

THE OXFORD *BION AND MOSCHUS*, 1748: POSTSCRIPT

IN AN EARLIER ISSUE of this *Bulletin*¹ I reported on the reimposition of the type-pages of the 1748 Clarendon edition of *Bion and Moschus*, a re-arrangement effected in order to convert the facing Greek and Latin texts into separate sequences, Greek preceding Latin. At that time I had seen only two exemplars, one in the University of Tasmania Library (Greek and Latin texts facing), the other in the Poynton Collection in the University of Melbourne Library (Greek preceding Latin). Now I can add a further 18 exemplars.

Mrs. J. Rees has informed me that the exemplar at Christ College, Hobart also has facing Greek and Latin. I have personally examined the other 17: Bodleian (8° St. Amand 310; Godwin 8° 368); OUP Printer's Library (Madan 1748.1); Edinburgh University (*W.22.23); Glasgow University (Euing BD2-e.17); Rylands (L1922(3)); Worcester College, Oxford (TT.12.14(1)); All Souls College, Oxford (d.13.2); Christ Church, Oxford (ZL.6.17); Cambridge University (XVII.16.26; Ff.14.77); Trinity College, Cambridge (II.2.36); British Library (995.c.17; 672.c.19; G17300; 52.m.8); University College, London (207 GG 98).

Curiously, all 17 exemplars examined in British libraries also have facing Greek and Latin, so that it would appear — on the basis of this sample of 20 — that the re-arrangement represents a small proportion of the total edition. How small is impossible to predict with any accuracy on the basis of the one instance. Nonetheless the evidence of numbers is useful in that the 'binder's nightmare' may well be a sport and not in any way representative of an issue of the kind produced at the Foulis Press. Might it be that the re-arrangement was effected with the aim of producing not a conventional issue but merely a small number of copies (even only one?) whose binding could be totally supervised and therefore whose signing was of little consequence? The *fact* of re-imposing without changing the signatures would perhaps tend to the same conclusion: that the difficulties created for the binder were such that it would be inherently unlikely that more than a very small number of exemplars were produced in the re-arranged form.

But if the signatures become less puzzling in the production of the re-arrangement, the make-up remains a puzzle: why impose 32 leaves to create gatherings of 8, 10, 6, 6, 1, 1?

B.J. McMullin,
Monash University.

¹ 'Re-imposition with unchanged signatures: the Oxford *Bion and Moschus*, 1748', *Bibliographical Society of Australia and New Zealand Bulletin* No.12 (May 1978), 115-117.

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