

MAIN ENTRY: Ruhe, Edward L., 1923-1989.

"A list of books published by Edmund Curll 1706-1714"; and related papers.

DATES COVERED: 1675-1747; 1956; 1959-1972.

DATE WRITTEN: 1959-1972.

PLACE: (Ruhe): US: Kansas: University of Kansas

LANGUAGE: English

(and scholarly institutions in Britain and US)

(Curll): Great Britain: London

TYPE: Scholar's archives, unbound (typed draft bio/bibliography, with typed and MS notes, correspondence, clippings, etc): publishing history.

WARNING: Roughly sorted (anomalies probably still exist). Much on yellow paper and fairly FRAGILE. Material will have to be examined by librarian before and after circulation.

EXPLANATION:

Spencer Library has an outstanding collection of the publications of Edmund Curll (1675-1747), a publisher satirized by Pope as "The Unspeakable Curll" for his underhanded ways. Curll produced hundreds of books, almost all bibliographical conundrums; an unsatisfactory bio-bibliography by Ralph Straus was published in 1928. The core of the "Curll Collection" was bought from Peter Murray Hill in 1955, since when it has grown to ca. 800 titles. In 1960 [?] the "Curll Committee" (a group of English Department faculty) began to work on a replacement for Straus based on the KU holdings, and in 1961 received a University grant for the Project which continued until 1964. The principal and continuing investigator was Professor Edward Ruhe, assisted by the librarian Terrence Williams.

By 1965 Ruhe had prepared a fairly full typed list of all Curll publications 1706-1714, based on KU holdings, visits to libraries in the US and England, publishers' ads, etc. This list is arranged chronologically by apparent date of imprint, and includes data not in Straus, and titles for which no physical book has been found. It does not give collations, but does transcribe titles and narrate publication history. Ruhe's list is in a preliminary form, and some accompanying notes are not integrated into it. It was never used for a public description: most books in the Curll Collection are represented in the card catalogue only by brief cards.

Ruhe appears to have worked little on the Project after 1965. He died in 1989, and his papers were forwarded by Fred Whitehead (of Kansas City, Kansas) to the University Archives in spring 1991. There material concerning the Curll Project was sorted out, and sent to the Department of Special Collections to be used with the Curll Collection. (There may still be relevant material in the Archives, because the labels of the folders in which the papers in hand were kept seem not always to reflect actual contents.) The location of the worksheets is unknown. Some material in the Department's own files arising from the Project has now been added to Ruhe's files.

SUMMARY CONTENTS:

2 boxes and one oversize folder. (See Pages 3-6 for fuller list. The section names and descriptions are by the present cataloguer and do not appear on the material or its original folders unless they are in quotes.)

The first box contains MS 218A: the list itself, in folders A1-A6.

The second box contains supplementary material (MS 218B-L):

- B. The Curll Project: description, plans, lists of possible entries.
- C. Continuation of Project to 1715-1747.
- D. Notes for Curll biography.
- E. Early work and the Curll Committee: notes, etc setting up routines, etc.
Related correspondence 1960-1962 and n.d.
- F. Later Correspondence, 1963-1965; 1972-1973.

- G. Project: undated plans.
 - H. Project Grant: financial records, etc.
 - J. Description of Curll Collection, 1959.
 - K. A pre-Project Curll project, 1956.
 - L. Independent texts apparently used as sources of data.
- The folder is MS Q11:11 (described at end of section B).

BINDING: Mostly unbound

CONDITION: Fragile. Includes paper-clips, etc.

OTHER NOTES:

1. Three apparently non-Curll-related photostats were found in this group and returned to University Archives. They made up a poor and incomplete copy of Public Record Office C12/12:4/66. "C12" = Chancery Proceedings: Six Clerks Series: 1758-1800 section. Bills, answers, depositions, etc.

(Before 1842 the "Six Clerks" were virtually the solicitors acting for the plaintiffs or defendants in each Chancery suit. A "bill" here is a petition initiating an action in the Chancery Court. An "answer" was annexed by the defendant's "Six Clerk"; but later answers were filed elsewhere. The Six Clerks Series had not been calendared in Lists and Indexes by 1963. See Handbook of the Public Record Office.)

The document is a petition, apparently by Jacob Tonson and Richard Tonson (Milton's publishers), who had become possessed of the original manuscript of Paradise Lost, the Life of John Milton, and the Index or Table of Contents written by Elijah Fenton, through the will of Jacob Tonson [II] who d. 1735; they appear to be bringing a suit for infringement of copyright. The photostats are fairly illegible, and the name of the defendant is not obvious to the skimmer. From the dates of Jacob I, Jacob III, and Richard the petition must be dated between 1735 and 1767; if it is filed in the correct section it should be after 1758, and thus too late for Curll to be directly involved.

