Selling Books from the Sheldonian Theatre

1677–1720

by

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Catalogues were produced from time to time at Oxford by the University Press at the Sheldonian Theatre in the hope of selling good and learned books. In what numbers they were produced is not clear, but it is likely to have been some hundreds of copies in most years between 1694 and 1716. As ephemeral broadsides, their chances of survival were not good. Survivors are few and to a great extent belong to the collections of a few individuals whose papers have been preserved and who tended to keep such items. The names of Anthony Wood and John Bagford are conspicuous; Sir Joseph Williamson in the State Paper Office and Edward Lhuyd deserve honourable mentions. Other provenances include Jonathan Edwards, Humfrey Wanley, and Thomas Hearne. Contemporary letters provide a little evidence of how these catalogues were distributed. In addition, I have noted a few that refer to catalogues in years from which no example survives. An extensive trawl through contemporary correspondence may well add more, especially the voluminous correspondence of Dr Arthur Charlett, who was responsible for the issuing of catalogues from 1694...
onwards. Some forty years after the first such catalogue was printed, he still lamented that the Press had never really succeeded in selling books.

The purpose of this article is to draw together the evidence and thereby demonstrate the persistence of these efforts. Falconer Madan listed the earliest examples in some detail, but his finished work extended only to items printed in 1680, and his notes from then to 1713 are thin. A bald list by year and shelfmark was included in the edition of the first Minute Book of the delegates of the Press in 1943. Surviving catalogues are mostly listed in Wing until 1700, absorbed and continued by the English Short-Title Catalogue, but they are not treated under a consistent heading, so that it becomes impossible for the browser to realise that there is a significant category of document here. With the earliest examples there are some uncertainties about date and context. Neither is finding the extant copies a straightforward matter: since it is usually necessary to start with the opening words, one has to know the item in detail before it can be looked up. The best listing hitherto available has been Harry Carter’s in the appendix to the first volume of A History of the Oxford University Press (1975), which aims to provide a concise catalogue of everything from the learned side of the Press. Carter’s listing, however, begins only in 1690, omitting the years when the Press was run by John Fell and his executors and thereby leaving a nine-year gap between the end of Madan’s listing and the start of his own. He comments that ‘twelve of such lists issued in the years 1694–1716 are known’. The present list is the first attempt to go from first to last. I have also been able to add evidence for a good many issues not previously recorded.

Madan offers the most analytical approach, identifying all the works named in the first two lists, which, he observes, include only half the books produced at the Theatre in the period they cover. He establishes the fact that what he calls the First Sheldonian Press Catalogue, offering fifty-two works printed between 1670 and 1677, was produced in 1677. This material has been discussed only twice and very briefly. Harry Carter discusses Charlett’s efforts ‘as salesman on behalf of the Press’, and he illustrates two of the

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5 Where ESTC appears as a location in COPAC, shelfmarks are often supplied, even though they are not at present available directly from ESTC.

6 Harry Carter, A History of the Oxford University Press, i: To the Year 1780 (Oxford, 1975), p. 178. Examples of fourteen issues (one of them a ghost) are entered in his Appendix under the year of production, alphabetized under Oxford University; eleven are indexed by year under University Press [p. 618].

catalogues, those for 1705 and 1700. Nicolas Barker also included a copy of the 1705 catalogue with a short discussion in the Press’s quincentenary exhibition. What these catalogues illustrate is the effort made by the University Press to offer books directly to buyers in a market dominated by the London book trade, which from 1668 to 1711 published collective termly catalogues of books new to the market or reprints. The proleptic emphasis in the Sheldonian catalogues on books in the press or expected to be printed no doubt ties in with the University Press’s interest in selling by subscription. Retail sales from the Theatre warehouse are scarcely visible but must have taken place.

These catalogues should be seen in two contexts. First, in Oxford, the University Press was itself a new facility in 1669 and its operation was still evolving. Before that date the University had designated self-employed craftsmen as printers to the University. In the course of 1668–69, through the cooperation of Dr John Fell (1625–1686), Dean of Christ Church and Vice-Chancellor, and the munificent benefactor, Archbishop Gilbert Sheldon, a press was set up for the University at the newly-built Sheldonian Theatre. From 1671 it was managed under a lease by Fell himself in partnership with Dr Thomas Yate, principal of Brasenose, and two Oxford men in public life, Sir Leoline Jenkins and Sir Joseph Williamson. The intention seems to have been to sell the books through agreements with one or more booksellers, as we learn from a contemporary note ‘concerning vending the books printed by the University’. The earliest list of books in press is known only from

10 Carter, A History, p. 181, notes the difficulty of making payments and illustrates it by reference to a letter among the Rydal papers (George Fleming to Sir Daniel Fleming, 27 July 1697; Rydal Papers, no. 517); J. R. Magrath, The Flemings in Oxford (Oxford, 1904–24), iii, 357. The point at issue there was not Sir Daniel Fleming’s difficulty in paying the Press: his son in Oxford had paid 146. 6d. for the book by White Kennett, Parochial Antiquities Attempted in the History of Ambrosden (1695), and was reimbursed by the carrier, who would recover the money from Sir Daniel. The book had been published in October 1695 (Carter 1695/10), and it is reported that ‘all but six of 312 copies printed sold within a year’ (Barker, Oxford University Press and the Spread of Learning, p. 29). Was this one of those six or a second-hand copy and therefore irrelevant?
12 Thomas Hearne preserved this note, which sets out various options, Bodl. MS Rawlinson D. 317 (MS Hearne 15, pressmark E. Pr. 134), fol. 197v. The origin of this paper is not apparent; the volume of papers in which it is included was acquired or perhaps bound by Hearne in 1729, and it includes letters to both Fell and Samuel Clarke, architypographus. The note was printed by Madan, in ‘Annals of Oxford Printing 1651–1862’, Oxford Books, A Bibliography of Printed Works Relating to the University and City of Oxford or Published There, iii, p. xxxviii, under the year 1671, but I can see no evidence for this date beyond the inference that it belongs to the first years of the Press.
Fell’s manuscript, dated 9 January 1671/2. A month later the University agreed to pay for the building of a printing house adjacent to the Theatre itself. During the next six years Fell and Yate attempted in different ways to take on the Stationers’ Company in the hope of enabling the press to profit from the production of school books and bibles. Some of Fell’s papers from this period ended up in the hands of Thomas Hearne and have thereby been preserved. Revealing in a different manner are the letters written by Humphrey Prideaux, whom Fell used as an editorial assistant in the press. In 1675 he wrote, ‘We have scarce as yet set forth any booke of worth, neither can I persuade Mr Dean to attempt any, his answer to all my proposals being, It will not sell’. There are surviving specimens of undated catalogues, apparently from 1676 and 1677, produced to advertise learned books directly to buyers. Since Fell says that he dealt with type and left money matters to Thomas Yate, it is likely that it was Yate who decided to issue these catalogues. In May 1678 the Stationers’ Company declined the terms for a renewal of their agreement, when Dr Yate had made it a precondition that they take over the unsold stock of the Press. A month later we find that the Company negotiated an Oxford agreement with Moses Pitt, a London bookseller. Fell, Yate, Jenkins, and Williamson now found

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15 Johnson and Gibson, Print and Privilege, pp. 59–73.
16 Hearne’s manuscripts came to the Bodleian through Richard Rawlinson. Here, among many volumes of his miscellaneous collections, MS Rawlinson D. 397 (Hearne MS i) and D. 398 (Hearne MS 3) include papers concerning the Press in the period 1670–77, among them letters to Fell, signalling that a batch of Fell’s papers had come into Hearne’s possession. T. H. B. M. Harmsen, Antiquarianism in the Augustan Age. Thomas Hearne, 1676–1715 (Oxford, 2000), p. 142, suggests that Hearne got them from Christopher Wase (d. 1711), fellow of Corpus Christi College, whose father, also Christopher Wase, was architypographus from 1669; in view of the fact that Fell excluded Wase from the work of the Press (Carter, A History, p. 65), this does not appear likely.
18 Dr John Fell to Sir Leoline Jenkins, dated 7 January 1671/2 (State Papers Domestic, SP 29/102/28; Calendar SP Dom. 1671–72, p. 72; quoted by Johnson and Gibson, Print and Privilege, p. 60). This is one of ten letters from Fell or Yate to Jenkins between December 1671 and April 1672, which ended up among state papers, presumably because Jenkins handed them to the fourth undertaker of the Press, Williamson, who was keeper of the state paper office. More are found there over the remainder of the decade, when Williamson was also a principal secretary of state.
19 Calendared from the Company’s records by D. F. McKenzie and Maureen Bell, A Chronology and Calendar of Documents Relating to the London Book Trade 1641–1700 (Oxford, 2005), ii, 193 (6 May 1678): Yate and his partners made it a condition that the Company ‘take off so many of the severall impressions of the books mentioned in the catalogue now read by the Clerk as they now had by them in Qures, abating 7s 6d in the pound at the Rate they are now sold at. Then, and not otherwise, they were willing’ to renew the agreement. Carter, A History, pp. 94, reports this condition, citing C. Blagden, The Stationers’ Company: A History, 1403–1959 (London, 1960), p. 197, where no evidence is offered; he refers not to the rate of discount but to the valuation of the stock in question as £3,800, the sum that Pitt later said he had paid.
20 The Company agreed ‘the same bargain’ with Pitt on 8 June 1678, and their agreement was read and sealed by the Company on 9 July 1678 (McKenzie and Bell, Chronology and Calendar of Documents, ii, 195, 200). Speculation on Fell’s strategy in 1678, Johnson and Gibson, Print and Privilege, pp. 74–80, takes no account of these arrangements between the old and new lessees.
themselves contracted, initially for three years, with four London booksellers — ‘interlopers’, as Johnson and Gibson style them, not shareholders in the English stock of the Stationers’ Company — Moses Pitt, William Leake, Peter Parker, and Thomas Guy, who set up a bible press in Oxford.\(^{21}\) One of these, Peter Parker, had earlier been the subject of legal action by the Press.\(^{22}\) The agreement was signed in September, but already we find Pitt and his colleagues offering Press books for sale in August 1678. Pitt later said that he had been obliged to buy some £3,800-worth of books held in stock as a pre-condition for the agreement to print bibles.\(^{23}\) Although the sale of learned books was not part of their agreement, we find that Pitt and his colleagues advertised Press books through catalogues between 1678 and 1682.\(^{24}\) Moses Pitt was the leader in this.\(^{25}\) He is also named on a few title-pages as selling an Oxford book.\(^{26}\) It was presumably as a gesture of good will that he gave to the University a copy of the first book printed in Oxford

\(^{21}\) The agreement between the Oxford partners and the London booksellers, dated 26 September 1678, is printed by Madan, *Oxford Books. A Bibliography of Printed Works Relating to the University and City of Oxford or Published There*, iii, 418–21. The wider context is treated at length by Johnson and Gibson, *Print and Privilege*, pp. 74–118. Dr John Wallis’s account (1691) says that the intention was an agreement with Pitt and Leake, ‘but finding these not enough to do the work, they further took in Mr Parker and Mr Guy’ (Johnson and Gibson, *Print and Privilege*, pp. 76–77; Carter, *A History*, p. 95). William Leake died in 1681; his son John Leake had already put his name to a catalogue in August 1678.

\(^{22}\) Johnson and Gibson, *Print and Privilege*, p. 77, note the recorded payment on 6 May 1676, ‘To Sir Francis Pemberton a fee upon the 2nd tryall against Peter Parker £1 15s 6d’ (Bodl. MS Rawlinson D. 197, fol. 442). Madan, *Oxford Books*, iii, 277, mentions counterfeit editions of Theatre books, which may have given rise to prosecutions.

\(^{23}\) The evidence is a letter from Peter Parker to Dr Fell, part of a file of correspondence (April 1684–February 1688/9) concerning the Press’s side in the litigation with the King’s Printers, and chiefly letters of Fell, Wallis, and Parker. Writing on 8 November 1684 Parker says, ‘I this afternoon got Mr Pitts answer. He saith that such a day he bought a parcell of books above 3800\(^{\text{36}}\) worth & contracted for the privilege, which would not bee granted without his first buying the books’ (Oxford University Archives, SEP/P/15, fol. 17; Johnson and Gibson, *Print and Privilege*, p. 86).

\(^{24}\) Madan (*Oxford Books*, iii, p. xlv) supposes that they had agreed ‘also, apparently, to act as agents for the Sheldonian books and sell them in London’ referring to the text of the agreement printed among his appendixes (ibid., iii, 418–21) but there is nothing to this effect in the agreement. What he identifies as the first book produced as a joint effort between Theatre and booksellers was a dubious production, a reissue of the text of Gilbert Coles’s *Theophilus and Philodoxus* (1674; Madan 3008), after Coles’s death, with a new title-page, *A Dialogue between a Protestant and a Papist, Oxford: Printed at the Theater, And are to be Sold by Moses Pitt at the Angel in St Pauls Church-yard, Peter Parker at the Leg and Star in Cornhil, William Leak at the Crown in Fleetstreet, and Thomas Guy at the Corner Shop of little Lumbard-street and Cornhil, 1679* (Madan 3207). This was a production of the booksellers; the Press was still advertising its 1674 edition in the 1686 catalogue.

\(^{25}\) Thomas Dixon, tutor to the Fleming boys in Oxford, says as much in reporting news of the Press’s litigation to Sir Daniel Fleming, ‘the University Booksellers […] whereof Moses Pit is now the chiefest’ (22 January 1679/80; J. R. Magrath, *The Flemings in Oxford* (Oxford, 1904–24), i, 310), ‘Moses Pitt their master (if I may so call him)’ (7 April 1680; ibid., i, 312).

