

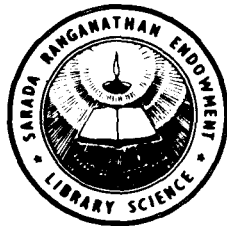
**BIBLIOGRAPHICAL
CONTROL OF
EARLY BOOKS**

William J Cameron

Sarada Ranganathan Endowment for Library Science Series 10

Sarada Ranganathan Lectures 10, 1976.

**Bibliographical Control
of
Early Books**



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**BIBLIOGRAPHICAL CONTROL
OF
EARLY BOOKS**

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**SARADA RANGANATHAN ENDOWMENT
FOR LIBRARY SCIENCE
BANGALORE
1978**

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PREFACE TO THE SERIES

"Bibliographical Control of Early Books" was the subject of the tenth Sarada Ranganathan Lectures presented by Dr William J Cameron, from 6 to 10 December 1976, under the auspices of the Sarada Ranganathan Endowment for Library Science, at the Documentation Research and Training Centre, Bangalore. The lectures were inaugurated by Dr B V Raghavendra Rao, Honorary Library Adviser, Institute of Social and Economic Change, Bangalore.

The SARADA RANGANATHAN ENDOWMENT FOR LIBRARY SCIENCE was founded in 1961, by the late Dr S R Ranganathan and Mrs Sarada Ranganathan. Since 1963, its funds are vested in the Treasurer of Charitable Endowments for India in accordance with Sections 4 and 5 of the Charitable Endowments Act, 1890 (6 of 1890). The Endowment is administered by a self-perpetuating committee of five.

The objectives of the Endowment are :

- 1 Furthering the cause of library science :
- 2 Organising periodically a course of lectures based on recent ideas and research in library science and called, the SARADA RANGANATHAN LECTURES IN LIBRARY SCIENCE; and
- 3 Assisting in the publication of these lectures and of nascent ideas in library science.

The lectures can be delivered under the auspices of any university or any library association or any other body having similar interest and the funds can be spent in any part of India.

In fulfilment of the third objective, this series of books called 'Sarada Ranganathan Lectures' is being published. They are based on the course of lectures delivered by the respective authors at the invitation of the Endowment.

It is hoped that the books in this series will be of help in advancing library science and in improving library service.

BANGALORE
10 Jan 1978

A NEELAMEGHAN
Secretary
Sarada Ranganathan Endowment
for Library Science

Dr William J Cameron

Dr William J Cameron is a New Zealander. He took his B A and M A degrees in English Language and Literature from the Victoria University College, University of New Zealand; and Ph D in English Literature from the University of Reading in England in 1958. The subject of his thesis was Dryden's Miscellany Poems, 1684-1760.

Dr Cameron began his teaching career as Junior Lecturer in the Victoria University, Wellington, New Zealand, in 1951; two years later he was appointed Assistant Lecturer in the University of Reading in England. In 1958 he returned to New Zealand as Lecturer, later promoted Senior Lecturer, at the Auckland University. In 1956 he moved to the McMaster University in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, as Professor of English Literature. In 1968 he was appointed Associate Dean and Professor, and two years later Dean, at the School of Library and Information Science, University of Western Ontario, London, Ont, Canada, which position he still holds.

As a Research Assistant in the Yale University Library in 1961-62, Dr Cameron did research on Poems on Affairs of State; and in 1966 he was attached to the National Library of Australia under a Commonwealth Fellowship. During the past several years he has been investigating bibliographical control of hand-printed books including the use of computer facilities for such studies. Presently he is completing a study of John Bell, Librarian and Bookseller.

Dr Cameron has published over 30 research papers on bibliography, printing history literary history and economic history, and several bibliographies, short title catalogues of holdings of New Zealand, Australian, and Canadian libraries in the 17th and 18th centuries. Some of his books are;

John Dryden in New Zealand, 1960; New Light on Aphra Behn 1961; New Zealand, 1965; Poems on Affairs of State, 1974. He edited Perspectives in Information Science (with Dr Debons), 1976 (Second NATO Conference Proceedings in Information Science, 1973), and several technical reports on the HPB project since 1968.

