

# THE CATALOGUE

## Introduction

The catalogue of Edmund Geste's library can be consulted on the web site of the Bibliographical Society. It records the printed books (there are no manuscripts) that have been identified as having belonged to Geste, followed by an appendix of further items for which a case can be made for his possible ownership (Appendix I). These include a few items listed in the 1880 catalogue which are no longer in Salisbury Cathedral Library. All the books listed here are (or have been) in the Cathedral Library. No books of Geste's have come to light either at King's College, Cambridge, or Rochester Cathedral Library.

The numbered catalogue entries are arranged under authors, and in general the headings are those adopted in the series of short-title catalogues covering sixteenth-century printed books in *The Cathedral Libraries Catalogue* (1998), *STC* (second edition, 1976–1991) and in those published by Adams (for the Cambridge libraries) and the Trustees of the British Museum (now the British Library) from 1921 to the present day. Alternative forms of the authors are given in brackets and where thought necessary cross-referenced. The titles of books have been abridged as much as possible following the principles followed in these short-title catalogues, but in those instances where more of the subject matter and content of a book has been thought to be important a longer form of the original title has been given. The aim throughout has been to indicate what resources were used by, or available to Geste and his contemporaries.

In the case of volumes which were (and generally still are) made up of more than one item bound together, the associated item(s) can be identified by following up the cross-references (by author and catalogue number) given at the end of the first item in the volume. Details of binding, pastedowns and other copy-specific information relating to the whole volume are also recorded in the first item in the volume and not repeated in the records for the associated items unless this concerns manuscript annotations and binding instructions specific to the item concerned. As suggested in the *Introduction*, Geste's interest in binding together items of related subject matter in a single volume has some implications for the form of the catalogue in any reconstruction of his library. It is hoped that the form adopted here will enable the user to see Geste's holdings of a particular author as a whole, as well as to see how he may have linked other related items with a particular title in the case of multi-item volumes. Such an approach is only valid when it can be established that the contents of the volume are still together as originally bound and have not been disturbed by later rebinding. Fortunately, Geste's books have been little disturbed at Salisbury, and even when items have been separated in the course of rebinding it is often possible to establish the original relationships, sometimes with the use of fore-edge or spine titles, or binding instructions where these are intact, and occasionally from notes inserted at the time of rebinding that indicate the relationship.

In the absence of any contemporary inventory, shelf-list or catalogue, it is not known for certain exactly how his books were arranged at the Bishop's Palace at Salisbury, but it is believed that the system of press marks inscribed on the fore-edge or spine reflects the physical layout of the collection soon after its reception in the Cathedral Library if not at the Palace itself. These early press marks are included in each bibliographical record (where extant) and a concordance of these, which suggests some subject arrangement, forms Appendix V.

### *Imprints and bibliographical records*

In each catalogue entry, the author or other heading and the book's title is followed by the place of publication, the printer or publisher as given in the imprint or colophon (or both when given), or, when neither is given, the conjectured place of publication and printer, the date of publication (as given on the

title page and/or colophon), and the format and collation, with pagination or foliation as appropriate, and quire signatures with the number of pages or folios in each quire.

Quire signatures present particular problems in collations where printers have used non-alphabetical fonts, particularly in preliminaries such as prefatory or introductory material and in cancels. In general the collations given here seek to conform to the Greg-Bowers collation formula system, and a list of the symbols used is included at the end of the Abbreviations. Where there are blank pages, these are listed after the relevant quire in the form, e.g. A–D<sup>8</sup> (D7,8 blank).

When a book has a date in the colophon which differs from that on the title page or supplements that with further details of the day and month of publication, this is added in round brackets. In the case of books which lack one or more of these details, this is given in square brackets where this information has been obtained or inferred from other catalogues, preceded by a '?' where uncertainty remains. In some cases, an approximate date can be obtained from a book's dedication or preface, and this is given in brackets after the book-title. Where no information has been obtained about the place of publication and/or printer, this is shown in brackets as 'n. pl.' (no place of publication known) and/or 'n. pr.' (no printer known).

After the collation, each entry includes references to one or more of the standard catalogue databases (many of them online), such as FB, ISTC, NB, USTC, VDI6 (see *List of Abbreviations*), to Adams, *Catalogue of Books Printed on the Continent of Europe, 1501–1600 in Cambridge Libraries* (1967), particularly because of Geste's Cambridge associations (e.g. Adams L716), or to one of the British Library *Short-title Catalogues* (by page number in the shortened form given in the *List of Abbreviations*) where the edition is not listed in Adams (e.g. BMGB952). Books at Salisbury are also listed in *The Cathedral Libraries Catalogue* (e.g. CLC A18), though Geste provenances are not identified, and in the very few instances where a book appears to have escaped inclusion this is indicated. Reference is given to ESTC and STC in the case of books printed in England, and for fifteenth-century imprints to *BMC (Catalogue of Books Printed in the 15th Century now in the British Museum)* and the online ISTC database. In the case of Catholic authors, a reference to Klaiber (*Katholische Kontroverstheologen und Reformer des 16 Jahrhunderts*, Münster, 1978) follows. Finally, reference is also made to the 1880 *Catalogue of the Library of the Cathedral Church of Salisbury*, compiled by S. M. Lakin by page number (e.g. Sal. Cat. 105).

