

## ANTIQUARY

### The James Durham MSS

Held by Glasgow University Library

In this issue of *The Confessional Presbyterian* Donald John Maclean examined James Durham's commentary on the Song of Solomon, which had been until recently the only work in modern guise that was generally available by this leading light of mid 17th Century Scottish Presbyterianism. Happily, since the 1990 publication of his *Treatise Concerning Scandal*, Durham's other valuable sermons and commentaries have been rediscovered as new editions have been produced. Naphtali Press is currently working to bring the remaining sermons out in a new edition, and this raises a question. Is there anything else that remains unpublished?

It was long noted by old biographers of Durham that valuable sermons remained in manuscript in private hands.<sup>1</sup> Some of these have found their way into the rare book collections of major libraries, such as Glasgow University, and these are detailed below. Some items remain or have passed into private hands. I know of three such volumes.<sup>2</sup> One volume devotes about 60% to Durham's lectures on the ten commandments, the rest being apparently non Durham material. It is all written in difficult to read handwriting. The lectures on the ten commandments made up one of Durham's published works.<sup>3</sup> Two other volumes contain unpublished material and are noted to be in Durham's own hand; but this has not been verified. A 736 page volume contains sermons on Matthew chapters 11–16, and a 639 page volume contains sermons on Isaiah chapters 40, 53–59. Both of these volumes are in small difficult to read mid 17th century handwriting. These volumes have yet to be carefully checked to see if any of the contents match up to the MS sermon series noted in the old biographies. Otherwise, they may contain previously unnoted material.

The bulk of this article is devoted to the two volumes of MS material held by Glasgow University Library, and are here cataloged for the first time (the library itself has not detailed the contents). I would like to thank the Rev. John J. Murray who agreed to take the time and pains to examine these volumes and describe the contents as best he could make out. Comments or notices in square brackets are mine. A question mark (?) notes illegible text and if possible a best guess is provided. I have numbered the items consecutively.

### JAMES DURHAM MSS, GLASGOW UNIVERSITY LIBRARY (Special Collections)

#### I. MS Murray 38.

Description of volume: A leather bound large notebook that had a clasps now gone. Size: 16 x 10.5 cm. 4 cm thick. The main section runs from the front, and a short section runs from back.

#### From Front of the Book

- Inside of the cover binding there is paper with printed metrical Psalms.
- Owner Label: "David Murray Collection 1928"
- Previous ownership:
  - Page 1. Two names, the last with the first name hard to make out. "William Thornton, (?) Thornton."
  - Page 2 David Murray Collection
- Page torn out

1. No Date. Sermon 2 Jeremiah 50:4, 5 Mr James Durham (14 pages).
2. April 14 1657 Jeremiah 50:4,5 (24 pages). Note: At page 15 there is a line and "Jer 50:4,5 Ser 3." [Three sermons on Jeremiah 40:4-5, and two sermons on Jeremiah 40:5 appear in *Unsearchable Riches of Christ*].
3. No Date. A sermon by George Hurtheson(?) [Hutcheson]. Psalm 77:7 (14 pages).
4. 2 Cor 13:5 June ? 21 1656. Mr Gray for Mr Wm Guthrie? [Andrew Gray apparently preaching for William Guthrie] (15 pages) [There are three sermons on the assurance of faith on 2 Cor. 13:5 in Gray's works].
5. No Date. No attribution. Rom 7:4 (18 pages).
6. No Date. Matt 11:28 A Gray ? [Andrew Gray] (15 pages) [Not published in Gray's works].
7. No Date. Rev 3:27 Carstairs ? [John Carstairs] (11 pages).
8. No Date. Rev 3:21 J. Carstairs [possibly Rev. 3:27 as above] (16 pages).
9. No Date. Matt 22:11 a sermon on Thursday before Communion(?). [Durham preached a sermon on Matthew 22:2-4

1. See Howie's life of Durham in his *Scots Worthies* (numerous reprints and editions) and a life affixed to the 1740 edition of *A Treatise Concerning Scandal*, reprinted in the Naphtali Press edition of the *Sermons on Isaiah 53 (Christ Crucified: Or, the Marrow of the Gospel in Seventy-Two Sermons on the Fifty-Third Chapter of Isaiah* [Dallas, Tex.: Naphtali Press, 2001; 2007]).

