

THE LIBRARY OF GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL

1629 - 1871

The earliest reference to the present Library is in a letter from the Bishop to the clergy of the diocese asking for their support, by the gift of books, or encouragement to their parishioners to donate books, to found a new library. (1) The books were to be left with Mr. Langley, Schoolmaster or Mr Simon Wrench second porter, son of Mr. Prebendary Wrench. The account books of this period, which have been used for this study, have no reference to the Library, and the first mention of books occurs in 1636, the sum of fourteen shillings was expended on book binding. (2) These books could have been either Library or Quire books.

The library owes a great debt to Thomas Pury, who assisted by Captain Flemmings and others, founded a Library "at great expense" in the year 1648(3). In 1656, during the Commonwealth, this library was settled on the Mayor and Burgesses of Gloucester, and after 1660 was returned to the Cathedral. The Library possesses a volume recording these gifts which includes a copy of Raleigh's History of the World, and extracts from this are to be found in Records of Gloucester Cathedral Vol. 11. The years 1662-4 saw the gifts of several books to the library, which are unnamed in the account books which merely have entries - "for carriage of the books Mr. Baker gave to the Library - ten shillings" in 1662; "to Jeffries the Oxford Carrier for carriage of Mr. Sheldon's books, £1.7.0.", and "spent at the reception of Joshua Stephens his books for the Library - one shilling," both in 1663. In 1663 the first of the Library catalogues was made by Mr. Cole who recorded the gifts to the Library and wrote descriptions on the several Classes for the sum of ten shillings (4). During this period the sum of £1.17.0. was expended on "chairs for the Library", for what purpose is not clear.

The account books contrive to record payments for carriage of books and by 1671 it was considered necessary to appoint a Library Keeper at a salary of two pounds per annum (5). This person was responsible for the cleaning, heating of the Library. Entries occur for binding books in 1673, Mr. Jordan was paid 7s. 6d. for binding one volume, in addition to ninepence to the Stow carrier for carriage of two books from Mr. Barksdale and the purchase of an old gown and surplice to "lye in the Library for the use of strange preachers". (6) In 1675 the servant who brought Mr. Taylor's "Great Exemplar" was paid 2s. 6d., and in 1676 the Library Keeper's name is recorded as "Mr. Barksdale". Four years later Walter Allard became Library Keeper, and in 1682 a second Library Keeper Whittington was appointed, each man

receiving £2 p.a. (7) In 1685 Walter Allard became Under Librarian the post of Librarian being held by Mr. Thacke. Walter Allard also looked after King Edwards Lodge. (8) The years 1709-14 saw the purchase of several books usually from Mr. Burgis who also supplied Quire and fast books, (9) and in 1714 the first book to be particularised "Mr. Palmer for the binding and carriage of Sir Robert Atkyns his book", The Ancient and Present State of Gloucestershire, cost fifteen shillings (10). In 1723 a lock and keep for the Library cost £1 15s. Od. (11) In 1727 more chairs were purchased at a cost of six shillings and Mr. Hine was paid a bill of £5 8s. Od. for "books, binding for three years". (12)

The Library was awarded an annual grant of £10 in 1731, and this continued until 1763. In 1736 Daniel Newcombe became Dean, to be succeeded in 1758 by Josiah Tucker. (13) This grant probably reflected the interests of Daniel Newcombe as many of the book purchases during this period were made by the Dean during visits to London. There is an additional volume of accounts for the Library during this period, which shows that the grant was not spent annually but more sporadically. In 1735, during a visit to London several books were purchased, including Locke's Works in three volumes, Barnetts' History of the Reformation, together with Temple's Works a first subscription to Whistler's Josephus. In 1737, during another London visit, the Dean included Camdens Britannia for three pounds and Tracts against Popery among his purchases for the Library. In 1740, the grant having accumulated a Universal History in five Folio Volumes at a cost of £11 2s. 6d. Saundersons Elements of Algebra, £1 1s. Od. and two tons of coal at 19s. 8d. were purchased. The latter purchase was occasioned by the installation of a chimney and grate in the Library, at a cost of £6 8s. 8d. (15) In 1757 the grant was used to purchase volumes of classical authors, such as Plutarch, Homer, and Tacitus.

In 1743 the Library was moved and refitted and the account books show a payment of five guineas in 1744 "to Mr. John Newton for his extraordinary trouble in removing the Library". (16) In 1747 sixteen volumes were added to the Library, including Strabinius' Geographia, and in 1750 considerable work was done in the Library at a total cost of £6 10s. 3d. (17)

In spite of the curtailment of the grant in 1763, books were still regularly added. In the years 1760-69 a subscription of five guineas yearly was paid to Dr. Rennicott for collating Hebrew Manuscripts, and as a result of his labours a Hebrew Bible was purchased in 1773 (18). In 1769 the Library was refitted, by order of the Dean, at a cost of £14 4s. 5d. and Isaac Taylor's map of Gloucestershire cost the Cathedral half a guinea. (19) The purchase of the first volumes of Boyce's Church Musick in addition to Henry's History and Campbell's two volume Survey of

Great Britain was made in 1774. (20) In 1779 Samuel Rudder was paid £2 12s. 6d. for a copy of his History of Gloucestershire. (21)

