

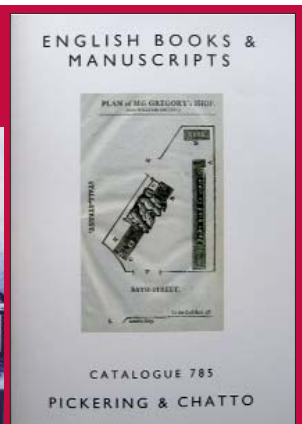
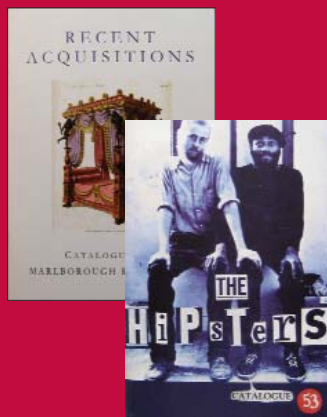
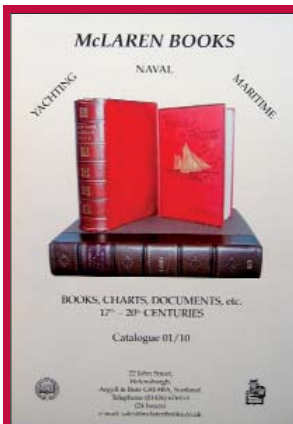
# Catalogue Review

By James Fergusson

**M**CLAREN BOOKS (22 John Street, Helensburgh, Argyll & Bute G84 8BA: 01436-676453) deal in books on the sea. Their catalogues are defiantly specialised, but always repay reading. The latest, 01/10, 'Yachting, Naval, Maritime Books, Charts, Documents etc: 17th-20th centuries', runs to 200 items and covers subjects from battles, boat-building, sail-making, shipwrecks, canals and courts-martial to knots, yacht signals, azimuth tables, nautical vocabulary ('sea phrases'), practical navigators and admiralty charts of the Zuyder Zee. There are navy lists, account books, lives of admirals, government acts, cruise journals, a collection of 18th-century sailors' wills (from the privateer *Terrible*), *The Shipmaster's Guide* for 1846 and a guide to edible Cornish fish. It is a feast for the seagoing, a joy for the armchair tar.

What most interests me, as the grandson of two naval officers, is the original material; what intrigue me, as a consumer of catalogues, are the unanswered questions. Here are four midshipman's journals from 1876-81, £1,500. Arthur W. Ewart, who kept them, serves on six ships,

and longest on HMS *Alexandra*, from when she is first commissioned in 1877 as flagship of the Mediterranean Fleet, 'a position she held continuously until 1899. Ewart would appear to have enjoyed,' McLaren's note continues, 'a successful, if not illustrious naval career...' It may not have been illustrious, but surely it is not, as McLaren suggest, unrecorded? Arthur Wartensleben Ewart (the middle name alone is worth a trip to the reference library) came from a distinguished military family: his father, General Sir John Alexander Ewart, had a good Crimean War, while his elder brother, Lt-Gen Sir John Spencer Ewart, had a good Boer War and would have risen to the top if he hadn't crossed Asquith over Ireland. Born in 1862, Arthur had the distinction of being the first naval attaché in Berlin, in 1900-03, so following his great-grandfather Joseph Ewart, British minister in Berlin, who had married a daughter of the Graf von Wartensleben – a fact that endeared Arthur, usefully, to the Kaiser. Admiral Arthur Ewart retired from the Navy 'through ill-health' in 1911 and died a Knight Commander of the Dannebrog,



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aged only 59, in 1922. (His *Who's Who* entry at death recorded that the registration number of his car was SW 164: who has it now?)

Again, for the same price, McLaren offer the documents of another emigrant Scotsman, William James Harvey, in an 1835 ledger detailing the accounts of his plantation in Jamaica; of particular piquancy is his 'Negro Account', 'recording the expenditure for medical attendance on forty-two apprentices in May and August, [and] the purchase of 25 great cloaks in May'. 'It would appear,' reads the catalogue entry, 'that he prospered', noting that he purchased the Carnousie estate in Banffshire in 1842 and became 'a member of the landed gentry'; it speculates that he was dead by 1875. But could they not have done better than that? William James Harvey of Carnousie (1799-1868) not only became a member of the landed gentry, he is also recorded in recent editions of *Burke's Landed Gentry* as ancestor of the Barclay-Harveys of Dinnet. On the backs of the Negroes great dynasties were built.

