In an article of 2009 I was able to list a total of 191 printed books owned by the Cotton family, of which 101 firmly identified and presently located copies had been found (see nos 1-101, pp. 54-64), followed by 7 copies which had almost certainly or probably been identified and located (see nos 102-8, pp. 64-65). However, the final 83 copies (see nos 109-91, pp. 65-73) either held uncertain titles or their present locations could not be found.

The following are new additions to this article. Since 2009 I have been given further valuable information, mainly to add to the list of 83 copies. The relevant numbered copies in my previous article are reprinted below, to which recently acquired information is added as 'Addition', followed by any further comments from me. After those are two further volumes not listed in that article.


Addition: this was sold at Sotheby’s, 5 June 1944, lot 352, where it is said also to contain Joannes Livineius’s commentary on the same authors, Francofurti, 1621. The sale was to Goldschmidt at £6.00s. See Sotheby’s catalogue (British Library pressmark SC1672), and Book Auction Records.

I am very grateful to Professor Henry Woudhuysen for identifying its sale at Sotheby’s, which of course reveals that the volume exists long after the Cotton family’s ownership. Its present location is not yet available, though. The 1618 volume was published in Hanover, not Hanau.


Addition: a finely preserved copy of this book by Glover is privately owned by a printed-book collector who lives near Princeton University. A note on its title page which is written in Sir Robert Cotton’s hand lists its donation to Thomas Crompton.

I am most grateful to the private owner and his family for giving access to their collections to Professor James Carley who found and identified this volume, and gave to both of us photographs of their book (see figs 1 and 2 which set out its title page and additions).
Fig. 2.
Crompton died in 1609 so this volume must have been given to him in only the last year of his life. As Cotton had a number of transfers from Glover (who lived from 1544 to 1588) and would have benefited from reading this copy, to have lost it within a year of its publication probably suggests he held or had access to a further copy of this volume.

[166] ‘3 Conversions. in 8º.’
Lent by Cotton to (probably) Francis Bacon, 1607-12: Harl. MS. 6018, f. 156; Tite, Early Records, p. 43, list.23.2.²

Parsons, Robert, A Treatise of three Conversions of England, 8º. (St Omer, 1603).

Addition: a part-copy of this book is held in Toronto University Library, given to that collection by Sidney Thomson Fisher in 1973. (Fisher collected books relating to Shakespeare and his times, as well as works that may have influenced the dramatist.) Their copy has been rebound as two books in what appears to be a 19th- or 20th-century binding. The first book contains all of volume I and the second book contains most of volume II. The final 238 pages of volume II and all of volume III are wanting. It has Cotton’s name in volume I but I have identified that it is not in his or his son’s hand: other holders simply added those names to copies given to them. A few sections of handwriting may be by Bacon but that is not clear (especially as his handwriting changed), and, as I was also informed, another seems to read ‘R. L. Gales Geduly 1917’ (?) but yet to be identified. Finally, there is another unidentified inscription on the title page to volume II.

I am very grateful to Drs Philip Oldfield and Scott Schofield of that collection, together with Professor James Carley who put me in touch with them, for so much of this additional information and photographs of parts of their volumes (see figs 3 and 4: the title page of the whole volume and the opening page of volume I). The pressmarks for these volumes are STC 01163 (actual STC 19416).

An entry of this book in Maggs’s sale catalogue, no. 536 (1930), item 1682 (repeated in later catalogues, no. 550 (1931), item 1188, no. 577 (1932), item 1163, and no. 590 (1933), item 220), states that the ‘Autograph of Robert Cotton’ is on the title page, the second title page and the page, ‘To the Reader’.
Entry in Add. MS. 35213, f. 73.

Addition: This was later sold at Sotheby’s, 20 December 1937, lot 524, to Frank D. Benger of Leatherhead for £6 15s. See Sotheby’s catalogue (BL, SC592) and Book Auction Records.

I am grateful to Christopher Edwards and Professor Henry Woudhuysen for identifying its sale at Sotheby’s, which of course reveals that the volume exists long after the Cotton family’s ownership. Its present location is not yet available.

