ALBUM 7

A TRANSCRIPTION OF AN IMPORTANT COLLECTION OF EROTIC EPHEMERA IN THE BRITISH LIBRARY

SCISSORS & PASTE BIBLIOGRAPHIES
SANTA ROSA, CALIFORNIA
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Introductory Note

Album 7 is an extensive collection of ephemeral printed items containing, inter alia, prospectuses and catalogues issued by English and continental booksellers and publishers of erotic literature from the turn of the 19th century. It was originally part of the collection of George, 2nd marquess of Milford Haven (1892-1938), brother of Lord Louis Mountbatten, although there is no internal evidence to support this. However, he did have an extensive collection of erotica, much of it bearing his elaborate armorial bookplate. The 2nd marquess acted for many years in loco parentis to Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, and his son, David, 3rd Marquess of Milford Haven (1919-1970), was part of the murky backdrop of the Profumo sex scandal of 1963.

The album containing the collection—actually an Army and Navy Stores photograph album—was acquired for the British Library on May 15 1961 from Louis Bondy, a well-known bookseller whose shop was situated close to the Library. It's possible that the purchase was arranged by the late Dr. Eric John Dingwall, whose contributions to the maintenance and expansion of the Library's Private Case erotica collection cannot be over-emphasized. The order in which the collection was originally arranged has in some cases been altered, presumably by Dr. Dingwall who added to the front of the album the typewritten list of its contents that is reproduced below, with a few small emendations and augmentations. The albums numbered 1 - 6, containing pornographic photographs, are not in the British Library, and their whereabouts seem uncertain. I am, however,
reliably informed that those numbered 1 and 2, obtained from the same source as the one here under notice, are in an American collection, and that both carry the Milford Haven bookplate.

When purchased for the British Library, the album was first housed in The Private Case at P.C.16.i.2. but is now shelved at Cup. 364.g.48.
1. Laboratoires Scientifiques. [A prospectus.] Pantin [c.1906]

2. [An Advertisement for] “Pleasure Powder” [New York, c. 1900?]


8. A folder with three colour plates advertising artificial male and female genitalia together with varieties of ‘tickler’ condoms. Paris [c. 1908?]


11. A leaflet advertising and illustrating five kinds of ‘tickler’ condoms. [Paris, c. 1908]


15. **Catalogue of the latest photographic novelties.** pp. 40. [With two copies of a two-leaf preface to a catalogue possibly to be included with the main catalogue noted here. Paris, 1901–1902.


   Pale blue printed wrappers. 38 items listed, mainly in English. A further 13 items are listed in MS. on back wrapper.


26. A leaf advertising some erotic novelties. [London, c. 1900?]


29. A leaf advertising a work entitled *Odds and Ends or After Dinner Tit-Bits*.

30. A list of items (197–200) taken from a clandestine catalogue.

31. Catalogue. 1902. [A later issue of no. 27?]

32. Pamphlet supplying sample list of *“Very Voluptuous Reading.”* [London, c. 189-?] [Ms. note: Carrington.]

33. Pamphlet supplying sample list of *Very Voluptuous Reading*. [London, c. 189-?] [Different to the preceding. *Ms. note: Carrington.*]


35. A page from a clandestine catalogue, c. 1900. [*Ms. note: ‘Carrington.’*]


38. Two leaves from a clandestine catalogue advertising photographs, aquarelles, &c. [Paris, c. 1900?]


   Single sheet of salmon-coloured paper, printed on both sides, offering fifty-eight works in English, nos. 52-58 headed ‘Works on Flagellation’. Issued by either Carrington in Paris or Edouard Maheu in Bruxelles.

41. **Bibliotheca Arcana. Being a Rough List of Rare, Curious and Uncommon Books, Pamphlets, Prints & Engravings that have been Privately Printed, Prohibited by Law, Seized, Anathematised, Burnt of Bowdlerized…** London [Paris: Carrington], 1879 [1899]. pp. 72.

   Should not be confounded with the almost identically titled *Bibliotheca Arcana &c* compiled by ‘Speculator Morum’ [William Laird Clowes] and published at London in 1885 by George Redway.

42. **Privately Printed English Books.** [c. 1900?] pp. 4.


   A work sold on Nov. 14 1895 at that auction, Dr. T. Bell’s *Kalogynomia, or, The laws of female beauty: being the elementary principles of that science* (London: Printed for J.J. Stockdale, 1821) is kept in the Library of the University of Toronto (tgh drake 00052). A catalogue note gives the following admonition, quoted from p. [i]: “Plates 10[-24] should not be carelessly exposed either to ladies or to young persons …; they are therefore detached from the work, and may be locked up separately.” A prospectus for a later edition of *Kalogynomia* is to be found at entry no. 53, below.

