

Chapter 4: The contents of the Butler Collection.

In order to analyse the main body of the Butler library there are three things which need to be considered. Firstly, we can ask to what extent does the collection represent the trends of a gentleman's library in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries. Were the books actually used or were they collected merely to reflect Butler's status? The collection can also be examined as a reflection of the events in England and Ireland at the time. Topics relating to England's war with France, the Hanoverian succession and anti-Catholicism can all be found in the collection. These can be found not only in the library's books but also in its numerous periodicals, newspapers and pamphlets. Finally, Butler's own personal collecting interests can be discussed. His interest in music, his political views and his interest in poetry are just some of the examples of these.

Gentlemen of the late 1600s and early 1700s tended to fall into the category of professionals, civil servants and country gentlemen. As a politician and landowner, Theophilus Butler easily fits such a description. The library was seen as one of the features of gentlemanly status. Many, like Butler, used a bookplate or a printed book label to distinguish their books. These tended to be a coat of arms and were, as Brian North Lee in *Property of a Gentleman* says, 'an implication of good birth and social standing'.¹¹² The presence of a bookplate also signifies that the owner did at that time consider himself to be a collector of books and not purely someone who bought books for pleasure. In Butler's case, this appears to be in the early 1680s when numerous books appear either with his book plate or stamp. Though earlier books than this appear these are few and are more likely to have been bought by Butler at a later stage than the imprint implies. In the 1680s Butler was entering his twenties and was, at least for a period, in London where he would have had the opportunity to buy more varied and specialised books than were available in Dublin at the time. North Lee also states that shelf marks were not usual in the gentleman's library nor

¹¹² North Lee, Brian, 'Gentlemen and their book-plates' in Myers, Robin and Harris, Michael (ed.) *Property of a Gentleman. The Formation, organisation and dispersal of the private library 1620 -1920*, (Winchester, 1991). p 44

was a catalogue of its books.¹¹³ No evidence can be found that Butler allocated shelf marks to his books and no records can be found in Trinity for the donation of a catalogue with the collection.

With his book collecting years covering the end of one century and the beginning of another Butler embodies many of the characteristics of both the seventeenth and eighteenth century gentleman book collector. Birrell states that the seventeenth century gentleman's library was predominantly utilitarian.¹¹⁴ Butler's library would seem to confirm this. As a landowner and politician he would have had an interest in law and trials and in general tracts on politics. These all appear in the collection. There are around thirty volumes in the collection which deal with law including Blount's law dictionary.¹¹⁵ Books relating to specific jobs within the law are also evident. The justice of the peace is discussed in Young's *Table containing the substance of such statutes wherein any one, or more justices of the peace are inabled to act as well in the sessions as out of the sessions of peace*, London, 1663, in Richard Kilburn's *Choice Precedents upon all Acts of Parliament relating to the office and duty of a justice of peace*, London, 1694 and in *A Perfect table of all the statutes now in force which anyway concerne the office of a Justice of Peace*, London, 1644.¹¹⁶ The work of a clerk is also covered in *A Second Part of the Young Clerks Guide*, London, 1653, as is the filacer in *The Filacers Office*, London.¹¹⁷ Littleton's *Tenures in French and English*, London, 1671 would also have been of some use to Butler in his role as a landowner.¹¹⁸ Although, individual trials are numerous in Butler's collection of pamphlets, he also held volumes of collections of state trials in his library. These include four volumes of *A Compleat Collection of State-Tryals and Proceedings*, London, 1719 and two volumes of *The History of the most remarkable Tryals in Great Britain and Ireland in Capital*

¹¹³ North Lee, 'Gentlemen and their book-plates', p 65

¹¹⁴ Birrell, T.A., 'Reading as Pastime: the place of light literature in some gentlemen's libraries of the seventeenth century.' in Myers, Robin and Harris, Michael (ed.), *Property of a Gentleman. The Formation, organisation and dispersal of the private library 1620 - 1920*, (Winchester, 1991). p 114

