

CHETHAM'S LIBRARY

Michael Powell

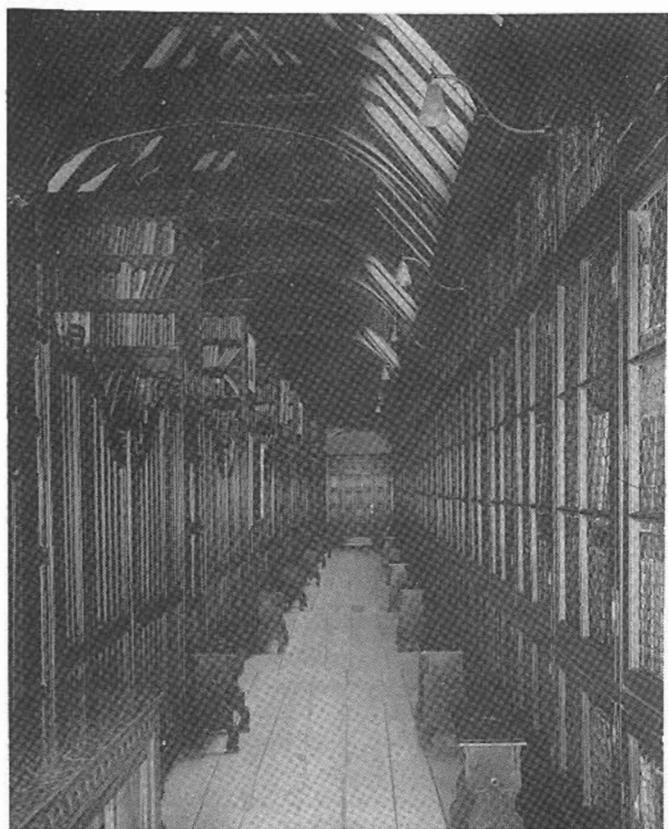
Chetham's Library, founded in 1653, is the oldest surviving library in Manchester, and one of the oldest and most important of the early public libraries in England. The Library came into being as a result of the will of Humphrey Chetham, a prosperous Manchester woollen and linen merchant, who, on his death in 1653, left the bulk of his large fortune to be dispersed of for charitable purposes.¹ Almost half of his bequest was used to endow Chetham's Hospital, for the maintenance and education of forty poor boys; £200 was left to establish small religious libraries in five local churches and chapels, and the sum of £1,000, together with the remainder of his estate, was allocated for the establishment of a public library within the town of Manchester.² In order to house the school and library the executors of Chetham's will purchased the College House, which had formerly provided the accommodation for the clergy of the Collegiate Church,³ and, following the repair and adaptation of the building, the Library was opened to readers in 1656.

From the beginning the Library was free and open to any member of the public; the librarian being charged to "require nothing of any man that cometh into the library".⁴ At the same time, the Library was not strictly intended for the general public but was founded specifically for the use of scholars. According to Chetham's will, none of the books was to be taken out of the Library; indeed, they were to be chained for their better preservation and security. The practise of chaining

books continued until the 1740s when it was abandoned in favour of locked gates at the entrance to each alcove — a unique feature of the Library. The decision to prevent books from being removed from the premises was, in fact, the only restriction placed by the Founder on the composition and use of the Library. The Library's Governors were thus left free to invest the remainder of Chetham's estate in land; a decision which provided the Library with a regular income, enabling it to grow over the years and to adapt itself to changing needs.⁵ With the proceeds of this investment, the Governors were also free to select and purchase books for the Library. In the early years they quickly built up a strong theological collection but books on other subjects were regularly added to the stock. Any book which, it was thought, was of potential value to local scholars could be bought for use in Chetham's. So quickly did the collection grow that by the middle of the eighteenth century Chetham's had developed into a public library in the modern sense — a collection of historical and contemporary books and archives on a wide variety of subjects. During this time the Library became the centre for a group of Jacobite sympathisers, among them the poet and shorthand writer John Byrom, author of the Christmas carol *Christians Awake*. A century later the Library was frequented by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels⁶ and its rich collection of primary sources provided the centre for the researches of the Chetham Society (founded 1843) and later the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society.

By the 1840s Chetham's was recognised as the only truly public library in the country and the most important public collection of books outside the British Museum and the Universities. In the following decades it became clear, however, that the Library could not afford to acquire books at the established rate. In addition, the creation of the rate-supported Public Library of Manchester in 1852 meant that Chetham's no longer needed to continue to buy books on all subjects. The decision was thus taken to restrict the subject coverage to British history and topography. The present policy is to buy books on the history of the North of England, and, in particular Lancashire and Cheshire, together with general and bibliographical books which are necessary for the exploitation of the stock. The Library remains a free public reference library open to any reader over the age of eighteen. Though still privately funded, the Library seeks to carry out the wishes of its Founder and to provide a public service to the people of the area.

As a result of the changes in the Library's acquisition policy, Chetham's can be seen as two separate libraries: on the one hand, a rare books collection comprised of medieval manuscripts, incunabula and books and periodicals dating from the sixteenth to the eighteenth centuries covering a wide range of subjects; on the other, a local history collection of printed books, manuscripts, archives, newspapers and visual materials relating to the history of the North of England.⁷ The distinction between the 'two collections' is, of course, artificial: many of the Library's local history works, especially those produced



Chetham's Library. Interior — Priests' Wing.