2. Note also C1054 in printed books: the Straus handlist interleaved (apparently by Straus) with notes, corrections, and printed descriptions of many titles "not in Straus" -- these notes apparently partly by Straus (who d. in 1950), and partly by others, including Peter Murray Hill. C1054 was acquired in 1960 from the Frank Hollings Bookshop, cat. 264. (Photocopy of Hollings description in MS Records.)

3. Difficulties in arriving at a Curll canon. 1) The name of Curll often did not appear on the title-pages of the books published by him, so that any list is bound to have arbitrary and unproveable inclusions. 2) There are books announced by contemporary advertisements of which no copy has yet been found; it is possible, however, that Curll actually brought them out under a different title. 3) Curll often re-issued a text with the original sheets attached to a totally new title. 4) Or he amended the textual contents attached to an old title. 5) Most of his publications were cheap, and therefore all copies of an issue may well have been discarded.

PROVENANCE: Papers of Professor Ruhe; also internal files of the Department of Special Collections "Collections: Curll". See Explanation above.

Source: Ben Ruhe (of Washington DC, Prof. Ruhe's brother), via Fred Whitehead.

Date of acq: 1991 spring

Date of processing: 1991 Sept 23; source updated 1992 March 25.

alh

NB: Further work, marking, carding advisable.

CONTENTS:

A. Revised version of "A List of Books Published by Edmund Curll 1706-1714". Typed, on FRAGILE yellow paper. With MS revisions, notes clipped or pasted to sheets, or laid in; some photocopies and correspondence laid in. Some stapling. HANDLE WITH GREAT CARE!

Parts A2-3, A5-A6 were each bound by a bulldog clip, but were otherwise loose. The Department discarded the clips, and put each clipped group in a separate folder.

Bulky: occupies a single box (5 inches).

DO NOT RE-ARRANGE THE PIECES!

A1. Introduction. (MS draft)

7 ff., partially stapled. Torn from an oversize spiral notebook, and folded once. Previously in folder (now discarded) marked "CURLL: PREFATORY", along with the Conspectus.

Begins "Part I. Introd. The dates of Curll's early life are few..."

A2. 1706-1708. Begins with typed title-page.

A3. 1708-1710.

A4. Sacheverell entries (all 1710?), notes, text. Found loose.

A5. 1711-1712.

A6. 1712-1715.

B. The Curll Project: description, plans, lists of possible entries.

B1. Conspectus and sample entries: 2 late-draft copies (typed and photocopied on white paper) and 2 unrevised carbons on yellow paper. Found in "Prefatory" folder.

B2. Alphabetical list of proposed entries. With Ruhe's folder, marked "Curll book-lists - 1706-14". Typed; marked in MS.

B3:1. Unlocated items (Sept 1962). Dittoed; 2 copies (one from SC Departmental files "Collections: Curll").

B3:2. Unlocated items (Aug 1963). Typed.

B4. Analysis of advertisements. Carbon; marked up.

[MS Q11:11]. Oversize sketch-pad "CURLL. Curll Associates 1706-1714." 15-page chart of booksellers appearing in Curll imprints, with some bibliographical notes. Chronological. MS. FRAGILE.

C. Continuation of Project to 1715-1747.

C1. Loose notes and entries. With Ruhe's folder, marked "Curll Books & lists 1715-45".

C2. Folder "Curll - 1715-1747": notes, correspondence with Burgess (Virginia Military Institute, 1970); Shipley (Chicago Circle, 1966).

D. Notes for Curll biography.

D1. Misc notes, including correspondence with Stationers Office (1965) and Berkshire Record Office (1966). Found in "Prefatory" folder.

D2. Notes on House of Lords examination of Curll in 1707. Found loose; paper-clipped.

E. Early work and the Curll Committee: notes, etc setting up routines, etc. [Except where noted, from the Departmental files "Collections -- Curll" -- probably previously in Terrence Williams' files.] The Committee was already at work in 1960 when it consisted of Professors Ruhe, Gerald Kirk, Frank Nelick, and Instructor Tom Burkett, all of the English Department; and Terrence Williams of the Library. Arranged by present cataloguer.

E1. Ruhe. "Memorandum. The Curll Project." Goals and problems. Typed and revised. Marked "6 copies EL Ruhe"

CONTENTS. SECTION E. [cont.]

E2. Suggestions by a member of the Committee for cutting back the procedures by omitting collations, etc. Begins "Ed asked me to write a memo indicating..." 2 copies: typed and carbon.