¹¹⁵ TCD V.dd.56,

¹¹⁶ TCD W.1.55, V.nn.64, V.nn.49

¹¹⁷ TCD V.nn.48, V.nn.47

¹¹⁸ TCD V.oo.26

Cases.¹¹⁹ Pamphlets and books concerning individual political events will be discussed later. Other books chronicling the acts and debates of parliament are evident here. These include eighteen volumes of *The Political State of Great Britain*, London, 1711, and *A History of the Present Parliament and Convocation*, London, 1711.¹²⁰ More typical are volumes such as that titled *Acts and Statutes made in a Parliament begun at Dublin the 25th day of September 1703*, Dublin, 1711, which is a journal of the proceedings of a particular parliament in which Butler sat.¹²¹

As many gentlemen were also patrons of church livings, theological works would have made useful additions to their collections. As already established, Butler contributed to the building of St. Anne's Church on Dawson Street and, therefore, held at least some interest in religious matters. Theological works were also common reading at this time. Apart from anti-Catholic literature which will be discussed later, religious works form a major part of the collection. In total there are roughly sixty six books relating to theology. These include four editions of the Bible and thirteen of the *Book of Common Prayer*.¹²² Books on moral instruction are also numerous. These come in the form of sermons such as John Tillotson's thirteen volumes of *Sermons preached on several subjects and occasions*, London, 1704 and also include *A Sermon Preached in Trinity College Chapell before the university of Dublin January 9 1693*, Dublin, 1694 probably of interest to Theophilus considering his attendance at Trinity not long before.¹²³ Texts are also included which aim their instruction specifically to gentlemen and their wives and include such titles as *A Lady's Religion*, London, 1704 and *A Gentleman instructed in the conduct of a virtuous and happy life*, London, 1704 by William Darrell.¹²⁴ Accounts of religions other than Protestantism also appear in the collection. Examples include, William Stephens' *An*

¹¹⁹ TCD W.cc.19 - W.cc.22, W.hh.39, W.hh.40

¹²⁰ TCD W.h.1 - W.h.18, W.h.29

¹²¹ TCD W.b.31

¹²² TCD W.n.43, W.n.6, W.n.27, W.n.28/W.e.45-W.e.50, W.f.50-W.f.54, W.m.2, W.n.30. It is unlikely that all of these were owned by Butler. A fifth edition of the Bible is also included in the library. It is written in Irish and dates from 1780 and is, therefore, unlikely to have belonged to the Butlers. V.oo.66

¹²³ TCD V.mm.43 -V.mm.55, W.m.3

¹²⁴ TCD W.n.38, V.nn.41

account of the Growth of Deism in England, London, 1709 and Henry Basnage's *The History of the Jews, from Jesus Christ to the Present Time*, London, 1708.¹²⁵

Birrell states that the numerous history books found in many gentlemen's libraries were used as a measure of conduct and that gentlemen used the ethics of the past to define their own behaviour.¹⁵ Though some doubt may be placed on his justification of the use of history books by gentlemen it cannot be denied that they do appear to a large extent in Butler's library. Including both general history and antiquarian books these form the largest category in the collection coming to a total of almost two hundred and fifty books. The vast majority of these cover the history of England and particularly the history of its monarchs. Outside England, histories of France are numerous such as *The Secret History of France from the last century*, London, 1714.¹²⁷ Famous historians are also well represented examples including Caesar, Polybius and Herodotus. Genealogy books are also present with such works as Arthur Collins' *An Historical and Genealogical Account of the Present Nobility*, London, 1710 and Kent's *The Grammar of Heraldry*, London, 1716.¹²⁸

Plays are numerous in the collection. These come in the form either of a volume of the work of one playwright or of a number of plays collected by Butler in pamphlet form and bound together. Birrell describes these plays as the 'most accessible form of fiction' at that time and that they were 'fictions in their own right and they were read as stories, for the plot'.¹²⁹ If this is the case Butler's collection of plays can be read as an indication of his literary taste. Established playwrights are well represented including a collection of Shakespeare's works and two editions of Ben Jonson's collective works. One of these dating from 1616 was the first edition of Jonson's works in one volume.¹³⁰ Francis Beaumont and John Fletcher are prominent with eight volumes

