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A Bibliography of the Scottish Ballad Manuscripts 1780-1825: Part II

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WILLIAM MONTGOMERIE

**A Bibliography of the Scottish Ballad Manuscripts
1730 - 1825.**

Part II

**Elizabeth Cochrane Her Songbook
(? 1730)**

Introduction

This collection of English and Scottish Songs¹ is a small quarto MS. of six ff. (containing Title Page and Index) and 204 pp. of text. It is imperfect; pp. 11 and 12 are torn, and pp. 13-16, 25-30, 47-50 and 67-70 are wanting. The book contains five traditional ballads.

It was bought by Harvard University, on Sept. 2, 1878, from the Medlicott Library. The title of the MS. is:

Elizabeth Cochrane Her Song book J. Cochrane
Collection of Songs
English and Scots
Corrected by W. C.

On the evidence of their MSS., the book was seen by Charles Kirkpatrick Sharpe and Peter Buchan.

C. K. Sharpe, in his MS. now in the National Library, Edinburgh [CKS(NL)], has copied items from the following pages:

EC 151	Fair Isabell of Rochroyal	CKS(NL) No. 90(f. 61b)
61	There was a jolly beggar	91(f. 62)
86	Among the broom unseen	92(f. 62b)
88	Nansie's to the greenwood gone	93(f. 63)
126	Into a sweet May morning	95(f. 64)
12	How long, how long, must I pine for love	96(f. 65b)
146	Lord Benwall he's a hunting gone	97(f. 65b)

In sending a transcript of EC 126 to Sir Walter Scott,² C. K. Sharpe added a note about the MS. from which he had copied the ballad:

¹ Harvard College Library. MS. Eng. 512.

² WS VI No. 43.

STUDIES IN SCOTTISH LITERATURE

From a 4th MS.: in a female hand, written probably about 100 years ago sold at one Inglis's Roup at the West Port — Edinr: now in the posⁿ of David Laing.

Peter Buchan, who knew both David Laing and C. K. Sharpe, copied five items into his large British Museum MS. (Vol. I), and half-a-dozen into his *Secret Songs of Silence*:

EC 38	Bessie Bell and Mary Gray	— PB(BM) No. 78	(I f. 117b)
61	There was a jolly beggar	-----	79(I f. 118)
75	Thom and Will two Shepherds swain	-----	80(I f. 118b)
85	There's my thumb, I'll nere beguile you	-----	81(I f. 120)
86	Among the broom unseen	-----	82(I f. 120b)
EC 23	A Bony lad there was	----- PS:SSS No. 44	(p. 113)
56	Ane Irishman of late	-----	45(p. 114)
60	A lovely maid to a fryar came	-----	46(p. 115)
70	Young Damon knockd at Colin's door	-----	47(p. 116)
133	Good morrow, gossip John	-----	49(p. 117)
138	In good King Lewis's land	-----	49(p. 119)

Forty of Elizabeth Cochrane's Songs seem to come, more or less directly, from Alan Ramsay's *Tea-Table Miscellany*. The numbers of these songs, in MS. EC., are:

33, 36, 43, 54, 55, 57, 58, 59, 61, 64, 76, 77, 81, 82,
83, 84, 85, 86, 87, 89, 90 91, 92, 93, 94, 95, 96, 97,
98, 105, 110, 115, 117, 118, 120, 122, 123, 125, 126,
134.

That some of these numbers are in runs suggests that they were copied directly from one of Alan Ramsay's editions. Probably a systematic comparison of the songs in the MS. with the songs in early 18th century printed collections would give other identifications.

A check list of first lines of the songs in these 18th century ballad and song books is needed.

