

The Burke Newsletter

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General Announcements

THE EDITORS of *The Burke Newsletter* have received over fifty returns of the questionnaire which was sent out to known scholars and readers of Burke, and undoubtedly other returns will be forthcoming. We especially appreciate the thoughtful cooperation of those who included the names and

addresses of persons interested in Burke, to add to our growing master list of Burkeans in the United States, the British Commonwealth, and Europe. The returned questionnaires revealed a consensus that *The Burke Newsletter* was long overdue. We are pleased to receive such an enthusiastic endorsement of our project. The composite of interests in Burke ran the entire gamut of possibilities. In general, professional scholars wished to see an emphasis on bibliographical information and work in progress; lay readers of Burke commonly expressed particular interest in his political and economic principles, in new historical and biographical facts, and in the literary techniques of Burke's style and rhetoric. All of these interests are wholly consistent with the general editorial policy expressed in the first number of *The Burke Newsletter*. We shall make every effort to present a balanced series of newsletters, so that these varied professional and lay interests in Burke will be satisfied.

The Fall issue of *The Burke Newsletter* summarized the present state of scholarship on Burke in the United States. To round out the contemporary scene, this issue is centered in current Burke studies in Britain and the Commonwealth. Our

account is far from complete, being based upon only eighteen returns of the questionnaire form. But as further news of Burke studies is received from abroad, it will be included in future numbers.

The "Burke Factory" at Sheffield

THE CHIEF CENTER of Burke studies in Britain is the Sheffield Library, Yorkshire, which contains four-fifths of the extensive unpublished Burke letters in the Fitzwilliam Collection, that remarkable mass of manuscripts and correspondence centering around the Marquis of Rockingham and his nephew, Earl Fitzwilliam. The remaining one-fifth of the collection, owned by Capt. Thomas W. Fitzwilliam, of Milton, Peterborough, is on loan at Lamport Hall, Northamptonshire. American readers who have not visited Sheffield will be interested in our summary account of the library setting, sent to us by Mrs. Valerie Jobling, the secretary of the "Burke Factory."

Sheffield is an ugly picture set in a beautiful frame. Within a few miles of this manufacturing center of 700,000 is to be found some of the best scenery in England, and nestling in the valleys are some of England's finest old houses—Chatsworth, Haddon, Wentworth, Hardwick—the homes of the aristocratic Whigs, the "great oaks," as Burke called them. The Central Library in Sheffield, built in 1934, is faced with Portland stone, and is the only building in the city which has successfully withstood the atmospheric pollution of this city of steel. The lending and school libraries issue over 1,510,000 books a year, and the Sheffield industrial interchange scheme is known to every English librarian.

On the first floor of the Sheffield Central Library is the Local History Department, with a staff of five, in charge of several large manuscript collections which attract scholars from all over the world. One of the largest rooms in this department has

been handed over to the Fitzwilliam Collection, which has been so intensively worked since 1948 that the room has become known, at first jocularly and now almost officially, as "The Burke Factory." Within the library the Burke Factory enjoys its own autonomy; it is a kingdom unto itself. Here many Burke scholars from both sides of the Atlantic come to delve into the extensive Burke letters.

The Sheffield collection contains over 500 letters written by Edmund Burke, and over 2,000 to Burke. New letters to and from the other four members of the Burke family number over 270. In addition, there are about 500 clues to letters which have not been found. When published, this rich collection of letters will add much to our knowledge of vital historical events. There are 270 letters for 1782; 180 for 1775; 170 for 1791; 140 for 1792; 120 for 1780; 115 for 1796; and 110 for 1774, to name only the years containing the largest number of letters. The second Rockingham administration, the entire French Revolution period from 1789 to 1797, and the history of crucial Irish and local English affairs are greatly enriched by these letters. In addition, the new letters at Lamport Hall include 160 for the Burke family, and 550 to and from Edmund Burke. In terms of specific years: 1790 has 190; there are 90 for 1791; 70 for 1796; and 50 each for 1792 and 1793. Only 40 of these 550 Lamport Hall letters have been published.

Utilizing the Sheffield and Lamport Hall collections, an Anglo-American team of scholars is busily at work on a new edition of Burke's *Correspondence*. "A project of this kind," Mrs. Jobling concludes, "demands exactness, devotion and tolerance. . . . If there should be any doubt as to the thoroughness which such an undertaking merits, it is only necessary to look through some of Burke's manuscript drafts.