Dr Cameron's special interest areas in teaching and research include research methodology, rare books, and bibliography. His varied professional activities include: Member of Executive, New Zealand Library Association, 1961-62; Guest Lecturer, New Zealand Library School, 1960; Membership in the Canadian Library Association, Canadian Association for Information Science, Ontario Library Association, Canadian Association of University Teachers, American Society for Information Science, ASECS, and several other bibliographical societies; Library Trustee, Lake Erie Regional Library System; Member of the Advisory Board for Science and Technology Information of the National Research Council of Canada; and the advisory board for the public library system of Ontario. Dr Cameron is presently the Canadian representative on FID/CR.

Ranganathan's Five Laws of Library Science

- 1 Books are for Use
- 2 Every Reader His/Her Book
- 3 Every Book Its Reader
- 4 Save the Time of the Reader
- 5 Library is a Growing Organism

**Bibliographical Control
of
Early Books**

Lecture 1

SUBSTITUTES FOR UNIVERSAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

Universal Bibliographical Control is a topic of absorbing interest to library and information scientists who are active in their profession or discipline at the international level. The International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) devoted its 1972 annual meeting to the topic, and its Office for Universal Bibliographical Control with its emphasis on national bibliographies is one of its strongest, continuing activities. Long before the Federation Internationale de Documentation (FID) was established in 1895, its promoters and progenitors, Otlet and La Fontaine, were actively involved in the field, and their interests have been shared at every meeting. The United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has been strongly promoting schemes for universal bibliographical control such as those conveniently subsumed under the umbrella of UNISIST, or the currently-acclaimed NATIS, the proponents of which, like IFLA, place particular emphasis on national bibliographies and the exchange of bibliographical data in those bibliographies.

Despite all this activity, a search of the literature that it has produced demonstrates fairly clearly that universal bibliographical control as a concept concentrates more especially on current publication, and within that portion of the bibliographical universe (apart from comprehensive national bibliographies) largely on scientific and technical publication. I propose in this series of lectures to broaden the scope of universal bibliographical control by emphasizing the importance of the comprehensive (largely non-scientific) literature of the past. In drawing attention to this vast body of retrospective literature of primary interest to scholars in the humanities, I hope, paradoxically, to re-emphasize the importance of "universal". By studiously ignoring the major efforts now being undertaken in the field, I shall be paying special attention to what may seem to many of my colleagues to be obscure and peripheral, rather than obvious and central. But I am convinced that until all items in the bibliographical universe that have physically survived are taken into account, we shall be dealing with a culturally biased sample, a bibliographical sample that is merely one of a number of possible substitutes for universal bibliography.

In other words, I wish to concentrate upon an area of the bibliographical universe that has been neglected in the major international efforts to develop a system of universal bibliographical control, an area for which existing bibliographical instruments do not yet constitute a viable substitute for a universal bibliography. Nor could it be said that those instruments complement or supplement current international programs for universal bibliography.

Substitutes for Universal Bibliography

I would like to take as my point of departure a quotation from Dr. Ranganathan:

Lecture 2

SHORT-TITLE CATALOGS AS "USEABLE SUBSTITUTES" FOR UNIVERSAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

In discussing bibliographical control of early books in my previous lecture, I hinted at the existence of two levels of control which a scholar would like to exercise, two levels which we might call macroscopic and microscopic. The two are often in conflict in the work of a particular bibliographer or library cataloger for quite understandable reasons. The functions of a macroscopic "bibliographical instrument" and a microscopic "bibliographical instrument" cannot realistically be combined, but some coordinating device between them can in fact be developed if the two functions are clearly differentiated. In the next three lectures I shall be dealing with the macroscopic - the comprehensive listing of an exemplar of every text within limited portions of the bibliographical universe, together with associated classificatory or retrieval systems that permit the scholar to find within those listings an item or group of items arranged in a manner relevant to his purposes. In the final lecture I shall be dealing with the microscopic - the comprehensive listing of every surviving exemplar of one text (or a small number of related texts) together with the associated classificatory or retrieval systems that enable a scholar to use the resulting information to help him or her accomplish his purposes. The microscopic must be considered secondary to the macroscopic, as the bibliographical tools listing one exemplar (or more) are antecedent to those tools which list all exemplars (or as many as needed) of a particular text. We might take as an example such a limited field as European incunabula, a field well-covered by bibliographers and catalogers. We shall find such monumental efforts as the Gesamtkatalog der Wiegendrucke, based as it is upon short titles derived from Hain's Repertorium Bibliographicum, making very slow progress, and requiring considerable supplementary work. The first volume in 1925, containing 1256 items, covered Abano-Alexius. The eighth volume, published just before the 1939 war halted the enterprise, contained only 475 items and covered Eike-Fredericus. Even Hain has numerous supplements and commentaries (Coppinger et alia).

