

## MS 77 Percy Manuscripts

### About the collection:

This collection of manuscripts is a small part of the almost intact 18<sup>th</sup> century library of the author and antiquarian, Thomas Percy (1729-1811), Bishop of Dromore, Co. Down. The library, which is also held by Special Collections consists of numerous published books and pamphlets, some heavily annotated. The entire collection can be accessed through our [library catalogue](#). A collection level description is also available on [RASCAL](#).

Entries for all of the following manuscripts can also be found on our [Library catalogue](#).

### MS 77/1                      Greek classics rendered into English

Language: English

Author: Percy, Thomas, 1729-1811

Physical Description: 70 leaves; 20 cm

Notes: This is a bibliography of translations of classic Greek writers from the Greek into English with many addenda attached by common pins or sealing wax.

Contains a leaf of blotting paper with fingerprints (Percy's?).

Foulis' publishers' list, undated, attached to inside of front cover with a common pin.

Manuscript in Percy's hand.

From the library of Thomas Percy.

Jotter made of stabbed sheets with marbled soft cover.

### MS 77/2                      Latin classics rendered into English

Language: English

Author: Percy, Thomas, 1729-1811

Physical Description: 74 leaves; 20 cm

Notes: This is a bibliography of translations of classic Latin writers from Latin into English with many addenda attached by common pins or sealing wax. Manuscript in Percy's hand. Jotter made of stabbed sheets with marbled soft cover.

### MS 77/3                      Lat [in] & Gr [eek] ancient ecclesiastical writers. Modern classical writers

Language: English

Author: Percy, Thomas, 1729-1811

Physical Description: 34 leaves; 19 cm

Notes: This is a bibliography. The entries are stuck on the pages with common pins.  
Manuscript in Percy's hand.  
From the library of Thomas Percy.  
Jotter with marbled covers.

MS 77/4                      Collectanea of the County of Northampton

Language: English

Physical Description: 117 leaves; ill.; map; 19 cm

Content notes: Contains a collection printed pieces removed from books and manuscript copies of printed works, in several hands, all relating to Northumberland including 2 leaves with an unsigned maps on one page possibly from John Speed's 'The theatre of the Empire of Great Britain. Contains a foldout map of Northamptonshire by Rob Morden, a well-known mapmaker. Also contains at the end tête-bêche two pages by a diarist travelling from London to Amptill.

Notes: On a back endpaper is a pencil sketch of Kimbolton Castle which retains the same aspect at the beginning of the 21st century. Thomas Percy's signature on front paste-down below 'MSS books in the College of Arms relating to this county' and odd notes. From the library of Thomas Percy. Loose book-label of Joseph Sparkes.  
Suede, blind tooled; spine in 5 compartments with 'Northampton', gilt, on red morocco label in second; metal clasps.

MS 77/5                      An abridgement of Grotius's treatise of the truth of the Xtian religion

Language: English

Author: Grotius, Hugo, 1583-1645

Physical Description: 8 leaves written on recto (Book 1); 9-21 written on both sides (Book 2); 28 blank p.: headpiece, tailpiece; 19 cm

Notes: Manuscript partly? in Percy's hand with decorations.  
P. 22 on verso of p. 6.

Grotius's treatise was published in 6 books in 1632. A translation was by Symon Patrick (1626-1707), while Dean of Peterborough in Northamptonshire.

Bound with: 'A letter to the King of Prussia from M. de Maupertuis on the advancement of the sciences' which is a long clipping from the London Chronicle of 1759, pasted at the back of the book, tête-bêche.

From the library of Thomas Percy.

Book-label of Earls of Caledon on front pastedown and their impressed book-stamp on the title page.  
Calf, blind tooled, very worn.

MS 77/6                      Compendaria in universam philosophiam

Language: Undetermined

Author: Nours, L. M.

Publication date: 1724

Physical Description: 594 p.; 22 cm.

Notes: Bound manuscript.

On first leaf is the name Patk. Lynch and various scribblings; on the second leaf is the author's or scribe's name, L.M. Nours; the monogram of the Society of Jesus with a hole burnt through it; the date, 1724; 'from Gallway to Paris in' and other scribbles.