44. List of Some of Mr. Charles Carrington’s Choice Publications. [An advertisement sheet. Paris, c. 1900.]

46. Advertisement sheet for *Apotheosis of Prick...* Revised new ed. [Paris, 19--.]
    Possibly a reprint of *Randiana, or, Excitable Tales*, first published at ‘New York [London: Wm. Lazenby], 1884.’

    An English translation, by Alfred Allinson, of *L’Amour au Pays Bleu* (1880).

48. Prospectus of an offer of some remainder [?] copies of *The Delectable Nights of Straparola*. [London, 1900?] [Ms. note: ‘Carrington.’]
    An English version of *Le piacevoli notti* (c. 1550) by Giovanni Francesco “Gianfrancesco” Straparola (c. 1480 – c. 1557)


    Possibly the same work of *The Rakish Rhymer, or Fancy Man’s Own Songster and Reciter*, an American Civil-War era collection, now lost. A reprint by Carrington issued at Paris c. 1917 for the benefit of the ‘American Expeditionary Forces’ is described by G. Legman in his *Bibliography of Erotic Folksongs & Ballads* published in the *Journal of American Folklore* (Oct-Dec 1990, vol. 103, no.410).
51. Prospectus of *Genital Laws* by Dr. Jacobus X***. Paris: Charles Carrington [1900?] pp. 1.

A supplemental volume to the same author’s *The Ethnology of the Sixth Sense*.


A translation of Wilhem Reinhard’s *Lenchen im Zuchthause* (Karlsruhe, 1840).


A new edition of Thomas Bell’s Kalogynomia, or the laws of female beauty: being the elementary principles of that science, originally published at London in 1821. See also the note to item 43, above.


Originally published at Amsterdam in 1686 as *Tableau de l’amour humain considéré dans l’état du mariage* under the anagramatic pseudonym ‘Salocini, Vénitien’, but reprinted as *Tableau de l’amour conjugal, ou l’Histoire complète de la génération de l’homme*, under which title it is best known. The books is considered the first European sexological work.


A piracy of work that had been privately printed by its author in 1891.


A English version of *La femme et son maître* by de Villiot.

Essentially, the historically unreliable memoirs of Pierre de Bourdeille, seigneur (and abbé) de Brantôme, that were first published about 1665 in abridged form. Later editions would be more fulsome.


An English version (possibly by Leonard Smithers or H. S. Nichols) of a pornographic French novel called **Nadia, Amours russe**, which was originally published secretly at Paris by Charles Hirsch about 1903. The English edition was printed at London.

59. Single sheet advertising **The Mistress and the Slave**.

Athen [Sheffield?], 1905.

An English version (possibly by Leonard Smithers or H. S. Nichols) of a particularly repellent pornographic French novel called **La Maîtresse et l’esclave**, that was originally published secretly at Paris by Charles Hirsch about 1903. The English edition was printed at London.

60. Prospectus of **New and Gorgeous Pantomime…** [Paris,] 1905.

A reprint of a work more commonly referred to as **Harlequin Prince Cherrytop** that had first been published at London in July 1879 by the mysterious William Lazenby. The full title is: New and Gorgeous Pantomime entitled Harlequin Prince Cherrytop and the Good Fairy Fairfuck or the Frig, the Fuck and the Fair. The initials G. A. S. printed on the titlepage (of this reprint only; they do not appear on the original edition) has given rise to the notion that this amusingly-written little publication, which includes obscene parodies of popular songs of the day, was the handiwork of Gilbert & Sullivan. However, it seems far more probable that they were intended to suggest the journalist George Augustus Sala who is known to have contributed to the sub-rosa literature of the period. Other contributors—the work is thought to have been a sort of ‘round robin’ performance—may have included Algernon Swinburne and Frederick Popham-Pike. The edition under notice in this prospectus was printed at London for Leonard Smithers. This book deserves a scholarly reprint, one of the few English works of this sort about which that might be said. The present writer was gently reprimanded by an official in the British Library for laughing too loudly whilst reading the book.
61. Prospectus of *The Secrets of Women*. Carnopolis [1899?]

[Ms. note: Carrington.]

Full title: ‘*The Secrets of Women*. Being the second part of the Old man young again: which treats of carnal intercourse between the two sexes and the means of augmenting their charms and of the possibility of preserving and giving greater force to the same … Englished now for the first time from the Arabic tongue.’ The ‘Carnopolis’ imprint is a puzzle since the book seems to have been published openly by Carrington in 1899.