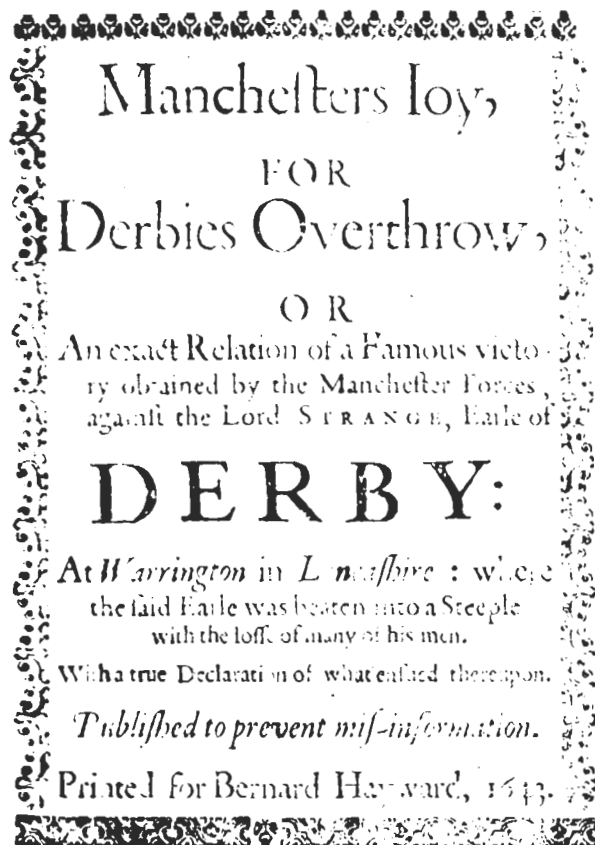
Alcove in Reading Room showing the desk used by Marx and Engels.

during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, are difficult to obtain elsewhere in the region, and the vast majority of the manuscripts and archives are simply unique. The pre-eminent position which the Library held for over two centuries made it the natural repository for both public and private records from all over the North. Many works, both printed and hand written, which would nowadays be deposited in local libraries or in County Record Offices, found their way into Chetham's. The result is that Chetham's local history collection is both richer in quality and broader in scope than that of most modern public libraries, and is comprised of material dating from the thirteenth to the twentieth centuries, from the Lake Counties and Northumberland in the North to Derbyshire and Staffordshire in the South.

The collection of printed books now consists of c.100,000 volumes of which perhaps 3,000 titles (in c.60,000 volumes) were printed before 1850. Whilst the vast majority of these were purchased by the Library to meet the needs and interests of its readers, the collection has been enriched both by individual donations and by several large bequests. Outstanding among these collections is a group of over 3,000 broadside items, mainly of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, which was presented in 1850 by J.O. Halliwell (later Halliwell-Phillipps).⁸ In 1868 the Library acquired a collection of shorthand books which had belonged to John Harland, principal reporter on the *Manchester Guardian*, and the father of provincial journalism in England. Two years later a descendant of John Byrom presented the poet's library to Chetham's. The 3,000 books and 40 manuscripts reflect Byrom's special interests in theology, medicine and shorthand.⁹ As a result of the Harland and Byrom bequests, Chetham's

now contains one of the finest shorthand collections in the country, consisting of some 360 books and 40 manuscripts dating from the sixteenth to the nineteenth centuries, including works on cryptography, spelling reform and universal languages. Other important deposits include 3,500 books of William Asheton Tonge of the Old Rectory, Warburton, Cheshire, and 1,000 books of John Radcliffe of Dobcross, many of which are concerned with the archaeology, topography and history of the North West.

The printed local history collection begins with books printed for Manchester booksellers in the early seventeenth century and includes a good many illustrations of the early book trade in Lancashire and Cheshire. The majority of these works belong to the Library's Tract collection, which numbers over 7,000 items from the seventeenth to the nineteenth centuries. Around 200 tracts date from the Civil War and Commonwealth period and many describe military sieges and engagements in Manchester and elsewhere in the area. Until recently readers have only been able to search for material in the Tract Collection by consulting the author index to the Library's printed catalogue, a major drawback given the fact that many of these works were published anonymously or pseudonymously. A project to recatalogue this collection and to index items by subject is currently nearing completion. The work has revealed considerable numbers of eighteenth and nineteenth-century local works, including scientific and medical lectures, sermons, political pamphlets and statistical and official reports. In addition to tracts and pamphlets, the Library holds an extensive collection of local directories including a long run of Manchester directories which date from the late eighteenth to the twentieth centuries.¹⁰ Until the middle of the last century Chetham's also acquired copies of local newspapers, and now retains holdings of such papers as the *Manchester Mercury* (1752-1825), *Aston's Manchester Commercial Advertiser* (1814-



