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THE ROUTH COLLECTION, DURHAM UNIVERSITY LIBRARY: A NEW ON-LINE CATALOGUING PROJECT

by Elizabeth M. Cooke, Alastair Fraser and John McKinnell (University of Durham)*

1. *Dr. Routh and his library.* Martin Joseph Routh was born in 1755, the son of a Church of England clergyman from Beccles in Suffolk. Most of his long life was spent at Magdalen College, Oxford - first as a student, later as a fellow, and from 1791 as President of the College. Elected President at the early age of 35, it could hardly have been foreseen that he would remain in that position until his death some nine months short of his 100th birthday. Routh wrote little that was original, and his fame rests on his work as an editor. In 1788 he announced his intention to collect together the works of the church fathers of the second and third centuries up to the Council of Nicea. This material was widely scattered and had never before been easily accessible. The work took some seventeen years and was published in four volumes between 1815 and 1818

under the title *Reliquae Sacrae*; it was immediately recognised as a valuable source for the history of the early Routh's other great contribution to scholarship was his edition of Gilbert Burnet's *History of his own Times*, which was issued in 1823. Burnet was a Church of England bishop who had been active in political affairs during the reigns of Charles II (1660-1685), James II (1685-1688) and William III (1688-1702). Always a controversial figure, his history of the period was published not long after his death in 1715 and provoked extreme reaction and accusations of falsehood and political bias. Routh's notes show an impressive grasp of the complex world of late 17th century politics and incorporate the previously unpublished commentaries by the Earls of Dartmouth and Hardwicke and by the satirical novelist Jonathan Swift. Routh's library owes much to the two works described above. His two most considerable interests can fairly be said to be patristics and British history, although there are some rarities in other subjects, including Norse studies. Starting at the age of ten, Routh collected about 16,000 volumes over a period of 90 years. His library was not large by the standards of his time (his friend Richard Heber had perhaps the largest collection of the period, running to several hundred thousand volumes), but it was a considerable achievement for a man of relatively modest means. It is not rich in incunabula, as Routh could never have competed on equal terms with such wealthy collectors as Lord Spencer or the Duke of Devonshire. Despite this, Routh often beat fellow collectors to desirable items, principally because he was well known to many second-hand booksellers in Oxford and London. Routh seems to have viewed his books very much as a working collection and to have purcha-

sed for practical reasons. He was not, for example, especially interested in fine bindings. There are few association copies relating to outstanding historical figures, but there are many items from the collections of noted 18th and 19th century bibliophiles such as Timothy Neve, Richard Gough, Thomas Grenville and Joseph Ritson. Routh prided himself on his astute purchasing policy; a particular habit of his, once he had purchased a book, was to note the prices of other copies from booksellers' catalogues; it was only rarely that a copy was to be had more cheaply than he had bought it. Routh had supported the University of Durham from its foundation in the 1830's, and arranged to leave his library to the University after his death. Although the deed was nearly lost in a pile of waste paper and was only discovered when his rooms were being cleared, the transfer of the collection was achieved in 1855. At first the books were catalogued using a marked-up copy of the Bodleian Library Catalogue. In more recent times all the material was entered in the library's sheaf catalogue, which is still the means of gaining access to the books that have not yet been entered on the Durham University Library On-line Public Access Catalogue (OPAC). In 1994 a successful application was made to the Higher Education Funding Council for a grant to produce automated catalogue records for the Routh collection, and two cataloguers (Fraser and Cooke) are currently working on the project. To date (April 1997) about a third of the items in the collection have been added to Durham University's main library OPAC; the remaining material will be added over the next two years.

2. *Material in the catalogue.* - The works of Norse interest in the Routh col-

lection that have been catalogued so far include:

2.1 Early editions of medieval authors:

Aelnoth, *De vita et passione S. Canuti, regis Daniae*, ed. Johannes van Meurs, Copenhagen, 1631;

Ari, *Íslendingabók (Arae Multiscii Schedæ de Islandia)*, ed. Anon., Oxford, 1716; and *Liber historicus de Islandia*, ed. ?Andreas Bussaeus, Copenhagen 1744; the latter also includes the accounts of the voyages of Othere and Wulfstan from the preface of King Alfred's translation of Orosius);

Breve chronicon de archiepiscopis et sacerdotibus caeteris Ecclesiae Upsaliensis (to ca. 1344), Uppsala, 1673;