Comprehensive Catalogs and Their Useable Substitutes

If we turn to a much broader field, and define our term "early books" as all books printed before 1801, we shall find attempts at meticulously detailed description much rarer than during the incunabula or fifteenth century period. Attempts at comprehensive listing tend also to be less frequent. But perhaps the most comprehensive bibliographical tools ever produced are catalogs of the largest libraries that have been printed for use outside the library; and union catalogs of several libraries, especially those published for use outside the libraries whose holdings are listed in them.

The publication containing the greatest number of items for the pre-1801 period is undoubtedly The National Union Catalog: Pre-1956 Imprints, but no estimate of the total number of such items has yet been made, partly

Lecture 3

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL CONTROL OF A PRODUCER OF DOCUMENTATION

I hope that the principles outlined in the previous two lectures and the brief description of my experimental project for developing a means for macroscopic bibliographical control of early books will have provided you with a sufficiently understandable theoretical base to enable me to illustrate with some practical examples the application of those principles. These examples will help me to reinforce, and perhaps restate, those principles and establish their validity. Because I am giving these lectures in India, I thought it might be appropriate to choose, as my field for exemplification, the units of the bibliographical universe produced by the man reputed to be the first letterpress printer in India - Henry Hills.

Henry Hills in India

J.B. Primrose, over 30 years ago¹, first pointed out that Henry Hills was employed (at a salary of ~~of~~ 50 per annum) presumably from May 15, 1674 to May 15, 1678 as a printer to the East India Company in Bombay. Because there was so little use for his professional expertise, he was (somewhat unsatisfactorily) employed part of the time as Steward of the Factory at Surat. We have evidence that he took a printing press, paper, and types (English letters!) to Bombay or Surat, and that Bhinji Parekh, the Company's broker, arranged to have types made, probably in the Devanagari character, by Indian metalworkers, in an attempt to use Hills' services properly. We have no "bibliographical control" of the papers that were printed in "the Banian Character" in 1676 nor of any printed in the English character, simply because nothing of Hills' printing from the 1674-1678 period seems to have survived. Bhinji attempted to obtain from England a type-caster in 1677, but Hills was sent back to England in January 1678/9 under something of a cloud, seemingly caused by his financial problems and by dissatisfaction with his work as printer and steward. No further attempt at printing in Bombay took place for over a century.

Despite this rather regrettable beginning to his career, I believe that Hills' total career, which has never been given adequate treatment, would make a good subject for research, and would illustrate well the complex needs of scholars for different kinds of bibliographical control of contemporaneous documents. But from the point of view of my Indian listeners, the reason for undertaking research into the later life of Henry Hills might be more cogently stated to a desire to review Primrose's interpretations of the evidence he found for Hills' visit to India. To put the matter in more generalized research terms, the scholar will treat Primrose's conclusions sceptically and ask him (or herself) certain questions that

1. J.B. Primrose, "A London Printer's Visit to India in the Seventeenth Century", The Library, 4th Series, XX (1939-40), pp. 100-4.

Lecture 4

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL CONTROL OTHER THAN BY SUBJECT CLASSIFICATION

In order to illustrate the point that subject indexing and subject classification are only two of a number of possible means of bibliographical control of early books, and in many cases not the best possible means for a scholar in the humanities, I propose to expand on the classification by form that seems to have been Henry Hills' "natural" division of his published output. But to demonstrate other kinds of helpful classification or ordering of bibliographical entries, and even some overlooked kinds of bibliographical tools, I propose to choose a more fruitful field than the biography of Henry Hills. I am sorry that I cannot choose a topic with even the tenuous link with India that Henry Hills provides, but I shall assume that, as my audience has an interest in those institutions dedicated to the housing of the documentation over which we wish to have bibliographical control, I may choose one such institution in the 18th century which has not been given proper attention by scholarly researchers. I refer to the coffee-houses of London, England, some of which had quite extensive libraries, and all of which had a profound influence on the social and intellectual life of the time.