'In universam philosophiam' was written by Pierre Tartaret, a 15th century French professor at the Sorbonne. This text could be a key to or shortcut into the thinking behind it ('compendaria'). It is written in contracted Latin, the contemporary lingua franca of scientific communication. There are three engravings by Vallet, engraver to King Louis xiv, which display graphic geometrical representations of logic in an early form of concept map which was favoured by Tartaret in several of his works.

From the library of Thomas Percy.

Binding gone.

MS 77/7 [A diary].

Language: English

Author: Rogers, Samuel, 1613-1643?

Publication Date: 1634

Notes: Autograph diary with the life of the subject followed by daily entries 18 November 1634-31 December 1638. Note by Percy on endpaper dated Oct 12 1760 reads: 'It was a common thing in the last century for the Puritans to draw up narratives of their experiences or as the favourite phrase was of God's dealings with them. The following fanatic diary is a piece of that kind'.

'Samuel Rogers his booke' is inscribed on the front free endpaper; there are other scribblings and sums.

This diary, edited by Tom Webster and Kenneth Shipps, was published in 2004 by the Boydell Press for the Church of England Record Society.

From the library of Thomas Percy.

Calf, blind tooled; spine wormed; spine decorated in white ink with skulls and crossbones; spine title in white ink 'Fanatick Journal MS'.

Other authors: Percy, Thomas, 1729-1811, former owner

MS 77/8 Chronologia Anglo-Saxonica elegans et perantiqua ex duobus manuscriptis feliciter eruta; quorum alterum habetur in bibliotheca collegii Corporis Christi Cantabrigiæ: alterum in bibliotheca nobilis. D. Tho. Cotton, D. Roberti æquè nobilissimi & makaritoi [in Greek letters], filii. Cui latina versio appositè respondet, operâ & studio Abrahami Wheloci.

Language: Undetermined

Author: Bede, the Venerable, Saint, 673-735

Publication Information: Cantabrigiæ: Ex officina Rogeri Daniel, celeberrimæ academiae typographi, 1644.

Publication Date: 1644

Physical Description: 121 leaves; 33 cm

Notes: The 121 leaves, some with single columns and some with double, written in an unknown hand in Anglo-Saxon, are interleaved in the printed text, as described above, in double columns of Anglo-Saxon and Latin which are

pages 503 to 568 of *Historiae ecclesiasticae gentis Anglorum libri V* by the Venerable Bede. The printed text is heavily annotated.

The MS appears to present alternative versions to the printed text.

There are several loose sheets of notes; notes also on the front pastedown in Percy's hand.

Abraham Wheelocke was an orientalist, an Anglo-Saxon scholar and Librarian to the University of Cambridge.

From the library of Thomas Percy.

Impressed book-stamp of Earls of Caledon on title page and their book label on front pastedown.

Vellum; joints loose; 'Chronicon Anglo-Saxonica. M.S.' on spine.

Other Authors: Percy, Thomas; Wheelocke, Abraham, 1593-1653

Other Title: Anglo Saxon chronicle

MS 77/9                      The history and antiquities of the County of Northampton, vol. 1.

Language: English

Author: Bridges, John, c1666-1724

Publication information: s.n., [1762]

Physical Description: 160 p.: ill. ; 44 cm.

Content Notes:

Additional contents:

'Northamptonshire' torn from a copy of 'The history of the worthies of England. Endeavoured by Thomas Fuller', who presented a lively picture of the English scene and of some aspects of the life and work of the people, written in a manner that established immediate contact with the reader.

'A journey from London to Northampton', an anonymous poem.

8 acts, bills, and insertion clauses relating to the vesting of land, river navigation and the enclosure of common ground dating to the late 1720s; a single leaf entitled 'Queries' on the back of which are the words 'Mr Bridges queries for his Antiq of Northamptonshire'; 2 receipts, one in Percy's hand, acknowledging the Duke of Northumberland's subscriptions to two publications (one of which is that for 'A catalogue of all the manuscripts collected by Sir Hans Sloane...').