2. The owner of these volumes wishes to remain anonymous.

3. James Durham, *A Practical Exposition of the Ten Commandments* (1675; Naphtali Press, 2002).

before a Communion which is printed in *Unsearchable Riches of Christ*. A nine page sermon by Durham noted to be on Matthew 22:4 appears in the Gen 230 MS, and an unattributed sermon on the same appears below.] (12 pages).

10. No Date. No attribution. 1 Thess. 5:19. (11 pages) [A sermon on 1 Thess. 5:19 was noted to have survived in MS by early biographies of Durham].

11. No Date. 2 Cor. 7:1 J Durham (13 pages) [This sermon is not noted in early biographies as existing in MS].

12. No Date. 2 Cor. 5:20 H Gray(?) [Andrew Gray] (21 pages) [There is a communion sermon on 2 Cor. 5:10 in Gray's works].

13. No Date. John 17:17 Sanctify Carstairs? [John Carstairs] (11 pages).

14. No Date. John 17:17 Thy Word is truth [likely Carstairs as well] (13 pages).

15. No Date. Cant. 8:5 Sermon (18 pages).

16. June 7 (?) 1658. A sermon by Mr N Carstairs(?) [John Carstairs] (12 pages).

17. 17 August 1662. Sermon by Mr Wilson. Matthew 14:24, 25, 26 (12 pages).

18. Sermon 2 Matthew 14:25 (14 pages).

19. Matthew 22:4 July 15 1655 (36 pages) [See note on item 9 above].

20. No Date. [No heading. No attribution]. (12 pages).

- End Mrs Mary Hamilton.
- sister of the laird of Bardonie.
- bought the book 1698.

**From Other End of the Book**

- page 1 scribbles.
- page 2 an exhortation in person's handwriting. "God is not the God of the dead but the living....."
- page 3 ex libris David Murray.

1. Page 4. No Date. Unattributed. John 7:37 (9 pages). Small handwriting.

2. No Date. Unattributed. Rom. 7:4 (5 pages). [See item 5 above. After the 5 pages, there is a quarter of a page left in with no writing on it and after another two pages one can see that two pages are torn out by the stubs left. The pages that are left have writing on them].

[a page ¾ torn no writing].

2 [blank] pages.

[2 pages torn out].

3 [blank] pages.

II. Gen 230.

▪ Binding: "Sermons on Isaiah CH liii etc. 1656." Size 21.5 x 16 cm. Good condition quarter leather.

▪ Inside cover: MS Gen 230.

▪ Condition of Contents: Written on good paper in ink. Though there is variation in the strength of the ink, it is all readable.

▪ Recto [1] AM 01322.

▪ Verso [1] blank.

▪ Recto [2] blank.

▪ Verso [2] (Latin) Ex Libris..purchased 1700.

▪ [The bulk of this volume contains what looks to be a full set of Durham's sermons on Isaiah 53 which appear in his *Christ Crucified: or, The Marrow of the Gospel in 72 Sermons on Isaiah 53*].

Isaiah 53:1 Sermon 1 15 March 1656 11 pages.

Sermon 2 12 pages.

Sermon 3 8 pages.

Sermon 4 10 pages.

Sermon 5 12 pages.

Sermon 6 10 pages.

Sermon 7 27 April 1656 10 pages.

Sermon 8 4 May 1656 13 pages.

Sermon 9 10 pages.

Sermon 10 18 May 1656 10 pages .

Sermon 11 25 May 1656 11 pages.

Sermon 12 15 June 1656 16 pages.

Sermon 13 15 pages.

Sermon 14 14 pages.

Sermon 15 6 July 1656 12 pages.

Sermon 16 12 pages.

Sermon 17 12 pages.

Isaiah 53:2, 3 Sermon 18 12 pages.

Isaiah 53:3, 4 Sermon 19 13 pages.

Isaiah 53:4, 5 Sermon 20 9 pages.

Sermon 21 12 pages.

Sermon 22 14 pages.

Isaiah 53 Sermon 23 14 pages.

Isaiah 53:5 Sermon 24 14 pages.

Sermon 25 12 pages.

Isaiah 53:6 Sermon 26 15 pages.

Sermon 27 15 pages.

Isaiah 53:7 Sermon 28 13 pages.

Isaiah 53:8 Sermon 29 12 pages.

Sermon 30 14 pages.

Sermon 31 14 pages.

Sermon 32 12 pages.

Sermon 33 15 pages.

