

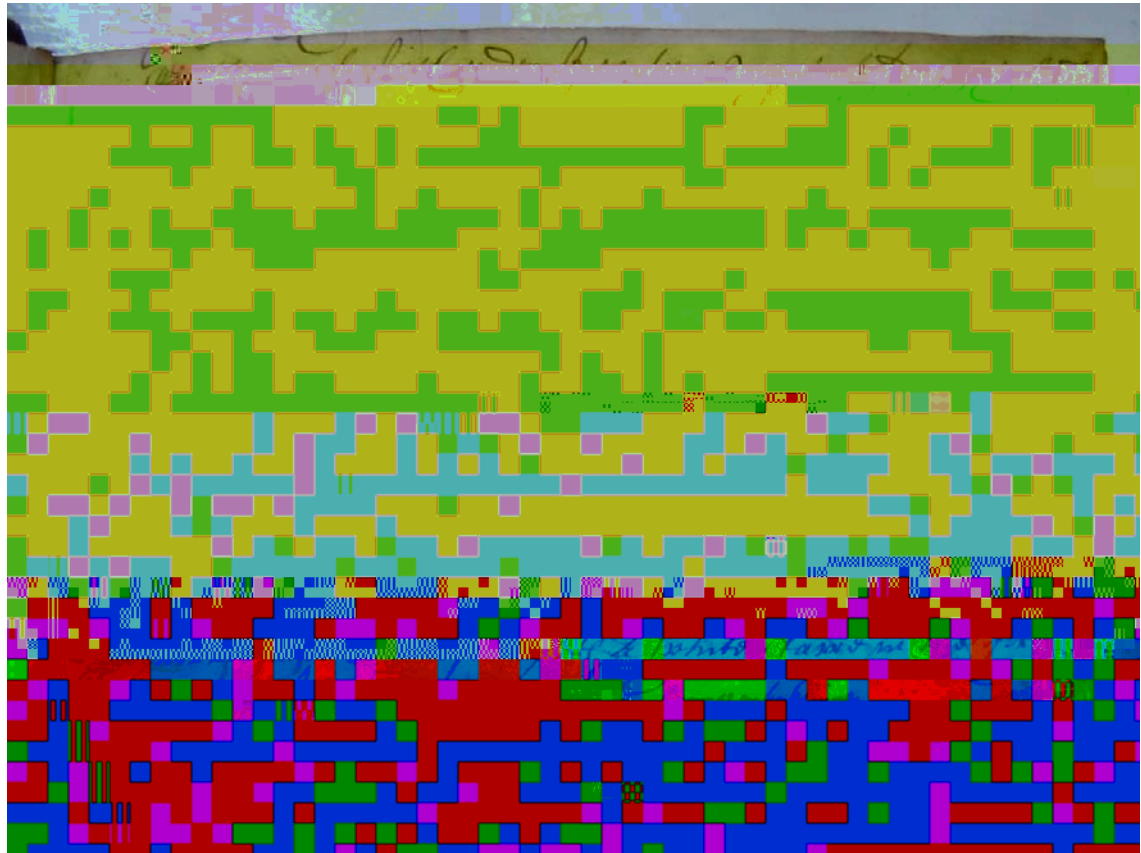
**Manuscript Waste:
Fragments of the Manuscript of the English translation of Biondi s Donzella desterrada
(1635)**

Many Oxford books of the sixteenth and seventeenth century had their bindings strengthened internally by the addition of waste manuscript, and frequently this still survives open an Oxford book bound in the 1590s, say, and you may well find its hinges toughened by the addition of a layer of fourteenth-century vellum manuscript. Printed waste, on paper, was also used, and by the seventeenth century, paper paste-downs had all but replaced their parchment predecessors.

It is however slightly unusual to find extensive manuscript material on paper virtually contemporary with a seventeenth-century book in which it is being used as binding reinforcement. New College s copy of the Andreas Schott s educational manual *Adagia sive proverbia Graecorum Zenobio seu Zenodoto Diogeniano & Suidæ collectaneis* (Antwerp, 1612) is one such book (BT3.171.4(1); item (2) in the volume is the same author s similarly-intent *Adagia sacra Novi Testamenti Græco-Latina* (Antwerp, 1629)).

Fortunately we can fix the arrival of this volume into the college s collections, as it bears a donation inscription from Ralph Riggs, sometime scholar, who gave the book in 1624 . He is in fact listed in the Benefactors Register as having bequeathed this book, as well as two others, in 1634 (p. 80). His bequests at his death were the Jesuit Theophilus Raynaudus s (*Thøophile Raynaudus De virtutibus et vitiis ... tractatus* (Leiden, 1631) (BT3.134.5) and the famous Dutch scholar Massius s evergreen textbook on rhetoric (possibly the 1630 edition at BT3.73.2, otherwise lost). At any rate, the publication date of Raynaudus s book shows that 1624 is the date for Riggs s death; it is quite common for the Benefactors Register to be misleading in this respect.