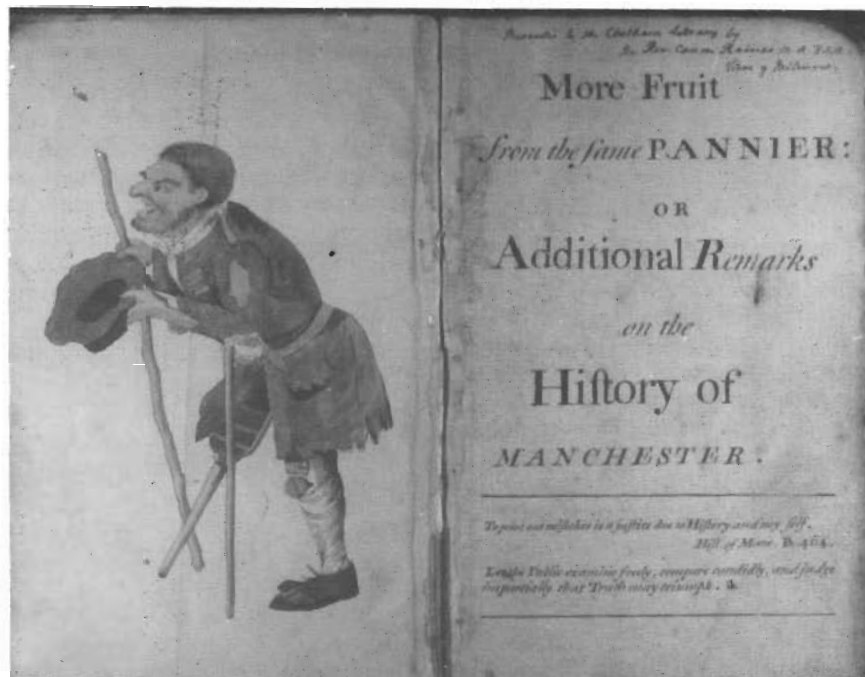
Title-page of printed book (1643).

26), *Manchester Courier* (1825-65), *Wheeler's Manchester Chronicle* (1813-42), *Manchester Guardian* (1821-56) and *Stockport Advertiser* (1822-52).¹¹ Since the middle of the last century lack of space has prevented the Library from storing bound volumes of newspapers, and, in place, Chetham's has built up a collection of newspaper cuttings on North West towns.

One room in the Library is devoted to Manchester and includes both modern and older printed books and also useful periodical publications such as *Manchester Faces and Places*, *The Palatine Note-Book* and serial works such as the *Manchester Court Leet Records* (1552-1776) and *Manchester Council Proceedings* (1838-84). The Library currently subscribes to a large number of journals of local interest, including *Chetham Society*, *The Record Society of Lancashire and Cheshire*, *Lancashire Parish Record Society*, *The Historic Society of Lancashire and Cheshire*, and *Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society*, and has long runs of useful discontinued works such as *Gentleman's Magazine*, *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society*, *British Architect* and *Christian Observer*. County histories which were produced in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries are nearly all in the Library and most new histories, including the *Victoria County History*, are regularly added to the stock.

1652 to the present day and include lists of the books which were bought for the five church libraries which he endowed,¹⁴ the minute books of the Governors of the Hospital and Library, admission registers of the School, gift and accession registers of the Library, and deeds and other legal papers concerning the lands in which Chetham's money was invested. The estates which provided the Hospital and Library with income were Sutton on the Hill, Derbyshire, and Hammerton, near Rochdale, and at each six monthly meeting of the School and Library Governors the stewards of these estates would report any developments which affected revenues, such as new investment, building work and changes in tenancy. Thus, what appear to be purely internal, institutional records of the School and Library turn out, in fact, to contain a mine of information for the study of the social and economic history of these two communities.

Like the School and Library material, the archives of the College building and of the medieval Collegiate Church offer historians far more than merely institutional records. The earliest papers that we hold, the business papers and will of John Huntingdon, first Warden of the Collegiate Church (Mun.E.3.9), provide important evidence of land ownership and of legal transactions, and



John Collier (Tim Bobbin), More Fruit from the Same Pannier.

However extensive the collection of printed books may be, the strength of any local history collection is to be measured in terms of its holdings of primary rather than secondary source material. From the Library's own point of view, the most important archives are those which are concerned with Humphrey Chetham and his Foundations, and of the building in which they are housed.¹² Chetham was the most successful gentleman merchant of Caroline Lancashire,¹³ and a figure of some political significance, and his own personal and business papers help to shed valuable light on the social and political affairs of the County in the 1630s and 1640s. The Library holds correspondence concerning Chetham's collection of the Ship Tax in the 1640s, papers dealing with his various properties and with his attempts to purchase the College building, the inventory of his goods which was made at the time of his death, and the probate copy of his will and drafts of eight previous wills from 1634 to 1651. The records of Chetham's Foundations date from

information about prominent families associated with the Church in: the first half of the fifteenth century. Half a century later James Stanley, the 7th Warden, (1485-1506), authorised sermons to be held in the new built Jesus Chapel. To the Licence, which is now preserved at Chetham's (Mun.E.5.8) is appended a rare example of the Warden's seal — the assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary with the shields of the Grelley and the De La Warre families. The Library also holds the illuminated charter of Edward VI which granted the College buildings to the Earl of Derby following the dissolution of the Collegiate Church in 1547, and papers of Laurence Vaux, the last Catholic Warden (1557-8) (Mun.A.6.81). The survival of Vaux's papers serves as a salutary reminder of the problems of preserving historical records. On the accession of Elizabeth, Vaux refused to take the Oath of Supremacy and was consequently deprived of his office. Mindful of the possibility of the Church's property being plundered, Vaux left Manchester taking with him the

