In a previous issue I surveyed books in the archives of Kingswood School, assessing what evidence they provided for determining other authors that John Wesley may have owned and read. There is one more sizeable collection of extant books with clear connections to Wesley that merits this type of analysis. It is the collection designated “John Wesley’s Library” now displayed in a cabinet at Wesley’s House, next to City Road Chapel, in London.1

It must be stressed that what remains in this collection is hardly the whole of Wesley’s personal library. Over the years he gave much of his library away. The survey of books at Kingswood showed that many came from Wesley’s library. And in the current collection at Wesley’s House are a couple of Greek New Testaments that Wesley gave to trusted aides, which made their way back into this collection after his death. Thus, what we have in this collection are 1) books that Wesley retained for personal use, 2) books which came into his possession near the end of his life, 3) a few books—like the set of Nicole’s works—that he likely had no desire to commend by passing them to others, and 4) some that had no direct connection to Wesley.

The last concession is necessary because of the fluctuating level of care for the books Wesley left in his London house at his death. This house continued as the manse for City Road Chapel, occupied by a string of Methodist preachers. At least one, John Pawson, took it upon himself to destroy some of Wesley’s books that Pawson considered of little use (like Wesley’s annotated edition of Shakespeare’s plays!).2 And there is little indication of concern to keep books original to Wesley separate from later additions—the current collection has books as late as 1812 marked with similar shelf marks and bearing a red oval stamp: Methodist Chapel House Library, City Road, London.3

1I am indebted to Noorah Al-Gailani, Curator of Wesley’s House & Chapel, for allowing me to peruse the collection in order to verify and update information on the holdings.
2See George Stevenson, City Road Chapel London and its Associations (London: George Stevenson, 1872), 135.
3C. Ryder Smith (next note) observes that this stamp was already present in 1937, so it was not inserted in 1971 when the books were returned to the City Road Chapel House.
This uneven care helps explain why the books now in the collection were transferred to Richmond College sometime in the nineteenth century. The details of this transfer are a little unclear. The books are described in 1937 as part of a collection at Richmond traced back to Thomas Jackson, who served as tutor there from 1842–61.\(^4\) Jackson notes in his memoirs that his personal library of some 7500 volumes was purchased by James Heald, a wealthy Methodist businessman, and donated to Richmond and Didsbury colleges in 1859.\(^5\) It is possible that Jackson had purchased these books from City Road Chapel, like he purchased many Charles Wesley materials from Charles’ descendants. It is more likely that Jackson served only as a mediator for the transfer from City Road to Richmond, sometime around 1860.

The Jackson collection was as a focal piece at Richmond through the various Wesley anniversaries of the first part of the twentieth century. There are oral reports that it suffered some neglect during the exigencies of the Second World War, but no evidence of books being lost. Richmond did not fair so well itself. The college was closed in 1972, and the books from the Methodist Chapel House Library were returned to Wesley’s House, to go on display, at this time.

In the list which follows I exclude books that postdate Wesley, as well as any published by Wesley, since the focus is on what other authors he may have owned or read. I begin with titles with direct evidence of Wesley’s ownership, usually in an inscription. In this section, bold material within quotation marks is in Wesley’s own hand. This material was judged authentic by the person (likely John Bowmer) who prepared the manuscript inventory of the collection at the time it was transferred from Richmond College, and is confirmed by Frank Baker in his notes on these books.\(^6\) I verified the presence and wording of each inscription. The second section lists volumes in the collection which lack direct evidence (such as a signature), but which we know by other means were familiar to Wesley. At least one reference is given to evidence Wesley’s knowledge of each book, using standard abbreviations of sources. The final section contains volumes for which the only evidence I have found so far that they might have been known to Wesley is their presence in this collection. I have included the shelf marks for each book in parentheses at the end of the listing. It is unclear how far back these marks go, but they were on the books in Richmond College. As such, any

\(^{4}\) Cf. C. Ryder Smith, “The Richmond Wesleyana,” *Proceedings of the Wesley Historical Society* 31 (1937–38): 57–60. As Smith notes, the collection included more than the 170 volumes that showed some evidence of belonging to John Wesley. It held nearly twice as many books that were related to Charles or one of his relatives, and a sizeable group related to John Fletcher.