[179] Staundford, William, An exposicion of the Kinges prerogative, 4º. (London, 1568). An entry of this book in Ellis’s sale catalogue, no. 204 (1922), item 344 (repeated in later catalogues, no. 263 (1929), item 194, and no. 273 (1930), item 121), states that Robert Cotton wrote his name, the date of 1593 and an inscription, ‘ex dono Willms Brocas’, on the title page. The catalogue also states that the volume had a sixteenth-century binding.
Entry in Add. MS. 35213, f. 49v.

Addition: Exactly this volume, donated to Robert Cotton, is now owned privately by a London barrister and was bought for him by Christopher Edwards, the antiquarian books and manuscripts collector, set out in the Bloomsbury New York Sale of 23 June 2010, as lot

Fig. 3.

A TREATISE OF THREE CONVERSIONS OF ENGLAND from Paganism to Christian Religion.

The first, under the Apostles, in the first age of Christ; the second under Pope Eleutherius and K. Lucius, in the second age. The third, under Pope Gregory the Great, and K. Ethelbert in the third age, which brings other matters therein appertaining.

Fig. 4.

THE FIRST PART OF THIS PRESENT TREATISE, CONCERNING THREE CONVERSIONS OF ENGLAND, to Christian Catholique, Romane Religion.

THE ARGUMENT.

The purpose of this first part (gentle Reader) is to declare by evident demonstration, both of histories, reasons, antiquities, and succession of times, and by confession and other testimonies of the adversaries themselves, that this our Isle of England, & people thereof, the Britains, Saxons, & English have at three several times received Christian faith from Rome, and by Romish preachers. First, under the Apostles, in the first age of Christ, and then under Pope Eleutherius in the second age, and thirdly under Pope Gregory in the beginning of the fifth age, and that this faith and religion was no other then the Roman Cath. Faith generally received over all Christendome in those days, and that it was one and the self same faith, at all times.
The book had belonged to an American legal bookseller, Philip F. Cohen, who died a few years ago, and it has ‘Robert Cotton 15 93’ and ‘ex dono Willmis Brocas’, both in Cotton’s hand, on the title page. The book is still in a contemporary English calf binding, although the head and tail of the spine have been repaired, and it has a new label. In addition to the Ellis sale catalogues listed above and dated from 1922 to 1930, it has also become clear that this volume may have been bought in the 1930s by Wildy’s London Bookshop and was certainly sold at Sotheby’s, 9 February 1942, lot 756, to G. H. Last of Bromley for £3.15s (see Sotheby’s catalogue SC1645 and Book Auction Records). Presumably Cohen bought it from Last after the Second World War.

All of this additional information was very generously provided to me by Christopher Edwards, and, for the Sotheby’s sale, by Professor Henry Woudhuysen. Mr Edwards gave me a photograph of the book’s title page (see fig. 5) and the new owner in London was most helpful in showing his fascinating volume to me, about which we had a good discussion, and also revealing to me Wildy’s note in it.

Finally, two further Cotton-owned volumes, which are not in my list above of 191 books, have been identified to me. I am therefore assigning the numbers 192 and 193 to them.

[192] The first was bought recently and privately by a rare books scholar, who most kindly showed it to me for the two of us to check its ownership. Written by Mathurin Cordier, its printed title is Les Dialogues ou colloques, and it was published in Paris in 1578. It is a school book used to help students learning French and it is a rare copy: no volumes of that date exist in the British Library, for example. On its title page at the top is ‘Sr’ and ‘Robert Cotton’. ‘Sr’ is not in Cotton’s hand but ‘Robert Cotton’ is and is certainly the signature of the first baronet (1571-1631). Half way down that title page is ‘Tho: Cotton’ and ‘89’. On the last page is ‘Thomas Cotton His Book 1688’, and elsewhere two other names – William Mason and Benjamin – are crossed out. As to those references to Tho: and Thomas Cotton, none of the baronets at that date had that name, so it was probably written by one of the seven sons of the third baronet, Sir John Cotton (1621-1702), one of whom would certainly have had the name Thomas, repeating that of his grandfather, the second baronet. The owner has provided photographs of his volume to the British Library (see figs 6 and 7).