Communion silver and vestments of the Collegiate Church, which he deposited with Catholic friends in the Standish area before escaping to Ireland. Vaux then moved to Louvain, where he entered the Augustinian monastery of St. Martin. Returning to England in 1580 as leader of one of the missions to the Recusants, Vaux was arrested and imprisoned in London where he died in 1585. The silver and vestments of the Collegiate Church seem to have disappeared some time during the eighteenth century. In 1885, however, an antiquary in Louvain happened to notice a baker in the city using leaves from a sixteenth-century manuscript to wrap up tarts. Somewhat alarmed, he bought the volume and some other documents which related to the dissolved monastery of St. Martin's. Among these documents were three papers of Laurence Vaux, including his will and a list of the silver and vestments which he had deposited in Standish.¹⁵



Petition of Laurence Vaux to Prior of St. Martin's Monastery, Louvain, 1572, (Mun. A.6.81).

Few of the Library's ecclesiastical archives have had such a fraught existence as Vaux's papers; the majority being safely deposited here many years ago. These include official papers such as the *Manchester Association for the Promotion and Reform of the Ecclesiastical Provision of Manchester*, 1847-50, (E.3.12, E.4.1); individual church records such as the *Churchwarden's Accounts of St. John's, Deansgate*, 1769-1828 (Mun.A.1.6); transcripts of parish registers and histories of local parishes; and private papers, notably the diary of Henry Newcombe, minister of Cross Street Chapel (Mun.A.2.140), and the press cuttings, sermons and notes of James Fraser, Second Bishop of Manchester.

Fraser's papers are largely concerned with his work as an educational reformer and the Library contains a number of works which help to document the history of schooling in the area. In addition to the archives of Chetham's School, the Library also holds records of another Manchester Charity School, Nicholls' Hospital (Mun.A.2.172, Mun.A.4.139-147). Nicholls' was founded in 1881 for the education of the sons of poor persons living within a five mile radius of Manchester. The Hospital was situated in Hyde Road, Ardwick and had accommodation for 100 boys. By the 1940s, however, the number had declined to 22, and in 1950 Nicholls' Hospital was amalgamated with Chetham's. Other educational records include works on local grammar schools, including for example, a grangerised copy of A.A. Mumford's *History of Manchester Grammar School* (1915), (Mun.A.2.135), the *Catalogue of the Library of Charles Lawson High Master of the Free Grammar School, Manchester* (Mun.A.4.63) and F.R. Raines's annotated copy of his *Memorials of Rochdale Grammar School* (Mun.A.3.53).

Of all the Library's educational archives pride of place must be given to the *Minutes of the Manchester Sunday Schools 1784-1839*, (Mun.A.6.3-6, Mun.A.4.65-66). The Manchester Sunday School movement was formerly launched in August 1784 with an advertisement in the papers.¹⁶ Within a few weeks 25 schools had been set up, attended by nearly 1,800 children, and a Committee made up of both Anglicans and Dissenters was formed to run the schools. The Committee divided the town into five districts (corresponding to the five Anglican churches) each of which had its own subcommittee. The main Committee met each month and appointed visitors to inspect the schools and to implement its rules and regulations. Discipline was strict and pupils were expelled for lying and for swearing. By contrast, those pupils who were proficient in their lessons and who were good attenders were rewarded with prizes. Today these seem somewhat dubious honours. In 1785, for example, the books which were given to good pupils included *The Great Importance of the Religious Life*, *Serious Advice Against Swearing* and *Serious Advice against Lying*. The *Minute Books of the Sunday Schools' Committee* contain names of teachers and visitors, the numbers of children attending school, lists of books bought for the use of the schools and the resolutions and rules of the organising committee. These records are complemented by a considerable body of material on the Whitwalk Processions dating from c.1820-1920, such as the *Whit Sunday Procession Minute Book 1859-95* (Mun.A.6.6*) and maps and plans of the walks.

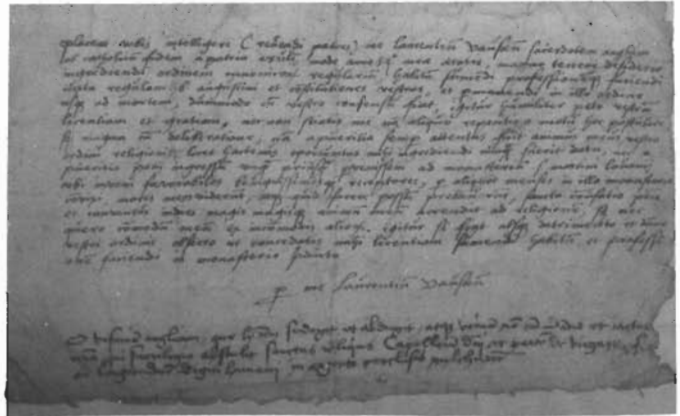
To a large extent the strengths of the Library lie in the early history of Manchester, rather than in the Victorian Cottonopolis. That notwithstanding, the town's growing social and political problems of the late eighteenth century and early nineteenth century are reflected in a number of important works. In 1773/4 a group of gentlemen in Manchester, including Thomas Percival, one of the founders of the Manchester Literary and Philosophical Society, and the historian John Whitaker, undertook a census of the town and parish of Manchester (Mun.A.4.54-56). The three volume work which resulted from their research, in turn provided the basis for a number of published studies by Percival on the population of Manchester.¹⁷ The census itself gives no names but lists streets, the houses in them, and the number, sex and age of inhabitants. Thus, for example, according to this census, Shudehill contained 71 houses, 134 families, 191 males, 221 females, 173 married persons, 8 widowers, 22 widows, 196 persons under the age of 15, 89 over fifteen, 13 male lodgers and 9 female lodgers.¹⁸ The absence of names has possibly prevented the census from being properly analysed. Yet it offers demographic historians a wealth of information on the population of Manchester in this critical period of the town's development. The compilers themselves had no doubts about the importance of their findings, John Whitaker claiming that the census was sufficiently accurate for every literary or political use. Accordingly, the manuscript was to be placed in Chetham's since the library was "the proper repository for public papers".¹⁹ Other records include the *Constitution and Minutes for the Association for Preserving Constitutional Order against Levellers and Republicans 1792-9* (Mun.A.6.45), some papers of the *Pitt Club* (Mun.A.2.79), a society established in 1812 to celebrate the birthday of William Pitt, and *Lists and Subscriptions Collected for the Benefit of Special Constables of Manchester, 1819* (Mun.A.2.14). This particular Society was founded a week or so after the Peterloo massacre with the aim of providing for the

