

11912.d 20

Frontispice des "Mémoires de Gibbon, recueillies et publiées par
Lord Bunsfield, traduites de l'anglais, PARIS an V.

ms. B. 1. 1. 11



EDOUARD GIBBON.

Triturant sa prise de Tabac.

D'après la découpe faite par Madame Brown en 1793.

Frontispice des "Mémoires de Gibbon, recueillis et publiés par Lord Sheffield, traduits de l'anglais, PARIS en V.

The LIBRARY of EDWARD GIBBON

Bader (Paul-Louis)
=K

=====

In the "Memoirs of the Life of Edward Gibbon by himself" edited by George Birbeck Hill, can be found some allusions to the library of Gibbon. We read under the date 1758-60:

"If, in a more domestic or more dissipated scene my application was somewhat relaxed, the love of knowledge was inflamed and gratified by the command of books and I compared the poverty of Lausanne with the plenty of London. My Father's study at Buriton was stuffed with much trash of the last age, with much high church divinity and politics which have long since gone to their proper place, yet it contained some valuable editions of the classics and the fathers....., and many English publications of the times had been occasionally added. From this slender beginning I have gradually formed a numerous and select library, the foundation and best comfort of my life, both home and abroad. On the receipt of the first quarter, a large share of my allowance was appropriated to my library wants. I cannot forget the joy with which I exchanged a bank-note of L 20 for the twelve volumes of the Memoirs of the Academy of Inscriptions, nor would it have been easy by any other expenditure of the same sum to have procured so large and lasting a fund of rational amusement....."

The review of my library must be reserved for the period of its maturity, but ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ in this place I may allow myself to observe that I am not conscious of having bought a book from a motive of ostentation, that every volume, before it was deposited on the shelf, was either read or sufficiently examined, and that I soon adopted the tolerating maxim of the elder Pliny: "Nullum esse

librum tam malum ut non ex aliqua parte prodesset" (1).....

"1784. In the disposal of my effects (before moving from London to Lausanne) the library, a sacred deposit, was alone excepted. The chosen part of my library is now arrived (at Lausanne) and arranged in a room full as good as in Bentinck street (London), with the difference indeed, that instead of looking on a stone court twelve square, I command from three windows of plate glass, an unbounded prospect of many league of vineyard, of fields, of wood, of lake, and of mountains..." (Correspond. II. p. 118)

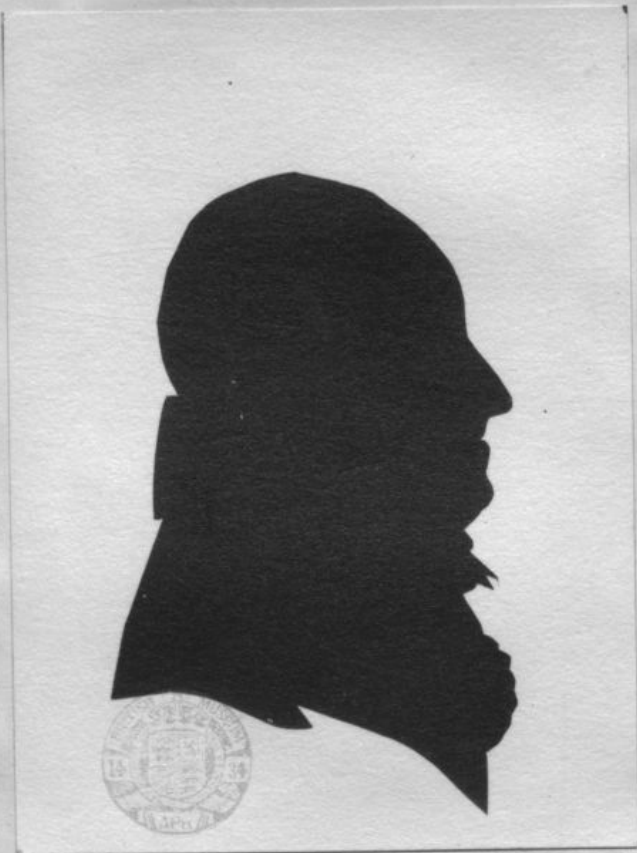
After the death of Gibbon in 1794, his library was divided into two lots. One was bequeathed to the Lausanne Academical Library (2), and the other was purchased ~~XXXXXXXX~~ by a countryman of his, William Beckford (3) who enjoyed all through his life the reputation of being an eager bibliophile. There is consequently nothing astonishing about the statement he ~~XXXX~~ is said to have made to Cyrus Redding (4): "I bought Gibbon's library to have something to read when I passed through Lausanne. I shut myself up for six weeks, from early in the morning until night, only now and then taking a ride. The people thought me mad. I read myself nearly blind".

