

Zurich Theology in a Puritan Gentleman's Library

by DAVID J. KEEP

Lanhydrock House, near Bodmin in Cornwall, now belongs to the National Trust for Places of Historic Interest or Natural Beauty. It was built 1635–1642 by the son of a Truro merchant, who had purchased a peerage from Charles I. Richard Robartes employed Hannibal Gamon, rector of Mawgan-in-Pyder, to act as chaplain and to collect a library. John Robartes housed this collection of puritan and protestant works in his new mansion. It has amazingly survived royalist occupation during the Civil War, the reconciliation of the family with the Church of England under Charles II, and a disastrous fire which destroyed all but the north wing in 1881. The books were thrown from the windows, which may account for the careful rebinding of some of them. The estate was given to the Trust in 1953, but one of the family continued to live in the house until 1969. Her bedroom reflects an anglican piety in marked contrast to the militant puritanism of the Cromwellian Field-marshal. The house was rebuilt after the fire. The books are now housed in the splendid north gallery, where I was able to examine them by courtesy of Mr. Donald Prentice, the administrator of the estate. A copy of the catalogue is available at 42 Queen Anne's Gate, London.

The Library contains nothing by Zwingli. It has five works by Bullinger, three by Peter Martyr Vermigli and an astonishing nineteen by Rudolph Gwalther¹. Bullinger's *Centuria Memorialium in Apocalypsin* is part of Gwalther's *Archetypi homeliarum in omnes Apostolorum epistolas*². The oldest work, *Resurrectio*, Zurich 1545, is the only copy recorded in Great Britain³. There is a Latin text of *Refutatio Bullae papisticae*⁴, the English translation of *De fine seculi*⁵ and *Ad Testamentum D. Ioannis Brentii*⁶. The works by Martyr are *In Epistolam ad Romanos*, Zurich 1559, an English translation without its title page, recorded as 1568, and *In Regum Libri Duo*, Heidelberg 1599. These alone are valuable sources for church historians in the west of England.

¹ I am grateful to lic. phil. Kurt Rüetschi of the Institut für Schweizerische Reformationsgeschichte Zurich, who provided meticulous notes on my original list from his manuscript bibliography of the works of the Gwalthers.

² Zurich 1599, HB Bibl I 331.

³ HB Bibl I 148.

⁴ HB Bibl I 562.

⁵ HB Bibl I 326.

⁶ HB Bibl I 569: this is incorrectly catalogued under Brentius and Zwinglianos. The catalogue lists a title-page to no 622.

The Gwalther collection is outstanding. One is the only known copy of the edition so far, one is recorded only in Zurich, and one known only in three libraries. The British Museum has only three of the Lanhydrock editions, and the Cambridge colleges together only five of the sixteenth-century ones⁷. The unique volume is the eighth edition of *De syllabarum et carminum ratione libri duo*, Antverpiae Apud Viduam Ioannis Loëi Anno 1568. Like the volume known only in Zurich, *Archetypi homiliarum festarum*, Zurich 1612, this is an octavo, and hence more easily lost. The Antwerp volume is rebound in half red leather, but the *Archetypi* is in its original vellum. The other scarce edition is the fifth and final of *In epistolam ad Romanos*, Heidelberg 1614. There is only one work in English, *A hundred, threescore and fiftene Homelyes or Sermons uppon the actes of the Apostles*, London 1572⁸. There is also the curious bi-lingual *ΙΟΥΑΙΟΥ ΠΟΛΥΔΕΥΚΟΥ ΟΝΟΜΑΣΤΙΚΟΝ ΕΝ ΒΙΒΛΙΟΙΣ ΔΕΚΑ*, Frankfurt 1608. All the other volumes are Latin commentaries on the Bible⁹. Six of them have the same autograph in 1616, possible a bookseller's. Two are duplicates. I suspect Robartes purchased more than he read. Was this a random collection, or the basis for a library for local clergy? I hope it was not an investment as seventeenth century theology is still more rare than expensive! Modern scholars can be very grateful for three centuries of quiet country living which have preserved the collection. There are several hundred works by other writers which will find a place in bibliographical and theological studies.

⁷ H(erbert) M(ayow) Adams, *Catalogue of books printed on the continent of Europe 1501–1600 in Cambridge Libraries*, 2 vols., Cambridge 1967.

⁸ Translated by John Bridges. A(lfred) W(illiam) Pollard and G(ilbert) R(ichard) Redgrave, *A short-title catalogue of books printed in England, Scotland and Ireland, and of English books printed abroad*, London ¹1926, ²1963, No. 25013.

⁹ *In I. partem psalmorum*, Zurich 1601; *In Isaiam*, Zurich 1595; *In prophetas duodecim*, Zurich 1582; *Archetypi homiliarum in quatuor Evangelia*, Zurich 1601; another copy bound with one copy of *In acta Apostolorum*, Zurich 1586; *In evangelium secundum Matthaeum pars prima*, Heidelberg 1609, bound with *pars altera*, Heidelberg 1614; *In evangelium secundum Marcum*, Heidelberg 1608; *In evangelium secundum Lucam*, Heidelberg 1601; *In priorem ad Corinthios*, bound with *In posteriorem*, both Zurich 1588; *In epistolam ad Galatas*, Zurich 1581, and *In omnes Apostolorum*, Zürich 1599.

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