constables (and, in exceptional cases, for families and dependants of constables), who had suffered or who might suffer injuries in the discharge of their official duties. The Library's main holdings of Peterloo material, however, are contained in the private papers of W.R. Hay, Vicar of Rochdale from 1820 and up to 1823 Stipendiary Chairman of the Salford Quarter Sessions, was probably the most unpopular of the magistrates in the immediate post-Peterloo period. His collection at Chetham's comprises over forty commonplace books of sermons and notes, and eighteen volumes of scrapbooks of which three are concerned with the massacre of 1819.

The Library's business papers, though few in number, include the *Wages Book of Peel Yates Peel Mill in Bury*, (Mun.A.7.8), and the *Accounts of the Bridgewater Canal for 1791* (Mun.A.7.6). The most substantial business archive, however, is the *Belle Vue Collection*, eleven boxes of material relating to the Zoological Gardens, founded by John Jennison in 1836. Up till the closure of the Zoo in 1977, Belle Vue formed one of the most important leisure and entertainment complexes in the North West, providing the centre for a wide range of activities including brass band concerts, military tattoos, boxing tournaments, circuses, firework displays and races. In the 1920s and 1930s the Jennison family presented to the Library the family's records of the Zoo, including George Jennison's unpublished history of Belle Vue.²⁰ The collection comprises detailed account books, (which even record the cost of each animal added to the Zoo), guide books, diaries, letters, photographs and legal documents concerning the acquisition and development of the site.

During the nineteenth century a large number of societies were founded in Manchester to cater for the interests and leisure activities of the middle classes. Minute books and reports of several of these societies are now held by the Library, such as *The Manchester Amateur Glee and Catch Club* (Mun.D.4-5) and the *Rosicrucian Society*. The latter was possibly the oddest of all of the literary and historical societies which sprang up in the town; it was certainly the most exclusive, being restricted to a membership of only twelve. The original Rosicrucian Society met on the first Monday of each month from 1852-60, and its transactions are recorded in a Minute Book (Mun.A.6.18). At each meeting the host member, known as the Prior, would provide a supper limited to one joint, vegetables, bread and cheese with beer or porter — all wines being strictly prohibited, with spirits only introduced after supper. Following their meal, the members would exhibit local curios and deliver short papers on historical and antiquarian matters. These meetings, though exclusive, were not secret; one member, John Harland, regularly reported on the proceedings in his newspaper, the *Manchester Guardian*. The identity of the members, however, was not to be divulged, the various contributors being referred to merely as the Brothers.²¹

Through the centuries many of the Library's own primary sources have provided the basis for both published and unpublished histories of Manchester and its region, a number of which are now deposited in the Library. The earliest of these accounts is by Richard Hollingworth, Rector of Sacred Trinity Church, Salford, dated 1656 (Mun.A.6.51), whilst the Library holds later examples from John Whitaker, 1771-5, (Mun.A.6.32), John Greswell c.1800 (Mun.A.6.54) and R.J. Richardson, late nineteenth century (Mun.A.0.12). The best known of these works are the writings of John Collier or Tim Bobbin. By the middle of the last century the works of the



Census of Manchester Township, 1773-4 (Mun. A.4.54).

Lancashire dialect writer and artist began to be collected by local antiquarians and the Library now contains a good selection of his manuscripts, including letters, sketch books, lists of subscribers to his books and a beautifully written history of Manchester, *More Fruit from the Same Panier* (Mun.A.4.38). In addition to published and unpublished histories, Chetham's also holds a number of works which contain both information and opinions about life in eighteenth and nineteenth century Manchester. Four manuscripts by the poet Robert Southey, for example, are here, including his *Letters to Espriella* (Mun.A.4.2) in which he described Manchester as "a place more destitute of all interesting objects ... it is not easy to conceive".²² Other works include the manuscript of Mrs. Linneas Banks' celebrated novel *The Manchester Man*, (Mun.A.3.88) which described the life of a pupil at Chetham's Hospital, and several manuscripts of the novels of William Harrison Ainsworth.