Elizabeth Cochrane's Songbook

Bibliography

No.		page
1.	O Nymph of race Divine	1
2.	Charming creature, every feature	2
3.	Thus with thirst my Soul's expyring	2
4.	A Lover new despairing	3

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No.	page
5.	Never let your heart despair 3
6.	Sleep ormondo void of fear 3
7.	Farewell love, and all soft pleasure 4
8.	To arms, your ensigns straight display 4
9.	The floud may quitt the ocean 5
10.	Rouse you brave for fame and glory 5
11.	Give way to pleasure, it soon will revive you 5
12.	The Macedon youth left behind him a truth 6
13.	Ye powers, oh let me know 6
14.	Cease cruell tyrranizing 7
15.	Should e'er the fair disdain you 7
16.	The jolly, jolly breeze 8
17.	Wanton Zephyrs, softly blowing 8
18.	Imploring and adoring 9
19.	Only tell her that I love 10
20.	Queen of Darkness, sable night 10
21.	In vain I fly from sorrow, that still attends me 10
22.	Those eyes are made so killing 11
[23].	I'll love and I'll change 11
24.	How long, how long, must I pine for love 12
25.	Turn Sophia, turn away 12
26.	(deleted in Index) (12)
27.	Drunk I was last night (in Index only) (13)
28.	(deleted in Index) (14)
29.	Roguish Cupid (in Index only) (16)
30.	I'll rove, and I'll Range (in Index only) (16)
31.	Farewell my useless scrip, and poor unheeded flocks 18
32.	Ianthe the Lovely, the Joy of her swain 19
33.	The shepherd Adonis, being wearied with sport 20
34.	Att noon, on a sultry summer's day 21
35.	A Bony lad there was 23
36.	Away you Rover, for shame give over 24
37.	Well and Nell (in Index only) (24)
38.	Farewell my bony Peggol and Vigo (in Index only) (27)
(39)	(deleted in Index) (28)
40.	Happy groves (in Index only) (30)
41.	I am the King, the Prince of Drunkards 31
42.	As I was walking on yon plain 33
43.	[<i>Muirland Willie</i> — Index] 35
	Hark and I will tell you how

STUDIES IN SCOTTISH LITERATURE

No.	page
44. Bessie Bell and Mary Gray	38
. . . And Ly covered o'er with Rashes. 4a3b4a3b4c3d4c3d (4 sts.) Ch. 201 (iv. p. 75 n)	
45. What folly is it for to trust . . . (& "The Answer") . . .	40, 41
46. Whilst Cynthia, in her brightest ray	42, 43
(& "Her Reply")	
47. Why are mine eyes still flowing	45
48. My husband has no courage in him (in Index only)	(47)
49. Puccare la speranza (in Index only)	(48)
50. Her mother's at the miln Jo (in Index only)	(49)
51. Celia let not pride undo you (in Index only)	(50)
52. Since now the worlds turn'd upside down	51
53. Love and folly were at play	53
54. Awake then fairest thing in nature	54
55. Hark how the trumpet soundeth to battle	55
56. Ane Irishman of late	56
57. How happy are we	57
58. Lets be Jolly fill our glasses	58
59. Proud women I scorn you, brisk wine's my delight	58
60. Musing of late in Windsor bower I sat	59
61. A lovely maid to a fryar came	60
62. <i>The Beggar's Progress</i>	61
There was a Jolly beggar, in begging well acquaint	
63. There was a jovial beggar, with a wooden leg	62
64. The lass of Pate's mill	64
65. If I live to grow old, for I find I go down	65
66. Mousetrap (in Index only)	(67)
67. Fleet street, or Jolly Punk (in Index only)	(68)
68. one evening as I Lost my way (in Index only)	(68)
69. Look, look from your window, my dear	71
70. Young Damon knockd at Colin's door	71
71. After the pangs of a desperate Lover	72
72. An't thou wert mine own thing	73
73. Thom and Will two Shepherds swain	75
74. A lass that was laden with care	78
75. Strephon once so brisk and gay	80
76. A trifling story you'll hear	81
77. I'll Range around, the shady bowers	83
78. Ye little Loves which hourly wait	85