This has been a month for general catalogues, mostly rich, well-produced and of high quality. Pickering & Chatto (144-146 New Bond Street, London W1Y 9FD: 020-7491 2656), 785, 'English Books & Manuscripts', is adorned on the back cover with a wonderful Suffragette photograph, £250, a press picture of the Women's Social and Political Union meeting at Caxton Hall, Westminster, probably on 30 June 1908. The gallery balustrade is decked with banners - 'BY COURAGE & FAITH', 'TAXATION WITHOUT REPRESENTATION IS A TYRANNY', 'PLAY UP AND PLAY THE GAME' and 'GO ON

PESTERING'; downstairs is a sea of flower-packed hats. The catalogue, a particularly invigorating one, leads with *The Trial of Jane Leigh Perrot* (1800), the report of Jane Austen's aunt's sensational court appearance on a shoplifting charge, £5,000 (is this the same copy as James Burmester had last summer for £3,000?), together with a second account by a different hand, and even rarer, £7,500. It also has Charles James Fox's *Essay upon Wind* (1825), one of 12 copies on vellum and with farting jokes worthy of a seven-year-old child; priced, however, beyond most seven-year-olds' pockets, at £2,500.

Next door, Marlborough Rare Books (144-146 New Bond Street, London W1Y 9FD: 020-7493 6993), 213, 'Recent Acquisitions', is, unusually, presented in a double-column format, enhanced by numerous single-column illustrations. Who could resist an 1819 Ackermann toy, 'Changeable Portraits of Gentlemen' (also advertising 'Changeable Ladies'), consisting of 28 hand-coloured aquatint heads, each divided into three segments, so offering 21,952 permutations and endless fun for the Regency family: 'Among these will be found many celebrated characters, such as Mr Pitt, Mr Fox, Lord Nelson, Voltaire, Bonaparte, Blucher, &c. &c.' (Eye of Boney, chin of Pitt, ear of Fox - but will they fit?) The gentlemen are in their original pine box with sliding lid, £1,500. Other attractions are a set of 26 hand-coloured pen-and-ink designs for cottages and villas, c1825, by the London architect-surveyor Joel Bray, £16,500; a pencil-and-watercolour design by Owen Jones, 1861, for a grand, gilt, glass-fronted bookcase for a house in York



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Terrace, £2,500; and a copy of *The London Censorship 1914-1919*, the in-house history of the London official postal censorship office printed for private circulation in 1919 (and further embellished with related ephemera), £650.

James Burmester (Pipley Old Farm, North Stoke Lane, Upton Cheyney, Bristol BS30 6NG: 0117-932 7265), 77, 'English Books 1570-1900: mainly recent acquisitions', has sections on 'Agriculture, rural pursuits, domestic economy', 'Education, courtesy books & juveniles', 'Essays and miscellanies', 'Medicine and science' and 'Novels and novelists', all items with satisfyingly deep catalogue entries, but the most alluring section is 'Verse'. Here is an 1818 single-sheet reprint of an apparently lost 1766 poem, *A Song, Written on the Repeal of the Cider-Tax*, £300:

A health to all our Members let's drink  
in merry vein,  
To *Rockingham* and *Pratt*, let's fill it up  
again,  
Likewise to *Pitt* and *Dowdeswell*, we'll  
stretch our Throats still wider,  
And all the *Moccas Hills* shall echo back –  
***Old Cider!***

Here is a first edition of Thomas Moore's first book, *The Poetical Works of the Late Thomas Little, Esq* (1801: 'it is not generally realised that this first edition is actually exceedingly uncommon'), bearing the bookplate of William Lane's Minerva Library and numbered '20791' – yet of all the Minerva Library's thousands of volumes hardly any have survived. This one is priced at £650, as is Robert Orde Fenwick's parody of Scott's *Marmion* from 1809, *The Goblin Groom: a tale of Dunse*, in what appears to be the author's copy, identifying some of the characters and with a manuscript page of extra lines. Robert Orde Fenwick (1784-1855), otherwise little remarked, was the brother of Isabella Fenwick, the great friend and amanuensis of William Wordsworth in his old age.