\(^{26}\) All of those in which he is named ‘Pitt’ are from the bible press apart from a small number of cases in which he was the publisher (as in n. 24). The three examples of learned books from 1679 name him ‘Pitt’ and use the formula ‘V enales prostant apud Mosem Pit’: the reissue of Luzancy’s *Reflexions on the Council of Trent* (1679; Madan 3214) names Pitt, Parker, Leake, and Guy as selling the book; the editions of Humphrey Prideaux’s *Moses Maimonides de jure pauperis et peregrini apud Judaeos* (1679; Madan 3215) and Isaac Vossius’s *De sibyllinis alisique oraculis* (1679, 1680; Madan 3237, 3282) name only Pitt.
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and to the Bodleian a group of Caxtons. Yate died in April 1681, Leake in the same year, but it appears to have been Pitt's financial difficulties in 1682–83 that put an end to this series of catalogues. During the period 1682–91 Parker and Guy continued profitably to sell Oxford bibles, while litigation continued with the King's Printers. After Fell's death in July 1686, his executors succeeded to his role in the direction of the Press. Evidence has now come to light that Dr John Mill, Principal of St Edmund Hall, as one of Fell's executors, revived the practice of issuing catalogues of learned books. From 1690 the University resumed the direction of the Press through the board of delegates, and from 1692 the bible press, by now in St Aldates, was managed under a new twenty-one-year agreement with the Stationers' Company. The printing house for the learned press next to the Theatre was rebuilt at the expense of the University. Two meetings of the delegates in June and July 1694 were the first to be minuted since 1678. Dr Arthur Charlett (1655–1722), Master of University College since 1692, took on himself a personal role in the direction of the Press on behalf of the delegates. He made more effort than anyone before him to sell learned books to the public without any middleman.

The second context is the wider one of advertising books through catalogues. The fundamental work on this topic by Graham Pollard and the collector Albert Ehrman makes no reference to these catalogues but provides much background information. The Sheldonian Press began within twelve months of the first term catalogue issued by the London bookseller Robert

27 The first is the famous edition of Rufinus on the Apostles' Creed, dated 17 December 1468 [an error for 1478] (BMC, xi, 234). Pitt sent a copy to Dr John Wallis, keeper of the archives, with a letter dated 28 January 1679/80 (reproduced from the original in the University Archives in Johnson and Gibson, Print and Privilege, facing p. 76); Dr Wallis entered an inscription, dated 31 January 1679/80 (Thomas Hearne, Remarks and Collections (Oxford, 1885–1918), i, 177). The book remains in the University Archives (Oxford University Archives, NEP/supra/19). The four Caxton editions were noted by Hearne on the strength of the ex domo inscription from 1680 (Hearne, Remarks and Collections, ii, 204); they were bought as a Sammelband by Pitt in 1678 and remain together, now under the shelfmark Arch. G. d. 13, Cato’s Distichs (Bod-Inc C 517), Chaucer’s Boethius (B 404), The Knight of the Tower (L 101), and Aesop and Avianus in English (Aes 4, where there is a note on the provenance).

28 For background, M. Harris, ‘Moses Pitt and Insolvency in the London Book-Trade in the Late 17th century’, in Economics of the British Book-Trade 1604–1939, ed. by Robin Myers and Michael Harris (Cambridge, 1985), pp. 176–208. On pp. 189, 206, Harris notes that two auction catalogues from 30 November and 10 December 1685 sold off stock still held by Pitt, named only in a handwritten addition in BL 821.i.4 (16).

29 When it was renewed in 1712, the lease was taken by John Baskett and two partners, who contributed £2000 towards the cost of the Clarendon Building (Hearne, Remarks and Collections, iii, 288), in which the two sides of the Press were again brought together. He had been involved with the bible press in Oxford for most of the previous twenty years, and Carter, A History of the Oxford University Press [Press, p. 167], describes him as ‘a substantial financier of the Oxford Learned Press from 1707 to 1729’. He was certainly wealthy (Hearne, Remarks and Collections, vi, 292).


32 Graham Pollard and Albert Ehrman, The Distribution of Books by Catalogue from the Invention of Printing to AD 1800, Roxburghe Club (1965). They record only Fell’s two proposals (p. 194).
Clavell in 1668. A few London booksellers had produced catalogues of their
own in the 1650s and 60s, and a few would continue to do so occasionally.33
In Oxford, from 1652, some booksellers had sometimes included catalogues
in books produced for them by Oxford printers. Madan recorded no fewer
than twenty-five lists of books offered for sale in editions commissioned by
six Oxford booksellers between 1652 and 1676.34 He concludes with the
observation, ‘I have not met with any lists between 1677 and 1680’ [his term-
al date]. ‘The Sheldonian Press seems to have snuffed out these little
tapers’. The list below includes one broadside catalogue of Theatre books
produced by the long-standing Oxford bookseller Richard Davis in 1680, not
mentioned by Madan. By that date Fell and Yate had made their arrange-
ments with Moses Pitt and partners in London, who for a time included
catalogues of Theatre books at the back of editions printed at the Shel-
donian. It is an open question as to who took the initiative here, but the
circumstantial evidence points towards the booksellers.35 Pitt had himself
initiated a series of catalogues of imported books for sale through his shop
in 1676, though these did not long continue.36 His trade auction of Theatre
books in 1679 was also a new initiative, the first auction only to the trade in

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33 Early examples retrievable through ESTC are Humphrey Moseley (from 1650) and Gabriel Bedell
(from 1666); John Martyn (1670), John Starkey (1670), Thomas Bassett (1672), Nathaniel Ranew
(1674), William Crooke (1680), Richard Chiswell (1683), Walter Ketilby (1688), Nathaniel Crouch
(1689). This does not include lists at the back of books and not separately catalogued. None of these
was produced as a broadside.

34 The notional first is a list of eight books for sale facing the beginning of the text in an edition of
John Prideaux’s Fasciculus controversiarum theologicarum, printed by Leonard Lichfield for the
Oxford bookseller Thomas Robinson in 1652 (Madan 2225, ESTC R11921). They are titles by Prideaux
or otherwise connected to him. Thomas Robinson and Richard Davis both included general lists of
books for sale in titles printed in 1653; their catalogues appear as Madan 2242 (part of Madan 2242)
and 2244 (part of Madan 2244). These are the first two in a listing in F. Madan, Oxford Books. A
Bibliography of Printed Works Relating to the University and City of Oxford or Published There, 3 vols
(Oxford, 1895–1931), iii, 396–400 (nos. 1–24). Some have entries in his main catalogue, all form part
of books in his main catalogue unless the book was printed in London (which is the case with two lists
in 1659). ESTC does not generally include these lists either separately or as part of the parent entries,
but I note ESTC R121798, a half-sheet, 8°, 8 pages, headed, A Catalogue of Books Printed for, and to
be sold by Richard Davis at his Shop Neer Oriell Colledge in Oxford (BL RB.21.4.6874 (2)). This is no.
11 on Madan’s list, i.e. no. 10 (1659), as resissued in 1660, in each case with Henry Hurst’s Aγγους
(Madan 2247, 2500). Oxford University Press Archives has two detached 8° leaves, now mounted under
glass, with the same heading but with the spelling ‘neare’. One item on Madan’s list, no. 16, Richard
Davis, [31662], is described as ‘one leaf in the Bodleian’; I have been unable to match this description
to the leaf in question.

35 Johnson and Gibson, Print and Privilege, p. 80, observe that ‘the trade catalogues of the interlopers’
[Pitt and others] ‘show that they were asked to market in London the secular books of the learned
imprimere’. They have assumed that Pitt would not do this unasked and that Fell and Yate must
therefore have made the request. The booksellers, however, had far more experience of selling and may
surely have seen it as in their own interest to sell more books.

36 Catalogus librorum in regionibus transmarinis supere editorum, London: Moses Pitt, 1676–79, ten
issues between 8 May 1676 (no. 1) and [July] 1679 (no. 10) (ESTC P1496 shows copies at British Library
and Yale, to which add Bodleian Library, Wood 666b (12) [nos. 1–10] and Wood 658 (820) [nos. 1–3,
6]). A precursor of this series was his Catalogus librorum in omni facultate et lingua taurorum,
superne in Anglogin post notissimum bellum per Moyen Pitt, bibliopola, ex Hollandia
adportatorum (London, 1674), 8°, 72pp (ESTC R12906; copies at Bodl. 258 c. 36, Johnson d. 731 (6)).
For context, see Pollard and Ehrman, Distribution of Books, p. 99, table 28.
this country. After 1682 I find no example of such advertisements through named London booksellers. The final trade auction of Moses Pitt’s stock in December 1685 disposed of books from the bible press.

Against this background, Fell’s circulation of single-sheet catalogues in 1677 appears innovative. Two catalogues in the names of booksellers appear actually to have been distributed with copies of books printed at the Theatre, if we may base that inference on the association of surviving copies with particular editions in 1678 and 1679. The next surviving catalogue produced in the university context is the undated one produced, according to Anthony Wood, in September 1680. From then to 1694, we have mostly attestations. Hearne’s catalogue of his printed books records Theatre lists dated 7 July 1682 and 11 July 1684 in a collection of minor items press-marked ‘Fen 95’. The inclusion of precise dates would become normal practice. There is no sign that this collection has survived anywhere, and without the items themselves there is no evidence as to whether they were issued by the press committee or by the booksellers. The want of any copies among Wood’s collections is worth noting. In 1686 a catalogue was issued by Dr Mill, but again Wood preserved no copy of this, and we know of it from the Fleming correspondence crossmatched with an undated list kept by Jonathan Edwards, principal of Jesus. Using both sides of the sheet to advertise more than one hundred titles, this is the longest catalogue of Theatre books from the whole period.

With the coming of more settled times at the Press, Dr Arthur Charlett introduced a new style of broadside catalogue produced in the Theatre and paid for by the delegates. Where older catalogues had listed books by size, Charlett’s first known broadside catalogue of 1694 is in two parts, books

37 The starting point for any approach to Hearne’s books is S. G. Gillam, ‘Thomas Hearne’s Library’, Bodleian Library Record, 12 (1985–87), 52–64. Bodl. MS Rawlinson D. 1177 is a catalogue in shelf-list order compiled by Hearne in the 1720s. It was used by Frans Korsten to provide a snapshot, ‘Thomas Hearne: The Man and his Library’, in Order and Connexion: Studies in Bibliography and Book History, ed. by R. C. Alston (Cambridge, 1997), pp. 49–63, and further by T. H. B. M. Harmsen, Antiquarianism in the Augustan Age. Thomas Hearne, 1678–1735 (Oxford, 2000), pp. 136–62. Bodl. MS Eng. misc. c. 49 is a numbered accession-list, begun in 1709 and continued for more than twenty years; most entries were struck out when transferred to the shelf-list. Much work is needed to make this material more accessible. Hundreds of Hearne’s books survive, especially among Richard Rawlinson’s bequest to the Bodleian, but there is as yet no list of them. Stanley Gillam remarks, ‘Hearne possessed a great number of pamphlets and other printed items, such as auction catalogues, prospectuses, broadsides, and single sheets, but very little of such material is to be found in the sale [in 1736]. It is to be feared that it was considered too ephemeral to warrant preservation and has disappeared for ever’ (p. 62). It is clear that around 1720 Hearne was able to collect items such as these from the 1680s. There are several examples in Bodl. Fol. Θ 662 (including one item from 1685 listed below), which includes fifteen pieces on which Hearne has written comments, sometimes recording when and from whom he obtained them, Bodl. Fol. Θ 663 comprises proposals to subscribers, four of which also carry Hearne’s handwriting. Neither is readily cross-matched with an entry in Rawlinson D. 1177. One item below from 1694 probably can be matched with its entry in Hearne’s catalogue. Hearne does not appear to have had Wood’s systematic interest, but he collected items from the 1670s and 80s. He could have kept a set of more recent catalogues, but he did not; he chiefly retained copies from 1707 and 1708, in which his editions of Livy and John Spelman appear.
now printing and books lately printed. No example is known of the catalogue produced in 1695. From 1696 this division is articulated by an italic heading. From the same year some of his catalogues also include directions to those wishing to order copies on larger paper of books not yet printed.\textsuperscript{38} No distinction was made between books funded by the delegates and those paid for by authors and their subscribers or by booksellers. The purpose was simply to advertise the books in the hope of recovering costs as quickly as possible. The decision to use only one side of the sheet, which much reduced the number of titles advertised, increased the emphasis on new and recent works. It may have been taken to simplify keeping the catalogue in type for making changes and working off up-to-date copies. A broadside could also be readily used as a poster for display at the warehouse or in the coffee houses. Charlett’s personal role is mentioned in a note made by Thomas Hearne on a copy of the extended catalogue from the year 1694; although Hearne’s note is likely to have been written only some years later, it was based on Charlett’s own authority. A third division, books preparing for the Press, was introduced by Charlett after the extant catalogue of 1702. A letter of Edward Lhuyd shows that this was new in 1705, when he wrote to a friend in Wales, ‘Our Sir Charles Cotterel and noise-monger A. C. has divided the catalogue now into three parts — 1\textsuperscript{st} Qui sub prelo sunt — 2\textsuperscript{nd} Qui nuper ex eodem typographio prodierunt — 3\textsuperscript{rd} Qui prelo parantur; in which last he inserts anything (whether ever likely to be printed) if he thinks it will meet with publike applause’.\textsuperscript{39} Also in 1705 we learn that Charlett instructed Hearne to add an entry to the catalogue currently set in type and have twenty-five copies despatched to him at Windsor. In 1707 Hearne told Dr Thomas Smith: ‘As for Tacitus, ’twas with two or three more books put into the Theatre List purely at the instigation of Dr Arthur Charlett, on purpose that the world would talk: but who ’tis will do it, I know nothing as yet, nor indeed whether ’twill be done here’.\textsuperscript{40} And in a long account of his grievances with Charlett over the Press, Hearne depicts Charlett as compiling one such catalogue with John Hall in the warehouse at the Theatre, adding that

\textsuperscript{38} This appears in both issues of 1696. What I take to be the first was in English, touching on the difficulty of printing too few or too many copies on larger paper, such as were usually given to the delegates of the Press. In Latin, and without the explanation, this note appears in what I take for the second issue of 1696 and in many subsequent catalogues.