By 1788 it had become necessary to number and recatalogue the Library and the Librarian was paid £5 5s. Od. for his trouble in placing the books in the Library and making a Catalogue. (22) In the following years theological volumes are prominent together with a first volume of Bigland's Collections on the history of Gloucestershire, and in 1796 John J. Hough was paid a bill of £6 13s 6d. for binding several volumes in rough calf, (23) and in the next few years there are several entries relating to repairing and rebinding books by Hough. (24) In 1804 the Archdeacon Thomas Rudge was paid sixteen shillings for his History of Gloucestershire and in 1805 the Dean and Chapter subscribed two guineas to Mr. Davis in London for Celtic Researches. (25) In 1806 a book of sermons was purchased, but apart from a print of the Cathedral bought in 1809 and the Dean's purchase of a picture of Gloucester Cathedral for £1 0s. Od. in 1810, no new books are recorded by name until 1824. Repair work was undertaken in the Library during these years, and a record in 1823 "to Mr. Hough the balance of his bill on the Library Account £12 8s. 6d." suggests that books were still being added to the Library. (26)

In 1826 the Library was whitewashed and plastered at a cost of £2 13s. Od. and in 1827 considerable repair work and improvements were undertaken. (27) By 1829 the Library was carpetted. (28) By 1833 it had become necessary for Mr. Hough to arrange and make a catalogue of books in the Library and a printing bill of £7 1s. Od. was incurred among the expenses. (29) In 1834 Dulange's Glossary cost twelve guineas. The books show that the binding and book buying continued; a second copy of Rudder's History of Gloucester cost three guineas this time, and in 1844 two maps of Gloucester by Cawston cost £5 7s. Od. In 1847 wire lattices were inserted in all Library windows at a cost of £8 14s. 11d. (30)

In 1849 extensive repairs occurred, (31) including a bill of £10 5s. 10d. for altering the stove. This was followed in 1852-5 by a considerable bookbinding programme, until in 1859 the sum of £143 was paid to Omash of Oxford for books. (32) These purchases were followed by the addition of new bookcases in 1860 (33), and a bill for binding books of £46 13s. 6d. in 1861 (34). After these items the 12s. 6d. for Annals of the Three Choirs, 14s. 1d. for Crockford's Clerical Dictionary and £1 1s. Od. for Harris' Manual of Monumental Brasses seem small in comparison. In 1870 a further portion of Bigland's Collections cost 6s. Od. and the twelfth account book ends in 1871 with no records of spending in the Library other than the £4 salary of the Canon Librarian and a similar salary to his assistant.

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Purchase Prices of Individual Books

<u>Year</u>		<u>£</u>	<u>s.</u>	<u>d.</u>
1714	Binding and carriage of Sir Robert Atkyns his books		15	0
1737	2 vols Camden's Britannia	3	0	0
1760	Dr. Boyces' Church Musick	6	6	0
1769	Subscription to Mr. Taylor for map of Gloucestershire		10	6
	Judge Barrington's books on Antient Statutes		18	0
1770	Dr. Boyce' subscription for 2 vols. Church Musick	3	3	0
1774	2 vols. Henry's History	1	1	0
	2 vols. Campbells Survey of Great Britain	2	3	0
	Dr. Boyce for 2 vols. of Church Musick	3	4	8
1779	Mr. Rudder for one copy of his History of Gloucestershire	2	12	6
1780	Subscriptions for Mr. Boyce's Church Musick	3	3	0
1787	Bigland's Collections		12	6
1794	Certain numbers of Bigland's Collections	2	4	6
1804	Rudge - compressed History of Gloucester- shire. 2 vols.		16	0
1834	Dulange's Glossary	12	12	0
1842	Rev. Wood for "Rudders Gloucestershire"	3	3	0
1844	Mr. Causton for 2 copies of his map of the City of Gloucester	5	7	0
1861	Harris' Manual of Monumental Brasses.	1	1	0
1865	Arnott Annals of the Three Choirs		12	6
1868	Crockfords Clerical Dictionary		14	1
1870	Portion of Bigland's History		6	0
	Antiquarian Memorials of Hereford Cathedral	1	10	0
	Gloucestershire Directory	1	0	0

References

- (1) Records of Gloucester Cathedral, Vol.11. p.156.
- (2) Glos. R.O., D 936 A1/2 p.36.
- (3) S. Rudder, History of Gloucestershire (1779), p.178.
- (4) D 936 A1/2 p.258. p.302/8.
- (5) D 936 A1/3 p.206.
- (6) D 936 A1/3 p.258.
- (7) D 936 A1/3 p.449.
- (8) D 936 A1/4.
- (9) D 936 A1/5.
- (10) D 936 A1/5 p.261.
- (11) D 936 A1/6 p. 47.
- (12) D 936 A1/6 p.110.
- (13) I. Kirby Diocesan Records Vol. 1.
- (14) Gloucester Cathedral Library, Librarians accounts 1731/65.
- (15) Librarian's accounts.
- (16) D 936 A1/6 p.384.
- (17) D 936 A1/7 p. 25.
- (18) D 936 A1/8 p.303. 357.
- (19) D 936 A1/8 p.229-31.
- (20) D 936 A1/8 p.321-2.
- (21) D 936 A1/8 p.415.
- (22) D 936 A1/9 p. 41.
- (23) D 936 A1/9 p.284.
- (24) D 936 A1/9 p.315, 347, 379, 405, 432.
- (25) D 936 A1/9 p.511, 537.
- (26) D 936 A1/10 p.391.
- (27) D 936 A1/10 p.471-508.
- (28) D 936 A1/10 p.583.
- (29) D 936 A1/11.
- (30) D 936 A1/11.
- (31) D 936 A1/12 p. 24-34.
- (32) D 936 A1/12 p.365.
- (33) D 936 A1/12 p.372.
- (34) D 936 A1/12 p.400.

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