¹²⁵ TCD W.m.11, W.a.23

¹⁵ Birrell, 'Reading as Pastime: the place of light literature in some gentlemen's libraries in the seventeenth century', p 114

¹²⁷ TCD W.i.49

¹²⁸ TCD W.h.49, V.gg.54

¹²⁹ Birrell, 'Reading as Pastime: the place of light literature in some gentlemen's libraries in the seventeenth century', p 114

¹³⁰ TCD V.ee.2

of their plays.¹³¹ Dating from the Restoration period, these proved to be the most popular of the old dramas still being performed in the early eighteenth century. Butler also collected the individual works of both Aphra Behn and William Congreve into his own bound volume of their works. His interest in Congreve, in particular, is noteworthy as it is likely he knew him from his days in Trinity. Congreve entered Trinity in 1686, the same year as Theophilus. Also similarly to Theophilus his B.A. is not recorded in the college records due to the evacuation of many Protestants from Trinity in the time of the Williamite war.¹³² Many of the individual plays which Butler collected date from the mid-sixteen eighties onwards making it possible that some were collected following his attendance at their performance. Indeed those plays which appear in the collection dating from early to mid seventeen hundred were also being performed in London at the same time. Examples include Steele's *The Tender Husband or the Accomplished Fools*, London, 1705 which was performed in Drury Lane for the first time in April of that year.¹³³ John Vanbrugh's *The Confederacy*, London, 1705 was playing in Queen's at the date of its pamphlet's imprint.¹³⁴ Baker's *Hampstead Heath*, London, 1706 was also playing continuously in Drury Lane in 1706.¹³⁵ Some of the imprints themselves also state where the play is being performed at that particular time so *The Tender Husband* is followed by 'as it is acted at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane.' Poetry is also a large feature of Butler's collection. Collections of poems by various poets appear such as *A New Collection of Poems relating to State Affairs*, London, 1705.¹³⁶ Individual poets are prominent with Samuel Butler, Abraham Cowley and to a large extent John Dryden. A collection of Shakespeare's poems also appears.¹³⁷ Individual poems in pamphlet form can be divided into political satires or poems in praise of the monarchy and include works by William King, Matthew Prior and Gay.

¹³¹ TCD V.kk.2 - V.kk.8

¹³² Burtchaell, G.D., Sadleir, T.U.(ed), *Alumni Dublinenses*, (Dublin, 1935). p 168

¹³³ TCD V.ff.14, Avery, Emmett, *The London Stage 1660 - 1800*, (Illinois, 1960). p 92

¹³⁴ TCD V.ff.14, Avery, *The London Stage*, p 105

¹³⁵ TCD V.ff.14, Avery, *The London Stage*, p 105

¹³⁶ TCD V.mm.4

¹³⁷ TCD V.mm.35

By the end of the seventeenth century the library had become less a place of scholarship and more of a public room, similar to a sitting room. This, Wainwright argues, affected the contents of the library. A gentleman had to be sure that his library contained those books which were socially acceptable, therefore less emphasis was placed on his actual use of the books.¹³⁸ There is enough evidence in Butler's collection to argue that at least some books were bought partly for their status as 'gentlemanly' books. One obvious example of this is the prevalence of scientific books in his collection. There is no evidence to link Theophilus Butler with the Dublin Philosophical Society or to having any scientific interest yet there are over fifty scientific books in his collection. It was not until the mid-eighteenth century that popular books on science were written and the books in the library were targeted to specialists and scholars, the most obvious example being the numerous works by Boyle. Topics vary from physics and biology to discussions on comets and mineral waters. More specifically, books on health and medicine were a characteristic of the eighteenth century library. Books on the merits of bath water and an essay on fevers can be found in Butler's library. A dictionary of health, *The Physical Dictionary*, London, 1702 is also included.¹³⁹