\(^{6}\) The inventory is in the Methodist Archives at the John Rylands Library, Manchester. My thanks to Gareth Lloyd for providing me a copy. Baker’s notes are in the possession of Richard Heitzenrater, who kindly gave me access to them.
book without shelf marks was not part of the original “Jackson” collection (though it still may go back to Wesley).

There are many interesting volumes in this collection, including Wesley’s copies of Augustine’s *Confessions*, Luther’s German translation of the Bible, and Zinzendorf’s *Gesang-buch*. I would highlight particularly the manuscript from his student days where Wesley “collected” or summarized an assigned text on physics (Bartholin).

I. Works of other writers with Wesley’s signature or marks in the text


“If. 1776”


“If. 1760”


first pamphlet in collection on Dissenters’ education signed (see Samuel Wesley)


“If. 1750 – a sinner born to die”

[Bartholin, Caspar Thomeson (1655–1738). *Specimen philosophiae naturalis, praeclpua physices capita exponens; Accedit De fontium fluviorumque origine ex pluvis dissertatio physica*. Oxford: Leon. Lichfield, 1697 (Wesley likely used 1713 edition)].

Wesley’s manuscript “collection” of this text (in his handwriting)

Benezet, Anthony (1713–84), compiler. *The Potent Enemies of America laid open; being some account of the baneful effects attending the use of distilled spirituous liquors, and the slavery of the negroes*. Philadelphia: Joseph Crukshank, 1774. (D39)

a set of five religious tracts:

Benezet. “A Mighty Destroyer Displayed; in some account of the dreadful havoc made by the mistake use as well as abuse of distilled spiritous liquors.”

Wesley. “Thoughts on Slavery.”

Daniel Defoe. “The Dreadful Visitation ... an account of the Plague in London.”


Stephen Crisp. Excerpts from “Sermons and Declarations.”

marginal notes in Wesley’s hand


“If. 1752”


“If. Wesley 1747, Nec fallar in iis, nec fallam ex iis”

“Dona dedit, amicisimus D. Pillins, anno 1759”


margin notes in Wesley’s hand, and 4 pages loose notes dated 20 Dec. 1774


“J.W. 1772”


“J.W. 1763”


“J.W. 1773”

Brainerd, John (1720–81). A Genuine Letter from Mr. John Brainard, employed by the Scotch Society for Propagating the Gospel, a missionary to the Indians in America. London: J. Ward, 1753. (L19)

bound with Fry, which is signed


“J.W. 1775. The gift of John Busted”


“J.W. 1749”


“J. W. 1753, for Kingswood”


“J. Wesley”


“Rev. Mr. John Wesley 1776” and says “S. Wesley, left by her aunt, Mrs. Hall, July 1791”


“John Wesley, Dec. 29 1785”


“For Kingswood School. A Strong Calvinist”


“The gift of Will. Whitestone July 9, 1785”
Dobbs, Francis (1750–1811). *Universal History: Commencing with the year 536, and ending with the year 331, before Christ, when Alexander the Great overturned the Persian Empire.* 4 vols. Dublin: J. Chambers, 1787–88. (D6–9)  
Marginal notes in vol. 1 in Wesley’s hand

“Rev. John Wesley” on title page, but not in his hand

“J.W. Given by Miss Freeman, 1770”

“J. Wesley. Thoroughly Antinomian, Alas”

“J.W.”

