

## NOTES

### PRESS FIGURES ABROAD

SINCE THE SEMINAL ARTICLE of Giles Barber and the more systematic work of Richard Sayce it has become axiomatic that press figures are the marks of English printing-house practice.<sup>1</sup> This almost canonical bibliographical rule has often been used to identify English imprints which were not otherwise recognisable as such.<sup>2</sup> Without wishing to deny the utility of such a tool this note reports the existence of press figures in a book almost certainly printed in Germany. The bibliographic details follow.<sup>3</sup>

*Title-page:* [in black letter] Friedrich Ludwig Walthers | Erdbefchreibung | des freundfchaftlichen Infelmeeres | in Südindien | oder | dem fünften | Welttheile. | [rule] | [two-line quotation from Klopstock] | [engraved map of the Friendly Isles - i.e. Tonga] | Bayreuth und Leipzig, | bey Johann Andreas Lübecks fel. Erben. 1786.

*Collation:* 8°;  $\pi^2$  2 $\pi$ 1 3 $\pi^2$  A-Q<sup>8</sup> R<sup>4</sup> (-R4).

*Note:* [on R3<sup>v</sup>] Weiffenfels, | gedruckt bei Cafpar Simon Ifens feel. Erben.

*Press figures:* [all rectos]

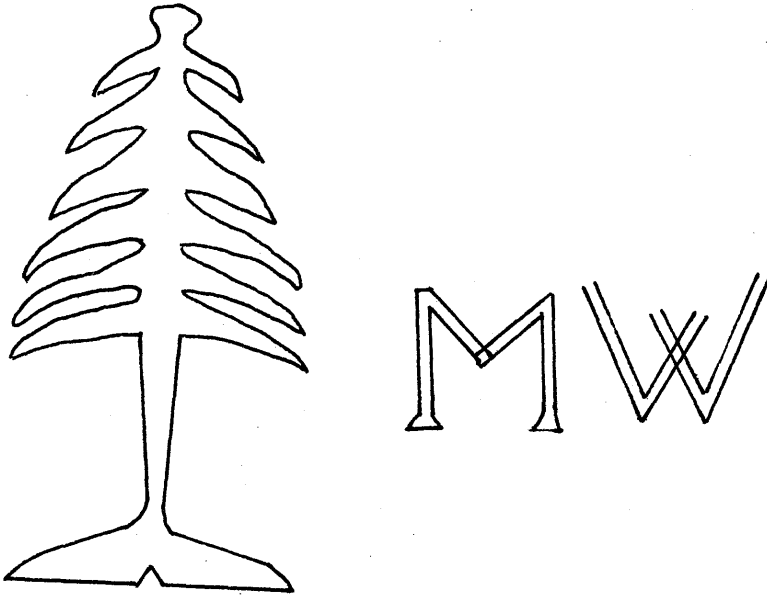
2: B7 D8 E8 F7 F8 G7 G8 K7 K8 L8 O7 O8

3: A7 A8 B8 D7 E7 H7 I8 M7 M8 N7 N8 P7 Q7 Q8

*Paper:* Laid, with pinetree watermark (see illustration) and 'MW' countermark.

Apart from the obvious signs of German origin — the publisher-distributor is clearly represented on the title-page, the printer's imprint is displayed at the end, and the text is in black letter — the practice of oversigning (\$5 signed) is typically German. Other evidence of compositorial practice is neutral: gatherings are signed in upper-case letters and arabic numbers; the first gathering of the text is signed A; catchwords appear on each page; and spaces are not used before commas.<sup>4</sup> More substantial evidence is lacking: quotation marks are not used; ornaments do not flank the page numbers; and the preliminaries are unsigned. The binding — paper over soft boards — is, however, typically 'German', and the edges are stained red in Continental fashion. Annotations in a contemporary German hand appear on the end-leaves.

It is worth recording here other compositorial practices which may have some localizing value. Firstly, footnotes are indicated in the text by a raised asterisk followed by a closing bracket: \*). Where a second footnote is required, two asterisks are employed: \*\*). Secondly, where a footnote extends to the following page there is a catchword for both footnote and text. Thirdly, the signature is placed immediately beneath the text; any footnote will then appear below the signature.



