

Polevshchykova E. V.,

Candidate of Historical Sciences (Ph. D.),

Chief Bibliographer of the Scientific Library

Odessa I. I. Mechnikov National University

24 Preobragenskaya St., Odessa, 65082, Ukraine

tel.: (048) 722 12 10

e-mail: library@onu.edu.ua

ON THE PROVENANCE OF THE SEVENTEENTH-CENTURY ENGLISH BOOKS FROM THE VORONTSOV COLLECTION OF THE ODESSA UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Summary

The article provides information about the seventeen-century prints from the Vorontsov collection of the Scientific Library of the Odessa national I. I. Mechnikov University aiming at tracing the provenance of the copies. The attention is paid to the owners' inscriptions as well as other records left on the books.

Key words: early printed editions, seventeenth-century English books, Vorontsov collection, provenance, owners' inscriptions.

The largest and most prestigious private collection forming a part of the library stocks of the Odessa I. I. Mechnikov national University is the Vorontsov collection. The noble Russian family the Vorontsovs can be regarded as distinguished bibliophiles [3; 9]. Reading and book collecting had been cultivated by several generations of the family, and the libraries stored in their residences in Saint-Petersburg, Moscow, Odessa, Alupka (Crimea) and near Belaya Tserkov in the Kiev region were on a par with prominent private books collections in the empire. According to the will of the last male descendant of the family, prince Semyon Mikhaïlovich Vorontsov (1823-1882), the library of the Vorontsov palace in Odessa was given to the Novorossiyski (Odessa) University in the late 19th century. Since then it has been stored in the University Library as a separate book collection containing about 52 thousand volumes in numerous languages.

Similarly to other private book collections formed in Russia in the 18th and 19th centuries, French editions of the Ancien régime predominated in the Vorontsovs' libraries. Nevertheless, a few thousand books on history, politics and economy, philosophy and religion, descriptions of travels and belles-lettres published in English in Great Britain in the 16th -19th centuries as well as some dozens of periodicals, music and albums of engravings prove the significance of English books and periodicals in the Vorontsov library.

The Vorontsovs had a reputation as Anglophiles [2, p. 109, 228, 330; 11]. A count Alexander Romanovich (1742-1805) and his younger brother Semyon Romanovich (1744-1832) as well as the son of the latter Mikhaïl (1782-1856) and aforementioned Semyon Mikhaïlovich had personal experience of living in England which made them enthusiastic supporters of English culture and way of life. In March 1762 Alexander Romanovich Vorontsov was nominated a minister plenipotentiary in London where he stayed for about two years and left his residence at 6, Clifford street on the 9th of

December 1763. As to his younger brother, Semyon Romanovich resided in Britain from 1785 until his death in 1832, being the Russian ambassador to the Kingdom of Great Britain in 1785-1800 and to the United Kingdom in 1801-1806. His son Mikhaïl, who became an outstanding administrator and a man of war known for his heroic deeds in the war against Napoleon, later nominated a governor of the southern provinces of the Russian Empire called Novorossiia, was brought up in England till he left for Saint-Petersburg in the age of nineteen. It is worth mentioning that count Mikhaïl's sister Yekaterina Semyonovna Vorontsova (1784-1856) married, on 25 January 1808, an English peer, lieutenant general and politician George Augustus Herbert, 11th Earl of Pembroke and 8th Earl of Montgomery (1759-1827) as his second wife and became Countess of Pembroke, the chatelaine of Wilton House Wiltshire, often visited by her father and brother.

The Vorontsovs' interest and sympathy for British culture inevitably influenced reading preferences of the members of the family members as well as the composition of their libraries. A number of English books from Vorontsov Libraries in Odessa and Alupka have already been treated in several articles [1; 3]. Yet various parts of the collection, namely early printed books are worth considering.

Our attention was drawn to a small selection of the seventeenth-century editions printed in Great Britain. It includes 71 early modern English books (in 72 copies) printed between 1603 and 1700 in English (65 units), French (5 units) and Latin (1 unit). Twelve publications appeared in the Jacobean and the Caroline era, seven books (in eight copies) were printed during the turbulent years of the Interregnum while the printing of the Stuart Restoration is presented by 52 editions. There are works on history and genealogy (15 units), religion and morality (3 units) as well as political pamphlets (3 units), travels (2 units) and tracts on architecture and silviculture along with 46 printed records of early British drama dominating this part of the collection. The paper deals with the provenance of this part of the Vorontsov collection conserved in the University library in Odessa.