Fletcher, John William (1729–85). *Appeal to Matter of Fact and Common Sense; or, a rational demonstration of man’s corrupt and lost estate.* 3rd edition. Bristol: W. Pine, 1772. (K16)  
“J.W. 1780”

Fletcher, John William (1729–85). *First Check to Antinomianism; or a vindication of the Rev. Mr. Wesley’s minutes of a public conference, held in London, August 7, 1770.* 4th edition. London: R. Hawes, 1775. (K17)  
“J.W. 1783 peni octogenarius”

Fletcher, John William (1729–85). *Logica Genevensis; or a fourth check to antinomianism: in which St. James’s pure religion is defended against the charges, and established upon the concessions of Mr. Richard and Mr. Rowland Hill, in a series of letters to those gentlemen.* Bristol: W. Pine, 1772. (K18)  
Part of set with K17

Part of set with K17

Part of set with K17

Part of set with K17

Fletcher, John William (1729–85). *A Reply to the Principle Arguments by which the Calvinists and the Fatalists support the Doctrine of Absolute Necessity; being remarks on the Rev. Mr. Toplady’s scheme of Christian and Philosophical Necessity.* London: R. Hawes, 1777. (K22)  
Part of set with K17
Fletcher, John William (1729–85). *A Vindication of the Rev. Mr. Wesley’s “Calm Address to our American Colonies,”* in some letters to Mr. Caleb Evans. 3rd edition. London: R. Hawes, 1776. (K23)

part of set with K17

Fry, John (1701–75). *The Case of Marriages between near Kindred particularly considered, with respect to the doctrine of Scripture, the law of nature, and the laws of England.* London: Whiston & White, 1756. (L19)

“*J.W. 1770. An excellent treatise*”

Fry, John (1701–75). *A Serious and Affectionate Address to the People called Quakers.* London: Luke Hinde, 1758. (L19)

bound with previous item

[Furley, J. Dennis]. *Choheleth; or, the Royal Preacher. A poem most humbly inscribed to the King.* London: Johnston, 1765. (N28)

“*J. Wesley 1767. The gift of the author, who wrote what he felt.*”

also detailed margin notes


“*J. Wesley to C. Delamotte*”


marginal notes in vols 7–9 in Wesley’s hand

Halyburton, Thomas (1674–1712). *Natural Religion Insufficient, and Revealed Necessary to Man’s Happiness in his Present State; or, a rational enquiry into the principles of the modern Deists ... and particularly the writings of the learned Lord Herbert, to which treatise are annexed several other essays on other subjects.* Edinburgh: Andrew Anderson, 1714. (L21)

“*J.W. 1758. The gift of Mr. Edw. Perronet*”


“*J. W. 1767*”


“*J. W. 1774*”


notes and corrections in Wesley’s hand


“*J.W. 1758*”
“J.W. 1751”

Labadie, Jean de (1610–1674). *Veritas sui vindex, seu Solennis fidei declaratio Joh. de Labadie, Petri Yvon, Petri DuLignon ... Et suo, & integrae ecclesiae ... jam ante edita; nunc vero aucta, asserta, confirmata atq; ab objectionibus ... vindicata*. Herford: Laurence Auten, 1672. (C26)  
“Donum Dr. Koker 1749”

bound with *Reply* (F16)

“J.W. EAPJ. June 20, 1732”

bound with *Reply* (F16)

“Mr. Sparrow, Westm”

“John Wesley, April 1736”

Maclaurin, John (1693–1754). *Sermons and Essays*. Glasgow: John Knox, 1755. (D28)  
“J.W. 1760”

“J.W.” and editorial marks

Mosheim, Johann Lorenz (1694?–1755). *Institutionum Historiae Ecclesiasticae Antiquae at Recentior*. Helmstad: Christian Frideric Weygand, 1755 (vol. 4 only). (M8)  
“J. Wesley, Donum amicissimi viri D. Wachsek Halendis Decembris 1764”

“J. Wesley 1759. Pro Christo et Patria”

“Jeanne Bisson: An account of the sufferings of Mr. Eli Neau”

Part of set, Wesley writes in some


Oswald, James (d. 1793). *An Appeal to Common Sense in Behalf of Religion*. Edinburgh: Kincaid & Bell, 1766. (F10) “J.W. The gift of the author – May 1, 1770”

