

**A GUIDE TO THE  
PRINCIPAL MANUSCRIPTS,  
EARLY PRINTED BOOKS,  
AUTOGRAPH LETTERS, ETC**

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A Guide to the Principal Manuscripts, Early Printed Books, Autograph Letters, Etc by H. Shaw

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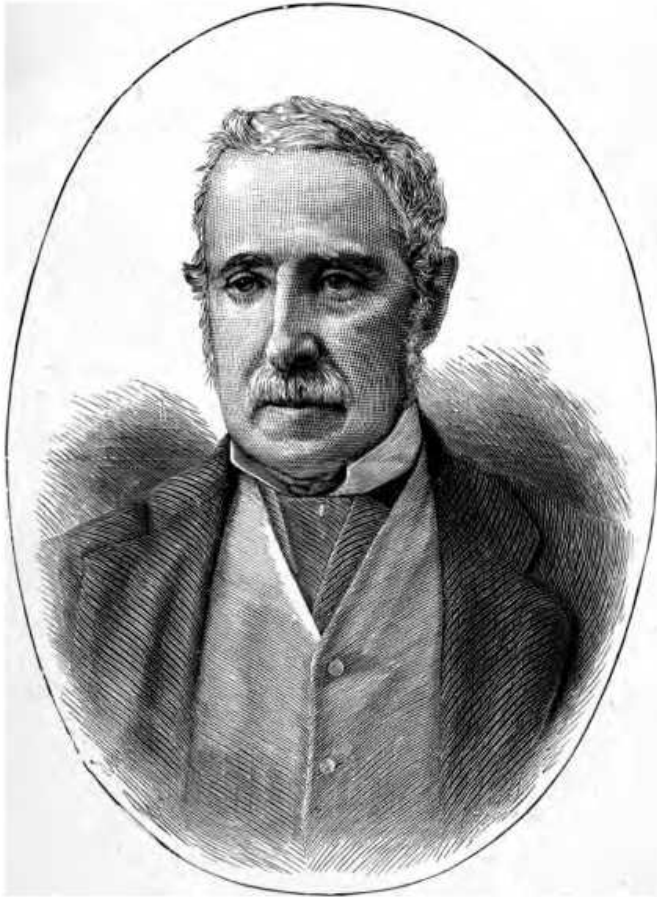
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**H. SHAW**

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PRINCIPAL MANUSCRIPTS,  
EARLY PRINTED BOOKS,  
AUTOGRAPH LETTERS, ETC**





RIGHT HON SIR GEORGE GREY, P.C., K.C.B., D.C.L.

BY AUTHORITY OF THE AUCKLAND CITY COUNCIL



A GUIDE

TO THE

PRINCIPAL MANUSCRIPTS

EARLY PRINTED BOOKS

AUTOGRAPH LETTERS

ETC.

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By H. SHAW



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## PREFACE.

To the generosity of the late Sir George Grey, K.C.B., the citizens of Auckland are indebted for the best collection of manuscripts and early printed books to be found in the whole of the Australasian colonies.

This collection of literary treasures has for the past twenty years formed part of the Auckland Free Public Library, and, although duly catalogued, it has long been felt that some account of its more important features would be both interesting and useful to visitors from abroad and to the New Zealand public generally.

The matter having engaged the attention of the City Council, it was decided to have an account prepared, and His Worship the Mayor arranged with the writer to make the compilation.

The plan upon which the work has been arranged is that of the British Museum Guide Books, with the addition of some illustrative notes, which it is believed will be of assistance to those using the Guide.

The Guide is divided into three sections--the first comprising books in manuscript, documents, and autograph letters; the second, books printed in foreign countries in the 15th and 16th Centuries; and the third, books printed in England during the 15th, 16th, and 17th Centuries, with brief reference to a few important books of later dates. With the exception of a small number of works to which donors names are appended, the whole of the collection described was the gift of Sir George Grey.

In the Library are a number of valuable documents relating to the native races of New Zealand and South Africa, but as these require to be properly arranged, and

translations made (a work that would take up much time), it has been deemed advisable not to deal with them in the present publication.

Although this work is not intended for specialists, but for the general public, every care has been taken to make the descriptions thoroughly accurate and reliable. In a considerable number of instances this has been a work of much difficulty, owing to important bibliographical works not being available for reference. The bibliographer alone can realise what this means when dealing with 15th Century books without date, printer's name, or place of publication.

I have to thank Mr. Shillington, the Librarian, for valuable assistance, and the Right Rev. Dr. Lenihan, Roman Catholic Bishop of Auckland, for several translations.

HENRY SHAW.

Vermont Street, Auckland, May, 1907.

## Manuscripts.

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### INTRODUCTION.

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The oldest writing known to us is to be found inscribed on two cylinder jars of pottery, one bearing the name of Horus Ka, with the personal name of "King Ap," and the other that of Ha, wife of the Horus Ka. These cylinders were found in the tomb of Ka-ap at Abydos, in Egypt. Ka-ap was the sixth King of Dynasty O, which immediately preceded the first dynasty of Egyptian Kings. The date of the inscriptions, according to Professor Flinders Petrie, is about 4900 B.C.

On the ebony tablet of Aha-Mena, first King of the first Dynasty, we have the most ancient example of continuous writing in hieroglyphs yet discovered. This tablet was found in the King's tomb at Abydos, and shows the King making an offering; it also bears figures of shrines, a fort, and what appears to be a sacrifice of captives; its date is about 4770 B.C.

The oldest literary composition known, and the oldest book in existence, is the celebrated Papyrus Prisse, in the Louvre, Paris. It comprises 18 pages in Egyptian Hieratic writing, executed about B.C. 2500. It is a treatise on how to behave wisely, and claims to have been composed as far back as B.C. 3350. The oldest Greek writing is to be found on a Papyrus at Vienna, written in uncial characters about the beginning of the Third Century B.C. It is in the form of a curse. A person named Artemisia calls down vengeance on the father of her dead child for deserting her without supplying the means to bury it. Other notable early Greek MSS. are portions of the *Antrope* of Euripides, the *Phaedo* of Plato, and Homer's *Iliad*—all in uncial characters, and of the Third Century B.C.; while the *Poems of Bacchylides*, First Century B.C., is a recent discovery of great importance. Probably the most ancient record we have in Latin