But before turning to this unusual topic, I would like to touch on some aspects of Hills' published output that might require very special kinds of classification or ordering in order to provide a scholar with the optimal degree of bibliographical control that the manager of our information system could provide.

I am well aware that if my choice of the biography of Henry Hills as a case-study for illustrating problems of bibliographical control has raised the interest of my audience in Hills himself, you will be disappointed that I am not reporting on the probable results of scholarly investigations into his life and works. But that must await much more work in depth not only on Hills himself, but on all those with whom he was connected during his lifetime, including the authors he published. Once again, it is not our purpose here to report fully on the results of such biographical research. Only so much of the tentative findings will be reported as is necessary to make our points about the provision of the means of bibliographical control for such research.

Ordering of Bibliographical Data for Biography of an Author

Let us imagine that a scholar wishes to write a biography of one of the first preachers whom Hills pirated - Thomas Knaggs. What kinds of bibliographical information would he like to have about Knaggs' life and writings? And in what order of presentation would he like to have it?

First, he would probably like a list of all previous work done on Knaggs. A conventional literature search would produce nothing. The best "biography" (if such it can be called) would be found in Venn's Alumni Cantabrigiensis. If we expand the abbreviations in that entry, we would have the following

Lecture 5

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL CONTROL ON THE MICROSCOPIC LEVEL

I shall return to Henry Hills in this final lecture in illustration of the scholar's needs for bibliographical information of a kind that only a few Special Collections librarians attempt to provide. Most library collections are content to have only one copy of a particular book, presumably on the grounds of optimization of the use of acquisition funds. But this policy in a Special Collection puts a serious barrier between some kinds of scholar and the full utilization of a collection. As I pointed out in my introductory paper on Hills in Words 1974 (p. 73) a rare opportunity (at Yale University) to compare side-by-side two seemingly identical copies of one of Hills' pirated sermons revealed that Hills was in fact concerned enough about aesthetic appearances that he made several changes in the typesetting, and corrected what may have been an error. At the time of reporting, 28 poetical pamphlets and 15 sermons which seemed to be identical from normal cataloging information had been proved to exist in more than one state, issue, or edition. The work of side-by-side comparison must await an opportunity for the scholar to acquire for himself a control copy, or until a library buys multiple copies.

To illustrate what may eventually result from such comparative work, we could cite several cases in Foxon of Hills' poetical piracies. The Henry E. Huntington Library in San Marino, California, has two copies of Hills' piracy of Sir Robert Howard's The Duel of the Stags 1709. One of them has MS corrections in a contemporaneous hand, and an early cataloger, realizing from side-by-side comparison that they were two different editions, noted on the catalog card: "Different edition, completely reset with some of the MS corrections noted in that copy corrected here". This was a false conclusion based on insufficient evidence. The truth of the matter is that the inferior text (with MS corrections) is a later reprint, not necessarily of the other edition. Foxon distinguishes two impressions or editions (it is not clear which from his description) of the earlier text (H334 and H335) from the later one (H336). He was unable, from the bibliographical evidence, to determine the priority of the two earlier texts, but the distinction between them was made possible by side-by-side comparison of three copies in the Bodleian Library. His technique of noting the position of the signature on each page undoubtedly helped also, but one suspects that not all the bibliographical work has been completed, for the Bodleian copy of H334 has A3 missigned "A2" (other copies have only A3 signed). H335 has A2 and A4 signed also.

I am sure that the sermons will also reveal many similar problems of identification of editions, issues, and states. In preliminary work on Offspring Blackall, Bishop of Exeter, I have established that at least two undated editions of The Divine Institute of Magistracy can be identified, as well as one dated 1709. The sermon was delivered before the Queen on Tuesday, March 8, 1708/9, and Will Rogers' legitimate editions (one of 32 pages, one of 24 pages) are dated 1709. In order to establish the order in which these editions were published, the scholar will have to supplement a search

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The following contractions are used:

def = Definition ed = Edited
irt = in relation to qirt = Quoted irt

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