

A note on the Printed Catalogue set used by Prof. John Byrne for his project.

To: jgrimson@tcd.ie

Subject: John Byrne and the "original" Printed Catalogue pages.

Fri 24/11/2017

Dear Jane,

I think I expressed some surprise to you when I learned that John had a Library set of the Printed Catalogue "disbound" for his project as I had thought otherwise.

I have very recently discovered that we were both right! It is probably not of great interest to you, but it solved a librarian's little mystery for myself.

In the mid-1980s I was involved in a survey of some of the "dumps" the Library had in College basements. I particularly remember visiting the basements of No. 6, the West Chapel and the foul basement of the Zoology Department. The Front Square basements had mainly maps, still in their wrappers from the British Ordnance Survey and some duplicate books from the old Regent House student lending library; the Zoology basement was chiefly non-academic periodicals and trade magazines.

I remember in the basement of West Chapel coming across some tea chests that had unbound printer's sheets of the Printed Catalogue – they were unsorted and the top sheets were heavily soiled with dust and dirt.

It seems that these sheets were "rescued", sorted and bound in-house by the Conservation Laboratory. It was this set that was given to John Byrne for his project in the late 1980s.

The pages John used for his project were returned to the Library recently by Dan McCarthy while clearing JB's office. They have been sent to the Preservation and Conservation Department in the Library where I was able to have a look at them and take the attached photographs.

The photographs show the in house binding that was developed by Tony Cains (the first Director of the Conservation Laboratory) and still used in the Library for books and periodicals. There were also some unbound sheets returned from JB's office that clearly show the soiling on some of the sheets and it is clear from those sheets that they were never bound at the time of printing. The sheets included some imperfect printing where the sheets were only printed on one side. JB clearly added some photocopies to his collection to make up for some missing pages from the Library.

Some of the pages that were collated and bound have been annotated with shelf mark changes and there is a note on each of the reverse of the volumes' title pages indicating that these annotations were added in November 1986 (rather than contemporary with the individual relocation of the books).

So, it would seem that John got an imperfect set of the Printed Catalogue that was formed from sheets found in a College basement a few years earlier than when he started his project. Rather than the Library having one of the few remaining original Printed Catalogue sets broken up, I suspect that the staff in the Old Library were probably glad to part with this "new" set and especially when it was going to a good home!

I hope you don't mind me giving you this little postscript, but I am pleased to have resolved a small personal conundrum!

Regards

Trevor

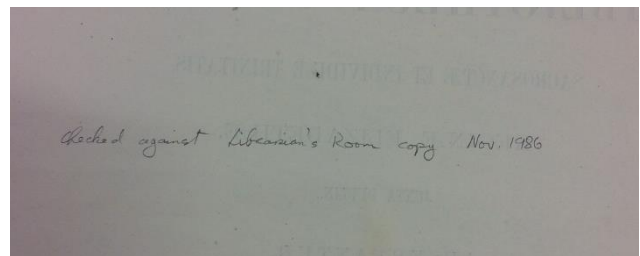
Trevor Peare | Erstwhile Keeper (Readers' Services)
Trinity College Library Dublin
College Street | Dublin 2 | Ireland



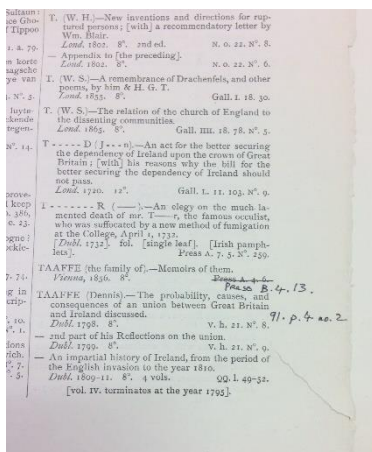
Pages returned from JB's Office



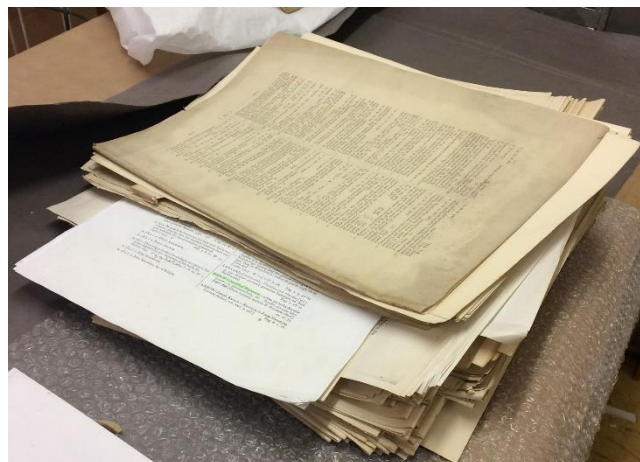
Binding detail



Note on annotations



Annotations



Spare and duplicate pages