

**A CATALOGUE OF AN UNIQUE
COLLECTION OF ANCIENT
ENGLISH BROADSIDE BALLADS
WITH NOTES OF THE TUNES AND
IMPRINTS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649470662

A Catalogue of an Unique Collection of Ancient English Broadside Ballads with Notes of the Tunes and Imprints by J. O. Halliwell

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

J. O. HALLIWELL

**A CATALOGUE OF AN UNIQUE
COLLECTION OF ANCIENT
ENGLISH BROADSIDE BALLADS
WITH NOTES OF THE TUNES AND
IMPRINTS**

Smith's Square
1867. O. 7. 6.

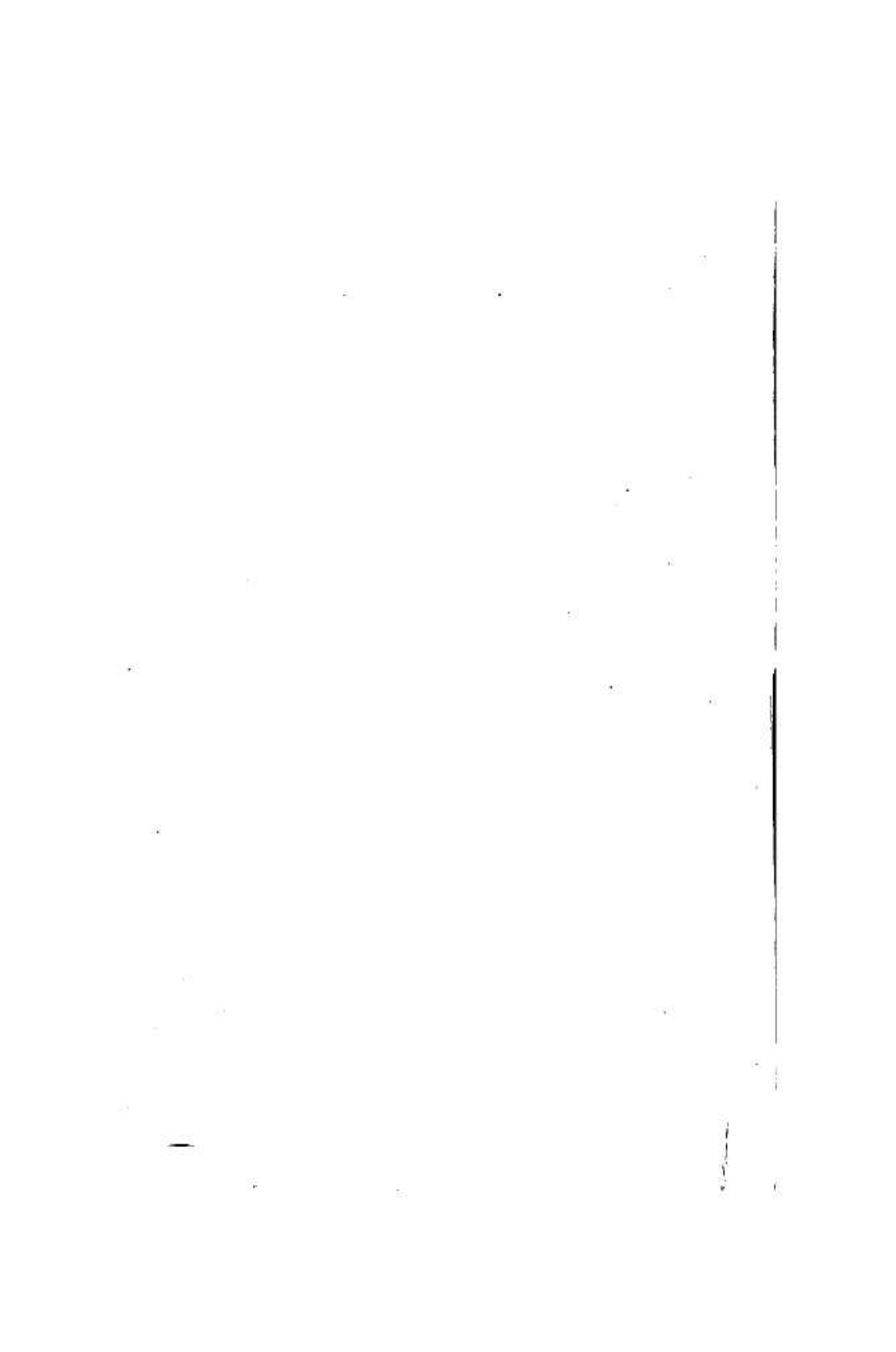
One of the 10 copies printed on thick paper, without the price, & with Mr Halliwell's name on the title.

This Collection now (1870) belongs to Mr. Walter Ewing of Glasgow.



Black-letter Ballads.

