WILLIAM HARRISON AINSWORTH
1805–1882

THE AINSWORTH COLLECTION when it came to Princeton was very far from complete, for it consisted of only thirty-five English editions (with one variant binding) and just one Ainsworth letter. Some thirty-odd printed items have been added to the collection, including eleven three-deckers, three of which are variants of Parrish copies. The search for further English editions came to an abrupt halt in 1974 when the Library was given an extensive Ainsworth collection. Since the books included in the gift were nearly all handsomely rebound (with the original covers bound in), very few of them qualified for addition to the Parrish Collection, and those that were retained went into the general rare book collection of the Library. In accordance with the Library’s policy, no duplicates of any of them have since been purchased for the Parrish Collection.

The 1974 gift did not, of course, have any effect on collecting policy as far as manuscript material is concerned. The collection now contains nearly 300 Ainsworth letters, including correspondence with Richard Bentley and Charles Kent, as well as eighteen letters addressed to Ainsworth by John Forster and others. Also acquired were major parts of the autograph manuscripts of Chetwynd Calverley (1876) and Beatrice Tyldesley (1878) and leaves of several other manuscripts. Finally, in 1972 the Library purchased at auction for the collection a handsomely framed oil portrait by Daniel Maclise of Ainsworth seated in a high-backed chair carved with his armorial bearings.

1. ... April Fools.
   In Bentley’s Miscellany, edited by Boz, No. 4, April 1, 1837. London: Richard Bentley; Edinburgh: Bell and Bradfute; Dublin: John Cuming.
   Page 325. 23.5 cm.
   At head of title: Our Song of the Month. No. iv. April, 1837.
   Includes music.
   Yellowish white illustrated wrappers.
   In Dickens collection [CD 528].


   The illustrations are by Phiz (Hablot K. Browne).
   Light brown decorated wrappers.


Dark olive green vertical rib cloth embossed overall with a floral pattern. Paper label on spine.

“Interesting Works,” 10 p. at back of Vol. 11.

Inscription in pencil on free front endpaper of Vol. 1: Miss Edgeworth Edgeworthstown. On t.p. of Vol. 11: Maria E.


vi, 353 p. Front., plates. 25 cm.
Added t.p., engraved.
Moderate olive green vertical rib cloth, covers blocked in blind, with an armorial device blocked in gold on front cover, spine blocked in gold.
Adverts., verso of p. 353.

[12], 231 p. 19 cm.
Published anonymously.
Grayish blue boards. Light grayish yellowish brown spine. Paper label on spine.

14. The Fall of Somerset.... London: Tinsley Brothers, 1877.
3 vols. 19.5 cm.
Dark brown diagonal fine rib cloth, blocked in black.

xii, 376 p. Front., plates. 17.5 cm.
Deep purplish blue horizontal ripple cloth, covers blocked in blind, with a design blocked in gold on front cover, spine blocked in gold.

3 vols. 19.5 cm.
Vivid purplish blue sand cloth, blocked in black.

3 vols. 19.5 cm.
Vivid purplish blue sand cloth, covers blocked in black, spine blocked in black and gold.

18. Copy 2.
Deep red pebble cloth, different blocking in black on front cover and in blind on back cover, different blocking in black and gold on spine. Vol. 1 also has spine design accidentally blocked in black over front cover design. Chapman and Hall adverts. on endpapers.

3 vols. Fronts., plates. 21 cm.
Dark grayish reddish brown fine diaper cloth, blocked in blind.

Dark grayish red vertical rib cloth, different blocking in blind and different style of lettering on spine.
Adverts. as above.
Bookplates of Albert M. Cohn and Gordon A. Block, Jr.

Deep purplish blue diagonal wave cloth, covers blocked in blind, spine blocked in gold.

3 vols. 19.5 cm.
Reddish brown sand cloth, covers blocked in blind, spine blocked in gold.
Bookplates of Michael Sadleir and J. Steele.

Dark olive green vertical rib cloth, blocked in blind.

24. **Copy 2.**
Dark grayish green vertical rib cloth, different blocking in blind and different style of lettering on spine.
In Vol. i, pasted in, ALS, Ainsworth to “My dear Sir,” May 15, 1857, thanking the correspondent for an article on Froude’s *History*. Also, ALS, T. Hughes to Ainsworth, undated. In Vol. ii, pasted in, ALS, R. H. Barham to Ainsworth, undated. Both letters to Ainsworth refer to *Jack Sheppard*.
Bookplate of Gordon A. Block, Jr.