Additionally, travel books were seen as typical to libraries at this time. Interest was high as after 1689 Britain had entered an era of expansion overseas. Besides its colonies in America it now had settlements in the West Indies and Asia, in particular the coast of India. In Butler's case, there are thirty works in his collection giving accounts of China, Africa, India and America. These tend to give descriptions of the customs and geography of these regions as well as their history and religious practices. Some such as Ogilby's *America: Being the latest and most accurate description of the New World*, London, 1721 are written specifically to encourage migration to the colonies.¹⁴⁰ In other cases interest derives from England's economic interest in a particular region such as Ogilby's *Atlas Japannensis, being remarkable addresses by way of embassy from the East-India Company*, London, 1652.¹⁴¹ Dictionaries and grammar books were

¹³⁸ Wainwright, Clive, 'The library as living room' in *Property of a Gentleman*, (Winchester, 1991). p 15

¹³⁹ TCD V.gg.47

¹⁴⁰ TCD W.a.19

¹⁴¹ TCD W.a.18

also common to most gentlemen's libraries and there are fifteen included in Butler's. The classics are also present with Ovid's *Metamorphosis* and a collection of Virgil's works.¹⁴² Another common feature of the gentleman's collection was a miniature library. This was essentially what looked to be a folio book which upon opening revealed small copies of octavo volumes on tiny shelves. Though unlikely to have been used they were a novel addition to the contents of the gentleman's library. Butler's miniature library is labelled *Collectio Historiarum Rerumpublicarum* and contains thirty four octavo volumes. The works are principally about the politics and history of various countries including Russia, Italy and Switzerland. The imprints are mainly from Amsterdam and London and include such authors as Thomas Aquinas.¹⁴³

The increasingly sophisticated nature of the library can also be reflected in the lack of 'popular' literature in the collection. Little comical prose appears apart from a collection of Don De Quevedo's works and his *Fortune in her wits or The Hour of all men*, London, 1697.¹⁴⁴ Adventures such as *Arabian Nights* are not present and the only significant romance is Mrs. Hayward's *Love in Excess or the Fatal Enquiry*, London, 1719.¹⁴⁵ Instead at this time periodicals were beginning to appear which were aimed specifically to the literary tastes of gentlemen. *The Gentleman's Journal* is the prime example of this. Established in 1691 its aim was to provide essays on history, philosophy, poetry and music. Butler held two bound volumes of the *Gentleman's Journal* dating from January of 1691 until November 1694.¹⁴⁶ *The Athenian Gazette*, published by John Dunton, also ran from March 1691 until 1697. This was a question and answer journal on a wide variety of topics. Butler owned *The History of the Athenian Society*, London, 1697 which was a publication of the complete editions of the journal.¹⁴⁷ *Applebee's original weekly journal* also appears in the collection, a periodical which specialised in foreign fiction as well as news and essays.¹⁴⁸

¹⁴² TCD V.bb.5, V.dd.6, V.bb.7

¹⁴³ TCD V.bb.3

¹⁴⁴ TCD W.m.30, V.mm.19

¹⁴⁵ TCD W.m.13

¹⁴⁶ TCD V.ff.31, V.ff.32

¹⁴⁷ TCD V.ff.35

¹⁴⁸ TCD V.cc.23

Butler's library can also be read as a reflection of the topical events of his lifetime. The production of newspapers was on the increase at this time and Butler's collection contains editions of *The Examiner*, *The Protestant Post-Boy*, *The Flying Post* and *The St. James's Post*.¹⁴⁹ It is surprising that *The Spectator* and *The Tatler* are not present in the collection. Besides being the most popular newspapers of the time they were both known for their Whig sympathies.¹⁵⁰ It was the periodicals and pamphlets, however, which contained most of the contemporary political argument. More pamphlets were produced between 1711 and 1714 than at any other time in the first part of the eighteenth century and it is these pamphlets which are most numerous in Butler's collection.¹⁵¹ One of the largest causes of controversies during his lifetime was England's involvement in the war against France from 1689 until 1697 and again from 1701 to 1713. In the first period England's aim was to prevent France's attempt to secure the succession to the Spanish throne. The objective of the second period was to prevent Louis XIV from uniting the Bourbon and Habsburg thrones in the person of his grandson, Philip. Interest in French and Spanish matters can be seen in the collection by the large volume of material on the history of the two countries, in the latter case most explicitly seen in *The Fatal Effects of Arbitrary Power and the Dangerous Condition of Court-favourites demonstrated by the wicked intrigues of the Court of Philip II*.¹⁵² As time went on attitude to the war differed. The Whigs believed that the war should be prolonged on land and found various ways of financing it. The Tories, on the other hand, felt that the war should be ended as soon as possible. Once they achieved power in 1710 they entered into negotiations with France to obtain a peace treaty. Pamphlets present in the collection reflect the two differing political opinions. Swift, writing for the Tories, published *Conduct of the Allies*, London, 1711 supporting England's talks with France.¹⁵³ In opposition Whig pamphlets appeared such as *The Management of the War in a*