\textsuperscript{39} Edward Lhuyd to Humphrey Foulkes, dated at Oxford, 28 July 1705 (R. T. Gunther, \textit{Life and Letters of Edward Lhuyd} (Oxford, 1945), pp. 504–07, no. 262). The allusion to Sir Charles Cotterel (1615–1701), or his son Sir Charles Lodowick Cotterel (1654–1710), successively master of the ceremonies at the Stuart court, is meant only to hint at Charlett’s role in Oxford life.

\textsuperscript{40} Hearne to Smith, 10 May 1707 (Bodl. MS Rawlinson Letters 37, fol. 127; excerpted in Thomas Hearne, \textit{Remarks and Collections}, ii, 12n), with reference to the catalogue dated 2 May 1707. After receiving this catalogue, Smith had noticed its entry, ‘Taciti opera ad fidem Codd. MSS. & Editt. Vett. recognita. Annotationibus e Nummis & Inscriptionibus petitis adornata. 2 Vol. §43’, and had asked Hearne, ‘I should be glad to know, who it is, that designs to publish Tacitus’ (Smith to Hearne, 8 May 1707, Bodl. MS Smith 62, fol. 263). The entry was not repeated in the catalogue for 1708.
he put his name in an imprimatur at the end. Several surviving catalogues between 1705 and 1716 show his imprimatur. The last catalogue known to have been produced in this period is attested in the accounts in 1720. In the accounts for 1709–10 and 1710–12, reference is made to Mr Vice-Chancellor’s order, but this appears to be more style of minuting than evidence that vice-chancellors had taken over the initiative from Charlett. It is striking that one of these entries in 1711 mentions producing a catalogue expressly ‘for the Bp of Worcester’, that is Dr William Lloyd.

The directions to those wishing to order books on larger paper name the person to whom this wish should be communicated and therefore reflect changes in the day-to-day management of sales. The name of John Hall, warehouse-keeper since 1676, appears in those from 1696 to 1707. He died in December 1707, and was not replaced. In 1708 his widow is named in these directions alongside Giles Thistlethwaite, who had been architypographer since 1692 but had taken no practical role at the press. Thomas Hearne had his own view on this temporary situation and blamed Charlett. Soon Thistlethwaite took over Hall’s responsibilities, and for five years or so he had an active involvement. Two catalogues from Thistlethwaite’s time have a further note, saying that titles marked with an asterisk in the catalogue are for sale from him (1709, 1711). When Thistlethwaite died on 14 January 1714/15, Hearne was elected to succeed him as architypographer. Two days after his election, however, the delegates appointed

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41 The diary entry was written on 4 April 1709, but the occasion referred to was some years earlier: ‘Dr Charlett, the present master of University College, being about to print a List of the Theater Books, sent for me to John Hall’s at the Theater, and desired to know of me what was preparing for the Press. Amongst other things I told him of Livy, which he immediately put in; and at the same time I mentioned my design of printing Alfred’s Life, with which he was well pleased, and put that in also, and after all at the bottom of the paper he put an imprimatur and his name. The paper he has several times reprinted and ordered his name to stand’ (Hearne, Remarks and Collections, ii, 180). The mention of Charlett’s imprimatur suggests that this may refer to the augmented issue of August 1705, but both works appear as preparing for the Press in the catalogue of 12 June 1705 without the imprimatur. Hearne’s diary begins only in July 1705.

42 An imprimatur in the name of the vice-chancellor is usual in Theatre books, particularly after 1690; its significance is hardly more than licence for a book to be printed within the university (Carter, A History of the Oxford University Press, pp. 250–51). None the less, Charlett’s imprimatur (as pro-vice-chancellor) is ridiculed by Dr Thomas Smith in a letter to Thomas Hearne (see 1709). ESTC records a similar imprimatur in his name in two small items: Edward Wells, Dr Wells’s Examination of the Remarks on his Letter to Mr Peter Douley in Two Letters to the Remarker. Imprimatur Arth. Charlett, Pro Vice Canc. Oxon. (Oxford: printed by Leonard Lichfield for John Stephens, bookseller, 1706), 8°, 2pp., [ESTC N6751]; and Richard Peers, The Character of an Honest Dissenter, in Twelve Marks; Together With an Illustration of Each. Imprimatur Ar. Charlett. 15. Jun. 1715 (Oxford: printed by Leonard Lichfield for Stephen Fletcher, bookseller, 1715), 8°, [4], 39, [1] p., [ESTC T8061]. This fails to reflect the extent of the practice. Edward Lhuyd’s Archaeologia Britannica, for example, was a major work, in the press since October 1703, which was published with an imprimatur in Charlett’s name dated 9 April 1707. Charlett never held office as vice-chancellor.

43 The year ending 28 September 1710 was the last of Dr William Lancaster’s four years in office; Dr Thomas Brathwaite was installed on 4 October 1710 (Hearne, Remarks and Collections, ii, 180), serving for two years.
Richard Sharpe

Stephen Richardson as warehouse-keeper. He was a compositor at the Press, and a sales list from 1713 shows him already taking on the warehouse role in Thistlethwaite’s time. By March Hearne noted, ‘They then made one Stephen Richardson, a printer, overseer of the Press’. Following Hearne’s resignation in November 1715, William Mussendine was elected architypographus and took no active part in the work of the Press. Richardson remained in post until his death in 1756, a period of more than forty years, during which time printing authors’ books continued but publishing by the delegates very nearly stopped.

The listing in the Appendix is fuller than any previous attempt, in part because I have drawn on the warehouse-keeper’s accounts from the Press to a greater extent than Carter did. The first two volumes, kept successively on behalf of John Hall and by Giles Thistlethwaite and Stephen Richardson, cover the years 1690–1708 and 1708–47. In the context of these early lists Carter cites the accounts in support of surviving examples rather than for what does not survive. They show payments for producing catalogues in several years for which none survives: 1695, 1698, 1703, 1710, 1719, and 1720. Conversely there are extant or attested examples from years when the accounts show no such payment: 1694, 1700, 1701, 1702, 1704, and 1713. Some entries in the accounts refer to multiple printings of the catalogue, sometimes with amendments: 1707, 1708, 1709, 1711. The costs in these cases are not greater than in years when recurrent printings are not mentioned. The account for 1711 contains dates that do not fit the evidence of surviving examples, which might lead one to extrapolate to multiple issues, some accounted for but not extant, others extant but not accounted for. Copies may have been worked off on different occasions in other years too.

46 Carter, A History, p. 145, gives the date of Richardson’s appointment as 17 January 1714/15 from the Minute Book; elsewhere, however, Carter says that Richardson was ‘chosen for the post in 1712’ with no reference to explain the distinction (ibid., p. 280). A conversation between Richardson and Hearne in 1712 shows that in 1709 Richardson had been compositor for Henry Aldrich’s incomplete Institutio grammatica (Carter 1709/1) (Hearne, Remarks and Collections, iii, 363).
47 Hearne, Remarks and Collections, v, 32.
48 When Dr William Blackstone set about reforming the Press, he described Richardson in 1756 as ‘totally superannuated and entirely unfit for business’ (quoted by Gibson and Johnson, First Minute Book, p. xxx).
49 These orderly accounts are fair copies, written up at one- or two-year intervals for the vice-chancellor’s inspection. The first account book ceased to be used in 1708, although there were many pages still available for use, a reflection of Mrs Hall’s reluctance to hand over the book. The second volume was begun by Thistlethwaite. After his death and Hearne’s election, an exchange of letters between Edward Wells and Hearne shows wider awareness of these books: Wells had seen clean copies of his Greek–English text of Thessalonians and Galatians and asked Hearne to check whether a new impression had been made at the Theatre ‘by looking over Mr Thistlethwaite’s books’; Hearne replied that he was not allowed to act as architypographus and had no access to the information (Hearne, Remarks and Collections, v, 14, 37). The volume was continued on behalf of Richardson, who for some years was reluctant to present accounts (Carter, A History, p. 280).
How many copies were produced is unknown. The accounts specify a number only in 1720, when the figure is 200 copies for 7s. That appears very expensive. In 1703, 6d. is entered for a single quire of paper; that would suggest that 2s. might cover the cost of 100 sheets, producing 200 copies. The expenditure is typically 5s. or 6s., sometimes rather more. It would seem probable, therefore, that during the period of regular catalogue production 500 or 600 copies might be distributed in a year.

The accounts do not properly allow one to see over what period copies were worked off but they do several times refer to ‘altering’ the catalogue and to working off copies on several occasions, as we see under the years 1707 (‘5 several times’), 1708 (‘9 several times’), 1709 (‘3 times’), 1711, and 1720. In some years the account is only for altering the catalogue rather than for composing and altering, with the implication that the catalogue from the previous year might have been kept in type to be updated as needed. The lists of 1701 and 1702 bear the same date, which may suggest that the same list was carried forward in a rather perfunctory way. The difficulty in comparing surviving examples is an obstacle to testing how much might have been left unaltered. The two issues of 1696 differ only in the note about ordering copies on larger paper. I have not seen two issues surviving from any other year, for the altered issue of 1705 reported by Carter is now unlocated. A comparison of the lists from 1696 and 1697 suggests that the type may have been retained and at the same time that there was little point in doing so. In the heading only the date has changed, and in the setting of the year-date the X is a little high in three lists; this feature is also visible in the list from 1694, and it would appear to have survived a closing-up of type in the heading between then and 1696. The first three entries for books in press are repeated lineatim, but after that the fourth entry has been reset, though it still relates to the same title as before. The next entry of 1696 has been reset in 1697 under the heading for books recently produced, and the next three might have been simply moved up. Thereafter there is so much change that to have kept the type standing would have saved little work. Issues differing in specific date in the same year are attested only from 1708, but in 1707 and 1708 copies were worked off on many occasions. The extant catalogue of 1708 differs from that of 1707 from the fourth line onwards. Obviously the good progress of books through the press would necessitate prompt rearrangement in the list, and the fact that alterations were made within the year — at the word of Dr Charlett, as we see in 1705 — suggests that some value was set on putting out an up-to-date catalogue. If type was sometimes left standing from year to year, it perhaps had more to do with the routine of maintaining a catalogue for working off copies as needed than with saving effort in typesetting when alterations were wanted.

The Press also produced occasional special sales catalogues in connection with the remaindering of stock. In this context Carter discusses an expensive
attempt to exchange books with foreign presses in 1698–1700. The Press accounts first show remaindering to a bookseller in the year 1705–06, a year for which we have no evidence of an ordinary catalogue: Christopher Bateman bought 160 volumes at less than half-price. In Thistlethwaite’s time we have two sales lists suggesting that books were offered at discounted prices, in 1711 at the warehouse, and in 1712 some choice books were offered through the London bookseller Jonah Bowyer. The practical reason behind this may have been the decision to build an ostentatious new printing-house in stone, which would have meant the demolition of many of the small buildings, east of the Theatre, in which the Press operated. Storage during this period may have been unusually difficult. By this date there were 8,500 books in stock, many of them ten years old and more, worth £4,447 at published price. On 2 March 1712/13 the delegates instructed Dr John Hudson, the Bodleian Librarian, to write to Christopher Bateman ‘to inform him that the University has been bid £1200 for the Books in their hands, and to know his resolutions in a fortnight’s time’. Nothing further is heard on this front, and the bidder is unnamed, but on 8 June 1713 Dr Hudson himself, together with ‘Mr Marten and Mr Dennison’, made a deal with the delegates to buy what remained of the stock after certain other disposals; the price was now £751. Whether this went ahead is open to question: Hearne’s silence on the matter seems astonishing. Hudson, however, was known to offer books for sale in the Bodleian, both library-duplicates and

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51 1st A/c, p. 243; Carter, A History, pp. 183–84.
52 Hearne reported in September 1711 that ‘they are about pulling down our print-house’ (Hearne, Remarks and Collections, iii, 221), but no source provides detail on the stages of decanting and demolition. In January 1711/12 equipment was moved, ahead of the demolition of the 1691 printing-house, and from then until October 1713 printing continued in the Theatre itself (ibid., iii, 293). Reporting the moving of the presses into the new Clarendon Building, Hearne notes that the name ‘Typographeum Clarendonianum’ had been chosen ‘out of whim’ (ibid., iv, 254); Carter, A History, pp. 197–99, on the move into the new premises.
53 Carter, A History, p. 184, presumably from 2nd A/c.
54 Gibson and Johnson, First Minute Book, pp. 36–37; Carter, A History, p. 184. Hearne’s letters complain about the intention of selling the stock for £1200 in March 1712/13 (Hearne, Remarks and Collections, iv, pp. 90–91, 94).
his own publications. A sales list from August 1713 offers a limited number of titles at reduced prices to ‘any Gentleman of this University’ from Stephen Richardson ‘at the Theater Press’. This list is comparable to that of 1711, and a few items had been in the warehouse more than twenty years. A letter to Hearne from Marmaduke Fothergill alludes to the offer of a book ‘such as was proposed by Stephen Richardson to be sold at the Theater, June 10th, 1713’. This surely attests a lost list at a time that does not square with the deal with Dr Hudson, which we may suppose had quickly fallen through. All three extant lists of discounted books are known only from examples kept by John Bagford, and others may have been produced that have left no trace.

