

REVIEWS

D.F. McKenzie, ed., *Stationers' Company Apprentices, 1701—1800*, Oxford, 1978. Oxford Bibliographical Society Publications, n.s. vol. XIX. pp. xii, 514. U.K. price £17.50.

The scope of this volume is neatly summarized by the Editor in his Introduction: 'The present list continues those printed in *Stationers' Company Apprentices, 1605—1640* and *Stationers' Company Apprentices, 1641—1700*. It includes men bound to or made free by members of the Company between January 1701 and December 1800 inclusive, as well as men made free within that period but bound before it. It also incorporates the date of freedom for men bound within the period but made free before 1821.'

In addition, there is a list of Masters, Upper and Under Wardens, and Renter Wardens of the Company, 1605—1800; an inventory of Calls on the Livery (the inner association of the Company which retained the right to bind more than one apprentice), 1606—1800; Addenda and Corrigenda to the previous volume; and finally lists of Places (in the sense of printers', booksellers', publishers', and occasionally papermakers' shops, with of course various combinations of these trades conducted under the same roof), and of Charities of some relevance. Names and details of apprentices are grouped as usual under the name of each master, and an alphabetical index is provided as well.

In his Sandars Lectures for 1976, Professor McKenzie has reminded us of the need for historical bibliography imaginatively conceived. There has already appeared an imaginative and scholarly reconstruction of the transactions of one of the first liverymen to be listed in the volume under review, namely the McKenzie and Ross edition of the ledger of Charles Ackers. On a much slighter scale it might be profitable to consider here the well documented career of another liveryman of the Stationers' Company who is given the following designation on p. 290: 'RICHARDSON, Samuel, I / 1727, Salisbury Court, Fleet Street, P.'

In the course of the eighteenth century an increasing fund of information is supplied in the registers of the Stationers' Company, and details of the kind transcribed above have been abstracted in abbreviated form for each master, unlike the practice observed in the two preceding volumes (reviewed in this *Bulletin* for December, 1975). Following the procedure of retaining original spellings as 'transcribed exactly from the registers' we shall find the future author of *Pamela* listed in the Index of Apprentices as 'Samuell Richardson', and in the main body of the volume he is revealed as bound apprentice to John Wilde of Aldersgate Street from 1 July 1706 to 13 June 1715, when he took up his freedom. Richardson seems to have set up in business in Salisbury Court, to the south side of Fleet Street and St. Bride's. His house and shop were originally located in the south-east corner of the court near Blue Ball Court, later moving to the west side of Salisbury Square. (These sites are shown with impressive clarity in Rocque's

Plan of the Cities of London and Westminster and Borough of Southwark, 1746.)

Turning to the list of apprentices bound to Samuel Richardson I, we might note that there are twenty-four altogether, a fair index of flourishing trade. This may not be as substantial as the listings for the Strahans, who take up four pages of apprentices between them, but it is still impressive when one considers the number of Richardson's apprentices who eventually became freemen of the Company in their own right. One of these apprentices, Joseph Chrichley, appears from the entry to have been acquired by Richardson from his second wife, Elizabeth Leake, and he turns up again in a cheerful unorthodoxy of spelling as Joseph Crichley of Charing Cross, with an apprentice of his own. Richardson's general concern for the moral health and for the working conditions of his journeymen and apprentices may be more fully explored in one of his earliest publications, *The Apprentice's Vade Mecum*, 1734. The depth of Richardson's involvement in printing and publishing is reflected in his election as Upper Warden in 1753, and in the following year as Master of the Stationers' Company (see p.405 of the present volume, and note also p.31 of William Sale's useful study, *Samuel Richardson Master Printer*).

Once again the Oxford Bibliographical Society, together with the Scolar Press, has produced a workmanlike double column format for the listings within their traditional half-binding and blue boards. There is, incidentally, some dislocation of a possessive apostrophe in the title lettering on the spine of the book. Could the Society be suggesting, obscurely, that the eighteenth century was a great age for the standardisation of orthography?

This is the final volume of Stationers' Company apprentices edited by Professor McKenzie, and we must record gratitude to him for his monumental patience and precision. But the practice of binding apprentices did not cease in 1800. It continued into the nineteenth century, reaching peaks of 220 and 227 apprentices in the years 1824—5. It is to be hoped that a fourth volume of this series will reflect the changing circumstances of the trade and finally explain, through these traditional inventories, the survival of Stationers' Hall into our own times.

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