Page [i], illustrated title; p. [ii], blank; p. 1–5, words and music; p. [6], blank. 32.5 cm.
“12th Edition.”
Disbound. Much of Rodwell’s name has been trimmed away.

Blackish red wide diagonal bead cloth, blocked in blind.

27. **The Leaguer of Lathom. A Tale of the Civil War in Lancashire.** London: Tinsley Brothers, 1876. 3 vols. 19.5 cm.
Deep blue diagonal fine rib cloth, blocked in black.
Inscribed on free front endpaper of Vol. i: With Author’s kindest regards.

28. **The Lord Mayor of London: or, City Life in the Last Century.** London: Chapman and Hall, 1862. 3 vols. 20.5 cm.
Strong reddish purple vertical wave cloth, covers blocked in blind, with an armorial device blocked in gold on front cover, spine blocked in gold.
Bookplate of Esher.

29. **Merry England: or, Nobles and Serfs.** London: Tinsley Brothers, 1874. 3 vols. 19.5 cm.
Very dark yellowish green sand cloth, covers blocked in blind, spine blocked in gold. On spine: Merry England or, Nobles and Serfs.

30. **Copy 2.**
Dark yellowish green sand cloth, different blocking, in black on covers, in black and gold on spine. On spine: Merrie England [without subtitle.]

Cover title.
Monthly parts, Dec. 1851–March 1852. After No. iv, publication was suspended until 1857. See Locke, p. 33–35, for publication history and collation of the parts.
Pale yellow illustrated (by Phiz) wrappers. Adverts. on inside front and inside and outside back wrappers.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author(s)</th>
<th>Publisher</th>
<th>Editions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
Moderate reddish brown sand cloth, covers blocked in blind, spine blocked in gold. Bookplate of Mary Joicey and book label of Michael Sadleir.


47. *The Spanish Match; or, Charles Stuart at Madrid*…. Copyright Edition…. Leipzig: Bernhard Tauchnitz, 1865. 2 vols. in 1.16 cm.
On halftitles: Collection of British Authors. Vol. 787 [788].
Modern binding. A variety of sand cloth, deep red. Synthetic leather spine, deep red. Top edges stained red.

1 prel. leaf, v, [1], [3]–332 p. Front., plates. 23 cm.
Deep purplish blue vertical ripple cloth, covers blocked in blind, spine blocked in gold.

49. Copy 2.
Dark red horizontal ripple cloth, same blocking.

50. Copy 3.
Dark red diagonal wave cloth, same blocking. Bookplates of Harry Elkins Widener and Alexander L. Wyant.

3 vols. 19.5 cm.
Dark grayish olive diagonal fine rib cloth, covers and spine blocked in black.

2 vols. 16.5 cm.

Very deep red morocco. T.e.g. Very deep red nonpareil marbled endpapers. Pale orange yellow wrappers, bound in.
Inscribed by Ainsworth on outside front wrapper of each vol.: Thomas Baker, Esq. From the Author.
Bookplate of Thomas Baker, to whom the novel is dedicated.

2 vols. 20 cm.

13 parts in 12 (xvi, 439 p.). Plates. 23.5 cm.
Monthly parts, Jan.–Dec. 1840.
Pale yellow illustrated (by Cruikshank) wrappers. Adverts. on inside and outside back wrapper of Part 1, on outside back wrapper of Parts 11 and 111, and on inside front and inside and outside back wrappers of Parts IV–XII/IX.III.
For number of pages, plates, and adverts. in each part, see Locke, p. 13–14. Part v of the Parrish copy has only [1] p. of adverts. at front, with the verso of the sheet blank; there is no publisher's notice in Part ix.

xvi, 439 p. Front., plates, illus. 23 cm.
Pages [xv]–xvi are bound before [xiii]–xiv. Vivid purplish blue diagonal wave cloth, covers blocked in blind, spine blocked in gold.

1 prel. leaf, 156 p. 22.5 cm.


Pages 168–192 misnumbered 30–54.
Title of Nos. 1 and 2 of the periodical varies: *Supplement to The New World*. 
No wrappers; spine of each issue backed with a paper strip.

In Dickens collection [CD 278].


x p., 1 leaf, 324 p. Front., plates, illus. 24.5 cm. Added t.p., engraved.

Frontispiece faces printed t.p.