(1) No book is so bad, that it could ~~XXXXX~~ not be of some use.

(2) L. Dupraz. The Cantonal and University Library at Lausanne. Historical notice, L. 1905, p. 18 and notes on same: "Among those of which the Academy prides itself most of having received kindness, there is one man whose long stay in Lausanne contributed to make this town famous: this man was Gibbon. He bequeathed books to this town, the list of which has been lost in all probability. A number of volumes still bear Gibbon's ex-libris.

(3) L. Seylaz, "Vathek, a curious phase of literary history", "William Beckford in Switzerland", and "Gibbon's Library" in the Gazette de Lausanne of Lausanne of 4th. Sept., ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ 28th August and 9th. Octobre 1932. See also a very detailed article by H. Perrochon "A friend of Gibbon" in the gazette de Lausanne 1st May 1932.

(4) New Monthly Magazine, 1844, II, p. 307



Le Docteur F,-A. SCHOLL en 1814

Beckford was a peculiar kind of person; his income was huge, he was in perpetual reaction against his set, his country and his epoch. Having spent his youth in Geneva, where he met Voltaire, Charles Bonnet, H.-B. de Saussure, Huber, he lived at the Château de la Tour de Peilz up to the death of his wife. During the French Revolution, when in Paris, a dealer in old books succeeded in saving him from the guillotine. It was right that having saved so many books he was to be saved by his love for them. One of his well-known works "Vathek, Arab Tale" is a masterpiece. It is the story of a pompous caliph, in it one finds a little of everything, Voltaire and the Orient such as it was conceived during the XVIIIth century, but mostly a delicious irony. Beckford, an indefatigable reader, would remain cloistered in his apartments for weeks on end, devouring Gibbon's library, fearless of expressing his caustic vein even against Gibbon whom he reproaches of being witty at the expense of history, of ignoring oriental languages and of writing dully.....

There is nothing more changing, however, than the destiny of men, and this would apply as well to the mood of our excellent friend. Leaving Switzerland, Beckford retires to his castle of Fonthill and entrusts his books to his doctor and friend Frederic-Abraham Scholl. (1)

(1) Dr. F.-A. Scholl, of Bienne and Rossinières, died on 16th, January 1835, at 4 rue St. Pierre, Lausanne, aged 78. The house was rebuilt some 20 years ago and now forms a part of the rue de Bourg and bears the No 49. Scholl married a Miss Henchoz of Rossinières, and had 11 children by her. He was on very intimate terms with Gibbon and Beckford, and had practised successively at Morat, Vevey and Lausanne, where his charitable spirit often met with tokens of public gratitude.



THE HOLY
BIBLE
Containing the Old &
THE NEW
Newly translated out of the Original
Tongues and with the former
Translations diligently compared and revised
by his Majestie's speciall Comandement
appointed to be read in Churches
LONDON
Printed by Iohn Bill and Christopher
Barker Printers to his Majestie most
excellent Majestie King James the first
Cum 1663 Privilegio

COR mundum creavit me Deus Rex



Chap.
10.

10 6.

Edward



Having lost a part of his fortune, Beckford sold a part of Gibbon's Library (around 1822) to one of his countryman John Walter Halliday who had bought the old Château des Clées, near Vallorbe (1). Halliday eventually came to live at Satigny near Geneva, in a house "the appearance and situation of which had immediately captived his fanciful turn of mind". It is here he installed the fifteen hundred volumes he acquired from Gibbon's Library. There they remained until 1929, when a Genevese ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ bookseiler (P.-L. Bader) bought them in block (2); we shall return to this later on.

(1) The Château des Clées "was acquired around 1830 by an Englishman M. Halliday who converted the donjon into living quarters. He lived ~~KN~~ with his wife and servant for several years in this picturesque district which he loved. He sold the castle to the de Cerjat family after having had difficulties with the local authorities" (Mottaz, Dict. hist. du canton de Vaud, Lausanne 1913)

(2) Halliday sold Satigny around 1854 to the Bedot family, entrusting Gibbon's library to the care of Rev. C.J.A. Bedot. An excerpt from his "Journal" states:
 " 10th. March 1873.

Received from Mrs. Halliday a letter which reads as follows:
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ London, 7th. March 1873, to Mr. Bedot, Satigny, au Mandement-Genève.

Sir, Allow me (sic) Katherine Halliday, widow of John Walter Halliday, of Glenthorne in Devonshire, who by his will has appointed me sole executrix, to..... It is hence my duty to grant you ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Gibbon's Library. It all belongs to you. You have full possession of it as also all the other things entrusted to your care. It is yours to do with as you want, also it is my pleasure to offer it to you, as my dear husband always had the idea of making a gift of it to you".