Less well known than these works is a diary compiled by a local wig-maker, Edmund Harrold (Mun.A.2.137).²³ Harrold's diary provides fascinating insight into the everyday activities of a local resident of Manchester during the early 1700s. In it Harrold recorded conversations with friends and with customers, dealings with booksellers, sermons and religious affairs in the town, and details of his personal life — his various marriages and the deaths of his children. The book exudes self-pity, no doubt the result of the fact that the author seems to have written the entries whilst recovering from countless bouts of drunkenness. Fortunately the work is not excessively moralistic. Harrold's account of everyday events is accorded hardly less significance than the troubled state of his conscience: The entry for the 7th July, 1712 is typical.

"This morning I had my old melancholy pain seized on me, with a longing desire for drink; so I went and paid my rent, then I sold J.G. a lock of hair pro loss 5s.6d.; then I spent 2d. with Hall &c., then 4d. with Mr. Allen, 'tourney, then fought with S.B. at Jane Win's about chat; then went a rambl-[ing] [at the] Key, Dragon, and Castle, and Lyon, till near 12 o'clock, till I was ill drunken; cost me 4½d. from 6 till 12. I made myself a great fool &c".

The next day, somewhat the worse for wear, Harrold pledges never to touch drink, a resolution which lasts all of a week!²⁴

The impression given so far in this account of the Library's holdings is that Chetham's local resources are almost entirely devoted to Manchester. Fortunately this impression is misleading. It is true to say that the Library does not contain a comprehensive collection of manuscripts and archives for all of the towns and cities of

Lancashire and Cheshire; the western parts of the counties, including Liverpool, hardly feature at all: but it is worth emphasizing that Chetham's holds a good many valuable works which are not confined to Manchester. There is insufficient space to describe any of these individual works in any detail, but it is helpful to mention a few items simply to illustrate the range of the collection. From Cheshire the Library contains a number of important social documents, including the *Accounts of the Overseers of the Poor and the Surveyors of the Highways of Sutton, near Macclesfield, 1764-1818*, (Mun.A.7.13-18) and the *Accounts of the Constables, Wardens and Overseers of the Poor of Over Knutsford, 1669-1778*, (Mun.A.7.12). The books of the overseers of the poor offer a wealth of information on the problem of poverty and systems of poor relief.²⁵ The Over Knutsford Accounts, for example, record allowances given to families, contributions towards burial accounts and medical relief (including in some cases specific medicines), payments for rent, clothing provisions and the boarding out of children. Estate papers include the *Survey of Lands Held in Altrincham and Bowden by Sir William Meredith, 1726* (Mun.A.7.21), and the plan and survey of properties in the Bollington area belonging to William Fellowes, 1789, while works on old halls include a collection of manuscripts from Adlington Hall (Mun.E.8.22) and several works on Bramhall. Amongst the latter is a history of the hall and of the Davenport family, by Alfred Burton, c.1889 (Mun.E.8.24) and a collection of letters concerning a claim made by Edward Davenport to Bramhall Hall and the estate in 1835 (Mun.E.8.25). The fascinating story which lies behind these letters has been pieced together by E. B. Dean in her work *The Woodhouses Letters* (Bolton, 1986).

Material on Lancashire is perhaps even more extensive and includes copies of visitations of 1567 and 1580 made by William Flower and John Gower (Mun.A.7.50 and Mun.A.7.52); books of rates and taxation for the County, 1628, 1649, 1650; the letter books and accounts of the Assheton family of Middleton, 1648-1715 (Mun.A.3.90-91); a subsidy roll of the Hundred of Salford 1622; and the Estate Papers of the Dauntsey and Poulton families of Agecroft (Mun.B). Many of these original documents came from the private papers of prominent nineteenth-century antiquarians such as John Eglington Bailey, James Crossley and F.R. Raines. In addition to original sources, the Library has also acquired transcripts and collections made by a number of people who published or who intended to publish histories and archaeological works on Lancashire and Cheshire. The earliest of these are those of Richard Kuerden, (1623-90?) 2 vols., and Christopher Towneley (1604-74) 12 vols., who intended to collaborate in writing a history of Lancashire. Others include the works of the architectural antiquarian John Palmer (1785-1846) 8 vols.; John Piccope (1788-1854) and George Piccope (1818-1872) 22 vols.; J.J. Phelps (1855-1928) who collected photographs and printed material and whose collection of newspaper cuttings provides the basis for the Library's own cuttings collection, and William Thompson Watkin (1836-88) who published works on Roman Lancashire and Cheshire.

The value of these works to local historians is inestimable. Writing to the antiquary Randle Holme in 1664, Kuerden pointed out that "Mr. Townly and himself were in hott pursuit of Countryes Affaires and in retriuing the Glory of their Palatine out of Monumental Ashes".²⁶ By copying deeds and family documents, antiquarians such as Kuerden and Towneley sought to ensure that important historical records were preserved for future generations.