¹⁴⁹ TCD V.cc.18, V.ee.31-V.ee.34

¹⁵⁰ There is a possibility, however, that these may have removed after the donation of the library to Trinity.

¹⁵¹ Trevelyan, George Macaulay, *England Under Queen Anne. The Peace and the Protestant Succession*, (London, 1934). p 100

¹⁵² TCD W.i.62

¹⁵³ TCD V.ff.42

letter to a Tory-member, London, 1711.¹⁵⁴ In all, over thirty pamphlets in the collection deal with the subject.

England's union with Scotland, in 1707, is also represented in the collection. Although arguments for and against the union are not present in pamphlet form some books appear which deal with Scottish history, underlining some interest in the topic. Two copies of *Memoirs concerning the affairs of Scotland from Queen Anne's Accession to the Throne to the commencement of the union of the two kingdoms of Scotland and England*, London, 1714 as well as *An Account of the affairs of Scotland relating to the revolution in 1688*, London, 1714 are present.¹⁵⁵ Irish topical matters are also covered in the library. Economic matters are discussed in Louis Crommelin's *An Essay towards the improving of the hempen and flaxen manufactures in the kingdom of Ireland*, Dublin, 1705 and in *The Several Acts for the improvement of the hempen and Flaxen manufactures in this kingdom*, Dublin, 1719.¹⁵⁶ The country's political status is also covered in Burbridge's *A Short View of the Present State of Ireland* and Molyneux's *The Case of Ireland being bound by Acts of Parliament in England Stated*, Dublin, 1698.¹⁵⁷ Sixteen volumes of the acts passed in the Dublin parliament are also included from the year 1692 and 1761, spanning the years in parliament of Francis, Theophilus, Brinsley and Humphrey Butler.¹⁵⁸ Ireland's history is also discussed in two books, James Ware's *The Antiquities and History of Ireland*, London, 1705 and Oldmixon's *Memoirs of Ireland from the Restoration to the Present Times*, London, 1716.¹⁵⁹ An indication of the insecurity of many Protestants in Ireland in the time of the penal laws can be seen in the amount of anti-Catholic publications in the collection. Eleven books deal with the topic ranging from those which claim to give an exact history of the religion such as Comber's *Roman forgeries in the councils during the first four centuries*, London, 1689 to out

154 TCD V.ff.49

155 TCD W.i.3, W.i.7, W.i.6

156 TCD V.kk.41, V.kk.48

157 TCD V.kk.41, V.gg.55

158 TCD W.b.25 - W.b.43

159 TCD W.i.9, W.b.47

and out pro-Protestant tracts such as *The Curse of Popery and Popish Princes to the Civil Government and Protestant Church of England*, London, 1716.¹⁶⁰