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No.	page
79. There's my thumb, I'll nere beguile you	85
80. Among the broom unseen	86
81. Nansie's to the greenwood gone	88
82. My days have been so wondrous free	90, 95
(& "Her Answer")	
83. Despairing beside a clear stream	92
84. 'Twas when the seas were roaring	98
85. All in the Downs the fleet was moor'd	100
86. Blest as the Immortal gods is he	102
87. Balou my babe, ly still and sleep	103
88. Send home these long strayed eyes (in Index only)	106
89. Pretty parrot, say when I was away	106
90. One Evening as I lay	108
91. My Chloe, why do ye slight me	110
92. In this grove my Strephon walk't	111
93. Altho' I be but a country lass	112
94. Adieu ye pleasant sports and plays	115
95. A Cock Laird, so cadgie	116
96. 'Twas at the fearfull midnight hour [David Mallet]	118
97. From grave lessons and restraint	122
98. O surprizing lovely fair	123
99. Would fate to me Belinda give	123
100. When I was a young man, o then, o then	124
101. [<i>John of Hazelgreen</i>]	126
Into a sweet May morning . . .	
. . . and Dwell in Hasillgreen.	
4a3b4c3b4d3e4f3e (10 sts.)	
<i>Ch. 293A</i> " <i>John of Hazelgreen</i> "	
102. Forgive me, if your looks I thou'ght	130
103. In vain, in vain is delay	131
104. When one's gone, ne'er keep a pother	131
105. When Chloe we ply	132
106. Good morrow gossip John	133
107. A damsell I'm told, of a delicate mold	136
108. In good King Lewis's land	138
109. A wig thats full, one empty scull	142
110. Leander on the Bay	143
111. Sooner than I'll my love forego	145
112. <i>Lord Bonwell</i>	146
Lord Benwall he's a hunting gone . . .	

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No.	page
...	and feed my young son with the milk. 4aabb (16 sts.) <i>Ch. 5E "Gil Brenton"</i>
113.	Some talk of lords and some talk of Lairds 149 ... take a kick in the a-se and be gone. 4a3b4c3b (11 sts.) <i>Ch. 144B "Robin Hood and the Bishop of Hereford"</i>
114.	<i>Fair Isabel of Rochroyal</i> 151 Fair Isabell of Rochroyall they were two Lovers dear. 4a3b4c3b4d3e4f3e (18 sts.) <i>Ch. 76A (35 sts.) "The Lass of Roch Royal"</i>
115.	Gently touch the warb . . ling Lyre 158
116.	Why art thou drest, my lovely maid 159
117.	Sweet Nelly my heart's delight 160
118.	A . . le . . . xis shun'd his fellow swains 162
119.	The wheel of Lyfe is turning quickly round 164
120.	Whilst I gaze on Chlo . . . e trembling 165
121.	Whiles the town's brim-full of folly 166
122.	A Cobler there was, & he liv'd in a stall 167
123.	Dear Colin prevent my warm blushes . . . (A lady 168, 169 discovering her passion, & Reply by man rejecting)
124.	Come take up your burden, you dogs and away 170
125.	My Peggy is a young thing, just enter'd in her teens 172
126.	Gently stir and blow the fire 173
127.	I doun in a meadow one Evening did tarry 174
128.	O 'Twas on a sunshine summers day 175
129.	Fair Lady, lay your costly robes aside 177
130.	Sore Sick, Dear friends, Long time I was 181
131.	With a good honest friend, & a merry old song 189
132.	A young L. Gaind my heart 190
133.	My lovly charmer will you dance 191
134.	What Woman can do I have tryd to be free 192
135.	Forgive, ye fair, nor tak it wrong 194
136.	Sweet tyrant, Love. oh hear me now 196
137.	The Women all tell me, I'm false to my Lass 197
138.	Two gods of great honour, Bacchus and Apollo 200
139.	When first my free heart was inspir'd by desire 202
140.	Why heaves my fond bosom? ah what can it mean 204

SCOTTISH BALLAD MANUSCRIPTS

Bishop Percy ³

Thomas Percy (1729-1811) was born at Cartway St., Bridgnorth, Shropshire, on 13th April 1729. His father was a grocer.