[193] The second is owned by Gregory Baran and Laura Federighi, in Seattle, Washington, USA, who received it in 2006. The first part of it is written by Paolo Giovio (1483-1552), its printed title is Paulli Iovii Novocomensis Medici de Romanis Piscibus Libellus, doctus, copiosus & elegans, iam recens aeditus, and it was published by Ioannes Grapheus in Antwerp in August 1528. This is followed, also on the title page, by ‘Cum Privilegio Caesario, / ad Triennium’ (repeated in capital letters on the verso of the last leaf of this volume), which sets out the grant for three-year publication. At the top of this title page is ‘Robert Cotton’, definitely written by him, and half way down is another written word, yet to be identified: ‘pameterns’ followed by a crossout and then ‘xx.h’. On the front end paper, recto, of this first part is the signature, ‘T. Kerrich / M.C.C. /1797’ and below it ‘W.S. Hadley / Pem: Coll: Cam: / Sept. 1887’, both of which were certainly further owners, probably acquiring this book in those years. (Each were masters of Cambridge colleges, Magdalene and Pembroke. Kerrich (1748-1828) is entered in ODNB; Hadley (1859-1927) is also listed in ODNB but under his younger son, Patrick Hadley). This part of the volume has 63 leaves (including the title leaf), 14.8 cm (text block), and is an 8º. Bound with it are a further 57 leaves of the same size. These leaves contain four more articles, whose headings are printed as (1) Palaephatus De non credendis Historijs, Libellus utilissimus. (2) Phorwstii de natura Deorum libellus. Iodoco Velareo interprete. (3) Epitaphivm Isabellae illustris Danorum reginae, Cornelio Sceppero autore. (4) Luciani de astrologia Oratorio. (This was the order set out on the title page but in this volume no. (4) is printed before no. (3).) The Palaephatus title page lists, as publication, Vaeuent Antuerpiae a Gregorio Bontio, sub scuto Basiliensi.
An exposition of the kinges prerogative collected out of the great abridgement of Justice Fitzberths and other olde writers of the laues of Englande, by the right woopshipfull sire William Staunford Knight, lately one of the Justices of the Queenes maiesties court of comon pleas: Whereunto is annexed the Proces to the same Prerogative appertaining.

1568.

Ex dono victimis Brocas.
Fig. 6.
AN.M.D.XXVIII. mense Octobri and the verso of the last leaf lists, also as publication, Ioannes Grapheus exudebat, impensis honesti uiri Gregorii Bontii, Anno M.D. XXVIII. mense Octobri.

There is one 1528 volume by Giovio held in the British Library, shelfmark 957.b.26, and there are two 1528 volumes of those four articles also held in the Library, shelfmarks 704.b.34 and 9005.aa.4, although 704.b.34 is damaged and does not include Epitaphium in it. Clearly, as these show, some copies were separated but it is likely that the Cotton book was bound together when he acquired it, and probably much earlier, because there is insufficient evidence of their being divided up for a long time, given their similar and undamaged beautiful binding together. The owners have given me several photographs of their volume (see figs 8, 9 and 10 for those that can be included in this article).

The present owners acquired it on 25 October 2006 from Raymond M. Sutton Jr, Williamsburg, Kentucky, catalogue no. 181, Ichthyological books from the Aquatic Research Institute, March 2006, item 123, setting out the contents of all parts of this volume, lists Giovio (1483–1552) as bishop of Nocera and well known as one of the most elegant Italian writers. Sutton acquired this volume from Dr Robert Rofus who felt he had purchased it at a bookstall in Paris in the 1950s. This is one of the four oldest volumes that can be set out among the secure dates of the Cotton printed collection (see nos 4, 16 and 26 in my list), and I am very grateful to the present owners for identifying the existence of this book to Giles Mandelbrote and to me, and then giving to me all of its details.

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3 For further information about Giovio, who also did other top-rate work in Italy, see T. C. Price Zimmermann, Paolo Giovio: The Historian and the Crisis of Sixteenth-Century Italy (Princeton, 1995).
PAVLI
IOVII NOVOCOMENSIS
Medici de Romanis Piscibus
Libellus, doctus, copios
sus & elegans, iam
recens æditus.

Antwerpiae per Ioannem Grahæum
Anno M. D. XXVIII.
Mense Augusto.
Cum Privilegio Casareo,
ad Triennium.
Fig. 9
Fig. 10.