These catalogues were meant to draw attention to the availability of books. How any resulting sales were handled is less apparent. Those who wanted books printed on larger paper were invited to send their names to the warehouse-keeper, and it must be presumed that he would handle direct sales. For buyers in Oxford, it must have been possible to buy on the spot. Hearne occasionally did this for contacts who wanted to buy discounted books. It is not clear how the warehouse-keeper handled the complexities

56 The most vivid depiction of the conditions in which Hudson sold library-duplicates comes from a German visitor in 1710, Zacharias Conrad von Uffenbach, who describes the room with some 400 books strewn around: ‘The librarian Dr Hudson looked through with us the books which we had selected from the duplicates, and quoted the price, which was so high that my brother only kept a few mathematical books [...] I hear he is said to be very self-seeking and to have earned large sums with his book-peddling: but he has made many enemies through his greed and is generally known as the Bookseller’ (G. J. Schelhorn, Herrn Zacharias Conrad von Uffenbach merkwürdige Reisen (Ulm, 1753–54), iii, 120–21, 157; translated by W. H. Quarrell and W. J. C. Quarrell, Oxford in 1710, from the Travels of Zacharias Conrad von Uffenbach (Oxford, 1928), pp. 26, 51). Hearne himself made the list of library-duplicates — 48 in folio, 87 in quarto, 392 in octavo — and preserved scraps of paper from sales in Hudson’s time, on which titles, prices, and buyers were noted, (Bodl. MS Rawlinson D. 712, fols. 5–10, 10a–12v). He also reports that the larger of the two studies that open off the Picture Gallery (now the Upper Reading Room) ‘hath been turn’d into a Ware-House, for many years, by Dr Hudson [...] The use he puts the room to is for printing paper, and copies of the books he prints, and here ‘tis that he sells his books’ (Hearne, Remarks and Collections, vi, 366). Ian Philip supposes that here too he ‘probably’ kept ‘some of the books he acquired when, with two others, he bought the whole stock of the University Press Warehouse in 1713, which he appears to have sold off over the next six years’ (The Bodleian Library in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries (Oxford, 1983), p. 85). Hudson died in 1719, and we do not know whether he had or had not sold off the stock. His partners are unidentified. If the deal was ever effected, it is impossible to imagine that they could more successfully dispose of thousands of books in the Picture Gallery than could be sold from the Press warehouse only yards away.

57 Carter, A History, p. 185, reproduces this, but his discussion does not raise the question as to who was selling if, as he records on the facing page, the delegates’ stock had been sold more than two months earlier to Dr Hudson and his partners. The fact that some of the titles offered were still in stock many years afterwards shows that the warehouse was not actually cleared.

58 Marmaduke Fothergill to Thomas Hearne, dated at Pontefract, 31 March 1716: ‘A particular Fancy domineers in a friend’s head of mine: He onely fancies the 1st fo. vol. of Clarendon’s Hist., in large paper, such as was proposed by Stephen Richardson to be sold at the Theater, June 10th, 1713. If such an one is left, pray procure it only’ (Bodl. MS Rawlinson Letters 5, fol. 178, no. 101; Thomas Hearne, Remarks and Collections, v, 191n). Hearne did so, and Fothergill acknowledged receipt on 30 May 1716 (Bodl. MS Rawlinson Letters 5, fol. 180, no. 103).

59 Earlier than the example in the previous note is one from October 1714, a year with no known catalogue, when he lists nine books at discounted prices despatched to Sir Philip Sydenham as well as other titles that ‘are all disposed of’ (Hearne to Sydenham, 26 October 1714; Hearne, Remarks and Collections, iv, 419n, 429n).
of correspondence, despatch, and collection of payments, which played such a large a part in Hearne’s publishing business. It is Hearne himself who has preserved the best evidence that catalogues produced the desired result. In 1716 Samuel Mead, who was a subscriber to Hearne’s own publications, writes:

I observe in the printed Catalogue of the Books now in the Oxford Press & which are preparing for it, that Mr Richardson desires that those who would have Books in large Paper would send to him. I am a stranger to him; will you therefore do me the favour to tell him that I desire a copy in large paper of Josephus, the Egyptian or Coptick new Testament, Tully de claris Oratoribus, Tully de Officiis, Petri Abelardi Epistolae, Dr Halley’s Menelaus Alexandrinus, Fabulae Aesopicae Niveleti. If as they come out, he will send ’em to me, he shall be carefully paid.60

Hearne duly spoke to Mr Richardson about the request, and these books do not appear in their further correspondence. Mead here requests seven of the thirteen titles advertised as sub prelo in the catalogue of 17 May 1716,61 presumably one of many such transactions that justified the continuation of the catalogues. Nevertheless, income from the sale of single copies of particular books is only occasionally entered in the warehouse-keeper’s accounts, providing scant evidence of sales patterns throughout this period.

The outcome of these efforts, then, was not as successful as may have been hoped. In a long letter to Dr William King, archbishop of Dublin, dated 18 March 1717/18, Dr Charlett ended:

As to our Presse, we can never engage further than for fair types, good workmen, and reasonable prices for the use of our materials and utensills; the vending of books we never could compasse, the want of vent broke Bishop Fell’s body, public spirit, courage, purse, and presse, and so it did even the great Lewis 14, who was fain at last to sell, as Bishop Fell did, all his fine Louvre editions of the classick authors, councils, &c., by lots or auction, and no author dares publish any book at his own expense without subscription, therefore I think no author is to be blamed that he will not ly at the mercy of booksellers, which is cruelty to all that dare print without first contracting with them. Mr Herne is now under censure for his many rude, ill-mannered, and scandalous reflections in his new preface to Camden’s

60 Samuel Mead to Thomas Hearne, dated at Lincoln’s Inn, 4 August 1716 (Bodl. MS Rawlinson Letters 8, fol. 169, no. 89; thinly abstracted in Hearne, Remarks and Collections, v, 273n). Reply from Hearne to Mead, 8 August 1716 (Bodl. MS Hearne Diaries 59, p. 123; Hearne, Remarks and Collections, v, 274n).

61 Of these titles M. T. Ciceronis Liber de claris oratoribus qui dicitur Brutus (Carter 1716/4) and M. Tullius Cicero de Officiis (Carter 1716/5) were published in that year, though neither were delegates’ books. Wilkins’s Novum Testamentum Egyptium vulgo Copticum (Carter 1716/17) was the only delegates’ book to appear in 1716, but it was not finished before September. It was two years before publication of Richard Rawlinson’s Petri Abaelardi et Heloissae epistolae (Carter 1718/1), which was finished in London, and Hudson’s Aesop in Greek and Latin (Carter 1718/2). Hudson’s edition of the Greek text of Josephus with a Latin translation was not published until 1720 (Carter 1720/1). Edmund Halley’s Menelai Sphaericorum libri III (Carter 1758/18) had begun its passage through the press at the delegates’ expense in 1713–14; title and preface were added for publication only in 1758 (Carter, A History, p. 291–92), when the Press awoke from its torpor.
Selling Books from the Sheldonian Theatre

Elizabethe, in 3 volumes in 8°; price to subscribers, in large paper, 40s, in lessser, 20s, and so catcht up, none to be had at any rate, so deare is slander and detraction! I shall not be want ofg to promote the prosecution ad reformandos mores, but I cannot condemn his method of printing no more than subscribed for, and by consequence setting such a price as he thinks advantageous to himself, and not displeasing to his subscribers, both being volunteers, and at liberty to proceed or refuse, nor are any denied to subscribe, since both Ireland & England are deficient in buyers, 'tis to be wished both kingdoms would join and assist each other in taking of good & learned editions.62

Our story ends here.63 Further exploration of correspondence may bring forth more attestation of otherwise unknown catalogues within this period, and advertisements in books may fill out the tale. Wider awareness of the broadside catalogues may even allow more of them to be recognized in collections that have not yet revealed their holdings. Beyond the mere listing, however, the catalogues can yet shed light on questions about the selling of books by the learned press in Oxford. Books lately produced and advertised as available may be followed from year to year. Some will sell out quickly, some will be offered year after year. Spark’s Lactantii Opera from 1684 was still available in 1712. A year-by-year tracking of titles, though time-consuming and difficult to set out, has the potential to add to our understanding of the rate of sales from the learned press, at least after 1694.


63 Later in the eighteenth century Carter draws on the warehouse-keeper’s accounts to show that sporadic production of catalogues resumed for a time between 1739 and 1758. Carter 1739/9 and 1744/10 derive from 2nd A/c, fol. 176, 201; 1748/10 is without source. He notes a single surviving example, Books Printed at the University-Press in Oxford. Sold by Daniel Prince, Warehouse-keeper to the University; and by Mr Thomas Payne, Book-seller, in Castle-street, near St Martin’s Church, London, Bodl. MS Top. Oxon. d. 587 (13) (SC 28694), in a bundle of Blackstone’s papers concerning reform of the Press 1776–58. It is undated, but Prince was only appointed as warehouse-keeper in 1748 (Carter, A History, p. 330), and the first title advertised as forthcoming is The Life of Edward Earl of Clarendon (1759). This item does not yet appear in ESTC, which has, however, an entry for an undated list with the same heading in the Warwickshire Record Office (ESTC T204967, there dated 1765). On inspection they may turn out be copies of the same catalogue. In his diary on 10 July 1733 Hearne wrote how ‘formerly particular notice used to be taken of the learned books printed by the University, but the University prints nothing of learning, indeed nothing at all hardly but a sheet almanack’ (Thomas Hearne, Remarks and Collections, xi, 229). The paucity of asterisks in Carter’s list after 1710 bears this out. The warehouse accounts begin to include stocklists and to record sales in the 1730s and 40s, allowing one to track sales from a limited and slow-moving backlist. To take as an example, Edward Lhuyd’s Archaeologia Britannica was published in 1707 at a price of 16s. (18s. 6d. bound); the print-run was about 600 copies. It was included in the discounted list produced in 1712 but not in that from 1713. In 1723 seven copies were sold at a discounted price of 5s. apiece (2nd A/c, fol. 707). Between 1730 and 1739 the remaining stock was reduced at the same price from 84 copies to 31 copies. It was still available at 5s. when Prince produced his sales list in 1758.
Where Carter lists books actually produced in the Theatre, books advertised but not produced represent a side-light on learning unfulfilled that would bear comparison with the gossip we find in letters and journals of the period. Some advertising, we know, was meant more as provocation than promise, but even this has its interest. Charlett’s letter refers here to the example of Thomas Hearne, who proved that it was possible to make a profit from selling books of recondite learning by subscription. This private enterprise is reflected in the 1716 catalogue, but for the most part Hearne relied on his own publicity. While most writers trembled at the risk of publishing without allowing the London trade to have the benefit, Hearne marketed his books directly to a limited group of mostly loyal subscribers.

The delegates were not so successful. Even Clarendon’s History of the Rebellion, printed between 1702 and 1704, was judged in 1705 to have ‘profited only the booksellers’.

Oxford

64 Hearne’s small broadside notices begin, ‘Advertisement. Just printed’ (often with ‘in octavo’) ‘at the Theater in Oxford and ready to be delivered to subscribers’. ESTC includes eighteen different advertisements produced between 10 February 1715/16 and 29 April 1735 (ESTC T20587–95, T142685–96, T143179). The first survives in Bagford’s collections (BL Harley 5929, nos. 96, 109), but not the second (1 May 1716), which was issued only a few days before his death. Dr Hans Sloane subscribed to all Hearne’s publications from Leland in 1710 onwards, and there are eleven examples from 1716 to 1731 among his correspondence (BL MSS Sloane 4044, 4045, 4046, and 4052); nine examples from 1721 to 1735 among letters to Edward Harley (BL MS Harley 7324), and an earlier one, dated 19 November 1716, with a letter from Hearne to Edward Harley, dated 20 November 1716 (BL MS Loan 29/98, now BL MS Add. 70384); one example from 1 May 1716 is among Hearne’s letters to Thomas Rawlinson (Bodl. MS Rawlinson Letters 33, no. 31), and ten copies of seven examples from 1727 to 1735 among letters to Richard Rawlinson (Bodl. MS Rawlinson Letters 32); three late examples between 1731 and 1734 come from George Ballard’s letters (Bodl. MS Ballard 41). Examples from 1716 and 1725 are found with draft letters among Hearne’s papers, as also a draft advertisement from 1715 for his Acta Apostolorum Graeco-Latine (Bodl. Rawlinson Letters 39, fols. 153–57, 212). An earlier advertisement beginning in the same way was drawn up by Hearne for the Daily Courant to promote the fifth volume of Leland’s Itinerary: ‘I must put an Advertisement in the Courant (as usual)’, he writes to Hilkiah Bedford, 9 October 1711, sending him the text to be used (Hearne, Remarks and Collections, iii, 241–42). He may have begun the practice with the first volume of Leland in 1710, his first independent offer to subscribers. He also copied the similar advertisement in The Post Boy for his edition of Henry Dodwell’s De parma equestri Woodwardiana dissertatio (unsent letter to Hilkiah Bedford, dated 3 March 1712/13; Hearne, Remarks and Collections, iv, 90).