E3. "Curll Project: Formulae for book entries." 2 carbons on legal-size paper, folded. Marked "T. Williams."

E4. "Symbols and Libraries". 2 photocopies from STC.

E5. Correspondence 1960.

E5:1. Mason (Dept of Special Collections, KU), to "Curll Projectors", 1960 Oct 27. Directions for checking Curll books out.

E5:2. Vosper (Director KU Library), to Ruhe, 1960 Nov 8. Send me a note describing the intentions of the Curll project.

E6. Correspondence, etc, 1961 and n.d.

E6:1. Ruhe and the rest of the Project [Nelick, Kirk, Gerhard Zuther, Burkett, Williams] to Ray Nichols, Chancellor's Office, 1961 Feb 15. Submitting application for grant. [Removed from H2.]

E6:2. M'Killop (Rice University) to Gerald, 1961 March 20. Full collation is probably impractical: your goals should be to report the contents of the collection and throw light on book trade.

E6:3. Guerinot to Ruhe, 1961 May 11. The collection is helpful.

E6:4-11 are stapled together.

E6:4. [Ruhe] "Curll project. Principles: 1. Watermarks... 2 Multi-volume... 3 Pseudonyms... 4 Compiling info from adverts... 5. Curll association..." MS note on yellow paper.

E6:5. Ruhe to Terry [Williams], 1961 June 5. ... recover material from Mr Nelick... MS.

E6:6. Ruhe to Frank, ____ October 20. Instructions for sheets.

E6:7. Ruhe to Gerry, Tommy, Frank, ____ Feb 20. Meeting, with worksheets.

E6:8. Curll Collection, ____ October 10. From Tommy Burkett, Gerald Kirk, Frank Nelick, Edward Ruhe, David Vieth, Terrence Williams. Instructions for assigning numbers to Curll.

E6:9. "Jim" [James Clifford?] to Ruhe, ____ April 16, English Dept, Columbia. ... Allen Hazen agrees with me that the bibliographical descriptions you're making are ~~too~~-laborious (nobody needs collations); the KU Curll collection is minor...

E6:10. Ruhe to [Williams], 1961 July 29. ...I've asked Jim Clifford to insert a call for location of Curll mss in the Johsonian Newsletter... end may be in sight.

E6:11. [Williams] to Ruhe, 1961 Aug 7. Deming good worker...

E6:12. T Williams, Curll Committee, to Mr Deming, 1961 Aug 15. Explanation of goals to student assistant.

E6:13. Ruhe to [Williams]. 1961 Aug 14. Yes, hire Deming.

E6:14. Ruhe to [Williams]. 1961 Aug 21. Give low priority to 1706-14 since I'm handling it myself.

E7: Correspondence 1962.

E7:1. Ruhe to [Williams]. 1962 July 26. I really think the end is in sight... Please handle Jim Osborn's letter.

E7:2. [Williams] (Special Collections), to Ruhe. 1962 July 30. Carbon.

E7:3. Notes of names, beginning "Robert Streater...". MS. 1 leaf from spiral notebook. Found between items 2 and 4.

E7:4. Ruhe to [Williams]. 1962 Aug 1. Finished (pre-typing): Curll books 1706-14 were 367 of which KU holds 122, 154 are unlocated, and Straus omits 88.

CONTENTS [cont.]

F: Later Correspondence, 1963-1965; 1972-1973. From Ruhe's papers.

F1. "Correspondence with Libraries", 1963-1965. With Ruhe's envelope.

- F1:1. Stationers Company to Dear Sir, 1963 Aug 7. Curll not in our records.
- F1:2. Principal Probate Registry Application for Search, 1963 Aug 7. [Essentially blank.]
- F1:3. Webb (Photographic Service, British Museum), to Ruhe, 1964 June 1. Citation wrong.
- F1:4. P. Fall (California State College at Los Angeles), to Ruhe, 1964 Nov 15. Here are some notes from the Huntington.
- F1:5. Fry (Huntington) to Ruhe, 1965 Jan 18. You may come.
- F1:6. Conway (Clark Library, UCLA), 1965 Jan 21. You may come in February. With list of holdings of 18th-century periodicals.
- F1:7. Varied group of British Museum forms, all blank. Paper-clipped.

F2. Terrence Williams (acting for Ruhe). Correspondence, 1964.

