

**TRANSACTIONS OF THE
BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY;
VOL. XV, OCTOBER 1917, TO
MARCH 1919. WITH GENERAL
INDEX TO VOLUMES XI-XV**

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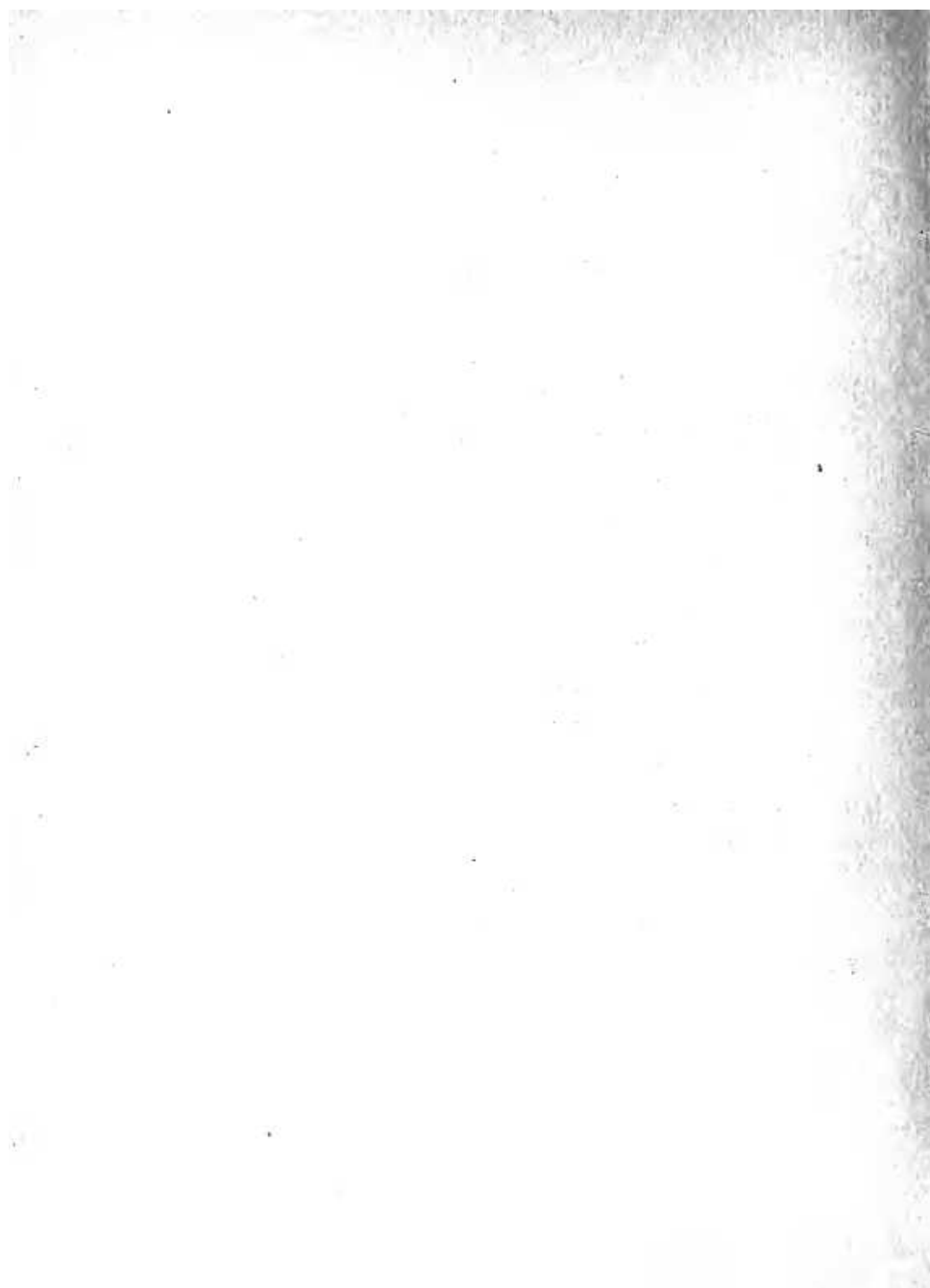
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THE BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.



JOURNAL OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION.

October, 1917, to March, 1918.

OCTOBER, NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER MEETINGS.