66 Carter, A History, p. 165, citing S. Gibson and J. Johnson, First Minute Book, p. 21; Carter, A History, p. 199, compares the limited proceeds of publication with the large costs of the Clarendon Building.
Cited in the following list:

1st A/c and 2nd A/c = Warehouse-keeper’s accounts, Oxford University Press Archives, PR/1/18/1–2 (1690–1708, 1708–1747)

Carter = H. G. Carter, A History of Oxford University Press, 1: To the Year 1780 (Oxford, 1975), 412–76 [cited by year and number; less detailed than Madan but usually provides reference to at least one copy]

ESTC = English Short-Title Catalogue at estc.bl.uk (accessed 30 June 2009)


Madan = F. Madan, Oxford Books. A Bibliography of Printed Works Relating to the University and City of Oxford or Published There, 3 vols (Oxford, 1895–1931) [cited by number; references are in volume iii, which covers up to 1680 in detail]

Madan = F. Madan, A Chronological List of Oxford Books 1681–1713, ed. by J. S. G. Simmons [typescript in Bodleian, [1954], based on his notebooks, Bodleian Library, MSS Dep. e. 12, 13, cited by year and number; some shelfmarks are added in the typescript, but in one case at least Carter was unable to find a copy (1709)]


Morison = Stanley Morison, John Fell, the University Press, and the ‘Fell’ Types (Oxford, 1967)


Items in this list are not numbered, because not all of them are strictly Sheldonian sales catalogues. The list is divided into five sections: ‘Produced under Dr Fell and Dr Yate’ (9 items, 1675–84); ‘Produced by Booksellers’ (10 items, 1678–85); ‘Produced under Dr Mill’ (1 item, 1686); ‘Produced under Dr Charlett’ (29 items, 1694–1720); ‘Produced by the Stationers’ Company’ (2 items, 1692–1716). The total number of items listed, extant or attested, is 51.

An asterisk against the date indicates that a reproduction of the item is available through Early English Books Online or Eighteenth-Century Collections Online (as of 30 June 2009).
Richard Sharpe

Produced under Dr Fell and Dr Yate

[1675] A Proposal tending to the advancement of learning by an unburdensome and practicable encouragement of the Press

Half-sheet, 34 x 21.5 cm, double-sided; 47 lines of 19 cm.

Date taken from Anthony Wood's note in his copy. Thomas Hearne's library-catalogue has an entry under press-mark III 2 (1): 'A proposal tending to the advancement of learning by an unburdensome and practicable encouragement of the Press at the Theatre in Oxford' (Bodl. MS Rawlinson D. 1177, p. 168) = 841 (1) in his accession-list, Bodl. MS Eng. misc. e. 49; it might be an example of this item or the next

- Bodl., Wood 423 (51) (Anthony Wood's collections, K4941), with note on verso in Wood's hand, '1675'
- NLS Crawford Misc. Broadsides 1455
- PRO State Papers (Domestic), Charles II, SP 29/408/184 (Calendar of State Papers, Domestic Series, 1678 and Addenda 1674–79, p. 607), with an undated letter from Dr Fell to Sir Joseph Williamson, a member of Fell's press committee and at the time secretary of state, 'The Principal of Brasenose tells me you asked for some copies of our proposals. I enclose some with my humblest thanks for your great kindness and patronage to our affair."
- PRO, State Papers (Gazettes and Pamphlets), SP 116/415, 416

[1676] A Proposal tending to the advancement of learning ... [ends with a list of] Books ready, or preparing for the Press

Half-sheet, 33.5 x 21 cm, double-sided; 49 lines of 17 cm.

Ends: 'We have also printed divers Books, whereof quantities are still by us, and are to be bought either at the Theater in Oxford, or at Mr Simon Millers at the Star at the west end of St Pauls Church, London'.

Dated by Morison. Clark, in Wood's Life and Times, ii, 333, and Madan 3069 refer to this as a second
issue belonging to 1681 (no reasons given), and were
followed by Wing and ESTC. Morison, *Dr Fell*, p. 252,
o. 3, observed that this date was taken from the
contents list of Wood 423, drawn up in or after
1689, and not from the piece itself; it ‘must be
wrong’, for Plot’s *Oxfordshire* and other items listed
had been published in 1677; wording and paper were
also, he thought, too similar to those of the proposal
of 1675 for a date as late as 1681. He identified it
with the untraced proposal noted by Madan 3117,
attested by a letter of Humphrey Prideaux to John
Ellis, dated 18 September 1676, ‘To contrive the sale
of our books, we have set forth a proposal for
subscriptions’ (ed. Thompson, p. 51). Miller is
named as bookseller in the imprints of two Theatre
books from 1677, Plot’s *Oxfordshire* (Madan 3130),
and Luzancy’s *Reflections on the Council of Trent*
(Madan 3144). Madan’s note on this last draws an
important inference: ‘As Miller was only one out of
seventeen London booksellers who in 1677 traded
with the Theatre Press, it seems likely that he was
in a special sense the London agent, and perhaps
warehouse-man, of the Oxford Press’. Carter,
p. 131–32, made a further connection between this
proposal and Thomas Yate’s expenses in moving the
warehouse in London in July 1676, suggesting that
he was transferring books into Miller’s hands.

- Bodl., Wood 423 (54) (Wood’s collections, K 4942)

[1677] *A Catalogue of Books, Printed at the Theater in
Oxford*

Half-sheet, 32 × 21 cm, double-sided.
Date inferred from the contents by Madan.

- Bodl. Wood 658, fol. 816 (Wood’s collections,
K 1583)

- Bodl. Wood 660b (8) (Wood’s collections, K 1584) G&J

[1677] *A Catalogue of Books, Printed at the Theater in
Oxford*

Half-sheet, 32 × 20 cm, double-sided.
Date inferred from the contents by Madan, who notes several works printed in 1677 but not included in the first catalogue, a distinction not made in Wing.

- Bodl. Wood 660b (9) (Wood’s collections, K 1585)

_An account of the state of the Press in the University of Oxford as it now stands, January 9, 1679_ [Oxford] [with list of 77 titles]

Half-sheet, 42 × 31 cm, single-sided (Berlin copy).

Produced as a justification of the work of the press committee rather than to sell books, this document may have had a very limited distribution. It is surprising that there is no copy among Wood’s collections; he made a note of the hearing over the dispute between the Press and the King’s Printers on Friday, 16 January 1679/80 (Wood’s _Life and Times_, ii, 477). The date 14 January on Luttrell’s copy (below) is taken by Parks for date of printing, but Luttrell was in London on that date, not in Oxford, and acquisition appears more likely. Fell’s assistant Humphrey Prideaux sent a transcript of the account to his friend John Ellis in London, enclosed with a letter dated at Oxford, 13 January 1679/80 (‘the enclosed paper concerning a controversy between us and the King’s printers now depending before the Councill and to be tryed next Friday’, BL MS Add. 28929, fols. 41–44; ed. by Thompson, 74–75, 75–79). His transcribing it suggests that very few spare copies were printed.

- BL Harley 5929, nos. 156–59, 161, fols. 40–41v (John Bagford’s collections), cut into five pieces and pasted

- Oxford University Press Printer’s Library [missing 30 June 2009], with date noted as ‘1679/80 Print. 14 Jan.’; Madan identifies the hand as that of Narcissus Luttrell (1657–1732), who recorded date and price in his copies of several thousand printed items; S. Parks, _The Luttrell File: Narcissus Luttrell’s dates on contemporary pamphlets, 1678–1730_ (New Haven, CT, 1999), 5 (no. 82), without current location; sold at Sotheby’s, 5 April 1927, lot 1407 (Madan); bought by OUP from Maggs Bros.

G&J

Madan, iii, 472, 3272°

Wing A 394

Morison, 252, no. 4

ESTC R231581

 repr. Barker, pl. 101
16 October 1952 for £22 10s. 0d. (noted in Printer’s Library slip-catalogue, now in Bodley)

- PRO, State Papers (Domestic), Charles II, SP 29/413/4 (Calendar of State Papers, Domestic Series, 1679 to 1680, pp. 369–70), entered in calendar under date as printed with no letter to provide context, but obviously sent to Sir Joseph Williamson

- Berlin, Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin–Preussischer Kulturbesitz, 4°A57 (35), a miscellany of university speeches, programmes, &c., from Leipzig, Jena, Rostock, &c.


Half-sheet, 32 × 20 cm, double-sided.

The list comprises seven titles in press, fourteen titles ready for press, and twenty-seven titles making ready for press, a total of forty-eight titles. It was recorded by Madan as one of three catalogues produced in 1680; the other two were produced by booksellers.

Thomas Hearne’s library-catalogue has an entry under press-mark III 2 (90): ‘Advertisement concerning the Printing and Publishing of ancient and other usefull books at the Theater’ (Bodl. MS Rawlinson D. 1177, p. 177) = 841 (67, recte 87) in his accession-list, Bodl. MS Eng. misc. e. 49.

- Bodl. Wood 658, fol. 775 (Wood’s collections, K1589)

- Bodl. Wood 660b (10) (Wood’s collections, K1588) G&J with note in Wood’s hand, ‘Printed at the theater in Sept 1680’

- Oxford, Christ Church, Wd. 2. 13 (45a) (among pamphlets and broadsides collected by William Wake, mostly 1690s)

- Oxford, Jesus College, R. 9. 7 (31) (in a collection of pamphlets bound after 1692, formerly C. 16 Art.)
Edw., owned by Jonathan Edwards (1638/9–1712, principal of Jesus)

[1681] No surviving copy traced.

The proposal dated by Madan to 1681 was reassigned to 1676 by Morison for strong reasons. Evidence of something from 1681, however, is provided by another letter of Humphrey Prideaux to John Ellis, dated at Oxford, 25 June 1681, 'The inclosed paper tells you of a new designe we have to support our presse since the death of Dr Yates; I wish it may take' (BL MS Add. 28929, fol. 52; ed. Thompson, p. 86).

1682 No surviving copy traced.

Thomas Hearne's library-catalogue has an entry under pressmark Fen 95 (16): ‘Advertisement about Books printed at the Theater, July 7. 1682. Fol.’ (Bodl. MS Rawlinson D. 1177).

1684 No surviving copy traced.

Thomas Hearne's library-catalogue has an entry under press-mark Fen 95 (23): ‘Advertisement about the Theater Books, July 11th. 1684’ (Bodl. MS Rawlinson D. 1177).

Produced by Booksellers

1678 A Catalogue of Books, Printed at the Theater in Oxford. And sold in London, by Moses Pitt at the Angel near the Little North-door of St Pauls-Church, Peter Parker, and Thomas Guy, booksellers in Cornhill, and Jo. Leake at the Crown in Fleet-street [dated towards the end:] Advertisement, Aug. 4. 1678

Half-sheet, 33.5 x 20.5 cm, double-sided.

This item is not listed by Madan, perhaps on the assumption that it was printed in London for Pitt; the apparent route of survival suggests that it was printed in Oxford. The date precedes the signing of the agreement between the booksellers and the Press undertakers, which is dated 26 September 1678 (Madan, iii, 418). It is not apparent why John Leake participates rather than his father William. The Advertisement at the end concern's Pitt's English Atlas. The catalogue ends with a note: 'All persons who subscribe for any Book to be printed are desir'd to signify the place where they woud have their Books left for them.'
The copy in the Bodleian must have been enclosed at the time of printing with the book in which it has survived, the Latin translation of John Spelman’s Life of King Alfred, printed in folio at the Sheldonian; the imprimatur on the verso of the title-page is dated 2 August 1678 and the single sheet is dated 4 August 1678. I have looked at other Bodleian copies of the book in the hope of finding another example of the advertisement without success: the library copy is now Bodl. A 3. 12 (1) Art.; Bodl., Gibson 405 (in the teaching-collection of Strickland Gibson) is a set of the sheets that has never been bound; Bodl. Ashm. G. 18 was bought by Arthur Charlett when still a fellow of Trinity College and was given to the Ashmolean by him after his migration to University College; Bodl. Gough Sax. lit. 98 was first owned by Laurence Squibb, ‘Feb. 20. 1678/9’; Bodl. Douce S subt. 24 is a fine copy on large paper.

Thomas Hearne’s library-catalogue has an entry under pressmark III 3 (28): ‘A Catalogue of Books printed at the Theater in Oxford. Oxon. 1678’ (Bodl. MS Rawlinson D. 1177, p. 180) = 463 (27) in his accession list, Bodl. MS Eng. misc. e. 49.

• BL P.P. 6480.b.(2.) [missing on 30 June 2009].

• PRO State Papers (Domestic), Charles II, SP 29/405/218 (Calendar of State Papers, Domestic Series, March 1678 to December 1678, 344), presumably sent by Fell to Williamson with letter, dated Monday, 5 August 1678, which asks him to help promote the Latin edition of Sir John Spelman’s Ælfredi Magni Anglorum regis vita (Oxford: e Theatro Sheldoniano, 1678) (SP 29/405/219; Cal., p. 345)

• Bodl. Printer’s Library 1678, bound between sig. b2 and the plates at the front of a copy of the Latin edition of Sir John Spelman’s, Ælfredi Magni Anglorum regis vita (Oxford: e Theatro Sheldoniano, 1678) (this copy has the signature of Daines Barrington, 1727/8–1800, editor of King Alfred’s Orosius (1773))

1678 School-Books printed at the Theatre in Oxford; and are to be sold by Peter Parker and Thomas Guy, in Cornbil, against the Royal Exchange [printed at the back, p. 279, of] Q. Horatius Flaccus scholitis

McKenzie & Bell, 11.203

Madan, iii, pp. xlv–xliv
commentarii instar illustrius a Johanne Bond
London: printed for John Seymour Esq.; and are to be sold by Peter Parker, at the Leg and Star over against the Royal Exchange; and Thomas Guy at the Corner Shop of Little Lumbard-Street and Cornhil, 1678.

