

**THE LIBRARY OF
MARY
QUEEN OF SCOTS**

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The Library of Mary Queen of Scots by Julian Sharman

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JULIAN SHARMAN

**THE LIBRARY OF
MARY
QUEEN OF SCOTS**



Mary Queen of Scotland.

The Original in the Royal Collection.

The Autograph of Mary Q. of Scots.

*your own faithful
frind and Cusiner*

Mariē

*From an Original Letter in the Possession of
John Thom.*

THE LIBRARY
OF
MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS.

BY
JULIAN SHARMAN.

There are few things by which we can so well trace the history of the human mind as by a classed catalogue of books. Every book, whatever be its character, may be considered as a new experiment made by the human understanding.

DISSEMIN.—*Curtisiles of Literatures*, iii. 345.

WITH AN HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION AND A RARE
PORTRAIT OF THE QUEEN.

LONDON:
ELLIOT STOCK, 62, PATERNOSTER ROW, E.C.
1889.



PREFACE.

THE merit of unearthing the book-catalogue, which forms the foundation of the present work, does not belong to me. The manuscript was known to antiquaries at the beginning of this century, and that it had probably not escaped the notice of Sir Walter Scott may be inferred from two references to Queen Mary's taste in books which occur in the story of 'The Abbot.'

So far as I have been able to discover, the text of portion of the catalogue—that which enumerates the books preserved at the castle of Edinburgh—was first given to the curious in such matters by the well-known antiquary, Thomas Thomson. It appeared in the volume of 'Miscellanies' issued by the Maitland Club in 1834. Later on, the late Joseph Robertson

incorporated it in his 'Inventaires de la Royue Descosse,' printed for members of the Bannatyne Club in 1863, in which he also included the portion of the list which enumerates the books collected at Holyrood. To both these writers I am indebted for valuable aid towards the elucidation of the text of the document.

In conclusion, I cannot but express a feeling of misgiving that, although pains have been taken to verify every statement advanced, some errors and inconsistencies cannot fail to have crept into these pages. I am also conscious that much of the illustrative matter is almost beneath the notice of the seasoned student of book-lore, and that indeed the whole falls very far short of the high standard of minuteness demanded by a bibliographical work.

That this should be so is due, not alone to the shortcomings of the writer, but to a desire on his part to somewhat enlarge the borders of bibliography, and, in short, with such materials as have come to his hands, to make this little work what it really purports to be—a short study in the early history of modern literature.

J. S.



*THE LIBRARY OF MARY QUEEN
OF SCOTS.*

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INTRODUCTION.

WERE an apology needed—as perhaps one is—for the appearance of this volume, we should seek to justify ourselves by referring to the remarkable interest that is being manifested in everything bearing more or less directly upon the Queen of Scots. As a matter of fact, its preparation has been one of the pastimes of the present writer that he has indulged in for some period of time, but its production arrives at the opportune moment when, following upon the celebration of the anniversary of the tragedy of Fotheringay and of the anniversary of the destruction of the Armada, that peculiar interest may be considered to have reached its culminating point.

Concerning this wave of feeling that has passed over the minds and thoughts of very many—this species of idolatry that has centred round the name of Mary Stuart, we are tempted to add another word. We would seek to account for the somewhat unreasonable veneration that has been displayed by supposing it to be the modern expression of sixteenth-century chivalry, or such a survival of it, under altered conditions, as it is still possible to retain in a world from which chivalric impulses are generally admitted to have fled. It is undeniable that an outlet must be found for this as for every other human aspiration, and recourse is therefore more frequently had to the creations of fiction rather than to the embodiments of history. As a general rule, we would humbly submit that the historical portrait-gallery does not supply very many figures over which the mere lovers of romance are accustomed to linger, or upon which they can be said to passionately dote. Take the wide range of history and, relatively speaking, instances to the contrary are exceedingly rare. Such an exception, however, and that a most illustrious one, is furnished in the case of the Queen of Scots. Of all other

'Daughters of dreams and of stories
That earth has not wearied of yet,'

there is not one who has in the long course of