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

William Montgomerie

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WILLIAM MONTGOMERIE

A Bibliography of the Scottish Ballad Manuscripts
1780 - 1825.

Part II

Elizabeth Cochrane Her Songbook
(1730)

Introduction

This collection of English and Scottish Songs 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, 23-30, 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 Songbook
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 Roche royal 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, 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.

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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 — Edin': now in the pos of David Laing.

Peter Buchan, who knew both David Laing and C. K. Sharpe, copied five items into his large British Museum MS. (Vol. 1), 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)
135 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, 103, 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

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<td>Rouse you brave for fame and glory</td>
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SCOTTISH BALLAD MANUSCRIPTS

Bishop Percy

Thomas Percy (1729-1811) was born at Cartway St., Bridgnorth, Shropshire, on 15th 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 MS 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, 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

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

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9 See D.N.B.
4 British Museum. Additional MSS., 27879.
5 Harvard College Library.
6 See William Macmuth's Bibliography of Scottish Popular Ballads in Manuscript. Edinburgh Bibliographical Society (vol. I., 1896, No. 9)
7 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. 1. The ancient Scottish Ballad of

The Bræs of Yarrow
[partly edited]

I dreamed a dreary dream this night . . .

. . . And tint her life on Yarrow.

Ch. 214A

The Bræs o Yarrow

2. There came a Ghost to Helens Bower . . .

. . . They were twa Lovers dear.

Ch. 75I

Lord Lovel

3. The Song
(from the History of Jack of Newbury in Pepys’ Vulgaria 4 to Vol. 3)

King Jamie hath made a vow . . .

. . . the best in all Scotland.

he never went home again (del.)

Ch. 168 (12 st.) az

Flooden Field
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 letter to Thomas Percy which begins:

"Rever 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.

1 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)]

1. The Jew's 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.

43b4c3b (17 sts.)

Ch. 155

Sir Hugh, or, The Jew's Daughter

2. Lord Maxwell's Last goodnight

(Communicated December 4, 1778)

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

... Lord Maxwell has ten his last good-night.

4abcb (16 sts.)

Ch. 195A

Lord Maxwell's Last Good Night

(To be continued)

BROUGH FERRY, ANGUS

*The 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.