The advertisement follows straight on from the last lines of Horace’s Ars poetica and its accompanying notes. Ten Greek and Latin school editions printed at Oxford, among them Thomas Lydiat’s Canones chronologici, nec non series summorum magistratum et triumphorum Romanorum (1675), lead the list, which continues after a secondary heading, ‘Printed in London’, with a longer list of nineteen books, some of them English translations. The Oxford books are identified by Madan. With the exception of Justinus (1669), they were printed between 1675 and 1678.

- Bodl. Arch. Jur. III 79
- Oxford, Christ Church, Wp. 7. 8
- Other copies recorded by ESTC


Whole sheet, 4°, 8pp, 23 × 17 cm.

Pitt’s introduction to this trade auction list begins, ‘Having of late, as most of you know, purchased the books, that for several years have been printed at the Theater at Oxford, and being willing and sincerely desirous that you, as well as my self, might receive a benefit by the undertaking, I now to you solely expose to sale some of every sort, with the additions of some numbers of others printed at my own charge, and others of which I had some few copies by me [...]’. A large number of London and foreign books fill out the catalogue. Ends with a further invitation to subscribers to his English Atlas (1680).
Madan observes, ‘This is the first Trade Sale Catalogue of books in England’.

- BL C.120.c.2 (9) (Narcissus Luttrell’s copy with prices added, bound by him with other auction catalogues, 1676–79, among them the earliest from England, William Cooper’s auction of the books of Dr Lazarus Seaman (October 1676); not in Parks’s Luttrell File)

- Bodl. Ashm. 1053 (3) (Elias Ashmole’s collections)

- Bodl. Johnson d. 744 (6)

- Bodl. Wood 660b (13) (Wood’s collections, K1587)

- Bodl. Wood E 23 (4) (Wood’s duplicates, K1586) G&J

- Manchester, John Rylands University Library, R15424

[1679] *Books printed at the Theater in Oxford, and sold by Peter Parker at the Leg and Star right against the Royal Exchange in Cornhill [London].*

Half-sheet, 12°, 12 pages, 15 × 9 cm.

Date unconfirmed. The year [1676] was inferred by ESTC from the publication dates of the books offered. The heading relates to the first section only, starting with a bible in 4°, then other bibles and classical texts (sig. A1r–v). The rest of the catalogue is made up of books in several faculties printed at London. The date 1676 may have been suggested by the Fell Bible, produced in 4° and published in 1675 (Madan 3084–86; Morison, Dr Fell, pp. 41–43), and his Greek New Testament in 8° in the same year (Madan 3087). The best guide appears to be the Theatre book with which two of the surviving copies are bound, the new edition of *Elegantiae Poeticae* (Madan 3204; ESTC R27892), printed in 12°, which is itself advertised in the first page of the catalogue (‘in twelves’ though it is in fact in sixes). This was printed in Oxford — presumably by the London partners — and was the subject of a rival notice: ‘Advertisement to Booksellers. Whereas the Four Oxford cullies’ [glossed by Wood as ‘Farmours of the press in the Theater’] ‘having run Themselves and Porter out of Breath, and finding that their ill-shap’d Testaments, &c. will not answer their expectation, they have lately among other things
Pirated a certain Book called *Elegantiae Poeticae*, and offer'd it to Sale for 1s 4d in Quires: This is to give notice, That of the true Proprietors of the Copy, the said Book may be had at 12d a single Book in Quires, of a more perfect Edition, having three Sheets more of Matter than the Oxford Print', (Bodl. Wood 516 (10°) [K356], said by Wood to have been ‘brought downe to Oxford by a London bookseller’ and distributed there around 10 March 1679/80) (Clark, *Wood’s Life and Times*, ii, 483; Madan 3252 made the assumption that Blumerel was printed by Fell, against this evidence implicitly corroborated by Wood).

- BL 1607/1181 (2), bound with [Johannes Blumerel], *Elegantiae Poeticae in locos communes digestae. Editio nouissima* (Oxonii: e Theatro Sheldoniano, 1679)


- Huntington Library, 432189 (2), bound with [Johannes Blumerel], *Elegantiae Poeticae in locos communes digestae. Editio nouissima* (Oxonii: e Theatro Sheldoniano, 1679)

1680 *The Books following, lately printed at the Theater, are to be sold by Richard Davis Bookseller in Oxford. Febr. 16. 1680*

Small sheet, 19 × 14 cm, rather rough and the one example is printed askew.

Madan, iii, p. xlvii

Madan, iii, p. xlvii, records this list of ten books ‘lately printed at the Theater’, though without source. In the appendices to the same volume, pp. 396–400, he refers to a number of lists produced by Oxford booksellers, Richard Davis among them, but for whatever reason does not include this item from among Wood’s collections. It had been noted (with an incorrect pressmark) by Clark, *Wood’s Life and Times*, ii, p. 479, under the date 16 February 1679/80. (Wood’s note confirms that 1680 as printed, unusually, represents 1679/80 rather than 1680/81.)

- Bodl. Wood D 22 (15) (Wood’s collections, K491), with a note in Wood’s hand altering the date to read 1679/80
Selling Books from the Sheldonian Theatre

Half-sheet of large paper, 58.5 x 35 cm, double-sided.

The advertisement was printed as part of an ephemeral single leaf (sig. Mm2; there is no Mm1). The recto carries ‘Directions for the Book-Binder’, and this advertisement fills the verso; it is not clear from the signature at what point it was issued, but one may presume only as the volume was completed. It was clearly envisaged as a leaf that could be discarded after binding. I have not investigated how often it has survived. The advertisement is divided into five sections, by size, ‘In folio’ (17 entries), ‘In quarto’ (11 entries), ‘In octavo’ (32 entries), ‘In twelves’ (26 entries), and ‘Books prepared for the Press’ (9 entries), ending ‘With many other almost fitted for the Press’. There is a briefer supplementary list, ‘since the publishing of the first volume of the Atlas’, at the end of vol. ii (1680).

Many copies exist of this prestigious work, the first volume of a project that ended unfinished (E. G. R. Taylor, ‘The English Atlas of Moses Pitt, 1680–83’, Geographical Journal 95 (1940), 292–99). The list of subscribers is long, beginning with seven royal patrons.

- Bodl. 2027 a. 70 includes this leaf
- Other copies recorded by ESTC without indication of whether the leaf is present

The catalogue was reprinted from Pitt’s English Atlas by Robert Clavell in his consolidation of term catalogues, The General Catalogue of Books, printed in England since the dreadful fire of London MDCLXVI, to the end of Trinity-term MDCLXXX (London, 1680), pp. 98–99. This is cited as a catalogue of Sheldonian books from 1680 by Madan, iii, p. xlvi, but its source is not identified.

1682* A Catalogue of Books, Printed at the Theater in Oxford, since the first Printing there, which was in the year 1672, to 1682 (with several others): And Madan 3253 (who cites the various proposals &c. for this major project)
Wing P.2306
ESTC R.2546

Other copies recorded by ESTC without indication of whether the leaf is present

Wing O863K
ESTC R.214690
Richard Sharpe

sold in London, by Moses Pitt at the Angel against the Great North-door of St Paul’s Church. Those with an Asterisc are printed at the Theatre (London: sold by Moses Pitt, 1682)

Whole sheet, 2⁰, 4pp, 32 × 21 cm.
- Bodl. Wood 658, fol. 817 (Wood’s collections, K1591)
- Bodl. Wood 660b (11) (Wood’s collections, K1590), G&J dated in Wood’s hand ‘1682’
- ESTC adds reference to a copy at Durham Cathedral Library

1682 The same, reprinted in 8⁰, and bound at the back, pp. 194–210 (sig. O₄–P₄) of issues of W. Dugdale, The Antient Usage in bearing such ensigns of honour as are commonly call’d Arms:

* Printed at the Theater, for Moses Pitt in London (Term Catalogue, Hilary, 1681/2; Arber, 1, p. 475).
  - BL 607.d.7
  - Bodl. Wood 445 (11), with Anthony Wood’s note on the title-page, ‘Given me by Moses Pit bookseller 4 Feb. 1681’
  - Bodl. Douce DD 100
  - Bodl. Printer’s Library 1682
  - Other copies recorded by ESTC

* Printed at the Theater, for Richard Davis in Oxford.
  - BL G. 19312.(1)
  - Bodl. Johnson f. 261
  - Bodl. Vet. A3 f. 1754
  - Bodl. Printer’s Library 1682
  - Other copies recorded by ESTC

* Printed at the Theater, for Fin(cham) Gardiner at the Three Roses in Ludgate-Street, London.
  - BL RB.23. a. 22982
  - Other copies recorded by ESTC

* Printed at the Theater, for Dudley Davis in Castle Street, Dublin.
  - Bodl. Vet. A3 f. 748
Selling Books from the Sheldonian Theatre

- ESTC adds copies at Cashel Diocesan Library, now Bolton Library, Cashel, Co. Tipperary, and Dublin Trinity College

* Printed at the Theater, for Moses Pitt [second edition] (Term Catalogue, Trinity Term, 1682; Arber, 1, p. 489).

- Bodl. W 41 Art.
- Bodl. Vet. A 3 f. 768
- Other copies recorded by ESTC

1685* A Catalogue containing variety of ancient, and modern English books in divinity, history, philology, philosophy, law, physick, mathematicks, &c. Together with Bibles, Testaments, Common Prayers, Singing Psalms, &c. of the best prints in all volumes will be exposed to sale (by way of auction or who bids most) at Petty-Canon-Hall [...] the 30 day of November 1685. By Edward Millington, bookseller [London]

4º, [4], 52 pp.

Taken to represent the major disposal of Pitt’s stock in trade. The bibles and so on were presumably Theatre books, but a second sale ten days later was concentrated on those.

Thomas Hearne’s library-catalogue has an entry under pressmark μ 17 (10): ‘Catalogue containing variety of ancient & modern English books 1685’ (Bodl. MS Rawlinson D. 1177).

- BL 821.i.4 (16) (Narcissus Luttrell’s collections), with the note ‘Moses Pits bookseller’ on the title-page
- Bodl. Ashm. 1058 (5)
- Bodl. Johnson d. 739 (3) (imperfect)
- Bodl. Wood E 18 (6)
- Other copies recorded by ESTC

1685* A Catalogue of several sorts of Bibles, Testaments, Common Prayers, Singing Psalms, Book of Homilies, &c. (all printed at the Theatre in Oxford), that are to be exposed to sale (by way of auction or who bids most) in smaller or greater numbers, and at such moderate rates as will be manifestly beneficial to the respective buyers: at the
Richard Sharpe

auction-house in Ave-Mary-Lane [...] on
Wednesday the 10th of December, 1685 [London]
Small sheet, 33 x 20.5, double-sided.
Sale of stock from the bible press, with terms of
sale overleaf.
  • BL 821.1.4 (18) (Narcissus Luttrell’s
collections and identified by him as selling Pitt’s
stock); the next item here is a remainder catalogue
of unsold books, 821.1.4 (19), ESTC R214519
  • Bodl. Fol. Θ 662 (11) (probably from the
collections of Thomas Hearne, who annotated
fifteen items in this guardbook, including items of
comparable date)

PRODUCED UNDER DR MILL

[1686] A Catalogue of Books, printed at the Theater in
Oxford
Half-sheet, 28.5 x 19 cm, double-sided, trimmed at
top and bottom.
This undated catalogue, not previously recorded, is
datable to 1686 x 1687 on the evidence of the titles
entered; it can almost certainly be cross-matched
with the catalogue referred to in Henry Fleming’s
letter in November 1686. It is the longest of all the
annual Sheldonian catalogues, offering 109 titles
already published in folio, quarto, octavo, and
duodecimo, with seven titles of ‘Books now in the
Press’. The earliest title offered is George Pachymeres, 
Epitome logices Aristotelis (1666; Madan 2753), but
most were printed between 1671 and 1684. The year
1685 is represented by one title only, George Bull’s
Defensio fidei Nicaenae, but there are five titles from
1686: in folio, Plot’s Natural History of Staffordshire
and Willoughby’s De historia piscium; in octavo,
Pliny’s Epistulae and Dickinson’s De quintessentia
philosophorum; in duodecimo, Origen’s De oratione
libellus (misprinted in the catalogue as ‘Origenis de
Precatione Libellus’). Two titles listed as in the press
appeared in 1687, namely the second volume of
Rerum Anglicarum scriptores veteres, edited by
Thomas Gale, and the first part of Josephus, De
bello Iudaico, in Greek and Latin. The inclusion of
the first volume of Rerum Anglicarum scriptores
vetere (1684) among the folios and of the second
(1687) as in the press makes a join with Fleming’s remarks. Four titles among the duodecimos, however, were reprinted in 1687, which might bring the date of the catalogue forward beyond that provided by Fleming. These are Clement of Rome’s *Epistolae* (1677, 1687); Cornelius Nepos (1675, 1687); Lily’s *Grammatica Latina* (1672, 1687); and Walker’s *Education of Young Gentlemen* (under this precise title, 1683, 1687). There is no means of showing that these titles were not advertised on the basis of their earlier Oxford editions. One would need to establish the exact dates of the reprints relative to the two titles of that year still in the press.