'Names of the parishes herein describd and of the families whose pedigrees are printed', a folded sheet with a list of Fawsley and Wardon hundreds.

A MS unidentified index on the last page of which is a note stating that Mr Bridges' painstaking work on Northamptonshire, unfinished at his death, eventually fell into the hands firstly of Samuel Jebb, Doctor in Physick, and then to Sam. Gibbons who had 'desisted to go on with the publication' for many years. Attached is letter dated 8 January 1747 from Samuel Jebb to Charles Croft stating that he had threatened to sue Gibbons in the Court of Chancery over the affair. A note on the bottom of the first note from Ja[m]es Gilpin states that the original mss of the text was in the hands of Sir Thos Cave in September 1754.

A small printed receipt, numbered 501, with seal, dated 25 September 1736 to Ambrose Isted (Percy's daughter Barbara's father-in-law) for 2 guineas 'being the first payment pursuant to ye proposals for the History and Antiquities of Northamptonshire collected by my late brother John Bridges Esq...' and signed Saml Gibbons (the text was not published for another 55 years).

A file entitled: 'Correspondence with Mr Prince (bookseller in Oxford) (publisher) & the Revd Mr P. Whalley editor & compiler concerning Bridges's Northamptonshire History' comprising originals/copies of 8 letters to Ambrose Isted, and one reply from him, 1779-80 concerning publication and financial details.

England displayed; being a new, complete, and accurate survey and description of the Kingdom of England, and Principality of Wales ... By a Society of Gentlemen ... The particulars respecting England revised, corrected, and improved by P. Russell Esq. and those relating to Wales by Mr. Owen Price. No 39, 1769, pages 361-368 dealing with Northamptonshire. This was published in weekly sixpenny parts, 'in crown folio, on a superfine paper, and a new letter cast on purpose by Mr Caslon'.

'Nobility and gentry, which are, or lately were, related unto the County of Northampton: with their seats and titles by which they are, or have been, known', a single leaf (p. 409) from Blome's 'Britannia' with an A-P list which includes John Bridges of Barton-Seagrave.

'A map of the County of Northampton with its Hundreds by, Ric: Blome' and pp. 175 and 177 from Blome's 'Britannia'.

Manuscript of family records and records of sales in parts of Northampton.

Two manuscripts entitled 'Northamptonshire', one of which is in Elizabethan handwriting.

'The itinerary of John Leland that famous antiquary begunne about 1538' and a page of estate rent records relating to Grafton Park. John Leland (Leland, Leyland), poet and antiquary, cleric, examiner of libraries etc eventually became interested in local history and topography and spent several years between 1535 and 1543 travelling about the British Isles collecting information. The notebooks of the Itinerary in Leyland's hand are in the Bodleian; three of the books are lost. However, almost the whole of the text was copied by John Stow in 1576 before the loss of any material. Many scholars subsequently copied the text and Leland's work, the foundation of English topographical studies, was emulated by later travellers such as Holinshed and Camden. Also contains A Rentall of Grafton Park 1712-13 and a valuation.

A 22-page MS of estate names with some records dated 1632.

A MS letter from Leo. Thomson to an address in London dated September 17, 1717; 3 hand pressed leaves with topographical details of Northamptonshire; the 23rd song from Polyolbion by Michael Drayton relating to Northamptonshire with the relevant map with all the towns marked by ladies wearing crowns.

Printed clerical succession lists of the Diocese of Petersburgh [sic] with information up to 1707 on pages numbered 239-244; an entry on the Coritani and Northamptonshire on 6 pages in double columns numbered 429-440.

#### Notes:

The history was part of a proposed complete record of Northamptonshire. Bridges employed researchers and copyists but died before the work was complete. Publication was taken over by a committee of subscribers and the first volume, edited by Peter Whalley, was published in 1762; the whole work was completed in 1791 (see John Nichols (1814), 'Literary anecdotes of the eighteenth century', p. 348 footnote).