One of the most infamous trials of the early eighteenth century in England was the trial of Dr. Henry Sacheverell in 1710. On November 5 1709 he had delivered a sermon against *Dissenters in Peril against False Brethren* that was widely distributed in print. The pamphlet also attacked the Whig attitude to the events of 1689. In contrast to their support of resistance against a tyrannical monarch Sacheverell asserted that James II had abdicated and that the Tory principle of passive obedience and the divine right of kings had been compromised. As a result, the Whigs decided to impeach him. The unpopularity of this act did more than anything else to end their time in power. Both this sermon and another by Sacheverell *The Communication of Sin* are held in pamphlet form in Butler's library.¹⁶¹ The collection also contains one book detailing the trial of Dr. Sacheverell *The Tryal of Dr. Henry Sacheverell before the House of Peers for High Crimes and Misdemeanours*, London, 1710.¹⁶² Additionally, pamphlets provide histories of the trial. In all there are fifteen relating to the subject. Most collected by Butler are anti-Sacheverell such as *The Perils of Being Zealously Affected by being not well or reflections on Dr. Sacheverell's sermon*, London, 1709.¹⁶³ A pamphlet by John Dunton is also included entitled the *Bul-bearing or Sach---ll dressed up in Fireworks*, London, 1709.¹⁶⁴ Another issue which was to dominate the early 1700s was the Hanoverian succession in England. Though Whigs supported George's succession to the throne the Tories were divided on the subject. In their negotiations with France they had received assurance of protection against Hanover by Louis. Some also tried to persuade James, the Pretender to convert to Protestantism in order to guarantee his return to the throne in England. In the collection it is exclusively the Whig point of view which is displayed. Two books deal with the subject, *Treason Unmasked or the Queen's Title, the Revolution and the Hanoverian Succession vindicated*, London, 1711 and George

160 TCD W.m.5, V.kk.48

161 TCD V.mm.67

162 TCD W.h.41

163 TCD V.mm.67

164 TCD V.ff.39

Harbin's *The Hereditary Right of the Crown asserted*, London, 1713.¹⁶⁵ There are also twelve pamphlets which deal with the succession. Two pamphlets by Asgill, *The Pretender's Declaration abstracted from two anonymous Pamphlets*, London, 1713 and *The Succession of the House of Hanover Vindicated*, London, 1714, are typical of the tone of the pamphlets, pro-Whig and fearful of the threat of the Pretender.¹⁶⁶ Two other pamphlets, *Reasons against the succession of the House of Hanover*, London, 1713 and *An Answer to a question that nobody thinks of viz But what if the Queen should die*, London, 1713, appear to be anti-Whig.¹⁶⁷ On examination, though, they are identified as anonymous satirical tracts by Daniel Defoe.

Away from the general trends of Butler's library, certain pieces can be seen as reflective of his own particular interests. As already established, Butler held an interest in music illustrated by his membership of the London Musical Society. This musical interest is further displayed in the collection. The St. Cecilia's Day feast, a feast in honour of music, was in 1697 sponsored by the Musical Society. As a steward for the society Butler would have been responsible for commissioning Dryden to write his St. Cecilia's Day ode *Alexander's feast: or the power of music in honour of St. Cecilia's Day*.¹⁶⁸ The ode itself is contained in pamphlet form in one of Butler's bound volumes and is dedicated to the eight stewards of the feast, including Butler. The poem is a defence of the playing of church music as is a sermon delivered on the same day by Nicholas Brady. This sermon is also contained in bound form and is entitled *Church-Musick Vindicated. A Sermon Preach'd at St. Bride's Church on Monday November 22 1697 Being St. Caecilia's Day, the anniversary feast of the Lovers of Musick*, London, 1697.¹⁶⁹ It is possible that besides their agreement on the value of music a friendship existed between Brady and Butler as Butler had entered Trinity College in the same year that Brady achieved his M.A. There are also a number of other musical books in the collection. Coming to a total of ten they can be divided into texts of songs such as *A Compleat Collection of Mr. D'urfey's Songs and Odes*,

¹⁶⁵ TCD W.h.44, W.c.29

¹⁶⁶ TCD V.ff.55, V.kk.56

¹⁶⁷ TCD V.kk.52

¹⁶⁸ TCD V.cc.17

¹⁶⁹ TCD W.m.7

London, 1687 and practical works on the study of music.¹⁷⁰ As already discussed Playford's *An Introduction to the Skill of Music*, London, 1674 is included with Francis Butler's signature. A second edition is included with a later imprint of 1687 and is likely to have belonged to Theophilus himself.¹⁷¹ As well as some operas scattered throughout the collection two bound volumes of operas appear which include three operas by Handel. Pamphlets also appear containing songs (and poems) of political satire. Quite apart from their content these are interesting for the scarcity of their editions. Only two editions of *A Dialogue between Pasquin and Morforio*, London, 1701 were produced. Likewise *The French Preliminaries*, Amsterdam, 1712 had only one edition while *The French Invasion to the Tune of Pretty Parrot*, London, 1708 was limited to two editions.¹⁷²