Mentioned in a letter of Henry Fleming to Sir Daniel Fleming, dated at Oxford, 28 November 1686: ‘Dr Mills sends you the enclosed Catalogue and wishes you to be informed that a collection of all the ancient English Histories is now printing at Oxford in folio, and in Latin. One volume is published, the second is in the press; eight or ten volumes are expected. The price of the whole set is not known’ (Rydal Papers, no. 3054; Magrath, *Flemings in Oxford*, ii, p. 179–80, no. 332). The one volume of histories to have appeared was William Fullman’s *Rerum Anglicarum scriptorum veterum tomus I* (Oxford: e Theatro Sheldoniano, 1684) [ESTC R9891]; two more volumes would appear under Thomas Gale’s editorship (1687, 1691).

- Oxford, Jesus College, R. 9. 7 (30a) (in a collection of pamphlets bound after 1692, formerly C. 16 Art. Edw., owned by Jonathan Edwards (1638/9–1712), principal of Jesus), many items checked off with a line in brown ink as if to confirm that he owned a copy.
Catalogus librorum in Theatro Sheldoniano Oxon. impressorum

Whole sheet, 8°, 14pp, 19 × 12 cm. Quire signatures, U, U₂, U₃, suggest that this was printed for inclusion in a book.

1st A/c, p. 42 (Michaelmas 1693–Michaelmas 1694), ‘For printing a Catal. of all the Books that have been printed at the Theater 01:14:06’ [i.e. £1 14s. 6d.].

• Bodl. Don. e. 563 (2)
• Bodl. 258 b. 272, on which Thomas Hearne has noted at the end, ‘This was ordered to be printed by Dr Arthur Charlett, as he told me himself. It must therefore be reckoned amongst his works’; probably to be matched with entry in his library-catalogue at pressmark G 2 (3), ‘A Catalogue of Books printed at the Theater. This was published by Dr Charlett’ (= 297 (3) in his accession-list, Bodl. MS Eng. misc. e. 49, which omits the comment)
• Bodl. Crynes 824 (10), with characteristic stamp, ‘N. Crynes’
• Oxford University Press Printer’s Library [missing 30 June 2009; listed in Printer’s Library slip-catalogue, now in Bodleian Library]

1694 Anno Domini MDCXCIV in Theatro Sheldoniano apud Oxoniam jam imprimuntur, praeter libros Anglicos, etiam isti sequentes

Small leaf, 19 × 12 cm, double-sided, apparently for insertion after the preceding catalogue; shortened from the broadside catalogue by omission of English books.

• Bodl. Don. e. 563 (3), bound with the preceding item and a copy of A Specimen of the Several Sorts of Letter given to the University by Dr John Fell (Oxford, 1693) (Morison, pp. 229–30)

1695 No surviving copy traced.

1st A/c, p. 56 (Michaelmas 1694–95), ‘For printing a Catal. of Books 00:05:00’ [i.e. 5s.].
At bottom: ‘Advertisement. Whereas the small Numbers of Royal-Paper Books usually Printed, have occasion’d great complaints from several Curious Men, and sometimes the great Numbers of such Books have made considerable Losses in the way of Trade: To remedy such uncertainties for the future in all impressions of Books, as shall be Printed at the Theater in Oxford, it is desired, that those Gentlemen, who are willing to have Books of the larger Paper, signifie their Names to some Person known to John Hall, the Warehouse-keeper there’.

1st A/c, p. 70 (Michaelmas 1695–96), ‘For printing the Catal. of Books in the Press 00:05:00’ [i.e. 5s.].

* Bodl. MS Ashm. 1820a, fol. 237 (Edward Lhuyd’s papers)  G&J

1696

Anno Domini MDCXCVI Mai die 4. in Theatro Sheldoniano apud Oxonienses sub prelo sunt libri sequentes

Half-sheet, 36.5 × 23.5 cm, single-sided.

At bottom, direction to those wanting copies on larger paper: ‘Rogandi sunt viri docti & bonarum artium fautores, quotquot libros, qui e Theatro Oxoniensi in posterum prodibunt, in charta regia vel majori impressos habere malint quam communi, ut nomina sua ad Joannem Hall Typographei Sheldonii custodem mature mittere velint.’ This Latin form of the note is used with minor modification in many but not all subsequent years. There is no other difference between the two issues of 1696.

* Bodl. MS Ashm. 1820a, fol. 238 (Edward Lhuyd’s papers) G&J

In a letter dated 25 February 1696/7, Richard Langford of Beaumaris writes to Edward Lhuyd, ‘Mr Dean desir’d me to send for a specimen of the bookes now in your Presse together with the catalogue of them, which if you’le send by the bearer you’le much oblige me’ (Bodl. MS Rawlinson Letters 108, fol. 36).

1697*

Anno Domini MDCXCVII. Julii die 14. in Theatro Sheldoniano apud Oxonienses sub prelo sunt libri sequentes

Carter 1697/10
Wing O860D
ESTC R214679
Richard Sharpe

Half-sheet, 36.5 x 23 cm, single-sided.
1st A/c, p. 94 (Michaelmas 1696–97), ‘For printing the Catal. of Books several times 00:05:00’ [i.e. 5s].

- Bodl. MS Ashm. 1820a, fol. 236 (Edward Lhuyd’s papers)

1698
No surviving copy traced.
1st A/c, p. 116 (Michaelmas 1697–98), ‘For printing the Catal. of Books several times 01:00:00’ [i.e. £1].

1700
Anno Domini MDCC Februarii die 7. in Theatro Sheldoniano apud Oxonienses sub prelo sunt libri sequentes

Half-sheet, 36 x 19.5 cm (trimmed), single-sided.
If the date is to be read as 7 February 1700/01, we should have the only instance of two catalogues with different dates in the same year — indeed, only five months apart. Therefore 1699/1700 appears more probable.

At bottom, direction to those wanting copies on larger paper: ‘Rogandi sunt viri docti & bonarum artium fautores, quotquot libros, qui e Theatro Oxoniensi in posterum prodibunt, in charta Regia vel majori impressos habere malint quam communi, ut nomina sua ad Joannem Hall Typographei Sheldonii custodem mature mittere velin’.

- BL Harley 5932, no. 93 (John Bagford’s collections)

1701
Anno Domini MDCCI Julii die 16. in Theatro Sheldoniano apud Oxonienses sub prelo sunt libri sequentes

Half-sheet, 36 x 22 cm, single-sided.
At bottom, direction to those wanting copies on larger paper: ‘Rogandi sunt viri docti & bonarum artium fautores, quotquot libros, qui e Theatro Oxoniensi in posterum prodibunt, in charta Regia vel majori impressos habere malint quam communi, ut nomina sua ad Joannem Hall [last words cut off; see 1700]’.

- BL Antiq. c. E. 9 (98)

1702
Anno Domini MDCCII Julii die 16. in Theatro Sheldoniano apud Oxonienses sub prelo sunt libri sequentes

Carter 1702/16
Madan 1702/18
ESTC T21929

G&J
Selling Books from the Sheldonian Theatre

Half-sheet, 42.5 x 26.5 cm, single-sided.

At bottom, direction to those wanting copies on larger paper: ‘Rogandi sunt viri docti & bonarum artium fatores, quotquot libros, qui e Theatro Oxoniensi in posterum prodibunt, in charta Regia vel majori impressos habere malint quam communi, ut nomina sua ad Joannem Hall Typographei Sheldonii custodem mature mittere velint’.

Dr Arthur Charlett sent two copies to Humfrey Wanley: ‘With this comes two of our last Catalogue of the Theatre books’ (Charlett to Wanley, 28 July 1702, BL, MS Add. 70477, now without the enclosure).

• BL Cup. 645.e.5 (6)

1703
No surviving copy traced.

1st A/c, p. 202 (Michaelmas 1702–03), ‘For the Quire of Catal. 00:00:06’ [i.e. 6d.].

1704
No surviving copy traced.

Date problematic, since O’Flaherty’s letter of 8 December 1704 anticipates the date 5 January 1704/5 indicated by Hearne. One should probably assume two issues with different dates.

Thomas Hearne’s library-catalogue has an entry under pressmark G 2 (10): ‘Books in the Theater Press, Jan. 5. 1704’ (Bodl. MS Rawlinson D. 1177) (= 297 (10) in his accession-list, Bodl. MS Eng. misc. e. 49).


1705*
Anno Domini MDCCV Jun. die 12. in Theatro Sheldoniano apud Oxonienses sub prelo sunt libri sequentes

Half-sheet, 38.5 x 22 cm, single-sided.

At bottom, direction to those wanting copies on larger paper: ‘Rogandi sunt viri docti & bonarum artium fatores, qui libros, quotquot e Theatro
Oxoniensi in posterum prodibunt, in charta Regia vel majori impressos habere malint quam communi, ut nomina sua ad Joannem Hall Typographei Sheldoniani custodem mature mittere velint’.

1st A/c, p. 226 (Michaelmas 1703–05), ‘For printing several times the Catal. of Books 02:00:00’ [i.e. £2].

Thomas Hearne’s library-catalogue has an entry under pressmark G 2 (11): ‘Books in the Theater Press, Jun. 12. 1705’ (Bodl. MS Rawlinson D. 1177) = 297 (11) in his accession-list, Bodl., MS Eng. misc. e. 49. His editions of Livy (1708) and John Spelman (1709) are already advertised as preparing for the press.

Dr Charlett in a letter to Mr Secretary Harley, 19 June 1705, mentions, ‘Our Theatre Catalogue presumes to wait upon you’ (HMC Portland, iv. 197).

Edward Lhuyd, in a letter to Revd Humphrey Foulkes, chaplain to the bishop of St Asaph, dated 28 July 1705, writes. ‘I do not know whether you have seen our last catalogue of the Bookes in the press’, from which he picks out six titles in press, not including his own Archaeologia; he goes on to comment how ‘our noise-monger A. C. has divided the catalogue now into three parts’, and reports the six titles then preparing for press (R. T. Gunther, Life and Letters of Edward Lhwyd (Oxford, 1945), pp. 506–07).

- Bodl. MS Ashm. 1818, fol. 78 (Edward Lhuyd’s papers)
- Bodl. MS Ashm. 1818, fol. 79 (Edward Lhuyd’s papers)
- Oxford University Press Archives [framed under glass]

1705 Anno Domini MDCCV Jun. die 12. in Theatro Sheldoniano apud Oxonienses sub prelo sunt libri sequentes

Oxford University Press Printer’s Library [known only from Carter; not in slip-catalogue], another issue with five additional items and at the foot ‘Imprimatur, Art. Charlett’.

Mentioned in letter of Dr Arthur Charlett to Thomas Hearne, dated at the Chaplain’s Lodgings,
Windsor Castle, 18 August 1705: ‘I find the Advertisement of Books of the Theater, which was put into my portmantue, were not of the last edition. Add therefore the Assize sermon, and send me a quarter of an hundred, by the Windsor carrier on Tuesday or some other safe hand’ (Bodl. MS Rawlinson Letters 4, fol. 420; Hearne, Remarks and Collections, i, 30n). The assize sermon preached in St Mary’s church by William Tilly, 19 July 1705, was in fact printed by Leonard Lichfield for John Stephens, and not at the Theatre; titled The Nature and Necessity of Religious Resolution, it went through three editions in 1705.

1706 No surviving copy traced.

Acknowledged in a letter from Humfrey Wanley to Dr Arthur Charlett, dated 3 July without year: ‘I return my hearty thanks for the paper you was pleased to send me, and for the notices of books I found therein, amongst which […]’ (P. L. Heyworth, Letters of Humfrey Wanley (Oxford, 1989), pp. 240–41, n. 78, who advances reasons for dating the letter to 1705). Wanley refers to 5 items, of which 3, Hickes & Wanley, Grabe, and Hody, are among the recently published books in the 1705 lists; the other 2 items are not to be found in the lists for that year, ‘Mr Tanners’, and ‘Dr Hudsons catalogue of the printed Bodleyan books’, but both appear as preparing for the press in 1707 and 1708. Hody’s De bibliorum textibus originalibus does not appear in either 1707 or 1708, leading one to infer that the letter should be dated to 1706, attesting a lost catalogue.

Thomas Hearne’s library-catalogue has an entry under pressmark III 3 (2): ‘Catalogue of Books in the Theater Press, 1706’ (Bodl. MS Rawlinson D. 1177, p. 178) = 463 (2) in his accession-list, Bodl., MS Eng. misc. e. 49, where date 1706 is an alteration from 1696.

See also 1716. Carter’s entry for 1706 has erroneously attached an entry in the accounts for a later year (1708) to a miscopied title of 1716.

1707 Anno Domini MDCCVII Maii die 2. in Theatro Sheldoniano apud Oxonienses sub prelo sunt libri sequentes
Richard Sharpe

Half-sheet, 38 × 22 cm (only example cropped left and foot), single-sided.

At bottom, directions for ordering Hearne’s Livy (published in 1708): ‘Rogandi sunt viri docti & bonarum artium fatores, quotquot Livium, jam sub prelo sudantem, desideraturi sunt, ut nomina sua ad Joannem Hall Typographeri Sheldoniani custodem, aut Joannem Clarke Typothetam mature mittere velint. Imprimatur Ar. Charlett.’ The edition in 6 volumes is now listed as sub prelo with the note, ‘Duo volumina absolverunt operae typographicae; ac in reliquis excudendis strenue occupantur’.

The entry for Dr Hudson’s proposed new catalogue of printed books in the Bodleian ends with a request: ‘Rogantur viri literati ut librorum a se in lucem emissorum exemplaria Bibliothecae donare dignentur: quo, novo istusmodi auctario, Catalogus locupletior simul & ornator reddatur’. This still appears in the catalogue of 1716.

