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**J. W. Egere. A Bibliography of Robert Burns. Carbondale, Ill. Southern Illinois University Press. 1965. xiii + 396 pp. \$15.00.**

A. G. Hepburn  
*The Mitchell Library, Glasgow*

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## Reviews

J. W. Egerer. *A Bibliography of Robert Burns*. Carbondale, Ill. Southern Illinois University Press. 1965. xiii + 396 pp. \$15.00.

Burns has been unfortunate in the bibliographical sense, for, apart from the work of James C. Ewing in the *Transactions of the Edinburgh Bibliographical Society* and the *Burns Chronicle*, most of the other lists have been made by non-professionals. From the 1890s onwards every such writer had to consult Ewing.

Professor Egerer's work of twenty years has now given us the first full-length bibliography of the poet, a definitive work likely to remain standard for a long time.

It appears in a handsomely produced and well-printed format and falls into two parts. Firstly, an attempt to present a complete description of all Burns's appearances in print from 1786 to 1802. Secondly, a check-list of editions from 1802 to 1953. Arrangement is chronological and each item has a running number from No. 1. the Kilmarnock edition to No. 1352. The emphasis throughout is laid on editions or other items containing first printings. The check-list is followed by a section of undated editions, translations arranged alphabetically by languages, original material first printed in periodicals and two appendices. The volume, of 396 pages, concludes with an Index of proper names and an Index of titles and first lines.

Perhaps no one living has examined more collections of Burns than Professor Egerer and this is exemplified in his list of libraries visited on both sides of the Atlantic. A major collection, that of the late John Cowie, of Glasgow, which is not mentioned, is now in The Mitchell Library. Inevitably, there are errors and omissions to be indicated but those which follow are offered in no spirit of criticism, rather in the interest of future addenda to this important work.

One's first regret is that with such a wealth of special knowledge Professor Egerer does not give indications of the holding libraries for the rarer Burns items. A census of the copies of the Kilmarnock edition was not only desirable but essential. Two copies in original covers

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are recorded but the third in the Silver Library in the Newberry at Chicago, recently auctioned at Sotheby's, is not mentioned. The following notes are prefixed by Professor Egerer's running number.

3. The Belfast edition. Details of James Magee's printing are given in James Anderson's List of books printed in Belfast.

9. Maxwell's *Animadversions*. "Extremely rare. I have seen but one copy." The Cowie copy is in The Mitchell Library. Where is the other?

10. The Philadelphia edition. "Very rare." A location list would have been useful. The copy in the Newberry Library was sold in November 1965.

15. *Ayrshire Garland*. No location given. There are two known copies, one in the British Museum, the other is now in The Mitchell Library.

31. Political ballads. The fact that locations are given here suggests that they may have been in the original copy but were cut from the printed edition.

37. *Elegy*. Professor Egerer describes this as rare. "I have *not* seen a copy." But where is the copy?

51. *Merry muses*. The Rosebery copy is no longer unique.

58. Thomas Duncan's Glasgow edition." To my knowledge there are only four copies still in existence." This type of note is useless. The Cowie copy is in the Mitchell and there is a copy in the Murison.

59. Variant. McClellan should be McLellan.

63. Paisley 1801 edition. Mention is here made for the first time to the position of Burns's head in the Nasmyth-Beugo portrait, although J. C. Ewing in his *Bibliography of Burns* made this "point" a regular part of his descriptions of the authorised and unauthorised editions before 1797.

72. N. Castle is not a person but the abbreviated Newcastle!

74. Only Vol. 1 is mentioned. The two volumes are in The Mitchell Library.

206. Edition noted as not seen. It is in the Bennett collection at Burns Cottage.

In the section of undated editions there are frequent references to "Mur. Cat." and "Mitch Cat." These were printed in 1953 and 1959, respectively. It is odd that there is no bibliographical reference to either except as quoted in footnotes.

The section of Translations contains a number of errors, perhaps through the transcription to typing stage, and some omissions.

1183. Zaterdagond should be Zaterdagavond; Warendorg should be Warendorf. English translations appear before instead of after Dutch. An omission here is: *Burns into English* . . . by W. K. Seymour. 1954.

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1184. Chr. Matra should be Matras. Poul F. Joenson's Faroese translation of four of Burns's poems (including *Holy Willie's prayer* and *Tam o Shanter*) is omitted.

1186. Traduit par should be traduits par.

1187. Traduit de should be traduites de. Adolphe Delays should be Delahays.

1188. Cagniardy should be Cagniard.

1190. Eaneas Mackay should be Eneas Mackay.

1192. Hofman should be Hofmann.

1197. Ellerman should be Ellermann.

1201. Georg Perta should be Georg Pertz.

1208. W. Speeman should be Speman.

Greek translations in Boumi and Pappos's *Pancosmios anthologia* and in Rotas's *Zena lyrika* are omitted.

1215. Szepidoralmi should be Szepirodalmi.

1230. Tipographia should be Tipografia.

In the Index of proper names there are a few errors. Castle, N. should now be excluded; Chapman —, of Champan & Lang, is obvious; Davies, W. J. is William H. Davies, the poet. Finally the entries for W. McClellan and Eaneas Mackay have already been noted.

Both indexes use page references thus necessitating running down a page for a name. It should have been simpler to refer in each case to the running number prefixing all entries.

In his preface Professor Egerer makes the point that there must be more editions of Burns than those noted. An addendum of omitted editions appears to me essential.

A. G. HEPBURN

THE MITCHELL LIBRARY, GLASGOW

Norah and William Montgomerie. *A Book of Scottish Nursery Rhymes*. New York. Oxford University Press. 1964. 158 pp. \$3.75.

The blurb to this book says, among other things: "They are the folksong and ballad of childhood and form an excellent passport to that