

**A GUIDE TO THE
STUDY OF BOOK-
PLATES (EX-LIBRIS)**

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A Guide to the Study of Book-Plates (Ex-Libris) by John Byrne Leicester Warren

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JOHN BYRNE LEICESTER WARREN

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BY
JOHN BYRNE LEICESTER WARREN
(LORD DE TABLEY)

Haurit aquam cribris qui vult sine discere libris

MANCHESTER
SHERRATT AND HUGHES
27 ST. ANN STREET
1900

PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION.

IN 1837, now above forty years ago, the Reverend Daniel Parsons published an article on Book-plates in the *Third Annual Report, 1837, of the Oxford University Archæological and Heraldic Society*. And, at a later date, in 1851, Mr. Parsons announced his intention of writing a *History of Book-plates*.¹ This, unfortunately, he never lived to publish; but Mr. Parsons deserves a grateful commemoration in this preface as the first English writer on the subject of ex-libris.

And in all likelihood the present humbler attempt in the same direction would have shared the fate of Mr. Parson's *History*, had it not been for the continual encouragement and efficient assistance accorded to its writer by the Reverend Thomas William Carson, of Beaumont, Terenure Road, Dublin. It is difficult adequately to express the extent of my obligations to that gentleman during the progress of this work. Not only has he confided to my care, for the purposes of this essay, the most precious portion of his fine collection, but he has favoured me with many valued suggestions. In the two lists of English engravers he has especially assisted me, and supplied no inconsiderable portion of the names. His series of dated English book-plates, probably the best in the country, has greatly enriched my list. I might add the transmission of valuable books by post, the loan of pamphlets and reviews, advice on knotty points, help in the nomenclature of the

¹ *Notes and Queries*, 1st S. iii. 495.

different styles, and many other kindnesses too numerous to particularise. I can only once more render Mr. Carson my warmest thanks. To Henry Peckitt, Esq., of Carlton Husthwaite, one of our earliest and most extensive collectors, I am indebted for the loan of some rare French pamphlets, for the gift of some interesting ex-libris, and for much kind assistance and information. I must also record my gratitude to the Hon^{ble} Gerald Ponsonby for permitting me most pleasantly to inspect his very fine collection, and for aiding me in taking notes on many of his most interesting specimens. Except Mr. Carson, no one has contributed more to my list of dated English book-plates.

To Augustus Wollaston Franks, Esq., F.S.A., I owe the generous loan during a lengthened period of his small but choice collection. I am indebted to MM. John and Albert Scheible of Stuttgart for allowing me to refer to them various questions connected with German ex-libris, and for researches made on behalf of this essay. Also I must thank M. Meyer, the Secretary of the Museum at the Booksellers' Exchange in Leipsic, for many obliging facilities accorded in respect of the Lempertz collection now under his care. I also mention with gratitude M. Carl Schuckhardt of Frankfort, and Mr. W. Auvache of Museum Street, as two intelligent and industrious collectors, the fruits of whose labours are now incorporated in my own series. To Richard Garnett, Esq., and to W. Y. Fletcher, Esq., I owe the discovery of some highly interesting ex-libris in the National Library. I thank J. Martin, Esq., of the Inner Temple, for permitting me to take notes of his instructive collection, and J. Pearson, Esq., for supplying several of my illustrations and also contributing to my dated series.

In the various heraldic portions of this volume, I have freely had recourse to the standard English works upon

the subject, without deeming it necessary to append references, or to state, except in a few cases, the sources whence my information has been derived.

Since also heraldry and book-plates are so intimately blended, and inasmuch as nine specimens out of ten are more or less armorial, I have, in all my descriptions of ex-libris, used the heraldic *right* and *left*, in opposition to the *right* and *left* of Bartsch and other describers of engravings. This plan may occasion a little awkwardness to a reader consulting these pages solely from the artistic point of view. Still I had no alternative. The confusion would have been intense, had I described the armorial portions of a book-plate on one system and its pictorial accessories on another. While those ex-libris, which present no trace of heraldry, are so few in number and so exceptional that no great violence will be done in conforming their descriptions to those of the majority.

The following abbreviations indicate the collections of ex-libris, chiefly referred to in the present Essay. (C.) Rev. T. W. Carson; (P.) Hon. Gerald Ponsonby; (F.) A. W. Franks, Esq.; (L. B. Mus.) The Lempertz Collection; (W.) the writer.