Burke is as demanding dead as he was alive."

Burke's Correspondence

HOW DEMANDING Burke is can be surmised from Professor Thomas W. Copeland, general editor of Burke's *Correspondence*, who estimates that the process of editing and publishing this project will keep his team of scholars busy for seven or eight years. The plan for the whole *Correspondence* is to bring out one volume per year, until all of Burke's surviving letters are published. The letters should cover nine volumes, with a final index volume. Editors for each volume are alternated between the two sides of the Atlantic. The first volume (University of Chicago Press, 1958), covering the period from April 1744 to June 1768, was edited by Professor Copeland. The second volume will be edited by Miss Lucy S. Sutherland of Oxford University; the third by Professor George H. Guttridge, University of California; the fourth by two British editors, Steven Watson of Oxford and John A. Woods of the Burke Factory; the fifth by Professor Holden Furber, University of Pennsylvania; the sixth by Professor Alfred Cobban, University College, London; the seventh by Professor Robert Smith, Yale University, and the eighth and ninth by Dr. R. B. McDowell, Trinity College, Dublin.

Connected in various other ways with the task of putting out the *Correspondence* are the Earl Fitzwilliam, Milton, Peterborough; Sir Lewis Namier, University of Manchester; professors Michael J. Oakeshott, London School of Economics; Richard Pares, All Souls College, Oxford; L. F. Powell, Oxford; C. L. Mowat, University College of North Wales, Bangor, and the University of Chicago; and E. S. DeBeer, London.

The corrected page-poof for the second

volume of the *Correspondence* has been at the Cambridge Press since April 1959. This volume was advertised to come out in November, but the strike of provincial printers during the summer has delayed the printing until early 1960. The full typescript for volume three is also at the Press, with the galleys scheduled in June, and if the Press gets back on schedule the book should appear before the end of 1960.

Collections of Burke Letters in Britain

IN ADDITION TO the Fitzwilliam manuscript collections at Sheffield and Lamport Hall, there are Burke letters at Oxford and Cambridge and in other collections around Britain. The largest of these is that of General O'Hara, Annaghmore, County Sligo, Ireland, with 150 letters, published in Professor Ross J. S. Hoffman's *Edmund Burke, New York Agent* (Philadelphia, 1956). There are 80 Burke letters in the British Museum and 50 in the Bodleian Library, Oxford. Mr. Richard J. Hayes, the Director of the National Library of Ireland, Dublin, has the 30 Burke letters in the collection cross-indexed on typed cards with Irish articles and books about Burke, and matters related to Burke, as part of an Irish National Bibliography. There are 30 Burke letters in the India Office, London, and another 30 by Edmund Burke and 60 by William Burke at the University of Nottingham. These British manuscript sources constitute almost the whole body of Burke letters among the hundred or so known sources scattered about the world.

Recent Publications and Work in Progress

MR. JAMES T. BOULTON, Department of English, the University of Nottingham, published "Exposition and Proof: the Apostrophe in Burke's *Reflections*," in the *University of Nottingham Renaissance and*

Modern Studies, Vol. II (1958), pp. 38-69. His critical edition of Burke's *Sublime and Beautiful* (Routledge and Kegan Paul, and Columbia University Press, 1958), was reviewed by Professor Louis I. Bredvold in *MODERN AGE* (Summer 1959). Mr. Boulton's review of *Burke's Correspondence*, Vol. I, appeared in *Notes and Queries*, February 1959. He is currently at work on a critical study of Burke's prose style and methods of persuasion.

Mr. John Brooke, the Institute of Historical Research, University of London, published *The Chatham Administration, 1766-1768* (1956). He has worked closely with Professor Copeland on the *Burke Correspondence*. Mr. Brooke wrote many of the political notes in volume one, and has agreed to serve as historical consultant to all the volumes of the edition. Mr. Brooke's current work includes a completed article, "Burke's Early Years," which will appear soon in the *South Atlantic Quarterly*. In progress is an article, "Edmund Burke and the Idea of Party," and a book length manuscript, *Edmund Burke and Lord Rockingham*. In 1957, at the Anglo-American Conference of Historians, Mr. Brooke gave a lecture on "Edmund Burke and Lord Rockingham." Since he is now engaged in a study of the eighteenth-century section of the history of Parliament, his principal interest is centered in Burke's career in the House of Commons. Mr. Brooke would welcome hearing from any Burke scholar who knows of comments on Burke's speeches or his political conduct, as found in contemporary newspapers or correspondence. Perhaps the most ambitious of Mr. Brooke's many interests in Burke is his proposed project for a checklist of Burke's speeches, similar to the Copeland-Smith *Checklist of the Correspondence of Edmund Burke* (1955). Mr. Brooke admits that "this is a vast project, which no one man can handle

by himself," and he has asked us "to enlist the help of all interested in Burke." Such a checklist would require enormous labor in collecting and collating materials, but it would lay the foundations for a badly needed definitive edition of the speeches.

