hardly suggests any vice-regal enthusiasm for the ex-inspector's writings:

. . . since his resignation was accepted he has resided in this city, engaged I presume in literary pursuits, as he called on me a few days since to solicit subscriptions to a work to be entitled "Britannia Antiquissima" which he was about to publish.

(See the typed transcript in Mitchell Library MS A2347, p. 4675, here quoted by kind permission of Mr Gordon Richardson, Principal Librarian of the Library of New South Wales.)

The promise, "END OF THE FIRST VOLUME", appearing above the Clarson, Shallard, & Co. colophon on p. 216 was clearly not kept, despite the outline of volumes 2, 3, and 4 on page xxi, nor, as far as I know, did Dwight publish the items listed as being in course of preparation at the end (p. 4) of the inserted catalogue:

Golden Mediocrities or Sketches of Real Celebrities  
and Accidental Pompositives of Victoria

Educational Reminiscences [*sic*] of an Inspector

Impious Notes and Pious Queries in Bardic and  
Saturnian Verse

Confronted with such alluring titles, historians may regret the silence commercial considerations forced on Thomas. But bibliographers, noting the fate of his tired old sheets, might well reflect that their analytical techniques are long overdue in the study of late-nineteenth-century Australian publishing.

Wallace Kirsop

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#### NEXT ISSUE

It is anticipated that the second number of this Bulletin will appear before the annual general meeting and conference in August of this year. A major item for inclusion is a list of bibliographical monographs and articles published in Australia and New Zealand since the beginning of 1969, together with indications of bibliographical work published elsewhere on Australian and New Zealand subjects. Material submitted for the Bibliographical Notes section should reach the Acting Editor by 31 May 1970.

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