Palmer, Samuel (d. 1724). *A Defence of the Dissenters Education in their Private Academies; in answer to Mr. [Samuel] Wesley’s disingenuous and unchristian reflections upon them*. London: A. Baldwin, 1703. (L7) first pamphlet in collection on Dissenters education signed (see Samuel Wesley)
first pamphlet in collection on Dissenters education signed (see Samuel Wesley)

“J.W. 1777”

(E16–18) marginal notes throughout in Wesley’s hand


Robertson, William (d. 1686). Sepher Tehillim; i.e., Liber Psalmorum. Cambridge: John Hayes, 1685. (no shelf mark) “J. Wesley 1720”


Schurman, Anna Maria van (1607–78). Eukleria seu melioris partis electio. Tractatus Breve Vitae ejus Delineationem exhibens. Hamburg: Corneleus van der Meulen, 1673. (C26) bound with Labadie


“J.W. 1769. An impartial writer”

Wesley, Samuel Sr. (1662–1735). A Letter from a Country Divine to His Friend in London: concerning the education of the dissenters in their private academies, in several parts of this nation; humbly offered to the consideration of the Grand Committee of Parliament for Religion, now sitting. London: R. Clavel, 1703. (L7)

father’s name inscribed in John Wesley’s hand

Wesley, Samuel Sr. (1662–1735). A Defence of a Letter Concerning the Education of Dissenters in Their Private Academies; with a more full and satisfactory account of the same, and of their morals and behaviour towards the Church of England; being an answer to the Defence of the Dissenters Education. London: R. Clavel & J. Knaplock, 1704. (L7)

first pamphlet in collection signed


first pamphlet in collection signed


“J.W. 1783”

Young, Edward (1683–1765). The Centaur not Fabulous; in six letters to a friend, on the life in vogue. 3rd edition. Dublin: Wilson & Exshaw, 1755. (D18)

“J.W. 1756”

Yvon, Petro (1646–1707). Essentia Religionis Christianae Patafacta seu Doctrina. Hamburg: Cornelius Van der Meulen, 1673. (C26)

bound with Labadie


“Herrndyke, John Wesley 1738”

II. Works with no signature, but other evidence that Wesley knew

Bayley, Cornelius (1751–1812). An Entrance into the Sacred Language; containing the necessary rules of Hebrew grammar in English ... Likewise, some select pieces of Hebrew poetry. London: T. Longman, et al., 1782. (F24)

cite: Letter to Dean D.... (1785), Letters (Telford) 7:252


comment on: Journal (28 Dec. 1789), Works 24:163


read: Oxford Diary (29 July 1730)
    sponsor: Letter to Walter Churchey (3 Mar. 1789), Letters (Telford) 8:122

    quote: Letter to Mary Bishop (30 Nov. 1774), Letters (Telford) 6:128

    sponsor: Letter to John Fletcher (1 June 1776), Letters (Telford) 6:221

Fletcher, John William (1729–1785). The Portrait of St. Paul: or, the true model for Christians and pastors. 2 vols. Shrewsbury: Eddowes, 1790 (vol. 2 only). (D27)
    read: Diary (13–18 Dec. 1790), Works 24:340

    comment on: Journal (25 July 1789), Works 24:148

Gillies, John (1712–96). Historical Collections Relating to Remarkable Periods of the Success of the Gospel, and Eminent Instruments employed in promoting It. 2 volumes. Glasgow: Robert and Andrew Foulis, 1754 (Vol. 2 only). (E23)
    cite: Journal (24 June 1755), Works 21:20

Hervey, James (1714–58). Eleven Letters from the late Rev. Mr. Hervey, to the Rev. Mr. John Wesley; containing an answer to that gentleman’s remarks on ‘Theron and Aspasio’. London: Charles Rivington, 1765. (K36)
    comment on: Journal (12 Nov. 1764), Works 21:494–95