Political controversies, as we have seen, form a large part of the collection. In most of the examples already discussed both Tory and Whig views are represented. This is further seen by the inclusion of the *New Atlantis*, London, 1709.¹⁷³ Written by Mrs. Manley, this book caused controversy on its publication due to its inclusion of falsely negative stories about prominent Whig politicians. Is Butler's collection prejudiced, though, in any way towards his Whig roots? Traditionally Whigs were seen as more supportive to the revolution of 1689 and the reign of William III and were more willing to accept the validity of his leadership. This is reflected in the collection with five pamphlets vindicating Protestant obedience to the king. These include *A Further Modest and Impartial Enquiry into the Lawfulness of taking the new Oath of Allegiance*, London, 1689 and *Obedience due to the Present King notwithstanding our oaths to the former*, London, 1689.¹⁷⁴ A huge number of pamphlets, books and poems are also supportive of the Duke of Marlborough. Most date from 1710 when the Tory government impeached him in order to hinder a continuation of the war effort against France. Butler's texts fall into two categories, either defending Marlborough against his treatment by the Tories or praising his success in foreign

170 TCD V.mm.29

171 TCD V.ll.63, V.nn.65

172 TCD V.dd.21

173 TCD V.ll.47

174 TCD V.kk.38, V.kk.39

battles such as *The Englishman's Thanks to the Duke of Marlborough*, London, 1712.¹⁷⁵ Anti-Tory propaganda also appears. This includes pamphlets such as *A Full and Authentick Narrative of the Intended Horrid Conspiracy and Invasion*, London, 1716 and *Proper Lessons for the Tories to be read throughout the year*, London, 1716 including such chapter headings as 'Birth of a Pretender' and the 'Battle of the Boyne when King James ran away from his army'.¹⁷⁶ *The Whimsical Medley or A Miscellaneous Collection of severall Pieces in Prose and Verse some Latin, most English, being an agreeable Variety of Satyr and Elogy, Epigram and Sonnet, Fable and Ballad, Lampon and Pasquinade* is a three volume manuscript of various poems, songs and toasts.¹⁷⁷ The manuscript is 1,272 pages long with eight hundred and fifty poems and thirty prose selection and is hand-written by Butler. Woolley places the date of its formation at around 1719.¹⁷⁸ The pieces appear to have been transcribed both from manuscript and printed sources. The collection was presumably made by Butler for his own use. He gives a list of contents at the beginning with titles and authors and specified page numbers. Barrett dates the donation of the *Whimsical Medley* to Trinity College to 1768. He describes it being referred to in the nineteenth century as the 'Lanesborough MSS'. Woolley then assumes that it was passed by Theophilus to his brother, Brinsley, who then passed it to his Lanesborough descendants.¹⁷⁹ Drawing on the argument outlined in chapter three it may, however, have been passed to the Lanesboroughs through their occupation of the Butler house in St. Stephen's Green. In any case, this date precedes the donation of the Butler library by at least twelve years. This is also the date of Humphrey Butler's death. The possibility arises then that Humphrey Butler held the *Whimsical Medley* along with the rest of the Butler library. He may have chosen to donate the manuscripts to Trinity college on his death, his instructions being carried out by his son Brinsley. Without the evidence of his will, however, it is difficult to know for certain.