The Chronicle of Man and the Isles (ed. James Johnstone in *Antiquitates celto-normannicae*, Copenhagen, 1786);

Konungs Skuggsjá, ed. Hálfdan Einarsson, Hannes Finnsson, and Jón Eiríksson, Sørø, 1768; Saxo Grammaticus, *Historiae Danicae libri XVI*, ed. C. A. Klotzius, Lipsiae 1771; the earlier editions of J. Oporius (Basel, 1534), P. Lonicerus (Frankfurt a.M., 1576) and S. I. Stephanus (Sørø, 1644-1645) may be found in other Durham special collections not yet included in OPAC;

Theodoricus, *De regibus vetustis Norvegicis* (and anon., *De profectioe Danorum in Terram Sanctam circa annum MCLXXXV susceptam*), published together as *Commentarii historici duo hactenus inediti*, ed. Johann Kirchmann and Bernhard Caspar Kirchmann, Amsterdam, 1684.

2.2 Scholarly works (Icelandic authors listed in order of first names, others in order of surnames):

anon., *A Short survey of the kingdom of Sweden*, London, 1632;

Arngrímur Jónsson, *Brevis commentarius de Islandia*, Copenhagen, 1593; *Crymogaea*, Hamburg, ?1610; and *Specimen Islandiae historicvm*, Amsterdam, 1643;

Thomas Bartholin, *Antiquitatum Danicarum de causis contemptae a Danis adhuc gentilibus mortis*, Copenhagen, 1689;

(Bodleian Library), *A catalogue of the books relating to British topography, and Saxon and northern literature, bequeathed to the Bodleian library in the year MDCCXCIX by Richard Gough*, Oxford, 1814;

Johannes Cochlaeus, *Vita Theodorici regis Ostrogothorum et Italiae*, Stockholm, 1699;

Hálfdan Einarsson, *Historia literaria Islandiae*, Copenhagen and Leipzig, 1786;

Israel Erlandi, *De vita et miraculis Sancti Erici Sueciae regis*, Stockholm, 1675;

James Johnstone, *Anecdotes of Olave the Black, King of Man*; and *The Norwegian account of Haco's expedition against Scotland, A.D. MCCLXIII*, both Copenhagen, 1780;

Johan Loccenius, *Antiquitatum Sueo-Gothicarum libri tres*, editio quarta, ?Uppsala, 1676;

Jón Eiríksson, *Disquisitiones dvae historico-antiquariae*, Leipzig, 1755;

Olaus Magnus, *Gentium septentrionalium historiae breviarium*, Leiden, 1652 (and cf. the 1645 ed. in Bishop Cosin's Library, another Durham collection not yet on-line);

Paul Henri Mallet, *Northern antiquities*, Edinburgh, 1809;

Johannes van Meurs, *Historia Danica pariter et Belgica*, Amsterdam, 1638;

Konrad Peutinger, *Sermones convivales de mirandis Germaniae antiquitatibus*, Ausburg, 1789;

Erich Pontoppidan, *Gesta et vestigia Danorum extra Daniam*, Leipzig and Copenhagen, 1740, 1741;

Samuel von Puffendorf, *The compleat history of Sweden, from its origins to this time*, London, 1702;

Beatus Rhenanus, *Rerum Germanicarum libri tres*, Basel, 1551;

Jonas Ramus, *Nori regnum hoc est Norvegia antiqua & ethnica sive Historiae Norvegicae*, Oslo, 1689;

Elias Schede, *De diis germanis*, Halle, 1728;

Johannes Scheffer, *Johannis Schefferi argento-*

ratensis Memorabilium Sueticae gentis exemplorum liber singularis, Amsterdam, 1671; and *Bibliotheca septentrionis eruditi sive Syntagma tractatum de scriptoribus illius*, 2 vols., Leipzig and Hamburg, 1699;

Stephen Hansen Stephanius, *De regno Daniae et Norwegiae, insulisque adjacentibus juxta ac Holsatia, Ducatu Sleswicensi, et finitimis provincijs tractatus*, Leiden, 1629 (includes Arngrímur Jónsson, *Tractatus de Islandice gentis primordiis, & veteri republica*);

Olof Verelius, *Epitomarum historiae Suio-Gothicae*, Stockholm, 1730;

Ole Worm, *Fasti Danici*, Copenhagen, 1643.