Blackwell Rare Books (48-51 Broad Street, Oxford OX1 3BQ: 01865-333555), B162, 'Recent Acquisitions & Others', has Wordsworth's *Yarrow Revisited* (1835) in a presentation copy to the poet Eliza M. Hamilton (sister of the mathematician Sir William Rowan Hamilton; Wordsworth's inscription allegedly mounted on the verso of the title, though an illustration contradicts this), £3,500; John Layard's

*Stone Men of Malekula* (1942) inscribed and with an autograph postcard inserted to another of the W.H. Auden circle, Nevill Coghill, £350; and more books (both poetry and fine printing) from the library of Vivian and Anne Ridler. Meanwhile Grant & Shaw (10 Leslie Place, Edinburgh EH4 1NH: 0131-332 8088), broadside 3, has a Captain Cook item in George Forster's *A Voyage round the World, in his Britannic Majesty's Sloop Resolution* (1777), the Commissioners of Northern Lighthouses' copy at £6,750, and a 'fine' copy, as issued, of George Crabbe's *The Library* (1781), £950, from the collection of Simon Nowell-Smith.

Bernard Quaritch (40 South Audley Street, London W1K 2PR: 020-7297 4888), 2010/1, is entitled 'Theatre 1500-1960', and leads with the first edition of 'the first collection of modern, i.e. non-classical dramas to appear in print', the *Opera* of the 10th-century Benedictine nun Hroswitha (Nuremberg, 1501), with woodcuts by Dürer, £40,000. Alas the usual suspects rather take over after that, but there is a thump-in-the-eye mourning poster from the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, 30 January 1820, announcing the theatre's closure until further notice 'IN CONSEQUENCE OF THE DEEPLY LAMENTED DEATH OF HIS LATE MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY, GEORGE THE THIRD', £350; and as an 'appendix' Quaritch announce, 'We are presently pleased to offer a number of books from the library of Sir Laurence Olivier.' Sir Laurence Olivier became a peer 40 years ago this June, but no matter; do they by 'presently' mean soon, or now? In any case, 'Please contact us for further information and a full list of titles.'

More, finally, for the unanswered questions department. Anthony W. Laywood (Kercheval House, 79 Main Street, Balderston, Newark NG24 3NN: 01636-659031), 180, has a nice association in a perhaps under-catalogued copy of *Scenes of Infancy* (1803) by John Leyden, the multi-talented linguist who caught his death in a library. The book is inscribed by Leyden's friend Walter Scott to Lady Hood, but who was Lady Hood? Laywood only tell her story in terms of her husband: 'In 1801 Lady Hood went with her family to Barbados, where ... she met ... and married, on 6 November 1804, Sir Samuel Hood...' Despite (silently) borrowing most of this sentence from the *ODNB*, they don't imply her origins until the very end of their long

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note, when she suddenly becomes chief of Clan Mackenzie. She was, in fact, born a Mackenzie: 'Her Ladyship is my country-woman,' wrote Scott to Lady Abercorn on 8 August 1809, after staying with the Hoods in Kent: 'an enthusiastic Highlander, and deep in all manner of northern tradition.' (On which subject, one wonders, what is the four-page manuscript tipped in at the end of the book, 'Written at Blair Athol June 5, 1808'? In whose hand is it? What does it say?)

Most to Laywood's point, Scott wrote a splendid letter to Leyden on 25 August 1811 that they also don't quote, announcing that he had bought 100 acres by the Tweed to build a house on, and remonstrating with Leyden for declining to meet Lady Hood. 'She is generous, and feeling, and intelligent,' writes Scott, 'and has contrived to keep her heart and social affections broad awake amidst the chilling and benumbing atmosphere of London fashion ... Lastly, she is a very intimate friend of Mrs Scott's and myself, and first gained my heart by her admiration of,' wait for it, 'the Scenes of Infancy.' Laywood offers her copy for £650.

Among other specialist booksellers' catalogues received were:

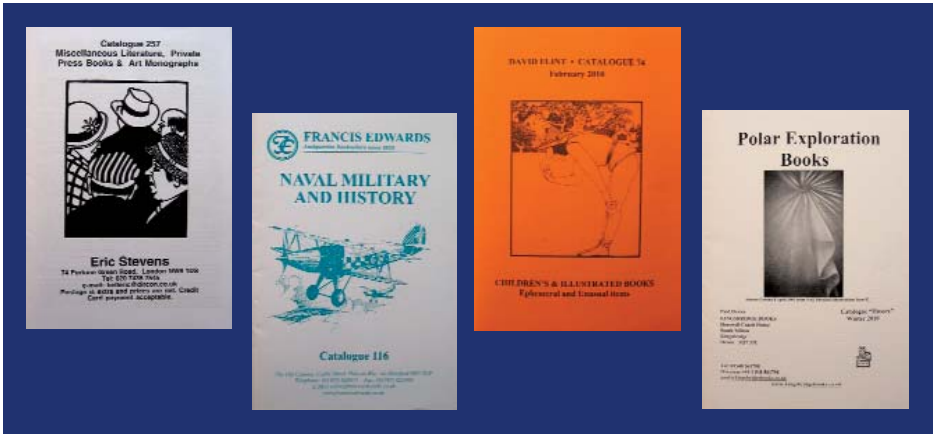
**Africa:** Carvid Books (56 Joyce Close, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 3LZ: 01580-712968), 16. **Beat:** Andrew Sclanders (Longborough, Compton, West Sussex PO18 9HD: 02392 631156), 53, 'Brion Gysin: Paintings, Permutations & Recordings; Beat Art, Film & Photography; Teens, Beats & Hipsters', including a Gysin tape archive, 1963-c1970, £2,000.

