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The Britwell Library

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by the Commissioners amounted to £551 6s. 8d., leaving £1044 8s. 10d. for the uses of the Church.

THE SOCIETY'S LIBRARY.

With the recent addition of nearly forty volumes of Calendars of State Papers to the Society's Library at Gloucester members now have access to a complete series of all the Record Publications most necessary for parochial history, for in addition to their own they can also enjoy the use of those in the Gloucester Public Library, where the Society's books are housed. The following information may therefore be of service to members.

In the Society's Library there are complete sets of the Descriptive Catalogue of Ancient Deeds, 6 vols.; the Calendars of Patent Rolls, Henry III to Henry VII (1216-1509), 54 vols.; the Calendar of Close Rolls, Henry III to Richard II (1227-1392), 33 vols.; the Calendar of Charter Rolls, Henry III to Edward III (1226-1347), 5 vols.; the Calendar of Fine Rolls, Edward I to Edward III (1272-1368), 7 vols.; Inquisitions Post Mortem and other analogous documents, Henry III to Edward III, 10 vols.; Miscellaneous Inquisitions, 2 vols.

In the Public Library there are the Calendars of State Papers, Domestic series, from 1547 to 1661; a complete set of the "Rolls Series"; Acts of the Privy Council, 1542-1580; and, with only a few exceptions, all the publications of the Record Commissioners, in which are comprised such important works as the Valor Ecclesiasticus, Hundred Rolls, Pipe Rolls, etc.

The two Libraries combined have an almost complete set of the Letters and Papers of Henry VIII. There are also a few volumes in the Shire Hall library which are not in either of the others, and permission to consult them is usually granted on application to the Clerk of the Peace, E. T. Gardom, Esq.

The only remaining set of papers of consequence which it is desirable to add to the Society's Library is the Calendar of Papal Registers and these will be purchased in due course.

THE BRITWELL LIBRARY.

The further portion of this famous Library which was sold at Sotheby's on the 31st March, 1924, and the four following days, contained a few Gloucestershire books, all of which fetched high prices. A copy of the first issue of the *Annalia Dubrensia*, 1636, but with the frontispiece from the second issue (late 17th century), sold for £19. A copy of the very rare *Nympha Libethris*, by Clement Barksdale, 1651, was bound up with two other pieces by

the same writer which are only known, apparently, from the copies in the Corser library. These are *Theodori Bezae Epitaphia Selecta*, printed for John Barksdale at Cirencester, 1680, and *Epigrammata Sacra Selecta*, also printed for John Barksdale, 1682. The volume was purchased by Dr. Rosenbach for £70. The most interesting book of local interest was Thomas Dekker's Penny-Wise Povnd Foolish, Or, a Bristow Diamond, set in two Rings, and both Crack'd. Profitable for married men, pleasant for young men, and a rare example for all good Women. At London. Printed by A.M. for Edward Blackmore, and are to be sould in Pauls Churchyard, at the signe of the Angell. 1631.

The book has a woodcut frontispiece, with cuts of Venice, London and "Bristow." It is exceedingly rare, and appears to have escaped notice in several standard works of reference. A facsimile of the title is given in the illustrated copies of the sale catalogue. It was purchased by Dr. Rosenbach for £290.

Another rare book which has also gone to America is *Songs of Sion*, by William Loe (Hamburg, 1620,) of which the only other copy known is in the British Museum, though, like the Britwell copy, it is not perfect. William Loe was Vicar of Churcham, Glos., about 1598, master of the College School, Gloucester, 1600, and prebendary of the Cathedral, 1602. The book was purchased by Dr. Rosenbach for £100.

A copy of "More Strange Newes : of wonderful accidents...in Summerset-shire, Gloucestershire....&c." recorded in the *Manual of Gloucestershire Literature*, i, 99, was sold for £30. Another tract, not noticed in the Manual, probably owing to it being wholly of Welsh interest except for the name of our county on the title was sold for £29, and is entitled:—

The Welch Plunderer, or her sore lamentation and perplexity hearing of P. Roberts pillaging and plundering in Gloucestershire, and fearing his approach unto Wales, her is resolved to prevent her comming by a cunning stratagem. 1643.

ANCIENT BRIDGES.

The care of Ancient Bridges is receiving much attention owing to the demands of modern traffic necessitating wider roadways, and the public interest aroused by the proposals for widening the historic bridge of Clopton at Stratford-on-Avon. Both the Office of Works and the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings have issued questionnaires to archaeological and architectural societies, asking for information of ancient bridges in their respec-