2.3 Early academic dissertations:

Thomas Bartholin, *De Holgero Dano qui Caroli Magni tempore floruit*, Copenhagen, 1677;

Petrus Carlsson, *De Peregrinitate in lingua Suecana vitanda*, Uppsala, 1745;

Ericus Hielm, *Dissertatio gradualis de amicitia devota veterum Hyperboreorum vulgo Fostbraedrag ...*, Uppsala, 1721;

Jonas Bid. Renhorn, *De lapide in valle virenti, vulgo Stenen j grönandal*, Uppsala, 1733;

Andreas O. Rhyzelius, *Lænkfat kæurfyr seu Sepultura Sueo-Gothorum*, Uppsala, 1707; and *Sepulturae Sueogothicae pars posterior, de Exsequiis Christianis*, Uppsala, 1709;

Johannes Scheffer, *De Situ et vocabulo Uppsala ad Regni Sueciae*, Stockholm, no date;

Jonas Touschier, *Incerti Scriptoris Sueci Chronicon Rerum Sueo-Gothicarum ab A(nno) Ch(risti) MCLX ad MCCCXX gestarum*, Uppsalia, 1705.

2.4 Items not yet been added to OPAC:

Johannes Magnus, *Gothorum historia*, Rome, 1554 and Paris, 1617;

Johannes Magnus, *Historia Ecclesiae Upsalensis*, Rome, 1560.

In addition to the Nordic material, the collection also includes a variety of material on the history, language and

culture of Anglo-Saxon England.

3. *How to use the catalogue.* - There are two forms of the catalogue: the telnet and internet forms. Searching techniques vary a little between them, but the material available is the same in both forms. The techniques outlined here are those for searching the Internet version only.

3.1 *How to access the catalogue:* telnet library.dur.ac.uk (Telnet address); <http://library.dur.ac.uk> (Internet address). This will take you directly to the catalogue. To search the catalogue, move the pointer to the first option, Search the OPAC, and click to select. You can find out more about the catalogue by selecting the option Library information screens.

3.2 *How to search.* - When you select Search the OPAC, the Search Options screen will appear. This lists several different search types (which are discussed below). When you click on the type of search you want to carry out, a further screen will appear, with a blank box in which to type your search term. (In case you are unsure how to do this, instructions will be shown on the screen). Your search should result in one of three outcomes: 1) A record for the item you are trying to find; 2) An index of several records which fit the search criteria, from which you can select (by pointing and clicking) any works that you want to investigate further; 3) A general index. If there is nothing in the index you are searching that exactly matches your search term, you will be taken to the closest alphabetical match in that index.

3.3 *Moving round the OPAC.* - Once you have started searching, you will be offered a row of options at the head or foot of each screen (or both), which allow

you to choose actions such as "return to previous screen" or "start over" (which takes you back to the Search options screen). The easiest way to browse through any index is to select the index you want to search at the Search options screen and then type in a word at random. This will take you to that point in the index, from which you can browse alphabetically through the index.

3.4 Search Types. - Author and Title searches do exactly what they say; title searches will look for any title beginning with the word or phrase that you enter. The Combined author/title search allows you to search for any word in the author's name, and any word in the title. For more general searches for material on a particular subject, it is better to use a Keyword search rather than a Subject heading search. We do not use subject headings consistently, and many records do not have them, while a keyword search will find the word you are looking for if it occurs in title, author, subject heading or selected notes fields.

Two more unusual search types appear on the Search options screen as Rare books indexes. The Genre index allows you to search for specific types of material, such as Academic dissertations or Travel literature; we use a limited thesaurus of genre headings, so browsing through the index can be the most useful way of discovering which genre terms exist - but not all our records have genre terms, so you will not be searching the whole database here. The Place of publication index does include all Routh collection records; you can search this by country or by town; the place-names used have been standardised to their modern English forms (for examples, see that list of works mentioned above).

3.5 Refining a search. - If you want to

limit your search to items in the special collections (including the Routh collection), you should return to the Search options screen; select the option Scope your search (at the top of the screen, in small blue type), and you will be given the choice of limiting your search to special collections only. This limitation will then apply to your following searches. If you want to limit your search by date or language of publication, when you have obtained a list of items from the catalogue, select the option Limit/sort (in the row at the head of the screen).