Now it is striking that the Schott volume has been bound using endpapers cut from seventeenth-century manuscripts roughly contemporary with both the publication and the binding of this volume. There are two leaves front in continuous secretary hand, scarcely mutilated at all and eminently legible, commencing with *by sight vnder seaventeene yeeres of adge, his shield painted a violet browne besprinkled with rest[e] / on the footstall st[and], and not farre thence st[ood] / grazeing a horse of such perfections, as nothing that ten[ded] / to singularity was wanteing in him. The text then continues for several paragraphs. At the back of the book there is further material from a different text and in a different hand.*



Thanks to the fun-spoiling marvel of the internet resource Early English Books Online it takes but a few moments, at least in this case, to establish from which book the pages at the front of the volume derive. They match exactly the text of the English translation of Giovanni (Gian) Francesco Biondi, *Donzella desterrada, or the Banish'd Virgin* Englished by I.H. of Graies Inne, Gent (London: T. Cotes, for Humphrey Mosley, 1635), commencing near the foot of p. 16. The new writer Giovanni Francesco Biondi (1572-1644), a native of Lesinada, had early embraced the Protestant faith, and with the encouragement of the ambassador Henry Wotton, Biondo emigrated to England, where he married the sister of the famous court physician de Mayerne; he eventually died in Switzerland, having fled the incipient Civil War in the thirties as a courtly Italian on the English scene he was an attractive figure for a young Inns of Court lawyer going places. This young man was James Hayward, at the end of his preface to *Banish'd Virgin* and indeed the same man had recently translated another of Biondi's three novellas of this period under the title *Erdmerfa, or Love and Revenge* (London: Richard Badger for Robert Allot, 1632). In Oxford today, there is a copy of this edition in the Bodleian, and two in the English Faculty, whereas there are *The Banish'd of Virgin* in the Bodleian (one apparently missing), and one in Jesus College.

The first edition of *Donzella desterrada* was published in Venice, 1627, and so the text of the translation can only have been composed and written down after this date and before its first printing in English in 1635. The wording of the manuscript fragments in the

¹ He plays a cameo in Hugh Trevor-Roper's *Europe's Physician: The Various Life of Sir Theodore De Mayerne* (New Haven, 2006), esp. pp. 203-4, 257, 313, 413n.26.

New College binding and the wording of the printed text are exactly the same bar differences of orthography, and so our manuscript fragments be the source for, from the source for, or just conceivably from a later copy of, the published text. Given that binders bought paper waste by weight from others involved in the book trade, it is plausible that the fragments in the New College copy are themselves part of the original manuscript from which the printed translation was set. This can in fact be demonstrated by comparing the corrections made to the MS against the printed edition. Looking solely at the first page alone of the MS, we have:

1. The first legible word on the page is deleted, but the replacement, being inserted above the line, has been lost through cropping. The deletion is Gentleman,
2. In the seventh to eighth lines, in the phrase full of vaines & nerves , an extended [bracket has been inserted before and around [of , and seemingly keyed to a notation in the margin resembling 20 athwart a D 4 .
3. In the eighth line and beautified has been corrected to was beautified
4. In the ninth line short prick t vp eares has been emended to adordnd with short thinne prick t vp eares ; likewise goatish eye has been expanded to goatish large sparkling eye ; and likewise his puft to his nostrells were flaggy puft
5. In the tenth line as it discovered has been emended to as theare lay discovered , and between to and wide has been inserted the long addition above the line the

Moore also noted the presence in the back-endpapers of more manuscript waste, from some Explication of the Psalms. Only one leaf survives, although cropped; a second manuscript leaf from the same text has been almost entirely excised. The legible material is indeed from a biblical commentary on Psalms, here Psalm 119, verses 89-91. The commentary is a cento of previous commentators, being in order for verse 89 Musculus, Theodoretus, Bellarmine, and Lyra, all in Latin. There is also a deleted cross-reference to the scholars Mollerus and Jansenius. At verse 90 there is placed in the margin the sign Bbbb9 athwart a 285, another printer's mark, and the sign of a lengthy book, possibly a duodecimo. The first authority quoted here is The Bishop of Galloway, whose comment commences As he collected the certainty of Gods word, by the indurance of hea[ven] For verse 91 the Bishop of Gall t11.8(by)-ay7(mm)6. (n)-.14(al 285gar f)-ithe is a .4(m)6.7(m)6.7

here!What we are looking for is an English-published
commentators, Latin and English, but the W* n6i46 cm /Im23 Do Q q 50.866 O O 56.e7as I ha6.3

Appendix:

Page images from the printed book:

