

THE RAE PRESS: TWO UNRECORDED PRODUCTIONS

by R. H. Carnie

IN THE TWENTY YEARS which elapsed between G. W. Shirley's first paper on the Rae press at Kirkbride and Dumfries (1914)¹, and his second paper on the wider subject of 'Dumfries Printers in the Eighteenth Century' (1934)², only one additional Rae press item turned up. The discovery, therefore, of one additional Kirkbride item, dated 1713, and one more Dumfries production, dated 1715, seems worthy of a short note. The known output of the Rae press is not large; Shirley lists five items printed at Kirkbride between 1711 and 1713, and fifteen printed at Dumfries between 1715 and 1721. The total number of books and pamphlets known to have been printed by Peter and Robert Rae is now, therefore, twenty-two instead of twenty.

The two unrecorded pamphlets are contained in a calf-bound volume of Scottish theological tracts in the Brechin Diocesan Library. The titles, but not the places of publication, are listed in the first Appendix to the published *Catalogue*³ of that library. All the pamphlets in the volume are dated between 1705 and 1720, and were mostly published at Edinburgh or Glasgow. The volume contains the book-plate of the Rev. Archibald Wilson, minister of St. Margaret's, Lochee, in Dundee, 1864. Wilson bequeathed a collection of 1300 books to the Diocesan Library in 1866, but the collection had to remain in Dundee until 1877, before space was found for it in the library at Brechin⁴. Wilson's books are now back in Dundee, as the whole of the Brechin Library is now on permanent loan to the University Library there⁵.

A description of the two unrecorded productions is given below. A third Rae press publication, Thomas Howy's *The present state of most professors* (Dumfries, 1715), which is listed by Shirley in both his papers, is also in this volume. As Shirley does not give an adequate description of the physical features of this short book, I have ventured to add such a description here.

1. A sermon. By James Anderson. Kirkbride, 1713.
 [within a frame of double rules] A / SERMON / Preach'd in / Swallow-street,
 St. James's, / ON / WEDNESDAY, Jan. 16. 1712. / Being the / National
 FAST-DAY. / [rule] / By JAMES ANDERSON, M.A. / [rule] / KIRK-
 BRIDE, / Re-printed and sold by ROBERT RAE, / 1713. Price, a Penny.
 Collation: 8vo. A⁸.
 Contents: Title, p. [1]; blank, p. [2]; text, pp. 3-16.
 Note: The author of this sermon was James Anderson D.D. (1680?-1739).
 He is best known for his work on the standard code of the Freemasons in the
 eighteenth century, *The Constitution of the Free Masons* (London, 1723). From
 1710 he was minister of the Presbyterian charge in Swallow Street, London.
2. Several letters from the pastors of the church of Geneva. Dumfries, 1715.
 [within a frame of single rules] SEVERAL / LETTERS / From the Pastors of
 the CHURCH of / GENEVA, / And the PROFESSORS / of the Aca-
 demy there: / TO THE / Arch-bishop of CANTERBURY, the / Bishop
 of LONDON, and / the UNIVERSITY of / OXFORD. / With their
 ANSWERS. / [rule] / DRUMFRIES. / Re-printed in the Year 1715.
 Collation: 8vo in fours. A-B⁴Cr.
 Contents: Title, p. [1]; blank, p. [2]; text, pp. 3-18.
3. The present state of most professors. By Thomas Howy. Dumfries, 1715.
 [within a frame of double rules] THE / PRESENT STATE / OF MOST /
Professors; / WITH A / Seasonable Warning / To them and others. / [rule]
 Opened in some SERMONS, / On [three lines braced on left hand side]
 Matth. 25.5. and Eph. 5.14. / [rule] / By Mr. Thomas Howy, Minister of the
 Gospel at Amman. / [rule] / DRUMFRIES, / Printed by ROBERT RAE,
 at his / Printing-House in the Kirkgate. 1715.
 Collation: 8vo. A-D⁸E⁴.
 Contents: Title, p. [1]; blank, p. [2]; To the Reader, pp. 3-5; blank, p. [6];
 text, pp. [7], 8-72.
1. *Records of the Glasgow Bibliographical Society*, i, 1914, pp. 216-235. A paper entitled
 'Mr. Peter Rae, V.D.M.', and read 17th March, 1913.
2. *Transactions of the Dumfries and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society*, xviii,
 Dumfries, 1934, pp. 129-186. The paper was read 15th April, 1932. A pioneer paper
 on the Rae press by W. Stewart was published in *Publications of the Edinburgh Biblio-
 graphical Society*, vi, Edinburgh, 1906, pp. 107-115.
3. *Catalogue of the Brechin Diocesan Library, deposited at the Chapter House, Brechin,*
 Montrose, 1869. The shelf mark of the volume is A, i, 24.
4. Information about Wilson's gift is found on pp. 3-4 of *History of the Brechin Diocesan
 Library*, n.p., n.d.
5. I am grateful to the University Librarian, Dundee, Mr. J. Barker, for permission to
 examine and photograph these items.

A FACTORY LIBRARY AT BLANTYRE IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

by R. I.

THE ORIGIN of the Blantyre Works Library remains obscure, but it is probably in existence in the eighteen forties. The cotton spinning machinery, founded about 1785 by David Dale, were taken over by James Watt in 1792, and although they prospered in their early years, they were eventually abandoned at the beginning of the twentieth century. In 1845 the *Second Statistical Account of Scotland* mentions that a public library [has been] established for several years past and that it was taken for extending it.

The catalogue of the Library appears as an appendix to the published sheaf-catalogue of the Livingstone Memorial Library. It is a modern compilation listing all the books of the Works Library now in the possession of the Livingstone Memorial, but it is not entirely representative of the original collection, since it includes only a few works printed before 1845 and the shelf numbers do not correspond with the number of books now extant. In spite of its limitations, however, the catalogue tells us something about the nature and demand for books that resulted in the foundation of the factory library during the nineteenth century before the advent of the public library and also about the kind of book that was considered to be suitable for the education of the industrial workers and their families.

As the Select Committee on Public Libraries was only too ready to point out, many of the early accessions were probably 'gathered together out of people's shelves . . . and old magazines of various kinds', such as odd parts of Hogg's *Weekly Instructor* and the *Forget Me Not*; nevertheless the proprietors saw the expediency of extending the stock. Weale's *Rudimentary Series*, comprising works in science and technology, occupies an important place in the collection, as do religious and instructive works of a popular nature, such as those by Jacob Abbott, which, although forgotten now, had an extensive circulation at the time. The story of Scottish life or experience was bound to be of interest, but it is the novels aimed at improving the mind, such as Mary Brunton's *Self Control*, and Sir Walter