Dark grayish blue vertical rib cloth, covers blocked in blind, with a design blocked in gold on front cover, spine blocked in gold. Title on spine: The Romance of Windsor Castle.


Bookplate of Sydney Elliott Preston.


11 parts (x p., 1 leaf, 324 p.). Front., plates, illus. 23.5 cm.

Added t.p., engraved, matches outside front wrapper, except for part number and price at top and two lines of agents at bottom, which have been deleted.

According to Locke, p. 27, the parts were issued 1843–1844. However, only the date 1844 appears on t.p. and on outside front wrapper of each part.

Text is consecutive, breaking off in mid-sentence at the end of some parts. Number of pages and plates in each part as given by Locke, except that No. 4 has 3 plates, not 2.

Pale yellow illustrated (by Johannot) wrappers. Advert. for the bound volume of Windsor Castle on outside back wrapper.

Bookplate of James William Ellsworth in each part.


x p., 1 leaf, 324 p. Front., plates, illus. 24.5 cm. Added t.p., engraved.

Frontispiece faces engraved t.p.

Deep red straight-grain morocco cloth, covers blocked in blind, with a design blocked in gold on front cover and in blind on back cover, spine blocked in gold. Title on spine: The Romance of Windsor Castle.


Pages [iii]–81 also numbered in manuscript 751–837.

Published anonymously.

Disbound. Sprinkled edges, blue.

Inscribed on t.p.: Robert Fowler from James Crossley August 12 182[?]. Final digit has been trimmed away.

In a case with bookplate of Esher.

Contributions


Feb. 20, 1864–June 1866.

Vols. 1 and 11 in English and French.

The periodical consists of two sections: autographs (and some drawings) in facsimile and brief biographical or anecdotal sketches about the contributors.


“Biographical Notices” concerning Ainsworth:


68. ———. By Various Hands. Edited by Charles Dickens... Philadelphia: Lea and Blanchard, 1841.
2 vols. 19.5 cm.
Light grayish yellowish brown boards. Dark red smooth cloth spine. Paper label on spine.
Both editions in Dickens collection [cd 616–617].

MISCELLANEA

[2], 36 p. 22 cm.
Lacks original wrappers; a plain white back wrapper has been supplied.
Priced in ink and with names of purchasers included. Inserted between p. 22 and 23 is a sheet on which is recorded in ink the numbers of items “Returned” and “Allowances.” Inscription at head of p. [1]: The Lots to which C.L is attached were bought for or eventually came to & are now in the Chetham Library.
The total derived from the sale is given on p. 36 as 465pd. 19sh. 6d.

70. [Croly, George.]
[8], 194 p. 18.5 cm.
Published anonymously.
“Mr. Ainsworth has just published the following works,” 23, Old Bond Street, May 1827, [2] p. at back.
Inscribed on front cover: Lady E Feilding.

71. Copy 2.
Binding and adverts. as above.
Inscribed on free front endpaper: To James Crossley, Esqr &c &c &c—With the Publisher’s Affectionate Regards.
Bookplate removed.

72. Ebers, John.
Seven Years of the King’s Theatre.... London: William Harrison Ainsworth, 1828.
Rebound in dark green sand cloth.
Inscribed on front flyleaf: Mr John Penn with Mr Ebers best Compliments July 29 1828 Bond Street.
Signature of Gladys Storey in pencil on free front endpaper.

73. [Ellesmere, Francis Egerton, 1st Earl of.]
[8], 24 p. 24 cm.
“Boyle Farm.”
Published anonymously.
Moderate brown heavy unprinted wrappers.

74. Franklin, John.
75. [Taylor, Tom.]
*Herne the Hunter, A Romantic Drama, in Two Acts.* Founded upon the Popular Romance of Windsor Castle, by W. Harrison Ainsworth, Esq. [London]: G. Purkess [185–].
[8] p. 1 colored illus. 21.5 cm.
Cover title. Page [7], blank; p. [8], adverts.
“Pictorial Plays,” No. 29.
Published anonymously.
The rather crude illustration is unsigned.
Unbound.

76. Overs, John.
1 prel. leaf, xiii p., 1 leaf, 205 p. 16.5 cm.
T.p. printed in blue and red.
“Preface,” p. [v]–xiii.
Light brown horizontal fine rib cloth, covers and spine blocked in blind. A.e.g.
Inscribed on t.p.: W. H. Ainsworth Esq. with the esteem of the Author.
In *Dickens* collection [cd 612].