
Literature of public controversy is often considered ephemeral and of lesser importance than weighty tomes of well-considered reflection on major social issues, but nothing is more illuminating of human feelings and thinking on those issues than the 'reams of breathless pamphlets' as a Whig satirist of 1712 called the product of the presses of Queen Anne's time. What would scholars of the English Revolution do if they did not have the comprehensive collection of pamphlets collected by Thомason and so conveniently accessed through its printed catalogue? Morgan's 50-year-old Bibliography of British History (1700-1715) is the best counterpart of that catalogue for the early years of the eighteenth century, but it badly needs augmentation and annotation. Not only do we need commentary on the content of the pamphlets, but also information about where copies are to be found.

It is therefore of considerable value to scholars of British political and cultural history that William F.E. Morley has produced such a well-annotated 'bibliographical catalogue' of the small but representative collection of British pamphlets of 1701-1714 in the Douglas Memorial Library of Queen's University. Morley summarizes the content of the pamphlets (pp. v-vii) and comments on the role of printers and the book-trade (pp. viii-xvi) before describing his way of treating the 157 items in his catalogue. Jock Gunn in his preface to the book attests to the usefulness of the very full commentary on the contents of the pamphlets, which helped to reveal key items for his own work. Morley has indeed shed a little more light on the Sacheverell controversy and the 'Faults' controversy, and his catalogue may be read seriatim as yet another illuminating commentary on the issues covered by the pamphleteering of the day. The bibliographical notes and citations are not quite so illuminating, however, and need to be summarized or indexed to be truly helpful.

A concrete example to parallel Gunn's use of the collection would perhaps best illustrate this. Between 1705 and 1713 Henry Hills pirated over 300 pamphlets [about half of them in prose and half in verse]. His booklists enable us to identify the titles, and even to date approximately his editions. A search for actual copies of those editions is hampered by the fact that many are falsely dated, especially after April 1710, when the Copyright Act, the famous 'Statute of Queen Anne,' came into force; many are not dated at all, and many do not bear his name on title-page or colophon. How helpful is Morley's catalogue in identifying Hills' pamphlets?

Printers do not appear in the index. This is a pity, for the physical 'authors' of the pamphlets are often as important as the actual authors. The typescript and the sparing use of variations in spacing in the text of the catalogue make it difficult to distinguish pamphlet description from commentary and notes, parts of the description from the whole, and bibliographical information from content information. By
adding running numbers in the margin for the entries for each year and underlining names in the imprint, one can identify entries and facilitate identification of printers and booksellers. Hills is found in the imprint of nine titles, the first of which is annotated ‘Apparently the 1st ed.,’ and the source of the piracy for the others is only occasionally derived from NUC. Several entries with ‘printed, and sold by the booksellers of London and Westminster’ may be candidates for attribution to him, so the catalogue is indeed very useful for anyone working on the activities of the booktrade that led to the passing of the ‘Statute of Queen Anne.’ The wealth of bibliographical information in the catalogue, including the comments on authorship, should, however, be more readily accessible through the index.

Nevertheless, this small cavil should not detract from the observation that the catalogue is eminently readable for those interested in the political, religious, and social controversies of the England of Queen Anne, and is not ‘just a catalogue’ or reference book.

**William J. Cameron**

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This new work on British publishing history is timely, as that bastion of Britain’s book trade, the Net Book Agreement, is now being challenged as a regressive, restrictive trade practice. As John Sutherland notes in the *Times Literary Supplement* (2-8 December, 1988), it can be defended on the grounds that it ‘set the distinctively “civilized” tone of the twentieth-century British book trade and literary world.’ Thus, the trade avoided what many consider to be the worst of American practices, epitomized by the emphasis on the best-seller list and the aggressively competitive discounting pursued by bookstore chains. By tracing earlier book trade restrictions which helped establish a climate for regulation (the granting of monopolies and patents in the sixteenth century, for example), Feather demonstrates how such an agreement became possible.

Although the author makes it clear that this work is a history of publishing, *not* the book trade, it is inevitable that we learn much about the latter. There are four principal themes: the organizational role of the publisher, the central importance of copyright, ‘commercial imperatives’ (markets and distribution, etc.) and the mechanisms devised to meet them, and censorship. Interestingly, two of these topics (censorship and copyright) remain contentious today.

Feather’s main objective is to trace the development of British publishing over the past five hundred years, showing the directions it has taken and the historical factors that explain the nature and functioning of the industry today. An important