

EARLY EIGHTEENMOS

B.J. MCMULLIN

TWO RECENT PUBLICATIONS have served both to confirm statements previously made about the early incidence of volumes imposed in eighteenmo¹ and to provide additional evidence of their geographical and temporal range. The first publication is volume 1 of the revised edition of *STC*;² the second is volume 1 of the new, extended version of *A&R*, A.F. Allison and D.M. Rogers, *The Contemporary printed literature of the English Counter-Reformation between 1558 and 1640 . . . Works in languages other than English* (Aldershot: Scolar Press, 1989).³

The point which I sought to make in the earlier note was that although the eighteenmo was probably not employed in British printing before the 1690s it had definitely been employed on the Continent as early as 1615, so that any eighteenmo purporting to have been printed in Britain earlier than 1690 is suspect in its stated place or date of printing, or even in both — specifically that the ‘Cambridge, 1648’ eighteenmo bibles were to be considered suspect on both counts.⁴ A reading of volume 2 of the revised *STC* (the only one then published) and the original *A&R* had suggested that imposition in eighteenmo in English-language publications prior to 1641 was confined to a small number of Recusant works printed in the southern Netherlands. That suggestion is now confirmed by volume 1 of the revised *STC*, though the reading of that volume has thrown up what can only be described as a remarkable item: an eighteenmo published as early as 1531.

The earliest date for a confirmed eighteenmo printed in Britain remains 1702. Ambrose Rigge’s *A Scripture catechism for children*, previously reported, is now joined by two further publications of that year: (i) an edition of the Tate and Brady *Psalms* published by the Cambridge University Press (two exemplars of which are to be found at the University Library and one at Pembroke College, Cambridge), and (ii) *Art’s master-piece. Or, a companion for the ingenious of either sex. Containing, the art of limning and painting in oil, &c.* By C.K. (London, printed for P.C. and J.W. book-sellers in Dublin).⁵ Further eighteenmos may await discovery from among the seventeen Sowle publications listed at the end of *A Scripture catechism*, but at this stage of the compilation of *ESTC* it is perhaps significant that no eighteenmo has yet been reported among the approximately 2000 entries dated 1701. At precisely what point between 1641 and 1702 the eighteenmo was introduced into British printing must await the recataloguing of the publications of the ‘Wing’ period, 1641-1700, according to more rigid standards, since as it stands *Wing*⁶ is far too unreliable to offer any useful evidence.

Volume 1 of the revised *STC* confirms two *A&R* eighteenmos, which are to be added to the five already noted (one of them in two issues):

STC933.5 (A&R47) Doway, Laurence Kellam, 1621. [in twelves and sixes]
 STC4871 (A&R215) [S. Omer, English College Press], 1632.

Two other A&R eighteenmos are 'disallowed': A&R28 (STC632.5) and A&R269 (STC6798.3) are both described as twentyfourmos in sixes.

The new A&R, which confines itself to publications in languages other than English, extends the geographical range of the eighteenmo beyond Mechelen, S. Omer and Douai and also pushes the previously earliest dated eighteenmo back to 1602, or a century before the earliest confirmed British instance:

A&R(i)455 Coloniae, apud Ioannem Crithium, 1610.

A&R(i)646 Rouen, chez Romain de Beauuais, 1602.

A&R(i)852 Ingolstadii, typis Ederianis apud Elisabetham Angermariam viduam, 1616.

There remains the 'remarkable item' of 1531. It is a Roman Catholic *Hortulus anime* for Sarum use, printed in Paris [Parrhisius] probably — according to STC — by J. Kerbriant. In the original STC it was entered under *Liturgies* at 15972 and recorded as being a sixteenmo in eights; in the revised edition it is entered under title at 13828.6 and is recorded as being an eighteenmo in sixes. That the reassigned format is correct is shown by the Bodleian exemplar (Vet.e1.g.43), which collates a-z⁶ &⁶ A-P⁶. The chainlines are vertical, but the paper lacks watermarks; the format is confirmed, however, by the tranchefiles, which appear regularly in \$1,2,4 or \$3,5,6 in two thirds of the gatherings — as A1,2,4; C3,5,6; . . . N1,2,4; P3,5,6. (The chainlines are unusually wide apart (c.34mm.) and the distance between the tranchefile and the nearest chainline correspondingly wide (c.18mm.)) The *Hortulus anime*, being printed on the Continent, does not overturn the contention that the eighteenmo is not of British origin, but whether it is to be regarded as a sport or as the beginning of a tradition of some sort must await reports based on an examination of specifically Continental sources.

Melbourne

NOTES

1. B.J. McMullin, 'Format and localization: the eighteenmo in the seventeenth century', *Bibliographical Society of Australia and New Zealand Bulletin*, 9(1985), 139-44.
2. *A Short-title catalogue of books printed in England, Scotland and Ireland and of English books printed abroad, 1475-1640*. Compiled by A.W. Pollard and G.R. Redgrave, 2nd ed., revised and enlarged, begun by W.A. Jackson and F.S. Ferguson, completed by K.F. Pantzer, volume 1 (London: Bibliographical Society, 1986). (The revised volume 2 was published in 1976.)
3. Volume 2 will be a revised version of the 'original' A&R: A.F. Allison and D.M. Rogers, *A Catalogue of Catholic books in English printed abroad or secretly in England 1558-1640* (Bio-

- graphical Studies* [later *Recusant History*], 3(1956), nos.3-4; reprinted London: Wm. Dawson, 1964).
4. On the 'Cambridge, 1648' eighteenmo bibles see B.J. McMullin, 'Joseph Athias and the early history of stereotyping', forthcoming in *Quaerendo*.
 5. I am grateful to Professor Robin Alston for supplying me with the details of *Art's masterpiece*, derived from the *Eighteenth Century Short Title Catalogue* data base.
 6. D.G. Wing, *Short-title catalogue of books printed in England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, and British America and of English books printed in other countries 1641-1700*, 2nd ed., 3 vols. (N.Y.: Modern Language Association of America, 1972-88).
 7. See Annemie Gilbert and Sylvia Ransom, 'The Imposition of eighteenmos in sixes, with special reference to tranchefiles', *Bibliographical Society of Australia and New Zealand Bulletin*, no.17(1980), 269-76.

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