It should be noted that during their lifetime the library owners used to hold some more valuable early modern English books, e. g. *A choice of emblemes, and other devises, for the moste parte gathered out of sundrie writers, Englished and moralized. And divers newly devised by Geffrey Whitney* (Leyden, 1586), *Foure bookes of husbandrie, collected by M. Conradus Heresbachius ... and increased by Barnabe Googe...* (At London : printed [at Elliot's Court Press] for John Wight, 1586), *The historie of Frier Rush : how he came to a house of religion to seeke seruice, and being entertained by the priour was first mande vnder Cooke...* (Imprinted at London : By Edw. All-de ..., 1620), *The royall game of chesse-play sometimes the recreation of the late King, with many of the nobility by Gioachino Greco* (London, 1656) which since the 1930s have been conserved in the Odessa National Scientific library. One sixteenth-century edition (*The arte of vvarre. Beeing the only rare booke of*

Myllitarie profession by William Garrard (London, 1591) is still held by the Vorontsov collection of the University Library.

As the Vorontsov book collection was being built up over more than one generation, it is not always possible to assert with certainty which books were acquired by one or another owner before all the collections were accumulated by M. S. Vorontsov. The manuscript inventories of different parts of the family library could shed light on this problem. Much to our regret, we were not able to work systematically with those documents as they are stored in various archives in Moscow and St. Petersburg, as well as in the Alupka Palace. Therefore, we have to come to nothing more than some examples.

One of the documents of the Vorontsov family archive mentions a *Catalogue of a part of the London Library of Count Alexander Romanovich Vorontsov*, dated 1760 [4, f. 86]. The catalogue itself has not yet been discovered, but the information about it is quite significant. Having singled out the seventeenth-century English editions recorded in another library catalogue, compiled in 1766 in the Netherlands [6], it can be assumed that *Histoire entiere & veritable du proces de Charles Stuart, Roy d'Angleterre* (Londres, 1650)¹ and *An historical account of the lives and most memorable actions of our English nobility...* (London, 1675) could be among the books and periodicals acquired by Alexander Romanovich during his stay in British capital².

According to the *Catalogue raisonné des Livres de la Bibliothèque de son Excellence le Comte Woronzow* (London, 1824) a number of early printed English books including *Voyages and Travels of the Ambassadors sent by Frederick Duke of Holstein...* by A. Olearius (London, 1662) and *The ancient and present state of Muscovie, containing a geographical, historical and political account of all those nations and territories under the jurisdiction of the present Czar* (London: A.Roper and A.Bosvile, 1698) could be held by Semyon Romanovich Vorontsov³ [8, f. 146, 235].

As to Mikhail Semyonovich Vorontsov, he acquired English early printed books during his frequent visits to Great Britain, some of them bearing the owner's notes about those purchases (see below). Besides, a list titled *Livres rares et curieux, Aldes, Elzevirs &c.* of the catalogue of the library of the count M. S. Vorontsov compiled in Odessa in 1834 contains the following notes: *acheté à Londres en 1817; acheté à Londres en 1819; himself à Londres en 1819; acheté à Londres en 1832; envoie de Londres Xbre 1834* [9, f. 54-56].

In 1844, count Mikhail Vorontsov was raised to princely dignity (since 1852 with the title of Serene Highness). He was succeeded in his titles by his son Semyon who ordered to mark books, periodicals, printed music and cartographic editions held in the family libraries in St. Petersburg,