**Egyptology:** P and P Books (Dairy Cottage, Yarhampton, Nr Stourport, Worcestershire DY13 0UY: 01299 896996), E56, 'Egyptology and the Middle East'.

**Fantasy:** Fantastic Literature (Simon & Laraine Gosden, 35 The Ramparts, Rayleigh, Essex SS6 8PY: 01268-747564), B10. **History:** A.P. & R. Baker (The Laigh House, Church Lane, Wigtown, Newton Stewart DG8 9HT: 01988-403348), 302, 'Archaeology & History'; Francis Edwards (The Old Cinema, Castle Street, Hay-on-Wye, via Hereford HR3 5DF: 01497-820071), 116, 'Naval Military & History'.

**Illustrated:** David Flint (30 Barn Lane, Oakley, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG23 7HT: 01256-781413), 74, 'Children's & ➤

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Illustrated Books: ephemeral & unusual items'; Michael Taylor Rare Books (Hob-lins, One Eyed Lane, Weybread, Diss, Norfolk IP21 5TT: 01379-853889), 73, 'Illustrators and Presses: with a selection of literary sets and letters', including a presentation copy of the 1933 Nonesuch *In Memoriam* from editor to printer, 'Francis Meynell to Ernest Ingham in gratitude', £300, the Curwen Press's own copy of its 1973 history *Song and Words*, £50, books from the collections of Bernard Roberts, John Ward and Kathleen Coburn and (on a separate list) 56 items from the Incline Press.

**Literature:** Peter Ellis (18 Cecil Court, London WC2N 4HE: 020-7836 8880), 66, including the dedication copy of David Storey's *Home* (1970), inscribed to Karel Reisz and with a letter enclosed, £650, Harold Pinter's *One for the Road* (1985) inscribed to Reisz and his wife Betsy Blair, £125, and Tracey Emin's *Works 1963-2006* (2006) inscribed to 'a well-known bookseller about town', 'For Aaron with love ... Meeow xxx Kitty', £250; Eric Stevens (74 Fortune Green Road, London NW6 1DS: 020-7435 7545), 257, 'Miscellaneous Literature, Private Press Books & Art Monographs', with 33 Ezra Pound items.

**Natural History:** R.F.G. Hollett and Son

(6 Finkle Street, Sedbergh, Cumbria LA10 5BZ: 01539-620298), 167, 2,004 items, from John Evelyn's *Silva* in two Alexander Hunter editions, 1776 and 1801, £650 and £750, to Mary Roslin-Williams's *The Dual-purpose Labrador* (1969) – except that the latter, illustrated on the cover, is nowhere to be found inside. **Polar:** Kingsbridge Books (Horswell Coach House, South Milton, Kingsbridge, Devon TQ7 3JU: 01548-561798), Winter 2010, 'Polar Exploration', including 'the scarcest of the [Scott's last] expedition narratives', Griffith Taylor's *The Silver Lining* (1916), £650 (but how scarce is it? One database currently offers 13 copies at prices ranging from £390 to £1,200), and Shackleton's *South* (1919), his account of his own last expedition, £1,100.

**Scotland:** Larry Hutchison (27 Albany Street, Dunfermline, Fife KY12 0QZ: 01383-725566), 100, including 49 Hugh MacDiarmid items, 21 world war Rolls of Honour and 18 of William Roughhead's books inscribed to a fellow lawyer, George P. Normand. **Wales:** Cymric Books (Regency Cottage, The Pound, Cookham, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 9QD: 01628-521002), 3, from *The Historie of Cambria* (1584), £4,250, to *Cymry Patagonia* (1942), a history of the Welsh colony in Patagonia, £19. ■

**Catalogues for review should be sent to:**  
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The contents of some of these catalogues can be viewed online at [www.sheppardsconfidential.com](http://www.sheppardsconfidential.com)