Isaiah 53:9	Sermon 34	12 pages.
	Sermon 35	12 pages.
Isaiah 53:9, 10	Sermon 36	10 pages.
Isaiah 53:10	Sermon 37	9 pages.
	Sermon 38	14 pages.
	Sermon 39	11 pages.
	Sermon 40	12 pages.
	Sermon 41	9 pages.
	Sermon 42	10 pages.
	Sermon 43	7 pages.
Isaiah 53:10, 11	Sermon 44	11 pages.
Isaiah 53:11	Sermon 45	11 pages.
	Sermon 46	12 pages.
	Sermon 47	12 pages.
	Sermon 48	11 pages.
	Sermon 49	9 pages.
Isaiah 53	Sermon 50	12 pages.
Isaiah 53:11	Sermon 51	11 pages.
	Sermon 52	12 pages.
	Sermon 53	14 pages.
	Sermon 54	14 pages.
	Sermon 55	13 pages.
	Sermon 56	16 pages.
	Sermon 57	14 pages.
	Sermon 58	11 pages.
	Sermon 59	12 pages.
	Sermon 60	13 pages.
	Sermon 61	10 pages.
	Sermon 62	13 pages.
	Sermon 63	14 pages.
Isaiah 53:12	Sermon 64	13 pages.
	Sermon 65	13 pages.
	Sermon 66	12 pages.
	Sermon 67	14 pages.
	Sermon 68	12 pages.
	Sermon 69	12 pages.
	Sermon 69 [sic 70]	12 pages.
	Sermon 70 [sic 71]	13 pages.
	Sermon 72 [sic 72]	13 pages.

Finis.

[The additional contents follows, numbered consecutively].

■ No blank page.

1. No Date. Portion on chapter 19 of Genesis (6 pages). First page poor quality.

Two blank pages.

2. No Date. John c 4 v 7 (8 pages). Fairly poor quality. Six pages blank.

3. No Date. Matthew 22.4 (9 pages). Top of page cut with "James D" and the rest removed in the cut. [See note on item 9 and item 19 in MS 230].

■ One blank page.

4. No Date. Revel. 3.10 Sermon 3 by Mr PG (9 pages). Slightly smaller page size, rough edge at foot, and the last two pages discolored and not easy to read. [This is likely a sermon by Patrick Gillespie, and this and items 6 and 7 may be part of a series.].

5. John 11.4. Mr Jo Mantel (10 pages). Some pages fading and losing letters by close cutting.

Two blank pages.

6. Rev. 3.8 Sermon 1 (10 pages).

7. Rev. 3.9 Sermon 2 (10 pages).

8. No title new writing style (14 pages).

verse 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 .

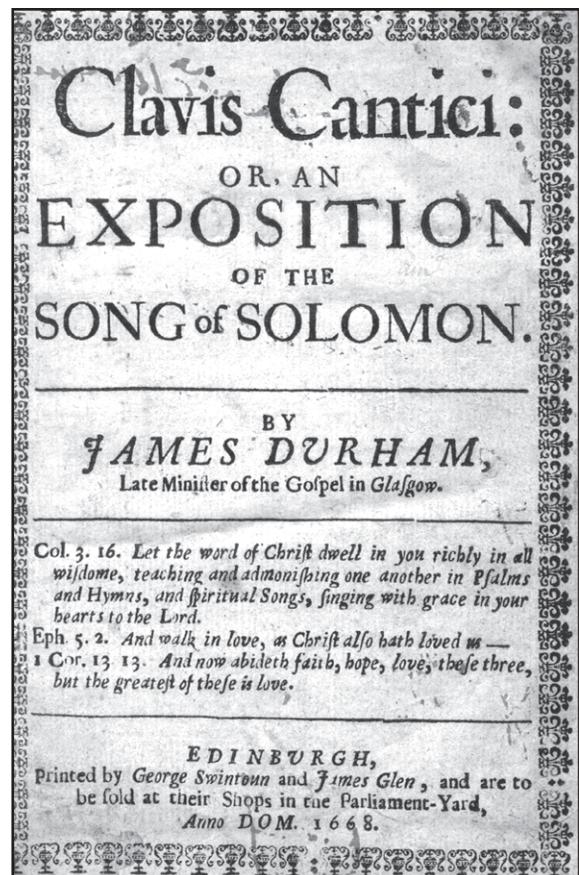
Sermon 2.

Verse 2.

Sermon 3.

last page poor.

CHRIS COLDWELL ■



ABOVE: Title page from the first edition of James Durham, *Clavis Cantici: or, An Exposition of the Song of Solomon* (Edinburgh: Printed by George Swintoun and James Glen, 1668).