He was educated at Bridgnorth grammar school and, by means of a Careswell Exhibition, went to Christchurch, Oxford, in 1746. He gained his B.A. in 1750 and M.A. in 1753. Emmanuel College, Cambridge, gave him a D.D. in 1770. In 1753 he became vicar of Easton-Maudit, Northamptonshire, where he remained for twenty-nine years. In 1756 he became Rector of Wilby, six miles off.

In 1761, he published a translation from a Portuguese manuscript of a Chinese novel and, as an appendix, a Chinese play, Chinese Proverbs, and fragments of Chinese poetry, with Notes. Under the influence of Macpherson, he published in 1763 *Five Pieces of Runic Poetry* translated from Icelandic.

But Bishop Percy is remembered for his *Reliques of Ancient English Poetry* (1765), derived largely from a folio MS⁴ given him by his friend Humphrey Pitt of Skifnall in Shropshire. It was being used by the maids to light the fire, and Percy came across it lying dirty on the floor of a bureau in this friend's parlour.

Among Bishop Percy's papers are some MS ballads sent to him between 1766 and 1780,⁵ after the first edition of the *Reliques*. Some of these were from Scotland, including three from William Robertson, the historian who afterwards became Principal of Edinburgh University, and two ballads from George Paton.

In 1782, Thomas Percy became Bishop of Dromore in Ireland. He spent twenty-nine years there, till his death on 30th September, 1811. In his honour, the Percy Society was founded in 1840 for the publication of Ballad Poetry, and was dissolved in 1852, having published ninety-six volumes.

Principal William Robertson ⁶

William Robertson (1721-1793) was born in the manse of the parish of Borthwick, Midlothian. One of his chief friends among his

³ See D.N.B.

⁴ British Museum. Additional MSS., 27879.

⁵ Harvard College Library.

See William Macmath's *Bibliography of Scottish Popular Ballads in Manuscript*. Edinburgh Bibliographical Society (vol. I., 1896, No. 9)

⁶ See D.N.B. for his life and bibliography.

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fellow students at Edinburgh University was John Home, later to be the author of *Douglas*. When the General Assembly condemned Home for having written and produced a stage play, William Robertson — a fellow minister — supported him. He led a minority of eleven against two hundred who condemned those ministers who saw Home's play. William Robertson himself never attended plays, having promised his father not to do so.

He became Principal of Edinburgh University in 1762.

One small point of literary interest is that Keats is said to have got Cortes and his men from William Robertson's *History of America* (1777).

Principal Robertson died at Grange House near Edinburgh. There is a portrait of him by Sir Joshua Reynolds and, in Edinburgh University, a portrait of him by Sir Henry Raeburn. There are also two medallions by James Tassie in the National Portrait Gallery in Edinburgh.

Bibliography

*Three Ballads sent by Principal William Robertson
to Bishop Percy*
[TP(3)]

No.	folio
1. The ancient Scottish Ballad of <i>The Braes of Yarrow</i> [partly edited] I dreamed a dreary dream this night And tint her life on Yarrow. 4a3b4c3b (15 sts.) Ch. 214A <i>The Braes o Yarrow</i>	2
2. There came a Ghost to Helens Bower They were twa Lovers dear. 4a3b4c3b (17 sts.) Ch. 75I <i>Lord Lovel</i>	4
3. <i>The Song</i> (from the <i>History of Jack of Newbury</i> in Pepys' Vulgaria 4 to Vol. 3) King Jamie hath made a vow the best in all Scotland. he never went home again (del.) 4a3b4c3b (11 sts.) st. 10 omitted, st. 11 deleted) Ch. 168 (12 sts.) az <i>Flodden Field</i>	

SCOTTISH BALLAD MANUSCRIPTS

George Paton

George Paton (1720-1807), son of John Paton, bookseller in Old Parliament Square, Edinburgh, after a good education became assistant and then partner to his father. In 1760 they had to retire from business, and George Paton became a clerk in the custom-house at a salary which rose from £30 to £70, and fell to £55.