(Mr Halliday succumbed at the aged of 79.....he died in 1872)

Extract of Mr. Bedot's answer to Mrs. Halliday, the 12th March 1873: ".....I am all the more grateful for this gift, as being the person entrusted with the library called Gibbon since close upon 19 years. I was sometimes concerned with the thought of its ultimate destination. The matter is settled at last, thanks to your kindness, and the memory of Mr. Halliday will certainly be respected in that, the Gibbon's library will be kept as far as possible in the same condition as it was when I purchased the country-place of Satigny....."

After the death of the Rev. Bedot, his son Maurice Bedot (1859-1929) Director of the Natural Science Museum of Geneva, carefully preserved the Gibbon library at Satigny. After his death, his widow Mrs Bedot-Diodati sold it to P.-L. Bader (in 1929).

5841
0-2-6 10

Plautus has given us a most excellent account of the Education of the Roman Youth. They were first instructed in the History of their own Country, & then went upon some Campaign, with a Person of Understanding who was called their Admiriculum.

Primum dum parentes fabri liberum suum,
Et fundamentum substituant liberorum,
Extollant, parant sedulo in fornicatam:
Ut et in usum boni, et speciem populo
Sint; sibi que aut materia ne parant.
Nec sumptus sibi sumptui esse ducant,
Expoliant, doceat literas, jura, leges:
Sumptu suo et labore nituntur, ut
Alii sibi esse illorum similes exoptant.
Ad legionem quam itant, admiriculum ei dant
Tum jam aliquem cognatum suum.
Laterus abeant a fabris.
Unum ibi emeritum est stipendium, igitur tum
Specimen cernitur, quo evociat edificatio.

Morseller. Act. I. Sc. II.

With regard to Gibbon's books which remained at Lausanne with Dr. Scholl, to whom Beckford had given them, they were sold by auction in 1835. (1)

What is to become of the Gibbon library now? Its present owner is firmly decided not to parcel it out. It will remain one, as far as he is concerned. Moreover, does not its principal value reside 1/ in the fact that it is an unit, and 2/ in the spirit with which it appears to have been animated when being formed with love and care by its maker.

It contains some remarkable works: the Bible which belonged to Gibbons Mother, and in which he began once more his Protestant education under the guidance of the venerable Rev. Pavillard at Lausanne, the "Treaty on the Administration of the Finances of France" gift from Mr. Necker, the fortunate husband of Suzanne Curchod, with whom Gibbon had been so madly in love; the complete works of Voltaire in the 1777 quarto edition illustrated by Gravelot.....all in splendid condition and bound in the sober style of the second half of the XVIIIth Century. Most of the books bear Gibbon's ex-libris, others have only a small label printed with the name of the great historian. Several contain marginal autographic notes; you will find on the flyleaf of Plautu's quarto edition (1595) several thoughts written by his hand (vide reproduction opposite).

Most of the books found in the present library contributed to the author's conception of the "Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire" and there is hardly any doubt but that he used them to compile his masterpiece, besides culling from their pages his most treasured thoughts.

(1) We read in the "Nouvelliste Vaudois" of May 22nd. 1835: "It is known that the illustrious Gibbon lived in Lausanne for a

long time and that he finished his great work on the decline and fall of the Roman empire here. A fact which is not so generally known is that he left his library here, a wealth of rare books and smart editions. A part of this precious collection was sold to an Englishman who placed it in the Château des Clées; the other part of it is to be sold at auction on the 22^d June and following days at the flat of Dr. Scholl, 4 rue St. Pierre. We want to warn amateurs of classical literature and sane erudition by mentioning this sale. We dare hope that some of these books will be acquired by the government. It is likely that many years will pass before we are able to fill at such small cost many of the gaps found in our cantonal library.

Genève, mars 1834

Antoine Rader.

It contains some remarkable works: the Bible which belonged to Gibbon's Mother, and in which he began once more his Protestant education under the guidance of the venerable Rev. Pavillard at Lausanne, the "Treaty on the Administration of the Finances of France" left from Mr. Necker, the fortunate husband of Suzanne Goussier, with whom Gibbon had been so madly in love; the complete works of Voltaire in the 1777 quarto edition illustrated by Gravelot..... all in splendid condition and bound in the superb style of the second half of the XVIIIth Century. Most of the books bear Gibbon's ex-libris, others have only a small label printed with the name of the great historian. Several contain marginal autographic notes; you will find on the flyleaf of Gibbon's quarto edition (1766) several thoughts written by his hand (vide reproduction opposite).

Most of the books found in the present library contributed to the author's conception of the "Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire" and there is hardly any doubt but that he used them to compile his masterpiece, besides cutting from their pages the most treasured thoughts.

(1) We read in the "Nouvelles Vues de la Suisse" of May 1834: "It is known that the illustrious Gibbon lived in Lausanne for a