

**A CENTURY OF THE ENGLISH BOOK TRADE
SHORT NOTICES OF ALL PRINTERS,
STATIONERS, BOOK-BINDERS, AND OTHERS
CONNECTED WITH IT FROM THE ISSUE OF THE
FIRST DATED BOOK IN
1457 TO THE INCORPORATION OF THE
COMPANY OF STATIONERS IN 1557**

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A century of the English book trade short notices of all printers, stationers, book-binders, and others connected with it from the issue of the first dated book in 1457 to the incorporation of the Company of Stationers in 1557 by E. Gordon Duff

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E. GORDON DUFF

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BY
E. GORDON DUFF.

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—
1905.

TO
MY VERY GOOD FRIEND
THOMAS WILLIAM RENWICK.

*Tecum etenim longos memini consumere soles,
Et tecum primas epulis decerpere noctes ;
Unum opus, et requiem pariter disponimus ambo.*



PREFACE.

MY OBJECT in compiling this book has been to attempt to provide for England what has been so admirably done for Paris by M. Renouard in his dictionary of persons connected with the book trade in that city from 1470 to 1600.

At present there is no handy book to which we can turn to find what is or is not known about an early English printer or stationer. Every one who studies the subject knows that he is continually coming across small facts, perhaps not of use to him at the immediate moment, which he loses sight of again not knowing whether they are worth noting or not.

Herbert's *Typographical Antiquities*, that model of care and accuracy, is still our standard reference book, but it was published nearly a hundred and twenty years ago, and since then hundreds of sources of knowledge have been made available and much good work has been done.

The Bibliographical Society with its handlists of English printers aims to show what is or is not known about their productions; in the present work I have attempted to do the same for their personal history. I have not of course endeavoured to give full biographies of men whose career and work have been well described elsewhere. It would be out of place for instance to write detailed accounts of Caxton or Day when so many good and full accounts are readily available. In these cases I have restricted myself to the briefest account into which I could compress the necessary facts. The length

of a notice in no way measures the importance of a man. In the case of little known or hitherto unnoticed stationers I have given any piece of information I could find, but of many nothing beyond the name is known.

For many valuable notes extracted from the Oxford University Archives I have to thank my friend Mr. Strickland Gibson, of the Bodleian, while my friends at Cambridge, Mr. Charles Sayle, Mr. E. J. Worman, and Mr. G. J. Gray have also been most helpful with information.

No one is better aware than myself how incomplete this work must necessarily be, how much is still lying undiscovered in the vast mass of manuscript records in public and private hands and in unexpected places in printed books. In its compilation the notes of many years have been brought together, and many hundreds of volumes, often without result, read through. Such as it is, it is published, and I can only ask those into whose hands it may fall to assist in correcting the errors or in adding new names or facts. New facts though seemingly unimportant should never be overlooked: it is often the little fact that makes all the difference. Only by such help, if at any future time a new edition of the book should be called for, can it be made more useful to the student and more worthy of the subject of which it treats.

E. G. D.

PRINCE'S PARK,
LIVERPOOL.

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