3.6 Points to remember. - Minor variations in spelling (particularly at the beginnings of words such as Julii/Iulii or Universitas/Vniversitas) may affect your search, so check for all likely spellings if necessary.

The books in the Routh collection (and in the other special collections at Durham) are only available for consultation in the library here in Durham. Visiting scholars are welcome whenever the Palace Green section of the University Library (near our spectacular cathedral, on the West side of Palace Green), and visiting scholars are welcome during opening hours (9.00 - 17.00, Monday to Friday). The library is closed over the Christmas to New Year period, on Good Friday and Easter Monday, and on the August Bank Holiday. However, these opening times may be varied in future, so visiting scholars are advised to make themselves known and check opening times before coming to Durham (telephone number 0044 191 374 3032). On arrival at the library you will be asked to provide identification, but a formal letter of introduction is not necessary.

*The purpose of this short article is to introduce a new on-line catalogue of this interesting but lit-

tle-known collection (Fraser), to give some examples of works included in it (McKinnell), and to provide information about how readers outside Durham can gain access to the catalogue (Cooke).



POLITICA E PROPAGANDA RELIGIOSA NELLA SVEZIA DELLA METÀ DEL XV SECOLO: SULLA RECENTE EDIZIONE DI UN OPUSCOLO ANONIMO DI REVELATIONES

di Carlo Santini (Università di Perugia)

Si tratta delle *Revelationes factae cuidam post mortem regis Christofori*, edited with an introduction by G. Stenborg, 'Studia Seminarii Latini Upsaliensis', 6, Uppsala, 1996.

Un'introduzione di circa trenta pagine precede il testo in edizione critica, e fornisce un'ampia informativa sul contesto storico di questa singolare operetta anonima. Con la morte, il giorno dell'epifania del 1448 del re Cristoforo, regnante in base al trattato di Kalmar sui regni di Danimarca, Svezia e Norvegia, si apre un periodo di instabilità, aggravata da problemi economici, sanitari e forse climatici, che porterà alla ascesa al trono di Svezia di Carlo VIII (Karl Knutsson); i Danesi, invece, non seguirono questa scelta e promossero al trono di Danimarca il loro candidato Christiern, poi Cristiano I.

Subito dopo l'annuncio della morte di re Cristoforo, *quedam persona devota* riceve una serie di rivelazioni, il cui contenuto è appunto riportato nell'opuscolo; si tratta di undici visioni, che risultano

più lunghe e riportano un messaggio più dettagliato a partire dalla sesta. Il genere letterario è ben noto e attestato in tutto il Medioevo tanto da prevedere una apposita casistica (Dinzelbacher: visione, 'Erscheinung', audizione, profezia, allegoria), ma evidentemente l'opera culturalmente più prossima sono le *Revelaciones* di Brigida di Vadstena; rispetto a queste ultime tuttavia la descrizione meno vivida, l'assenza di una qualsiasi caratterizzazione della persona lascerebbero adito alla supposizione «that the story was invented on the Birgittine vision pattern».

Il punto più rilevante dell'intero testo sta a 175-177, dove il Cristo rivelante dichiara *Volo eciam, propter maiorem pacis tranquillitatem, vt regem Ericum in graciam et amorem recipiatis, sicut ego vos recepi, propter preces Matris mee et electorum meorum [...]* *Alioquin hostilitatis insidie et persecucionis invasio regnum istud longius devastabit*. Si tratta quindi di un importante indizio che testimonia come queste *Revelationes* siano state realizzate per favorire il ritorno sul trono svedese dell'ex-sovrano precedente Cristoforo, quell'Erico di Pomerania, che era stato deposto nel 1439 dopo una serie di insanabili conflitti con l'aristocrazia e il popolo. Stenborg fa un'analisi molto attenta della situazione politica di quegli anni in vista di riuscire a individuare quale tra le fazioni e i 'poteri forti' del momento avesse avuto interesse al ritorno di Erico; giunge tuttavia alla conclusione che tutte le ipotesi e gli scenari proposti dagli studiosi risultano insoddisfacenti, sicché sembra doveroso ritenere che il testo provenga da una singola persona oppure da un gruppo, che non riuscì a raccogliere un sostegno sufficiente per portare avanti compiutamente la strategia elettorale, della quale l'opuscolo era il primo avviso, o anche che le tracce di questa cam-