Professor Herbert Butterfield, Cambridge University, has incidental discussions of Burke in his "George III, Lord North and the People, 1779-80," and in "Charles James Fox and the Whig Opposition in 1792," *Cambridge Historical Journal*, Vol. IX, No. 3 (1949). Despite being "buried in administration," Professor Butterfield has maintained his long interest in Burke, in recent years more as a reader than as a working scholar. Among his former students who have done studies of Burke are Charles Parkin, Clare College, Cambridge, author of the well-known *The Moral Basis of Burke's Political Thought* (1956); also Jean François Suter, University of Lausanne and Peterhouse, Cambridge, author of pamphlets on Burke; R. Skalweit, University of Bonn, who has published in German on Burke and France; and J. W. Derry, Fellow of Emmanuel College, Cambridge.

Professor Alfred Cobban, University College, London, is editing Volume VI of the *Correspondence*, and is bringing out a new edition of his *Edmund Burke and the Revolt Against the Eighteenth Century* (1929).

Mr. J. W. Derry, Emmanuel College, Cambridge, has a general interest in Burke's political philosophy, and in his place as an interpreter of the English constitution. Mr. Derry's Ph.D. thesis, centered in the Regency Crisis of 1788, is concerned with the changes in the internal relationships within the Whig Party which resulted from that crisis, and particularly those between Burke and Fox. In this study his chief interest is in Burke's position

within the Whig opposition, from the death of Rockingham to the break with Fox over the French Revolution.

Miss E. C. Gilberthorpe, 35 Canterbury Avenue, Sheffield 10, England, is busy with research on the school for French refugee children started by Burke at Penn, Bucks.

Sir Philip Magnus, Stokesay Court, Onibury, Shropshire, is author of the familiar biography *Edmund Burke* (1939), and editor of *Edmund Burke—Selected Prose* (1948). Sir Philip contributes reviews of books in the Burke field to the *London Times Literary Supplement*, the *London Daily Telegraph*, and other journals. He has lectured on Burke before the English Association and has completed a lecture for delivery in the United States. Sir Philip is chiefly interested in new biographical information on Edmund and William Burke.

Professor G. R. Potter, the University,

Sheffield, has lectured via the British Broadcasting Corporation on the Wentworth-Woodhouse collection of Burke-Fitzwilliam papers. He is especially interested in Burke's connection with the Marquis of Rockingham and with Wentworth Woodhouse, the Yorkshire seat of the Fitzwilliam family, who together with their kinsman, Rockingham, were patrons of Burke.

Mr. John A. Woods of the Central Library, Sheffield, is co-editor with J. Steven Watson, Oxford University, of Volume IV of the *Correspondence*. He is also doing research on the litigation of Denis Kearney vs. Edmund Burke (1765), which will throw new light on the most obscure part of Burke's early career. Mr. Woods is also studying the financial affairs of William Burke.

Professor N. C. Phillips, Department of History, University of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand, has published a book *Burke and Paine* (Landfall, Christchurch, 1954). He has recently completed an article, "Edmund Burke and the County Movement, 1779-80." In progress is an article entitled "Burke as an Economist." Professor Phillips is chiefly interested in English politics in the eighteenth century, and in Burke as a practicing politician and political philosopher. He would like to see material on these topics, particularly for the later phases of Burke's parliamentary career. He finds that documentation for the late 1780's still leaves much to be desired, and considers a definitive edition of Burke's speeches a most vital need of scholarship on Burke.

We are sorry to report that Professor H. V. F. Somerset, Worcester College, Oxford, has been forced by illness to retire from active work. His *A Note-Book of Edmund Burke* (1957), was reviewed by Professor Thomas I. Cook in *MODERN AGE* (Summer 1958).

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