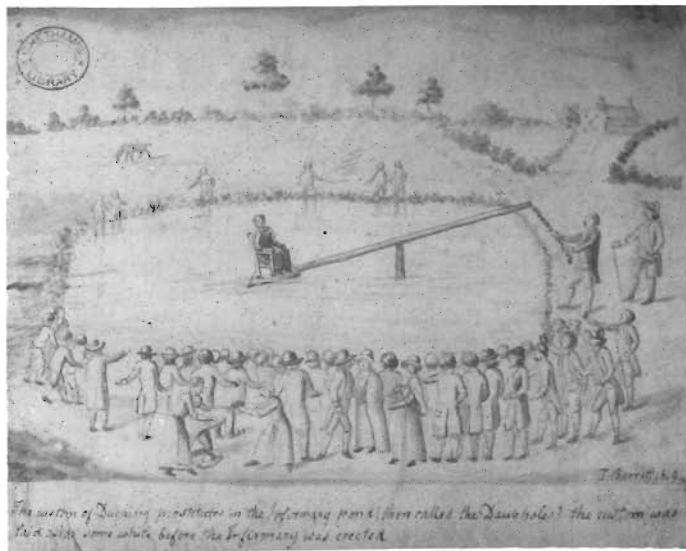
Often the notes and transcripts made by later antiquaries are the sole evidence we have of historical events or of specific families or of local institutions; the original documents which they copied having been lost or destroyed. Thus in many cases these histories or materials collected in preparation for published histories take on a new significance, becoming, in the absence of other corroborating evidence, primary source materials in their own right. This emphasis on the preservation of historical records is also characteristic of the work of F.R. Raines, whose extensive collection of papers, which he deposited in Chetham's, comprises one of the most important source collections for the history of South-East Lancashire. During a period of approximately 50 years from 1828-78, Raines, Vicar of Milnrow, near Rochdale, and Vice-President of the Chetham Society, filled over 40 large folio volumes with notes, transcripts, drafts of books and articles, and original documents, mainly on the area including and surrounding Rochdale. Like so many antiquarians of his day Raines was an avid collector of old documents and did not always exercise discrimination over his use of original sources. As a result, his Lancashire manuscripts are not arranged systematically, and throughout the forty or so manuscripts Raines flits from subject to subject, from town to town, and from one family muniment to another. At first sight the contents of particular volumes appear confusing. The catalogue entry for volume 23, for example, reads as follows:

Vol. XXIII.—Miscellaneous: Extracts from the par. Registers of Bury, A.D. 1647-1690; Evidences of ffarington of Werden, Blackburne of Hale, Astley of Astley, Hump. Chetham; The Ribble Fishery, 1576; Notes on Rev. Thos. Wilson; Derby family Deeds and Memoranda; Extracts from the Diary of the Rev. John Angier; Chadderton Evidences; Holt of Castleton; Notes from Diary of Rev. Turner Standish of Burnley, 1744-1784, and Mr. Peter Walkden, 1724-1730; Extracts from the Manchester Grammar School Admission Book, 1760-1808.²⁷

Fortunately the Raines' manuscripts are indexed and are relatively easy to use. Together with his collection of deeds (c.350) and letters (c.2,500 mainly from local historians) the Raines' manuscripts now provide the starting point for research at Chetham's on the history of churches, families and houses in the area.

The total number of manuscripts held at Chetham's is in the region of 1,000 of which perhaps half are of local interest, whilst the number of archives and individual records has yet to be calculated. Hence it can be seen that this introduction to the Library's local history material touches no more than the surface of the collection. In addition to books, archives and manuscripts, Chetham's also contains large numbers of visual works including c.2,500 lantern slides and glass negatives, prints and engravings, and maps of Manchester and the neighbouring towns. There are also a number of scrapbooks compiled by local historians which contain important prints and drawings of buildings and of people of the area.

Finally, some words on the Library's documentation and catalogues. At present Chetham's does not have a single author/title catalogue of printed books, and prospective readers should be warned in advance of the perils of Chetham's cataloguing systems. The Library's printed



Thomas Barrit's pencil drawing showing the ducking of prostitutes at the Infirmary Pond (Manchester Scrapbook).

catalogue which appeared in six volumes between 1791-1883 is written in Latin and arranges books according to subject and then by size — folio, quarto, octavo. Two volumes of the catalogue (nos. 5 and 6) serve as author indexes and, as has already been said, efforts are currently being made to improve the subject indexing of the Library's local history materials. Manuscripts are included in the printed catalogue and are also indexed separately on cards, whilst all twentieth-century printed books are entered into a separate author/subject card catalogue. In addition there are a number of specific catalogues and indexes of broadsides, newspapers, scrapbooks, slides, map holdings and other special collections. Library staff are available to assist readers to use the catalogues and registers, and the Library welcomes both telephone and postal enquiries about the collections. Readers wishing to consult manuscripts and archives are asked to make an appointment either in writing to **Chetham's Library, Long Millgate, Manchester M3 1SB**, or by telephone — **061-834 7961**. The Library is open Monday to Friday; 9.30 - 12.30, 1.30 - 4.30.