*The Callipyges* is presumably a translation of *Les Callipyges ou les Délices de la verge* by ‘E.D.’, an author who has been identified as either Edmund Dumoulin or a man named Desjardin. Carrington published at least three editions between 1901 and about 1907. The original French edition was published by Auguste Brancart at Bruxelles in 1892.

63. Prospectus advertising *The Abuses, Aberrations and Crimes of the Genital Sense [done into English direct from the original manuscript]* by Dr. Jacobus X***. Paris: Charles Carrington, 1901. pp. 4.

64. Prospectus of *The Memoirs of a Russian Ballet Girl* by Mlle Mariska. [Paris: Charles Carrington, 1901?].

A translation of *Mémoires d’une danseuse russe*, originally published in French about 1894 by Auguste Brancart at Amsterdam. Written by ‘E.D.’, an author who has been identified as either Edmund Dumoulin or a man named Desjardin.


The 11-volume sexual memoir which has been ascribed, most forcibly by G. Legman, to Henry Spencer Ashbee.

A supplemental volume to the same author’s *The Ethnology of the Sixth Sense*.


A piracy of work that had been privately printed at Davos, Switzerland, in 1883 at the expense of its author, who was unkindly referred to as ‘Soddington Symonds’ by Algernon Swinburne.


A well-written three-volume erotic memoir that has been ascribed to lexicographer John Stephen Farmer.


70. Notice issue by University Press Ltd. in re. to the seizure of certain “obscene books.” [Watford, 1900.] pp. 4.


A French–English dictionary of sexual slang John Stephen Farmer, drawn in main part from similar French dictionaries by Alfred Delvau, Jules Choux and Jean Auguste Udalric Cheler.

72. Selection from *Love and Safety*. [Paris, c. 1899?] pp. 2. (For the connexion between *Love and Safety* and *The Horn Book* see G. Legman in *American Aphrodite*, 1953, no. 9.)

Ascribed to John Stephen Farmer.

74. A sheet advertising an edition of *The Horn Book*. [Paris, c. 1901.] (See note to no. 72.) [Ms. note: ‘Carrington.’]

An English translation or adaptation of a French work called *Instruction libertine*, first published by J.-P. Blanche in a facsimile reproduction of a calligraphic MS at Bruxelles in 1870, but predated 1860. The translator may have been John Stephen Farmer.

75. Prospectus of *The Basis of Passional Psychology* by Dr. Jacobus X***.

76. Prospectus of *The Plague of Lust* by J. Rosenbaum. [Paris: Charles Carrington, 1901?]

A translation of *Geschichte der Lustseuche in Altertume : nebst ausführlichen Untersuchungen über den Venus- und Phalluskultus, Bordelle, Nousos deleia der Skythen, Paederastie und andere geschlechtlichen Ausschweifungen der Alten als Beiträge zur richtigen Erklärung ihrer Schriften, für Aertze, Philologen und Alterthumsför- scher* (Halle : Lippert & Schmidt, 1845.).

77. “Can Such Things Be!” Astounding revelations concerning supposed massage houses.” London [19--]. pp. 16.

This appears to be a pamphlet published following an 1894 scandal involving massage parlours in London. A copy is preserved as part of a *Massage scandal press cuttings album* in the Wellcome Library (SA/CSP/P/1/2: Box 190), and I was greatly favoured by Mr. Edward Bishop, Library Assistant, Library Experience & Engagement, of the Wellcome, for sending me a copy of the pamphlet. The titlepage transcription is :

ACTION BY THE HOME SECRETARY. | [rule] | LONDON: PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY T. SKEATS, | 200 WATERLOO ROAD, S.E.

There is no date, but internal evidence suggest it was probably published in 1894 or 1895.


Apparently a single issue of a long-running periodical illustrated, if not actually written by, the artists and caricaturist Gustave Frison.


An edition of this fascicle is in the Bibliothèque Nationale (8-Y2 PIECE-2118) and has the imprint: ‘Paris : Martinenq, (s. d.).’ It is a 16mo of 20 pages.

80. Petit dictionnaire d’argot… Paris [19--].

This may be a copy of Petit dictionnaire d’argot parisien (Paris: Vve Léon Hayard, Éditeur, 8, Rue du Croissant, 1907). It is a 16mo of 8 pages. There is a copy in the Bibliothèque Nationale (8-X PIECE-1836) which is available for free download as a PDF.