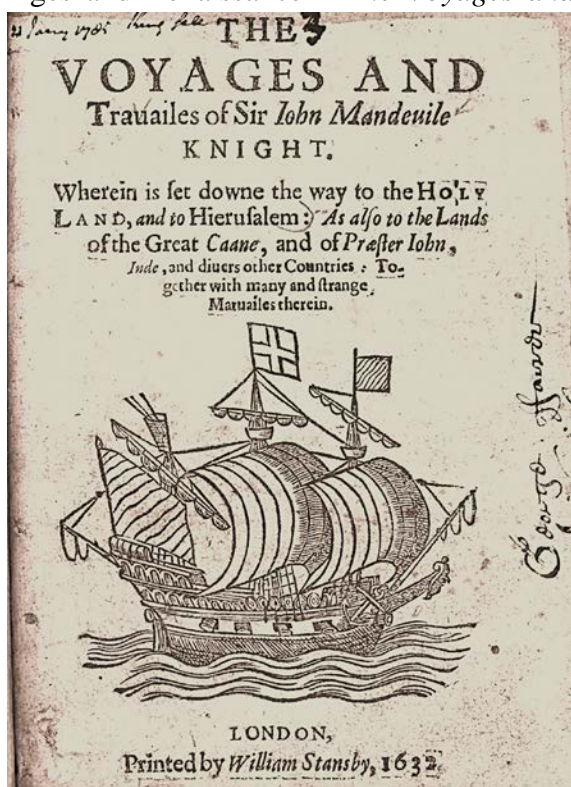


III. 1

What can we learn about early owners of these volumes? Let us try to follow marks of provenance left on some copies of the seventeenth-century English books from the collection.

Identification of inscriptions in early prints is very often a challenge for librarians and book historians. A directory of historical book owners *Book Owners Online* authored by a book historian David Pearson as well as his electronic publication *English book owners in the seventeenth century* available in the Internet are exceptionally helpful [5; 17].

These tools helped identify the earliest ownership inscription from the studied fragment of the Vorontsov collection. It was left on the title page of one of the most popular books of the Middle Ages and Renaissance – *The Voyages and Trauailes of Sir Iohn Mandeuile knight ...* (London :



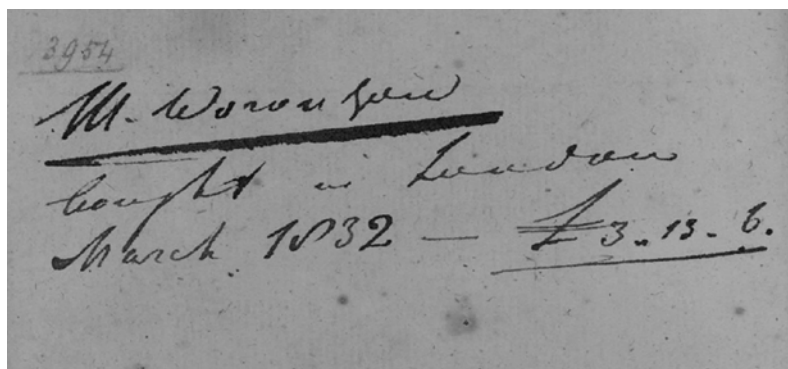
III. 2

printed by William Stansby, 1632) (ill.2). We suggest the inscription *george ffawler* may belong to George Fawler, one of the seventeenth-century book owners listed by David Pearson in his directory. We can learn from the biographical note that George Fawler (1607/1608-ca 1680?) born in Chipping Norton, Oxfordshire was a minister at Bridewell, London in 1643-1662. He was licensed to preach, as a presbyterian, at his house in Islington, 1672 [5; 17]. As to Fawler's books, they were sold by auction in London by Edward Millington, 30 May 1681, as part of a joint sale of the books of Fawler, George Lawson, Owen Stockton and Thomas Brooks [5; 17].

According to the information held in modern catalogues and data bases *Mandeville's Travel* printed by William Stansby can be considered rather scarce [7, p. 14; № 89]. The copy from

Vorontsov's book collection is in good condition even though the leaf with a woodcut map following the title page (A₂) is absent. When bound, the pages of the copy were trimmed so that we can see the owner's name on the title page, but the whole record cannot be distinguished. Another note left in the upper left corner of the title page must deal with the acquisition of the book at the auction of a London bookseller and auctionist Thomas King: *21 Jan[uar]y 1785 King sale*⁴.

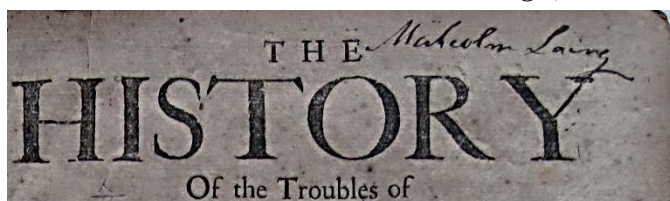
A note in pencil on fly-leaf of the book containing information about the copy could have been made by a bookseller: *very rare £ 3. 13. 6*. That was just the price count Vorontsov bought it for: he



also made a note on fly-leaf adding the date, place and price of the purchase: *M. Woronzow | bought in London | March 1832 £ 3.13.6* (ill. 3). Another note in pencil (3954) may be a sale-number or an accession-number.