Jones, William (1726–1800). An Essay on the First Principles Of Natural Philosophy; wherein the use of natural means, or second causes, in the economy of the material world is demonstrated from reason, experiments of various kinds, and the testimony of antiquity. Oxford: Clarendon, 1763. (L3)
    comment on: Journal (9 Oct. 1765), Works 22:24

Lovelass, Peter (fl. 1786–1812). The Will which the Law makes; or how it disposes of a person’s estate if he dies without will or testament. London: P. Uriel, 1785. (F5)
    sponsor: Wesley sponsored publication

Niekkamp, Johann Lucas (fl. 1740). Historia Missionis evangelicae in India Orientali. Halle: Orphanotropheo, 1747. (F3)
    own: #43 in Bayley’s catalog of Kingswood School library

Olivers, Thomas (1725–1799). A Full Defense of the Rev. John Wesley, in answer to the several personal reflections cast on that gentleman by the Rev. Caleb Evans in his observations on Mr. Wesley’s late reply prefixed to his Calm Address. London: s.n., 1776. (D42)
    sponsor: Wesley sponsored several of Olivers books

    comment on: Letter to Charles Wesley (13 Jan. 1774), Letters (Telford) 6:67


comment on: *Journal* (3 Nov. 1785), *Works* 23:380

Rimius, Henry (d. 1759?). *A Solemn Call on Count Zinzendorf, the author, and advocate of the sect of Herrnhuters*. London: A. Linde, 1754. (L19)
cite: Letter to Henry Rimius (24 Oct. 1755), *Works* 26:608

(and possible notes by Wesley)

Schurman, Anna Maria van (1607–78). *Eukleria seu melioris partis electio. Tractatus Brevem Vitae ejus Delineationem exhibens*. Amsterdam: Jacob van de Velde, 1685. (C27)
read: Diary (18 Apr. 1738), *Works* 18:574

South, Robert (1634–1716). *Sermons preached upon Several Occasions*. Volume 1. 3rd edition. London: Thomas Bennett, 1704. (F21)
publish: *Christian Library* 43:3–224

assign: Letter to Margaret Lewen (June 1764), *Letters* (Telford) 4:249


Wesley, Samuel Sr. (1662–1735). *The Life of our Blessed Lord & Saviour, Jesus Christ; an heroic poem, dedicated to Her Most Sacred Majesty; in ten books*. London: Charles Harper, 1697. (no shelf mark)

read: Diary (1 Apr. 1736), *Works* 18:373
cite: Letter to Richard Locke (14 Sept. 1770), Letters (Telford) 5:199
and possible notes by Wesley

III. Works of other writers that may have belonged to Wesley, but no collaborating evidence beyond presence in this library

An Account of the Rise, Progress, and Present State of the Society for the Discharge and Relief of Persons Imprisoned for Small Debts. 7th edition. London: for the benefit of charity, 1784. (D20)

Annual Register as a View of History, Politics and Literature for the year 1766. London: J. Dodsley, 1767. (F14)


Arscott, Alexander (1676–1737). Some Considerations Relating to the Present State of the Christian Religion; wherein the nature, end, and design of Christianity, as well as the principal evidence of the truth of it, are explained and recommended out of Holy Scriptures; with a general appeal to the experiences of all men for confirmation thereof. 3rd edition. London: J. Phillips, 1779. (L5)

B., C. (fellow of the Royal Society). A Discovery of Divine Mysteries; or, the nature and efficacy of the soul of man considered in all its faculties, operations and divine perfections, and how it governs in divine and secular affairs of life ... being a complete body of divine and moral philosophy. London: Ebenezer Tracy, 1700. (L25)

Blair, Robert (1699–1756). The Grave, a poem, to which is added Gray’s elegy in a country Church yard. London: Scatcherd & Whitaker, 1786. (L8)


Church of England. Book of Church Offices. n.d. 52 pages. (D1)