On Monday, 15 October, 1917, the President, Sir William Osler, in the Chair, a paper was read by Sir Ernest Clarke, F.S.A., on *The Family Letters of Oliver Goldsmith*. This is printed in full in the present volume, with an Appendix giving Biographical Particulars of the Members of Goldsmith's Family, partly from unpublished sources.

On Monday, 19 November, Sir William Osler in the Chair, Mr. Arthur W. Reed read a paper on *John Rastell, lawyer, play-producer, venturer, printer and controversialist*, of which a revised version is printed in this volume.

On Monday, 17 December, Mr. J. P. Gilson in the Chair, Mr. Philip Wilson read a paper on *The Writings of Sir James Ware and the Forgeries of Robert Ware*, printed in full in the present volume.

Previous to the Annual Meeting the following Report and Balance Sheet were circulated by means of the *News-Sheet*.

ANNUAL REPORT.

During the past year the Society has lost the help of some of its most valued friends. The oldest of these, Mr. H. B. Wheatley, throughout the

quarter of a century of the Society's existence, had been one of the most regular attendants at its meetings, and the loss of his genial presence leaves us much the poorer. He gave his help successively as a Member of Council, Vice-President and President, and as a frequent reader of excellent papers and constant participator in our discussions. Mr. Edward Almack, who will always be remembered for his Bibliography of *Etikon Basilike*, was another of our original members and served the Society to the time of his death as one of our Auditors. Mr. G. A. Aitken's sudden death also inflicts on us a heavy loss. He was a Member of the Council, and his papers on Pope and Prior were models of their kind, while his great knowledge of the books of the first half of the eighteenth century was always at the service of other students. The latest death announced is that of Mr. W. J. Leighton, one of the most capable, trustworthy and respected of English antiquarian booksellers, and one of our oldest members. Moreover, after our last Annual Meeting, information was received that the name of Mr. G. M. R. Turbutt should have been added to those of our younger members who gave their lives for their country during 1916.

2. During the past month the Society has distributed two Illustrated Monographs, Mr. E. F. Bosanquet's *English Printed Almanucks and Prognostication to the year 1600*, and Mr. Gordon Duff's long expected *Fifteenth Century English Printed Books*, the publication of which handsomely rounds off the first quarter of a century of our work. The warm thanks of the Society are due to both Authors, and to Mr. Bosanquet for a contribution to the cost of the illustrations to his book; also to Mr. Henry Thomas for his excellent work in helping to complete Mr. Duff's book.

With the simultaneous publication of these two monographs the tale of books due to Members for their subscriptions for the four years, 1914-17, is at last completed. Part IV of the *Handlists of English Printers* was distributed in advance in December, 1913, as for 1914. Volume XII of

our *Transactions* appeared in 1914; two small publications, *A Handlist of English Books in the Library of Emmanuel College printed before 1641*, and *Abstracts from the Wills of Printers, Binders and Stationers of Cambridge* in 1915; Volume XIII of *Transactions* and the first volume of Professor Carleton Brown's *Register of Middle-English Religious and Didactic Verse* in 1916, and now these two monographs in 1917. Our arrears have thus been fully made up, and Members are no longer called upon to exercise the patience they were kind enough to show in 1915.

3. The two books at present being printed for 1918 are Volume XIV of our *Transactions* and a *Bibliography of Landor* by Mr. Stephen Wheeler, with whom Mr. T. J. Wise is kindly collaborating. Whether the state of the paper and printing trades, and the difficulties in getting books cased, will permit us to produce more than these during the twelve months remains to be seen. If money and labour are available they can be handsomely employed, as the Society holds the manuscript of Mr. Plomer's *Dictionary of the English Booktrade from 1667 to 1725*, the second volume, completing Professor Carleton Brown's *Register of Middle-English Religious and Didactic Verse* is nearly ready, and the President is making progress with his monograph on the Medical Books printed before the close of 1480. It is very desirable also that the admirable paper recently read to us by Mr. A. W. Reed should be separately published. There is thus plenty of good work in progress, and a store of good books for Members to receive as they can be got out.

4. The Advisory Committee for America mentioned in the last Annual Report is now formally constituted, with Mr. Beverly Chew as its Chairman. In view of the increasing importance of this section, an importance which now that our American cousins are standing side by side with our own fighters in France every British member will be still more desirous to emphasize, the duties hitherto so faithfully discharged by our kind friend Mr. North have been divided, Mr. North continuing to serve as Hon. Treasurer, and Mr. George Parker Winship giving us his help as Hon.