He had a cup of coffee with a slice of bread and butter between 4 and 5 p.m., his first meal each day, and a meal in the evening, at John Dowie's Tavern, of a bottle of ale and "buffed herring" or roasted skate and onions. At 11, by St Giles, he went home to Lady Stair's Close. Two of the friends he met at the tavern were Archibald Constable, the publisher, and David Herd.

By his frugality he was able to acquire a valuable library and collection of antiquities. His library was open to many scholars, Scottish and English, among them Richard Gough, Lord Hailes, Thomas Percy, Joseph Ritson, Thomas Pennant and George Chalmers; but Paton's only piece of independent writing was an Index to Lindsay of Pitscottie's *History of Scotland*, 1788. Like William Macmath at the end of the 19th century, Paton's contribution to other men's books was considerable.

He disclaimed all connection with David Herd's *Scottish Songs* of 1769, in a letter⁷ to Thomas Percy which begins:

"Rever^d Sir,

You did me more honour than entitled to by reckoning me as the publisher of the volume of songs sent you. I never knew any thing of the work, till it was to be ushered into the world, and then used the freedom of transmitting a copy to you, as I shall be always ready to hand you anything that may be anyhow connected with your performance, which does exceed all of the kind the Nation has been obliged with.

Custom House, Edinburgh,
10th June, 1769.

£200 he saved was lost when Betham, Gardner, & Co's bank failed. Robert Gough approached Lord Buchan in 1786, and Constable the Duke of Roxburghe in 1800, but neither could help Paton. When he died on 5th March, 1807, at the age of 87, he was buried in Greyfriars' Churchyard.

⁷ *Songs from David Herd's Manuscripts*. Edited by Hans Hecht, (Edinburgh, 1904). Introduction p. 13. The rest of this Introduction, especially pp. 3-29, is helpful.

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His library realised £1358, and in 1811 his MSS, prints, coins and antiquities were dispersed. There is a portrait of him in Kay's *Edinburgh Portraits*, a drawing of him in chalk in the Society of Antiquaries (Edinburgh), of which he was an original member, and two portraits by John Brown in the National Portrait Gallery, Edinburgh.

Sources

D.N.B. & Bibliography.

Archibald Constable and his Literary Correspondents, by Thomas Constable. (Edinburgh, 1873), 3 vols.

Letters from Joseph Ritson Esq., to Mr. George Paton. (Edinburgh, 1829).
Letters from Thomas Percy, John Callender of Craigforth, David Herd, and others to George Paton. (Edinburgh, 1830).

George Paton's MS letters to Richard Gough in the National Library.

Bibliography

Two Ballads sent by George Paton to Bishop Percy

[TP (4)]⁸

1. *The Jewis Daughter*

(Communicated in 1768 or 1769, and derived from a friend of Paton's. In Paton's hand.)

Four and twenty Bonny Boys . . .

. . . But sweet Sir Hew was dead.

4a3b4c3b (17 sts.)

Ch. 155C Sir Hugh, or, The Jew's Daughter

2. *Lord Maxwells Last goodnight*

(Communicated December 4, 1778)

Good Lord of the Land will you stay thane . . .

. . . Lord Maxwell has te'n his last good-night.

4abcb (16sts.)

Ch. 195A Lord Maxwell's Last Good Night

(To be continued)

BROUGHTY FERRY, ANGUS

⁸The number of this MS (4), to avoid confusion, is taken from William Macmath's *Bibliography of Scottish Popular Ballads in Manuscript*, Edinburgh Bibliographical Society, vol. I, No. 9, 1896.