Contains also: an engraving (69 cm x 49 cm) of a 'marble attached to the northern wall of the chancel of Ecton church' [Latin inscription] showing a family tree of the Palmer family, 1582-1731, with a table below giving the names of the patrons and incumbents of the parish, 1220-1738.

From the library of Thomas Percy.

Book label of James Gilpin, Oxford, pinned to front paste-down.

Bound in reused vellum, some early manuscript visible; dirty; joints loose; 'Northampton' on spine in black ink.

MS 77/10                    A short paraphrase, with notes on the Psalms.

Language: English

Author: Percy, Thomas, 1729-1811

Physical Description: 68 leaves; 17cm.

Notes: In this volume a printed copy of 'the Psalter or Psalms of David, pointed as they are to be sung or said in churches', has been interleaved bound with Percy's comments. There is not a commentary upon every psalm. It appears, from Percy's corrections in the printed text, that this was not the translation which he preferred.

In Percy's hand.

On front pastedown is a list of 'proper Psalms on certain days'.

On front endpaper is inscribed in tiny letters: 'God forgive me this one fault & I'll never be guilty of the like again'.

From the library of Thomas Percy.

Calf, blind tooled, worn; spine marked 'Psalm' in silver ink.

MS 77/11                    Catalogue of books in the Bishop's Room May 20. 1766.

Language: English

Author: Percy, Thomas, 1729-1811

Publication Date: 1766

Physical Description: 27 leaves; 32 cm

Notes: The manuscript catalogue in Percy's hand is classified by size:

folios, quartos, octavos; then theological octavos; livres françoises, octavo & duodecimo; libri Italiani, octavo & duodecimo; libri Latini, octavo & duodecimo and Elzevirs;, English books in duodecimo; and misc. duodecimos.

According to Margaret M. Smith in 'Index of English literary manuscripts' vol. III part 2, the Bishop's Room was a room in the Earl of Sussex's house in Easton Maudit. This house has not been identified. However, according to the Wellingborough website, 'both James I and Charles I were visitors to the manor house which was demolished in 1801'; this could have been the house.

From the library of Thomas Percy.

Sheets stabbed at one time, thread mostly perished.

MS 77/12                    Books at Dromore House

Language: English

Physical Description: 28 leave; 39 cm

Content Notes: Contains a folded leaf watermarked 'G. Newton 1810' with a list of 'Books removed from Dromore House, since the Catalogue was made in 1802' and another list of 'Books added to the Library at Dromore House since 1802'.

Also contains 4 loose blue leaves, one watermarked 'Basted Mills', of lists [of books?], mostly illegible, with some dates.

**Notes:** The manuscript catalogue in an unknown hand classifies the books by size: folios, quartos, octavo & infra; the place and date of 'print[ing]' are given and the edition. Contains 15+ MS leaves followed by 18 blank pages, then a list of a collection of mixed titles, some of which are journals, then a numbered list (1-95) of pamphlets and journals. This is a MS list of some of the pamphlets, journals and books that Bishop Percy may have once owned. On the verso of the upper wrapper are the words 'First catalogue'. On the verso of the last leaf '2696 pamphlets &c' is written. Leaves watermarked 'GR 1808'. From the library of Thomas Percy. Stab-stitched, detached from wrapper of raised marbled paper. Encased in a blue portfolio with the words 'Bishop Percy Library Catalogue Books', gilt, on upper board.

MS 77/13 Pamphlets.

Language: English

Physical Description: 17 leaves; 33 cm.

**Content Notes:** Contains 30 pages of lists of pamphlets, 1 blank leaf and a list entitled: 'The following unbound books and pamphlets were entered in the Bishops [sic] catalogue as books but were found amongst the pamphlets [sic]'.

**Notes:** 1808 watermark.

This is a MS list of some of the pamphlets and books that Bishop Percy may have once owned.

From the library of Thomas Percy.

Stab-stitched into wrapper of raised marbled paper.

Encased in a blue portfolio with the words 'Bishop Percy Library Catalogue Pamphlets', gilt, on upper board.

**Other Authors:** Percy, Thomas, 1729-1811

**Other Titles:** Bishop Percy Library Catalogue Pamphlets