1st A/c, p. 268 (Michaelmas 1706–08), ‘For altering the Catal. of Books 00:05:00. Working the same at Press 5 several times 00:05:00’ [i.e. 10s. in sum].

Thomas Hearne’s library-catalogue has entries under pressmarks III 2 (51, 66): ‘Books of the Theater Press, May 2. 1707’ (Bodl. MS Rawlinson D. 1177, pp. 173–74), and again under III 2 (81): ‘Books of the Theater, Maii 2. 1707’ (Bodl., MS Rawlinson D 1177, p. 174) = 841 (48, 43, 58, recte 48, 63, 78) in his accession-list, Bodl., MS Eng. misc. c. 49.
• Lambeth Palace Library, PA 636.5. 1.16 [*] (endorsed by hand, not fully legible, ‘[B]p of Lincoln. A.C. 7 May 1707’, indicating that Charlett himself (‘A.C.’) sent this copy to William Wake, Bishop of Lincoln

1708

No surviving copy traced.


1708

Anno Domini MDCCVIII Augusti die 6. in Theatro Sheldoniano apud Oxonienses sub prelo sunt libri sequentes
Selling Books from the Sheldonian Theatre

Half-sheet, 37 × 23.5 cm, single-sided.

At bottom, directions for ordering the supplement to Livy: ‘Rogandi sunt viri docti & bonarum artium fautores, quotquot Freinsheimii ad T. Livium supplementa, prelo destinata, desideraturi sunt, ut nomina sua ad Ægidium Thistletwayte Architypographum, & Officinae Sheldonianae custodem, aut ad Mariam Hall, vicem eius impletem, (vel, si its visum fuerit, ad Joannem Clarke Typothetam,) mature mittere velint.’ And at the foot: ‘Imprimatur, Ar. Charlett, Pro Vice Can. Oxon.’ (Hearne’s proposal to reprint Johann Freinsheim’s Supplementa to Livy (1649, &c.), Hearne’s Collections, ii, p. 150, came to nothing.).

1st A/c, p. 270 (Michaelmas 1706–08), ‘Altering the Catal. of Books in the Press 00:05:00. Working the same at Press 9 several times 00:09:00’ [i.e. 14s. in sum].

• Bodl. MS Ashm. 1818, fol. 77 (Edward Lhuyd’s papers, with additions in his hand)

1709

Anno Domini MDCCIX Junii die 1. in Theatro Sheldoniano apud Oxonienses sub prelo sunt libri sequentes

Half-sheet, 38 × 22 cm (trimmed), single-sided.


Mentioned in letter of Dr Thomas Smith to Thomas Hearne, 9 July 1709: ‘The last weeke I received from the carryer two copies of the list of the books now printing, or lately printed at the Theater: for which I thank you. I cannot but deride the vanity of the man who puts his name to the license, which is in itself a thing silly and ridiculous’ (Bodl. MS Smith 62, fol. 551; Hearne, Remarks and Collections, ii,
p. 221, was taken from the draft, MS Smith 127, fol. 331).

A memoir of Edward Lhuyd, attributed by B. F. Roberts to William Huddesford, who was keeper of the Ashmolean from 1755 to 1772, cites ‘a printed paper, signifying what books were already printed, or under the press, at the Theatre, in Oxon… This paper has the imprimatur of A. Charlett, dated June 1, 1709’ (British Remains, ed. N. Owen (London, 1777), 137). He mentions it as advertising a second edition of Lhuyd’s Lithophylacium Britannicum. Lhuyd died on 30 June 1709. It is probable that there was a copy of this catalogue in the Museum in Huddesford’s time, perhaps even among Lhwyd’s papers.

2nd A/c, fol. 9 (Michaelmas 1708–09), ‘Printing and altering the Catall. 3 times 01:00:00’ [i.e. £1].

• BL Harley 5947, no. 35 (John Bagford’s collections)

1710
No surviving copy traced.

2nd A/c, fol. 16 (Michaelmas 1709–10), ‘Payd for printing a Catal. of Books in the warehouse by Order of Mr Vice-Chancellor and delegates 00:06:00’ [i.e. 6s.].

1711
Anno Domini MDCCXI Aprilis die 17. in Theatro Sheldoniano apud Oxonienses sub prelo sunt libri sequentes

Half-sheet, 40.5 × 26 cm, single-sided.

At bottom: ‘Rogandi sunt viri docti & bonarum artium fatores, quotquot libros, qui e Theatro Oxoniensi in posterum prodibunt, in charta Regia vel majori impressos habere malint quam communi, ut nomina sua ad Ægidium Thistlethwayte, Architypographum & Officinae Sheldonianaæ custodem, mature mittere velint.’ Followed by a further note: ‘Libri, qui asterisco notantur, venales sunt apud dictum Architypographum’.

2nd A/c, fol. 22 (Michaelmas 1710–12), ‘Feb. 10’ [1710/11] ‘Printing a large Catal. by Mr Vice-Chancellor’s order 00:08:00’ [i.e. 8s.], ‘March 26 Composeing and altering the Catalogue twice by Mr Vice-Chancellor’s order for the Bp of Worcester 00:10:00’ [i.e. 10s]. ‘Aug. 4 Composeing and printing a small catalogue with prices 00:06:00’ [i.e. 6s].
The dates mentioned in the accounts do not fit with the printed date of 17 April. The small catalogue with prices ought to be the next item below, but again the date is incompatible with the evidence that the surviving example was despatched on 5 May.

- BL, MS Add. 70477, enclosure with letter from Dr Arthur Charlett to Humfrey Wanley, dated at Hambledon, 5 May 1711, along with next item
- BL Cup. 645 e. 5 (5)

[1711] Books now to be sold, by Mr G. Thistlethwayte, at the University Ware-House in Oxford

Small sheet, 20 × 12.5 cm, single-sided.

Offers eighteen titles at discounted prices, all of them delegates’ books, starting with Clarendon’s History of the Great Rebellion, and including Pococke’s commentaries, Morison’s Herbal (now reduced from £5 10s. od. to £4 5s. od.), Catalogi librorum manuscriptorum Angliae et Hiberniae in unum collecti and Smith’s Catalogus librorum manuscriptorum Bibliothecae Cottonianae, and some classical texts.

- BL MS Add. 70477, enclosure with letter from Dr Arthur Charlett to Humfrey Wanley, dated at Hambledon, 5 May 1711, along with preceding item.

[1712] A small Number remaining of the late Dean of Christ-Church’s Five last New-Year-Gifts, are to be sold by Jonah Bowyer, at the Rose in Ludgate-street, with other books that have been printed at the Theater in Oxford, being beautiful editions of […]

Half-sheet, 30 × 17 cm, double-sided.

The first five items with years are Homer’s Odyssey in Greek (1705) [Carter 1705/10, its imprimitur dated 4 Dec. 1705], Grotius’s Institutio (1706) [Carter 1706/8, 17 Dec. 1706], Epictetus (1707) [Carter 1707/4, 1 Dec. 1707], Ignatius (1708) [Carter 1709/5, 10 Dec. 1708], and Palladio’s Antiquitates Vrbis Romae (1709) [Carter 1709/11, 17 Dec. 1709]. All here have the old-style year, though in the Ignatius it was actually printed in new style, hence Carter’s listing 1708 under 1709. Carter presents other evidence to show that these books were in part paid for by Dr Henry Aldrich, Dean of Christ Church until his death in 1710, who took 200 copies to give away. Other books included in this sale list.
are Thomas Spark’s *Lactantii Opera quae extant* (1684), Edward Lhuyd’s *Archaeologia Britannica* (Carter 1707/6), and, the most recent, John Battely’s *Antiquitates Rutupinae* (Carter 1711/1). The date is inferred from this last. Overleaf, ‘With the books following, printed at the Theater’, a very concise list.

- BL Harley 5932, no. 9 (John Bagford’s collections) 

1713

No surviving copy traced.

In 1716 Marmaduke Fothergill requested a copy of an odd volume of Clarendon’s *History* in large paper ‘such as was proposed by Stephen Richardson to be sold at the Theater, June 10th, 1713’ (Bodl. MS Rawlinson Letters 5, fol. 178; Hearne’s *Collections*, v, p. 191n), which, in spite of the delay, Hearne was able to obtain (see above, n. 58). This precise date suggests an offer similar to that for which an advertisement survives with the date 25 August 1713.

1713

*Books to be had of Stephen Richardson at the Theater-Press by any gentleman of the University at the following rates until the end of Michaelmas Term. 25 Aug. 1713*

20 × 12 cm, single-sided.

A list of twenty-one titles, printed at the delegates’ expense, and offered at reduced prices to ‘any Gentlemen of this University’. Dr Humphrey Hody’s *Tractatus* (Carter 1691/5) and Dr Edward Pococke’s commentary on Joel (Carter 1691/10) were still available from 1691, *Catalogi manusciptorum Angliae et Hiberniae* (Carter 1697/1) from 1698 (though now reduced from 22s. to 12s. 6d.). Some other books were as recent as 1710.

- BL Harley 5932, no. 7 (John Bagford’s collections) 

1716

*Anno Domini MDCCXVI Maii die 17. in Theatro Sheldoniano apud Oxonienses sub prelo sunt libri sequentes* 

Half-sheet, 40.5 × 24 cm, single-sided.
At bottom, request concerning those wanting copies on larger paper: ‘Rogandi sunt viri docti & bonarum artium fatores, qui libros, quotquot e Theatro Oxoniensi in posterum prodibunt, in charta Regia vel majori impressos habere malint quam communi, ut nomina sua ad Stephanum Richardson Typographum, & Officinæ Sheldonianae custodem, mature mittere velint.’ And at the foot: ‘Imprimatur, Ar. Charlett Maii 17. 1716.’

The catalogue was one of only two items printed at the delegates’ charge in this year (Carter, pp. 473–76); the other was Wilkins’s New Testament in Coptic (Carter 1716/17). This is the first year of Hearne’s fully independent publishing, and he produced four different books in the course of 1716. In spite of his alienation from Dr Charlett, this catalogue includes an advertisement for his Alfred of Beverley as sub prelo (it was published in July); he has four books in print, the most recent of them being T. Livius on Henry V, published at the beginning of May; and one more is in preparation, Camden’s Elizabetha, which appeared in 1717. His John Rous, published in February, appears to have sold out, while his edition of Roper’s Life of Thomas More, produced in November, is not yet even advertised. Hearne had strong reason to preserve a copy of this catalogue.

2nd A/c, fol. 53 (Michaelmas 1715–16), ‘For printing a Catal. of Books in a large fol. p. 00:10:00’ [i.e. 10s.].

* BL Fol. Θ 662 (12) (probably from the collections G&J of Thomas Hearne)

1719

No surviving copy traced.

2nd A/c, fol. 65 (Michaelmas 1718–23), ‘1719 Composeing & printing the Catalogue of Books in the Press 00:07:00’ [i.e. 7s.].

1720

No surviving copy traced.

2nd A/c. fol. 65 (Michaelmas 1718–23), ‘1720 Altering the Catal. of Books in the Press and printing 200 00:07:00’ [i.e. 7s.]. ibid., fol. 71, ‘White paper used since 1718 […] On the Catalogue of Books in the Press 6 qrs Gram’ paper’.

Acknowledged in a letter from Humfrey Wanley to Dr Arthur Charlett, dated 17 July 1720: ‘This is to return you thanks for the Catalogues you was pleas’d to send me the last week. Indeed, no letter
came with them; but I knew the hand on the outside’ (Bodl. MS Ballard 13, fol. 150).

Produced by the Stationers’ Company


Half-sheet, 35 × 19.5 cm, single-sided.

After listing titles printed for the company, including schoolbooks and psalters, the third section of this list is headed ‘Books printed at Oxford, and also sold at the said Warehouse’, listing thirteen titles; the fourth section, headed ‘In the Oxford Warehouse at Stationers-Hall; and sold at their Warehouse in the Garden’, comprises bibles and prayerbooks. Trade prices are shown for all except the thirteen titles from the learned press. Books offered are Wallis’s Opera mathematica (1699), Catalogi manuscriptorum Angliae et Hiberniae (1698), Josephus (1700), Lycophron (1702), Wood’s Historia et Antiquitates (1674), Hyde’s Bodleian catalogue (1674), Eriugena’s De divisione naturae (1681), Kennett’s Ambrosden (1695), Ashwell’s De Socino (1693), Hudson’s Geographiae veteris scriptores Graeci minores (1698–1700), Hyde’s De ludis orientalibus (1694), Gibson’s Portus Icicius (1694), and Homer’s Ilias (1695–96).

One of the two copies was listed by Gibson & Johnson. Not all lists from Stationers’ Hall include Oxford books (compare BL Harley 5937, no. 337, ESTC R233569), and no search has been made for others that might.

• BL Harley 5932, no. 113 (John Bagford’s collections)
• BL Harley 5937, no. 339 (John Bagford’s collections) G&J

n.d. Advertisement to Booksellers. Printed at Oxford by the University Printers, the Books hereunder mentioned; sold at the Ware-House at the Stationers’ Hall, at the Prizes following, viz.

Small sheet, 18 × 13 cm (trimmed close to text).

Date difficult to establish. This is a list only of bibles (in twelves and in twenty-fours), testaments (in octavo), and prayer books (in folio, octavo, twelves, and twenty-fours) for sale wholesale. The
outer limits are 1692 × 1716, i.e. after the Stationers took over the bible press at Oxford and before Bagford’s death; perhaps before John Baskett became leaseholder in 1713.

• BL Harley 5929, no. 129 (fol. 25v) (John Bagford’s collections)