In closing this preface, I may perhaps be permitted to offer one slight suggestion to booksellers. When a volume in your catalogue contains an interesting or an early-dated book-plate, it is well worth one more line of type to notify the fact. Even the large book-auctioneers might find this hint deserving of their serious attention.

PREFACE TO THE SECOND EDITION.

IN issuing, after a lapse of twenty years, a Second Edition of the late Lord de Tabley's *Guide to the Study of Book-plates*, the editor begs to say that she does so at the request of many admirers of the author as pioneer in the pursuit of ex-libris and writer of the first English Guide Book on the subject.

Every effort has been made to correct any errors of the First Edition, which, happily, were few, and for the most part amended by the writer himself; but no change has been attempted in the original character of the work. Such slight additions as appear have been transferred from the author's own copy, wherein also are two other supplementary items of interest to the reader, namely on page 71, where we find an author's note, stating that the '1700' book-plates should be placed in the preceding chapter, and the reference to Samuel Pepys, page 103.

ELEANOR LEIGHTON.

TABLEY HOUSE,
KNUTSFORD, 1900.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
INTRODUCTION	1
PHRASES OF BOOK POSSESSION	9
LEADING STYLES OF ENGLISH BOOK-PLATES. THE JACOBAN	
STYLE	19
THE CHIPPENDALE STYLE	28
ALLEGORIC BOOK-PLATES	36
THE LANDSCAPE ON ENGLISH BOOK-PLATES	51
ENGLISH DATED BOOK-PLATES. SEVENTEENTH CENTURY .	62
" " " EIGHTEENTH CENTURY .	71
MOTTOES DIRECTED AGAINST BORROWERS	96
BOOK-PLATES OF HISTORIC INTEREST	103
MOTTOES CONCERNING BOOKS OR IN PRAISE OF STUDY .	115
ENGRAVERS OF FOREIGN BOOK-PLATES	124
TABULATED LIST OF FOREIGN ENGRAVERS	146
ENGRAVERS OF ENGLISH BOOK-PLATES. FIRST PERIOD .	161
TABULATED LIST OF ENGLISH ENGRAVERS. (FIRST PERIOD)	171
ENGRAVERS OF ENGLISH BOOK-PLATES. SECOND PERIOD .	176
TABULATED LIST OF ENGLISH ENGRAVERS. (SECOND PERIOD)	184
FOREIGN DATED BOOK-PLATES	193
A LIST OF FOREIGN DATED BOOK-PLATES ANTERIOR TO 1700	202
CONCLUSION	221

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

NUMBER OF PLATE.		PAGE
1.	BOOK-PLATE OF BILIBALD PIRCKHEIMER. BY ALBERT DURER <i>Frontispiece</i>	
2.	BOOK-PLATE OF JOHN REILLY OF THE MIDDLE TEMPLE	16
3.	BOOK-PLATE OF RICHARD CARYER	29
4.	BOOK-PLATE RECORDING A GIFT OF BOOKS BY GEORGE THE FIRST TO THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE .	39
5.	BOOK-PLATE IN THE JACOBAN STYLE. BY JAMES SARTOR	58
6.	BOOK-PLATE OF FRANCIS WINNINGTON OF LINCOLN'S INN, 1732	73
7.	BOOK-PLATE OF HENRIETTA, COUNTESS OF OXFORD. BY GEORGE VERTUE	89
8.	BOOK-PLATE OF FRANCIS GWYN OF LANSANOR, GLA- MORGAN, 1698	105
9.	BOOK-PLATE OF GILBERT BURNET, BISHOP OF SALIS- BURY	119
10.	BOOK-PLATE OF WILLIAM PENN	133
11.	BOOK-PLATE OF DAVID GARRICK	149
12.	BOOK-PLATE OF JOHN WILKES	165
13.	BOOK-PLATE OF LOUIS BOSCH, PRIEST OF TAMISE. BY L. FRUYTIERS	179
14.	BOOK-PLATE OF SEBASTIAN MYLLER, BISHOP OF ADRAMYTTEUM. BY WOLFGANG KILIAN	192
15.	BOOK-PLATE RECORDING THE LEGACY OF HIS LIBRARY BY DANIEL HUET, BISHOP OF AVRANCHES, TO THE PARIS JESUITS	207
16.	BOOK-PLATE OF JOHN BERNARD NACK, BOOKSELLER OF FRANKFORT	219