

MISCELLANEA

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JOHN P. CUTTS

ROGER SMITH, HIS BOOKE

BISHOP SMITH'S PART-SONG BOOKS
IN
CARLISLE CATHEDRAL LIBRARY



AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF MUSICOLOGY

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Director

BISHOP SMITH'S PART-SONG BOOKS

BY

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INTRODUCTION

At long last it is possible to do something like justice to Bishop Smith's MS. Part-Song Books whose history has been chequered indeed. Two MS. Part-Song Books, Altus, and Bassus, now housed in the library of the Chapter of Carlisle Cathedral, were the subjects of interesting articles by James Walter Brown in *The Cornhill Magazine* for 1920-1921,¹ into whose possession they had most fortuitously come. He had received them in February 1917 from a widow of a friend with a letter saying 'I found the enclosed among my husband's books, and thought they might be of interest to you. If so, please keep them; if not, burn them.' Brown remembered his friend claiming to have bought them from an old book-stall (he couldn't remember exactly where, but he thought it was in Edinburgh), and realizing how narrowly they had escaped destruction determined that their proper home was the "Bodleian library in Oxford, where they were copied and 'sowne together' nearly 300 years ago." In the Bodleian they would then be readily accessible to students rather than in the Chapter library of Carlisle Cathedral where he had first thought of placing them, and where they might easily suffer from days of transition in which the continued existence of Deans and Chapters was itself precarious.

The part-books never got to the Bodleian: they are indeed in the Cathedral library at Carlisle. By kind permission of the Cathedral Chapter I have been provided with a complete microfilm of the two part-books, and am now presenting their first systematic detailed description after a preliminary investigation has revealed that they do contain materials that to the best of my knowledge have not proved extant elsewhere.

Apparently Brown held on to the part-books personally for some time, judging from a note pencilled in the manuscript itself to the effect that he sent the MS. books "to D^r. E. H. Fellowes/13th. March 1924" and "Received them back/31 May 1924," and also from his

¹ James Walter Brown, "An Elizabethan Song-Cycle," *The Cornhill Magazine*, XLVIII (1920), 572-9; "Some Elizabethan Lyrics," *The Cornhill Magazine*, LI (1921), 285-296.

Bishop Smith's Song Books so-called Altus Book

Item	MS. No.	MS. Pagine-ation	Part Scoring	First line	How written out despite the fact that Altus figures at the top of many leaves.
1	1	[1]	3 Voc.	A Sea-Nymph sate vpon y ^e shore	Treble G Clef 5 staves
2	2	[2]	3 Voc.	The Coblers wife of o ^r towne	Treble G Clef 4 staves
3	-	bottom of [2]	3 Voc.	Now wee are mett, &c. (no more words here but more in Bassus)	Treble G Clef 1 stave
4	3	[3-4]	3 Voc.	I liue, & yet methinkes I do not breath	C Clef 1st line 6 staves
5	4	[4]	3 Voc.	Fower armes, two neckes, one wreathing	head attr. "Wilby" 3 staves
6	5	[5]	3 Voc.	O dulce mia Clori, o Clori mia bella	Treble G Clef head attr. "Weelkes" 3 staves
7	6	[6-7]	3 Voc.	As faire as morne, as fresh as may	C Clef 1st line 2 staves
8	7	8	3 Voc.	Wee happy heardsmen here, may singe & eke reioyce	C Clef 1st line 8 staves
9	8	8	3 Voc.	Doe but consider this small dust	Medius at top of [6-7]attr. "Wilby" 2 staves
				Extra verses to "Wee happy heardsmen &c." at top Latin verse "Perspicuus vitro" subscribed "Hier: Amalthus, alias HE" at bottom.	C Clef 2nd line 2 staves
				Blank — bearing impressions of verses on p. 9	Treble G Clef 3 staves
					attr. "Alf. Ferabosce"