Dyvernois, J. L. *A Dissertation upon the Sugar of Milk; in which is shown its great efficacy in consumptions, hectic fevers, the scurvy, vapours or hysterics.* Translated from French by D. d’Escherney. London: T. James, 1753. (F4)

Easterbrook, Joseph. *An Appeal to the Public Respecting George Lukins (called the Yatton Demoniac).* Bristol: T. Mills, 1788. (L8)


Fludger, John (fl. 1739). *A Second Letter to the Right Rev. the Bishop of Oxford, proving that the unpardonable sin, commonly thought to be the sin against the Holy Ghost, is denying the supreme God-head of Jesus Christ.* London: T. Gardner, 1739. (L19)


A *Letter from a Physician in the Highlands to his friend in London on the subject of a consumptive habit....* London: C. Corbett, 1750. (F4)

Lewis, Miss [Esther] (1719?–94). *Poems Moral and Entertaining: written long since.* Bath: S. Hazard, 1789. (D2)

Lobb, Theophilus (1678–1763). *A Treatise on Dissolvents of the Stone, and on curing the stone and gout by aliment; to which are added, directions of diet proper for persons afflicted with colds, fevers, quinseys, coughs, asthmas, cholicks and pains of the stomach, costiveness, nervous diseases, cachexies, dropsies, tumours, or scurvy.* London: James Buckland, 1739. (F13)


Methodist Episcopal Church. *Form of Discipline ... Approved at a Conference at which Thomas Coke and Francis Asbury presided.* 5th edition. New York: William Ross, 1789. (D33)


Pons (a Physician). An Historical Account of the Plague at Marseilles. London: Billingsley, 1720. (F4)


Romaine, William (1714–95). To the Church Wardens and parishoners of St. Olaves, this plaine divorce. N.p., n.d. (L19)

Scotland’s Opposition to the Popish Bill: A Collection of all the Declarations and Resolutions ... for Preventing the Growth of Popery. 3rd edition. Edinburgh: David Paterson, 1780. (F7)

Seagrave, Robert (1693?–1760). An Answer to the Rev. Dr. Trapp’s four sermons against Mr. Whitefield. London: Oswald & Hett, 1739. (L19)

Sewel, William (1653–1720). A Complete Dictionary, English and Dutch, to which is added a grammar, for both languages. Amsterdam: Karnelis de Veer, 1766. (N. 26)


Spangenberg, August Gottlieb (1704–92). An Exposition of Christian Doctrine, as taught in the protestant church of the United Brethren; or, Unitas Fratrum. London: W. & A. Strahan, 1784. (E8)

Spooner, Thomas. An Interpretation of the Old Testament. 3 vols. London: Edward & Charles Dilly, 1768 (vol. 3 only). (F6)


Whitefield, George (1714–70). *A Continuation of the Reverend Mr. Whitefield's Journal, from his embarking after the embargo to his arrival in Savannah*. London: W. Strahan, 1740. (L19)

Williams, Daniel (1643?–1716). *Practical Discourses on Several Important Subjects*. 2 vols. London: John Wilson, 1738. (L12–13)

Wilson, William (topographer). *The Post-Chaise Companion; or, Travelers' directory through Ireland*. Dublin: for the author, 1786. (L17)

Woodward, Josiah (1660–1712). *An Account of the Societies for Reformation of Manners, in England and Ireland. With a persuasive to persons of all ranks to be zealous and diligent in promoting the execution of laws against profaneness and debauchery, for the effecting a national reformation*. 5th edition. London: Joseph Downing, 1701. (L29)

[Woodward, Josiah (1660–1712)]. *An Account of the Progress of the Reformation of Manners, in England, Scotland, and Ireland, and other parts of Europe and America. With reasons and Directions for our engaging in this glorious work. In a letter to a friend. To which is added, Her Majesty’s proclamation for the encouragement of piety and virtue, and for the preventing and punishing of vice, profaneness, and immorality*. 11th edition. London: Joseph Downing, 1703. (L29)