Many of Geste's books occur in other collections of the same period, often in the same edition, particularly in those of other Cambridge contemporaries. But some occur less frequently or not at all. In order to put his collection into some kind of contemporary context, references have been included to the occurrence of a copy of the same (or other) edition in the libraries of his Cambridge contemporaries, such as Matthew Parker (at Corpus Christi College or in the University Library or Gonville and Caius College) and Andrew Perne at Peterhouse (either still extant there or only as listed in the 1589 inventory where the exact edition is generally not indicated), or in one or more of the contemporary Cambridge inventories (as edited by Elisabeth Leedham-Green) with the number of such occurrences indicated (e.g. BiCI 4). Similar reference is also made, where appropriate, to the 1583 Catalogue of the University Library with the current shelf-mark, if still extant (also edited by Leedham-Green), the surviving accounts of Garrett Godfrey for c. 1527–1533 (*GGA 1527–33*), and the inventories of two Cambridge stationers and booksellers, Nicholas Pilgrim (1545/46) and John Denys (1578) and that of an earlier bishop of Salisbury, Nicholas Shaxton (1556), all three edited in BiCI. For the period after Geste left Cambridge, when he was making his purchases from London booksellers, references are included not only to Parker and Perne (the latter's inventory is also included in BiCI) who were both buying books in London but also to Richard Bancroft's later and much larger collection (1610) which incorporated that of John Whitgift as well as acquisitions from the Royal Library and which provided the foundation collection for Lambeth Palace Library. References are to the 1612 Catalogue now at Lambeth (Lambeth Record MS F1).

### *Copy-specific detail*

Information about the number of items recorded in the volume, the current binding, the presence of book titles, pastedowns and flyleaves, binding instructions, provenance and the presence (or absence) of manuscript annotations follow the bibliographical record.

### *Bindings*

Apart from books which have been rebound (over 230), Geste's contemporary bindings fall into seven broadly different types, ranging from the more decorated panel and roll bindings, mostly listed in Oldham's two volumes devoted to these two categories, to those which appear in fairly basic calf-over-pasteboard covers, generally tooled or stamped in blind, incorporating centrepieces or simple centre tools and/or corner ornaments. At the bottom of the range are a few in plain calf, with only fillets at the outer edges or others incorporating one or more rectangular frames defined by fillets and linked to each other by straight and/or angled fillets, and last of all, a much larger number in parchment covers, most of them 'limp' without any strengthening, but a few covering boards. Details of these are included in the catalogue records, and the different types are listed in Appendix IV, A–H.

*Pastedowns, flyleaves, MS strips, compacted leaves of MS or printer's waste in the pasteboard of the binding, &c.* Some information on these is given for each book, though this is not repeated for associated items in the case of composite volumes. Books with pastedowns and other fragments are listed in Appendix IX under the bindings concerned, and images of these appear are to appear on the Bibliographical Society's web-pages. It has not been possible in most instances to do more than indicate the presence (or absence) of pastedowns and other items associated with the binding structure of his books, and the identification and dating of these fragments is a task left to others more expert in this field.

### *Geste ownership inscriptions and other provenance information*

In the relatively few instances where Geste has placed his name on the title page, this is indicated in the form in which it appears, along with other provenances which are all collected together in Appendix X.

### *Contemporary book-titles on the fore-edge or spine*

Similarly, early book titles (whether on the fore-edge or, in the case of parchment bindings, on the spine) are listed in Appendix VII, and binding instructions and notes where these occur are listed in Appendix VIII under the bindings concerned.

### *Manuscript annotations*

Brief details of manuscript annotations, whether in the form of lines or other markings in the margins or notes in Geste's hand, with page or folio occurrences, are given at the end of each catalogue record, and the broad subject area of the annotation indicated. Many of the earlier books acquired 'second-hand' through the book trade or directly from contemporaries contain annotations by their previous owners, and this has been indicated to differentiate them from Geste's own annotations. Detailed examination and analysis of Geste's annotations has not been attempted here, but Appendix XI A provides a list of his books with annotations, and Appendix XI B is an attempt at a far-from-exhaustive subject index to the annotations which, it is hoped, will provide sufficient leads for others working in the field to explore further. It is the use made of the books and the context of that use that makes Geste's collection especially important, distinguishing it from surviving inventories and shelf-lists where, without the books themselves, this dimension is inevitably lacking.