Ill. 3

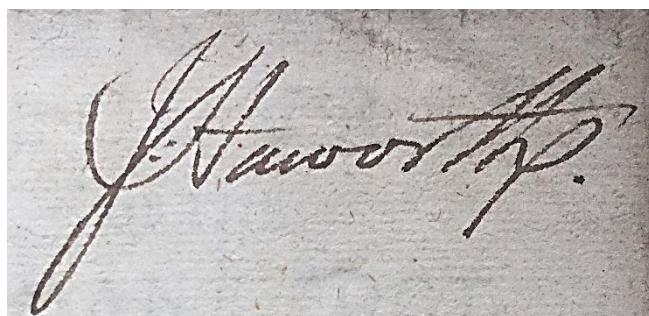
A Scottish historian *Malcolm Laing* (1762-1818) [see 14] left his name on the title page of a



copy of *The History Of the Troubles of Suethland and Poland* (London : Printed by Thomas Roycroft for Thomas Dring, ..., 1656) by John Fowler (ill. 4)

Ill. 4

Another autograph *J. Haworth* was left on fly-leaf of *A Discovrse of the Roman Foot, and Denarius...* by John Greaves (London : Printed by M. F. for William Lee ..., 1647) (ill. 5). On



genealogy sites there is brief information on James Haworth (1642-1684) and his younger son James Haworth (ca 1680-1732) both born in Rockcliffe (Parish of Rockdale, historic county of Lancashire, England) but we have no other evidence to confirm or refute this assumption [13; 15; 16].

Ill. 5

We haven't managed to find any information on a certain **J. Sympson** who left his name on the title page of a copy of Nathaniel Lee's play *The Rival Queens, or, the Death of Alexander the Great...*

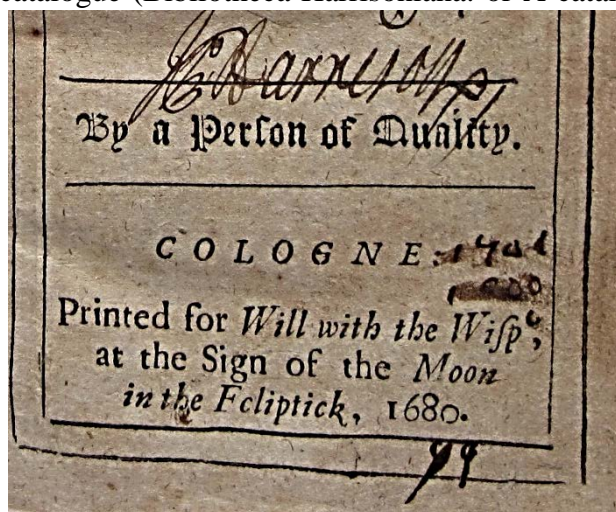


(London : Printed for James Magnes and Richard Bently ..., 1677) which is bound with other copies of early English printed drama (ill. 6).

Ill. 6

It should be noted that the title page of another play in the collection (*Themistocles, the lover of his country...* by Samuel Madden printed in London for R. King in 1729) bears a stamp **JOHN*SIMPSON**.

It can be assumed that *The Secret History of the most renowned Q. Elizabeth, and the E. of Essex* (Cologne : Printed for Will with the Wisp, 1680) bearing an inscription **J. G. Harrison** belonged to John Harrison (ill. 7). According to the biographical note presented by D. Pearson, it could be a physician in Colchester (Essex) John Harrison (d. ca.1706?) whose library was auctioned in London in 1706 [5; 17]. Once again we regret that inaccessibility of a bookselling catalogue (*Bibliotheca Harrisoniana: or A catalogue of books, being the library of Dr. Harrison ...*