NOTES

1. At the time of his death Chetham's fortune was estimated at in excess of £15,000. See F.R. Raines and C.W. Sutton, *Life of Humphrey Chetham: Founder of the Chetham Hospital and Library*, *Chetham Society* n.s. Vols.49, 50 (1903).
2. For the history of Chetham's Hospital, now Chetham's School of Music, see P. Williams, *Chetham's Old and New in Harmony* (Manchester, 1986). The church libraries are discussed in R.C. Christie, *The Old Church and School Libraries of Lancashire*, *Chetham Society* n.s. Vol.7 (1885) pp.19-68, and G.J. French, *Bibliographical Notices of the Church Libraries at Turton and Gorton, bequeathed by Humphrey Chetham*, *Chetham Society*, o.s. Vol.38 (1855). An authoritative history of Chetham's Library has yet to be written. For brief accounts of the early history see C.T.E. Phillips, 'Humphrey Chetham and His Library', *Manchester Review* Vol.3 (1944) pp.280-292, and A.C. Snape, 'Seventeenth-Century Book Purchasing in Chetham's Library, Manchester', *Bulletin of the John Rylands University Library of Manchester*, Vol.67 (1985) pp.783-796.
3. For the history and architecture of the building see *VCH Lancashire*, Vol.4 (1911) pp.224-227; N. Pevsner, *The Buildings of England: Lancashire I. The Industrial and Commercial South* (Harmondsworth, 1969) pp.285-287.
4. Feoffees' meeting 3 July 1656. Quoted in A.F. Maclure, 'The Minute Books of Chetham's Hospital and Library Manchester', *Transactions of the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society*, Vol.40 for 1922-3 (1925) pp.16-42.
5. Thomas Kelly, *Early Public Libraries: a History of Public Libraries in Great Britain before 1850* (London, 1966) p.79.
6. Marx's use of Chetham's is discussed in Ruth and Edmund Frow, *Karl Marx in Manchester* (Manchester, 1985) pp.7, 39 and W.O. Henderson, 'Marx in Manchester', *Transactions of the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society*, Vol.83 (1985) pp.71-84.
7. The best guides to the Library's holdings are two articles by Hilda Lofthouse, Librarian from 1945-1973, 'Unfamiliar Libraries 1: Chetham's Library', *The Book Collector*, Vol.5 (1956) pp.323-330, and 'Chetham's Library', in N.J. Frangopulo (ed.), *Rich Inheritance: a guide to the history of Manchester* (Manchester, 1963) pp.246-254. See also Moelwyn Williams (ed.), *Directory of Rare Book and Special Collections in the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland* (London, 1985) pp.398-401.
8. *A Catalogue of Proclamations, Broadsides, Ballads and Poems. Presented to the Chetham Library*, Manchester (London, 1851).
9. *A Catalogue of the Library of the late John Byrom ...* [compiled by R.B. Wheatley] (London, 1848).
10. The Library's holdings are listed in G.H. Tupling and Sidney Horrocks, *Lancashire Directories 1684-1957* (Manchester, 1968).
11. A full list of the Library's newspaper holdings will appear in a forthcoming volume of the Lancashire Bibliography.
12. Chetham's Private Papers and the School and Library archives are the property of the Feoffees of Chetham's Hospital and Library, and readers who wish to consult this material must first obtain permission from the governors of the Library. There are no restrictions on any other material held at Chetham's.
13. B.G. Blackwood, *The Lancashire Gentry and the Great Rebellion 1640-1660*, *Chetham Society*, 3rd ser., Vol.25 (1978) p.18.
14. Of the five original Libraries only two have survived intact. The Turton Library and chest are now housed in Turton Tower and the Gorton Library has been on indefinite loan at Chetham's since 1983.
15. The documents were purchased by the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society and were presented to the Library in 1885. For Vaux see T.G. Law ed., *A Catechism or Christian Doctrine by Laurence Vaux ... reprinted from an edition of 1583 ...*, *Chetham Society*, n.s., Vol.4 (1885) pp.v-xcix.
16. Cf. A.P. Wadsworth, 'The First Manchester Sunday Schools', *Bulletin of the John Rylands Library*, Vol.33 (1950-51) pp.299-326.
17. Cf. *Observations on the State of the Population in Manchester* [Manchester, 1773], *Essays Medical, Philosophical and Experimental ...*, 4th ed., 2 vols. (Warrington, 1778-89).
18. *An Enumeration of the Houses and Inhabitants in the Town and Parish of Manchester 1773-74*. (Mun.A.4.54-56). Mun.A.4.54 ff.43-45. The suburbs are dealt with in groups and not street by street.
19. Memorandum in Mun.A.4.54.
20. According to the terms of the bequest, Jennison's history was not to be made available to the public until 1963.
21. For a brief account of the Society see V.I. Tomlinson, 'The Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society 1883-1983', *Transactions of the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society*, Vol.83 (1985) pp.1-39. The activities of the Society were the object of some ridicule in Manchester journals, cf. *The Free Lance*, Jan.26 1867, pp.43-44.
22. Mun.A.4.2., f.281.
23. Extracts from the diary were published in John Harland ed., *Collectanea relating to Manchester and its Neighbourhood*, *Chetham Society*, o.s. Vol.68 (1866) pp.172-208.
24. Mun.A.2.137 f.7.
25. For an account of these and other poor house accounts see G.H. Tupling, 'Parish Books: their value to local historians', *Transactions of the Lancashire and Cheshire Antiquarian Society*, Vol.63 for 1950-51 (1953) pp.5-28.
26. Cf. *Catalogue of the Harleian Manuscripts in the British Museum* (London, 1808) no.2042(8).
27. *Bibliotheca Chethamensis Catalogus* (Manchester 1701-1883) Vol.6, pp.376-380.