

## Chapter XXII — The Glasgow Pottery Library.

An interesting survival from this time is the catalogue for and a number of books from the Glasgow Pottery Library. These are in private collections.

The catalogue is dated 1891 but since the Library runs to 763 volumes we may assume that this is no new phenomenon but has been running for many years, though its date of inauguration can only be guessed at. Judging by the plate on the covers of the books the Library was run by a committee but how this was made up is unknown.

The rules are printed in the catalogue and are few and simple:

1st. — The Library is free to all workers and is intended for them alone,

2nd. — Fourteen days only are allowed for the perusal of any one volume; if not returned, the reader will be called upon by the Committee.

3rd. — Books lost or destroyed must be replaced by the party in whose name they are entered in the Librarian's Book.

4th.— The Library will be open every Tuesday night at six o'clock, from October till March.

5th, — Every reader will require to purchase a copy of this Catalogue before their names can be entered in the Librarian's Book.

The books are divided into 6 categories; History, Religious Works, Biography, Miscellaneous Works, Poetry and Novels.

The history section runs to 100 volumes starting with an 11 volume history of Europe by Allison. It includes Prescott's 'Conquest of Mexico' and 'Conquest of Peru', Gibbon, Macaulay, Josephus, Hallum (sic) and histories of Greece, Rome and Greenland.

The Religious Works also run to 100 volumes. Included are the works of John Knox and a fair sprinkling of anti-Catholic volumes, e.g. 'Papal Errors' 'Popery Unveiled' and 'The Inquisition and the Jesuits', all anonymous volumes. On the other hand there is Wiseman's 'Lectures on Revealed Religion'

Biography also runs to 100 volumes including Lockhart on Scott, and Boswell on Johnson but also Lives of 'Palissy, the Potter', George Stephenson, Nelson, Wellington, Lives of the Popes, Newton, Napoleon, Life of a Mechanic and Industrial Biography by Smiles.

Smiles reappears as author of 'Self Help' in the Miscellaneous Works section which runs to 138 volumes. It includes the works of: Hogg, Swift, Fielding, Dr. Johnson, Goldsmith, Sterne and Emerson. Millers 'Old Red Sandstone' and four of Carlyle's books are amongst those by Scottish authors but there is a great deal of interest in foreign countries shown, particularly the more exotic ones and a fair number of literary biographies. Several scientific works are to be found; Page's 'Geology', Chamber's 'Chemistry' and Lord's 'Popular Physiology' for instance.

Poetry is the smallest section running only to 19 volumes but this includes single volumes of the Works of Shakespeare, Byron, Burns, Tennyson, Scott's poetry, Longfellow, Young, Pope, Moore, Coleridge, Cowper, Milton, Campbell, Shelley, Keats and Tannahill so there was a fair amount of reading included in the small selection. Other volumes included the Canterbury Tales, the Ingoldsby Legends and the Ballad Minstrelsy of Scotland.

Novels filled by far the largest section which was 263 volumes strong. This included most of Scott, Dickens, Lytton and Marryat as well as a good deal of George Eliot and Jules Verne. 'Vanity Fair' was one of several Thackeray works and Disraeli, Fennimore Cooper, Samuel Lover, Galt and Ainsworth were represented. 'Lady Audley's Secret' was one of four Braddon novels and 'Wuthering Heights' and 'Villette' appear as by Bell (Bronte). 'Paul and Virginia' is another best seller present, as is 'Tom Brown's Schooldays'. 'The Woman in White', 'After Dark' and 'Moonstone' are the only Wilkie Collins' books on the list and early horror is represented by 'The English Baron' by Walpole and 'The Italian' and 'The Mysteries of Udolpho' by Mrs. Radcliffe though the latter is shown as 'The Mistress Udolphe' by Ratcliffe!

Since no charge was made the Library must have been funded by the management. Presumably the titles were chosen by the Committee; they certainly show a high level of taste and education among the workforce. A similar library is known to have existed at Bo'ness but there management complained that it was not sufficiently used!



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