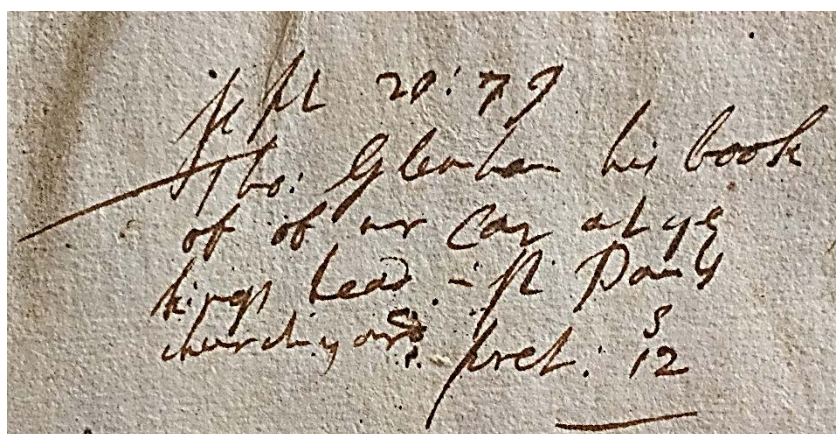


late of Colchester; containing a curious collection of the most valuable physical and anatomical authors ... / Which will begin to be sold by auction on Thursday, Feb. 28. 1706[London] : catalogues delivered ... by Mr. King ..., Mr. Barnes ..., Mr. Curll ..., Mr Hartly ..., Mr. Knapton ...[and 2 others] [1706]) makes it impossible to confirm our assumptions.

Ill. 7

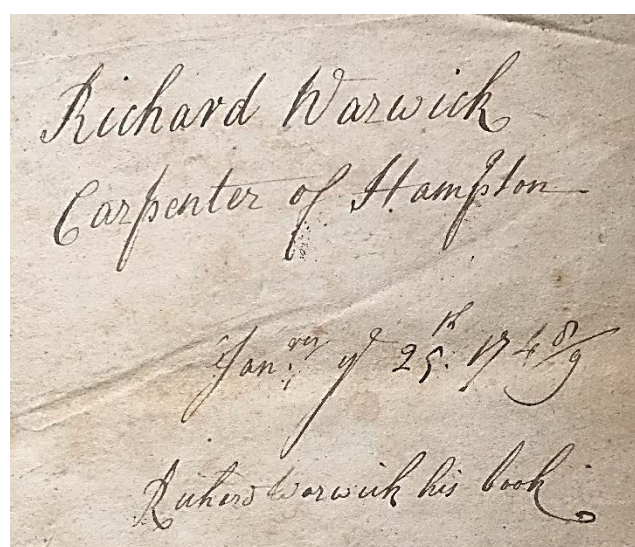
Besides an owner's autograph one can see dates calculations (book age calculations) on the title page as well as on the reverse of the frontispiece made in ink in 1700 and 1701. There is also a shelf-mark **F. A. n° (20)** in the upper part of the reverse of the frontispiece.

Apart from owners' autographs seventeenth-century English books from the Vorontsov library contain more detailed inscriptions and notes as well as marginal annotations. Here is an inscription on fly-leaf of the copy of *The history of Appian of Alexandria ...* (London : Printed for John Amery ..., 1679): **Sept 20 :79 | Tho: Glemham his book | of of [...] at the [?] | Kings head St Pauls | church yard [pret?]: 12^s** (ill. 8). We suggest that the book could be bought by Thomas Glemham on September 20, 1679 at the King's-Head in St. Paul's Church-Yard for 12 shillings (some words turned out to be illigible for the author of the article). It is possible that the books belonged to Thomas Glemham (ca 1647-1704) of Glemham Hall, Little Glemham in Suffolk. According to biographical



data he got his education in Trinity College in Oxford (1665) and held a number of offices. He was elected to the Parliament (for the last time in 1690) being the last of the family to sit in Parliament [12].

Ill. 8



A copy of English translation of Vincenzo Scamozzi's tract *The Mirror of Architecture : or the Ground-Rules of the Art of Building...* (London : Printed for Richard Mount, at the Postern on Tower-Hill, 1700) belonged to Richard Warwick who left a detailed inscription on upper fly-leaf of the book: **Richard Warwick | Carpenter of Hampton. | Jan.^{ry} [the] 25th 1748/9 | Richard Warwick his book** (ill. 9).

Ill. 9

Here is a commentary of the first owner of the copy of *The present State of the Greek and Armenian Churches, Anno Christi 1678* by a famous historian Paul Rycaut (1628-1799) printed in London for John Starkey in 1679 written on fly-leaf of the book:

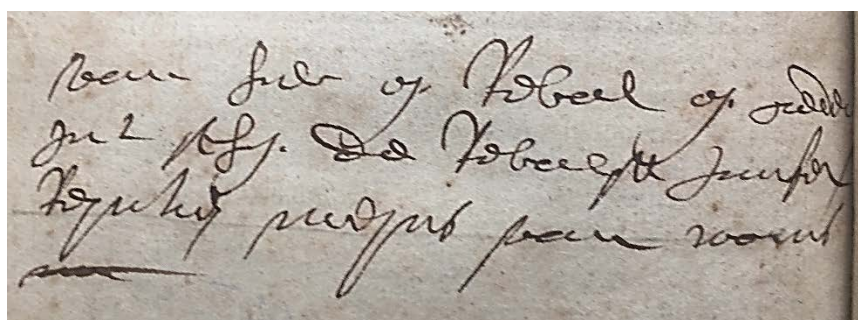
N | Solomon Gregory Priestly a Member | of the Greek Church & Sanjock of | Mesopotamia assur'd me that | S^r Paul Ricauts account of the | Greek Church contain'd in this Book | was agreable to the present Practice | of the X^{ians} in Mesopatamia | N: Crawley 1737 | C. Cole.

Charles Cole (1711-1771) is known to be a rector of the Parish Church of St Firmin in North Crawley, Buckinghamshire (was appointed in 1717) [10; 18].

Some decades later, in March 1806, the book was bought in London by count Mikhail Vorontsov who made a short note in Russian on the second fly-leaf: *Куплено въ Лондонѣ | Мартъ 1806 | Г. Мих. Воронцовъ* [Bought in London March 1807 C. Mikh. Vorontsov].

The copy of the third edition of a famous book on forestry by John Evelyn *Sylva, or, A discourse of forest-trees, and the propagation of timber in His Majesties dominions ...* (London : Printed for John Martyn ..., 1679) has numerous marginal annotations of the book owner who highlighted items that were of interest for him but left his name unknown.

A bibliographical note on the title page of an anonymous tragedy *The bloodie banquet. By T. D.* (London : printed by Thomas Cotes, 1639) attributing the play to Thomas Barker (*anon. by some ascribed to Tho. Ba[rker]*) must have been written in the 19th century. However, the price of the print 5 d could have been left much earlier as well as some notes on the reverse of the last page (ill. 10) containing a date *Jn 2 1689* (?) (the whole remark is illegible).



Ill.10

A citation in Latin *Quis nisi mentis inops obl[atun] | respuat aur[um]?^f* written in ink on the title page of another seventeenth-century play *The History and Fall of Caius Marius...* (London : printed for Tho. Flesher..., 1680) by Thomas Otway is an anonymous comment.

We are aware that information on different kinds of provenance marks (autographs, signatures, shelf-marks, sale-numbers, comments, marginal and bibliographical notes) on the seventeenth-century English prints from the Vorontsov collection of the University Library needs to be precised, added and corrected. Nevertheless, the author hopes that sharing these data can be of interest for colleagues as well as bibliophiles.

Notes

¹ The Vorontsov collection of the University library holds two copies of the book. Another one could have been purchased by either S. R. Vorontsov or his son.

² The same catalogue also contains a record of *Memoire pour servir a l'histoire D'Angleterre, concernant la mort du dernier Comte D'Essex* (A Londres : chez Henri Cadman..., 1685) by Robert Ferguson but the book itself has not been found in the Vorontsov library in Odessa.

³ Since the 1930s the books have been conserved in the Odessa National Scientific library.

⁴ Much to our regret, T. King's bookselling catalogue (A catalogue of books, in all languages, arts and sciences; containing several valuable parcels, lately purchased, generally in good condition, ... Which will begin selling February 1785 / by Thomas King. – [London, 1785]), which may contain information on this edition, is not available to the present author.

⁵ *Who, unless mad, will off' red Gold refuse?* (from *Epigrammata* by John Owen (Ioannes Audoenus)

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Полевщикова О. В.,

головний бібліограф Наукової бібліотеки

Одеського національного університету імені І. І. Мечникова

вул. Преображенська, 24, м. Одеса, 65082, Україна

тел.: (048) 722 12 10

e-mail: library@onu.edu.ua

ПРО ПРОВЕНІЄНЦІЇ АНГЛІЙСЬКИХ КНИГ XVII СТОЛІТТЯ З ВОРОНЦОВСЬКОЇ КОЛЕКЦІЇ БІБЛОТЕКИ ОДЕСЬКОГО УНІВЕРСИТЕТУ

У статті подано відомості про гравюри XVII ст. із Воронцовської колекції Наукової бібліотеки Одеського національного університету імені І. І. Мечникова з метою встановлення походження копій. Приділено увагу написам власників та іншим записам, залишеним у книгах.

Ключові слова: стародруки, англійські книги XVII ст., Воронцовська колекція, провенієнції, власницькі написи.