¹⁷⁵ TCD V.kk.36

¹⁷⁶ TCD W.h.43, V.ff.56

¹⁷⁷ TCD MS 879 Vol 1-3

¹⁷⁸ Woolley, 'John Barrett, "The Whimsical Medley," and Swift's Poems', p 7

¹⁷⁹ Woolley, 'John Barrett, "The Whimsical Medley," and Swift's Poems', p 32 n 48

One of the most interesting additions to the *Medley* is a forty four poem section that Butler entitled *A Collection of Several Pieces which Occasionally Pass'd between Dan: Jackson, Tom: Sheridan(,) Pat: Delany, G: Rochfort and Dr. Swift*. As these pieces were unpublished and were not designed for wide circulation Woolley asks how Butler might have received copies of them. One possibility is that he received copies from his servant, Ann Brent, whose mother worked for Jonathan Swift. Another, as already established, is the relationship between Emily, Theophilus's wife and her cousin Charles Ford, a friend of Swift's.¹⁸⁰ A further possibility not raised by Woolley is Swift's friendship with James Stopford who went on to marry Emily's sister, Anne in 1727.¹⁸¹ Stopford was a correspondent with Swift and Swift aided his promotion in the church and appointed him as one of his executors. Although James and Anne were not married at the time of the compilation of the *Medley* there is the possibility that a friendship already existed between James and the Butler family prior to 1719. Stopford was, undoubtedly, close to Theophilus's brother, James as he is mentioned frequently in his will.¹⁸² In any case, this part of the *Medley* is valuable today for providing us with the only early texts of many of these poems.

The *Medley* also contains some similarities to the rest of Butler's collection. Woolley even notes that some of the poetry may have been copied from Butler's editions of the *Gentleman's Journal*. Pro-Williamite poetry can be found in *To the Glorious and immortal memory of King William*.¹⁸³ Anti-Tory prose can also be found as can a poem *On Musick*. Individual pamphlets have also been added to the back of volumes one and two. In the first volume these are *A Pastoral in imitation of the first Eclogue of Virgil*, Dublin 1719 by M. O'Connor and *An Account of Council Chamber in Whitehall 22 October 1688*, Dublin 1688.¹⁸⁴ In the second four pamphlets are added, *A list of those worthy Patriots who to prevent the Church of England from being undermined by the occasional conformists did, like truly noble Englishmen vote that the bill to prevent occasional conformity might be tack'd to the land tax bill*, *The Character of a*

180 Woolley, 'John Barrett, "The Whimsical Medley, " and Swift's Poems', p10

181 Stephen, Leslie and Lee, Sidney, *Dictionary of National Biography Vol XVIII*, (London, 1708). p 1306

182 Registry of Deeds. Memorial 75269 (James Butler's Will)

183 TCD MS 879 Vol 2 no. 225

184 TCD MS 879 Vol. 1

Tacker, The French King's Consolidation and *The Picture of a Modern Whig*, London, 1701.¹⁸⁵ Family poetry is also evident in the collection. At least three poems refer to Emily Butler. In the first volume two poems entitled *Mrs. Butler the Player in Ireland to Mrs Bracegirdle Her Correspond in London* and *To The Right Hon Emilia Baroness of Newtown Butler* are included.¹⁸⁶ The latter is written by Theophilus's brother, James and praises Emily's virtue and her worth as a mother. In the third volume a poem entitled a *Song to Emilia* exalts the 'beauties of her mind'.¹⁸⁷ The death of Emily's brother, Robert is also referred to in the Medley with *An Elegy on my Brother Robert Stopford*, possibly written by Emily herself or by Theophilus.¹⁸⁸ No records exist in Trinity which account for the donation of other manuscripts to the library other than the *Whimsical Medley*. As few records were kept for gifts given at this time, though, the possibility of their existence cannot be ruled out.

Butler's collection, then, is a mixture of both the general and the particular. His library contains many of the characteristics of a gentleman's library of the time. He collected history and law books, quarto plays, scientific books and periodicals. He also, typically, held an interest in current events. What sets him apart is his Whig interest, involvement in music and the importance of the *Whimsical Medley*.

¹⁸⁵ TCD MS 879 Vol. 2

¹⁸⁶ TCD MS 879 Vol 1 no. 106, no. 275

¹⁸⁷ TCD MS 879 Vol. 3 no. 111

¹⁸⁸ TCD MS 879 Vol. 2 no. 240