- F2:1. Moll (Univ of Texas, Austin, Stark Library), 1964 Jan 7. Our holdings; how to order xeroxes. With annotated list.
- F2:2. Williams to Moll, 1964 Apr 21. Ruhe wants another xerox. Carbon.
- F2:3. Hudson (Princeton), 1964 Jan 8. Answering textual questions. Photocopy.
- F2:4. Wolf (Library Co), 1964 Jan 8. Enclose photocopy. Photocopy.
- F2:5. Lowman (Newberry), 1964 Jan 11. Ordering the xeroxes for Ruhe.
- F2:6. Williams to Newberry, 1964 Apr 13. Wrong xeroxes. Carbon.
- F2:7. Root (Cleveland Public), 1964 Jan 15. Description of Biographia Collectanea. Attached: Note to Terry: we need xeroxes of tps and ads.
- F2:8. Root, 1964 Mar 26. Cannot send on ILL. (Annotated: photostats of tps and the ad.)
- F2:9. Williams to Root, 1964 Apr 13. Photostats?
- F2:10. Monti (Univ of Florida), 1964 Jan 24. Collation of Gentleman's accountant.
- F2:11. Williams to Kinsey Collection (Indiana), 1964 Apr 29. Have you these books? With 1-p list beginning Abbot.
- F2:12. Warner (Lilly), 1964 May 14. We have only 4 Curll items. (formerly paperclipped to 13 and 14)
- F2:13. British Museum Photographic Services, 1964 _____. Request in hand.
- F2:14. Notes and Queries, 1964 Mar 12. Card acknowledging Query.
- F2:15. Kaufman (University of Washington) to Mason (Special Collections), 1964 May 27. Is there a Curll ad for renting books? With note from [Williams] to Ruhe: Will you handle?
- F2:16. Another copy of Abbot list in 11.

F3. Correspondence, 1972-1973.

- F3:1. Belanger, 1972 Oct 26, to Ruhe. ...How do you mean to treat your Curll book...
- F3:2. Belanger, 1972 Dec 7, to Ruhe. ...when in England I'll ask for advice on your proposal...
- F3:3. Belanger, 1973 June 15, to Ruhe. Coming to Lawrence.
- F3:4. Belanger, 1973 July 14, to Ruhe. Thanks for putting me up.
- F3:5. Foxon, 1973 Oct 10, to Ruhe. Thanks for offprint. Peculiarities of 18th-century publication statements. With note by Ruhe on Wallis & Tyack's "My Head is a Map".

CONTENTS [cont.]

G. Project: undated plans.

G1. Letter to "Clyde" [probably Clyde Hyder of the English Department and the University Press]: general description of what is yet to do at this penultimate stage. Attaching sample worksheets. Will my procedures make sense? [Perhaps written in 1965, since he is planning to visit Huntington in February.]

With 5p of notes from Clyde, pointing out inconsistencies in punctuation.

G2. "Worksheets, Methods". 9 sheets and 4 cards.

H. Project Grant: financial records, personnel records, etc. Unsorted. H2-H4 have been left in their original folders.

H1. Some 1961 Project-grant material from the Departmental files "Collections -- Curll". (5 items)

H2. "Receipts, etc on Research Grant 1962-63 only."

H3. "Bills, receipts, etc, 1963-64"

H4. "Curll -- Project business". Includes some internal letters, and the 1964 application from Ruhe, Zuther, and Williams for an extension to the grant (formerly in H2).

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J. Description of Curll Collection, 1959. 1 sheet.**K. A pre-Project project.** From the Departmental files "Collections: Curll".

K:1. Mackenzie (The MacBride Company), to RG Hennessey (Special Collections), 1956 May 25. I do not know who has the American rights to The Unspeakable Curll.

K:2. Chapman & Hall, to Hennessey, 1956 May 22. We have no objection to the preparation by you of an index to Straus's handlist.

K:3. Hennessey, R, to Siedzik (Special Collections), 1957 Dec 20. Glad that you will publish my index to the Handlist and list of Addenda. [From the Departmental files "Old files: Hennessey". NB. Sandy Mason says the proof sheets were extant in 1959, but were then discarded as a poor job.]

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L. Independent texts apparently used as sources of data.

L1. Thoms, W.J. Curll Papers. London (privately printed), 1879. Photocopy, bound.

L2. Sweet, Doris. The success of a bookseller, 1972.

On Robert Gosling. Class paper for Belanger. Photocopy.

L3. Madan and Speck. A critical bibliography of Dr. Henry Sacheverell. Photostats of certain pages from a typescript.

L4. Snyder, Henry. English Newspapers, 1700-1725, in the University of Kansas Libraries. Mimeographed class-list, marked up.

L5. Cumming, Thomas. Will, 1774. Copy in Cornell blue-book.