Pinetree watermark and MW countermark

The arabic numbers at the foot of certain pages in this German book are almost certainly press figures, as they follow the same pattern of use as those in English books of the eighteenth century: there are generally two per gathering, one in the inner forme, and one in the outer forme. Perhaps the distribution of the figures, which are found only on the rectos of the seventh and eighth leaves, is a little more regular than the normal English practice. The incidental nature of the press figures is indicated by their absence from the rectos of C7, C8, H8, I7, L7, and P8. (Long footnotes on three of these — H8, L7, and P8 — may have precluded the use of press figures.)<sup>5</sup>

It is clear then that press figures may appear in non-English books; therefore the bibliographer should be careful to explore other localizing criteria such as the form of quotation marks before assigning bibliographic provenance.<sup>6</sup>

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## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> G. Barber, 'Catchwords and press figures at home and abroad', *Book Collector*, 9(1960), 301-7; R.A. Sayce, 'Compositorial practices and the localization of printed books, 1530-1800', *Library*, 5th ser., 21(1966), 1-45.

<sup>2</sup> For example, see W. Kirsop, 'Voltaire, Helvétius and an English pirate', *Australian Journal of French Studies*, 4(1967), 62-73.

<sup>3</sup> State Library of Victoria, La Trobe Library, Manuscripts and Special Collections. This book (accession number 188307) is currently awaiting recataloguing.

<sup>4</sup> For the hypothesis that putting spaces before commas was a French practice see D.F. McKenzie, 'Stretching a point: or, the case of the spaced-out comps', *Studies in Bibliography*, 37(1984), 106-21. This hypothesis has yet to be rigorously tested.

<sup>5</sup> For the incidental nature of press figures see D.F. McKenzie, 'Printers of the mind: some notes on bibliographical theories and printing-house practices', *Studies in Bibliography*, 22(1969), 1-76 (pp.50-53).

<sup>6</sup> C.J. Mitchell, 'Quotation marks, national compositorial habits and false imprints', *Library*, 6th ser., 5(1983), 359-84. I mention quotation marks because in my experience they have been a valuable guide to locale, but of course there are several other distinguishing criteria.

### A FURTHER NOTE ON *BRYCE ROSS'S DIGGINGS' DIRECTORY*

IN A RECENT NUMBER of this *Bulletin* I suggested that the first section of the Mitchell Library copy of *Bryce Ross's Diggings' Directory* was a revised version of an unlocated earlier directory published before 12 May 1852.<sup>1</sup> Thanks to Ross's penchant for pestering the government with flamboyant communications, copies of the earlier version of the directory have survived, though not in the expected pamphlet form. On 14 August 1852 Ross wrote a memorial addressed to the Legislative Council begging that immediate action be taken to improve the parlous state of the roads to the diggings. He ended with the warning that, if conditions were not amended,

a feeling of bitter animosity and antipathy will be engendered,  
(as it is now doing) against *all* the Government Authorities . . .  
*which will gradually increase*, in course of time *into* feelings of  
*Open Rebellion*, against Her Most Gracious Majesty — which  
God forbid; *Vivat Regina*.

Penned in passion and haste, the memorial is written on the verso of three copies of the directory; a fourth forms a cover sheet. The directory consists of a post broadsheet with the information printed within an ornamental frame. It is headed 'Bryce Ross's Diggings [*sic*] Directory.' — the missing 'g' is reinstated in later versions. Then follow three paragraphs similar in wording to those which appear under the heading 'Instructions for the Use of the Directory' in the Mitchell Library copy. Listed in three columns are the names of some 160 entrepreneurs (storekeepers, smiths, doctors, bakers, butchers, etc.) on the Forest Creek, Barker's Creek, Campbell's Creek, Loddon River, Fryer's Creek and Bendigo diggings. The inclusion of the Bendigo diggings contradicts my earlier

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