

**A FURTHER VOLUME OF THE 1792-3 FOULIS
PRESS XENOPHON**

IN HIS BIBLIOGRAPHY OF THE FOULIS PRESS¹ Philip Gaskell is able to report a solitary exemplar (in the Mitchell Library, Glasgow) of Volume 2, and no exemplars whatsoever of the remaining volumes, of a four-volume edition of Xenophon's *Anabasis*, in Greek and Latin, printed by Andrew Foulis the younger in 1792-3. To that solitary volume can now be added an exemplar of Volume 3 in the National Library of Australia (RB MISC 2298).

The title page follows Gaskell's transcription for Volume 2, with these differences:

- (i) after 'HUTCHINSON' there is a three-line quotation (in Greek) from Plutarch, *In M. Antonio*
- (ii) 'TOM. III.'
- (iii) comma after 'TYPOGRAPHUS'
- (iv) date: 'M, DCC, XCIII.'

Greek precedes Latin, as in Volume 2, but unlike the arrangement there the two language sequences are here signed separately: [Greek:] π² A-P⁴ Q², [Latin:] ²A-H⁴ (\$1 signed, 11 mis-signed 'H'; 'TOM.III.' in direction line, \$1^r).

The two volumes also differ in paper. Both are printed on poor paper, like so many of the publications of the Press² in its declining years after 1776, when Andrew the younger assumed control of the failing enterprise left him by his father and uncle. Volume 2 is typical of a number of Foulis Press publications of the period 1783 to 1793 in being gathered in what Gaskell describes as 'half sheets — themselves halved for "half-sheet" imposition of [laid, unwatermarked] Double Foolscap'³ — i.e. gathered in fours with horizontal chain lines.⁴ Volume 3, however, has horizontal chain lines only in gatherings ¹A-B, the remainder having vertical chain lines, as one would expect in an octavo. Presumably printing began with half sheets of double-sized paper⁵ and quickly changed to ordinary-sized — note that 1793 is the last year in which Gaskell records the use of double-sized sheets. The ANL exemplar is uncut, giving a sheet approximately 16 x 14¼ inches (i.e. foolscap).

Volume 3 bears further witness to the deterioration in standards from the great days of the 1750s and '60s. For one thing the standard of proofreading — in the past, at least on occasions, so high⁶ — appears to have been particularly low: some pages of the Greek text are peppered with manuscript emendations. And three quarters of the way down ²H3^v the type changes from what appears to be Gaskell's RSP1⁷ to his RB2 — i.e. from small pica to brevier (leaded) — in order to squeeze the text into gathering ²H.

In passing, note might be taken of the possible significance of this edition in

the history of printing. In his account of the stereotyping venture entered into with Andrew Foulis,⁸ Alexander Tilloch refers to their having printed 'a Greek volume, *Xenophon's Anabasis*, 1783', and provides as illustration an impression from an odd surviving plate from the edition. However, Gaskell has found no evidence for a 1783 *Xenophon* from Foulis and Tilloch, and it may be that Tilloch intended '1792' or '1793' rather than '1783'. The illustration is of a page 91, containing *Anabasis* II.III.1-4, so that if it is from the 1792-3 edition it must be from Volume 1, of which no exemplar seems to have survived. Of course Tilloch does refer to *a* volume; nonetheless, the discovery of an exemplar of Volume 1 will possibly demonstrate the veracity of Tilloch's assertion that he and Andrew Foulis did in fact publish at least one volume from stereotype plates.

The National Library volume is part of the Palmer Collection (i.e. the collection of Vance Palmer and his wife Nettie) taken into the Library in 1965. At one time it had belonged to Nettie's paternal grandfather, John Higgins, to whom it had been presented by one William M'Cracken in about 1850. On the half-title are two inscriptions, the one at the head reading 'W M'Cracken | Dunover | No. 183', the one at the foot 'Presented | by | W^m M'Cracken Dunover | to th | Revd. John Higgins.' I have no information about William M'Cracken, but Dunover House is (or perhaps *was*) about 6 miles ESE of Newtownards, Co. Down, between Grey Abbey and Ballywalter. John Higgins, a Methodist minister, was on the Donaghadee circuit, in which Newtownards is located, between 1848 and 1851, and it was at Newtownards that the Higginses' second son, Henry Bournes Higgins, was born, 30 June 1851. Henry Bournes Higgins, Nettie's uncle, is remembered as Mr. Justice Higgins, who, in the 'Harvester' finding of 1907, established the principle of the basic wage in Australia. After the death of the eldest son, James Henry, in June 1869, the Higgins family decided to migrate to a warmer, drier climate; most members arrived in Melbourne 12 February 1870, John himself arriving in October after completing his period of duty on the Wexford circuit. Eventually the family moved to Bendigo, and it was there that Janet [Nettie] Gertrude Higgins was born in 1885, the daughter of the third (and second surviving) son, another John.

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NOTES

¹ Philip Gaskell, *A Bibliography of the Foulis Press* (London, 1964), entry 694.

² Issues on poor paper were often available alongside issues on a medium paper.

³ Entry 653 (Anacreon, 1783).

⁴ Gaskell records such volumes simply as octavos, though his notes on the paper make the exact nature of their make-up clear.

⁵ I assume that π was printed last (π_1 = half title/blank; π_2 = title/blank).

⁶ See, for example, the account of the extraordinary proofreading process undertaken for the 1756-8 Homer related in James MacLehose, *The Glasgow University Press 1638-1931* (Glasgow, 1931), pp.175-8.

⁷ The Latin text in Volume 2 is in RLP1 (Gaskell).

⁸ A.T., 'A Brief account of the origin and progress of letter-press-plate or stereotype printing', *The Philosophical Magazine* 10(1801), 267-77.

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