etc



James Orchard Halliwell-Phillipps

A CATALOGUE OF AN UNIQUE

COLLECTION OF ANCIENT

English Broadside Ballads

WITH NOTES OF THE TUNES AND

IMPRINTS, COMPILED BY

J. O. HALLIWELL, ESQ. F.R.S., F.S.A.

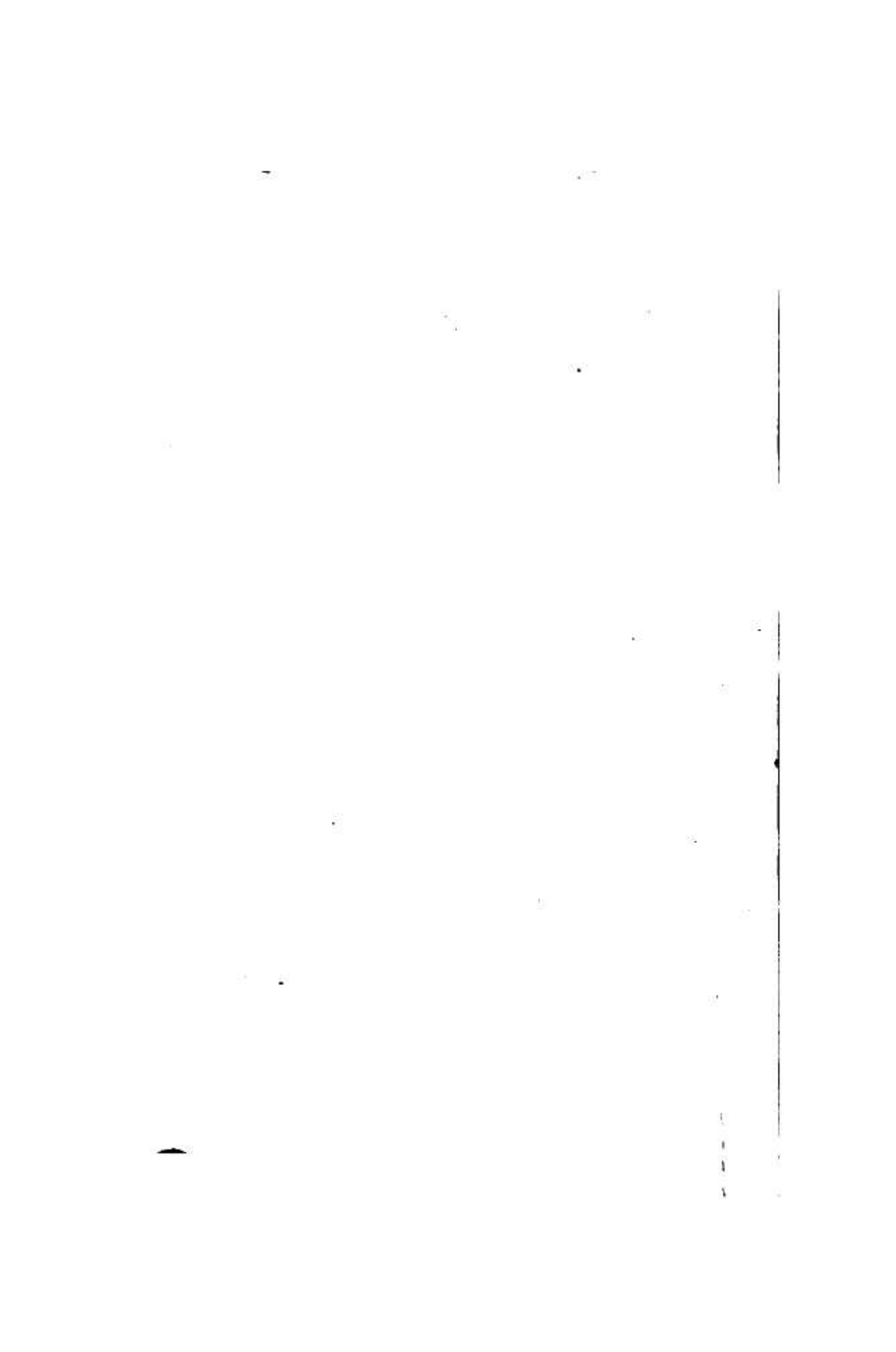


LONDON:

JOHN RUSSELL SMITH,

36, SOHO SQUARE,

1856.



918fa

H191

ca



PREFACE.

THE singular collection of original ballads, briefly described in the following pages, consists exclusively of pieces in the black-letter or old English type, nearly all of which belong, moreover, to that rarest and most interesting class, the really vernacular fugitive ballads of the common people. There is a wide difference, noticed especially in sheet-ballads of the seventeenth century, between those which emanated from the more cultivated writers, and those which were the authentic productions either of or written for the street ballad-finger. The former are purer in their diction, usually more ambitious as to typography, and are either not embellished with woodcuts, or, if so, with illustrations superior to the rude designs that adorn the others. The latter are, however, by far the more interesting,

not merely on account of their greater rarity, but because they are exponents of feelings or manners that are not illustrated by any other sources of so early a period. Even the political ballads in this collection, such as those respecting Charles the Second, are for the most part the contemporary street rude ballads, not the more polished ones; and are of the rarest occurrence, if not unique.

Great pains have been taken in the formation of the collection, nearly every black-letter ballad of interest that has occurred for sale during the last sixteen years having been secured. The only collections at all approaching it in extent are the Pepysian at Cambridge, the Wood at Oxford, and the Roxburghe in the British Museum, all of which are permanently secured, and can never be distributed; but no collection of equal extent and importance is known to exist in private hands, and so unusual is the occurrence of anything of the kind for sale, that no labour and expense could succeed in forming a similar one.

A small number (about 150) were purchased as having been duplicates of ballads in the Roxburghe collection, but it was found on examination that scarcely any were exact duplicates, feve-

ral were much earlier and better copies, while others were different editions of the same ballad, often with different woodcuts. It is very rarely that two early black-letter ballads occur as perfect duplicates. Many editions of each were generally printed, and they are all distinguished by peculiarities worthy of notice. A few specimens of different editions of the same ballad will be found in the following collection.

The curiosity and rarity of these fugitive pieces speak for themselves, and all unnecessary observations on their value and importance have been avoided; but there is a remark upon such relics made by a distinguished prelate, himself an ardent lover of them, which may not be an inappropriate conclusion to these few prefatory lines—"Yet have they, for the most part, a pleasing simplicity, and many artless graces, which, in the opinion of no mean critics, have been thought to compensate for the want of higher beauties, and, if they do not dazzle the imagination, are frequently found to interest the heart."

MAY, 1856.