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Catalogue of Elliott Manuscripts

Date range of material: 13th-16th century

Durham University Library
March 2018

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Preface

Creation of catalogue

Encoded from old word processed list, February 2018

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ark:/32150/s1s1784k84r/PDF](http://www.dur.ac.uk/library/asc/ark:/32150/s1s1784k84r/PDF)

Introduction

GB 033 ELL

Elliott Manuscripts

13th-16th century Durham University Library, Archives and Special Collections

Extent: 10 pieces

Creator: Dr. George Ball Elliott (1918-1994), collector

Language of material: Latin; French

Contents

The manuscripts fall into two groups: Elliott MSS 1-8: fragments of 8 liturgical manuscripts and books of hours, 13th-16th century (16 leaves in total):

1. Breviary, France, end 13th century.
2. Gradual, Italy, 14/15th century.
3. Breviary, England, ca. 1400.
4. Antiphoner, Italy, mid-15th century.
5. Book of hours, N. France, mid-15th century.
6. Book of hours, Low Countries, mid-15th century.
7. Gradual, Italy, 2nd half 15th century.
8. Antiphoner, Spain, 16th century.

Elliott MSS 9-10:

9: Letter written in cipher on diplomatic matters, signed by Francis I of France 17 March 1546/7

10: Letter written in cipher on diplomatic matters, signed by Cardinal Mazarin 19 September 1646

George Ball Elliott (1918-1994) was born in Newcastle upon Tyne, and graduated in medicine from the University of Durham in 1940. A distinguished pathologist, he spent most of his career in Canada, first in Winnipeg, then as Director of Clinical Laboratories at Calgary General Hospital 1953-1964, Chief of Surgical Pathology at Vancouver General Hospital 1964-1973, and Clinical Pathology Research Associate at the Royal Jubilee Hospital, Victoria BC, 1973-1985. A man of immense energy and wide interests, he was the author of almost ninety articles on medical topics, and also published a number of papers on the diverse researches on antiquities and historical topics which engaged his interest in retirement. He was an enthusiastic collector of books and manuscripts, with a particular interest in cryptography and ciphers.

Accession details

Deposited by Dr. Elliott, 1984.

Previous custodial history

The fragments seem mainly to have been bought from Maggs.

Conditions of access

Open for consultation.

Copyright and copying

Permission to make any published use of material from the collection must be sought in advance from the Sub-Librarian, Special Collections (e-mail PG.Library@durham.ac.uk) and, where appropriate, from the copyright owner. The Library will assist where possible with identifying copyright owners, but responsibility for ensuring copyright clearance rests with the user of the material

Form of citation

The form of citation should use the code GB-0033-ELL, or the collection name Elliott Manuscripts, followed by the *reference number*

To order items in the searchroom, use the collection reference code(s), derived by removing the repository code (GB-0033-), followed by the reference number. Citing the section of the finding aid is useful.

Related material - here

Elliott Collection

Books collected by Dr Elliott on cryptography and science (about 80 volumes)

Elliott MS.1 [end 13th century]

Breviary, France.

4 leaves

Other catalogues: Separate catalogue description

Elliott MS.2 [15th century]

Gradual, central Italy.

3 leaves

Other catalogues: Separate catalogue description

Elliott MS.3 [approximately 1400]

Breviary, England.

1 piece

Other catalogues: Separate catalogue description

Elliott MS.4 [mid-15th century]

Antiphoner, Italy.

1 piece

Other catalogues: Separate catalogue description

Elliott MS.5 [mid-15th century]

Book of hours, Northern France.

1 piece

Other catalogues: Separate catalogue description

Elliott MS.6 [mid-15th century]

Book of hours, Low Countries.

1 piece

Other catalogues: Separate catalogue description

Elliott MS.7 [mid-15th century]

Gradual, Italy

2 leaves

Other catalogues: Separate catalogue description

Elliott MS.8 [early 16th century]

Bifolium from Spanish antiphoner. 5 lines of text and music per page. Text "Multe tribulationes iustorum et de hiis omnibus liberavit eos dominus dominus custodit omnia ossa eorum unum ex hiis non conteretur" etc. Very large initials in red and blue.

Size: 666 x 475 mm

1 bifolium

Elliott MS.9 17 March 1546/7

Letter signed by François I King of France, at Rambouillet, to Christophe Richer, French ambassador to Denmark. Written in cipher, containing recent intelligence from Germany and other information. With a modern deciphered transcription and notes on the cipher by Pierre Bougé.

Language: French

Size: 300 x 185 mm

1 piece + 7 f

Provenance: Accompanied by correspondence about purchase of the letter from Maggs' catalogue January 1973, in which this item was number 45.

Elliott MS.10 19 September 1646

Letter, mostly in a number cipher with the deciphered French text written in, from Cardinal Mazarin, Fontainebleau, to Abbé St Nicolas (Henri Arnauld) regarding his diplomatic mission to Italy. Contains instructions about a French peace treaty and convincing the Grand Duke of Tuscany to favour the French.

Language: French

Size: 335 x 460 mm

1 f folded; (3 pages)

Provenance: Accompanied by cutting, describing the letter, from a 20th century sale catalogue in which this item was number 103.